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Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej (R) welcomes US President Bill Clinton and First Lady Hillary Clinton at Chitlada Palace on Monday. Clinton was on a 26-hour trip to Thailand, the first by an American President in 27 years. —AFP/UNB photo

Six killed, 16 hurt in road accidents

At least six persons were killed and 16 injured in road accidents in Pabna, Comilla and Chittagong yesterday, report agencies.

Among them three people were killed when a truck and a trolley collided at Bhatipara in Sathia thana on Nagarbari-Bogra highway in the afternoon.

The dead were identified as trolley driver Hares Al, 25, and its passengers Abul Kashem, 35, and Tofajjal Hossain, 22, of Sathia thana.

The bodies were sent to Pabna General Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Sathia thana.

In another accident, two

Yasmin murder

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With today's depositions, eight witnesses out of the total 54 submitted depositions before the Special Court.

There are nine accused in the case. The judge framed charges against the three main accused — former ASI of Dinajpur Kotwali thana Mainul Haque, ex-constable Abdus Sattar and ex-driver Amrita Lal Barman of Dinajpur Police Lines — under Section 6 (4) of the Child and Women Repression Act, 1995 and under Section 201/34 of the Penal Code.

The Court framed charges against six other accused under 201/34 of the Penal Code. They are ex-Police Super of Dinajpur Abdul Mutalib, ex-OC Kotwali Mahtab Hossain, ex-SI Kotwali Swapan Kumar Chakrabarty, ex-OC (DSB) Motiur Rahman, ex-ASI Kotwali Jahangir Alam and Medical Officer of Dinajpur General Hospital Dr Muhammad Mohsin.

Public Prosecutor Gazur Rahman and advocates Azizur Rahman, Abdur Rahim and Maksudur Rahman appeared for the state while advocates Mujibur Rahman, Abdus Sattar and Abdul Haq for the accused.

Queen Sophia's visit

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that Bangladesh would shortly open a resident mission in Madrid to further strengthen the existing bilateral relations between the two countries.

The Prime Minister lauded the Queen's concern for women, particularly the disadvantaged. The Queen described her visit to Bangladesh as most rewarding. She expressed her deep satisfaction to see that the rural people particularly the women were engaged in various activities being run by the Grameen Bank.

The Prime Minister also exchanged views with the Queen on the issues relating to micro-credit. Queen Sophia and Prime Minister Hasina are likely to co-chair the micro-credit summit to be held in Washington in February next.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Ataul Haq, Managing Director of the Grameen Bank Dr Mohammad Yunus were present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister also hosted a dinner in honour of the visiting Queen.

Earlier at Belkuchi in Sirajganj, the Queen said that the idea of Grameen Check should be replicated in other poor countries.

She was witnessing the weaving of Grameen Check on

spinning wheels and its dyeing at village Azogora in Belkuchi.

Herself attired in bright Grameen Check, the Queen said, "I am overwhelmed with joy the way I am received by the friendly rural people everywhere I go."

On arrival at the village, the Queen was received by Marjina, a weaver of the village. The Queen is known to Marjina as the Bangladeshi woman had been to a UNESCO-sponsored fair in Paris.

The Queen was visibly delighted observing the entire process of manufacture of Grameen Check and said, "It is indeed a very interesting and skillful job of the people of Bangladesh. The quality of the product is good. The people in the West cannot realise it."

Prof Mohammad Yunus told Queen Sophia that the cotton for the manufacture of Grameen Check is imported from countries like India, Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) and Egypt. He described to the Queen the process of marketing the product to the country's export-oriented garment factories and others.

During the two-hour stay, the Queen visited a unit office of Grameen Check which procures fabrics from the weavers for marketing to garment factories and other places. A crest of Grameen Check was presented to the Queen by an official of Grameen Bank.

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**President tells cardiologists
Create modern treatment facilities at home**

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday called for creating modern treatment facilities to restore the confidence of patients for taking treatment at home, reports UNB.

He said, the cardiac scientists of the country have a definite role to play in this respect. Inaugurating the fourth international conference on cardiovascular diseases, the President mentioned that facilities for modern investigation and treatment of heart patients in the country was quite inadequate.

