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Organisers' office in Bangalore stormed

Miss World contest

NEW DELHI, Oct 27: Unidentified attackers stormed a building in the southern Indian city of Bangalore today after Miss World organisers set up office there to prepare for the 22-day pageant next month, police said, reports AFP.

The attackers smashed windows and furniture in the office of Amitabh Bachchan Corp Ltd (ABCL), the show's organisers, in protest against the firm's plans to hold the event in India.

A caller telephoned the United News of India saying a previously-unknown anti-miss world protest forum called the Indian tigers had staged the attack in Bangalore. "It is a warning to the ABCL," he added.

The organisers shifted office to a fortified stadium in the city where the contest is slated to be held, the police added.

The attack came as a fire-brand Indian activists, who has previously ransacked the offices of multinational firms, joined the mounting campaign against the contest.

"It is part of a conspiracy by imperialist forces in the West to thrust on Indians the degenerate culture that prevails in the West," ND Nanjundaswamy, founder of the Karnataka State Farmers' Association, was quoted as saying.

Nanjundaswamy said his forum, a force in the state of Karnataka, whose capital is Bangalore, would throw all its force into opposing the pageant.

Young man dies in Ctg hotel

CHITTAGONG, Oct 27: A young man died in a hotel here today, reports BSS.

Kotwali police said one Tito Das, 21, was taken to Chittagong Medical College Hospital from a city hotel in an unconscious condition where the attending doctors declared him dead.

The cause of his death was not immediately known.

6 Sarbahara men held in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Oct 27: Six members of the outlawed Sarbahara Party were arrested from Kaliganj thana on Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police said Bakul and Abul Kalam were arrested following a gunbattle between police and members of the outlawed party at Mollahooka village in Kaliganj thana on Saturday night.

The fight began when the outlaws opened fire sensing arrival of police at 10:30 pm. More than 100 rounds of gunshots were traded during the half-an-hour battle.

Police said another four people - Anjad Mandal, Saiful Kamruzzaman and Saifuz-zaman - were arrested from a village in Kaliganj thana on the same night.

Two child-lifters arrested

GAIBANDHA, Oct 27: Palashbari Thana police caught two suspected child-lifters and rescued two children from their possession last night.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a Dhaka bound night coach and nabbed the child-lifters - Hamidul and Harun - of village Kamarpur under Kurigram district. Police also rescued the children - Sultia, 8, and Zia 6.

Hillary praises achievements of CHPRB

The US First Lady, Hillary Rodham Clinton, has praised achievements of the Centre for Health and Population Research in Bangladesh (CHPRB), reports UNB.

According to her, the "long-standing partnership" between the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Centre demonstrates that "we can learn from each other's experiences and work together to find solutions of common problems."

The First Lady has frequently cited the Centre as a US foreign aid success story and described it as "a world class success story in saving lives."

She has been an active supporter of the Dhaka-based Centre since a 1995 visit there during her extended goodwill trip to South Asia, writes USA Staff Writer Joanne Nix from Washington.

At a tribute dinner in Baltimore last month, Hillary Clinton recalled viewing "first hand its extraordinary health and family planning programmes," that she said "save lives, improve health and give families control over their own lives."

British Army Chief places wreath at Shikha Anirban

The visiting British Army Chief General Sir Charles Guthrie placed wreath at the Shikha Anirban (The Eternal Flame) at the Dhaka Cantonment yesterday in memory of the members of the Armed Forces martyred during the Liberation War in 1971, reports BSS.

According to an ISPR press release, the British Army chief called on Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mahubur Rahman at the Army Headquarters. He was given a guard of honour by a smartly turned-out contingent of the army at the Sena Kunja. He took salute and inspected the guard. He also planted a sapling there.

General Guthrie also called on Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam at the Naval Headquarters.

The British High Commissioner to Bangladesh David C Walker, accompanied the British Army Chief.

The British Army Chief also made a courtesy call on Defence Secretary Kazi Mohammad Manzoor e-Mowla at his office.



President Shahabuddin Ahmed addressing the inaugural ceremony of Oral Rehydration Therapy Communication Campaign at the Osmany Memorial Hall in the city yesterday. — PID photo

ORT communication drive launched

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday launched a nationwide campaign against the killer disease diarrhoea, making a call for united efforts of all to make the massive drive a total success, reports UNB.

The President inaugurated the 18-month-long Oral Rehydration Therapy (ORT) communication campaign for controlling diarrhoea, which kills some 125,000 children a year in the country, at a function at the Osmany Memorial Hall in the morning.

"I'm very much hopeful about being successful in preventing diarrhoea-related child deaths through united efforts of all," he said.

The programme aims at changing people's longstanding habits through a massive awareness and communication campaign over the next one and a half years.

