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BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia waving at party leaders and workers on her arrival at the Zia International Airport from Saudi Arabia yesterday. —Star photo

Save Dhaka, Clean Dhaka

From Page 1

They found their exercise worthy.

Many of the housewives, who rule the kitchen, took note of the drive to tell their helping hands to keep the neighbourhood tidy.

Shopkeepers and traders in the bazzars also felt embarrassed as they faced the children engaged in the campaign.

The bazzars are littered with waste, rotting vegetables and leftovers from fish and meat stalls.

The children also found that pavements had varieties of use for the vendors, shopkeepers and others, leaving the walkways not only dirty but also occupied, forcing pedestrians to compete with traffic on the road.

The little troopers led by veteran scout leader Mir Mahub Ali of Chinnamukta Scout Group, during their campaign from Dhakeswari Mandir to Lalbagh Fort crossing, found that their job was not only to motivate the residents but also the occupiers of the pavements.

As they entered the Dhakeswari market they came across a makeshift tannery under a banyan tree. Tanners were putting finishing touches to a cow-hide, covering the entire length of the pavement, while a police patrol was resting under the tree.

Dyers of textile and yarn also occupied parts of the pavement, fiercely competing with the auto-rickshaw vans for space. Garages of rickshaw and also mechanics vied for space along with the shopkeepers, whose left overs littered the whole area.

The children beseeched the astonished users of the streets and pavements to do the simple task of using the nearby bins, provided by the City Corporation.

They boys pressed ahead, marching down the area, resounding the message once again, keep the neighbourhood clean.

Similarly, boys and girls in Shahjahanpur, Motijheel, Tejgaon, Mirpur, Moghbazar, Nakhalpara, Narinda and Wari took part in the cleanliness campaign.

The campaign yesterday was also participated by units from Palashi Government Primary School, Engineering University School, Motijheel Government Boys School, Dhaka District Railway Scouts, Dhaka District Sea Scouts, Tejgaon Government Science College, Tejgaon Government Boys School, Mirpur Siddhanta High School, Basantek High School, BDR High School, Bangladesh Probationary School and Nakhalpara Hossain Ali School.

Moslem Murder Case 17 chargesheeted in Khulna

KHULNA, Oct 25: The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) here has submitted the chargesheet of Ward Commissioner and Awami League leader Moslemuddin Khan murder case, accusing 17 people, including a pro-BNP ward commissioner, reports UNB.

The accused are: BNP leader and commissioner of ward-21 Ershad Ali Sikdar, Hazrat Ali Khan, Babul, Harun Hossain, Mizanur Rahman, Farook Hossain, Nazem Sardar, Fazle Hossain, Karim Sardar, Liaqat Ali, Abdul Aziz, Mahmud Aziz, Nasiruddin Khan, Idris Ali, Al-faz Talukder, Arif and Rahman.

All the accused are absconding since the killing of Moslemuddin Khan on February 25 in 1995. On the day, a group of terrorists gunned down Moslem while he was buying clothes from a shop at Khulna ferry ghat.

Major's 'tiger trap'

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hue-and-cry in the name of civil liberties, which will be eagerly exploited by ministers as proving that the Labour leopard is only disguising its indelible spots.

In the Education Bill, the government will defiantly empower schools to be even more selective in admitting pupils. Labour will oppose this, on the grounds that it will create an educational under-class. But since both Tony Blair and one of his front-bench team both send their children to such schools, they will be open to taunts of 'hypocrisy'.

Even a bill to tackle social-security fraud, which might be supposed to be non-controversial, is a pitfall. Labour is bound to rail against private landlords who exploit the situation rather than claimants who cheat out of desperation.

Major nimbly wrong-footed Blair by blandly agreeing to table bills against stalking and paedophilia which the government had drafted but decided that, being non-controversial, they would be offered as private members bills - with the same result. This U-turn, though controversial at the time, is really of no consequence.

As the BBC's chief political correspondent John Sergeant observed to the Straits Times: "Mr Major's antennae detected that the public were getting fed up with adversarial politics, so he agreed to co-operate with Mr Blair to show he is a reasonable man."

If, as expected, there will be a modest cut in income tax in the budget next month, the opposition will be hard put to support it, when the education system in particular urgently needs more money not less.

Nevertheless, the voters are keen on paying less taxes, so once again Labour will be represented as going against the mainstream of public opinion.

