



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina giving away certificate to a graduating student at the 12th convocation ceremony of the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT) yesterday. — PID photo

GCO demands trial of accused of rape

By JU Correspondent
Ganantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) at Jahangirnagar University (JU) yesterday demanded trial of and harsher punishment to the accused of rape and immediate cancellation of the "Code of Conduct" imposed on a residential hall for girls of the university on Saturday.

GCO leaders at a rally in front of the Arts Faculty yesterday renewed their demand for expulsion of all the accused for life and cancellation of their certificates earned from the university. They also demanded for action against teachers found to be protecting the accused.

Threatening an agitation, the GCO leaders demanded trial of all recent terrorist activities on the campus.

Pabna BNP protests misappropriation of relief goods

PABNA, Oct 11: Pabna district unit of BNP today staged an hour-long demonstration in front of the Sadar TNO office protesting alleged irregularities in relief distribution activities, reports APB.

The opposition BNP alleged that Malanchi UP chairman had misappropriated relief materials and distributed only 10 kgs of rice and wheat against each VGF card.

But each VGF card-holder is entitled to receive 16 kgs of wheat and rice.

Among others, Rafiqul Islam Bakul MP, Sadar president and secretary of BNP Habibur Rahman Tota and Kamrul Hasan led the demonstration. They also complained that the UP chairman of Varara and Dogachi had sold 20 metric tons of foodgrains but the administration did not take any action against the two.

Diarrhoea claims 53 in Sylhet dist

SYLHET, Oct 11: Diarrhoea and water-borne diseases are spreading in an epidemic form in all the 11 thanas of the district with the receding of floodwaters, reports UNB.

At least 53 persons have died of diarrhoea and 13,000 others have been affected so far.

However, an official of the district Civil Surgeon Office claimed that there were only 49 deaths.

Of the victims, 8 people died in Sadar, one in Biswanathpur, nine in Balaganj, five each in Fenchuganj and Biyanibazar, 7 in Zakiganj, 15 in Kanaighat and 3 in Companiganj thanas.

Local people alleged that the diarrhoea situation has worsened in the district due to negligence of medical teams to combat the growing epidemic.

Central oxygen supply system installed at Shishu Hospital

A central oxygen supply system was installed at Dhaka Shishu Hospital yesterday, reports APB.

The system will connect 125 beds, out of 300, directly to the oxygen supply.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yoshikazu Kaneko inaugurated the oxygen networking system funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), at the hospital yesterday.

Speaking on the occasion, Kaneko expressed his satisfaction at the installation of the system within a short time.

Director of the hospital Prof Manzoor Hossain said this is the most modern and scientific method of providing oxygen to terminally ill children, instead of the traditional way of oxygen supply through cylinders.

This minimises wastage of the gas and provides more accurate and effective oxygen therapy," said Prof Hossain.

JICA resident representative Yuji Okazaki said JICA, a close development partner of DSH, hopes to strengthen the ties further for the betterment of the hospital.

Presiding over the function, Prof Syeda Feroza Begum, chairperson of the management board of the hospital, thanked the Japanese envoy and lauded JICA's support for the development of the hospital.

She hoped that the Japanese government would continue to help the ailing children of Bangladesh.

More donations to PM's Relief, Welfare Fund

More organisations and individuals from home and abroad yesterday donated Tk 35.29 lakh and 1.04 lakh US dollars to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund for the flood-hit people of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Receiving the donations at her office yesterday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her gratitude to the donors for their good gesture towards the distressed humanity.

Among others, BAMBA flood aid-concert donated Taka five lakh, seventy four thousand and five hundred, Secondary and Higher Secondary Education Board, Khulna-Taka three lakh five thousand, Dhaka Anjibi Samity-Taka three lakh, Hamdard Laboratory (Waqaf) Bangladesh Taka one lakh one hundred, Bandarban Local Government Parishad-over Taka one lakh three thousand, Vi-quarunnessa Alumni Association Batch '97-Taka one lakh fifty thousand, East London Awami League-Taka one lakh.