The President said Bangladesh is a signatory of the World Child Rights Charter and determined to achieve the target of developing mother and child health.

United effort is needed to achieve the target of bringing down the child mortality rate to one-third by the year 2000 and increasing the use of ORT rate to 80 per cent, he added.

The Health and Family Welfare Ministry with the assistance from the Netherlands government and United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) is implementing the programme to reach the message to some 20 million families.

The Dutch government is providing 5.5 million US dollars while the Health Ministry and the UNICEF are giving their technical support, manpower and countrywide infrastructure for the anti-diarrhoea drive.

The President called for all political parties, social groups, institutions and all concerned to work actively and sincerely to make the ORT communication drive a complete success.

The three principles of ORT are: Feed the diarrhoea-affected children with liquid foods frequently, breastfeed the affected children and rush the children with acute condition to the health complex or health workers.

About 90 per cent of the deaths could be averted by using the solution which is recognised worldwide as an effective measure against diarrhoeal diseases.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf,

UNICEF representative in Dhaka Rolf C. Carriere, Ambassador of the Royal Netherlands in Dhaka RA Vornis, Health Secretary Muhammad Ali and Director General of Health Service Prof AK Shamsuddin Siddiqui also spoke on the occasion.

UNICEF representative Rolf C. Carriere said diarrhoea remains one of the two biggest killers of children under five in the country and probably the single largest cause of child nutrition and growth faltering. "Every three minutes one child dies of dehydration related to diarrhoea."

4 of a family held with arms

JHENIDAH, Oct 27: Four people of a family were arrested along with two rifles and some bullets from Dhakaripur village in Sadar thana of Kushtia district today, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house of one Matiar Rahman in the village and arrested the house owner and his three sons, Wazed, Khoaz and Riaz.

Police said there were some other terrorists in the house, but they fled the scene sensing their arrival.

A case was filed in this connection.

Road accident

In another accident, a minor girl was run over by an auto-rickshaw in Dholaikhal area yesterday afternoon.

Shilpi, 10, daughter of one Amanullah of 153, Nasiruddin Sardar Road of Dholaikhal was rushed to the DMCH where she breathed her last.

Meanwhile, an old man, Hakim, 62, was crushed under the wheels of a vehicle at the Gazipur bus-stand at around 11:30 am. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy, hospital sources said.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent adds: One person was killed and two others sustained injuries when an ambulance rammed a roadside shop at Banglabazar in Gaibandha town yesterday.

According to police, an ambulance of the Shaghata Thana Health complex was bound for the Rangpur Medical College Hospital. When it reached Banglabazar, another government vehicle suddenly appeared there from the side lane. While trying to avoid a head on collision, the ambulance rammed the roadside shop after hitting a rickshawpuller Badsha Mia, 35, of village Sonadanga under Gaibandha sadar Thana.

Two other persons - Azahar and Faruk - received serious injuries.

Badsha succumbed to his injuries on way to hospital. Police have seized the ambulance.

A case was filed with sadar Thana.

Judiciary

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Criminal Procedure (CrPC), the sources added.

The Treasury Bench with its own strength can amend the CrPC. But for amending the Constitution, it requires support from the Opposition Bench as it lacks two-third majority in the House, legal experts pointed out.

Article 22 of the Constitution says, "The State shall ensure the separation of judiciary from the executive organs of the State."

The committee formed for separation of the judiciary has already completed 80 per cent of its work, sources said.

Razzak

From Page 1

political will and determination shown by the present Indian government and political leadership to settle the water problem and improve the relations between the two neighbours," Razzak said.

As regards the quantum of water Bangladesh will get on the basis of 1975 and '77 water-sharing agreements with India," he said, adding that the amount would be fixed somewhere between the two accords.

Under the 1975 water accord Bangladesh had received 44,000 cusec while it received 34,500 cusec under the '77 agreement.

In reply to a question, the minister said: "First of all we need an immediate agreement before the next dry season and a long-term solution" so that Bangladesh could formulate its own water policy.

He said Bangladesh side would press for a guarantee clause in the proposed agreement to ensure 80 per cent flow of available water at Farakka during the lean period.

Razzak hoped that the New Delhi meeting would be held in a very friendly and cordial atmosphere to pave the way for a final agreement at the summit between the two Prime Ministers.

"I think it would be a very important meeting," he told a questioner.

Other members of his delegation are: Water Resources Secretary Shamsul Huda, Additional Foreign Secretary Ahmed Tareq Karim, water expert Prof Anun Nishat and Bangladesh High Commissioner in India Shaif Sami.

World Bank suggestion

From Page 1

largely confined their activities to regulation or monitoring."