Put this together with the undoubted success of the government's economic policy, in which all the indicators show sustained growth, expansion of industry and inward investment, plus falling unemployment, and the public perceptions might very well change in the coming few months.

Blair and Ashdown will need all their political tradecraft - and more - to outfox the prime minister.

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The Daily Star

Speaker tells reception in KSA Islam safe under present govt in Bangladesh

JEDDAH, Oct 25: Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rashid Choudhury has said that Islam is safe under the present government in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Replying to some recent remarks of Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia in Saudi Arabia, Humayun Rashid ruled out that there was any danger to Islam in Bangladesh.

Humayun Rashid who is now in the Kingdom, was speaking at a reception accorded to him by local Bangladeshi community at a hotel on Tuesday.

Leaders of Bangladeshi community expressed their desire to contribute to the socio-economic development of the country.

The Speaker, in his speech, while elaborating various programmes and projects undertaken by the government, informed the expatriate Bangladeshis of the government's determination to make Parliament as the focal point of all democratic practices. He further stated that the ruling Awami League was against passage of any law contrary to the tenets of Islam.

He highlighted the benefits to be derived when Bangladesh is linked to the proposed Asian highway. He said the government is considering to join the highway involving international road network connecting Bangladesh with Europe, Middle-East, South Asia and South-East Asia.

On the question of importing electricity, the Speaker said he was of the impression that temporary arrangements of bringing electricity from neighbouring countries like Bhutan and India are being examined pending construction of power plants with a view to attaining self-sufficiency in the power sector. Besides causing inconvenience to general public, power shortage was hampering production in mills and factories resulting in huge loss to the economy, he said.

Regarding trial of the killers of Bangabandhu, the Speaker informed the Bangladeshis that lawyers of the country had opined that a simple majority in parliamentary decision was sufficient to scrap the Indemnity Ordinance promulgated in 1975 by Khondakar Mustaque Ahmed.

Murtaza's wife joins politics

KARACHI, Oct 25: Murtaza Bhutto's widow Ghinva joined her slain husband's party today but deferred a decision on taking up the leadership of his faction of the Pakistan People's Party (Shahid Bhutto), a party spokesman said.

She has signed her membership from (to the party) but has asked for a few extra days before taking a decision on the chairmanship, the spokesman told AFP from Larkana, the ancestral hometown of the Bhutto family.

British army chief due today

General Charles Guthrie, the Chief of General Staff of the British Army, arrives here today on his first official visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

During his six-day visit, General Guthrie will call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and meet chiefs of Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Navy and senior officials of Bangladesh Air Force and the Armed Forces Division.

He will place a wreath at Shikha Anirban and visit Bangladesh Military Academy in Chittagong and military establishments and institutions in Savar, Comilla and Sylhet.

The British Army chief will also visit the Sunderbans.

General Guthrie will address the staff members and students at the Defence Services Command and Staff College in Dhaka on Thursday.

3 held in city for snatching Tk 2.70 lakh

Police have arrested three people for snatching Tk 2.70 lakh from a businessman near Dhakashwari Mandir in Lalbagh thana on Wednesday, reports UNB.

The miscreants - Nantu, Ruhul Amin and Badsha - were arrested in the city after businessman Narayan Chandra Shah lodged a case with Lalbagh thana.

According to their statement, police recovered Tk 90,700 and the auto-rickshaw they used for mugging.

Entire army command

From Page 1

Mujib regime," said Zobaideh Rashid addressing a hurriedly called press conference in the evening.

Mrs Rashid called the press conference at her Gulshan-2 residence (NWE-7 of Road 55) after the attachment of the movable property of Col (ret'd) Rashid, an absconding accused of the Bangabandhu killing case.

Replying to a question of others involvement in the August 15 bloody coup, she directly named General Shahidullah, the then army chief and now an MP of the ruling Awami League, and General Ziaur Rahman who later became country's president.

The wife of Col (ret'd) Rashid categorically said that Ziaur Rahman was very much greedy for power and after capturing the power, he had destroyed the spirit of the August 15 military action.

Zobaideh said her husband felt very proud for his involvement in what she said, the move for democratisation of the country. "Being his wife, I also feel very proud."

She said that her husband was not a bays and took the responsibility of the August 15 action to spare his colleagues and troops.

The press conference was also addressed by Col Rashid's daughter Mehnaz Rashid who completed her graduation in Political Science and International Relations, and masters in Communication and Management in the USA.

