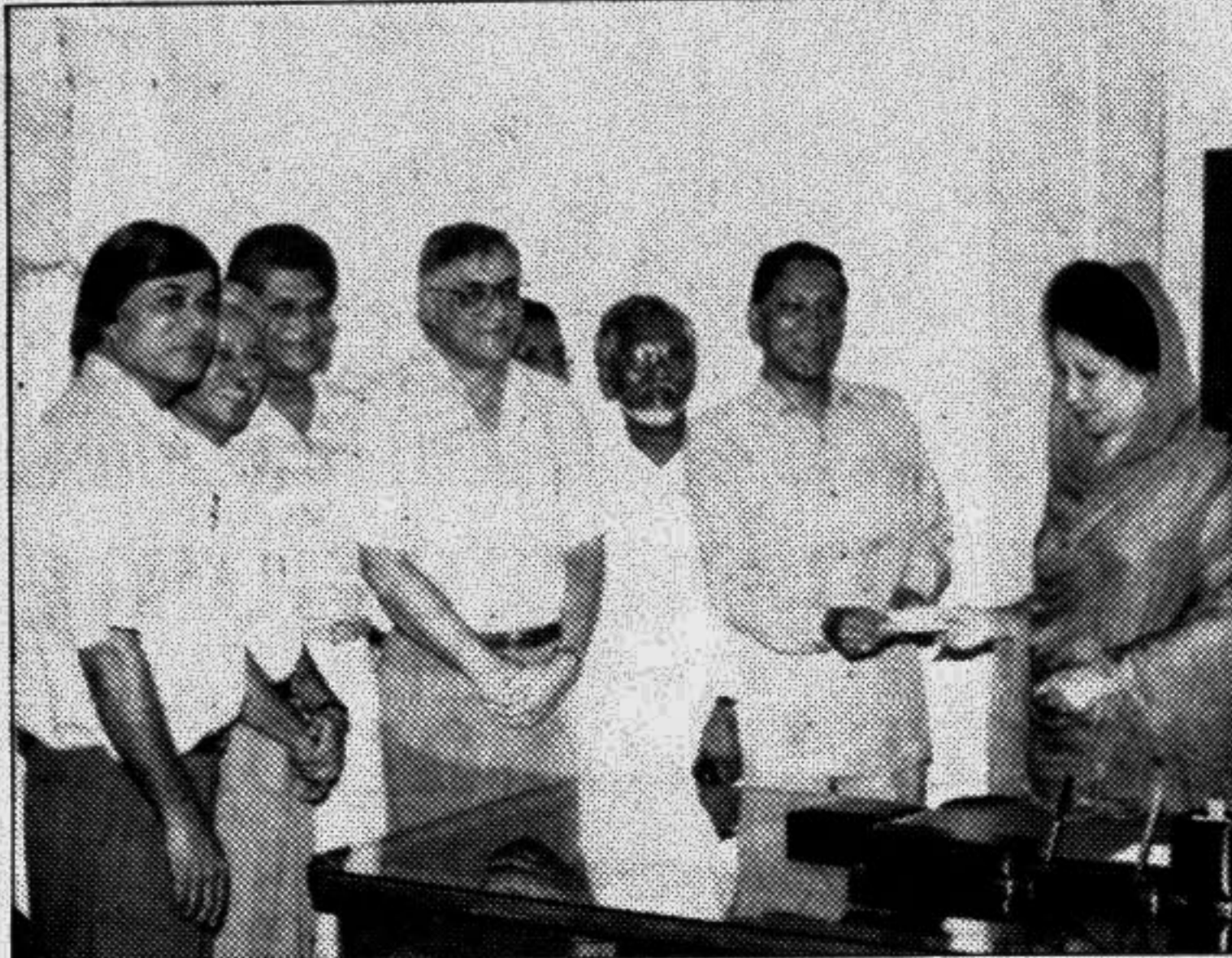




John Lewer, Marketing Manager of Nestle Bangladesh Limited, Faisal Siddiqi, President of Bangladesh Musical Bands Association (BAMBA), and E J Mac Ewan III, General Manager, The Pan Pacific Sonargaon, Dhaka, handed over a cheque for Tk 5,74,500 — the proceeds of 'BAMBA Flood-Aid Concert' — to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office on Sunday for the flood victims.