Others who donated to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund included Abu Taher Mollik of the Australian National University, Canberra-5,163.91 US dollar, Mark Designers Ltd.-Taka 50 thousand, Deputy Commissioner, Barisal-Taka ten thousand, Syed Iqbal Hossain Dinner-Taka 10,000, Bangabandhu Parishad Lieua, Oman-Taka 30,000, employees of NFPC, Abu Dhabi-Taka 32,909, Friends of Bangladesh, Jeddah Airport Committee-Taka 10,000, some students of City Dental College-Taka 1800, Durbar Shilpi Gosthi, Ramu-Taka 20,000, West Kalfool Sajakalyaya Samity-Taka 15,000, Bangladesh Institute of Technology, Chittagong-Taka 40,000, Kalyanpur Natunbazar Parishadana Committee, Mirpur-Taka 15,000, Bangladesh Zila Parishad Karmachari Federation, Dhaka Zila Parishad-Taka 54,508.55, Prokrichi-Khagrachhari-Taka 10,000, Parbatya Boudha Sangha-Taka 10,000, Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs Ministry and CHT Development Board-Taka 50,253.

Besides, Khulna Zila Shikshak Samity donated Taka 40,000, Bangabandhu Shishu Kishore, Dhaka Mohana Ghar Committee Taka 10,000, Bangladesh National University Employees Union, Gazipur Taka 10,000, Muldhara, an organisation of the writers, journalists and cultural activists led by poet Shamsur Rahman and Syed Al-Farique Taka 50,000.

Besides, Taka 12,70,161.08, 97652 US dollars, 59350 Hong Kong dollars and 3300 Singapore dollars, which were collected through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs from different missions and Bangladeshi expatriates were also deposited to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund.

In addition, the managing committee of Maddyapara Hardrock Mining Co Mohammad Alauddin Salamath of Srinagar, Munshiganj, Mahmud Hashan of Mollapur, Dhaka, No 1 Manikchhari Union Parishad of Khagrachhari, Mohd Hasan of Narsingdi, Chandnaish Sangit Niketon of Chittagong, students of Boda Pilot Girls College, Dinajpur Shainpukur Manoshi Lake View Apartments Owners Association, Saifulah of Mohamampur, Dr Eng Ahsan Habib Chowdhury of USA, Advocate Mujibur Rahman Chowdhury, a freedom fighter of Sylhet, Bright Star Collegiate School, Prodip Das of West Bengal, India, Dr M Rezaul Haque, Sheikh Muniruzzaman of Satkhira, Sanida Sarmeen Soma, Halima Mohal, Barisal and Agradoot Seba Sangh, Barisal also donated substantial amounts to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund.

One electrocuted in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 11: A day-labourer was electrocuted while working in a under-construction building at Haliganj in Siddhirganj thana on Saturday, police said, reports UNB.

Anwar Hossain, 20, a construction labourer of Mac Paper Industry, was injured seriously when he came under contact with the 11 KV line in the morning.

He was first admitted to Narayanganj Hospital and then brought to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he died in the evening.

Admission date for DU M Phil courses extended

By DU Correspondent
The date for admission into M Phil courses of 1996-97 session at Dhaka University has been extended till October 31, says a DU press release.

Those taking admission after Oct 15 will have to pay Taka one per day as late admission fee, the press release added. There will be no admission after Oct 31.

2 hurt in clash over pavement at Gulistan

By Staff Correspondent
Two persons, including a teenage boy, were injured in a clash between two groups over occupying of a pavement near Golapshah Mazar at Gulistan in the city yesterday morning.

The injured, identified as Karim, 25, and Manik, 16, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, according to hospital sources.

The clash erupted when Karim, an agarbatti (incense stick) seller, along with his accomplices tried to evict Kala Aziz, who had earlier occupied Karim's selling space on the pavement.

A number of crackers were exploded during the clash which left Karim and Manik, a passer-by, wounded.

Neither Ramna thana nor Motijheel thana could confirm the incident till filing of this report last night.