Zobaideh Rashid accused the Awami League government of unleashing repression on them in the name of the Mujib's killing. "Is holding the trial only task of the present government?" she questioned, saying that they have so many things to do for the country.

"It seems by that woman's attitude towards me that I am the leader of the Opposition, not Khaleda Zia," she said without naming the Prime Minister while speaking of the recent po-

Revised result

From Page 1

M. P. C. Bio: 15: Md. Kamrul Hasan Sohel (former 10th) of Saidpur Cantt. Public School & College, Roll 116365, total marks 875 with distinctions in M. P. C. Bio: 16: Habiba Ara Khanam (former 11th) of Rajshahi College, Roll 100077 secured 873 marks with distinctions in M. P. C. Bio: and Krishnakamal Chandro Sarker (no position in former list) of Rangpur Cantt. Public School & College, Roll 113290, obtained 873 marks with distinctions in M. P. C. Ed: 17: Md. Arifur Rahman Sarkar (newly included in the merit list) of Rajshahi Cadet College, Roll 101857, secured 872 marks with distinctions in M. P. C. Ed: 18: Husein Zannat Afroza Haque (former 12th) of Bogra Govt. Azizul Huq College, Roll 109079, obtained 871 marks with distinctions in M. P. C. Bio: 19: Masum-un-Rahman (new in the list) of Pabna Cadet College, Roll 106790, total marks 870 with distinctions in P. C. Ed: 20: Md. Firoz Nazmul Huda (former 14th) of Rajshahi Cadet College, Roll 101865, total marks 868 with distinctions in P. C. Bio: and Taposhi Rani Kundu (14th in former list) of Gurudashpur B. C. S. S. College, Natore, Roll 104419, total marks 868 with distinctions in M. P. C. Bio.

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the 51st session of UN General Assembly Thursday. —PID photo

PM: US investors

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International Group, Harold Ebani Age Group, BICC Pearce-emp, Grain Traders, International Investment and Trading Corporation, Kismet Corporation, ABN-Amro Bank, Aspia Garments, Capital Mgrulry Shint Corp, Panda Energy, Sunlay Industries, US Bangladesh Corporation, East-West, PRI Financial Engineering, Raythen Engineer and Construction and World-Wide Trading.

The Prime Minister said things are changing in Bangladesh and the country is both willing and able to assert its ability to match and beat the best investment opportunities available anywhere.

"With most unexplored opportunities, Bangladesh is the best place to invest," she said.

"Bangladesh is ready for change. I am sure all of you will change outlook on Bangladesh once you have visited our country," she added.

She assured that her government would work closely with the investors to enable them to work successfully and profitably in Bangladesh.

The government is committed to provide prudent governance, functional guarantees against expropriation of revenue or assets of any foreign company operating in Bangladesh, she said.

Prime Minister Hasina said her government had passed a legislation relating to establishing private sector export processing zones and revamped the board of investment to support and facilitate private foreign and domestic investment.

She also mentioned that the government is explicitly committed to limiting inflation and gearing itself to avoid excessive deficit spending.

Outlining the economic policy of her government, Hasina said it focuses on export-led growth to provide foreign exchange which the country needs to finance development of the infrastructure.

She said her government has given emphasis on developing the basic infrastructure by developing power generation capacity, expanding and modernising the ports and by developing domestic transport network to make the investors interested in invest in Bangladesh.

Within the next six months, she said, many firms in the oil and gas extraction business, electricity generation and distribution and port facility upgrading would be in Bangladesh to evaluate their prospects there.

She said that telecommunications, urban water sewerage, airport development and road and bridge construction projects will be announced shortly and called for investment in all sectors, particularly in electronics, information technology and medical equipment.

"With low cost of labour there is an excellent base for such major investments," she added.

The Prime Minister said her government believes that foreign investment in the country is the key to reverse the poverty which afflicts many Bangladeshis.

The biggest challenge Bangladesh is facing is economic, Hasina said adding, unless tangible and meaningful measures are taken immediately, "we will have no hope of competing with our neighbours in the region, who are growing fast as well as with the international economy."

Anwara-Banskhali ferry service suspended

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 25: Ferry services between Anwara and Banskhali remained suspended from this afternoon following a clash between the ferry staff and some youths, police said.

At least 10 people were injured in the clash at the Link Road between Anwara and Banskhali. Two of the injured persons were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital while the rest were taken to the local health complex.

Police from Anwara and Banskhali thanas rushed to the spot and dispersed the clashing groups. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash, sources said.