Bangladesh Cardiac Society and Asian Pacific Society of Cardiology jointly organised the three-day conference at a local hotel, being participated by physicians and cardiac specialists from home and abroad. Some 250 doctors from India, Indonesia, Japan, Nepal, Pakistan, Singapore, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and host Bangladesh are taking part.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed said the conference would be very useful for preven-

tion and control of cardiovascular diseases and application of technology for the treatment of heart diseases in the country. Addressing the conference, Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf said thousands of people of the country are going abroad for taking treatment and with them a huge amount of foreign currency is going out.

Bangladesh Cardiac Society president Prof Brigadier (ret'd) A Malik said there are only 110 cardiac specialists in the country for a 120 million population and that too with limited facilities for investigations and treatment.

Prof Malik said the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases (NICVD) should have the best available trained manpower and equipment for treatment, rehabilitation, research and training for future specialists.

Society general secretary Prof K M H S Sirajul Hoque, Prof M Amanullah, Prof R K Khandaker and Prof M Akhteruzzaman also spoke on the occasion.

Effective control of STD can reduce HIV incidence

Community-based trials in Tanzania and Thailand have shown that HIV infection which cause the fatal disease AIDS can be prevented, a meeting of national programme managers from Southeast Asia was told here yesterday, reports UNB.

The lessons of this success in being learnt in other countries of Southeast Asia including Bangladesh, where trial programmes for prevention of HIV are already underway.

"Control of sexually-transmitted diseases is one of the main strategies to prevent HIV", World Health Organisation (WHO) expert S Pattanayak told the 12th regional meeting of National AIDS Programme Managers that began here in the morning. The three-day meeting will end Thursday.

The meeting, organised annually by WHO Southeast Asia Region Office (Seacro), is being attended by experts on AIDS and public health from India, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and host Bangladesh.

The meeting was told that effective management of sexually-transmitted diseases (STD) in Mwanza, Tanzania has reduced HIV incidence by 42 per cent. Similarly, a '100 per cent condom use' drive in Pitavuloke, Thailand has cut STDs among sex workers to virtually zero.

Condom promotion, health education, awareness building among the youth and correct and timely management of STDs have been identified as effective methods to control transmission of HIV.

Southeast Asia is a particularly vulnerable area, with 3.7 million people already infected.

Prof Nazrul Islam, director of WHO-supported Bangladesh AIDS Prevention and Control Programme, said the country has already undertaken a trial programme in a brothel area to control STDs.

The trial aims to find out knowledge of AIDS among the sex workers, the STD prevalence rate and begin treatment clinics as well as promotion of condom use.

India Festival '96

Ranjan, Sangeeta enthral Rajshahi audience

RAJSHAH, Nov 26: Eminent violinist Prof N Ranjan and her daughter Sangeeta enthralled the audience by their recital on the second day of the Indian Cultural Festival '96 in the zila parishad auditorium tonight, reports BSS.

The violin recital of Pandit Raghunath Das and vocalist Ustad Rabiul Hussain of Bangladesh also enthralled the people on the occasion.

Rajshahi district administration and Rajshahi Shilpakala Academy jointly organised the Indian Cultural Festival '96.

Sapanam, a theatre group, will stage a Tamil drama on the last day of the festival here on November 28.

Rao's trial

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Pathak, 71, who manufactures spicy pickles, said: "I was persuaded to pay the money to Chandraswamy in 1983 after Rao, who was then India's foreign minister, said during a meeting in a New York hotel that Chandraswamy has told him everything and that his work would be done."

The businessman said he had doubts about the foreign minister arranging a commercial deal to supply of newsprint and paper pulp.

"But Chandraswamy told me that Indian foreign ministry is handling the contract since the World Bank was to finance the contract," he testified.

But the promised government contract never came through and Chandraswamy pocketed his money, Pathak told the judge.

Rao, who resigned as prime minister last May after his Congress party was defeated in general elections, is also facing charges of bribery and forgery in two other cases. Trial of these cases will begin next month.

The charges carry maximum penalties of between five and seven years in jail. Rao has been granted bail in all the cases.

Protest rally today

Pvt college teachers urge govt not to cut benefits

Bangladesh College Teachers' Association has urged the government to withdraw unconditionally its reported order to freeze government benefits from their salary, reports UNB.

The association will hold a protest rally today at 3 pm in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

On Saturday, the Education Ministry issued an order for the deduction from the salaries of the teachers of the private colleges for miserable results of their students in the Higher Secondary Certificate Examination 1996.