A goods train was stranded for about an hour at the Khilgaon crossing in the city yesterday, stopping vehicular traffic and causing a huge congestion in the area. — Star photo

CPI-M calls for forming 3rd front to counter BJP

CALCUTTA, Oct 11: In line with the tactical stand adopted by the party at the 16th Congress of CPI-M today gave a call for the formation of a third front with a pro-Congress tilt to counter BJP, which the party has identified as its "main enemy," reports PTI.

Apparently from pressure by hardliners in the party neither Harkishen Singh Surjeet, who was re-elected party general-secretary nor octogenarian leader Jyoti Basu mentioned CPI-M's offer of support to the Congress while addressing a mammoth rally at the historic Brigade Parade Ground.

They, however, welcomed the "secular elements" in the Congress to join the struggle against communal forces.

Concentrating on the third front Surjeet said his party would rally all secular democratic and leftist forces into a third front to fight the BJP which "threatened the country's unity."

Indian troops shell border villages in Neelum Valley

ISLAMABAD, Oct 11: Indian troops shelled villages across a military control line in Kashmir overnight, killing one civilian and wounding two on the Pakistani side of the disputed Himalayan region, Pakistan's official APP news agency said today, reports Reuters.

It said the Indian troops had been shelling villages in the Neelum Valley of Pakistan-ruled part of Kashmir since Saturday evening.

The Pakistani report follows one by Indian police on Saturday that said one person was killed and one wounded when Pakistani troops fired into the Indian side in the Poonch sector of Kashmir on Friday evening.

The violence reports came days ahead of the scheduled resumption of stalled peace talks between Pakistan and India in the Pakistani capital on October 15.

Firing across the 720-km UN-monitored ceasefire line has increased after India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests in May. Since then more than 100 people have died on both sides because of shelling along the border.

On Friday, India's army Chief General Ved Prakash Malik said Pakistani shelling of Indian border positions in the mountainous Kargil enclave in the north was not alarming but cautioned Pakistan there might be retaliatory action.

Kargil has been the focal point of occasional artillery exchanges along the ceasefire line. Nearly a dozen militant groups are fighting New Delhi's rule over two thirds of Jammu and Kashmir, the rest of which is controlled by Pakistan.

Police and hospitals say more than 25,000 people have died in almost nine-year-old rebellion in the region.



Students of Mirpur Govt High School march in a procession in the city yesterday to press home their demand that a piece of school land, illegally occupied by some people, be returned immediately. — Star photo



Traffic system virtually collapsed yesterday due to massive traffic jam in different parts of the city. This picture was taken from Dainik Bangla Crossing. — Star photo

Sushma Swaraj to succeed Verma as Delhi CM

NEW DELHI, Oct 11: Sushma Swaraj was today unanimously elected leader of the Delhi BJP legislature party to succeed Sahib Singh Verma as Chief Minister, reports PTI.

Earlier, Verma tendered his resignation.

Swaraj's name was proposed by Verma and seconded by Ram Bhaj at the 25-minute meeting held at the BJP headquarters here Sunday evening, party spokesman M Venkiah Naidu told reporters.

The crucial meeting to elect the new leader followed the party's decision yesterday to replace Verma with Swaraj in a bid to bolster its prospects in the November 25 assembly elections in the capital.

CMAG lifts sanctions on Nigeria

LAGOS, Oct 11: The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) on Saturday announced the lifting of sanctions imposed on Nigeria in 1995, reports Xinhua.

However, the CMAG decided that Nigeria will not be readmitted into the Commonwealth until the installation of an elected civilian president on May 29, 1999, as it was provided by the current democratisation programme.

Thousands rally in downtown KL denouncing Mahathir's rule

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 11: Police arrested nine people after thousands rallied in downtown Kuala Lumpur denouncing Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's 17-year rule, news reports said on Sunday, reports AP.

A demonstration of more than 3,000 people on Saturday demanding reforms and the release of arrested dissident leader Anwar Ibrahim ended peacefully after police urged protesters to disperse.

But city Police Chief Kamaruddin Ali was quoted as saying by The Star newspaper on Sunday that nine people were arrested on Saturday for illegal assembly, including one Indonesian.

