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Bangladesh Diabetic Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of World Diabetes Day. — Star photo

Need for increased use of surface water stressed

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak said in Dhaka yesterday Bangladesh should reach an agreement with India for getting due share of waters from common rivers, reports BSS.

Addressing a workshop on "Conservation of Buriganga Water Quality: A Need of the Time" jointly organised by Forum of Environment Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB) and World Conservation Union at the Jatiya Press Club the water resources minister said the nation has witnessed too much of politicisation of the water sharing issue which did not bring about welfare to the people.

The minister also underlined the need for proper management of water in 54 common rivers that Bangladesh shared with India.

Razzak said the government was contemplating a national water policy aiming at ensuring proper management and use of surface water.

He underlined the need for increased use of surface water instead of overusing the ground level water.

The minister expressed his concern over the increasing pollution of water of the river Buriganga.

The minister also underlined the need for taking up regional perspective plan for proper management and use of surface water.

He said "We have to remain vigilant against international

and local waste dumping in our water areas."

The inaugural session of the workshop was addressed, among others, by local representative of World Conservation Union Anwarul Islam, acting Director General of Department of Environment Ahmed Al Farooq, environment ministry official Dr Mahfuzul Huq, USAID environment specialist Ashraf Majumdar, Environment directorate official Razuddin Ahmed, Dr Saleemul Huq of Bangladesh Centre for Advancement, Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad Dr Kazi Khaliquzzaman Ahmed and General Secretary of FEJB Quamrul Islam Chowdhury. The function was presided over by FEJB President Ahmed Nure Alam.

The speakers highlighted the extent of contamination of water in the river Buriganga citing causes of pollution.

They suggested various approaches and methods for freeing the water of Buriganga from pollutants.

Another report adds: Professionals, experts and journalists emphasised the need for a coordinated effort of the ministries of water resources, environment, industries and local government for conservation of the quality of water of Buriganga, Shitalakhya, Turag and Balu rivers.

They underscored the need for ensuring the participation of people in the formulation of a national water policy and a national water management plan by involving representatives of nationally recognised professional organisations as well as successfully and effectively followed during the formulation of globally acclaimed National Environment Management Action Plan (NEMAP).

Air Force

From Page 1

work, discipline and advance training for acquiring professional knowledge and efficiency and said that the government would take all possible steps in making the Air Force capable to face the challenge of 21st century.

AL shokrana

From Page 1

Avenue with its acting president Abdul Mannan in the chair.

As part of the day's programme, a milad mahfil will be held at Baitul Mokarram Mosque after Jumma Prayers while special *munajat* and milad mahfil will also be arranged at mosques throughout the country. Special prayers will also be offered at temples, churches and pagodas.

The meeting also decided to hold rallies throughout the country tomorrow and a grand rally in the city on November 17. City unit of AL will organise the grand rally at 3 pm in front of the party's central office, meeting sources said.

The meeting asked the sub-committee formed earlier to finalise the Victory Day celebration programmes by Nov 17.

Dhaka for zero tariff

From Page 1

the WTO conference in Singapore may consider taking up additional measures in support of LDCs," he felt.

Turning to various impediments faced by LDCs in trading negotiations, Ahmed said, "We hear about new labour standards, environmental regulations, competition policy, investment, corruption and human rights issues raised in trade related discussions and negotiations," he said, "While we agree with many of the concerns reflected, in what are being termed as new issues, we feel that there should be more in-depth studies in such matters to help gather more information and knowledge."

Referring to EU, NAFTA and ASEAN he said, "We must see that these regional associations do not become special groups facing non-member economies with protectionist walls built around non-economic issues. The goal of global economic liberalisation cannot be sacrificed at the altar of regionalism."

Touching on South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA), he said there is a visible wind of change in the South Asian region for a more open economic partnership. "This, we believe is in line with the ongoing worldwide liberalisation and integration that has been set in motion

Security issue in JS Bhaban area discussed

A review meeting on security and some other issues relating to the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban was held yesterday, reports UNB.

Chaired by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, the meeting reviewed the progress of decisions earlier taken for tightening security and improving environment in the Sangsad Bhaban area, said a press release.

Among others, Whip Abdus Shaheed, Abdul Gader Siddiqui MP and Additional Secretary of Parliament Secretariat Khandker Abdul Huq were present.

RUTA adopts probe body report against VC

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Nov 14: The Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) at a general meeting tonight adopted the enquiry committee's report against the Vice-Chancellor Prof M Yusuf Ali.

The president of the association Prof M Yunus was in the chair.

The six-member probe body headed by the ex-president of RUTA, Prof M Aminul Haq Beg earlier submitted the report containing allegations of corruption, nepotism and abuse of power against the VC.

