



Islami Oikya Jote brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding release of its leaders and activists. —Star photo

Release of three leaders demanded

By Staff Correspondent
The US chapters of Zia Mancha and seven-party alliance have demanded release of two BNP leaders — KM Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manzur — and Jatiya Party leader Shah Moazzem Hossain.

The demand was raised at a press conference held at a hotel in New York on Thursday, according to a faxed message received in the city yesterday by Shaheda Obaid, wife of Obaidur Rahman. A copy of the message was sent to The Daily Star.

The leaders of the organisations also threatened to go for an all-out movement at home and abroad against the Awami League government if the three opposition leaders are not free immediately.

They also blamed the government for law and order situation in the country and price like of essentials.

Zia Mancha US unit president and secretary — Solaiman Bhuiyan and Akhtar Hussain Badal — and leaders of seven-party alliance were present at the press conference.

Publication ceremony of 'Baytikram'

CHITTAGONG, Oct 9: Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Advocate Abdul Hamid said here today that the present government is firmly committed to ensuring the free flow of information and to ensuring freedom of press in the country, reports BSS.

"The role of newspapers for flourishing democracy is immense," the Deputy Speaker said this while addressing a publication ceremony of the Weekly Baytikram, published from Chittagong at a city hotel here this evening.

Chaired by advisor of the weekly Abdul Majid Bhuiyan, the publication ceremony was addressed, among others, by Jafrul Islam MP, vice-chancellor of the Chittagong University Prof Abdul Mannan, editor of the weekly Mamun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury, Dr Sarwar Ahmed, Begum Mustari Shafi, Khan-dakar Giasuddin and advocate Dil Afroza Begum.

Termining the journalists as conscience of the nation, Advocate Abdul Hamid urged the journalists to project all injustices, malpractices and corruption without any fear or favour for building up a better society.

The deputy speaker also called upon the journalists to maintain objectivity while disseminating news and views as well as constructive criticism of the government for marching the nation ahead.

10 injured in Feni clashes

FENI, Oct 9: At least 10 people were injured in violence in the district's Sadar and Sonagazi areas on Wednesday and Thursday, reports APB.

Police and local sources said clashes and bomb attacks in the town on Thursday left several people wounded.

The condition of Srantik League leaders Sakhawat Hossain, 30 and Delwar Hossain, 25, and Chhatra League activist Rezaul, 27, was said to be critical. They were admitted to Feni Sadar Hospital and two private clinics.

Earlier on Wednesday, a Jubo Dal leader, Dulal, was abducted from Olama Bazar in Sonagazi and stabbed by his rivals. Five more were injured in the attack on local office of BNP.

PM's announcement hailed

By Staff Correspondent
The Teish September Smriti Sangsad has congratulated the Prime Minister for her announcement of holding trials of all killings, including of former president Ziaur Rahman, Major General Manzur and Colonel Abu Taher, says a press release.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina made the announcement while addressing a public meeting at Nawabganj on Thursday.

On behalf of families of army personnel who were hanged in 1981, the Smriti Sangsad yesterday said that it had been demanding for long a neutral investigation into the incidents of 1981 and trial of the killings of Zia and Manzur.

World Postal Day observed

Minister for Post and Telecommunications and Public Works and Housing Mohammad Nasim yesterday urged the officials and employees of the Postal Department to work unitedly to make it a corruption-free transparent organisation, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at a function in observance of the World Postal Day in the GPO auditorium, the minister said the postal system is still the prime medium of communication of the rural masses.

"The people in the rural areas still waits for the postmen to take delivery of their letters," Nasim said calling for maintaining efficiency of the Postal Department.

The minister said no organisation can exist without competition since it is an era of competition. So, he said, the Postal Department will have to earn the respect of the people showing its efficiency and skill.

Nasim said the only goal of the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is to serve the people. So, each officer and employee of the Postal Department will have to work sincerely to achieve this target, he added.

Urs

The urs of Hazrat Maulana Golamur Rahman Maizbhandari will be observed at Opar Char village in Homna thana of Comilla district on October 12, reports APB.

Talks to form Cambodia's next govt postponed

PHNOM PENH, Oct 9: Negotiations to form Cambodia's next government stalled again Friday, and support grew for King Norodom Sihanouk to chair a second summit of party leaders, reports AP.

Cambodian leader Hun Sen's party, a narrow winner in the July 26 elections, publicised its wish Thursday for negotiations to proceed at the highest level, calling on senior opposition party leader Prince Norodom Ranariddh to return from Thailand.

The proposal was formally presented in Friday's 'working group' session as Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party and the two-party opposition again failed to find any common ground. Hun Sen's party needs outside cooperation since it did not win the two-thirds of parliamentary seats needed to form the government alone.