The association leaders in a statement yesterday criticised the government for what they said is shifting the responsibility of the wrong and inefficient steps of the government onto teachers' shoulders.

They called upon the teachers to join in today's protest in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

President of the association Principal AKM Zahurul Islam and general secretary Principal Kazi Faruq Ahmed, among others, issued the statement.

Teresa

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"Mother Teresa is having recurrent chest pain and it is decided that she will need coronary angiography, said a medical bulletin issued by a five-doctor panel caring for Mother Teresa.

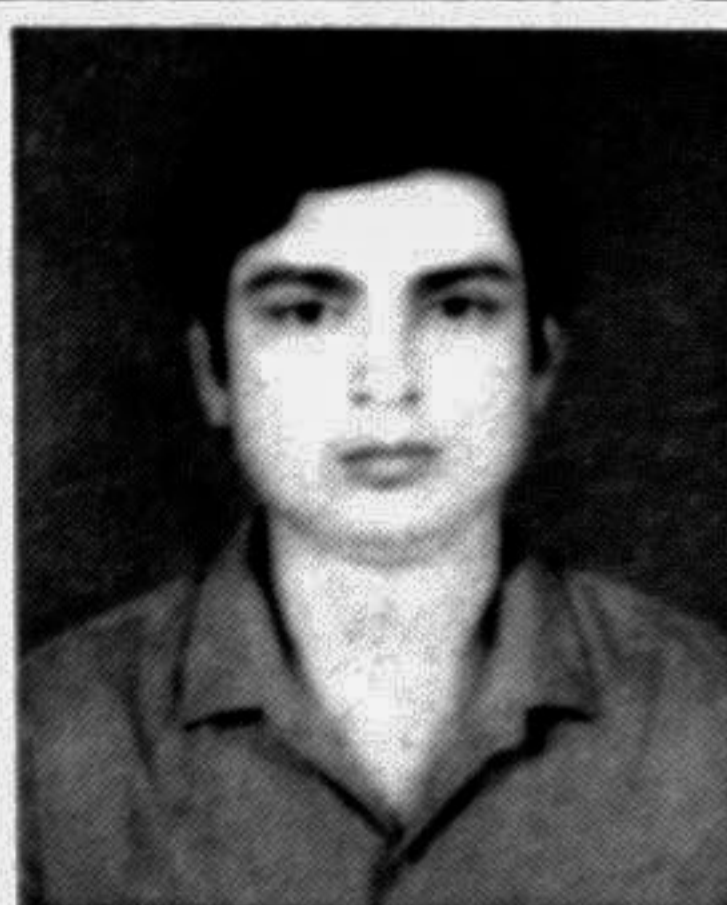
"Further management will depend upon the angiographic findings," said the statement, issued by the home

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Anniversary of Dr Milton's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The sixth death anniversary of Shaheed Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milton will be observed today.

Dr Milton was shot dead near TSC of Dhaka University during the movement against the autocratic Ershad regime on this day in 1990. He was joint secretary general of the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA).

Different socio-political organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes to observe the day.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, in separate messages, paid rich tributes to the memory of Shaheed Dr Milton.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate Shaheed Dr Milton Auditorium in the Dhaka Medical College premises at 3 pm today.

The Shaheed Dr Milton Sangsad will place wreaths at his grave at the Dhaka Medical College premises and at his memorial plaque near the TSC in the morning.

A discussion meeting will be held in the afternoon at the TSC auditorium. A Minister for Health and Family Welfare Salahuddin Yusuf will be the chief guest.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Workers Party secretary general Rashed Khan Menon, JSD secretary general Hasanul Huq Inu, noted intellectual Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, and Gono Forum president Dr Kamal Hossain will take part in the discussion meeting, says a press release.

To mark the day, Awami League leaders and workers will place wreaths at the graveyard of Shaheed Milton at the Dhaka Medical College premises at 8 am.

Leaders and workers of opposition BNP will place wreaths at the memorial plaque of Dr Milton at TSC at 8:30 am and at his grave at 9 am.

It will also hold a commemorative meeting at party central office at 5:30 pm.

Bodos kill 11 of a marriage party

GUWAHATI, Nov 26: Tribal separatists shot 11 people dead, including two children, and injured several others in a marriage party in the Kokrajhar district of India's northeastern state of Assam today, police said, reports Reuters.

