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Amartya Sen says—
NEW DELHI, Oct 17: India's self-effacing Nobel laureate Amartya Sen has said it was "pompous and arrogant" to assume that he had brought honour to his country and to neighbouring Bangladesh were he lived as a child, a daily reported today, says AFP.
The Asian Age quoted Sen, the first Asian to win the Nobel Economics Prize, as saying that although he identified himself as an Indian and a person of the Bengali race, he did not think the achievement had brought credit to either.
"Of course there is a strong Indian identity. There is a strong Bengali and Bangladeshi identity," he told reporters on Friday at Britain's Cambridge University, where he is Master of Trinity College.
But he added: "I think it would be pompous and arrogant to think it is a great credit to Bengal, Bangladesh or India. I would have to be aggressively self-confident to take that view."
See Page 12 Col 2

Don't disrupt post-flood rehabilitation work, PM urges Opposition



PM addressing nation

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday appealed to the opposition parties not to take any programme which might disrupt the ongoing rehabilitation work and increase the plight of the people, reports UNB.
"Let us unitedly stand beside the people so that they can overcome the huge losses caused by the devastating flood," she said addressing the nation over radio and television yesterday evening.
Responding to the opposition's renewed agitation programme, Hasina urged her political opponents not to obstruct post-flood rehabilitation work and the due process of law.
"I hereby request the opposition to allow the law to take its own course. We are committed

to establishing rule of law," she said.
She lauded the role of all sections of people, political parties, professional groups and all others who joined hands in helping the people during the worst flood.
Concerted efforts of all again proved that the nation can be united on the question of serving the distressed humanity and face the disasters together, she said.
The Prime Minister said: "Again I am appealing to all, including political parties, professional groups and socio-cultural organisations, to join the rehabilitation work unitedly as they had done in tackling the flood," she said.
She said the government has See Page 12 Col 4

Judicial inquiry into murder of Runner editor demanded

By Staff Correspondent
Speakers at a discussion yesterday called upon the government to form a judicial probe body to investigate into the murder of The Daily Star editor Saiful Alam Mukul.
They alleged that police were trying to cover up what had actually happened because they had "close relations with the accused".
The discussion, in memory of the late Mukul, was held at the Jessore district council auditorium yesterday.
The discussion was addressed among others by the Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad president and editor of Aker Kagaj Kazi Shahed Ahmed, editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, eminent journalist and columnist Nirmal Sen, editor of the Dainik Purbanchal of Khulna Liakat Ali, Khulna Press Club president and Dainik Janmabhumi editor.
See Page 12 Col 1

Hartal called by BNP, allies in city today

By Staff Correspondent
The BNP-led seven-party alliance enforces a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the capital today to protest the authorities' refusal to let it use the venue to stage a mass hunger strike in the city.
The alliance planned for the hunger strike today at the city's Paltan Maidan to register protest against "corruption and fascism" of the Awami League government. The day-long hartal was announced soon after the authorities refused permission on Thursday to use Paltan Maidan for the nine-hour event.
Vehicles used by hospitals, newspapers, law enforcing agencies, water and power supply authorities, medicine shops and kitchen markets have been exempted from the hartal, said a BNP press release last night.
Meanwhile, the BNP brought out torch processions at different places in the city yesterday evening to drum up support for today's hartal. On Friday, the party also organised demon-

AL plans anti-hartal processions

By Staff Correspondent
Awami League will bring out anti-hartal processions in each thana area of the metropolis today, party sources said last night.
The BNP-led Seven Party Alliance called dawn-to-dusk general strike in the city today protesting "corruption and fascism" by the AL government.
Emerging from a meeting with party chief Sheikh Hasina at the Gombhaban, Dhaka city unit leaders of the party had a special meeting at the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue last night and discussed today's programme.
The meeting at the party office, chaired by AL city unit General Secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya, took the decision to bring out anti-hartal processions in the city today, party sources told The Daily Star.
When asked about party the high command's decision to "keep control of the city streets" till November 8, a senior AL leader said, "It does not mean any confrontation rather, we'll not allow any evil force to disturb peace. We will do that taking people into confidence."
Verdict of the Bangabandhu Murder Case is expected on November 8.

Rape incidents JUTA demands probe body led by SC judge

By Staff Correspondent
The Jahangirnagar University Teachers' Association (JUTA) yesterday renewed demand for starting criminal proceedings against 13 students accused of committing rapes.
They also urged the authorities to form a judicial probe body headed by a Supreme Court judge to investigate the rape incidents and "all other complaints" in the university during the last 10 years.
JUTA, at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, criticised the actions taken against those accused of rapes as inadequate. JUTA president Prof. Jasimuddin Ahmed said that all those accused of rapes, and their accomplices should have been expelled for life for the university and their certificates should have also been cancelled.
He also said that "the soft See Page 12 Col 2