An opposition negotiator said the summit proposal would have to be approved by Ranariddh — who has stayed in Bangkok since parliament's ceremonial opening on Sept 24 — but it would be difficult to turn down if the king agreed to help break the deadlock.

"Of course if the king wishes to let us, we will participate," said Prince Sisowath Sirirath, a senior official in Ranariddh's FUNCINPEC party.

Three working group sessions since the election have yielded no substantial progress.

The ruling party is eager to see a new administration installed so the government can regain the legitimacy it lost when Hun Sen ousted Ranariddh as co-prime minister in a violent coup last year.

But the opposition claims that Hun Sen's electoral victory was achieved through fraud and intimidation. The two parties insist that their allegations must be thoroughly investigated before parliament holds its first official meeting.

Ruling party negotiator Sok An complained Friday that the opposition, especially the party led by former Finance Minister Sam Rainsy, has increased its demands at each working group session rather than attempting to reach a compromise.

"They did not respect the spirit of the negotiations so we will go back to the summit," Sok An said.

The king presided at a summit last month at his Siem Reap residence, attended by Hun Sen, Ranariddh and Sam Rainsy, that led to the convening of parliament.

At Hun Sen's request, Sihanouk since has delayed a planned trip to Beijing for medical treatment. He arrived in Phnom Penh on Monday.

Hun Sen's side has pushed for parliament to hold its first official session so it can elect its officers.

FUNCINPEC, which holds the interim position of parliamentary dean because it has the oldest member of the new parliament, has argued that it should not open until a comprehensive deal is reached.

A major stumbling block is the parliament's presidency, which is coveted by both Hun Sen's party and FUNCINPEC.

The president of parliament controls legislative sessions and becomes acting head of state when the king is outside the country.



Although flood waters have receded, piles of garbage have remained strewn at Kadamtala in the city's Basabo area, causing immense suffering to the local residents. — Star photo

People now united to foil BNP's conspiracy: Zillur

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 9: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman today said the BNP's threat of street agitation to "obstruct the trial of jailing and of the killers of Bangabandhu" will be faced politically, reports UNB.

He said people want to establish the supremacy of the elected representatives in power by ensuring trial of all political killings. They are now united to foil the BNP's "conspiracy to grab power illegally," he added.

Addressing several rallies, organised by Bhairab Thana Awami League, Rahman, also the general secretary of the ruling party, alleged that BNP is hatching conspiracy in the name of anti-government movement to impede the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu, and four national leaders in the jail.

He called upon opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia to refrain from "hatching any conspiracy to protect the killers."

He also urged Begum Zia to cooperate with the government for the trial of the killing of President Ziaur Rahman to make politics accountable and transparent. "Otherwise, people will not forgive you," Zillur said.

Earlier, Zillur Rahman attended a meeting which was organised to condole the death of Moazzem Hossain, former principal of Bhairab Haji Asmat College.

Death anniversary of Obaidul Haq Babul today

By Staff Correspondent
The Second death anniversary of Obaidul Haq Babul, a noted businessman and Awami League leader will be observed today, says a press release.

On the occasion, Bhola District Awami League and his family have taken up an elaborate programme.

Today, a *milad mahfil* will be held at the Ananya Apparels Ltd, Pallabi, after *Asr* prayers, and food will be distributed among the inmates of the orphanage in Gazipur. Also, a discussion meeting and a *milad mahfil* will be held in Bhola at 3 pm.

Another *milad mahfil* will be held at the Shapla Community Centre in Dhannondi after *Maghrib* prayers tomorrow.

Free medical camp held

MUNSHIGANJ, Oct 9: A free medical camp treated several hundred patients at the Kafiluddin Chowdhury Institution at Majjipur in Sreenagar thana are today, reports UNB.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AGM Badruddoza Chowdhury with a dozen doctors of the Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) conducted the camp.

The day-long medical camp was held under the joint auspices of Sufia Kalyan Trust and the local unit of BNP.

The patients came with complaints of diarrhoea, dysentery, fever and bronchial asthma. They also included some cases of arsenic poison detected by the doctors.

Dr Chowdhury himself attended a large number of patients. Among those who assisted him were DAB senior vice president Dr MA Hakim and DAB central leader Farid Ahmed Babu.

India will never accept concept of theocratic state, says Advani

NEW DELHI, Oct 9: Union Home Minister LK Advani today asserted that India would never accept the concept of a theocratic state and said the government was committed to instilling a sense of security into all communities, reports PTI.

India will never accept the concept of a theocratic state though the country was partitioned in 1947 on communal lines, theocracy goes against the grain of Indian tradition and culture, Advani said.

Addressing officers and *Jawans* of the elite rapid action force (RAF) on its sixth anniversary here, he said since ancient days India had been home and refuge to several communities and the rulers were not bothered about either the faith or the lack of it among the subjects.