Taliban capture another province

ISLAMABAD, Oct 25: The Taliban Islamic militia captured Badghis province and entered nearby Faryab today in their first open clash with the forces of northern warlord Abdul Rashid Dostam, a top Taliban official said, reports AFP.

BNP: Corridor

From Page 1

upto Jalong border via Dhaka-Sylhet road and it will finally go to Myanmar capital Yangon through Meghalaya and some other states of India, he said.

Bhuiyan pointed out that under the new plan, the distance between Jalong border and Yangon will be more than 800 miles whereas it is only 300 miles through Teknaf border. Thus, he said, the new plan will increase the distance between Bangladesh and the South-Eastern Asian countries.

The BNP secretary general said the new route of the Asian Highway would be nothing but a "corridor" through Bangladesh between the seven states of North-Eastern India and its mainland.

Bangladesh's interest will be hampered if India is allowed to "use the Jamuna bridge for this corridor," he observed.

It is learnt that the second round of experts committee meeting which was scheduled to be held during the visit of the Bangladesh minister would not take place now. But it may be held, "if found necessary," shortly after the returns home, an official said.

Razzak would also go to Amir Sharif on a private visit. He is likely to meet Chief Minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu before his return to Dhaka.

The visit of the Water Resources Minister may be followed by the visit of Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad next month. No date has been finalised yet for the trip.

Dhaka signs CTBT

From Page 1

said cogent arguments are often put forward in favour of unrestricted global flows of capital, trade and services. "It seems to us that an equally persuasive case" can be made for more deregulated movements of labour," she added.

On nuclear weapons she said the world was more ready for nuclear disarmament. Atomic weapons are "an abomination and surely can have no place in a civilised world," she added.

The 41 states with a nuclear potential that have signed the test ban treaty, including the five nuclear powers, include Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Finland, Germany, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Israel, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, South Korea, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, Vietnam and Zaire.

An official source told BSS that Bangladesh emphasised the point that it would be difficult for the 48-least developed countries, including Bangladesh, to meet the financial obligation arising out of the treaty.

The point was raised during the meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros Ghali here yesterday, the source said.

He said that Dhaka would pursue the point during the preparatory meeting of CTBT, to be held next month.

The source said that during his meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the UN Secretary General praised Bangladesh's role in the UN peace-keeping force.

Ghali said that the Bangladesh soldiers have been doing a wonderful job in the peace-keeping force upholding the image of the United Nations.

The UN Secretary General praised the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with particular reference to her emphasis on human rights and economic emancipation of the people of Bangladesh.

Ghali said that the UN owes 35 million dollars to Bangladesh on account of peace-keeping operations.

During the meeting Sheikh Hasina and Boutros Ghali exchanged gifts.

PM's speech

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speech.

Officials were not immediately available for comment about this serious dislocation in the Prime Minister's speech, particularly about his important and sensitive issue like the Ganges water.

The 10-page original printed speech of the Prime Minister did not have the point of the Ganges water, but it was later inserted in the speech with a separate piece of paper inscribed with the paragraph on the Ganges issue.

The inserted para said: "We will take initiative to resolve all regional issues mutually including the Ganges waters on the basis of principle of justice."

Interestingly, a correction was sent hurriedly to the press from the PID and the PM's press wing at 1.55 am after the Prime Minister had started delivering her speech.

The correction replaced the previous paragraph with the new one saying "Problems existing among the countries are to be solved in the same guideline through New York discussion. We solicit just distribution of all common resources including the waters with our neighbouring countries in consonance with this guideline."

The PM's press wing advised the press to insert the correction after the third and last paragraph of page 5 of the Prime Minister's speech.

The new paragraph about the Ganges water, which was not read out by the PM, was published in the national dailies yesterday.

None could say here how this lapse occurred in the Prime Minister's speech which was prepared several days ahead of her departure for New York and when the Foreign Minister, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs, the Foreign Secretary and other senior officials of the Foreign Office were present in the UNGA.

15 hurt, 3 missing as bridge collapses on racing boat

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 25: At least 15 persons were injured and 3 persons missing when an iron bridge collapsed on a racing boat when 15 competitors aboard in a remote village of Kuthalia thana under Jhalakathi district yesterday afternoon.

According to police and witnesses, the iron bridge over 'Dasherbari canal' broke down as a large number of people gathered on it to see the boat races.

The injured were admitted to Amua Thana Health Complex. The boat race was organised on the occasion of 'Bijoya Dashami'.