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Political activities banned on IU campus

From IU Correspondent
KUSHTIA, Oct 9: The Syndicate of the Islamic University at a meeting today imposed a ban on political activities on the campus for three months, according to official sources.
Vice-Chancellor Prof Kayesuddin presided over the meeting.
According to the decision taken at the meeting, no organisation will be allowed to bring out any procession, hold rally or do any other political activity at the residential halls, main gate area and on the campus from October 13 to December 18.
The authorities also cancelled holiday on Saturday, to be effective from October 18, to reduce over three-years' session jam.
Jatiatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) protested the ban on political activities on the campus saying that it would curb their democratic rights.

Ensure submission of tax return by car, house owners: Kibria

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday advised the officials to ensure the submission of income tax return by house and car owners brought under compulsory return-submission net, reports UNB.
He directed the tax commissioners to ensure that all the 6 lakh taxpayers having tax-identification number submit their return for this year.
He was addressing a review meeting on revenue situation with the Customs and Taxes Commissioners in the conference room of the Finance Ministry, Chairman of the National Board of Revenue and its members were also present.
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2 foreign nationals with fake passports held at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent
Two Chinese nationals were arrested at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) for allegedly using fake Korean passports.
Police said Xue You Su and Yu Kong Young, both aged about 25, were on their way to London yesterday morning.
They came to Dhaka from Bangkok few days back.
Police said, as per preliminary investigation, the two persons bought the passports in Bangkok. Cantonment police arrested them under Section 54 of the Penal Code.

Bangladesh take on Kenya today

Bangladesh will meet their familiar foe Kenya in the inaugural match of the tri-nation cricket tournament in Nairobi today, reports UNB.
The match will start at the Nairobi Gymkhana ground at 1 pm (BST).
Apart from ICC champions Bangladesh and hosts Kenya, the double league basis tourney will feature Zimbabwe the only Test-playing nation in the fray.
Bangladesh will take on Zimbabwe in their second match on Saturday.
The tournament opener on Friday will be the first official one-day match between Bangladesh and Kenya after they achieved ODI status in July.
Earlier, Bangladesh faced Kenya on eight occasions at home and abroad with five wins to their credit.
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The Daily Star
on the internet
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Long-standing problem resolved: Tofael

EC accepts Dhaka's plea to derogate GSP rules of origin

The European Commission (EC) has accepted Bangladesh's plea for derogation in the rules of origin to obtain GSP in knitwear export, clearing ways of increased exports to Europe in a relaxed condition, reports UNB.
The acceptance came from a meeting of the Committee of the Rules of Origin of the EC yesterday in Brussels, the headquarters of the European bloc, according to a message received in Dhaka from the Belgian capital.
It says the derogation will come into effect from October 15 after formal approval by all the 20 EC commissioners of 15 European Union countries.
"It's a great achievement for the country," Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed told UNB. "A long-standing problem related to export of knit garments to the European countries has been resolved."
He said the derogation will help Bangladesh increase its knitwear exports to the EU. Bangladesh's second-largest export market from where the country earns over 75 per cent of its export income from knit garments.
The minister said the acceptance of the EC, which expressed its satisfaction over the government's bold steps in dealing with the GSP problem, would help Bangladesh augment its export income to 10 billion US dollars in five years.
The EC accepted Dhaka's request for the relaxation in the clause after the Bangladesh authorities had withdrawn 13,584 'faulty' GSP certificates and agreed to carry out investigation into another lot of 22,531.
Earlier, the Commission had asked Bangladesh to cancel 6910 generalised system of preference certificates and investigate another 8562 for obtaining a derogation in the rules-of-origin clause of GSP.
With the relaxation, Bangladesh knitwear producers will be able to export their products made of imported yarn under the two-stage transformation instead of the current three-stage transformation.
Two-stage transformation means Bangladesh exporters can produce their items from locally produced fabrics, not necessarily locally produced yarn. The two-stage transformation is from any yarn to fabric and fabric to ready-to-wear items.
Under the present three-stage condition, the manufacturers must use locally produced yarn to knit their fabrics, adding another stage in the transformation of cotton to garments.
Officials in Dhaka felt that the derogation was result of government effort to uphold the image of the nation and ensure transparency and accountability in dealing with things.
They said derogation would See Page 12 Col 4

