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The World On Time



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina listening to the problems of people from all walks of life at the Awami League central office in the city yesterday. —PID photo

Govt to review HBFC loan system

Post and Telecommunications and Housing and Works Minister Mohammad Nasim said in the city yesterday that the government would constitute a committee to review the existing loan system of Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a seminar as the chief guest organised by Bangladesh Griha Nirman Rin Grahita Kalyan Samity at the Institution of Engineers.

The seminar on "Housing problem in Bangladesh and its complications with credits: A way out" was presided over by Samity's President Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan, MP. Lawyer Gazi Shamsur Rahman Prof Nazul Islam, and Prof M Mainuddin Khan of Dhaka University, Lailunnahar Iqbal, Managing Director of Engineers' and Consultants Bangladesh Limited and M Fazlul Haque, General Secretary of the Samity also spoke.

Mohammad Nasim said housing is the vital sector of the country as people from all classes hereditarily intended to build at least a house for his or her secure life and the next generations. But the desire does not come to the reality almost for the majority of the middle and lower class people due to their extra savings for building a house, he said. The compound

8 fall from rooftop of bus, one dies

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 11: Eight passengers fell from rooftop of a bus and one of them died today on the Uttarabanga highway at Ullapara, police said, reports UNB.

The accident occurred as a type of the Nagarbari-bound bus coming from Bogra burst and deflated at about 11.40 am.

The dead was identified as Sabur Uddin, 25, a fish fry trader from Sakatia village in Kahlua thana of Bogra district. He died on way to hospital.

Of the seven injured, the condition of one Nazul Islam was stated to be critical.

Police seized the bus. A case was registered with Ullapara thana.

Cuba

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The bones were unearthed only this July after an 18-month search that was halted and resumed several times.

Guevara's remains were brought back to Cuba on July 12 and received at a simple ceremony by Castro and a handful of leaders of the revolution and Guevara's surviving family members — his widow, Aleida, and four children.

Guevara's daughter Aleida, 38, told a news conference on Friday that Castro, an avuncular figure to her after her father's death, was deeply moved by the day the remains were returned.

She added that her own feelings were always underscored by her confidence that her father "did what he thought he had to do."

The daughter was asked how she might feel if she met the man who actually shot her father. Bolivian soldier Mario Teran. She answered that she felt that as a doctor, she would be professionally bound to help him since she understood he was now an alcoholic. "He is a poor unhappy type," she said.

After his death Guevara became a symbol of revolutionary idealism for leftists around the world.

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75 killed in Argentine plane crash

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina, Oct 11: An Argentine airliner crashed and exploded in neighbouring Uruguay, killing all 75 people aboard, authorities said today. The jet had changed course to try to avoid a fierce rainstorm, reports AP.

The Austral airlines jet, a DC-9, crashed about 11 pm Friday (0200 GMT Saturday) near Nuevo Berlin, a town in the department of Rio Negro on the banks of the Uruguay River, which separates the two countries.

"There were no survivors," Brig Juan Manuel Vazquez, secretary-general of the Argentine air force, said. "The plane hit the ground with a heavy impact and is scattered over a very wide area."

Details of those aboard was not available.

Argentine and Uruguayan rescue teams rushed to the crash site on a large farm in an area dotted with marshes and hills, about 280 miles (450 kilometers) north of Buenos Aires. There were no reports of casualties on the ground.

A witness, Gonzalo Vastos, told Uruguay's Cablevision Noticias that he saw "a ball of fire fall behind a hill and then a huge explosion."

Ingrid Bidegain de Bastos, who lives on a nearby farm, said she went out to watch the lightning and flooding of the storm when she suddenly saw a red ball that fell and exploded

on hitting the ground."

Seventy passengers, including three infants, and five crew members were aboard the flight from the northern Argentine city of Posadas to Buenos Aires, said Santiago Garcia, commercial manager of Austral, a subsidiary of Aerolineas Argentinas.

The plane had last made contact with Buenos Aires municipal airport about 40 minutes before the crash and reported it was changing its course to avoid heavy rain and hail near the capital, air force official Jorge Carnevalini said.

In Uruguay, an air force official told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity that the plane entered an area of heavy turbulence. Other planes in the area also had reported severe conditions at the time, he said.

This morning, more than 100 relatives of the passengers and crew gathered at Buenos Aires metropolitan airport, hugging each other in grief. A priest walked among them, trying to comfort them.

Customs officials call off planned strike

Customs officials have called off their planned work stoppage following steps taken by the authorities, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Customs House Commissionerate Committee of Dhaka-Rajshahi Customs, Excise and VAT Executive Officers Association on Friday, says a press release.

The association had announced the abstention programme to press for withdrawal of the suspension of three officers of the Preventive Unit and 'irregular' transfer of a female Baggage Officer of the Zia International Airport customs.

Association general secretary M Abdur Rahman said the authorities had already withdrawn the suspension orders and taken effective steps towards rescinding the transfer and fulfilling other demands of the customs officers.

PCJSS congress

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hipriyo Larma agreed upon during September 14-17 meeting with the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT).