A state police spokesman told Reuters that separatists of the Bodo Security Force fired indiscriminately on the marriage party in Gossaigaon.

No further details were available, he said.

Alleged terrorist

From Page 1

from Nargis, the wife of the grocer Shafi as he was absent.

But later on the way he met Shafi and attacked him with a sharp knife. This enraged the local people who chased Millan. As he started running, a bomb which was kept at his waist exploded injuring him.

The local people than gheraoed Millan, allegedly gouged out his two eyes and beat him to death.

so bitter. Every aspect of our bilateral relations got negatively affected because of the water issue and as a result no progress could be made on many other areas where cooperative relationship could have been of great mutual benefit.

As we see it, India put the water sharing problem with Bangladesh in the back burner and showed an incredible callousness as to its consequences on us. In fact Bangladesh was not on India's priority agenda for the last two decades. And on our side, we preferred to use it for domestic politics. Our military or civilian faced military governments, lacking popular support found India a convenient tool, for which Indian policy on water became the natural logic. Begum Zia's elected government, though not belonging to the two above categories, essentially followed the same policy as far as the water issue was concerned. Thus, neither side made any genuine attempt to solve the water issue.

It is in this context that the significance of the Awami League government's initiative and critical importance of Jyoti Basu's visit have to be judged. After 21 years of Indian indifference and Bangladesh's distorted politics, we now have a chance to establish our bilateral relations on the basis of genuine sovereign equality, mutual respect and cooperation.

Sheikh Hasina's government undertook to resolve the vexed water issue almost immediately

after assuming power, and has put in a lot of effort, perhaps a bit too naively and over-anxiously, nevertheless most sincerely.

It has been known all along that the water sharing problem has to be solved politically. What Mr Basu said in Calcutta the other day sounds like the old technical solution. As we have argued earlier, it is worth jeopardizing the totality of Bangladesh-India relations on a single problem that lasts, three to four months at best. Mr Basu will have to take a wider view of things than his comments suggest. We would urge him to be aware of the historic moment in which we are in. Both countries have suffered, we far more than India, for our inability to solve the water issue. After more than two decades we now have a chance to put our bilateral relations on a constructive and mutually beneficial path. Let us not miss this chance due to lack of a wider perspective and vision.

This writer strongly believes that a healthy and mutually beneficial bilateral relations between our two countries holds tremendous potential for the development and prosperity of the whole eastern part of South Asian region. A satisfactory resolution of the water crisis will be the first step in opening the gate of that potential future.

Mr Jyoti Basu must realise that his visit can lay the foundation for that future, or it can be a footnote in history of another missed opportunity.

Jyoti Basu due today

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Basu will be accompanied by West Bengal Minister for Home, Information and Cultural Affairs Buddha Dev Bhattacharjee, Minister for Finance and Excise Asim Das Gupta, the State Chief Secretary and Irrigation and Waterways Secretary.

The West Bengal chief minister will hold official talks today with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at the State Guest House Padma. Although the official itinerary describes the meeting as a call on by Basu on the Foreign Minister, it was learnt that the important issues, particularly the water sharing problem would be discussed at the talks. Water Resources Minister Abur Razzak would also be present at the talks. Senior officials of the Foreign Ministry and water experts of the two sides will be present to assist their respective sides in the discussions.

Both the Bangladesh ministers had several rounds of talks separately with the West Bengal Chief Minister during their visits to India.

The most crucial discussions on the water sharing issue, and other subjects like land boundary and trade are due to take place between the visiting West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when the former calls on her on Saturday, sources concerned said.

Ever since the visit of Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral

to Dhaka in September, leaders of both countries have made public declarations that a permanent water sharing accord would be reached between the two countries before the onset of next dry season which begins in January.

But Basu had reportedly told the Calcutta press earlier this week that that permanent water sharing agreement may not be reached 'right now' and a short term, possibly on a two-year test basis, may be considered.

A senior official was reluctant to respond to Basu's comment and said, "Let us wait and see."

Bangladesh leaders and water experts have constantly re-

iterated on reaching a permanent water sharing agreement with India for adopting a national water management policy. Experts have also stressed on getting a sufficient quantum of water in the proposed agreement with a minimum guarantee clause.

Basu would be staying at the Sonargaon Hotel. A dinner in honour of the West Bengal Chief minister will be hosted by the Foreign Minister at the Hotel Sheraton today evening.