Chairman of Advisory Council of BAIARA Mosharrif Hossain MP handing over a cheque for Tk five lakh to BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia towards the party's relief fund.

Tk 41.04 lakh more donated to PM's Relief Fund

More organisations and individuals yesterday donated over Taka 41.04 lakh to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund for the flood affected people of the country, reports BSS.

Receiving the donations at her office yesterday, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep gratitude to the donors.

The donors included Jeldarzadeh, MP of Islamic Consultative Assembly and Red Crescent Society of Islamic Republic of Iran Tk 10 lakh, Bangladesh Film Coordination Parishad, Bangladesh Film Development Corporation Tk five lakh, and Bangladesh Reconditioned Vehicles Importers and Dealers Association Tk 5 lakh.

Besides, Maersk Oil and Gas and Maersk Bangladesh Ltd donated Tk four lakh, Japanese Commerce and Industries Association in Bangladesh Tk 3.50 lakh, Aramit Ltd Tk two lakh, officers and employees of various departments under the Ministry of Information Tk 2.50 lakh, YKK Zippers Pvt Ltd Tk 1.50 lakh, Inter-District Bus Owners Association of Chittagong Tk one lakh, Dhaka Japanese Association and Japanese Women's Club Tk 1.78 lakh, BSC (Customs and Excise) Association and employees of Customs and Excise Department Tk 1.63 lakh and DUJ (Dhaka Union of Journalists) Ittefaq unit Tk over 50 thousand.

Other donors include Dakopa Thana Puja Uddayan Committee, Khulna Uttar Shailmari Puja Uddayan Committee, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar Govt Boys High School, Padua Sufia Rahman High School, Comilla, Morning Glory Tutorial School, Dhaka, Bhatiyaraji TSC High School, Iftekharul Islam and Sufia Islam of Gulshan, Agami Printing and Publication Co Dhaka, Bangabandhu Parishad, Mirpur Ward 11, Dhaka Cotton Mill Union Committee, Muladi Radha-Govinda Jeur Ashram Puja Mandop, Bangladesh Training and Development Society, Avoyanagar Thana Primary School Teachers Association, Teachers of Noapara Pilot Girls' High School, Jessore, Ijabul Haq of Meherpur and Bogra unit of Swadhinata Parishad.

APB adds: A foreign non-government organisation, Adventist Church, has donated medicines worth Tk 4 lakh for distribution among the flood-affected people.

A delegation of the NGO, led by Bangladesh expatriate John Nihar is was handed over the donation to State Minister for Jute A K Fazul Haq at his office yesterday, said a PID handout.

4 top civil servants ignore ASA letters

By Special Correspondent
Four top civil servants, who were asked to explain their position on reported remarks on red tapism attributed to them blaming the bureaucrats for the slow movement of files and decision-making, have ignored the Administrative Services Association's (ASA) letters in this regard.

The ASA, representing the administrative cadres of Bangladesh Civil Service, on Sunday before last sent the letters to the four — principal secretary to prime minister, establishment secretary, finance secretary and energy secretary. They were asked to reply within seven days of receipt of the letters which ended on Sunday. But they chose to ignore those, ASA sources said. The letters followed a meeting of the association after publication of reports attributing the remarks to them, made at a Cabinet meeting last month where 'red tapism' came under fire.

The next course of action would be decided at a meeting of the association, an ASA source said Monday night.

The four top officials belong to the erstwhile CSP cadre service. They also came under fire from the Muktiyoddha BCS Welfare Association.

The names were not available for comment.

2 killed in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent

Two youngmen were killed in separate incidents in the city on Monday.

The dead were identified as Sohrab, 24, a resident of Copbagh area and Zauddin alias Biddyt, 22, son of Mosharaf Hossain, a resident of North Kafur.

Police could not establish the motive behind the killings immediately.

On getting information, Motijheel police rushed to Balurmath behind the Modhumita cinema hall at about 11:30 pm on Monday and found Sohrab with bullet wounds in his abdomen and hands.