Gulshan Lake development project

Contract with Indus Valley cancelled

Star Report
The Indus Valley, a Singapore-based real estate developer, has been offered new sites outside the Metropolitan area, instead of Gulshan Lake and its adjacent lands to build their multistoried service apartments, commercial and leisure complex, according to highly-placed official sources.
They said the government has terminated the agreement with the organisation under which it was allocated 200 acres of prime land in the city's posh residential and diplomatic enclave.
The agreement was cancelled last month, the sources said, taking into consideration several aspects of the controversial deal between the RAJUK and the Indus.
After preliminary investigations the authorities found that the deal had been 'faulty' and it would have affected the environment in the area.
A three-member enquiry committee, headed by the Works Secretary, has been constituted by the government to look into several aspects of the contract.
They will examine the background of the deal, identify people who clinched it, allegedly staying in the shadows and its legal aspects vis-a-vis the compensation clause.
When contacted, Works Minister Mohammad Nasim confirmed that the company has been given a letter informing them of termination of the agreement.
He told The Daily Star that the Indus wants to have land elsewhere to build their project.
See Page 12 Col 5

3-nation summit

Samad Azad on way to India, Pakistan to invite Gujral, Sharif

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad flew to New Delhi yesterday to invite Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gujral to the planned three-nation summit in Dhaka in the third week of November, reports UNB.
Azad proceeded to the Indian capital from New York after attending the current session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) that began on September 16, according to reports received in Dhaka.
The foreign minister will hand over a formal invitation letter from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the Indian Premier on October 12, an official handout said in Dhaka yesterday.
From New Delhi the FM will go to Islamabad to deliver another invitation letter from Hasina to her Pakistani counterpart.
See Page 12 Col 8



Barricade by Sramik League activists caused traffic jam on Dhaka-Narayanganj road yesterday. —Star photo

Int'l investors' confce in city Nov 6-7

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi and Rafiq Hasan
A second major international conference in less than three years is being organised in Dhaka as part of government efforts to woo shy foreign investors, this time mainly from south and south-east Asia, into taking a greater interest in Bangladesh. And at the core of the agenda will be infrastructure development.
A brighter spotlight will fall on this year's event, scheduled for November 6-7, as it will follow the first-ever meeting of Bangladesh Aid Group in Dhaka on November 4-5, bringing together a large number of donor representatives and investors almost at the same time at the same venue, the city's lone five-star hotel Sonargaon.
More than 50 top corporate executives from around the world are expected to take part in the investors' meet, which will be managed by the London-based Financial Times Conference, and overseen by the Economic Relations Division, government officials said. In January 1995 a similar conference, organised by Euromoney, was held, when the portfolio investors stole the show.
But this time, officials hope to rope in investors for other areas, while still wondering how much the country gained out of the 1995 event.
Infrastructure development and financing are number one on the agenda. Speakers from both government and business will also try to impress potential investors about prospects in areas like energy, telecommunications, port facilities, roads, bridges and capital market, officials said. Opportunities for export-oriented businesses, manufacturing and establishing industrial parks will also be highlighted.
"If there's any basic theme, it is infrastructure development," a senior government official said. "And we are trying to make it at the chief executive level."
See Page 12 Col 3

Italian playwright Dario Fo wins Nobel Prize for Literature

STOCKHOLM, Oct 9: Dario Fo, an Italian playwright whose work combines biting political observation with sidesplitting comedy, won the Nobel Prize for Literature today, reports AP.
Fo, 71, who is also an actor, was cited for his "strength in the creation of texts that simultaneously amuse, engage and provide perspectives" by the Swedish Academy.
The prize this year is worth 7.5 million kronor (one million dollar). "I am amazed," said Fo, when reached by the ANSA news agency.
He said he learned of the prize while driving from Rome to Milan, when another car drove near him holding up a sign "Dario has won the Nobel."
His most popular and noted plays include "Mistero Bufalo," "Can't Pay, Won't Pay" and "Accidental Death of an Anarchist."
The latter is based on the right-wing bomb attacks in Italy in 1969, which officials See Page 12 Col 4

