

BGMEA, garments workers bodies meet

BGMEA has agreed to implement the four-point agreement signed between the leaders of the export-oriented garment industry and workers' organisations in this sector, reports APB.

BGMEA president Mustafa Golam Qudus said this at a joint meeting of BGMEA leaders and representatives of different garment workers' organisations at BGMEA's office in the city yesterday.

Qudus said BGMEA supports involvement of workers representatives in all projects and functions related to their welfare.

Through this process relations between the owners and labourers would be developed further and the sector will be made profitable, he said.

The meeting was held to review the implementation of four-point agreement signed in November last year with the representatives of different labour organisations.

Among others, BGMEA Director and Chairman of standing committee on labour Mohammad Lutfar Rahman, Director A Razak Sattar, law adviser K A F Mahmud and labour leader Advocate Delwar Hossain Khan were present, said a press release.

Scouts course postponed

The Rover Leader Advance Course to be conducted by Bangladesh Scouts at Gazipur from today to Nov 16 has been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, says a press release.

New date for the training course will be announced later, the release added.

Obituary

Doulatunnessa Chowdhury, wife of former Chairman of PDB late W Chowdhury, died on November 6 in Minnesota in USA, says a press release yesterday.

Body of Doulatunnessa Chowdhury is expected to arrive in the city on November 12.

Vajpayee rules out danger to his govt

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee has shrugged off possible danger to his coalition government in the event of his party's defeat in coming state elections, reports said today, reports AFP.

Vajpayee, however, admitted to reporters late Saturday that his multi-party government was partly blamed for runaway inflation that has made even staple vegetables a luxury for millions of poor Indians.

His Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the main opposition Congress Party will battle it out in the November 25 polls in New Delhi city and three states.

The elections will be the first popularity test for Vajpayee since he took office in March. Analysts have warned that the Congress could try to topple his

Programmes to observe Bhasani's death anniversary

TANGAIL, Nov 8: Santosh Islamic University Trustee Board and Maulana Bhasani Mazar Committee have jointly chalked out a nine-day programme to mark the 22nd death anniversary of the great leader Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani, reports BSS.

According to a press release, a discussion on the Maulana Bhasani's philosophy of Rabu-biyat will be held tomorrow at 4 pm at the Darbar Hall of the Islamic University (IU).

A discussion on the life of Bhasani and a cultural function participated by the students of IU Primary School and IU Boys High School will be held on November 12 at 10 am at the mazar premises of the leader.

A children's painting competition will be held on November 13 at 9.30 am at the mazar premises. Students of different educational institutions will participate in the competition.

A discussion on the educational philosophy of Bhasani will be held on November 14 at 11.30 am at the Darbar Hall of the IU.

A discussion meeting on the political career of the Maulana will be held on November 16 at 10.30 am at the Islamic University Technical College auditorium. A literary and cultural function will be held in the afternoon at the mazar premises.

The Islamic University Trustee Board will also bring out an album on the life of Maulana Bhasani on the occasion.

One dies in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Nov 8: A motorcyclist was run down and killed by a passenger bus in front of the Police Superintendent's Office here this evening, reports APB.

The victim, identified as Abul Bashar, 40, was rushed to local hospital where he succumbed to his injuries shortly afterwards.

Police seized the bus and arrested its driver and helper. A case was filed with sadar police.



Female freedom fighters leading a procession in front of the Press Club after the verdict of the Bangabandhu murder case was announced yesterday. —Star photo

'SAARC leadership should revive its Islamabad resolution of '93'

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) leadership should revive its Islamabad resolution of 1993 on disabled people to make the ongoing SAARC Decade for the 'Disabled' meaningful, Dr

Salma Maqbool, first chairperson of SAARC Forum for Blind Women, an NGO body, has said, reports PTI.

The resolution in 1993 reaffirming the member nations' commitment to the welfare of disabled people in general and blind people in particular has been forgotten, Maqbool told PTI yesterday after her nomination to the post at the end of a two-day conference on blind women.

South Asian countries jointly constitute about one billion of disabled people among which an estimated two per cent are blind, said Maqbool, who herself lost eye sight after graduating in medicine from Punjab University (Lahore).

Pointing out the problems in the SAARC countries were of similar nature like indifferent social environment and lukewarm official response, she reiterated the forum's vow to ensure a 'collective action' from all the member nations to improve the condition of disabled and blind women in particular.

Empowerment of women from this large but talented disadvantaged sections should be taken up on priority, she said regretting that in countries like India and Pakistan even universal education programme failed to involve disabled girl child.

The meet was attended by delegates from member states like Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka besides India.

Pope deplors bombing in Jerusalem

VATICAN CITY, Nov 8: Pope John Paul II on Sunday deplored the Jerusalem bombing, saying such violence was frustrating the efforts of those who yearn for peace, reports AP.

After Friday's attack, which killed the two bombers and injured 21 people, the Israeli Cabinet, postponed ratification of the latest Israeli-Palestinian peace accord.

