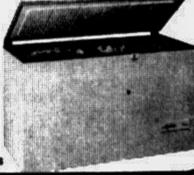




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## Satellite townships around capital being planned

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said government is taking initiative to resolve acute accommodation problem in the cities with the increase in population, reports UNB.

"Projects should be adopted and implemented to resolve the accommodation problem realising the rate of population rise," she said inaugurating the programmes of World Habitat Day at Osmany Memorial Hall yesterday morning.

Housing and Public Works Ministry and Rehabilitation and Development Organisation for Landless (RADOL) jointly organised the function in observance of the day. The theme of the Day this year is 'Safer Cities'.

Housing and Public Works Minister Mohammad Nasim, Mayor of Dhaka City Mohammad Hanif, UNDP resident representative David E Lockwood and Housing and Public Works Secretary Jagannath Dey also spoke at the function.

The Prime Minister said suitable land for housing is decreasing everyday. People from low income group are living in an unbearable environment in

slums grown in unplanned manner, and in sub-standard houses that lack necessary service facilities.

Moreover, Hasina said, the house rent and price of habitat land have also been increasing day by day. "Government's effective control system should be strengthened in this regard."

She said crime should obviously be strictly controlled in all sectors. Law enforcing agencies, service-oriented departments and offices providing amenities to civic life and institutions relating to house building should be brought under accountability.

The Prime Minister said government has taken a number of plans to build tomorrow's city free from pollution.

"Our planned future cities will include wider roads affording shades of green trees on both sides, open spaces and parks for passing leisure and for entertainment, well planned drainage system and artificial lakes."

To reduce the pressure of population on the capital, she said the government plans to build satellite townships around the capital and sug-

gested long term planning for exclusive belts for industrial units, educational institutions, health city, commercial city and others.

"We have taken steps to build multipurpose embankment and road in the eastern part of the capital to ensure a flood free Dhaka city," she said adding, projects for development of new residential and industrial areas have been taken to expand the capital city.

The Prime Minister said the government has taken up a number of significant steps for providing homes to the homeless. "With limited resources, we have taken initiatives to solve housing problems for the shelter-less people and we have been proceeding with definite steps in this regard."

The "Asrayan" project initiated by the government is a co-ordinated approach aimed at providing and promoting income generation and anti-poverty activities among the poor people, specially those rendered homeless by river erosion or natural calamity, she said.

See Page 11

## Barisal clash: BNP, BCL sue each other

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Oct 5: Ruling party's student wing Chhatra League and opposition BNP today filed case against each other for Sunday's clash in the town. The clash left 35 people including a number of policemen injured.

BCL leader Masud Ahmed filed a case with Kotwali police against 39 BNP leaders and activists for creating violence.

BNP office secretary Mostafizur Rahman Golap, on the other hand, filed another case against 11 leaders and activists of the ruling party and its front organisations, including AL town unit president Mesbahuddin Jewel, on the same charges.



IT STINKS, PLEASE: The Dhaka City Corporation finds it convenient to dump the garbage at Kutubkhali along the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway. But not so to the many thousand residents and passers-by who are forced to trek the path everyday.

## Make tomorrow's programme a success: BNP

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday urged all, including the party leaders and workers, to make its agitation programme in the capital tomorrow and all the districts on Thursday a success, reports UNB.

BNP announced the programme protesting the 'false' cases against party Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and other leaders, arrest of KM Obaidur Rahman, Nurul Islam Manjur, Shah Moazzem Hossain and JAGPA president Shaful Alam Prohdan, and alleged irregularities in distributing relief materials by the government, said a party press release.

## Indian SC order Pay compensation to victims of crimes from the convicts' earnings

NEW DELHI, Oct 5: The Supreme Court has directed state governments to frame laws to pay compensation to the victims of crimes from the earnings of the convicts during their sentence period, reports PTI.

