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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a reception accorded to her by Scotland Awami League at the Meadow Bank Stadium in Edinburgh on Monday. —PID photo

Bangabandhu murder

From Page 1
On security duty of President Sheikh Mujib, named Major Dalim, Major Rashid, Major Farooq, Major Huda and Major Noor as killers of the father of the nation.

The PW-33 was introduced before the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court by Chief Special PP advocate Serajul Haq and Special PP advocate Ramjan Ali Khan.

President among other prosecution lawyers were Mosharraf Hossain Kaji, Sahara Khatun, Nurul Islam, Sujon, Kamrul Islam and M Towhidul Islam Bahar.

Earlier, cross-examination of PW-32 Sajedul Haq was completed after the court of Judge Kazi Golam Rasul resumed at its special *ejlash* at Nazimuddin Road in the morning.

He was examined by TM Ak.

Khaleda

From Page 1

ign policies are kept in others' hands, Begum Zia said, the independence and sovereignty of the country will be meaningless.

"At this moment, no freedom fighter should sit idle. They must come forward to save the people and independence and sovereignty of the country."

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said the country had been flooded with all types of Indian goods. There is no market or shop in the country where there is no Indian goods.

She said Indian goods had also come in the past, but under some rules. Now, the government has opened all the borders and Indian commodities are coming without any hindrance.

"Today, they (government) are jeopardising our language, culture, nationalism and the spirit of liberation war in a planned way to please India and to leave our country," Begum Zia told the FFs.

Expressing her full confidence, the former Prime Minister said no freedom fighter who directly fought in the war would allow anyone to give an inch of land of the country to others.

"anyone wants to get the country enchained to India, one will be identified as neo-rakhar. No true freedom fighter will allow it," she said.

UP polls

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no alternative to launching a mass movement against the fascist and stooge government that has proved a failure in all spheres of national life. Otherwise, he said the country would be destroyed. He urged all patriotic, nationalist and democracy-loving people to unite under the leadership of BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

The BNP secretary general also blamed the government for what he said, making the Jatiya Sangsad inoperative through denial of the Opposition members' right to speak for the people. But the ruling party members were dishonoured by untrue statements against the Opposition leader and others for hours together, he alleged.

Criticising the failure in forming parliamentary standing committees even in 17 months after the elections, he pointed out that there was no transparency in the government due to absence of the parliamentary bodies.

Mannan Bhuiyan was also critical of the government for "police attacks" on BNP's street processions and rallies, proposed treaty on the CHT, staggered implementation of the new pay scale, sufferings of the farmers due to low price of agricultural products and high price of agricultural inputs and price hike of essentials.

Earlier, a group of leaders and workers of Awami League and Jatiya Party from Banoripara in Pirojpur district joined the BNP. The BNP was addressed by, among others, BNP leaders Shahidul Haq Jamal, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Emran Uddin Prince, Abul Hasan Balli, Aftab Hossain and Mahabul Haq Nannu.

Times-Bangla Trust

Process of privatisation finalised

The government has finalised the process to privatise four newspapers and magazines run by the Times-Bangla Trust, reports UNB.

The newspapers and magazines are Dainik Bangla, Bangladesh Times, weekly Bichitra and fortnightly Ananda Bichitra — would soon be handed over to private ownership through the Privatisation Board after paying the dues of journalists, officials, press workers and employees.

Arrangements have been made for paying all dues of newsmen and other employees of the trust at a time within a week under the Fifth Wage Board Award along with an opportunity to go on voluntary retirement by October 30, said an official handout yesterday.

It said on the one hand government's continued patronage, irregularities and corruption on the other hand pushed the trust-run organisations into severe mismanagement, making them losing enterprises.

According to an estimate, government ads worth Tk 19 crore were given to the Dainik Bangla and the Bangladesh Times during 1988-89 to 1996-97.

Despite the government support, the newspapers bankrupted instead of standing on their own feet. The loan of Times-Bangla presently stood at Tk 14 crore.

UK investors

From Page 1
vestors we have offered a package of incentives which include foreign ownership, protection against expropriation, tax holidays, repatriation of capital and profits, and others," she told the meeting.

Bangladesh abounds with natural resources like oil, gas and coal, said the prime minister, adding that her government has been adopting pragmatic policies for exploration and utilisation of these resources.

A British Company, Cairn Energy, discovered large gas reserves offshore and onshore in Bangladesh. This has generated a lot of interest in oil and gas exploration in the country, she said.

She said investment, particularly in energy sector, was on the rise. "We need investment in various sectors like port development, export-processing zones, textiles, food processing and leather goods."

Hasina said the government had set up a Private Sector Incentive Development Company with assistance from donors, to accelerate the development of physical and economic infrastructures on which growth is to be based.

