

The Daily Star

US fears fresh violence

Junta blocks access road to Suu Kyi's house

YANGON, Nov 16: Myanmar military authorities barred access to the road leading to opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's home early this morning to prevent her from holding gatherings or meeting people, witnesses said, reports Reuters. Traffic wardens blocked off

BCL activists ransack Madhu's canteen

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League activists stormed into the Madhu's canteen on the Dhaka University campus yesterday protesting 'failure' of their senior leaders to stop frequent police interventions at Zahurul Haque Hall, reports UNB.

Campus sources said a group of BCL activists, Zahurul Haque Hall came to the canteen with procession and exchanged hot words with their central leaders on the frequent raid on their dormitory.

One shot dead by forest guards in Barlekha

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Nov 16: A young man was shot dead allegedly by forest guards in Barlekha thana of Moulvibazar district Thursday.

According to forest officials Keyser Ahmad, 25, along with his accomplices was illegally cutting timber from the government reserve forest. The forest guards managed to catch one Suruj Ali, an accomplice of the deceased. The forest guards said they had to open fire as the wood cutters tried to attack them.

India festival

From Page 1
Mohammad Nasim and Indian Human Resources Minister S R Bommai will jointly inaugurate the festival at Osmany Memorial Hall at 6 pm tomorrow. Bommai arrives in the city today.

No street agitation: BNP

From Page 1
district leaders, however, suggested that the party should return to the House to highlight the government's failures and misdeeds on its floor in the next session, said the sources.

Begum Zia, who heard over 100 leaders, faced criticisms for her recent remarks at a Savar rally. Meeting sources quoted several speakers as saying that the party chief should not make comments that damage the image of the party as well as of herself and for which they are answerable to the people.

Besides, several top leaders including former home minister Abdul Matin Choudhury and former party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder came under fire for their role while the party was in power.

Other central leaders were blamed by the district leaders for not maintaining regular contacts with party leaders and workers at the grassroots levels.

A BNP leader who is also an MP, was criticised for his reported secret meeting with an influential minister in the present government.

The meeting that ended at about 11:45 pm last night was attended by 253 out of 284 leaders invited. The absentees included standing committee members and former ministers Mirza Golam Hafiz, Majid-ul-

the access roads to University Avenue where Suu Kyi's home is located.

A spokesman for Suu Kyi told Reuters that the barring of access had prevented a visiting representative of the Geneva-based World Council of Churches (WCC) from coming to meet her today. The visitor was not identified.

Suu Kyi was busy holding meetings with other senior leaders of her National League for Democracy (NLD), he said.

Meanwhile, the United States expressed grave concern on Friday about possible further violence in Myanmar this weekend and said it would hold the military junta responsible for any attack on its democratic opponents.

One stabbed

From Page 1
The owner of Sankatmochoh. The attackers allegedly ransacked the office and tried to damage a car as the owner refused to pay the money demanded by the extortionists.

At one stage, they shouted slogans and started ransacking the canteen. Several students present at the canteen received minor injuries during the incident.

PSI suspended

From Page 1
Jahan went to the store on Wednesday and alleged that the storekeeper Billal Hossain was selling an Indian hair oil. He demanded from Billal Tk 20,000 to avert any police harassment, they said.

Billal and other traders told the PSI to come on Thursday to collect that money.

Jahan went to the store on Thursday at around 8 pm and was caught by the traders at the market and handed him over to the police. An investigation will be carried out into the incident, police said.

Acid thrown on young woman in Jessore

From Staff Correspondent
JESSORE, Nov 16: A young woman of the Raigata area of the Jessore town was severely burnt when a gang of miscreants threw acid at her last night.

The victim identified as Sajida, 30 was rushed to the Jessore General Hospital in a critical condition.

Her refusal to accept the overtures of neighbours was reported the cause of the attack.

One held for torturing wife

By Staff Correspondent
One person impersonating an MBBS doctor was arrested on charges of torturing his wife in the city yesterday.

Shahadat alias 'Dr Monjur Hossain' of Lalbagh, allegedly married Arifun Akhter Lipi identifying himself as a doctor, police said.

According to police, Shahadat used to torture Lipi for dowry very often. She received injuries in her ear when she was attacked by Shahadat in a house at Dholaihar in Demra thana a few days ago.

