

Inside Today

Article

Of Government and Governance

Column: Beneath the Surface
by Abdul Bayes
Page 4

International

Myanmar govt taking steps to improve ties with Suu Kyi, NLD

Zaire severs diplomatic ties with Rwanda, Burundi, Uganda
Page 5

Business

WB advocates for special purpose company to execute \$300m Private Sector Infrastructure Development Project

Bourses experience complete bull-week
Pages 6, 7

Teens and Twenties

Paris, the fashion capital; Rising force; and The water power
Page 8

Supplement

One-page special supplement on National Voluntary Blood Donation and Posthumous Eye Donation Day '96
Page 9

NEWS BRIEFS

JS session adjourned till Monday

The second session of the seventh Parliament was adjourned yesterday till 4:15 pm on Monday. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury announced the adjournment at 8:55 pm yesterday, reports UNB.

ICDDR,B Trustee Board meets today

The 35th meeting of the Board of Trustees (BoT) of International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) begins in the capital today. The three-day meeting, to be chaired by Chairperson of BoT Dr Maureen Law, will review and consider reports of the programme committees, finance committee report with regard to budget for 1997, and those of the personal committee. A meeting of Donor Support Group will also be held on Monday, reports UNB.

Old man chopped to death in Barisal

By Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Nov 1: An old man was chopped to death in broad daylight allegedly by his son-in-law in the town this morning. The dead was identified as Majid Commander. His son Nasir, 25, was also injured in the attack. According to police, the killing is a fallout of family feud. Police arrested the son-in-law from the spot.

Taliban down chopper: 7 killed

ISLAMABAD, Nov 1: Seven people were killed today as the Taliban militia shot down a helicopter belonging to the northern alliance led by General Abdul Rashid Dostam. The Taliban-run radio Shariat said. The broadcast of the authorities who new control Kabul monitored here, said the helicopter was downed in Mainana, capital of northwestern Faryab province amid heavy fighting which continued to rage throughout the day, reports AFP.

1000 Pak Jamaat workers freed

KARACHI, Nov 1: Some 1,000 activists of the main fundamentalist Jamaat-i-Islami (JI) party have been released from various jails in Pakistan. Party spokesman Masood Hussain Tahir said here today. He said the freed activists were among more than 2,000 people arrested during a countryside crackdown on JI supporters, ahead of an anti-government sit-in planned by the party outside the national parliament in Islamabad earlier this week, reports AFP.

JS winter session begins

BNP MP's remark on two ministers sparks debate

By Staff Correspondent

The inaugural sitting of the Jatiya Sangsad's winter session yesterday witnessed a brief debate on induction into the council of ministers of Sheikh Hasina. Two persons who had allegedly opposed the War of Independence in 1971.

The debate started when State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed accused BNP legislator Major (ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed of making an "untrue statement" in the House.

Hafizuddin, while deliberating on a condolence motion on a freedom fighter, agreed with Treasury Bench member Abdul Kader Siddiki that many who had opposed the war of independence got opportunity to sit in the House. The BNP legisla-

tor further said it was unfortunate that two anti-liberation elements had been inducted into the council of ministers of Sheikh Hasina.

Accusing the BNP lawmaker of making an "untrue statement", the State Minister for Information demanded: "Hafizuddin must disclose the names." A good number of Treasury Bench members were seen supporting the state minister.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury gave the floor to Hafizuddin on the ground of his "right of reply" but requested him not to utter any such name for the sake of maintaining an atmosphere suitable for making obituary references. Amidst demands from some members

belonging to both the Treasury and the Opposition benches that the names be disclosed, the Chair also sought cooperation from Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia to avoid any unfortunate situation on the issue.

At this point, Hafizuddin was heard asking the Leader of the Opposition whether he should disclose the names and she was seen hinting him not to do so. Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan were also seen dissuading their party MP from doing so.

"I am not disclosing the names for the sake of saving the

See Page 12 Col 2

JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

Awami League lawmaker ASM Ferroz rose to raise a question in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday after Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury declared that the question-answer session for the sitting was over.

"It is only two minutes to an hour for the question session. Can you finish by two minutes?", the Speaker told Ferroz.

After a while, a smiling Speaker announced, "Two minutes are over." However, he allowed Ferroz to raise the question and the minister concerned to reply.