Larma had told reporters before leaving Dhaka for his hometown that the draft would be placed before his colleagues for ratification. An agreement would be signed at the next meeting with the NCCHT.

The meeting is expected sometime next month.

Young man beaten to death at Bogra

BOGRA, Oct 11: A young man was killed and two others were seriously wounded in a mob beating at a residential hotel here early today, reports UNB.

The dead was identified as Prakash Chandra, 22.

Police said a gang of 7-8 drunken youths entered the hotel on Bogra bypass at about 2 am for having meal. They demanded toll of Tk 20,000 when the manager asked for payment.

The gang locked in an altercation with the hotel workers who at one stage shut the gate confining three of the gang in the hotel. Others fled away by motor cycles.

Local people rushed to the hotel hearing the shout and beat up the youths mercilessly. Police later took them to hospital.

Of them, Prakash succumbed to his injuries at Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital at about 6.30 am.

Injured Ahad was sent to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital in a critical condition while Liton admitted to Mohammad Ali Hospital.

Barricade: Sramik League

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sacked the mill at Nandalapur in Fatullah on October 2.

Polash was arrested after Prime Minister and AL chief Sheikh Hasina issued directives on October 8 for bringing the culprits to book and taking steps for resumption of production in the mills.

Angered by the arrest of Polash, his followers in the local Sramik League had put up barricades on the Dhaka-Narayanganj highway and staged a demonstration in front of the Deputy Commissioner's office on October 9. They however withdrew the barricades and suspended their programme until 2 pm today following a call by local MP Shamim Osman of AL.

Planners of the fresh barricade programme were learnt to be abducting a police crackdown. They met at a secret place to discuss the programme but failed to take a decision, sources said.

Contacted by telephone, DC of Narayanganj Abdur Rahman told The Daily Star last night that he was "well-prepared" to maintain law and order in the industrial belt.

Polash tops the list of 91 persons accused of ransacking the Prime Textile Mills. Police could not arrest any other accused person till last night.

Polash is also accused in 12 other cases of murder, extortion and terrorism.

The central leadership of the Sramik League earlier formed a two-member committee to investigate the ransacking incident.

The probe body visited the spot yesterday and the day before to gather necessary information.

2.5 lakh rickshaws

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plates signed by a RSL official claimed that they were legally allowed to ply on the city roads because they had paid for the number plates.

Serajul Islam, publicity and publication secretary of Sramik League, denied that the organisation had issued fake number plates. "Those are not authorised for plying on the city roads, the number plates issued by Sramik League prove that the puller is a member of the organisation," he told this correspondent.

The RSL has issued over 30,000 number plates over the last two years, he said but declined to say how much it was charging for one such number plate.

"The League took the initiative to register the rickshaws to bring discipline in this sector," he said.

Police officials said that the

mation, Sramik League general secretary Ahsanullah Master, MP told The Daily Star last night.

"Disciplinary action will be taken against those found responsible for the attacks," he said adding, the probe body is expected to submit its report today.

Shops gutted in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 11: Three shops were partially gutted in a fire in the city's Kotwali thana area today, Fire Service sources said, reports UNB.

According to local people, three shops on the Jubilee Road were damaged in the fire that originated from a short circuit at about 6 this evening.

Fire fighters brought the blaze under control after an hour's frantic effort.

Durga Puja

From Page 1

Ahmed and Begum Shahabuddin exchanged greetings with the members of the Hindu community at Bangabhabas.

Principal of the Ramkrishna Mission Swami Akhandananda, Adviser of the Bangladesh Pujya Udayan Parishad Major General (retd) C R Datta and political leaders, academics, senior officials, advocates, doctors, journalists, artists, cultural personalities and businessmen belonging to the community were present.

State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Mohammad Nurul Islam attended the function.

Trial of Jakiganj child trafficking case begins tomorrow

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, Oct 11: Trial of the sensational child trafficking case of Jakiganj will begin in the court of Abdul Mokit Majumder, Special Tribunal Judge, Women and Children Repression Court, Sylhet on Monday.

The CID after investigation, has already submitted chargesheet against seven persons in the case. Six of them are in jail *hajati* while the other has been absconding.

Acting on a tip-off, Jakiganj police had arrested 9 persons from the house of one Abdus Sattar in Dariabag village under the thana on June 7 and rescued four minor boys who were brought from Chandpur and were allegedly being trafficked to India on way to Dubai. The arrested persons, during interrogation, had admitted that the boys were being taken to Dubai for use as camel jockeys.

The arrested are: Shafulla alias Shahjahan, 35, Abdul Halim Bhuiyan, 28, Manir Hossain, 25, and Delwar Hossain, 20, all hailing from Faridganj thana in Chandpur district; Khokan Bhuiyan and Mostafa Melkar, 29 of Haimchar in Chandpur, Abdus Sattar, 49, of Jakiganj and Sirajul Islam, 35, of Sheorapara under Mirpur thana in Dhaka city and his wife Shahana Ara Khatun, 23.

Abdus Sattar was a Chowkidar in the rest house of Roads and Highways Department in Jakiganj.

During interrogation by a three-member CID team, they confessed that they were members of an international gang and had trafficked about one hundred women and minor boys to Dubai in past several months. Three of their accomplices, Kabir, Shah Alam and Selim, all hailing from Chittagong, stay in India. They had confessed.

