



VOL. VII NO. 260 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

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Fire at garments factory in city: 1 killed, 20 hurt trying to escape

By Staff Correspondent
 A female worker was killed and at least 20 others were injured when they tried to escape a fire in a garments factory at Mirpur in the city yesterday. The dead was identified as Rina, 17.

The injured workers, mostly women aged between 15 and 25, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Suhrawardy Hospital and Orthopedic Hospital.

The fire broke out in Jahana Fashions Ltd, housed in an eight-storey building at Shamsheer Market on Mazar Road.

Earlier on July 30, 26 garments workers, 22 of them were injured.

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Businessman shot dead in city, Tk 3 lakh snatched

By Staff Correspondent
 Muggers gunned down a businessman and took away Tk three lakh from him in Sutrapur area of the city yesterday. Police identified the dead as Mohammad Hossain, 31, a resident of Faridabad under Sutrapur thana.

Hossain, a rod and cement trader, was shot in the chest from a point blank range on Rajan Chowdhury Road at about 10:30 am.

Father of two, Hossain succumbed to his injuries in a nearby clinic within minutes. Sutrapur police said a gang.

See Page 12 Col 3

AL, BNP meetings in Ctg: Section 144 imposed

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: Section 144 was clamped and police were deployed at the Oxygen Crossing in the city as Awami League and BNP called public meetings at the same venue at the same time today.

The city units of Awami League and BNP had earlier called the meetings but none attempted to hold any meeting following announcement of Section 144.

BNP held a rally in front of its office at Nasim building protesting imposition of Section 144.

The Daily Star on the internet <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

Inside Today Article

'What Kingdoms are But Great Gangs of...'

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Three-nation summit to improve business climate: Farooq Sobhan Page 6

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25pc pier heads of JMB found defective

By Mizan Ali

Design defects in the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) superstructure were detected in December last year, which necessitated some major changes in the original design, extra work and reinforcement but no extra costs on the part of the government, official sources said.

They said about 25 per cent of the constructed pier heads were found structurally defective, following which some changes were brought about in the design. In all, there are 49 pier head units on which the huge structure stands.

The changes in design were needed to strengthen these "defective" pier head units, they said.

An expert said that each defective pier head unit will require an additional beam to be placed underneath. "A total of seven or eight beams will be required to further strengthen the pier head unit," he added.

According to him, seven or eight pier head units have shown structural cracks, which can be corrected by strengthening the pier head with extra work.

The costs were borne by the contractors.

That the changes were technically sound will have to be certified by TV Lin, the designer firm, whose experts will be arriving on October 20, the officials said.

According to sources, re-inforcement will be done.

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The body of a victim of Sunday's storm being carried away from the Ijtima ground at Tongi yesterday. Star photo.

PM urges teachers not to protect terrorists

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the teachers to help maintain a congenial academic atmosphere in educational institutions and not to give any protection to the terrorists, reports UNB.

"You will have to take steps so that no irregularity, corruption or terrorism finds room in the educational institutions," she said while addressing a meeting of six teachers' associations at the International Conference Centre in the city.

Representatives of Bangladesh Teachers' Association, Government Secondary Teachers' Association, Primary Teachers' Association, Bangladesh College University Teachers' Association, Bangladesh

See Page 12 Col 4

WB disputes govt claims on investment, savings

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi and Inam Ahmed

Donors have disputed government claims that investment and savings are on the rise, saying its own statistics presents a different picture.

In its Annual Economic Update, a document that will provide the basis for deliberations at the Aid Group Meeting scheduled for November 4-5, the World Bank has called it an "overestimation" and "inconsistent" with data generated by the government agencies.

The government claims that total investment rate was up from 17 per cent of GDP to 17.4 per cent, in the last fiscal, but the Bank cites National Board of Revenue figures to say this is not the case.

"This is difficult to reconcile with the data on capital and intermediate goods."

"For instance, according to NBR's shipment-based trade data, imports of iron and steel (in current Dollar terms) declined by nearly 23 per cent, and that of cement by 10 per cent, while imports of capital goods increased by less than one per cent, and value addition in construction grew by only 3.6 per cent in 1996-97."

"Even after taking into account the 4.6 per cent nominal exchange rate devaluation and the less than six per cent growth (through May) in domestic production of cement in 1996-97, the magnitude of the increase in the size of nominal investment appears inconsistent with these data."

"In short, the 1996-97 investment rate is likely to have been overstated," the Update said, and added "such an over-estimation would have also led to an over-estimation of the national savings rate."

Challenging the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS) data which show that savings rose from 11.9 per cent of GDP in 1995-96 to 14.6 per cent in 1996-97, the Update said the growth rate "appears to have been overestimated."