Sohrab was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead at about 12:10 am. None, however, was arrested in connection with the killing.

In the other incident, local people found Biddyt with injuries in his head and bullet injuries in his legs in North Kafur area at around 7 pm on Monday. He was rushed to DMCH where he died one hour after his admission.

Police said earlier at 4 pm, Biddyt went out of his house with two of his friends. One person identified as Amir Hossain has been arrested in this connection.

The bodies have been sent to morgue for autopsy.



A private firm is now engaged in controlling traffic and collecting tolls from the drivers for parking vehicles in the city's Motijheel area. An employee of the firm is seen on duty.

All urged to cooperate with Wills Int'l Cup organisers

An inter-ministerial meeting on the forthcoming Wills International Cup Cricket yesterday urged all to cooperate with the organisers for boosting the image of Bangladesh in the international arena, officials said, reports BSS.

The meeting was informed that all necessary preparation will be complete by October 18 and the international players and guests will be provided with all forms of security and medicare facilities.

Chaired by the State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader, the meeting also decided to project the image of Bangladesh in the international arena, prospects of tourism and existing congenial environment for direct foreign investment through satellite television networks during the tournament.

The meeting stressed the need for launching cooperative and coordinated efforts of different ministries, directorates and government agencies for the success of the tournament.

President of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) and Deputy Minister for Shipping, Sabar Hossain Chowdhury, Defence Secretary, Internal Resources Division Secretary, Youth and Sports Secretary, and representatives from National Sports Council (NSC), Bangladesh Krira Shikkha Protisthan (BKSP), National Museum, Directorate of Youth Development, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, and Islamic Foundation were present at the meeting.

Need for updating existing laws underscored

Minister Mohammad Nooruddin Khan yesterday underscored the need for updating the existing laws of the country to bring about much needed changes in the socio-economic arena, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a seminar on the concluding day of a 'refugee law' training programme, organised by Legal Education and Training Institute of Bangladesh Bar Council at the council auditorium in the city.

Some 21 persons from 16 district bar associations, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) and Refugee Counselling Service Unit (RCSU) participated in the programme.

Presided over by Vice Chairman of Bangladesh Bar Council barrister Amirul Islam, the concluding session was also addressed by member of the Law Commission Justice Kayeem Uddin Ahmed, Bar Council member advocate Syed Ahmed, retired Additional Inspector General of Police Al Mamun, advocate Rebeka Sultana of Bogra Bar Council and advocate Obaidul Haque of Khulna District Bar Council.

Sirajul Alam Khan back home

By Staff Correspondent

Sirajul Alam Khan, an eminent political personality, returned home on Monday after a six-month visit to Europe and North America, says a press release.

During his visit, Sirajul Alam presented a paper at the 'Bengal Studies Conference' in USA. He visited USA, Canada, Belgium, Holland, Germany and France.

UNFP to set up 6 maternity hospitals in CCC

CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: The United Nations Population Fund (UNFP) will set up six maternity hospitals in the city at an estimated cost of Taka ten crore, reports BSS.

This was disclosed by the UNFP chief in Bangladesh, A P Mochiroud, when he called on Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury at his office here today, a City Corporation press release said.

Mochiroud said the UNFP will set up 25 maternity hospitals in four city corporations of the country, including six in Chittagong city.

The mayor apprised the UNFP chief of various ongoing programmes to turn the city into a healthy one.

Chowdhury also said the city Corporation is running as many as 19 charitable medical centres, including one modern maternity hospital in the city, to ensure health services for the city people, the release added.

Biman employee succumbs to injury

A chief purser of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, hit by a bus on Monday night, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital shortly after admission, reports APB.

Hospital sources said, Abdul Wahab Beg, 55, one of the Chief Pursers of Biman, suffered serious head injuries when a premium service bus allegedly knocked him while he was crossing the road near old airport at about 10 pm.

He was rushed to the DMCH where he was pronounced dead at about 11.30 pm.

2 killed in road accident

A bus-truck collision in the city's Azampur area left two people killed and four others injured yesterday morning, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Mominul Islam, 20, and Palli, 20, garments workers of New H Apparel Limited, Uttara. They were going to their workplace on foot.