The Speaker was about to go for the next session of the sitting when Ferroz stood up to raise his question.

Home Minister Maj (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam, BU, seemed offended when a Treasury Bench member, Shamsul Haq advised him not to "tarnish" the image

See Page 12 Col 7

34 more on 'hit list' in Khulna

5 of rival outlawed party shot dead

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 1: Five persons, including three of a family were shot dead allegedly by the activists of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) on WAPDA enclosure at Taltala village under Dumuria thana of the district on Thursday mid-night.

Police said, a group of armed men reportedly belonging to the outlawed BCP tied the hands of the victims and wrapped their mouths with napkins before shooting them.

The dead, reportedly the activists of rival Purba Banglar Communist Party were identified as Mohammed Ali, 42, Mizanur Rahman, 30, Abdur Razzak, 35, of Hajrakathi village under Tala thana and Intaj

Sheikh, 40, and his son Habibur Rahman, 20, of Kapilmuni village under Paikgachha thana.

Police today recovered the bodies from a paddy field.

The Police Super, Satkhira said that the alleged killers left a letter containing names of 34 persons on their hit list.

Police further said that the killings, might be an outcome of leadership conflict between the two rival parties active in different areas of Satkhira and Khulna districts.

The carnage has created panic among the people of Tala, Dumuria and Kapilmuni where additional police forces have been deployed as security measures, police added.

Bring misguided youths back to normal life PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday made a fresh call upon a section of the youth community, who had gone astray to come back to normal life and utilise their talents in national development efforts, reports BSS.

"Our aim is to bring them back to a decent and normal life to utilise their thoughts and talents in the nation building

Editorial on page 4

activities," she said adding, "These youths were forced into a confused life with arms given by certain quarters to consolidate their powers after 1975 episode."

The prime minister asked the Ministry of Youth and Sports to take up plans to provide all helps to these youths to enable them stand on their own heels and the government would extend all its cooperation to that effect.

See Page 12 Col 1

CHT situation now under control: Home Minister

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the overall law and order in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) was brought under control soon after the September 9 incident in which 28 non-tribals were killed at Baghaichhari in Rangamati district.

Appropriate measures will be taken to stop recurrence of such incidents after reports of the probe committee and the two parliamentary committees are available, he said while replying to some questions and supplementaries in the House.

The Home Minister also informed the House government's plans regarding modernisation of the police force and the coast guard, condition of prisons and the number of detainees and recovery of illegal arms.

Answering a question on the CHT by BNP lawmaker Nizamuddin Khan, the Home Minister said that armed forces, BDR and police deployed there were instructed to tighten security in the area after the September 9 incident.

Besides visits by a number of

ministers, the five-member probe committee headed by the Additional Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong and a parliamentary team led by the Chief Whip also visited the area, he said.

While replying to two separate supplementary questions from Moshir Rahman of BNP and Joinal Abedin Hajari of ruling Awami League, the minister sought cooperation from the BNP in maintaining law and order in the CHT. He also urged BNP to let him know the findings of its parliamentary probe body.

Replying to a supplementary from MA Bari of AL, the minister informed the House that a proposal for modernisation of the police force was submitted to the government recently. Earlier, replying to a question from Mohammad Mosharrar Hussain of BNP, Rafiqul Islam said that infrastructural conditions of many police stations were bad. Out of 580 police stations in the country only 200 had vans, he said. "Separate committees were studying the

See Page 12 Col 4

Uneasy calm at Longadu

By Morshed Ali Khan, back from Rangamati

The relation between Bengali settlers and Chakmas in the Longadu and Baghaichhari areas in the Chittagong Hill Tracts has not yet improved long after the massacre of 28 woodcutters on September 9, according to high officials at the Rangamati Hill District headquarters.

A top official in Rangamati requesting anonymity said "Chakma students do not attend schools or colleges, businesses between the two communities have come to a halt and logging has almost stopped there."

This has created a vacuum in the flow of supply of daily commodities in those areas, especially in the remote parts of the district, senior district officials pointed out.

They also reported that they were preparing to distribute 250 metric tonnes of wheat in those areas as reports of acute shortage of food were reaching them everyday.

"We are doing our best to normalise the situation and have partially succeeded in the Baghaichhari area," said Shah Alam, DC of Rangamati, when asked to comment on the mat-

ter.

