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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina giving away awards of the National Education Week '96 at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday. — PID photo

## Free education for girls up to HSC soon : PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said comprehensive education programs, including free schooling for girls up to twelve class, would be implemented soon for a quick raise in the nation's literacy rate, reports UNB.

"We'll immediately implement free women education programme up to twelve class," she said, adding there is no alternative to education for socio-cultural advancement, political stability and economic development of the country.

Education is an essential element to free the nation from poverty, she said, adding, "we have singled out poverty as the number one problem of the country and education as the means of freeing the nation from poverty."

Addressing the award-giving ceremony of the National Education Week 1996 at the Osmani Memorial Hall in the morning, she said an educated man is an asset for his family and for the nation.

Although it sounds rude, the reality is that the majority of the population is illiterate, most of whom are women, she said. "So, the expansion of women education is necessary to reduce the gap between the rate of male and female education," she added.

The Prime Minister said her government believes that it

## PM's instruction

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documents, widespread deviation from the set method of evaluation, nepotism and politicisation during the time of the previous government.

These activities, the handout said, had hampered the public interest and helped increase of *mafia* in one hand and on the other public works were of low quality and low standard items had been supplied to government stores.

Following the instruction of the Prime Minister tender documents of all categories of government and semi-government organisations having estimated cost of Taka ten lakh or over would be available in the concerned organisations as well as divisional commissioner's office.

Necessary steps will be taken in offices concerned to maintain law and order so that all contractors and suppliers can participate safely in the bidding.

If any contractor or supplier was found violating the normal process he would be black listed and would be charged under the criminal code.

## College student stabbed to death in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 4: Tension is prevailing on the B.L. College campus after the brutal killing of Mushfiqur Rahman, 23, a student of college.

He was beaten to death near the Boyra Government Girls' College on Sunday evening by a group of unidentified young men, police said.

The Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) claiming the deceased as their activist has blamed the JCD for the killing. The JCD has denied the charge.

The BCL has, however, demanded a holiday in the BL College tomorrow in memory of the deceased.

## US fighter fires missile at Iraqi missile system

WASHINGTON, Nov 4: A US F-16 fighter fired a anti-radar missile at an Iraqi mobile surface-to-air missile system today in the second such incident in three days, a Pentagon spokesman said, reports AFP.

"The F-16 received indications he was being targeted," said Pentagon spokesman Sam Grizzle. "Acting under the rules of engagement, he fired a missile at it."

The incident occurred at 0900 GMT about 40 kilometers from where a similar incident occurred Saturday.

## 7 killed

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other victim, aged about 25, could not be identified.

Drivers of the trucks fled immediately. Both the trucks were heading towards Dhaka.

In another incident, twelve policemen were injured when a truck rammmed a police petrol van near Mimijini on the Narayanganj-Demra road.

Of the injured, three were taken to the Pangu Hospital in Dhaka in serious condition, four to the Rajarbagh Police line hospital and two to the Narayanganj hospital. Three others were released after first aid.

Our Correspondent from Tangail says, one person was killed and 16 others injured in a road accident at Korola Bazar under Tangail thana on the Dhaka-Tangail highway yesterday evening.

Witnesses said, a Tangail-bound minibus of Sajib Paribahan hit some road-side vehicles at 5.30 pm as the driver lost control of the bus.

Abul Kalam, 23, a tempo driver of Nagar Jalpai, died on the spot.

Critically injured Shahidul Islam was sent to Dhaka for treatment while 10 others were admitted to Tangail General Hospital.

Our Rajshahi Correspondent reports: A minor boy aged about five months was killed and three others including his parents were injured when a tempo plunged into a roadside ditch yesterday morning at Kadirganj in the city.

The injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital where the minor boy, Babu, succumbed to his injuries. The boy was son of one Ali of Ujjur village under Natore District.

BSS adds: One person was killed and 15 others injured when a Honma bound bus from Comilla fell into a road-side ditch on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Raipur Bazar under Daudkandi thana of Comilla district yesterday.

According to eye witnesses, the accident occurred when a speeding bus coming from Raipur of Noakhali district lost its control and hit from behind the Honma-bound bus standing on the road. The Honma-bound bus fell into the roadside ditch killing one and injuring 15 others.

Eight of the injured were given first aid at Gauripur Hospital.

Clinton White House will face increasing legal entanglements in a second term that could hurt the country.

