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TO INDIA



Palestinian President Yasser Arafat welcomes Hamas leader Sheikh Ahmed Yassin on his arrival at the Islamic complex sports club in Gaza City on Tuesday. Yassin arrived in Gaza on Monday from Jordan after being released from an Israeli prison last week.

— AFP/UNB photo

Cross-border clashes

One Indian killed, 5 hurt in Pak firing

JAMMU, Oct 8: Indian and Pakistani soldiers opened fire across a disputed border in Kashmir today, killing a 14-year-old boy and injuring five civilians, reports AP.

Pakistani soldiers fired in the morning without any provocation, said an official of the Indian Border Security Force. Indian troops retaliated, he said. The firing was continuing intermittently in the evening, he said on condition of anonymity. Cross-border clashes in Kashmir are frequent.

Pakistan did not immediately react to today's incident.

Indian and Pakistani soldiers have been exchanging fire across the border in Kashmir, a territory divided between the two nations.

Last week's clash left 39 people dead in one of the worst peacetime outbreaks of fighting in years in Kashmir.

Today's firing occurred

BNP supporters

attack Khulna

SP's office

Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 8: The office of the Police Super came under attack by a group of BNP supporters here today.

Witnesses and police said, window panes of the office were damaged.

The incident took place as two top leaders of city and district BNP were allegedly insulted by the SP. They met him at his office for submitting a memorandum demanding 'withdrawal of the OCs of Dumuria and Rupsha thanas for sheltering armed terrorists.'

The BNP leaders, in a press statement later, also demanded 'removal of the SP.'

When contacted, the SP denied that he had insulted the BNP leaders.

CHOGM

From Page 1

mainly focus on good governance and human rights as well as investment and trade development.

Apart from the CHOGM, Hasina is likely to exchange views on bilateral matters as well as regional and international issues of common concern with President Nelson Mandela of South Africa, President Chandrika Kumaratunga of Sri Lanka, Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gujral, Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Malaysian Prime Minister Dr. Mahathir Bin Mohammad.

She is likely to have bilateral meeting with British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the heads of government of Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Political parties

From Page 1

party leaders Mubunul Haider Chowdhury, Abdullah Sarker and Sudhangshu Chakravarty.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Food Minister Begum Motta Chowdhury were present.

Besides Awami League president members Amir Hossain Anu and Abdul Jalil also attended the discussion session.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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The Daily Star

Create mass awareness to face natural calamities: President

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday called for taking effective steps to involve people from all walks of life in the government initiatives of imparting training to combat natural disaster, reports UNB.

He said loss of life and damage to property in the natural calamity could be averted by taking adequate precautionary measures alongside creating public awareness and increasing the mental strength of the people.

The President was inaugurating a function of International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day 1997 at the Osmani auditorium. The theme of the day is 'Water: Too Much... Too Little... Leading Cause of Natural Disaster'.

President Shahabuddin said it would be very effective if the people, including government officials and employees, imams of mosques, and teachers and students of school and colleges, are given training on the techniques of combating natural disaster.

He stressed the need for adequate training and also for boosting the people's courage through discussion and sharing of experiences and information of the 'very difficult struggle' against the forces of nature.

The President said the country's geographical location, weather and ecological imbalance are the major causes of natural disaster.

Huge loss of life and property are being damaged every year due to cyclone, tidal bore, flood, drought, river erosion and landslide, he added.

Referring to the cyclone of May 19, 1997, he said due to the necessary precautionary steps and keeping people informed about the approaching calamity, the extent of loss of life and property was comparatively less.

Navy Chief Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam, Air Chief Air Vice Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed and members of the Dhaka-based UN Disaster Management Team were present.

Iron bridge on Khowai likely to be opened for traffic on Oct 20

SHAYESTAGANJ, Habiganj, Oct 8: The alternate iron bridge on river Khowai on Dhaka-Sylhet highway is expected to be opened for vehicular traffic on October 20, reports UNB.

An official announcement said today that if favourable weather exists, the bridge will be opened after completion of bearing setting, deck fitting and approach construction work.

The construction work on the 420-foot bridge at a cost of Tk 70 lakh had been disrupted by frequent flood.

Piling work was delayed on September 4 when the artificial shoal created on the river was submerged by flood water.

Within 23 days, the newly constructed wooden bridge was washed away. On September 30, another flood disrupted the construction work. Besides, the works had to be postponed every day for more than an hour because of intermittent rain.

Meanwhile, construction of all four piers of the bridge has already been completed. There spans were also completed and another is expected to be set within the next four days.

To cope with the suffering of the people, two floating bridges, one of them constructed by the Army, were opened for vehicular movement on July 25. Another bridge for the use of the pedestrians was floated later.