Employees of 5 edn boards begin strike

COMILLA, Nov 14: The Inter-Education Board Karmachari Federation went on an indefinite strike today, reports UNB.

The federation, a platform of the country's five education boards' employees, enforced the strike demanding separate computer cell in all the education boards instead of the present central computer centre in Dhaka.

It said the central computer centre should be decentralised for proper functioning of the five boards — Dhaka, Comilla, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Jessore.

Road accident

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the spot while two others, one of them a woman succumbed to their injuries at the Madhupur Hospital.

Three of the dead were identified as Habibur Rahman, 26, East Adalat Para, Tangail, Belal Ali Mondol, 50, Mohajangan, Sarishabari, and Kodor Begum, 28, East Dighulia, Jamalpur. The other "deceased could not be identified."

Of the injured, 4 persons were sent to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

The bodies were sent to the Tangail General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Local people put up a barricade on the Tangail-Mymensingh road for two hours in protest against the accident.

According to UNB: Three people were killed and 15 injured, three of them seriously, when a truck fell into a roadside ditch in sadar thana on the Jhenidah-Jessore highway yesterday.

Police and hospital sources said, the truck which was carrying vegetables plunged into the ditch in Koyargachhi area at about 6 pm as the driver lost control over the vehicle.

Some farmers were going to Khulna with the vegetables.

One of the farmers, Abul Hossain, 35, and a helper of the truck driver, aged about 30, died on the spot.

Bachchu Miah, 40, also a farmer, succumbed to his injuries at Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Bus fire

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bus fire incident.

Green Star, a Noakhali-bound passenger bus caught fire at about 11:30 pm on December 4 last year soon after it had left the Sayedabad bus terminal with 31 passengers on board. The incident left at least 12 persons dead.

Meet demands for return to JS: B Chowdhury

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday called upon the ruling party to create a congenial atmosphere for dialogue making way for BNP's return to Parliament, reports UNB.

"Meet our demands and stop killing, torture and repression on BNP leaders and workers... we'll certainly return to the House," he said while addressing a protest meeting near the Khilgaon rail crossing in the city in the evening.

The meeting was organised by BNP in protest against the killing of two Jubodan leaders of Motijheel-Sabujbagh area, Tuhin and Swapan. It was alleged that Tuhin was tortured to death in Motijheel thana while Swapan was killed by terrorists recently.

Prof B Chowdhury said BNP does not want to sit in Parliament only to give support to what he called the illegal activities of ruling Awami League. "We want to join the Parliament to speak for the people, but we are not being allowed to do so."

He alleged that the Treasury Bench members, particularly the ministers, were telling lies constantly in Parliament violating the Rules of Procedure. But the Opposition members were not allowed to reply to these "lies" and false accusations, he said.

"Thus they (Treasury Bench) are humiliating the Parliament and its members," the BNP leader added.

He said the country's independence and sovereignty were now at stake. "We've to remain alert to resist the conspiracy against our national sovereignty and protect the

Dialogue

From Page 1

charges.

"How can we go for discussions with the government which is indifferent to the killers of our workers and continuing arrest and filing false cases against hundreds of our activists across the country?" he asked.

The BNP secretary general also demanded implementation of the 10-point demand including protection of rights of the BNP lawmakers in the House to pave the way for a negotiation.

Meanwhile, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has reiterated his willingness to mediate the proposed dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition to resolve the impasse.

"I'm ready to mediate provided both the sides agree... I believe everything can be resolved through discussions," he said.

He also urged the BNP to return to the House saying "each and every issue can be debated and resolved on the floor of parliament" and hoped both sides would sink their misunderstandings through mutual discussions.

The Speaker also said he was not going to write again to the Deputy Leader of the Opposition whose letter he received Wednesday.

The Speaker wrote to the BNP leader in response to the latter's 10-point demand submitted to him on Monday.

Asked on the Speaker's readiness to act as a mediator in the proposed talks, Mannan Bhuiyan said, "Let's wait until then."

Commenting on the same issue, Suranjit said, "The Speaker's mediation is always welcome and I have conveyed our readiness to sit for dialogue either unilaterally or bilaterally or even multilaterally."

Rao gets bail in third forgery case

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: Former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao was granted bail in a forgery case Thursday and was exempted from personal court appearances during trial, reports AP.

Bail was set Thursday at 100,000 rupees (about \$12,800), Indian news agencies reported.

Indian law requires that suspects should be present during trial, but judges have the power to make exceptions, and have done so in the past for those with high social standings or medical excuses.

Nat'l Jute Mills reopens

GAZIPUR, Nov 14: National Jute Mills Limited located at Kaliganj in Gazipur district was reopened today which had been closed for a long time, according to an official handout. State Minister for Jute and Textiles A K Faizul Huq formally reopened the mills, reports BSS.