Police said a Tongi-bound bus collided with a truck coming from opposite direction and hit the victims killing them on the spot.

The injured are the bus passengers.

The bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy while four injured people were admitted to the Fangu Hospital.

Both the drivers managed to escape from the scene.

3 attempts of push-in by BSF foiled in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Oct 13: The BDR foiled three attempts by the BSF to push-in nine Bengali speaking Indian nationals, including four women, into Bangladesh territory through the Bhomra border under Sadar thana on Sunday, reports BSS.

The BDR sources said, first time the BSF pushed-in four Bengali speaking Indian nationals into Bangladesh territory through Bhomra-Ghoshpara border at 7:30 am. Second time at 10:40 am the BSF pushed-in three Indian nationals into Bangladesh from behind the Bhomra immigration check-post and third time at 4 pm the BSF pushed-in two Indian nationals through the main pillar area of Bhomra border.

More foreign relief pour in

Over Taka 17 crore in cash and relief materials are being sent by friendly countries, NGOs and expatriate Bangladeshis for the flood victims, sources at the flood relief coordination cell of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said yesterday, reports BSS.

The flow of cash came from Austria, Germany, Japan, Spain and the United Kingdom. The lion's share of the relief amount was channelled through the government, the sources said.

The German government, which donated an additional amount of five million Deutsche Mark (over Taka 14.5 crore), as immediate aid for the flood affected people is coming through the government.

Twenty thousand pounds sterling (about Taka 1.56 crore) collected by the Bangladesh High Commission in London as donation from the community and half a million Austrian shillings (about Taka 20 lakh) was sent to the Prime Minister's Relief and Welfare Fund and NGO channel respectively.

Spain, which has offered 25 million pesetas (about Taka 88 lakh) as food assistance, is coming through the government channel, the sources said.

OISCA, an NGO of Japan, has offered to send protein biscuit, wheat flour, canned food for the flood victims also through the government channel.

A German NGO, Netz, has donated Taka 21,66,600, the sources added.

3 muggers held in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 13: Police arrested three muggers along with a revolver from Sanarpura in Siddhirganj thana on Monday night, reports UNB.

On suspicion, police searched the bodies of Lakhman (20), Sharif (24) and Babul (23) in the area and recovered the revolver along with bullet.

Earlier in the day, police arrested an alleged dacoit, Iqbal (27), from Ranmagar area in Bandar thana and recovered five signal rockets from his house.

2 dacoits held in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, Oct 13: Kaptal thana police acting on a tip-off arrested two alleged dacoits yesterday from Rangunia thana area in collaboration with Rangunia thana police, reports BSS.

The arrested persons allegedly committed dacoity in the house of Hedayetul Islam at Khainnyaghila village in Kaptal thana of the district. They were identified as: Nazrul Islam, 22 and Bahadur Alam, 20.

Dutch envoy calls on Kalpa Ranjan Chakma

The Ambassador of the Netherlands to Bangladesh, Dick IB Den Haas, called on the Minister for Chittagong Hill Tracts Affairs, Kalpa Ranjan Chakma, at his secretariat office in the morning, reports BSS.

The ambassador showed interest in development works being carried out in the hill tracts after signing of the historic peace accord. The envoy expressed his desire to visit Rangamati and Khagrachari hill districts at the end of this month.

Thanking the ambassador for his country's help and support, the minister said that the development works in the hill region would be carried out through the government agencies and local NGOs.

Hunting of protected deer Media, film industry urged to blacklist 5 top Indian film stars

NEW DELHI, Oct 13: The worldwide Fund for Nature (WWF) today urged the media and movie industry to blacklist five top Indian film stars charged with hunting protected deer, reports AFP.

We have written to various ministries, the film industry, state-run television and media to enforce a voluntary boycott of the individuals involved in the crime Samar Singh, spokesman for the Indian chapter of WWF said.

Two Indian's top box-office draws Salman Khan and Saif Ali Khan, have been accused of killing two blackbucks and an antelope between September 26 and October 1, while shooting a Hindi language film in the desert city.