Second round PSC talks resume Oct 25

By Sharier Khan
Negotiations towards production sharing contracts (PSCs) under the second round bidding will resume October 25. Dutch company Maersk Olie will be the first company to sit with government negotiators for a deep sea block that has not been awarded as yet.
The government has decided on blocks 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 under the bidding for oil and gas exploration in Bangladesh. Decisions on blocks 9 and 11 are pending and block 10 has been put out of the bid.
Negotiations have been practically suspended from February-March last.
Criticism from the public and energy experts about government plan to award all blocks in one go to foreign companies had led the government to re-think about the process.
The government has also been criticised for excluding the lone Bangladeshi exploration company BAPEX from the list of prospective winners.
There is also criticism about government's green signal to foreign companies allowing gas export in future.
The government is now thinking of giving BAPEX a 15 per cent carried over interest with the foreign companies in all blocks. However, till date, no concrete decision has been taken.
On the other hand, it now seems that the negotiators are moving in a direction where all blocks will go to foreign companies. If that happens and all foreign companies start exploration and development of gas fields, Bangladesh would not be able to handle the activities or cost of these companies," said a See Page 12 Col 3

'We shall try killers of Zia'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the hartal called by BNP is against "civilization" and "civilized norms", reports BSS.
Criticising the hartal call without any reason of logic, the Prime Minister said the BNP Chairperson has become desperate for protecting the killers and murderers.
Addressing the executive committee members of Dhaka Nagar Awami League at her official residence Ganobhaban here in the afternoon, the prime minister said, her government has started trial of the killers of the father of the nation and the four national leaders to establish rule of law in the country.
"We shall start trial of the killers of Ziaur Rahman", she said, adding that the nation wanted to know the mystery behind the silence of Begum Zia regarding the trial of the killers of her husband.
The Prime Minister pointed See Page 12 Col 2



BNP brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's hartal. — Star photo

3 alleged dacoits beaten to death in Chittagong

By Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Oct 17: Three alleged dacoits were beaten to death by the angry villagers in Khankhabad area under Banskhal thana Friday midnight, police said.
Four others caught by the mob were admitted to Chittagong medical hospital with injuries, police said.
The villagers attacked the dacoits at the time of plundering fishes from ponds at Khankhabad village at 2 pm, police said.

12 injured in Rangamati clash

RANGAMATI, Oct 17: Twelve people were injured when a group of tribal and non-tribal people clashed in front of Rangamati University College today, reports UNB.
Of the injured, Abul Hossain, 21, Parvez, 20, Tipu, 22, Monir, 23 and Athami Marna, 29, were admitted to Rangamati Sadar Hospital while Sunil Baran Chakma, 19, was rushed to Chittagong Medical College Hospital in a critical condition.
Witnesses and police said the clash ensued over the killing of Kajal Nath Dev, 22 of village Satkania, Chittagong, allegedly by a group of tribal extortionists on October 15. Kajal died in See Page 12 Col 8

Businessman murdered in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Oct 17: A businessman was stabbed to death by unknown assailants at Aadarakilla in the city today, reports UNB.
Witnesses and police said the terrorists stopped an autorickshaw, forced out passenger Shah Alam and stabbed him indiscriminately.
Shah Alam died after he was rushed to hospital.

Post flood Munshiganj Thousands crowd NGO offices for loans

By Rafiq Hasan back from Munshiganj
Zahanur of North Charkoar in Munshiganj district came to a Grameen Bank branch in the town to take a fresh loan to re-build her damaged house.
Besides repairing her house, Zahanur wants to start a small grocery shop in the village.
Salina Begum of the same village who is a member of Grameen Bank was enthusiastic as the bank had started giving loans again.
"Our agony has ended and good time has come" she said Salina hopes to buy a cow with Tk 7,000 loan, taken from the bank. The flood has taken away her two cows. She used to supply milk to some houses in the village.
Zahanur and Salina were among a group of about one hundred poor women who gathered in front of Grameen Bank's Charkoar branch near Munshiganj Town on Thursday for fresh loans.
Thousands of flood affected poor women like Zahanur and Salina are now coming to different Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs) including Grameen Bank for loans. They want to build their damaged houses and start small scale business again.
Managing Director of Grameen Bank Dr Mohammad Yunus said all branches of the bank in flood affected areas started disbursement of loans as soon as the flood water receded.
"Now, all 1118 branches of the bank are giving loans. This year, the loan disbursement would cross the previous year's figure of Tk 1500 crore due to the devastating flood" he said.
To face the post flood situation, Grameen Bank has applied to the central bank for a loan of Tk 475 crore. "If the money is available, we will be able to face the situation successfully". He hoped that the central bank would take a decision in this regard very soon.
The Charkoar branch of Grameen Bank resumed loan disbursement last week after a break of about three months during the catastrophic flood.
Achia Begum, manager of the branch, told this correspondent that they were disbursing seasonal loan for agriculture, general loan for small businesses and house building See Page 12 Col 7

2 cricket teams arrive today

The cricket teams of Zimbabwe and England will arrive here today to participate in the 9-nation Wills International Cup beginning from October 24 at the Bangabandhu National Stadium, reports UNB.
A 17-member Zimbabwe team, led by Alistair Campbell, will be the first side to arrive in the capital at 7 am.
The 19-member England team, led by Adam J Hilloake, will reach here at 3:15 pm by British Airways.
See also page 13