Another tiger dies

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the meat supplied for the tigers' meal, was not procured lawfully. The regulations require that the live cows must be brought in and slaughtered here after being certified by the veterinary officer as fit, but during that period we saw only meat being brought in from outside and offered to the animals," said a zoo employee requesting anonymity.

When asked about this, the veterinary officer denied the allegation but failed to show any official record. "We do not keep any document of the certificate," he said.

The chief veterinary officer and others have visited the zoo but we are really puzzled by these sudden deaths of the tigers as they did not show any symptom of any disease before dying," said the veterinary officer.

At the quarantine cell of the zoo three cubs were extremely frightened to see human presence. About three kilograms of fresh meat and two bowls of fresh milk was lying on the floor, touched by the sick cubs. They sought refuge in the corner, one on top of other desperately trying to hide. Two other unnamed tigers lay in their cages. Chunks of fresh meat, otherwise devoured by the tigers instantly, was left untouched.

When asked about any possibility of viral diseases, a veterinary surgeon said that "feline

No room for dogs in zoo

By Staff Correspondent

Renowned artist S M Sultan's pet dogs which were handed over to the Dhaka Zoo after his death will be sold out as there is no room for dogs in the zoo, according to the veterinary officer of the zoo.

"We are seeking permission to sell the dogs because there is no provision for dogs in the zoo," he said. Two Alsatian puppies, kept in a large pen would also be sold, he informed.

One of the two dogs belonging to the artist was confined to a dirty 5X5 cell of the quarantine section of the zoo. The white furry animal's colour had changed as it was wrapped in its own excreta and urine in the dark cell.

"We do not know the name of this dog but the other one is called Tumpa," the officer said without elaborating. The other dog was somewhere else, he added.

Water sharing

From Page 1

On security related issues, it was agreed to further strengthen cooperation in border management and to curb undesirable activities.

The two sides reiterated their determination not to allow misuse of their territories for any activity targeted against the other.

It was decided to expedite action on demarcation of the boundary and exchange of enclaves, the statement said adding that it was felt that institutionalised discussions between the two governments on this issue in the joint working group would be appropriate.

On the Chakma refugees issue, the statement said that in response to the invitation by India the Bangladesh side conveyed that a high power delegation would be sent to interact with the Chakma refugees in Tripura to encourage them to return to their homes and the Indian side assured their continued cooperation to facilitate the early return of the Chakma refugees.

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Indian troops shell Pak-held Kashmir: 5 die

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, Nov 14: Indian troops shelled villages in the Pak-occupied Kashmir region today, killing at least five people, Pakistan army sources said, reports Reuters.

Four people — two women, a girl and a man — died in a house hit by a mortar bomb at Lawat village of the Neelum Valley, some 130 km northeast of Muzaffarabad, state capital of Pakistan-controlled Azad (free) Kashmir, they added.

An 11-year-old boy was killed by Indian mortar fire in the valley's Phalakhan village, some 60 km from Muzaffarabad, the sources said.

They said Pakistani troops retaliated with heavy mortar fire on Phalakhan, but there was no information about any casualties on the Indian side.

A UN monitored control line separates the Indian and Pakistani armies in this Himalayan region, over which the two countries have fought two of their three wars since their independence from Britain in 1947.

JCD protests BCL chief's remarks against Khaleda

The Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student front of the BNP, yesterday strongly protested the remarks made by a pro-Awami League Chhatra League leader against BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally in front of Aparajeya Bangla yesterday morning, JCD leaders demanded immediate apology by BCL president Enamul Huq Shamim for his "derogatory" remarks against Begum Zia.

They also urged the Dhaka University authorities to immediately hold the DUCSU election.

Earlier, they brought out a procession on the campus demanding immediate release of their leaders and workers, including vice-president Nasrudin Pintu.

Chhatra League on Tuesday staged demonstration and held a rally on the campus, demanding immediate arrest of Begum Khaleda Zia on charge of "treason."

The JCD rally was addressed, among others, by its president Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anee, general secretary Habibunnabi Sohel and DU unit president ABM Mosharraf Hossain.

Attempt on life of Mohiuddin Alamgir in Mar: One held

By Staff Correspondent

Abdul Motaleb alias Sagar, 25, accused of making an attempt on the life of Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir by firing at his car during the movement for caretaker government, was arrested yesterday, said a police press release.

Sagar was arrested from Johnson Road, under Kotwali thana in the city, the release added.

Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, who is now the Prime Minister's Secretary, came under attack by gunmen on March 31, 1996. His car was hit by bullets during the attack, but he was unhurt.