Reform Party candidate Ross Perot was a distant third everywhere but pulling enough votes in some states to influence the outcome. He spent the day in his campaign venue of choice — a television studio — working

WASHINGTON, Nov 4: The first results from tomorrow's US elections are expected shortly after polls close at 6 pm EST (2300 GMT) in the states of Kentucky and Indiana. Fuller results will come when another seven eastern states close their polls at 7 pm (midnight GMT). The first television network projection of the presidential election winner is unlikely to come before 9 pm (0200 GMT) and it could be much later if the race is close, reports Reuter.

on spots to fill 120 minutes of network time he has purchased on elective eve.

The US presidential race is decided by electoral votes, with each state given a certain number of votes based on its population. Winning a state, even by the smallest of margins, entitles a candidate to all of that state's electoral votes. It takes a majority, or 270 of 538 electoral votes, to win the presidency.

## PM's steps to open KPM urged

CHITTAGONG, Nov 4: The Karnaphuli Paper Mills (KPM) All Party Action Committee today submitted a memorandum urging the Prime Minister to take urgent steps to reactivate the mills which stopped operation on Sunday due to disconnection of gas line, reports UNB.

The memorandum from the Prime Minister was submitted through the Thana Nirbahi Officer of Kaptai in Rangamati district after a protest rally at the Chandraghona mills gale.

# The Daily Star

## American Chamber formally launched

By Staff Correspondent

American Chamber of Commerce in Bangladesh (AmCham), representing the US business in the country, was formally launched yesterday to promote economic ties between the two countries.

Launching the new chamber, Minister for Commerce and Industry Tofael Ahmed, hoped that the chamber would play a vital role in increasing the flow of American investment in Bangladesh.

US Ambassador David N. Merrill and President of the Chamber Forrest Cookson, among others, also spoke at the function held at a city hotel.

Seeking active cooperation from the American entrepreneurs in Bangladesh's development efforts, Tofael Ahmed said, "We want to see that the American industrialists are coming in a big way to invest in our country." The government has prepared the ground for foreign investment," he added.

In this regard, he mentioned various steps taken by the government to remove different bottlenecks in industrialization of the country.

"A permanent law commission was formed to formulate new laws and solve legal barriers to industrialization of the country and growth of the private sector," the minister said.

The Commission had already taken several steps including drafting a law allowing establishment of export processing zones in the private sector, he pointed out.

David N. Merrill also hoped that the American investors would come to Bangladesh for large scale investment in the near future.

He regretted that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Bangladesh from America could not cross 25 million US dollars in the last two years due to some impediments.

According to him, the main barrier in this regard was political instability.

Bangladesh has achieved a lot in bringing political stability and creating grounds that would attract the attention of American entrepreneurs, Merrill said.

He mentioned that 50 per cent of the enquiries received during Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to the US concerned power, oil and gas sectors.

Terming the formation of the new chamber a "positive" step, the ambassador said this will give a signal to the US investors.

Referring to the growing trade between two countries, Merrill said that US was the largest buyer of Bangladeshi fabrics while Bangladeshi entrepreneurs imported a large number of machinery from US.

AmCham, formerly the American Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF), is the first single country foreign chamber of commerce in Bangladesh and has been registered with the Joint Stock Companies.

## One killed in city

By DMC Correspondent

An unidentified man aged about 30, was killed when some bricks and other materials from an under-construction highrise building fell on him at Purana Paltan in the city yesterday.

He sustained fatal injuries as the construction materials fell on his head when he was passing the area near the Jonaki Cinema hall, at about 4 pm, police said.

Motijheel police picked up four persons from the building site for interrogation yesterday evening.

## Cooperative relationship between Govt-NGOs a must: Kibria

Finance Minister Shah ASM Kibria yesterday said nobody is above the laws of the land and no organisation is parallel to the government, reports UNB.

There must be cooperative and supportive relationship between the government and the non-governmental organisations (NGOs), he said at the publication ceremony of a new report.

The report entitled "Pursuing Common Goals: Strengthening Relations Between Government and Development NGOs" was launched at a function at the Women's Voluntary Association (WVA) auditorium in the city in the evening.

Agriculture, Food, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Matia Chowdhury presided over the function.

It was addressed by World Bank Resident Representative in Dhaka Pierre Landell-Mills. Local Government Division Secretary Hassanul Hye, Gramen Udyog Managing Director Lutfulah Majid, Prof Vice Chancellor of National University Prof Mahbub Ullah, Prof Syed M Hashemi of Jahangirnagar University and Secretary General of Bangladesh Society for the Enforcement of Human Rights Signa Huda.

Addressing the function, the finance minister said the NGOs are playing a significant role in providing micro-credits to the poor in rural areas to improve their socio-economic conditions.

The government is very cooperative to and supportive of the NGOs, he said adding that the NGOs must carry out their activities with the support of the people of the country as well as the government.