Such violence, the pope told several thousand faithful gathered in St Peter's Square for his weekly appearance from his studio window, risks "frustrating the efforts of those who yearn for a better world."

The pope said "another attack in the center of Jerusalem has awakened new fears for peace, just when hopes were re-born for the resumption of talks after the recent accord between both sides that was the fruit of arduous and courageous negotiating."

The pope made no mention of the status of Jerusalem, a thorn in Vatican-Israeli relations.

Reception accorded

RAJSHAHI, Nov 8: Rajshahi City Corporation today accorded a reception to some distinguished persons of the city for their outstanding contribution in upgrading Rajshahi Pourashava into Rajshahi City Corporation, reports BSS.

Held at Rajshahi City Corporation premises, the reception was presided over by chief executive officer of the corporation Mohammad Shahjahan.

Rajshahi city Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu attended the function as the chief guest.

The corporation accorded reception to former Rajshahi pourashava chairman Emran Ali Sarkar, former city mayor advocate Abdul Hadi, Durul Huda and Mesbahuddin Ahmed Bahlul and twelve ward commissioners.

Body recovered

COMILLA, Nov 8: Police recovered the decomposed body of a microbus driver from a garments factory at Miabazar in Choudhagram thana here on Saturday morning 27 days after he went missing, reports APB.

The victim was identified as Rawshan Ali, 30, son of Abul Kashem, of Bishnupur area in the town.

Police recovered the body from a water tank of the garments factory and sent it to the sadar hospital morgue.

Nurul Islam to attend Int'l Buddhist Confce

State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Mohammad Nurul Islam left city yesterday for Sri Lanka to attend an International Buddhist Conference, reports UNB.

The four-day conference begins in Colombo today.

During the five-day visit, the State Minister will meet his Sri Lankan counterpart to discuss issues of bilateral interests and also exchange greetings and goodwill with the delegates of different countries attending the conference.

The State Minister who is accompanied by Vice-Chairman of Buddhist Religious Welfare Trust Rakhal Chandra Barua is expected to return home on Saturday.

NU exams postponed

All the examinations under National University (NU) scheduled for today and tomorrow have been postponed due to unavoidable circumstances, reports UNB.

Fresh schedule for the examinations will be announced later, said an NU press release.

Other examinations of the university will, however, be held as per previous schedule, the release added.

Bahadurabad ferry service threatened as Jamuna water level falls

JAMALPUR, Nov 8: The railway ferry service between Bahadurabad and Teestamukh ghat may stop any time due to sharp fall in water level of the river Jamuna, reports UNB.

Sources said the water level of various channels of this route has dropped abnormally threatening the ferry service which will also hamper the direct rail communication between northern region and the capital.

A meeting of higher officials of eastern region of railway held at Bahadurabad ghat recently stressed the urgent need of dredging the river and shifting the ferry ghat within one month.

But the sources said nearly Tk 2.5 crore will be needed for shifting the ghat from Kulkandi to another place and Tk one crore for dredging purpose.

Although the railway authority may incur losses if the ferry service stops, another source suggested for constructing a link road between Tarakandi rail station to Bhuapur of the Bahadurabad Bridge which may help avoid the ferry service.

They said the 22-km link road which is the long-standing demand of the two crore people of greater Mymensingh district including Jamalpur will connect the area with the Bahadurabad Bridge to go to the northern parts of the country by road.

Report from Rajbari says: Movement of ferries to and from Aricha and Daulatdia ghat has become hazardous due to emergence of a number of shoals in the river Padma with abrupt fall of its water level.

Sources said poor navigability of the Padma has caused the disruption of ferry movement which now takes longer time than usual.

At present, the ferries are carrying half load of vehicles against its capacity of 20 vehicles to avoid occasional ground on the shoals.

Kidnapped tribal girl rescued

RANGAMATI, Nov 8: A tribal girl who was kidnapped by a group of miscreants from Kaokhali thana last month, was rescued by police from village Dakupapara in Mahalchhari thana of Khagrachhari district today, reports APB.

Police also arrested a young man named Arun Chakma of village Barabil in Kaokhali thana in connection with the kidnapping.

Kalindi Rani Chakma, 16, was abducted from village Kamilachhari in Kaokhali on September 18. Police rescued the girl today and arrested Arun after a case was filed.

3 killed, 12 hurt in two road mishaps in city

Three people, two of which were students, were killed and 12 injured in two road mishaps in the city's Mirpur and Cantonment thanas yesterday, reports APB.

Police said 14 people received severe injuries when a minibus ploughed through by-standers after hitting six rickshaws under the overbridge near Zia International Airport at about 2 pm.

Of the injured, Saiful Islam, 26, was rushed to a local clinic while Amin Mia, 35, to the Combined Military Hospital. Both died soon after admission.

Saiful, son of Ashraf Ali of 48 Baunabad, Cantonment thana, was a student of Textile Engineering Institute at Tejgaon. Amin Mia, son of Ali Ahmed of east Mollartek of Uttara thana, worked in an export-import firm.