Girl back home

From Page 1

by the chairperson of the Samity Fouzia Karim Feroz and Roma Devabrata, a professor of Delhi University.

Salma Ali said, "After a year-long of hard work, Farida returned to her homeland." She added that prior to taking up the case, Abdul Majid Howladar, the father of the girl, authorised the Samity in writing to arrange the return of Farida and her rehabilitation.

Farida was held at Delhi's Tihar Jail for quite sometime.

Lauding the role of Roma Devabrata, who was appointed interpreter by the court in Farida's case, Salma Ali said, "Devabrata's contribution as a conscious woman goes beyond any description."

Farida, after her imprisonment at the Delhi jail, now speaks in a Hindi-Bangla mixed language. She has now been taken to the rehabilitation centre of the Bangladesh Mahila Ainjibi Samity in the city.

Farooq

From Page 1

company with Farooq's daughters, Sharmin and Nazreen, and son Zobaer.

After meeting her mother, Zobaeda Rashid, at about 1 pm at the jail, Mehnaz Rashid alleged that she (Zobaeda) was very sick.

Col (ret'd) Farooq, a leader of the August 1975 bloody coup, was arrested on August 13 this year along with Col (ret'd) Shahriar Rashid Khan and Major (ret'd) Khairuzaman.

Police arrested Zobaeda Rashid, the wife of a self-confessed killer of Bangabandhu, on November 2. Her husband, Col Rashid, left the country after the June 12 general election.

Two-yr plan to bolster peace in Bosnia

PARIS, Nov 14: Bosnia's three co-presidents and major world powers approved a two-year stabilisation plan to bolster fragile peace in the former Yugoslav republic at a conference in Paris today, reports Reuters.

French Foreign Minister Hervé de Charette announced that a 13-point plan pledging international aid in return for the completion of Bosnia's joint institutions and a series of other pledges on refugees, freedom of movement and human rights was adopted at a three-hour ministerial meeting in Paris.

Without specifically committing the international community to keep a military presence in Bosnia when the mandate of the current peace implementation force (IPFOR) expires next month, the document said.

Recognising the fundamental importance of a secure environment to the task of civilian implementation, the participants welcomed the ongoing study by NATO members in co-operation with other states participating in IPFOR of options dealing with the evolving situation.

International mediator Lari Bildt, whose powers were in-

PM in Rome

From Page 1

Hasina will address the World Food Summit tomorrow.

The five-day summit began Wednesday with the aim to raise awareness and have the commitment at the highest level to launch a global drive to provide food for all and a wide-ranging plan of action to ensure food security.

About 100 heads of state and government from all over the world are attending the summit.

LGC team leaves for India

By Staff Correspondent

A four-man team, headed by the Chairman of the Local Government Commission (LGC), Rahmat Ali MP of the Awami League, yesterday left for India to see the mode of operation of its local government bodies, sources in the LGC told The Daily Star yesterday.

This is the second foreign visit of the LGC members who are working on a possible four-tier local government system for Bangladesh. The first group went to Nepal a few weeks ago.

The members of the LGC delegation visiting India are: Fazle Rabbi MP of the Jatiya Party, Borhan Uddin Khan Jahangir and member secretary of the LGC Hasnat Abdul Hye.

The LGC, which has meanwhile heard representatives of a cross-section of our people on the form of the country's future local governments, is to submit a report to the minister concerned by December 25 this year.

Pak Bill

From Page 1

attorney objected to Zardari's lawyer raising arguments, saying the court had only asked for production of the record today.

After hearing the attorney's plea for more time to prepare his case, Judge Ijaz Nisar adjourned the hearing to November 18.

Another report says, dozens of former provincial legislators and ministers in deposed premier's home province of Sindh protested against her ousting today, witnesses said.

In a peaceful demonstration, they condemned last week's sacking of Bhutto and the dissolution of the national assembly and the Sindh provincial assembly.

জাতীয় বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি জাদুঘর

আপারণীও, শেরেবাংলা নগর, ঢাকা

কর্তৃক পরিচালিত

"তরুণ ও অপেশাদার বিজ্ঞানীদের উদ্ভাবিত প্রকল্প উন্নয়ন"

শীর্ষক প্রকল্পের আওতায় ১৯৯৬-৯৭ আর্থিক বছরে তরুণ ও অপেশাদার উদ্ভাবকদের সম্ভাবনাময় প্রকল্পসমূহের মান উন্নয়ন করা হবে।

অগ্রহী উদ্ভাবকদের নিকট থেকে নিম্নের তথ্যাদিসহ সাদা কাপজে দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাচ্ছে।

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দরখাস্ত আগামী ২৮শে নভেম্বর ১৯৯৬ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর নিকট পৌঁছাতে হবে।

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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