5 family members

From Page 1
Claridge Hotel in London. Sources said that this is the first time that the Prime Minister's family members with the exception of Sheikh Rehana have been included as members of the Prime Minister's official entourage on a foreign trip.

Presently, the Prime Minister is staying at the Hotel Claridge with the members of the entourage according to information reaching Dhaka. She is due to return to Dhaka on October 31.

Secretariat

From Page 1
Alam group was held near the Finance Ministry. Meanwhile, president and general secretary respectively of Bangladesh Jatiya Biddiyut Samik Karmachari Union Kazi Habibur Rahman and Mohammad Zafrul Hasan condemned the 'police action' and 'attacks' by a section of employees on the Secretariat employees waging a movement for revision of the pay scale.

In a joint statement, they demanded a pay scale compatible with the consumer price index.

Bangabandhu murder

Farooq's appeal for staying proceedings rejected

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday refused Syed Farooq Rahman's application for staying further proceedings of Bangabandhu Murder Case till disposal of the appeals against the judgement of the writ petition regarding Indemnity Repeal Act, 1996, reports BSS.

One of the accused in Bangabandhu Murder Case Syed Farooq Rahman filed an application for staying all further proceedings of the trial of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family murder case until the hearing of his appeal, now pending in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court after hearing both the sides rejected Farooq's application.

The trial of Bangabandhu Murder Case is in progress before the Sessions Judge Court, Dhaka.

Barrister Korban Ali and Mrs Azra Ali advocate-on-record appeared for the petitioner.

Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan and Sharifuddin Chakladar advocate-on-record opposed the prayer of stay for the state.

Malaysian DPM postpones visit

By Staff Correspondent

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim who was scheduled to pay an official visit to Bangladesh from November 9 to 11, has postponed the visit, according to diplomatic sources.

In a communication to the government, he regretted that his visit would have to be rescheduled "due to unforeseen developments."

Anwar Ibrahim is now on a visit to Indonesia.

BM College students union polls postponed

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 28: The students union election of Government BM University College has been postponed today due to unavoidable circumstance, according to a notice issued by the principal of the college, classes will remain suspended till December 4.

Resident students of the college were asked to leave their respective dormitories by 5 pm today.

The notice came just four days ahead of the election of BM University College Students' Union (BUCSU). The election was scheduled for November 2.

Imports from LDC

From Page 1

course, we need technical assistance to diversify our products, increase the export-base and quality of the products through advanced technology, training and HRD (Human Resources Development) programme."

But policy for LDCs including Bangladesh, he added.

Referring to Monday's statements of the representatives of different countries, the minister said, "We are pleased to learn that so many developed countries are at the stage of giving duty-free access on a good number of LDC products."

But due to lack of integrated initiatives and information gap, LDCs could not reap the benefit.

Tofael called upon the potential trading partners, world bodies and multilateral financial organisations to expand their ODA (Official Development Assistance) and technical assistance to overcome the difficulties.

Responding to him, the

Strike at Mongla port continues

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 28: Stevedores refrained from gang-bookings for the third consecutive day today although the dock workers agreed to resume work unconditionally.

The dock workers agreed to resume work after meeting at the DC's office called by the Acting Chairman of the Mongla Port Authority on Monday, sources said.

3 extortionists held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested a fugitive wanted in 25 cases and two of his accomplices from the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

The DB team arrested Gazi Liakat, 35, from Mirpur Section 2 during a raid. Later, acting on Liakat's confession, police arrested Iqbal, 25, and Mohammad Ali, 28.

Police said Liakat and his accomplices were involved in extorting money from transport owners and rich people of the city and Keraniganj area.

3 brothers to die for killing sister in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 28: The Additional District and Sessions Judge Kushtia, today sentenced three brothers to death for killing their sister.

The judge, Alhaj Md Ainul Haq, after examining witnesses, found Sarwaruddin, Shorabuddin and Samiruddin guilty of murdering their sister Sabera Khatun on February 9, 1994 for personal interest.

The accused hail from village Kakkiladaha of Mirpur thana.

After the incident, the victim's husband, Shariful Islam, filed a case with Mirpur thana.

The case was conducted by APP on behalf of the state while advocate Anwar Hossain appeared for the accused.

Dacoity in a city house

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits robbed gold ornaments worth Tk 20,000 and a cash of Tk 40,000 from a house at East Shewrapara under Mirpur thana in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

Police said a gang of about six unidentified armed men entered the house of Abul Kalam Azad by cutting the iron grill of a window at about 4 am, looted the gold and the cash brandishing arms to the inmates and left in about half an hour.

Abul Kalam lodged a case with Mirpur thana. Police arrested two persons from the locality yesterday morning in this connection.



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PHILIPS



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia exchanged views with the leaders of Jatiyatabadi Muktiyoddha Dal at her official residence in the city yesterday. —Star photo

Khaleda's birthday: Case shifted to another court

By Staff Correspondent

The District and Sessions Judge of Dhaka, Kazi Golam Rasul, yesterday transferred the case filed against BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to restrain her from celebrating her birthday on August 15 to the Court of Third Assistant Judge Humayun Kabir.