Five districts go without power for 13 hours

From Our Correspondent
KUSHITIA, Oct 17: People of Kushitia and the adjoining districts experienced tremendous inconvenience and hardship for want of electricity for a continuous period of 13 hours from 4 am to 5 pm today.
PDB officials said that due to damage of jumper in 132 KV power line which comes from Bheramara to Battail Grid Sub-Station at Kushitia, power could not be supplied to Kushitia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Jhenidah and Magura. On the other hand power could not be brought from Khulna to Battail today.
See Page 12 Col 1

Imran-Jemima marriage in danger

LONDON, Oct 17: The three-year-old marriage of Pakistani cricketer legend Imran Khan and Jemima, the daughter of late Franco-British tycoon Sir James Goldsmith, is in danger of breaking down, it was reported today, reports AFP.
Jemima, who is four months pregnant, spent Friday in London with the couple's two-year-old son Sulaiman, while her husband reportedly flew to United States.
The rift is believed to centre on the cultural differences between the former Pakistan cricket captain and his 24-year-old wife, who converted to Islam after their marriage.
Imran, 45, who is now involved in politics in Pakistan, was unhappy that Jemima was attending parties in London without him, several British tabloid newspapers reported.
And Jemima was said to be upset at Imran's planned trip to Los Angeles to raise money for his cancer hospital in Lahore, asking him to stay in London to discuss their marital problems.
But he reportedly left their home in Richmond, West London, to fly to the United States on Friday, without saying when he would return.
A friend told The Daily Mail: "It has been building up for a long time. Jemima is very See Page 12 Col 1

No mechanism to deal with frequency abuse

By Rafiq Hasan and Reaz Ahmad
The country does not have adequate equipment and proper mechanism to detect illegal use of air frequencies and protect it from invasion.
It has become apparent as the government is yet to detect a clandestine transmission of religious speeches of Moulana Delwar Hossain Saidee on FM band radios in some areas for more than a month now.
Against this backdrop, experts from Bangladesh Army, Navy, National Security Intelligence (NSI), Defence Forces Intelligence (DFI), Police, BTBB and Bangladesh Betar are scheduled to get together on October 22 to discuss ways to track down the source of transmission, official sources said.
In response to a Betar request, the October 22 meeting was called by Bangladesh Freeloans and Wireless Board (BFWB) but, a Board source said, radio signal scanning infrastructure available in the country was not capable enough to trace a frequency invasion by any unauthorised person or group.
The meeting was called 20 days after the first press reports on the clandestine radio.
"One scanning station at Joydevpur can sense remote signals but not able to monitor sufficiently the type of signals generally transmitted through FM band," said one official.
But whose responsibility is it? The concerned government organisations are passing the buck on to one another.
According to post and telecommunication ministry officials, the primary duty of detecting radio frequency abuse lies with Bangladesh Betar.
Betar officials argue they only use radio frequency in the country but did not own it.
Previously, Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTBB) used to allocate and monitor use of frequencies in the country.
The BFWB was formed in 1995 by a special order to handle the matter. But it is yet to take an institutional shape.
The BFWB is headed by a senior official of the telecommunication ministry and sits only when it feels it is necessary. See Page 12 Col 6

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City AL committee formed at long last

By Staff Correspondent
A full committee of the Dhaka City unit of Awami League was declared yesterday after one and half years of its three-year term.
Prime Minister and AL president Sheikh Hasina announced the 63-strong new city committee when its president Mohammad Hanif and general secretary Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya led a team to meet her at Gonobhaban yesterday afternoon.
AL general secretary Zillur Rahman and organising secretary Mohammad Nasim were also present at the Gonobhaban.
The Council of the city AL was held on April 27, 1997 when Hanif and Maya retained their posts as president and general secretary respectively. However, it took Sheikh Hasina 18 months to declare the full committee after the councilors had authorised her to pick the new leadership for the city chapter of the ruling party.
The city unit, which has always played a vital role in political programmes of Awami League, has rather been "inactive" for quite a long time now. "Many have lost enthusiasm in its activities in the absence of a full-fledged committee," a party insider said.
The announcement of the new committee, almost a carbon copy of its previous composition, came at a time when the main opposition party stepped up anti-government campaign by giving a hartal call in Dhaka today.
The number of vice president was 3.
See Page 12 Col 3

Results delayed

DU Sociology Deptt students stage sit-in
By DU Correspondent
Students of Sociology Department of Dhaka University who appeared at Masters examinations in August 1997 staged a sit-in demonstration in front of the department at the Arts Faculty building yesterday demanding immediate announcement of the results.
As the department could not publish the results even after one year of the examination, the students met Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury a few days back and the VC assured them that the results would be published on October 16, sources said.
According to rules, results of any course-system examination must be published within three months.
The students locked all office rooms of the department including that of the Chairman. They also blocked the corridor of the ground floor of the Arts Faculty building.
They unlocked the office and left the place when the Vice-Chancellor, accompanied by the Proctor and the acting chairman of the Sociology Department, came at around noon and assured them that the results would be published on October 16.
See Page 12 Col 3

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