Salman Khan was formally arrested on Monday while Saif Ali Khan was released on bail. They both face up to seven years imprisonment, if convicted. Actresses Sonali Bendre,

Tabu and Neelam Kothari were charged as accomplices and also awarded bail.

"We appeal to the media particularly television to refrain from providing opportunities to the perpetrators of the crime to express their innocence", Singh said.

Film stars are revered in India and generally seen as immune from prosecution especially as numerous police investigations into stars with alleged links to organised crime have rarely led to charges.

All possible steps must be taken to bring to book all the others involved in the heinous crimes, Singh said.

There is enough evidence that the arrested cine star had accomplices, who were equally responsible for the killings. Twenty four percent of India's 316 species of mammals including all members of the big cat and antelope families have been listed as endangered.

Thousands of students take to streets in France

PARIS, Oct 13: Galvanised by a national show of force, high school students again took to the streets across France Tuesday to protest crowded classes and to demand better education tools, reports AP.

The marches disrupted traffic in cities from Rennes, in northwest France, to Toulouse, in the south. Police watched closely, mindful of violence that marred several protests nationwide Monday.

About 16,000 students rallied in downtown Bordeaux, southwestern France, chanting and holding aloft banners saying "Mobilisation. Action for Good Conditions".

It was a similar picture in a dozen other cities: 10,000 students rallied in Rennes, at least 6,000 had gathered in Toulouse

two hours before a march, and a few thousand in smaller towns such as Clermont-Ferrand, in central France.

Most of the rallies were peaceful, but in Lille, northern France, a dozen youths were detained for smashing windows and damaging parked cars during a rally by at least 2,000 students.

On Monday in Paris, where 10,000 people had rallied, 13 people were detained, although only five remained in custody Tuesday.

Everywhere, police said the show of force appeared stronger Tuesday.

Students, who began the school year in early September, warn they will stay off school and continue their protests unless the government comes up with funds to solve overcrowded classrooms, and provide better equipment, such as computers.

In Paris Monday, two police officers were injured in violence in shopping centres and avenues. Six cars were damaged and the windows of several stores and phone booths were smashed.

Late Monday, a student delegation met at the Education Ministry with Bernard Toulemonde, director of scholastic instruction. He reminded the group that the government had already announced the creation of 3,000 new posts for teachers for next year and 20,000 student jobs.

Troops kill 11 Tigers in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Oct 13: Government troops killed 11 Tamil Tiger rebels and lost one soldier while repulsing a guerrilla attack on the position in Sri Lanka's northeast, the military said, reports AP.

The latest fighting took place on Monday in Trincomalee district, 230 kilometres (140 miles) northeast of Colombo.

The fleeing rebels were trapped by government soldiers positioned nearby. The military recovered 11 bodies of rebels, assorted weapons, ammunition and bills for rupees 800,000 (US\$ 12,200).

Trincomalee is a town under government control, but the rebels often target it from surrounding jungles.

Tamil rebels are fighting for a homeland in the country's north and east, claiming that they are discriminated against by the majority Sinhalese, who control the government and the military. More than 55,000 people have been killed since 1983.

Juvenile crime rises in Japan

TOKYO, Oct 13: Japan may still be one of the safest nations on earth but the number of crimes reported last year rose to a postwar high as offences committed by teenagers rose almost 10 per cent, a government report said Tuesday, reports AP.

Crimes by teenagers, including two murders last year by a high school student in Kobe, have raised a national debate on adopting stricter juvenile laws.

The number of arrests among those aged 14 to 19 on suspicion of crimes ranging from petty offences to theft and murder rose 9.8 per cent in 1997 to 215,600, according to the Justice Ministry's 1998 White Paper on Crime.

For every 1,000 children aged 10 to 19, 14.2 were arrested last year, the report said. The number of minors arrested on suspicion of robbery increased 60 per cent to 1,701.

A survey of 117 minors detained for serious crimes such as murder or attempted murder showed that 42 per cent had been abused or bullied as youngsters while 16 per cent had attempted suicide.

The report did not say how the numbers compared to the general population.

Japan's Justice Ministry is preparing a bill to lower the age at which criminal offenders can be punished.