The order was issued in a recent judgement by a division bench comprising Justice D P Wadhwa and Justice K T Thomas on a bunch of appeals by some state governments challenging the respective High Court orders denying them permission to deduct a portion of prisoners' wages for meeting the expenses for their food and clothings during jail term.

The state governments should make law for setting apart a portion of the wages earned by the prisoners to be paid as compensation to deserving victims of their offences, the court said.

Such compensation should either be paid directly to the victims or through a common fund to be created for this purpose or any other feasible mode, the judgement said.

## Govt firm to achieve RMG export target Stern action against quota manipulation warned

Country's highest foreign exchange-earning readymade garment sector (RMG), will achieve an enhanced export target despite disruptions by longlasting floods.

The optimism was expressed by the businessmen in a meeting yesterday with the government which took stock of the export situation against the backdrop of the calamity, reports APB.

The government is determined to achieve export target despite the devastating floods and stern action will be taken against manipulation of garment quota, UNB quoting, sources said.

The action will follow investigation into the allegation by garment exporters that certain dishonest people are manipulating the quota to USA and GSP in European Union, they added.

In a high-level meeting in the city yesterday, leaders of the largest foreign exchange earning garment sector said the manipulation is exhausting the quota of real garment exporters of the country.

However, the meeting, chaired by Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed observed that the export target of 5.83 billion dollars for the current fiscal could be exceeded if some pragmatic steps are taken.

Under the Fifth Five-Year Plan, the export target for 1998-99 was originally set at 5.63 billion dollars. It was refixed upward after inclusion of some non-traditional items in the export list.

The meeting at the commerce ministry was attended by leaders of various business associations of export-oriented industries and senior government officials.

The meeting decided to send a delegation to USA to see how the manipulation takes place. The delegation will comprise

both government officials and garment manufacturers and exporters. It will be led by commerce secretary.

Tofail said government will closely monitor the entire system to check manipulation and protect interest of the real exporters.

He assured of stern action against manipulators and irregularities in distributing quota sources added.

The meeting felt that the GSP problem could be resolved with cooperation from the businessmen. Some changes should be brought in the policy to ensure transparency and accountability.

The meeting decided that a 24-hour computer online system will be set up for garment sector to enable a real exporter notice the importer instantly so that any manipulation can be thwarted.

As the BGMEA leaders sought special banking help for the flood-affected garment factories, the meeting decided to hold another meeting to ensure 25 per cent cash incentive.

A meeting with managing directors of NCBs will be held as soon as Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria returns home from US.

When the leaders of the associations drew attention of the minister to the higher charges in the port, he assured of an inter-ministerial meeting to solve it.

Expressing determination of exceeding the export target in RMG sector, the leaders also urged to expedite the programme to assist the industries affected by the floods.

They praised the government for its continuing support to the garments sector during the lengthy flood and urged to take more steps to strengthen it for competing in the world market.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Fazlul Azim MP, BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Qudus and its leaders Nurul Haq Sikder and Col (retd) Anwar Azaim, Terry Towel Association president M Shaful Islam and commerce secretary Alamgir Farooq Chowdhury.

## Truck with Indian rice hijacked in Jessore

JESSORE, Oct 5: A truck carrying Indian rice was hijacked from Lebatala in Kotwali thana on Jessore-Magura Highway last night, reports UNB.

Police said a group of armed bandits halted the truck at Lebatala at gun point and drove it away making the driver unconscious with chloroform gas.

The truck, carrying 200 sacks of rice from Noapara Bazar of Avoynagar thana, was heading towards the capital.

Police said M/s Majumder Traders of Noapara imported the rice from India.

## Prabarana Purnima celebrated in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 5: Prabarana Purnima, one of the major festivals of the Buddhist community was celebrated in the city as elsewhere in the district today, reports BSS.

The Buddhists in Bangladesh celebrate the Purnima in commemoration of the ending of a month long seclusion of the Buddhist monks inside the monastery and beginning of a month long yellow robe offering ceremony.