Stating that the mandate for his government was for 'suraj' (good governance), he said installing a sense of security into all communities and establishing social harmony in the spirit of unity and diversity were the prime concerns of the seven-month-old coalition.

He complimented the RAF, a specialised wing of the central reserve police force (CRPF) established to tackle communal violence, for its secular credentials.

CRPF director general MN Sabharwal and RAF inspector general Tashi Dawa were also present at the function which was marked by a marchpast, cultural programmes and martial art demonstration.

China warns against use of force over Kosovo

BEIJING, Oct 9: China said Friday it was intensely worried by the threat to use force against Yugoslavia and warned that military action would only compound the crisis over Kosovo, reports AP.

As NATO stood ready to authorise air strikes against Yugoslavia for its military actions in the province, Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan called for a peaceful solution.

China holds that the Kosovo issue is the internal affair of Yugoslavia, and the threat to use force by some countries has aroused intensive worries.

Tang told Yugoslavia's ambassador to China, Slobodan Unkovic.

China always opposes the use or threat of force in international relations, Tang said. He indicated that China also regards force as unnecessary, saying major fighting in Kosovo has ended and "the situation at large has tended to ease."

Any military action targeting Yugoslavia will violate the United Nations Charter and other universally acknowledged international regulations, and will do nothing but make the situation more complicated," the official Xinhua news Agency paraphrased Tang as saying.

Taliban free 156 prisoners

KABUL, Oct 9: The Taliban religious militia released 156 prisoners from its jails in western Afghanistan, the Taliban-run radio reported Friday, says AP.

The men, most of them ethnic Uzbeks, were captured during heavy fighting in July and August between the Taliban army and its northern-based alliance.

The Taliban eventually drove its opponents from vast swaths of northern Afghanistan capturing the stronghold of Mazar-e-Sharif in August.

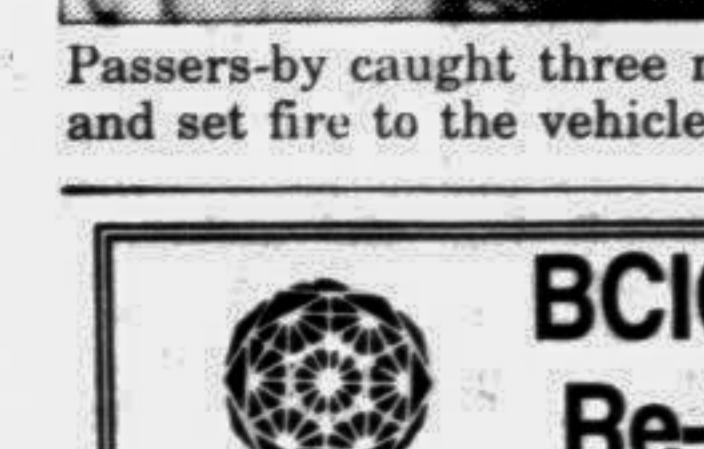
Irish govt gives £100,000 for flood relief

The Irish government has contributed £100,000 pound sterling to the Bangladesh flood relief effort, according to a message received in the city yesterday from Bangladesh High Commission in London, reports BSS.

In a letter to the Bangladesh Ambassador to Ireland, A H Mahmood Ali, the Irish Minister of state at the Foreign Office, Liz O'Donnell, stated that the donation is being channelled through the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. In addition, Ireland has also made a contribution to the relief effort through the European Commission Humanitarian office.

So far this year, about 1.1 million pounds have been disbursed to the International Federation of the Red Crescent and Oxfam to aid their operations in Bangladesh.

Minister O'Donnell added, "We are very much aware of the serious consequences of the recent (flood) emergency and can assure you that we are actively considering further assistance."



Passers-by caught three muggers (L) while they were trying to escape in an auto-rickshaw and set fire to the vehicle at Kamalapur in the city yesterday. —Star photo

BCIC International Re-Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পন্থা শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

The Managing Director, Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd., Tarakandi, Jamalpur hereby invites sealed tender on C&F (C) Chittagong basis under any suitable financial source in two-envelope system for import of Air Heater Unit against Tender Enquiry No. JFCL/FP/MTS/PM/2.393/225 dated 26.9.98. The tender will be received up to 11.00 AM on 04.11.98 and be opened on the same day thereafter. Tender documents containing detailed terms and conditions will be available on payment of Tk 300.00 (Three hundred) (non-refundable) in cash from the office of the (i) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and (iii) Jamuna Fertilizer Company Ltd on all working days. The management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof. No tender document will be sold on the date of opening of tender.

BCIC 878-5/10/98
DFP-21208-6/10

Distribution of relief continues

State Minister for Social Welfare, Women and Children Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain distributed relief materials among the flood-hit people at Pallabi in the city yesterday, reports APB.