Court asks RB Publish HSC results of 6,230 examinees within 20 days

From MA Ali
RAJSHAHI, Oct 9: The Senior Assistant Judge's Court today sanctioned another 20 days to the Rajshahi Education Board to publish the withheld results of 6,230 HSC examinees.
The legal advisor of the board, Mohammad Ali, submitted the prayer for extension of time for publishing the results.
The court also asked the board to report about the results within October 30.
Meanwhile, the 3-member probe committee to look into the matter will submit its report within a couple of days, according to sources.
The sources also informed See Page 12 Col 4

Ilias, Ratan, Manik sent to jail

By Court Correspondent
BNP leaders Ilias Ali, Kamruzzaman Ratan and JCD leader Manik were sent to Dhaka Central Jail yesterday at the end of their three-day remand in police custody.
They were arrested on Sunday during BNP's road-rail barricade programme on charges of carrying unauthorised guns, ammunition and explosives.
Magistrate M Rezaul Karim ordered them to be sent to prison and set October 12 for disposing a prayer for a further 7-day remand sought by police.
He also rejected bail prayers for the accused, moved by their counsels led by Advocate Sanaulah, who alleged that his clients were subjected to severe torture in police custody.
They were not produced before the CMM's court.
See Page 12 Col 5

Hasina accuses BNP of letting loose anarchy

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina accused the opposition BNP of pursuing politics of anarchy inflicting sufferings on the people to take revenge on them for rejecting it in the last election, reports UNB.
"They are letting loose anarchy and trying to confuse the people when an investment climate has been created in the country and investments are coming in," she told a public meeting at the stadium ground here this afternoon.
Hasina said with a view to launching a movement against poverty the government called upon the political parties to work together just after assuming power.
But she said BNP did not respond to that call and started politics of negation.
The government is working for the economic development of the country and taking steps for rapid economic growth, she said announcing that Hawar (water bodies) Development Board will be set up again in the district, a land of 'havars'.
Awami League general secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Awami League presidium members Amir Hossain Amu and Abdul Jalil, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Awami League leader Abdul Mannan also addressed the meeting.
Chaired by the district Awami League President and Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid, the function was also addressed by local leaders AKM Shamsul Huq MP and Syed Ashraful Islam MP.
The Prime Minister said her See Page 12 Col 7

Sramik League activists remove barricades from Dhaka-N'ganj road

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Oct 9: Activists of Sramik League, labour front of the ruling Awami League, removed their barricades from the Dhaka-Narayanganj road this afternoon and suspended the programme till 2 pm Sunday for smooth celebration of Durga Puja.
Barricades were put up at different points on the road with trucks and trees Wednesday evening protesting arrest of Fatullah thana Sramik League president Kowsar Ahmed Polash, disrupting road communications of Narayanganj and Munshiganj with the capital. With the removal of the barricades, transports started plying in the two busy routes since 4 pm today. Hundreds of industrial workers were seen.
See Page 12 Col 7

Govt's torture reflects its past misrule: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said this government's torture, attacks on opposition programmes and banning processions and meetings reminded all of the "black chapter" of 1972-75 political scenario, reports UNB.
"The current picture of undemocratic activities reflects the past misrule of the ruling party," she said when a group of just-released BNP and its front organisation leaders and workers called on her at 29 Minto Road official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.
Begum Zia said the ruling party would not be able to cling to power by taking recourse to undemocratic path as they couldn't in the past.
She said the ongoing people's movement launched to protect independence and sovereignty of the country and to continue democratic process could not be halted through "repression, attack and arrest".
Begum Zia said despite inhuman torture, her party leaders and workers did not compromise on the question of allegiance to country and party.
The leaders, who were released from different jails, in their speeches described "inhuman" torture allegedly meted out to them in police custody and also in jail after their arrest.
They told the BNP Chairperson that the government would not be able to refrain them from agitation by resorting to "repression".
BNP leader Jamal Sharif Hiru showed the marks of torture in his body. He said the "terrorists" of Awami League seriously beat up many BNP workers, including him, after See Page 12 Col 3

Govt considering setting up public prosecution directorate

By Mizan Ali
A five-member committee has been constituted for studying the feasibility of setting up a directorate of public prosecution.
Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru announced this at the monthly coordination meeting of officials of the ministry yesterday.
When contacted, the minister said the committee's report will help introduce certain reforms in the judicial arena.
"It has been formed to suggest measures to improve upon the efficiency of the judicial system," Khasru said adding, that its findings will also be placed before the bar associations for their suggestions.
See Page 12 Col 5