The Purnima was celebrated in all monasteries through elaborate programmes but without festivity in the aftermath of the devastating flood in the country.

Meanwhile, speakers at a discussion meeting held in observance of Prabarana Purnima today called for strict adherence to Buddhism for turning the country into an abode of peace and for the betterment of society.

## Top terrorist

From Page 1

tortion. The arrested was on the list as one of the two top terrorists in the city.

They, however, did not disclose their names.

The terrorist was leading an organised armed cadre, backed by some pro-ruling party high ups, the sources said.

Earlier, the police authorities had taken steps on several occasions to arrest the terrorist leader, but due to leakage of information about raids through a section of police personnel 'secretly linked with him,' he could not be arrested in those attempts, sources said.

## Hard days

From Page 1

55 days," said Narayan Chandra Pal.

Asked if his quantity was sufficient for his six-member family, he replied, "We have to survive on loans and buy our own food. We do not expect to survive only on relief. Besides, there is no certainty when relief will be given."

Pal's neighbours agreed and said, "Some of us who live close to the town know about the relief activities. Those who live in the remote areas hardly know about that. Their share of relief is being misappropriated."

The Chairman of Maharaipur Union, one of the worst affected unions in the thana, said, "About half of the 25,000 people of the area received relief since flood waters receded."

Referring to rice given as relief, he said, "On an average, three kg of rice were missing from every bag."

He added, "We protested to the TNO but there is no response yet. The Deputy Commissioner assured us of action but nothing has been done as yet."

The DC could not be contacted for comments.

When contacted, State Minister for Water Resources, Dr Alauddin, assigned to supervise relief activities in the district said, "As per my observation, relief activity is satisfactory."

Asked if the relief allotted so far was adequate, he replied in the negative.

## Taslima seeks protection from govt

By Special Correspondent

Feminist writer Taslima Nasreen has sought protection from the government as radical Islamic groups mounted pressure for her arrest and executing, her lawyer said.

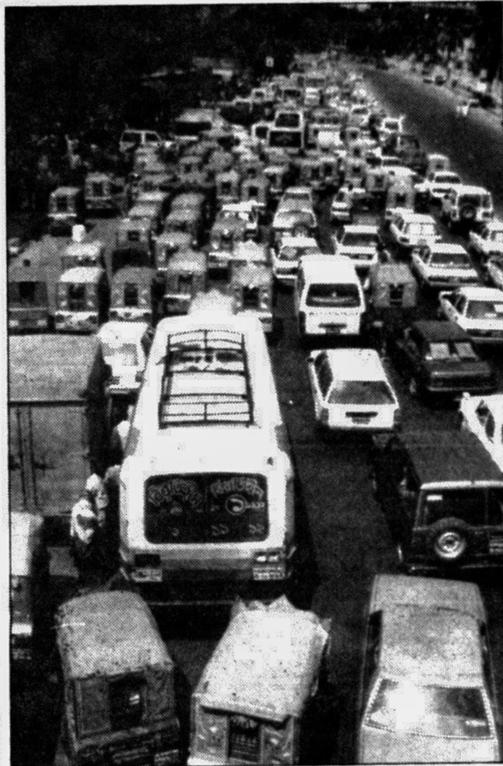
Referring anonymity, he said the writer is fearing lack of her safety and is therefore, unable to appear before the court to obtain bail in a case revived last month.

The case was filed by a resident of Keraniganj in 1994. But he prayed for its revival saying she has returned to the country.

A warrant of arrest was issued.

Home Secretary Shafiqur Rahman said he did not receive any petition from the writer.

The Islamic Oikkyo Jote staged demonstrations and clashed with police in the city on Sunday. It's leaders said there will be more protests unless Taslima is arrested and tried.



NUISANCE UNABATED: Traffic jam, a common sight on the city roads, will probably never end. The photo shows the VIP Road near the Shahbagh crossing yesterday.

## Minor girl shot dead in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 5: A minor girl was shot dead by an unidentified miscreant at Aziz Colony, Chaktai in Chandgaon thana here today, reports BSS.