Lipi filed a case against him with Demra thana. Acting on a tip off, police held the fake doctor from a house at Dhakanaagar under Sutrapur thana early yesterday.

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Let's make things better

PHILIPS

FBCCI team off to Japan

An eight-member delegation of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) left Dhaka yesterday for Japan to attend the Individual Country Observational Study Mission, reports UNB.

Former Executive Committee member of the FBCCI, Mohammad Ayub Miah is leading the delegation in the five-day study mission beginning from tomorrow.

The mission has been organised by the Japan Productivity Centre for Socio-Economic Development (JPC-SED).

The objectives of the study mission are to provide managers/leaders of individual member countries with opportunities to study, discuss and observe the recent developments in specific areas of interest by visiting other member countries.

Impasse at RMCH continues

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAH, Nov 16: The Rajshahi Medical College Hospital remained closed for the 5th day today because of the strike of the employees and interne doctors.

Senior doctors are also abstaining from work fearing attacks by employees.

The situation on the campus is still tense although the Employees' Union Association of RMCH has decided to withdraw their strike from tomorrow.

On the other hand, the Interne Doctors Association and the Chhatra Oikya Parishad have decided to continue their strike until the removal of the Director of RMCH.

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AL rally protests BNP chief's remark

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a rally organised by the ruling Awami League at Savar yesterday protested BNP Chairperson Begum Khalea Zia's derogatory remarks about Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and expressed the view that passing such remarks about the Father of the Nation amounted to violation of the Constitution.

The rally was held in protest against Begum Zia's reported remarks in her address at a rally at Savar on November 11.

State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Saitish Chandra Roy, president of Dhaka district unit of AL, Shamsuddin Khan Majlish and its General Secretary Benajir Ahmed, local unit leaders and a Chhatra League leader addressed the rally chaired by local AL Leader Ahsan Habib.

Begum Zia and reportedly said at the Savar rally that Awami League calls Sheikh Mujibur Rahman 'Father of the Nation' but he does not deserve it, because 'he could not behave the same way to all his sons (people)'.

The BNP rally as well as that of the AL followed the killing of Moked Ali Monju, a ward commissioner of Savar and Jubo Dal leader Monju was killed on November 9.

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Abul Khair 'Hero for Today'

The Readers' Digest, the world's most widely read international monthly magazine, formally honoured its Bangladesh 'Hero For Today' Abul Khair at a simple ceremony at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday, reports UNB.

"I am inspired by the award to do good for others in the future," Khair said receiving the 'Hero For Today' citation and a cheque for 300 US dollar.

Home Minister Major (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam attended the function as chief guest and handed over the cheque and a certificate from the Readers' Digest to the 9-year-old boy.

Khair saved some 1,000 lives on July 13, 1996, by stopping the Meghna Intercity Express train near his village in Hajiganj of Chandpur district by waving a 'red petticoat' when he noticed a part of the rail-track missing.

The minister said, "Mankind survives for mankind, the role of the young boy has proved it again."

"If everybody in Bangladesh works with the same dedication as Khair did, the fate of the country will change for the better," he said.

A sector commander during the 1971 war, Rafiqul Islam recalled the heroic deed of another young boy, who helped his

sector during the war of independence to get information about enemies.

It was a glaring example that showed young boys could also have patriotic zeal and devotion for the humankind, he said adding that Khair had set another example of that kind.

The minister proposed that since the US-based Readers' Digest was already being published in 19 languages, it should also be published in Bengali from Bangladesh.

He called upon the Readers' Digest management to publish the Bengali edition considering the huge Bengali population in this part of the world and said the inspiring writeups of the reputed magazine would help the Bengali-speaking people to be imbued with the ideals of mankind and heroism.

Noted juvenile writer Shahriar Kabir addressed the function as the special guest, while USIS director in Dhaka Donald Bishop, OCAB general secretary Shafiqul Karim, Khair and Rahim Sikder, a young boy spoke on behalf of children, on the occasion.

Romain Vaillancourt, first secretary of the French Embassy in Dhaka, Capt (ret'd) AB Tajul Islam MP, Principal Information Officer (PIO) Moqbul Ahmed, Public Relations Direc-

tor of Railways Mostaf-e-Jamil, parents of Khair and a group of students of Suvoiri, a school for the distressed children in Dhaka, were present at the ceremony.