Bodies of 28 woodcutters, out of 33 kidnapped by the Shantibahini, were recovered on September 10 from a deep forest at a valley near Churakhali, 30 Kilometers off Longadu under Baghaichhari thana and 110 kilometres from Rangamati. Officials said that the woodcutters had been massacred on September 9.

The woodcutters had been abducted from a meeting with the Shantibahini who were allegedly negotiating how much toll money the woodcutters should pay for every cubic foot of timber extracted from the area, according to sources.

"On September 7 and 8 some of the woodcutters met the Shantibahini toll collection cadres but the meeting was postponed till September 9 on the ground that more participants from the woodcutters should be present," said a source.

It was also learnt from some official sources that a top official of the Divisional Forest Office had visited the spot a day before the tragic incident and talked with relevant parties re-

See Page 12 Col 4

Highlight people's problems in JS, AL MPs urged

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) at its meeting yesterday put special emphasis on highlighting peoples' problems and possible solutions to those in the Jatiya Sangsad.

Prime Minister and AL President Sheikh Hasina presided over the ALPP meeting held at the Sangsad Bhavan.

Addressing the meeting, Sheikh Hasina informed her party lawmakers about her recent official visit to the United States and said her trip was successful in enhancing the image of the country abroad and gaining a "tremendous" response from US investors for investment in Bangladesh.

She urged her party MPs to highlight peoples' problems in their respective constituencies so that those could be solved through debates and discussions in the House.

The meeting began at 2:45 pm. AL MP and Presidium member of the party Begum Sajeda Chowdhury told The Daily Star that yesterday's ALPP meeting was a brief one as the Prime Minister and other AL members of the Business Advisory Committee had to attend a meeting of the Committee at 3:30 pm.

Other AL sources told this correspondent that the Prime Minister also listened to some party MPs who came up with various suggestions for smooth distribution of fertiliser.

AL leader and Agriculture Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury told The Daily Star last night that the ALPP meeting resolved to continue the party's 'positive attitude to the Opposition.' Prime Minister told us to maintain our government's transparency and accountability.

Education Week begins today

The National Education Week begins today throughout the country, reports UNB.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday gave separate messages on the occasion.

President Shahabuddin

See Page 12 col 5



Jayewardene dead

COLOMBO, Nov 1: Sri Lanka's first executive head of state, Junius Jayewardene died here today. He was 90, report agencies.

He had been suffering from cancer of the colon, and died in a private hospital with his family at his bedside. Scores of people were outside the hospital when his body was taken to a Buddhist funeral home.

Jayewardene, who took office in 1978, retired from politics in 1989 after completing

See Page 12 Col 2

Commentary

How not to make a trip

By Mahfuz Anam

Granted that it is too early for any impact assessment exercise of the Prime Minister's trip, yet the time is quite propitious for some overall comments on it.

Let us first look at the high points of the trip. They were: addressing the UNGA (the fact that she did so in Bangla is a matter of special pride for us), meeting the Secretary General and heads of some other UN agencies, holding meetings with potential US based investors, meeting the Bangladeshi community, and giving a lecture at Harvard University.

The low points of Sheikh Hasina's trip were the following: no meeting with any US leader of any consequence, no meeting with any leader from any other country who come to address the UNGA (many such meetings occur when trips are prepared far in advance), no major coverage in the US media, etc.

As for the high points, they must be seen in perspective. A head of government can address the UNGA if he or she wants to. Here, a Member States wish is

UN's command. The Secretary General and all other UN heads, as international civil servants, considers it an honour to meet heads of governments. Ultimately the most important aspect of her trip will turn out to be how much foreign investment she will be able to attract for our country. That of course will be seen in the future.

Before going further we would like to raise the core question of the timing of Sheikh Hasina's trip. Was it really necessary for our newly elected Prime Minister to rush to the UN this year? What was so urgent that she needed to communicate to the world community? Who advised her to do so? Was it the Foreign Ministry, her own party, her own staff, or was it her own decision? The answer to these questions are critically important because, unlike what we do within our own country, foreign trips need to be very well thought out first. They need to be carefully conceived, meticulously planned and professionally executed. The most important thing in diplomacy what a

PM's foreign trip is all about I suppose. Or am I wrong? Is timing.