The Bank criticism seems based on a difference of opinion in interpreting the data.

According to the Bank, the increase was explained by a strong rise in remittances, "which must have contributed to higher private savings."

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Khaleda tells Bogra rally Any accord on CHT against sovereignty won't be accepted

By Staff Correspondent

BOGRA, Oct 13: BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia today accused the government of conspiring to hand over the Chittagong Hill Tracts to India by signing an agreement with the terrorists, reports UNB.

"The government is planning to sign an agreement with the armed insurgents, withdrawing the army who have been protecting the territory at the risk of their life," she said.

Addressing a public meeting here in the afternoon, Begum Zia said the people would never accept any accord that might go against the country's independence, sovereignty and constitution.

"If the government signs any such agreement, we will launch a movement with the people. And we shall have nothing to do if the movement brings down the government," she said.

The district BNP organised the meeting at the Aitafunessa play ground to protest the killing of Jubo Dal leader Anwar and the government's 'repression' on opposition leaders and activists.

"Thousand of people — men, women and children — from far and near attended the meeting. The BNP chairperson said the terrorists in the CHT were engaged in indiscriminate killing of innocent people and attacks on the army."

She warned that withdrawal of any permanent or temporary army camp in the CHT would not be acceptable.

The Leader of the Opposition said the government has completely failed to run the country and also to fulfil its pre-election promises.

See Page 12 Col 7

Ministerial body to examine certain recommendations made by LGC

By Nurul Kabir

The cabinet yesterday constituted a ministerial committee, headed by the Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Minister to further examine the possible implications of implementing certain recommendations of the Local Government Commission (LGC).

The LGC sought, among other things, placing of the deputy commissioners, (DCs) and superintendents of police (SPs) under the proposed zila parishes.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who chaired the cabinet meeting held in the evening, felt the need for further review of the issue as a minister raised some objections to the approach of a five-member committee of secretaries while giving its views on the LGC recommendations about placing of various offices and departments under the proposed local bodies at the district and thana levels, cabinet sources said.

See Page 12 Col 7

PW-22 tells court We were told Mohiuddin, Noor, Huda killed Bangabandhu

By Staff Correspondent

The 22nd prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case, Havilder (ret'd) Abdul Aziz yesterday said that he came to know from the troops in front of the residence of Bangabandhu on August 15, 1975 that the forces of Lancer and Artillery had killed Bangabandhu and his family members on that day.

Aziz was among the troops of the Second Field Artillery which participated in the night parade on August 14, 1975 and was subsequently brought in a truck from the new air port area and posted at the entry point of Rd No 32 Dhanmondi on August 15, 1975.

"The soldiers told us that Maj Mohiuddin (Lancer), Maj Noor, Capt Bazul Huda along with soldiers of Lancer Regiment had killed Bangabandhu and his family members," Aziz said.

He told the trial court that entering the house, he found the blood soaked body of Bangabandhu lying on the stairs and five other bodies inside a room on the first floor of that house.

Earlier in the day's proceedings, cross-examination of the 21st prosecution witness by the defence lawyers was also completed.

Just before adjournment of the day's proceeding Judge Kazi Golam Rasul ordered that from today, the court will seat from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm, on the five working days of the week for hearing of the case. In his deposition Abdul Aziz, said "On the day of the incident we reached See Page 12 Col 1

Storm death toll rises to 17

By Staff Correspondent

The death toll from Sunday's hailstorm at the Biswa Ijtima ground at Tongi rose to 17 with two more deaths in hospital yesterday while hundreds of people from the capital and nearby districts flocked to the venue and were looking for their missing relatives.

According to hospital sources, one Abbas Ali of Charpara in Netrakona died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and Saifuddin, 60, of Nabinagar in Brahmanbaria district died at the Pangu Hospital.

At least 700 people, mostly elderly, were injured as devotees ran helter-skelter when the storm blew the massive tin-roofed structure.

See Page 12 Col 8

Wolfensohn tells newsmen at ZIA I expect substantial talks with govt leaders

World Bank President James D Wolfensohn arrived in Dhaka yesterday to begin a five-day official visit for an appraisal of Bangladesh's development agenda, reports UNB.

"This will give me the opportunity to feel what is going on in Bangladesh," he said about his maiden trip to Bangladesh, on the first leg of his two-nation South Asia tour that will also take him to Pakistan.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria received him at the Zia International Airport in the afternoon when he flew into the capital by a British Airways flight from Washington, the Bank's headquarters.