The Board of Investment (BOI) which was set up to offer facilitatory services to potential domestic and foreign investors and to act as "one-stop shop," it failed to act properly mainly because of the bureaucratic system and poor quality of its 700 staffs, the report mentioned.

"Due to civil servants and unskilled manpower the EPB also became ineffective in removing problems in promoting exports," it added.

The World Bank noted that all SOEs now under the ministries of commerce, industry, textile and jute should be brought under a single ministry.

Although the government initiated some privatisation programmes, desired results could not be achieved due to the "snail's pace" in implementation of the programmes, the WB

said. "The weakest part of Bangladesh's reform programme has been the slow implementation of the privatisation programme," the report mentioned. The colossal losses in the SOEs and their inefficiencies and non-market behaviour were affecting Bangladesh's competitiveness, it added.

Suggesting "withdrawal of business" from those enterprises "as soon as possible" the report said "failure to do so will undermine growth."

The WB said there are industrial and investment promotion agencies in all East Asian countries to ensure extensive and continuous consultation between the government and private investors. But in Bangladesh, there is no systematic consultation between the government and the private sector. The private sector is yet to have considerable influence over the policy formulation and implementation, the report pointed out.

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PHILIPS

RB HSC results Body to probe irregularities

The government has formed a committee to probe into the irregularities of this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examination results of Rajshahi Education Board, reports UNB.

The irregularities caused a complete disarray in preparing the results and the combined merit list of the HSC examinees of the board.

The inquiry committee, headed by Additional Secretary of Education Ministry Abdur Rab, will submit report within the next two weeks, said an official handout yesterday.

Constable shot dead in Naogaon

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 27: One constable was shot dead and another seriously injured by miscreants at Mushpidpur Hat under Pansha thana in Naogaon district yesterday evening.

According to police sources, some shopkeepers informed constables - Alkes and Ajhar - that two persons are moving in the market suspiciously. The policemen rushed to the market and challenged the two persons who at once took out sawed-off rifles from their bags and opened fire on them.

Alkes died on the spot and Ajhar was admitted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.

The miscreants also matched two rifles from the policemen and managed to escape.

When contacted, the Deputy Inspector General of Police of Rajshahi Range said, efforts are on to hunt down the terrorists who are apparently the members of a gang of dacoits.

Docs in Rajshahi stop pvt practice

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 27: Doctors in Rajshahi abstained from private practice today as part of their strike for an indefinite period.

The Rajshahi district units of Bangladesh Medical Association and Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners' Association jointly called the strike from today demanding action against toll collectors and terrorists. All private clinics also remained closed today.

Suspected toll-collectors attacked Dr. Taimur A K Mahmud, Asstt. professor in Medicine Department of Rajshahi Medical College Hospital for his refusal to give tolls.

The BMA and BPPMA leaders have threatened to continue the strike until the terrorists are arrested.

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College teacher assaulted

PIROJPUUR, Oct 27: The teachers of Government Suhrawardy College will boycott class for three days from tomorrow to register their protest against the attack on a teacher of the college, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Tawhidul Islam, a lecturer of Islamic History, was assaulted on Saturday night by Masudur Rahman, an HSC candidate of the college who failed to come out successful in the examinations.

The college teachers today met the Principal and demanded legal action against the offender within three days.

Female jatra artiste kidnapped

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 27: A female artiste of a traditional jatra group was kidnapped during a clash between two groups of youths at a village in Kazipur thana early today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said 17 people were also injured in the clash that erupted after the youths turned violent while enjoying obscene dance during a jatra performance at Sonamukhi village at dead of night.

At one stage, some of the miscreants picked up Suchitra, 22, from the green room of Nabarun Opera.

Opera manager Gazi Ehsan filed a case with Kazipur police.

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One jailed for rape

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The Additional District and Sessions Judge gave the verdict against Abdul Muftiz Uddin, 28, son of Omar Ali, for the crime he committed in August last year.

According to the prosecution case, Muftiz Uddin entered the house of Motiur Rahman on the night of August 10, 1995 at Gatepara in the town and had raped his wife Anguri, 20. Motiur was not present in the house at that time.

On hearing a hue and cry, neighbours rushed to the spot and caught Muftiz Uddin from the spot. He was never allowed bail.

The judge, Shah Alam Mia, found the accused guilty after examining 15 witnesses and relevant evidences.

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Two child-lifters arrested

GAIBANDHA, Oct 27: Palashbari Thana police caught two suspected child-lifters and rescued two children from their possession last night.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided a Dhaka bound night coach and nabbed the child-lifters - Hamidul and Harun - of village Kamarpur under Kurigram district. Police also rescued the children - Sultia, 8, and Zia 6.

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