23 illegal structures demolished DCC team faces resistance

By Staff Correspondent
Estate Department officials of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) are seeking more police assistance to continue the demolition of unauthorised structures of different political parties in the city, sources concerned said.
The move is being taken after several hundred people resisted the magistrate led DCC demolition team yesterday in its bid to demolish a PDP Club at Mirpur. Pallabi Block C officials in the team said the Club belonged to an Awami League supporters' group.
At the time of the operation 12 policemen from Pallabi thana were accompanying the team. "We had to postpone the demolition work at around 2:30 pm in the face of strong resistance," said a top DCC official who was in the team on the second day of its operation yesterday.
The team was greatly outnumbered by the youths who also threw stones. "The police official of Pallabi thana advised us to postpone the operation for the day," he told this correspondent.
Estate Department officials were holding meeting yesterday with the acting mayor and the chief executive officer of arrangement for more police assistance during the operation, scheduled to continue till October 27.
By the time it suspended the operation yesterday, the team had dismantled 11 illegal structures belonging to different parties and their front organisations in Pallabi area, officials said, showing a document.
See Page 12 Col 4

Italian PM resigns

ROME, Oct 9: Premier Romano Prodi resigned today after he lost the backing of a Communist ally for his plan to cut welfare benefits to keep Italy on the path toward European monetary union, reports AP.
Italy's president asked Prodi to stay on in a caretaker capacity while he consults party leaders on forming a new government.
Prodi's deputy premier, Walter Veltroni, said he believed early elections would be necessary.
The premier offered to resign after a parliamentary debate in which the Communists said they would vote against the government in what would effectively be a no-confidence vote.
The vote was abandoned after Prodi announced his intention to resign.

Report on FFYP finalised

A panel of economists assigned to review the Fifth Five Year Plan prepared recently by the Planning Commission for 1997-2002 period finalised its report of a meeting yesterday, reports UNB.
The 13-member team, headed by former Finance Adviser of the caretaker government Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, will submit the report to the authorities concerned next week, according to official sources.
The report was completed in the fifth meeting of the panel, which was formed as per a decision of the National Economic Council (NEC), the government's highest policymaking body on economic affairs.
The panel went through the five-year plan report in the meetings and received comments.
See Page 12 Col 4

WB President arrives on Monday

World Bank President James D Wolfensohn will arrive in Dhaka on October 13.
This is his second official visit to the South Asian region since he joined the Bank in June 1995.
According to a press release received yesterday, Wolfensohn, during his visit, will experience firsthand the challenges of development in one of the world's poorest and most densely populated countries.
He will be accompanied by his wife Elaine and a large group of World Bank officials.
During his stay, he will call on the President, Prime Minister and will also meet other senior government officials.
Wolfensohn is scheduled to leave for Pakistan on October 18.



An illegal structure belonging to a political Party in front of the T & T office in the city was demolished by the DCC yesterday. —Star photo

Greater cooperation for stability stressed

From M Anwarul Haq
Seminars on East Asian Security
Asian Security. Sixteen journalists representing 16 countries of the Asia-Pacific region are participating in the symposium which includes dialogues and discussions with leading US Congressmen, senators and armed forces personnel.
The participants felt that the 44 countries of the Asia-Pacific region are of enormous geographic and strategic importance for global stability.
The journalists from the Asian nations had meetings with Strobe Talbott, US Deputy Secretary of State and Carl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs. They also met Congressman Doug Bereuter, Chairman of the House Committee on Asia and the Pacific and Senator Ted Stevens, Chairman of the Subcommittee on Defence.
"The US looks forward to working with other nations for stability in the Asia-Pacific region," Strobe Talbott said.
He and several other top US official in the State Department and the Pentagon met the journalists on background briefings on the role of US in the changes perspective of world politics.
The participants in the defence writers' symposium also visited the US Pacific Command, Pearl Harbour and Headquarters of the US Pacific Army and Air Force command at Fort Schafter and Hickam Air Force Base in Hawaii. Later, they participated in a seminar organised by the Asia-Pacific centre for Strategic Studies.
The journalists also presented their viewpoints about See Page 12 Col 6