The case was filed with the fourth Assistant Judge's Court.

The former prime minister was represented by about 100 lawyers led by Advocate Sanaullah Mia, who sought further time. The District Judge said he would give order on their prayer later. There was a noisy scene as almost all the defence lawyers prayed for time together.

The next hearing was earlier scheduled for November 11 in the Court of the Fourth Assistant Judge.

The case was filed by a group of lawyers led by Advocate S M Nazrul Islam and Advocate Abu Bakar Farhad.

CHT council

From Page 1

four writ petitions. If there is any natural calamity, the elections should be deferred and held within the next 60 days, the court said.

There had been flash floods and storms in the hill districts that delayed the elections.

But the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), during peace talks with the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT), opposed election of the council.

They want a Regional Council, replacing the district councils.

Meanwhile, the NCCHT has finalised the draft for an accord to end the decades-old insurgency in the CHT by the military wing of PCJSS at the next meeting with PCJSS on November 16 in Dhaka.

The draft is likely to be sent to the PCJSS soon with amendments they have sought to the draft agreed upon by both sides at their last meeting on September 14-17 in Dhaka.

It is awaiting approval by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when she returns from Britain on October 31, the sources said.

Dacoity at PWD quarter in city

By Staff Correspondent

Armed dacoits took away gold ornaments worth about Tk 88,000 and a licensed gun from the Dhanmondi residences of a legal adviser and an engineer of PWD in the city the early hours of yesterday.

Police said a gang of about eight dacoits attacked the two-storey building at the PWD officers' quarters on Mirpur Road in Dhanmondi area at about 3 am. PWD's legal adviser Siddiqueur Rahman Mia resides on the first floor while engineer Motiur Rahman lives on the ground of the building.

3 shot dead

From Page 1
injuries. Farid Biswas, 56, and Afazuddin, 65, were admitted to Jhenidah Sadar Hospital in a critical condition. Death toll may increase, police said.

Police sent the bodies Jhenidah Sadar Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police patrol in the area was increased after the killing. A case was registered with local police station in this connection.

Ctg port

From Page 1

police and they were brought back to Chittagong jail under heavy police escort.

Police said these rival prisoners were the activists of Awami League and BNP.

Meanwhile, fearing an outbreak of violence as a sequel to the clash at the court custody, the police authorities tightened security in and around Chittagong jail, police officials said.

Global stock

From Page 1

7.6 per cent and Malaysia 6.6 per cent.

In morning trade alone, Thailand dropped 5.4 per cent, Indonesia 6.4 per cent and China's Shanghai market 6.8 per cent.

Thailand is widely blamed for triggering the Asian financial turmoil that has swept the region since it floated the Baht on July 2 and brokers said the fall had shattered hopes the market had already hit the bottom.

Tokyo's close on the Nikkei stock average of 225 selected issues — down 725.67 points at 16,312.69 — was the lowest for the key index since July 25, 1995.

Analysts said the chain-reaction sell-offs could continue because of investor panic and because the New York market had been viewed as overvalued for a long time.

More on Page 6

Shibir enforces strike at CU

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 28: Classes were not held at the Chittagong University (CU) today as Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) enforced a day-long strike.

Meanwhile, Anti-Communist Student Forum (ACSF) staged a sit-in on the campus as part of its 15-day agitation programme.

The ICS enforced strike demanding release of its leader, arrested on charge of killing Aminul Islam Bakul.

In the morning, the ICS activists locked the main gate of the University and brought out a procession on the campus while the ACSF staged sit-in in front of the VC's office demanding arrest of all the killers of Bakul.

Teachers, officers of RU observe strike today

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 28: Teachers, officers and employees of Rajshahi University will observe a day-long strike tomorrow.

Rajshahi University Teachers' Association and the Officer-Karmachari Oikya Parishad have jointly called the strike to protest 20 per cent cut in pension money of the teachers, officers and employees.

NY stock market

From Page 1

tended to prevent a further fall. Monday's decline was the Dow's biggest ever in point terms and the 12th largest at 7.18 per cent.

Tuesday was the fourth straight session that anxieties over the financial outlook for Asia, one of the world's fastest growing markets, played into trading global financial markets.

Declining issues outnumbered advancers by a 18-to-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange, where volume came to 127.33 million shares, up from Monday's early pace.

The Standard and Poor's 500 list was down 21.37, the NYSE composite index was down 10.64 at 452.57 and the American Stock Exchange composite index was down 21.87 at 638.54 after the first half hour.

The Nasdaq composite index was down 64.53 at 1,470.56, hurt by continued weakness in technology stocks, including Dell Computer, Intel and Microsoft.

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