About proposal in the Report seeking exemption of tax for the NGOs in case of income generating projects, the Finance Minister said if it is accepted, the entire tax administration will collapse and many may use it to manipulate.

Speaking on the occasion, Matia Chowdhury said that since the government and the NGOs are pursuing the common goal of poverty alleviation, a coordinated approach is very needed.

The bottom line for successful coordination is a sense of partnership, commitment and a common vision based on mutually shared information and experience.

The Report proposes that a National Task Force should be set up involving the government, NGOs and others to identify ways to develop a coordinated approach to poverty alleviation initiatives of the government and the NGOs.

The government, it says, should also set up a legal task force with representatives from the ADAB and other sectoral networks to harmonize all existing laws and regulations in order to remove inconsistencies.

The Report recommends that the NGO Affairs Bureau (NGOAB), meant to provide one-stop service to the NGOs, needs to simplify its numerous procedures to reduce the burden of paperwork on NGOs and eliminate unjustified interference in the NGOs' legitimate activities; reduce the strain placed on the NGOAB's institutional capacity and reorient its activities from a focus on control to supportive functions.

## JS obituary ref

From Page 1

Amir of the Treasury Bench.

The order of the day that included an hour-long question answer session and disposal of call attention notices on "maternal public importance," was completed by 8.15 pm.

But as soon as Suranjit Sengupta of the ruling party, who has been voted to parliament through the recent by-election in Habiganj-2 constituency, raised a point of order at 8.17 pm, BNP legislators started making comments questioning the fairness of the election.

Suranjit was, however, seen trying to make a point on the reported carrying of a firearm by the PS to the Leader of the Opposition in the JS.

The PS, who carrying a licensed firearm, was challenged at the Sangsad Bhabhan gate on November 1, and eventually a general diary was filed with the police station concerned.

As Suranjit referred to the incident, shouts from BNP legislators obstructed him. Meanwhile, the Treasury Bench members were on their feet, leading the House to a state of near pandemonium.

At this point, the Speaker was heard saying: "I do not hear

## Bid to trespass

From Page 1

with Shaju who hails from Bogra Sadar and presently resides at Mirpur Section-1 in the city.

Shaju, however, told police that he collected a pass from a senior opposition MP. He identified himself as a garments worker and said that he collected the pass for visiting the Sangsad Bhabhan to observe the proceedings of the House. He entered the Sangsad Bhabhan at around 5 pm showing the pass to the on duty SB police at the main entry gate, police said quoting Shaju.

In the other incident, Hemayet and Bahar entered the Gana Bhabhan when chased by patrol police for their suspicious movements in the nearby Crescent Lake Road. Police said that the two ran and entered the reception room of the Gana Bhabhan from where they were arrested.

Hemayet resides in Mohammadpur area in the city while Bahar is an LGED employee in Jhalakathi, who recently came to Dhaka for a visit, police said.

Senior police officials were interrogating the three at the Tejgaon thana till late last night. Their motives were yet to be ascertained, police added.

## Govt procured 10 lakh bales of Jute

By Staff Correspondent

Minister of State for Jute A K Faizul Haq informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the government procured 10.01 lakh bales (48.30 lakh maunds) of jute between July 1 and October 21 this year.

The average price was Tk 478.20 per maund.

Replying to questions from BNP lawmaker M K Anwar and Awami League deputy Mirza Azam, he said that the total requirement of state-run jute mills for the current fiscal was 18 lakh bales. There was a stock of one lakh bale from last fiscal's carryover, he said.

He told another questioner that there was no scope to raise the procurement price of jute.



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## Bokassa dead

PARIS, Nov 4: Jean-Berel Bokassa, a former dictator accused of slaughtering and cannibalizing critics of his Central African Republic regime, has died, radio stations reported today. He was 75, reports AP.

Europe 1 radio, monitored in Paris, said Bokassa died of a heart attack Sunday evening at a clinic in Bangui, capital of the tiny African nation he had ruled as a self-proclaimed "emperor" from 1966 until 1979.

Bokassa's son, Jean-Charles, confirmed the death in an interview with the BBC World Service, saying medics at the clinic tries in vain to give him oxygen and restart his heart.

## Indian parliamentary team visits Chakma refugees

By Monitoring Staff

A five-member Indian parliamentary team yesterday met the representatives of the Chakma refugees of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in Agartala, capital of the state of Tripura, the BBC said last night.

The BBC report monitored in Dhaka said, the parliamentary team led by OS Rajagopal discussed with the refugee leaders as well as Chakma leaders and human rights activists the repatriation of the refugees.

The CHT refugee representatives team was led by a former MP from the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in Agartala. The representatives of various Chakma organisations of Tripura were led by Mrinal Kanti Chakma.