The relief goods included rice, wheat and biscuits.

State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya distributed relief materials among 800 flood affected people at Shantibagh High School in the city yesterday.

Leaders and Workers of Ward-35 Awami League of Dhaka City organised the relief operation. The relief materials included rice and lentils.

3656 people die in China's flood

SHANGHAI, Oct 9: Significantly raising the toll from summer flooding, a senior Chinese official has been quoted as saying more than 3,656 people died, more than 20 per cent higher than the previously announced figure, reports AP.

Niu Maosheng, vice director of China's flood control bureau, issued the revised casualty count before 1,300 people attending a meeting arranged by the Communist Party's Propaganda department in Beijing Thursday, the Shanghai-based Xinhua Evening News reported in its Thursday editions.

Economic losses exceeded 248 billion yuan (dlns 30 billion), with more than 5.6 million houses destroyed and nearly 25.8 million hectares (64 million acres) of land inundated, Niu was quoted as saying.

More than 230 million people, a fifth of China's population — were affected by the flooding; the worst hit provinces were Jiangxi, Hunan and Hubei, which lie along the Yangtze River in central China, and Xinjiang in the northwest and Heilongjiang and Inner Mongolia in the northeast, the newspaper said.

The flooding, which lasted for more than two months in some areas, was the worst in 44 years on the Yangtze River and in decades in the northeast. But the government often appeared reluctant to divulge damage assessments, prompting speculation that the true number of casualties was much higher.

In the last official damage report, given six weeks ago after the worst of the flooding was over, Vice Premier Wen Jiabao said 3,004 people had died, 5 million houses were destroyed

11 killed in road accident in Karachi

KARACHI, Oct 9: At least 11 people were killed and 40 injured in an accident when two passenger buses collided in the Pakistani province of Sindh, ambulance service sources said today, reports APF.

The collision occurred late Thursday on the main highway near the town of Sanghar, 300 kilometers (187 miles) north-east of Karachi.

Villagers and volunteers rescued the injured who were trapped in the twisted seats and eight were hospitalised in critical condition, the sources said.

বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন

আদমজী কোর্ট (৬ষ্ঠ তলা)
১১৫-১২০, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০

টেন্ডার নোটিশ

সূত্র : বিএসএফআইসি/পিডি-২/কম-সেন/৯৮ তারিখঃ ০৫-১০-১৯৯৮ইং

বিষয় : উইনডো এনটি সার্ভারের মাধ্যমে ১৫টি ওয়ার্ক স্টেশন বিশিষ্ট লেন কম্পিউটার সিস্টেম সরবরাহ এবং স্থাপনার জন্য টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ চিনি ও খাদ্য শিল্প করপোরেশন (বিএসএফআইসি) কর্তৃক উইনডো এনটি সার্ভারের মাধ্যমে ১৫টি ওয়ার্ক স্টেশন বিশিষ্ট লেন কম্পিউটার সিস্টেম ক্রয় ও স্থাপনার নিমিত্তে প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারীর নিকট হইতে স্ট্র-ডেলিভারি ভিত্তিতে সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আবেদন করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্রের সাথে মোট উক্ত মূল্যের ২.৫০% হারে আর্নেস্টমনি হিসাবে পে-অর্ডার/ব্যাংক ডাফট-এর মাধ্যমে করপোরেশনের অফিসে জমা দিতে হইবে।

বিস্তারিত স্পেসিফিকেশন ও শর্তাবলীসহ টেন্ডার দলিল নম্বর ৫০০.০০ (পাঁচশ) টাকা মূল্য পরিশোধ-এর মাধ্যমে (অফিসে/ঘোষণা) করা করপোরেশনের অতিরিক্ত প্রধান হিসাবরক্ষক (ক্যাশ), আদমজী কোর্ট (৫ম তলা)-এর নিকট অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে বেলা ১০-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে ৩-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত পাওয়া যাইবে। করপোরেশনের ক্রয় বিভাগ, ৩নং দিলকুশা বা/এলাকা, ঢাকা-১০০০-এ রক্ষিত টেন্ডার বাবদে ২১-১০-৯৮ইং তারিখ বেলা ১১-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত দরপত্র গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং একই দিন বেলা ১১-০৫ ঘটিকার দরপত্রের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) খোলা হইবে। টেন্ডার খোলার তারিখে কোন টেন্ডার দলিল বিক্রয় করা হইবে না। কোন কারণ দর্শনে ব্যতিক্রমকেই যে কোন/সকল টেন্ডার গ্রহণ/প্রত্যাহান করার অধিকার করপোরেশনের সংরক্ষণ করে।

এসএফ-১৮৯
জিডি-৮১৬

আবদুল্লাহ
অতিরিক্ত প্রধান (ক্যাশ)