The CID police, through the Home Ministry and the Foreign Ministry has sought Interpol help in arresting other gang members, official sources said.

JP wants AL to complete 5-yr tenure: Ershad

Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad yesterday said his party does not intend to form any alliance with other political parties as "it is strong enough to carry its politics alone," reports UNB.

"Those who do not have enough political strength form alliance with others," he said while talking to newsmen at the airport Friday night before leaving for the United States, said a JP press release.

Ershad said his party is in favour of allowing the Awami League government to complete its five-year tenure. "If it fails, they will face the consequences in people's votes," he said.

He said he does not have any house either at home or abroad. "The house at Gulshan is owned by my wife," he said.

Ershad said he is going to USA on a personal trip, but he would like to meet some Senators and Congressmen as well as JP leaders and workers.

JP leaders including Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Nazim Rahman Manju and party MPs were present at the airport to see him off.

Meanwhile, another press release said Ershad arrived in Brussels en route to USA. He will stay in the Belgian capital for a few days before proceeding to Washington.

One shot dead

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Our Narayanganj correspondent added that Shafiqur Rahman was an accused in several cases filed with Fatulla thana. Golam Rasul, his brother, filed a murder case with Sabujbagh thana in this connection.

UNB adds: Three pedestrians received bullet wounds and nearly a hundred vehicles were damaged on the Dhaka-Narayanganj road during a frenzied protest against the killing.

The bullet-injured three were identified as Abul Khair, Abdur Rahim and Ranjan Karim. They were sent to Narayanganj Hospital.

As the death news spread, the supporters of Meser staged violent protest and clashed with rivals on the Dhaka-Narayanganj road near Demra thana, disrupting traffic for four hours from 10 am.

Witnesses said the trouble erupted in Telkal area of Demra thana after the militant supporters of Meser from Fatulla thana marched up to there and were locked in a fight with their rivals from Demra.

There were gunshots during the violent backlash to the killing. Police reinforcements came from Narayanganj to quell the rampage that lasted till 2 pm.

Six youngsters were arrested from the scene, one of them with a pistol, said Demra police.

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Hillary not quite ready to hit 50

WASHINGTON, Oct 11: US first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton has pronounced herself not quite ready to hit the half-century mark and not quite resigned to having her only child living away from home, reports AP.

"Turning 50 doesn't bother me," she said, looking to her October 26 birthday. "Realizing that I'm a half-century old, that's different."

All the to-do over how to celebrate her birthday — she's heard her hometown of Chicago may have fireworks — "sort of

makes me feel awkward," she said in an interview wedged between back-to-back trips to Latin America.

"I was just sort of rolling through time, and it was going to be here and then it would be over, and now it's being turned into this huge deal."

The first lady sat down with a handful of reporters Friday as she flew home from a three-day visit to Panama; she leaves Sunday with President Clinton for a week-long visit to Venezuela, Brazil and Argentina.

She brushed aside questions about whether she's where she wanted to be by this point in her life. Her future, she said, has always been "totally unpredictable."

Mrs Clinton owned up to missing daughter Chelsea, who left for college last month, but said her heavy travel schedule is helping her adjust to the "empty nest."

"You can't know it's empty if you're not there," she said with a laugh.

Despite grueling schedules that can require many flights and multiple stops in multiple cities in a single day, Mrs. Clinton said her visits with people around the world leave her more energized than exhausted.

She recalled a woman she met in a tiny village on the edge of Panama's rain forest, who showed the first lady how she raises poinsettias in her back yard to earn extra money.

"I just loved her face, and I loved seeing her husband so proud of her," Mrs. Clinton recalled. "I love seeing what happens to people who are motivated and given a little bit of help and what they can do with it."

"You guys think this is all glamour," she added. "It's screw worms. It's brucellosis."

Mrs. Clinton said she has lots of ideas but no specific plans for what she'll be doing after the White House.

But the first lady did set out one goal to accomplish before they leave the White House — to explore the rest of their home. She said there are rooms they've never been into.

HR court to be set up

From Page 1

The leaders also call for the universal abolition of the death penalty and insist on the maintenance, in the meantime of existing moratoria on executions in Europe."

President Vaclav Havel of the Czech Republic said new member countries such as his which 'had rid themselves of communism rule, mostly see the Council of Europe as an important landmark on their journey ... and an anchor of values — unique and irreplaceable — that is closely linked with the broader European integration process."

"We must not pass on to the future generations an egoistic Europe, deaf and blind to the needs of others," he said.

President Franjo Tudjman of Croatia, whose country many feel has not lived up to Council standards, attempted to distance himself from his Balkan neighbours, saying Croatia belonged in Europe, Croatia borders on the Balkans, he said, but is not a part of it.

"While aspiring to a gradual and full integration into European economic and security systems, Croatia at the same time cannot accept any type of integration within any Balkan and southeastern framework," he said. "It seeks integration only with those Western and Central European countries to which it belongs geographically and culturally."

From the edges of the continent, the newly democratic nations of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Bosnia all appealed to join the Council.

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