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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 (retd) 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 writings 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 Vallaume, first secretary of the French Embassy in Dhaka, Capt (retd) AB Tajul Islam MP, Principal Information Officer (PIO) Mdqubul Ahmed, Public Relations Director

of Railways Mostaf-e-Jamil, parents of Khair and a group of students of Surovi, 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 nature and the entire world is aware about his deed through the Readers' Digest magazine."

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

According to forest officials Keyser Ahmad, 25, along with his accomplices, was illegally cutting timbers from the government reserve forest. The forest guards managed to catch one Suru 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
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PSI suspended
From Page 1

JAHAN went to the store on Thursday 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.

No street agitation: BNP

From Page 1

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Besides, several top leaders including former home minister Abdul Matin Choudhury and former party Secretary General Abdu 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.

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.



Home Minister Rafiqul Islam handing over a cheque for 300 US dollars and the 'Hero For Today' citation presented by the Readers' Digest to Abul Khair at a simple function at a city hotel yesterday.

— Star photo

Support of dev partners

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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, LDC's 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

BUET VC hospitalised

Vice-Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Prof Dr Mohammad Shahjahan was admitted to the BIRDEM hospital yesterday, reports UNB.

An official circular, signed by BUET Registrar M Shahjahan, said the VC was under treatment at the hospital for his illness.

Dean of the Faculty of Mechanical Engineering Prof Dr M Mizanur Rahman will be in charge of the routine duties of the VC in absence of Prof Shahjahan who is 'unable to look after the functions of the university,' the circular said.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: The impasse in the country's only engineering university continued with teachers abstaining from duties since October 28 demanding removal of the vice-chancellor. This is clouding the fate of thousands of students scheduled to begin their new term today.

The students face uncertainty at the results of the last term are yet to be out. Registration cards for students to begin the term could not be signed by teachers due to the strike.

Govt to import electricity at low cost: Zillur

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 16: The government would import electricity at low cost from a neighbouring country for the development of the country, reports UNB.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman said 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."

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 intergovernmental 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.

He said the world which is going to have to double its farm-production in 25 years without destroying the environment will need collective pooling of resources and knowledge, and a genuinely cooperative endeavour.

Net cereal imports of food-deficit in developing countries may have to grow from the current 90 million tons to 162 million tons in the year 2010, Hasina said, adding many low-income countries may find it difficult to finance their cereal

deficit in developing countries. Hasina said bitter experience in the early seventies that dependence on others often result in perpetual fast.

PM's call at Food
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import-bills from agriculture export earnings.

"Efforts at community and national levels need to be supported at global level with international solidarity founded on equitable sharing of resources, technology and market mechanism," she said.

The Prime Minister voiced concern that the ability of the developing countries to stabilize food supplies through imports continue to be eroded by external debt-burden inspite of the "Toronto terms."

She said regrettably slashing of food aid into half in three short-years, from 15.3 million tons in 1993 to 7.6 million tons in 1996.

"Let us not forget that food-aid has always been vital even in the most advanced countries — food stamps in one, soup kitchens in another. Such programmes still bring essential relief in many countries to tens of millions who live on the poverty line," she said.

About the obligation to preserve life-support system that imposes an additional burden on the developing countries, the Bangladesh Prime Minister said, "One that they cannot shoulder without the support of international community."

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"Our farmers need support

Summit in Rome

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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"My people have known the face of hunger — hunger because of natural disasters and environmental degradation, hunger because of human inflicted destruction and selfish demand inherent in quantitative growth. Historically, the heaviest burdens have been imposed upon my people, not by nature but by fellow human beings."

She said the Constitution of Bangladesh has enjoined upon the state to secure to the citizens the "provisions of the basic necessities of life, including food, clothing, shelter, education and medical care."

"Our farmers need support

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.

State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy, president of Dhaka district unit of AL Shamshuddha Khan, Majilish 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 Mokshed Ali Monju, a ward commissioner of Savar and Juba Dal leader Monju was killed on November 9.

In his speech the state minister for information said yesterday it was unfortunate for the nation to hear such utterances from a former prime minister.

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.

He said Begum Zia might have forgotten that her hus-

band

AL demands

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The South Korean Prime Minister Soo Sung Lee called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the FAO Headquarters here yesterday.

Sheikh Hasina appreciated South Korea's participation in the development of Bangladesh saying, "We expect larger investment by the Koreans."

She made special reference to the establishment of a South Korean Export Processing Zone (EPZ) in Bangladesh and said, "We view our economic relations with South Korea as cordial."

Expressing his satisfaction over the good relations between South Korea and Bangladesh, Soo Sung Lee said the cooperation would continue to grow for the mutual benefits of the peoples.

The South Korean Prime Minister said his country would keep up its economic cooperation with Bangladesh.

Hasina meets FAO DG

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today met the Director General of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) Jacques Diouf at the FAO Headquarters.

They discussed matters relating to FAO activities in Bangladesh.

Earlier, Sheikh Hasina met Cuban President Fidel Castro at the conference hall of the FAO Headquarters.

On Friday British Minister of State for Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) Linda Chalker called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the FAO Headquarters.

8 dacoits held

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 16: Eight people were arrested while preparing to commit robberies on buses and trucks on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Tribaldi in the early hours of today. Sonargaon police said. Acting on a tip-off, police went to the spot and caught the dacoits with a truck (Dhaka-Metro Na-8832). Several bags of stones, brickbats and a big knife were recovered from them.

The arrested were identified as Alam, 25, Ratan, 22, Motaleb, 22, Majib, 28, Alamgir, 30, Mohammad Gazi, 27, Abdul Malek, 25, and Zakir Hossain, 30.

IMF mission

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that of a month ago as shown by the central bank statistics, the finance ministry official said the reserve would come down when the country would have to pay in the Asian Clearing Union (ACU).

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