Mrinal told newsmen that they mainly discussed the problems of the 50,000 refugees who came to Tripura from Bangladesh over the last 10 years.

They said they spoke to the parliamentary team of discrimination against the CHT refugees by the Indian authorities.

The Chakma leaders urged the team to take steps for providing the CHT refugees with the same facilities given to Tamil and Tibetan refugees in India.

They said food rations and financial allocations for the CHT refugees were decreasing making their life in the refugee camps in South Tripura unbearable.

Rajagopal told the newsmen that the team had earlier visited CHT refugee camps in Arunachal state. As the Indian government itself had given shelter to these refugees in the 1960s. Their security should be ensured, he said.

## Mirpur Housing Estate Showcase on Works Ministry

A High Court division bench yesterday issued rule upon the Ministry of Works to show cause within four weeks as to why the revised plan of Block A, Section 12, Mirpur Housing Estate, Dhaka, converting the vacant space known as 'Lal Math' into residential plots should not be declared without lawful authority and of no legal effect, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Kazi Ebadul Haq and Justice Anurul Kabir Chowdhury.

Advocate Saleem Ullah and his associates filed the writ petition, contending that the Ministry of Works has taken plan to divide a well-known park 'Lal Math' at Section 12, Mirpur into small plots to be leased out to 32 persons and for construction of building for Pallabi Police Station. This will pollute the environment, necessary for the health and wellbeing of the people in the area.

Advocate M I Farooqui with Advocate Saleem Ullah moved the petition.

## Sangsad tidbits

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Nasim pulled his hand back and did not join them.

Tofael, making a statement on a proposal for setting up of an export processing zone in Sylhet, it could be a glorious history for our government to set up an export processing zone in Sylhet wherefrom the Finance Minister, his predecessor and the Speaker hall."

"Suranjit Sengupta is also from the same area," Tofael hastened to add making Sengupta more happy.

In a hasty move to get rid of a chaotic situation caused in the House over a remark by AL legislator, Prof Panna Kaiser, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury gave the floor to Zafur Islam Chowdhury of BNP. "Please, hurry up, read your notice," a prompt Speaker uttered.

The Speaker announced the name of Md Shahidul Islam of BNP to raise a question. But Md Shahidul Islam was absent. The Speaker looked at the other BNP lawmakers with the same name and asked, "Would Prof Shahidul Islam like to raise the question of Md Shahidul Islam?"

A happy Prof. Shahid was prompt enough to stand up and say, "Yes, I would."

As Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju told the House about a government plan to expand the ESCAP-proposed Trans-Asian Railway route to the country's southern region, BNP Whip AYM Khalilur Rahman asked the minister, "Is it that route through which the present government is planning to give corridor to India?"

A smiling Manju replied, "It is that route which was discussed during the BNP rule."

Sharif Khasruzzaman of the AL seemed frustrated with the Communications Minister's

## Importers

From Page 1

two 'price books' known as 'Yellow Book' and 'Silver Book.' These 'books' are published by a marketing appraisal association in Japan and are updated every month with about 95 per cent accuracy, he said.

When asked who would bear the liability if the court ruling eventually goes in favour of the Customs Department, the official said that the importer would have to pay the differences.

Taxes on imported reconditioned vehicles range from 30 per cent to 45 per cent. The importer is also subjected to supplementary duty on the import.

"We have already brought the matter to the knowledge of higher authorities," said the official adding that the National Board of Revenue was taking steps to move to the court soon. The matter may also be discussed with higher government echelons, he said.

It was learnt that dispute between the Customs and the importers started when the responsibility of certifying and determining the price of imported cars (better known as CRP) was taken away from an international company in December 1995 and was vested in the Customs Department.

A car trader in the city told this correspondent that a handful of importers was benefitting from the whole thing.

"But the customers are always paying high prices for cars because when prices are fixed, importers are changing in full," he said.

At the Chittagong port, both the sites used for keeping imported cars were filled up. The manager of the sites said, "we can accommodate upto 2,200 cars in the sheds. In the last months the delivery is less because the courts have been on annual vacation."

Between November 1995 and June 1996, 4,532 cars were released from one shed alone.

## Samad Azad

From Page 1

The Foreign Minister will be having official meetings with Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral. He is also expected to meet other Indian leaders.

Abdus Samad Azad will also be carrying a personal letter from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda, the sources said.

Azad will be accompanied by senior officials of the foreign ministry and the water resources ministry.

The Foreign Minister's visit comes on the heels of the five-day official visit of Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak to India.

Diplomatic sources said that Samad Azad's visit will pave the way for fixing the date for a summit meeting between the Prime Ministers of the two countries either in December or in early January.