Wolfensohn is accompanied by his wife Elaine. Senior officials of the World Bank and the International Finance Corporation (IFC), an affiliate of the donor agency, are also in the entourage of the Bank's chief executive.

World Bank Country Director Pierre Lendell-Mills, Secretary of the Economic Relations Division Dr Mashur Rahman and senior officials of the Finance Ministry and the World Bank field office were also present at the airport.

Talking to newsmen briefly See Page 12 Col 4

Khaleda escapes road accident

PABNA, Oct 13: BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia escaped a road accident on the Bogra-Nagarbari highway today, reports UNB.

Police said the jeep carrying Begum Zia averted a head-on collision with a speeding truck coming from the opposite direction as her driver drove it to a roadside plainland.

The incident took place in front of Kashinathpur Palli Bidyut Samity, 10 km off Santhia thana headquarters, at about 10:30 am while Begum Zia was on way to Bogra to attend public meeting.

The truck, however, hit the police escort jeep just behind Begum Zia's jeep, injuring five policemen.

See Page 12 Col 7

'Knit palli' planned in Narayanganj

The government has a plan to set up a 'knit palli', an exclusive industrial zone for knitwear manufacturers, in Narayanganj, reports UNB.

This was stated by Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed responding to a proposal from leaders of the Bangladesh Knitwear Manufacturers and Exporters Association who met him at his office yesterday.

They congratulated the government on accomplishing a 'fruitful and positive' solution to the GSP issue with European Union.

They also appreciated government's relentless endeavours with the EC executives and EU countries with a view to getting derogation of rules of origin of GSP (Generalised System of Preference) in respect of knitwear export to EU countries.

Association executives with its president Manzurul Haque met the Commerce and Industries Minister and expressed satisfaction and gratitude over the recent achievements on the issue as well as the expansion of overall exports.

See Page 12 Col 1

HSC examinees go on rampage in Comilla

COMILLA, Oct 13: A group of HSC examinees went on the rampage today demanding publication of their withheld results, reports BSS.

Police said the students who appeared in this year's HSC examinations pelted stones and bricks at the higher secondary education board office and caused an extensive damage.

Later, they assembled at the Kandirpar square and damaged several vehicles.

Police dispersed the students but they again assembled near the head post office and damaged it.

Govt employees to chart next course of action as talks on pay scale fail

By Staff Correspondent

Lower level government employees will hold consultations among themselves to chart their next course of action following unsuccessful talks between their leaders and an official at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) on the new pay scale on Sunday.

Leaders of the Sachibhalaya Karmachari Samity and Class Four Employees' Association held the talks with Abu Alam Khan Shahid, a director at the PMO, sources in the employees' associations said.

See Page 12 Col 1

WE MOURN

MRS. NOORE-GUL BAHAR, W/O LATE MAZHARUL ISLAM CHOWDHURY, BELOVED MOTHER OF OUR CHAIRMAN **MR. IFTEKHAR UDDIN AHMED**, DIED (INNALLAHE.....RAZIUN) IN A CLINIC AT CHITTAGONG ON SATURDAY, THE 11TH OCTOBER, 1997 AT 9.40 A.M. DUE TO PROLONGED ILLNESS. SHE WAS 79. SHE LEFT BEHIND THREE SONS, TWO DAUGHTERS, GRAND SONS, GRAND DAUGHTERS AND A HOST OF ADMIRERS. SHE WAS LAID TO REST AT HER FAMILY GRAVEYARD AT VILLAGE-RAIPUR, P.S.-FATIKCHARI, DIST.- CHITTAGONG.

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Gen Delic calls on President, PM Dhaka's help sought to rebuild Bosnia

The visiting Chief of Army Staff of Bosnia-Herzegovina Federation General Rasim Delic made a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Welcoming General Delic, the President said Bangladesh is eager to see peace be restored in Bosnia.

He mentioned Bangladesh is willing to extend all kinds of help and co-operation in rebuilding war-ravaged Bosnia's economy.

Referring to training facilities being provided to 20 Bosnian Army personnel, the President said such facilities could be extended further in future.

He observed that Bosnian students can also avail the opportunity to study in Bangladesh Universities.

President Shahabuddin hoped that the friendly and cordial relationship between the two countries would be strengthened in the days ahead.

General Delic thanked the Bangladesh President for receiving him and appreciated the hospitality being extended to him and to the members of his delegation.

He stressed extending military co-operation between the two countries and sought Bangladesh's help and co-operation in re-building the economy of Bosnia.

Chief of Army Lt General Mahbubur Rahman, Secretary to the President Muhammad Enamul Huq and Military Secretary to the President Major General AM Siraj were present on the occasion.

General Rasim Delic also See Page 12 Col 6

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