Yeasmin was shot by a miscreant when she was returning home from a nearby shop, police and eyewitnesses said.

She was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital where attending doctors declared her dead, the sources said. The reason behind the killing could not be known.

The body was sent for autopsy. A case was filed with Chandgaon police.

## White House chief of staff to step down

WASHINGTON, Oct 5: White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles is to step down from his position following the end of the congressional session this year, an administration source said today, reports Reuters.

Commenting on news reports that Bowles was to step down, the official said, "I would not steer you away from those reports."

## Razzak

From Page 1

democracy.

Recalling the turbulent days of August 1975, Razzak, a close aide of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, refuted the allegation that he did not try to build up a movement against the killing.

"But, we were stunned at the silence of the Army and the surrender of the Rakhi Bahini."

He said he went underground after the killing of Bangabandhu. But when surfaced, he was put under house arrest on September 2. Later, on September 5 the Army men took him to Tofail's residence.

"From there both of us were taken to Zillur Rahman's residence. Then all of us were taken to the police control room at Suhrawardy Udyan."

"On the next morning, Tofail was taken away from the control room. In the evening when they brought back Tofail, we found him severely injured and sick," Razzak added.

He said in the next morning, they were sent to separate jails.

## Benazir, Zardari indicted in corruption case

LAHORE, Oct 5: A Pakistani court today indicted former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari on charges of taking kickbacks from two Swiss companies, reports AP.

In separate charges, a special two-member Accountability Bench of the Lahore High Court, indicted Benazir and Zardari for receiving huge commissions for giving pre-shipment inspection contracts to two Swiss companies-SGS and Cotecna.

## FBCCI polls

From Page 1

The panel supported by Rahman is: Mustafaq Ahmed of the Association of Air Cargo Agents of Bangladesh (AKAB), Niaz Rahim of the Bangladesh Accumulator and Battery Manufacturers Association, Dr Momennul Haq of the Bangladesh Oushad Shilpa Samity, M Habibullah of the Bangladesh Brick Manufacturing Owners Association, M Niamatullah Sabu of the Bangladesh Dress Makers Association, SU Haider of the Bangladesh Handicrafts Manufacturers and Exporters Association, M Kohinor Islam of the Bangladesh Sandmining and Merchants Association, Badrul Huda of the Bangladesh Textile Dyeing and Printing Industries Association, Mr Ali of the Shippers Council of Bangladesh and Sadeur Rahman of the Bangladesh Chemists and Druggists Samity.

Former FBCCI President Alhaj Akram Hossain chaired the projection meeting. It was also addressed by some business leaders, including Haji Abdus Salam and M Nasir Uddin.

## Dr Abdul Kalam gets Indira Gandhi Award

NEW DELHI, Oct 5: The prestigious Indira Gandhi Award for national integration for 1997 will be presented to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, India's top nuclear scientist and the father of the integrated guided missile development programme, reports PTI.

The award comprising cash prize of Rs 1.51 lakh and a citation will be presented to Kalam for his outstanding contribution towards national integration by Congress president Sonia Gandhi on October 31, the death anniversary of Indira Gandhi, award advisory committee announced today.

Congress had instituted the award in its centenary year to uphold the cause of national integration and understanding and to give recognition to outstanding contribution to the cause by individuals and institutions, a party release said.

## 15 get bail

From Page 1

and activists of Chittagong were involved in 83 fabricated cases. Despite that the government could not stifle the voice of the opposition, they said.

The BNP leaders called upon the people to observe October 15 hartal in greater Chittagong demanding withdrawal of the cases. They warned of serious consequences if the government continued persecution of opposition leaders and activists.

## Jamaat activist

From Page 1

activist Tauhid at about 11 am. Failing to find Tauhid, they gunned down his father.

Suruji Miah died instantly.

A library run by Shibir in the locality was also set on fire by the miscreants.