On the morning of November 28, Basu will place wreaths at the National Mausoleum at Savar. He will spend the rest of the day visiting his ancestral home at Baradi, Sonargaon some 40 kilometres from Dhaka.

On November 29, the West Bengal Chief minister will enjoy a river cruise on the Buriganga where the visiting Indian cultural troupe now participating in the India Festival will accompany him.

Basu will call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed on November 30.

Basu will be accorded a reception by the Workers Party of Bangladesh at 4 pm at the Shilpakala Academy on the same day.

The West Bengal Chief Minister would be visiting Sylhet on December 1. The trip by helicopter is likely to include sight seeing and visit of tea estates in Srimangal.

Jyoti Basu is likely to visit some Grameen Bank projects prior to his departure for Calcutta on December 2.

DSE index

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changing hands on the floor. The total value of trading stood at Tk 5.01 crore yesterday.

With the recent bull run at the DSE, as many as 18 lakh shares, worth Tk 106 crore, had changed hands on a single day recently.

The DSE All Share Price Index had reached a peak of 3644.74 points on November 5. From there it became erratic. The index started dropping, ending at 3235 points on November 10.

It rallied briefly from November 11, reaching 3627 points on November 16, only to fall from the next day, to 3298 points on November 20.

The index made a brief recovery from November 21 to reach 3368 points on November 24. But again it dropped by 50 points on November 25.

Stock market watchers say that unless the government takes an initiative to remove the panic among the investors, the market may run into a deep crisis.

"Support of the government is now crucial in normalising flow of funds from banks," said Rizwan Bin Farouq, Managing Director of First Capital Securities. "Local financial institutions like insurance companies have to come back to the market, but foreign institutional buying is equally important. Positive announcements from big corporate houses are also needed to restore confidence," he added.

"People should not panic at this moment," said another broker who requested anonymity. "Ups and downs are common in the share market. I would suggest people not to sell their stocks at throw away prices."

The liquidity crisis was also intensified as five companies and one mutual fund had floated primary shares in the last two months, scooping up Tk 500 crore from the market. Torrents of money are pouring into the initial public offerings that are still open for subscription, said a market analyst.

More than 20 companies are awaiting Securities and Exchange Commission's approval to go public.

Analysts alleged that inept handling by the government, curbing circuit breaker twice, imposing natural corrections of prices, with Radio and TV warnings about trying ones fortune in stocks, contributed to the situation.

When prices go up sharply the market forces stabilises the index at a point where everyone could trade. "But the current impasse was due to the interruptions of the natural rhythm that led to panic, eroding the value and confidence" analysts told The Daily Star.

Officials of the DSE were not available for comment. It's Chairman Imtiaz Hossain is visiting India to study automation of the DSE.

Ershad

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of Ershad would be seen at the time of the trial. The PF, however, admitting that there is no direct evidence against Ershad. He said all other accused were directly involved in the murder.

The court allowed bail to Lt Col (ret'd) Mostafa Kamaluddin Bhuyian and rejected the prayers of others.

Neither Ershad nor Kamaluddin Bhuyian made any confessional statement in this case.

Those whose baills were rejected are Maj Gen (ret'd) M A Latif, Col (ret'd) Shamsur Rahman Shams and Maj (ret'd) Razi Emdadul Haq.

The members of CSE Authorised Representatives' Club have decided to remain absent from the CSE floor till security arrangements are ensured.

No trading at CSE

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slide in prices, officials said.

This was the second such incident in a week after last Wednesday's attack on the Dhaka Stock Exchange in the capital.

Meanwhile, the agitated kerb market traders placed a 9-point demand to the CSE authorities, officials said.

The demands include cancellation of Monday's transaction reports, maintenance of consistency in share prices both in Dhaka and Chittagong and fixation of brokers commission at Tk 0.50 paise only instead of Tk one.

BSS adds: The Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) Authorised Representatives' Club today called for ensuring security of all concerned at the CSE trading floor during business hours.

In a statement issued on behalf of the club, it was pointed out that some vested groups created pandemonium and even assault brokers and CSE officials when prices of shares fall.

The statement cited the incident of November 25 when some unruly people of the kerb market went on a rampage and damaged properties of brokers and assaulted company representatives on the floor of the CSE as prices of some shares fell.

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