The beheading of a schoolboy by a Kobe high school student last year, along with a spate of knife attacks by young people, have triggered calls for tougher punishments for teenage criminals.

Japan's juvenile law applies to people under 20 years old and assigns the cases to family courts. People 16 years or older can be tried in a criminal court.

Overall, the number of reported crimes in Japan was up 2.2 per cent in 1997 to 2.52 million cases, the most in Japan's postwar history.

FM to visit Japan, Thailand from Nov 4

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will pay a week-long visit to Thailand and Japan from November 4, reports APB.

He will visit Bangkok on November 4-5 to attend a meeting of Bangladesh-Thailand Joint Economic Commission (JEC), Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman told newsmen yesterday.

It will be the 6th meeting of the Commission, set up in 1982, to deal with all bilateral matters, particularly in trade, investment and economic cooperation.

On November 6, Azad will fly to Tokyo from Thailand to begin a 5-day visit to Japan, the foreign secretary said.

During the visit, Azad will hold official talks with his Japanese counterpart Masahito Komuro.

Matters relating to the expansion of economic cooperation and Japanese assistance to the development work in Bangladesh will also come up for discussion, the official said. Japan is one of the largest donors to Bangladesh.

The two foreign ministers are expected to exchange views on the situation in South Asia region following the recent nuclear tests by India and Pakistan.

Tokyo, which expressed concern after the nuclear blasts by the two Asian countries last December, appreciated Dhaka's stand for peace in the region.

More VGD cards demanded in Kurigram dist

By Staff Correspondent

Former minister and a central leader of the main opposition BNP Maidul Islam yesterday demanded allocation of more VGD cards, immediate launching of Food for Work programme and test relief programme and introduction of OMS sale of rice in Ulipur thana under Kurigram district.

He raised the demands following his visit to different areas of the thana yesterday.

During the visit, Maidul Islam found that VGD cards are yet to be distributed among the vulnerable poor," said a press release.

He called for starting Food For Work programme immediately as the people have no work. He also demanded that an agricultural rehabilitation programme should be started to recover the damage caused by the deluge.

Arrest of BNP MP Alamgir Kabir condemned

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has condemned the arrest of party's Education Affairs Secretary Alamgir Kabir MP and demanded immediate unconditional release, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday he said the government, failing to run the country, including relief operation during flood and the post-flood rehabilitation programme, is trying to divert the people's attention through various "conspiracies against the BNP under a blue print."

"The government itself is making the situation volatile through provocation." Termining the government "inept, corrupt and a failure," Bhuiyan said a befitting reply would be given to the 'subservient, autocratic and fascist Awami government' through a mass movement.

In a separate statement, Opposition Chief Whip in Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain also protested the arrest of BNP MP Alamgir Kabir.

He warned of a vigorous movement to oust the government if the 'false' cases filed against the BNP leaders, including MPs K M Obaidur Rahman and Alamgir Kabir, are not withdrawn immediately.

BAU scientist leaves for Iran

Eminent scientist Prof Dr M Saadullah of the Department of Animal Science, Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU), left Dhaka for Tehran recently as a trainer at the invitation of Higher Education Centres, Ministry of Jihad-E-Sazandegi, Iran, says a press release.

Dr Saadullah will teach a month long higher training course on "Buffalo Production."

Satish leaves for China

State Minister for Fisheries Satish Chandra Ray left city yesterday for China on a nine-day visit, reports APB.