Wouldn't it have been far better to go next year when, with a year to prepare and with good planning and lobbying, she could have: a) met the US President, the Vice President, the House Speaker, Committee Chairpersons or at least some leaders of consequence of both Democratic and the Republican Parties; b) address the UNGA in a far more important slot; c) met other world leaders, and made personal contacts with leaders of other developed and developing countries; d) made better impression on the American public through more media coverage, as everything would have been far better planned. Even her meetings with the Bangladeshi community would have far more impact because she would have had so much more to show as her activities.

So the first conclusion that we are forced to come to about the Prime Minister's trip is that it was ill-timed. Second conclusion is that it was also badly

See Page 12 Col 1

Revolver of PS to Opposition Leader seized at JS Bhaban

By Staff Correspondent

A revolver was seized from the Private Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad while he was entering the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday afternoon, police said.

A police officer challenged Zakirul Islam as the metal detector beeped while he was crossing the VIP gate Number One at around 3:45 pm, prior to the inaugural sitting of second session of the JS, said witnesses

Yasmin murder case: Hearing resumes today

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 1: Hearing of the Yasmin murder case will resume in the Special Court here tomorrow.

Court sources said charges will be framed against the nine accused in the case tomorrow.

Some eminent lawyers from Dhaka including Barrister Amirul Islam are expected to join local lawyers to appear for the prosecution.

See Page 12 Col 8

One of 3 corruption cases

Rao asked to appear in court Nov 13

By Staff Correspondent

NEW DELHI, Nov 1: Former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's legal problems deepened today when a court summoned him for an indictment hearing in an alleged bribery conspiracy, reports AP.

Prosecutors have charged Rao with complicity in buying the votes of four opposition members of Parliament to rescue his minority government from defeat in a 1993 no-confidence motion. The four allegedly were paid a total of 35 million rupees (1 million dollar).

Judge Ajit Bharihoke ordered Rao and two of his former cabinet ministers to appear in court November 13. He also summoned the four men who allegedly accepted the bribes, who have been in pre-trial custody since September 5.

The summons will increase pressure on the 75-year-old Rao to relinquish his last position of influence as chairman of the Congress Party's faction in Parliament.

Rao resigned as Congress Party president in September, five months after leading his once-dominant party to its worst election debacle since independence in 1947.

The bribery case was just one of three separate corruption charges filed against Rao since he lost power. Until this week, his lawyers had kept him out of jail and even managed to avoid a court appearance.

On Wednesday, Rao walked

See Page 12 Col 4

BNP leader stabbed to death in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 1: A local BNP leader was stabbed to death in the premises of Shibganj bazar mosque today when he reportedly tried to mediate a dispute.

There had been a long-standing dispute between the committee of Jamea Hafiza Madrassah and Advocate ASM Quasem Ali over the boundary of his house with the Madrassah, according to local people.

A hot exchange words took

See Page 12 col 5

Five arrested for demanding ransom

By Staff Correspondent

Five persons were arrested reportedly for demanding ransom money of Tk 6.5 lakh for the release of a young man from East Nakhalpara area under Tejgaon thana in the city yesterday.

In the name of sending people abroad, they were involved in abducting and collecting ransom money from the families of the victims, police said.

Police added that the arrested persons, members of a gang, demanded Tk 6.5 lakh

See Page 12 Col 6

Uttara Model Town Residential plots still in industrial use

By Staff Correspondent

A section of lessees of plots at Uttara Model Town is illegally using their residential plots for industrial purpose, consistently ignoring notices served by the RAJUK and other authorities concerned, official sources said.

These illegal users of residential plots are also evading tax for industrial plots with the help of a section of RAJUK employees, the sources said.

They maintain unholy alliance with certain powerful quarters to escape action in this regard, it is alleged.

Several factories have been set up in the model town area violating the provisions of the lease agreements, sources concerned said, adding that even some buildings have been raised bypassing the plans approved by the relevant authorities.

Officials said that the illegal users had been served with notices by the Dhaka City Corporation, RAJUK, and other relevant authorities, but to no effect so far.

RAJUK sources pointed out

that lease holders of residential plots usually rent out their plots for industrial use for monetary gains. Residential plots are much cheaper than commercial plots and tax for the latter is five times that for the former, they added.