Moreover, Habiganj-Nabiganj-Sherpur road have been kept open for all kind of vehicles as an alternate route.

Sirajganj JCD alleges armed attacks on its workers' houses

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 8: Fifteen leaders and workers of the Jatayatadhi Chhatra Dal were injured in armed attacks allegedly by Chhatra League activists at Belkuchi in the district today, reports UNB.

BNP leaders alleged a group of 'hired terrorists' of BCL once again attacked JCD workers' residences at Mukundogati, Chala, Sennagar, Jiduri and adjoining areas of Belkuchi Degree College this morning and beat party members. Two gunshots were fired.

It was further alleged that panic-stricken JCD men left the area amidst 'a reign of terror' let loose by the rivals.

Seriously injured JCD leaders Anisur Rahman Abu, Anwar, Shamim, Monirul and Siraj were admitted to different clinics of the district town.

Awami League leaders, however, denied the allegations.

Four die after drinking liquor

JESSORE, Oct 8: Four people, including a UP member died after drinking liquor in the town today, according to witnesses and physicians, reports UNB.

They said some people took 'poisonous' wine from a homeopathic medicine shop at a bus stand on the outskirts of the town sometime on Tuesday night and then fell sick.

Gas price

From Page 1

affected by liquidity crisis.

As per the Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs), the government will purchase 75 billion cubic feet of gas from Cairn and Occidental during 1998-99 at a cost of Tk 300 crore. About 260 billion cubic feet of gas is now consumed in the country.

The Committee formed in July '95 with the then Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister had placed its report in April last but it was somewhat shelved under political consideration that gas price hike would affect popularity of the government.

As per the recommendation of the high powered committee, the gas pricing would be increased in four phases in the next four years. The price of gas will be refixed at Tk 64.77 per unit (per 1000 cubic feet) next year at Tk 86.09 in 1999, Tk 88.15 in 2000 and at Tk 89.76 in 2001.

Gas price increase will have far-reaching effect on the prices of electricity and fertiliser. The price of electricity has already been increased by over 17 per cent and that of fertiliser by around 25 per cent in last one year.

Power plants and fertiliser factories account for nearly 80 per cent of natural gas consumed in the country. Commercial, domestic and industrial consumers consume the remaining 20 per cent.

As soldiers were going in and coming out of Bangabandhu's residence, the witness said he and his guard commander and Aziz went inside the house and saw the body of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman lying on the stairs.

The body of Bangabandhu, clad in a *panjabi*, was riddled with bullets, the witness said. Going upstairs, he said, he saw bodies of three women, a man and a young boy in a room.

Failing to stand the blood and bodies, he said, they came out of the house.

Coming out of the gate of Bangabandhu's residence, the witness said he learnt from the discussion of Artillery soldiers that Major Noor, Major Mohiuddin of Lancer, Captain Bazul Huda and Lancer's soldiers had killed Bangabandhu and his family members.

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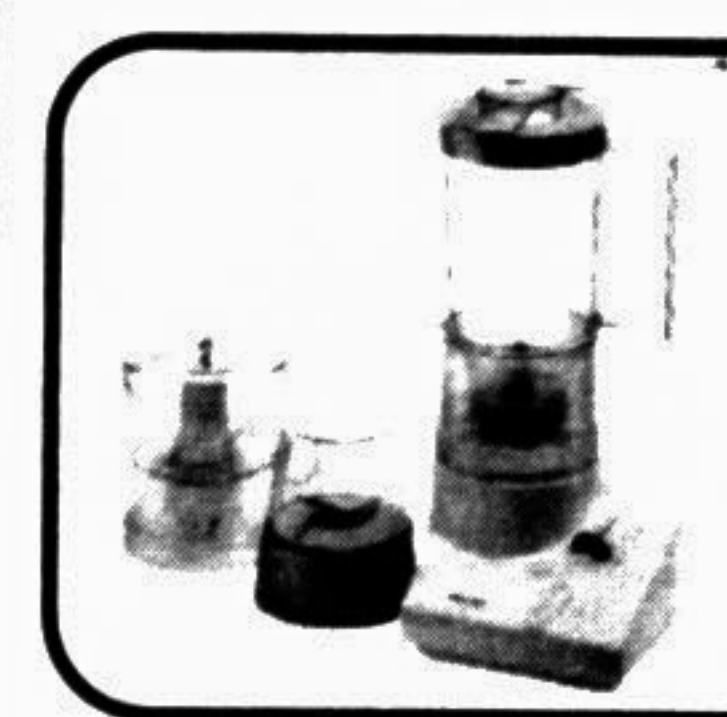
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Blender with mill and chopper

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