Nadeem Qadir, the Bangladesh representative of the Readers' Digest, chaired the function.

The home minister said he would suggest the government for introducing a 'presidential award' for those who contribute for the nation and mankind as Khair did.

Shahriar Kabir termed Khair's heroic act as a matter of pride for the whole nation and urged the concerned authorities to include his story in the school text book. "It is a matter of regret that although Khair was honoured internationally, authorities here did little for him," he said.

"I bring the honour of all Americans to Khair for his heroic act... he is the youngest hero I ever met," said Donald Bishop. He added, "I hope Khair will be a leader in the future and the entire world is aware about his deed through the Reader's Digest magazine."

The ceremony was followed by a cultural programme performed by the young children of Suvoiri.

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The resolution said that the BNP would not accept any accord with India which would provide for less than 34,000 cusec water and resist any move to give a corridor to India in the name of Asian Highway and import of power from that country.

It bitterly criticised the government for what it called unleashing terrorism, repressing political opponents, conspiring to sell out the country's sovereignty and following a subversive foreign policy, making the parliament ineffective, distorting national history, bringing in economic stagnancy and politicising the administration.

The resolution urged the democratic and patriotic forces to rise against the government's 'anti-national' activities. It also demanded resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner supply of fertiliser at fair price and government steps to check price rise of essential commodities.

Yesterday's meeting of BNP's national executive committee was the first since the BNP government resigned in March this year.

For that — support for entitlement to scientific knowledge; for equitable access to resources and financial services; for investment in water-control and marketing infrastructure.

She went on: "What I am talking about is not just transfer of resources and technology, but of empowerment of the actual producers with both."

"Otherwise, we'll continue to impoverish millions of people in a period of rapid economic growth," the prime minister said. "Access to control of resources, including knowledge-resources, must be broadened to ensure more equitable sharing of the benefits of production."

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Support of dev partners

From Page 1
ration was adopted.

The declaration welcomed the WTO initiative in arranging the meeting which has provided an opportunity for collective consideration of the challenges and opportunities arising from the new trading environment, ways and means of strengthening the participation of LDCs in the multilateral trading system and in their endeavours to coordinate their position to ensure the effective participation of LDC delegations in the forthcoming first ministerial conference of WTO to be held in Singapore in December 1996.

It noted with deep concern that in the early 1990s, LDCs' share in both world exports and imports fell by one-half and one-third from the already meagre levels of 0.6 per cent and one per cent, respectively in 1980. Moreover, the ratio of exports to GDP fell from 17 per

cent to 14 per cent during the same period. This trend indicates that LDCs as a group continue to be further marginalized in international trade, it said.

The declaration added that the Uruguay Round agreements pose both challenges and opportunities for LDCs. On the one hand, LDCs would suffer loss of the margin of preference enjoyed by them in major markets and would also be required to implement a series of obligations arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements. On the other hand, LDCs are not in a position to take advantage of new trading opportunities, because of the severe constraints on their supply capacities of exportable goods and services.

In the light of the above, there is urgent need for adopting measures to enable LDCs to address the problems relating to supply capacities of exportable goods and services, access to markets for their current and potential exportable items, and fulfilling their obligations arising from the Uruguay Round Agreements the declaration said.

"We, therefore, stress that while LDCs will need to continue and strengthen national efforts towards economic reform and building supply and competitive capacities, they will require adequate assistance of their development and trading partners and the concerned international and inter-governmental organizations, particularly WTO, UNCTAD, ITC, WB, IMF, UNDP, UNIDO and the Common Fund for Commodities, in realising the potential benefits from the Uruguay Round Agreements and in integrating LDCs into the world economy and the international trading system, it added.

The declaration called upon the Singapore ministerial meeting, which is expected to provide an important opportunity for the international community to review the problems of LDCs, to adopt a comprehensive plan of action in favour of LDCs to enable them to overcome the challenges and to reap the full potential benefits of the Uruguay Round Agreements.

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Govt to import electricity at low cost: Zillur

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government would import electricity at low cost from a neighbouring country for the development of the country, reports UNB.

LRGD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman said this while he was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a 10-day Trade Fair at Kishoreganj Government High School ground here this noon. The DC Kishoreganj, AMM Farhad, presided over the function.

"Development of the country is being hampered due to load-shedding in the production sectors,"

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