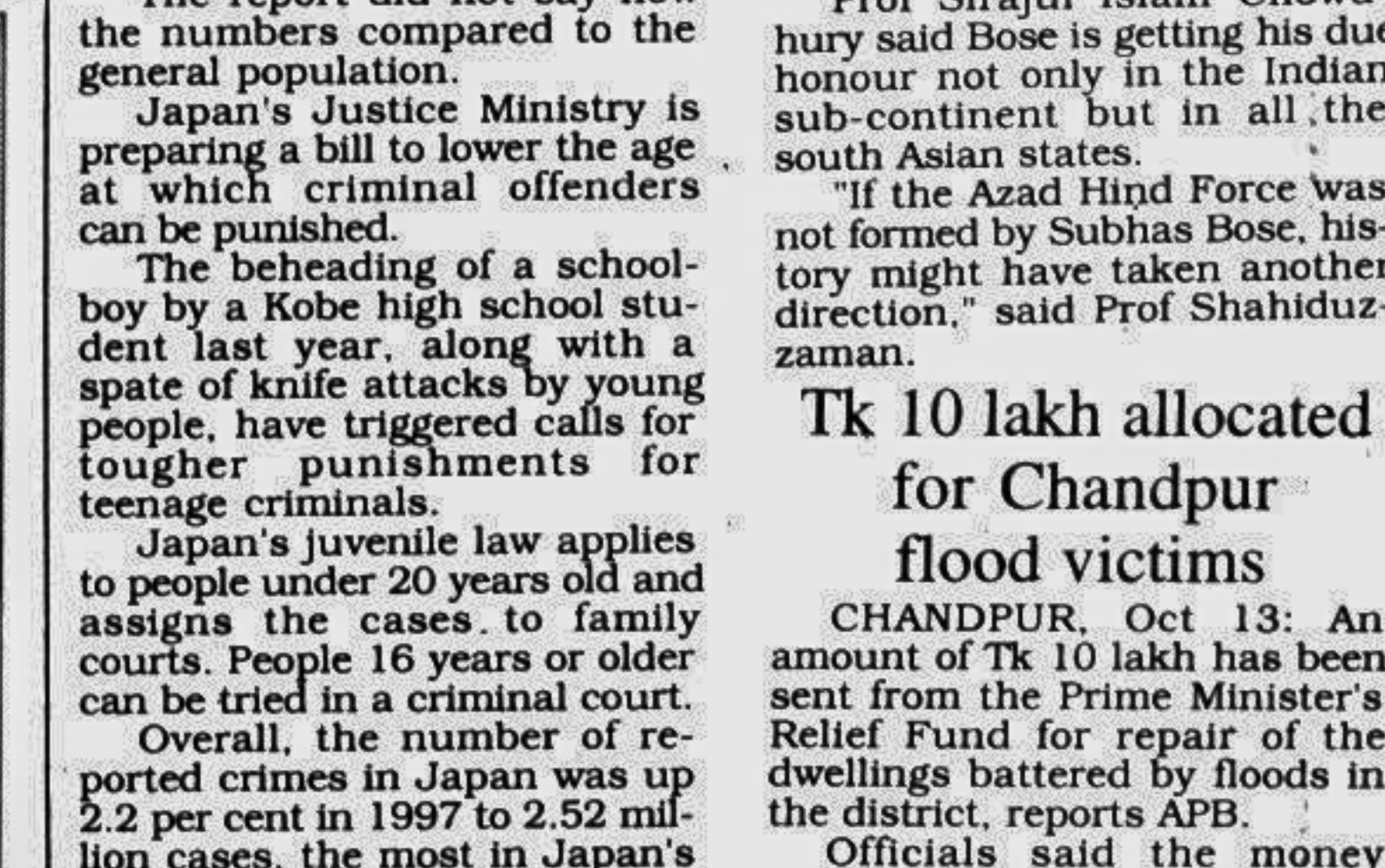
He is leading a four-member delegation. He will visit some pisciculture projects in China and exchange views with Chinese experts on fisheries development.



A science fair was held at the Bangladesh International School (BIS), DOHS, Mohakhali, Dhaka Cantt recently. Col Mohsin Chowdhury, Chairman, Governing Body of the School and the Station Commander, Dhaka Cantonment, inaugurated the science fair.



Students rendering songs at a programme organised by the Cultural Club of North South University held at NSU campus on Sunday evening. The programme included modern Bengali songs, poetry recitations and drama. The major attraction of the night was a comedy drama performed by NSU students.



Tk 10 lakh allocated for Chandpur flood victims

CHANDPUR, Oct 13: An amount of Tk 10 lakh has been sent from the Prime Minister's Relief Fund for repair of the dwellings battered by floods in the district, reports APB.

Officials said the money would be disbursed among 2,000 families in all seven thanas in the district.

The recent devastating floods damaged some 37,000 houses completely and as many as 1.50 lakh houses partially in the worst-hit district.