The local leaders of Jamaat and Shibir held pro-Awami League Chhatra League responsible for the attack.

## Bangabandhu Murder Case

## Aug 15 incident was covered by law: Defence Counsel

Defence Counsel in Bangabandhu Murder Case arguing in the court yesterday said all functionaries of the martial law should be brought under trial if the accused in this case are to be tried, reports UNB.

Abdur Rezzak Khan, the counsel for Col Shahriyar Rashid Khan, told the court that all the army officers related to the August 15 incident were protected by law.

Citing certain judgements, the counsel said the martial law imposed on August 15, 1975 was the law of the land and the Constitution had been rendered subordinate to martial law which could not be challenged in the court.

Martial law does not mean that the army chief will require to come down the street, he said.

The counsel contended that Khondokar Mushtag Ahmed took over all powers of the State and whatever he said was the law at that time. "We are now before a court of law. We are neither concerned about the people nor legal or illegal grabbing of power. What was done at that time was covered by the law."

Even after lifting of the martial law, all acts made and orders passed during the martial law were protected, argued the counsel.

Going back to his contention that all those who functioned under the martial law procla-

mination should be brought under trial, Khan said, "By saying that he (Army Chief Gen Shafulullah) was taken at gun point to the radio station, he could neither disown the oath of allegiance he made nor could he avoid his responsibility for the killing of the President."

About his client, Col Shahriyar, the lawyer said, as per evidences he (Shahriyar) was seen at the radio station, entering into Sernabat's house and in Bangababhan. But none has said that Shahriyar, has seen at any time at Bangabandhu's residence.

Shahriyar, the counsel said, was not a party to anything that took place at Road-32 and was also not seen involved in the so-called conspiracy.

Going to radio and Bangababhan can't be a crime. Shahriyar was a functionary of the army authority at that time. So, it is natural he should be there. Moreover he was attached with the President Secretariat by an executive order.

Referring to the statement of prosecution witness about briefing in the cantonment that Sheikh Mujib will declare monarchy on August 15 on Dhaka University campus and those who briefed the troops said they can't support monarchy. "This cannot be construed as conspiracy," he argued.

Rezzak Khan said one wit-

## Indo-Pak foreign secretary level talks Oct 16-17

ISLAMABAD, Oct 5: The foreign secretaries of Pakistan and India will engage in important talks here on October 16 and 17 to try to settle the outstanding disputes including Kashmir, reports Xinhua.

According to a report by the Associated Press of Pakistan on Monday, Indian Foreign Secretary K Raghunath will arrive in Islamabad on October 15. Formal talks will begin the next day, after a one year deadlock.

The report quoted official sources as saying another round of dialogue will take place in New Delhi in the first week of November.

## Status report

From Page 1

According to official sources, Bangladesh usually buys arms from China, USA, UK, Czech Republic and Switzerland. China is however the main source.

Replying to a question, an influential minister said the government had no objection to sending the list to the UN as the resolution was adopted aiming at establishing peace in the world. "India and Pakistan are also signatories to the resolution, and both the countries have duly sent their lists to the UN secretary general."

In another development, the Cabinet has deferred consideration of a Shipping Ministry proposal for some changes to the Inland Shipping Ordinance. The proposals included a provision for registration fees for the engine-driven country boats.

The Cabinet has deferred it as the registration involves cash payment by poor country boat owners. The payment would be an extra burden for them, already affected by the recent devastating flood," a minister said.

## 3 electrocuted

From Page 1

at Mirpur. He died on way to DMCH.

An electrician was electrocuted while working at a tannery at Hazaribagh yesterday afternoon. The victim was identified as Masum Billah, 30. He was sent to DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

Besides, a 55-year-old man, Firuz Miah, reportedly committed suicide at his residence at Mirpur. The reason behind this could not be known immediately.

Meanwhile, on Sunday one Kulsom Begum, 25, reportedly hanged herself at Paris Road under Pallabi thana.

All the bodies were sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.