A number of factories in

See Page 12 Col 4

MARK BANGLADESH SHILPA & ENGINEERING LTD.
(A Public Company Limited By Shares)
Registered Office: Holding No. CEN (H)-30
Road No. 115, Gulshan, Dhaka -1212

Public Offer of 13,39,300 Ordinary Shares of TK. 100 each at 100% Premium



SUBSCRIPTION OPENS : 30TH OCTOBER 1996
SUBSCRIPTION CLOSES : 7TH NOVEMBER 1996

Bankers to the Issue

- NATIONAL CREDIT & COMMERCE BANK LIMITED
Motijheel Branch, Dhaka
Dhanmondi Branch, Dhaka
Mogbazar Branch, Dhaka
Midport Branch, Dhaka
Mirpur Branch, Dhaka
Agrabad Branch, Chittagong
Khatungonj Branch, Chittagong
Mahjirhat Branch, Chittagong
Rangpur Branch, Rangpur
- NATIONAL BANK LTD
Dilkusha Branch, Dhaka
Imamgonj Branch, Dhaka
Kawran Bazar Branch, Dhaka
Motijheel Branch, Dhaka
Mohakhali Branch, Dhaka
Foreign Exchange Branch, Dhaka
Elephant Road Branch, Dhaka
Bangshal Branch, Dhaka
Narayangonj Branch, Narayangonj
Sylhet Branch, Sylhet
Rajshahi Branch, Rajshahi
Agrabad Branch, Chittagong
Khatungonj Branch, Chittagong
Khulna Branch, Khulna
- INVESTMENT CORPORATION OF BANGLADESH
Head Office, Dhaka
Chittagong Branch, Chittagong
Rajshahi Branch, Rajshahi
Khulna Branch, Khulna
- Sylhet Branch, Sylhet
Barisal Branch, Barisal
- JANATA BANK
Local Office, Dhaka
Imamgonj Branch, Dhaka
Foreign Exchange Corporate Branch, Dhaka
Motijheel Corporate Branch, Dhaka
Laidighi East Corporate Branch, Chittagong
Shaikh Mujib Road Corporate Branch, Chittagong
- Sylhet Corporate Branch, Sylhet
Rajshahi Principal Branch, Rajshahi
Barisal Principal Branch, Barisal
K.D. Ghosh Road Corporate Branch, Khulna
- ARAB BANGLADESH BANK LTD
Principal Branch, Dhaka
New Elephant Road Branch, Dhaka
Kawran Bazar Branch, Dhaka
Agrabad Branch, Chittagong
Rajshahi Branch, Rajshahi
6. DHAKA BANK
Local Office, Dhaka
Agrabad Branch, Chittagong
- IFC BANK LTD
Federation Branch, Dhaka
Shantinagar Branch, Dhaka
Dhanmondi Branch, Dhaka
Elephant Road Branch, Dhaka
Naya Paltan Branch, Dhaka
- Gulshan Branch, Dhaka
Agrabad Branch, Chittagong
Rajshahi Branch, Rajshahi
Khulna Branch, Khulna
Jessore Branch, Jessore
Kustia Branch, Kustia
Barisal Branch, Barisal
Comilla Branch, Comilla
- AGRANI BANK
Principal Branch, Dhaka
Amin Court Branch, Dhaka
Farmgate Branch, Dhaka
Mohakhali Branch, Dhaka
Ramna Branch, Dhaka
Hatikola Branch, Dhaka
Chawk Bazar Branch, Dhaka
Sat Mosjid Road Branch, Dhaka
WASA Branch, Dhaka
Agrabad C/A Branch, Chittagong
Sahab Bazar Branch, Rajshahi
Laidighirpar Branch, Sylhet
Sir Iqbal Road Branch, Khulna
- SOUTH EAST BANK LTD
Principal Branch, Dhaka
Agrabad Branch, Chittagong
Laidighirpar Branch, Sylhet
- THE CITY BANK
Principal Branch, Dhaka
Gulshan Branch, Dhaka
New Market Branch, Dhaka
Kawran Bazar Branch, Dhaka
Agrabad Branch, Chittagong

Prospectus published in The Financial Express (22 Oct. 96), The Bangladesh Observer (23 Oct. 96) and The Daily Ittefaq (24 Oct. 96).