On Sunday, two police helicopters circled the capital's downtown area. Many protesters had vowed that demonstrations would continue through the weekend.

Mahathir fired Anwar as his deputy and finance minister on September 2, after they clashed over economic policies. Anwar was arrested 15 days later and faces trial on charges of sexual misconduct and corruption. He has denied guilt on all charges. The trial begins on November 2.

Since Anwar's arrest, police have repeatedly warned against illegal political gatherings — defined by Malaysian law as more than four people.

Peaceful rallies have continued, however, drawing a cross-section of Malaysians to the streets, denouncing their current leadership, demanding the release of Anwar and the repeal of the harsh Internal Security Act, under which he is detained.

Saturday's street demonstration, which lasted five hours, began when about 7,000 people clogged both sides of a major shopping street in the downtown Kuala Lumpur area.

The crowd later marched to the nearby National Mosque and then to Independence Square.

Some minor scuffles broke out as plain clothed police mixed with the demonstrators to make arrests. Witnesses said police fired pepper spray from within the crowd and beat some protesters.

After a stand-off of more than 15 minutes, and repeated requests by the police, the crowd dispersed.

Anwar's case has drawn international attention. World leaders from the United States, the Philippines, Indonesia and elsewhere, expressed shock and concern after Anwar appeared in court last month with a black eye and bruises on his body, that he alleged came from police beatings.

Suaram, the human rights organisation in a statement said that it believes that engineer Mahinder Singh Randhawa was detained at the demonstration.



Former Chief Justice Kemal Uddin Hossain handing over 'Anannya Sahitya Puruskar' to litterateur Dilara Hashem at the National Museum Children's auditorium in the city yesterday. Anannya Editor Tasmima Hossain was also present.

Tk 3 lakh snatched in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Oct 11: Tk three lakh were snatched from two staff of the Port Truck Owners' Association at Fakirhat near Chittagong Port here today, reports BSS.

According to port police and eyewitnesses, a gang of muggers intercepted the staff when they were returning with the money from UCBL branch. They snatched the money and fled the scene exploding several crackers.

A case was filed with port police.

Abducted Ctg businessmen yet to be rescued

CHITTAGONG, Oct 11: Two businessmen abducted at Fatikchhari and Kotwali thanas here for ransom are yet to be rescued, reports APB.

Family sources said a group of unidentified miscreants abducted motor parts trader Jafar Ahmed of Keranihat in Saktnia thana from KC Dey Road in Kotwali thana here on October 6.

Earlier, the abductors sent a letter to the victim demanding Tk 1.50 lakh as ransom.

China appeals for clean up of flooded areas to avert outbreak of diseases

BEIJING, Oct 11: Authorities in China have made an urgent call for a massive clean up of flooded areas to avoid outbreak of diseases, the official Xinhua news agency said today, reports AFP.

Disinfecting and cleaning up areas hit by the worst summer flooding here since 1954 is extremely urgent to overcome heavy damage to both the living and working environments and eliminate the possibility of epidemics early next spring, Vice Premier Li Landing was quoted by Xinhua as saying.

"Government and party officials at all levels should place top priority on the campaign with special emphasis on epidemic control," Li said.

He said that rats flies and mosquitoes considered as the main carriers of disease should be eliminated and ordered local administrations to ensure drinking water supplies and uncontaminated food.

China in recent times has not had to deal with disease spread on a wide scale but has reported cases of typhoid, cholera and dysentery.

However, the most dangerous phase of the floods which struck this summer was near as flood waters receded leaving behind contaminated living areas and polluted water supplies.

In September the English language China Daily said that 90 per cent of the estimated 30,000 victims of the 1954 floods died from contagious diseases after flood waters receded.



The first performance of Nandonik's 14th production 'Sultan O Sundari' was presented at the Guide House auditorium in the city yesterday.



Defying police, several thousand Malaysians gather for a huge rally in front of Merdeka Square to protest the recent arrest of a popular reformer politician Anwar Ibrahim on Saturday in Kuala Lumpur. The crowd dispersed after riot police with batons and shields and water cannon truck took positions in the square. — AP/UNB photo