Police said 12 other people—some rickshawpullers and by-standers—were given first aid at a local clinic. Police seized the minibus, which runs between Airport and Gulistan, and the driver fled.

In another accident, Rumana, 13, a class VI student of Mirpur Adarsha High School, died when a speeding minibus knocked her at Parbata in Mirpur thana.

Police said Rumana, daughter of Ramjan Ali of 283 East Kazipara, was run down by the minibus while crossing the road at about 11 am. She was rushed to a local clinic where she died on arrival.

The bodies were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue.

Navy ship seizes goods worth Tk 19.81 lakh

Bangladesh Navy Ship Rangamati while on routine patrol recovered smuggled goods worth about Taka 19.81 lakh and apprehended three engine boats with 13 crew members in different raids in the Khulna naval area recently, an ISPR press release said, reports BSS.

Earlier, BNS Rangamati apprehended two steel-body cargo boats with smuggled goods worth about Tk 17.41 lakh, and arrested all the 12 crew members. BNS Rangamati also recovered smuggled Sundari wood worth about Tk 2.5 lakh from a mechanised boat near Fulshuri under Barguna district in another raid.

The recovered goods, boats and all the arrested persons were later handed over to the relevant authorities.

3b-yr-old fossils of algae found in India

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: Fossils of three-billion-year-old algae, the oldest biological fossils in the country, have been discovered in Kashiya region of Orissa, reports PTI.

Scientists of the Birbal Sahni Institute of Paleobotany (BSIP), Lucknow, have found remains of photosynthetic blue green algae, estimated to be 3.2 billion year-old and belonging to the archaean era.

The discovery promises to be very important as the oldest rocks in the country are 3.2 billion year-old, deputy director of BSIP P K Maithy told PTI.

India has few regions where more or less unchanged rocks of the archaean era are exposed.

Mats of blue green algae filaments alternating with carbon layers were found by BSIP scientists under a project sponsored by the Department of Science and Technology (DST).

Indian troops kill Pak mercenary

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 8: Indian troops have shot dead a Pakistani mercenary and arrested another in the troubled Himalayan state of Kashmir, police said today, reports AFP.

The Pakistani was killed in a fierce gunbattle with the Border Security Force late Saturday at Bandipur 28 miles north of the state's summer capital Srinagar.

Another Pakistani militant was arrested, a police said.

'Pakistan free to retain its part of Kashmir'

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: The Chief Minister of India's Kashmir state has said Pakistan is free to retain its part of the divided territory but should stop backing a Muslim insurgency, reports said today, says AFP.

"To hell with it (Pakistan-held Kashmir)," Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah Friday told a group of Muslim villagers who he said were attacked by Indian troops in Kashmir.

"They (Pakistan) can have it forever," the Asian Age quoted Abdullah as saying. "Let them allow us to live in peace in this part of Kashmir."

Pakistan holds the state's northern third and India the southern two-thirds, where a Muslim separatist drive raging since 1969 has left around 20,000 people dead.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training the militants. Islamabad denies the charge but says it gives diplomatic support to the unrest.

India maintains that the whole of Kashmir belongs to it. Abdullah has argued recently that the border between Pakistan and Indian-held Kashmir must be formalised to end the ownership row.

Abdullah, also lashed out against Indian troops for allegedly beating several villagers in Kashmir after five colleagues were injured by a land mine triggered by Muslim militants.

The troops reportedly also burnt down several shops in retaliation. Abdullah said he had complained against the troops to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee. The Age said the chief minister also asked the villagers to learn to live with unruly soldiers.

"For God's sake, don't lose courage," he was quoted as saying.

Palestinian-Israeli accord rocked by fresh disagreements

JERUSALEM, Nov 8: Setting the stage for a new quarrel over how to crack down on militants, Israel is demanding that the military wings of two radical Islamic groups be outlawed, while the Palestinian Authority insists it has already banned them, reports AP.

Implementation of the Israeli-Palestinian land-for-security accord, signed Oct 23 in Washington, was to have begun this past week, but has hit various snags.

Most recently, Israel's cabinet put off a vote to ratify the accord after a suicide bombing Friday in Jerusalem that killed the two assailants and injured 21 Israelis. The radical group Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility.

David Bar-Ilan, a top aide to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, said Sunday that Israel expects Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to formally outlaw the military wings of Islamic Jihad and the larger militant group Hamas.

Mumbai bldg collapse death toll now 11

MUMBAI, Nov 8: The toll in yesterday's building collapse in neighbouring Thane district has risen to 11 with the recovery of two more bodies since last night, reports PTI.

Police said about 30 persons were still feared trapped under the debris of the unauthorised five-storey building, which caved in at the congested locality of Kisan Nagar.

Fourteen persons are undergoing treatment at Thane civil hospital, police said adding that rescue operation were on to trace the remaining victims.

Deputy Chief Minister Gopinath Munde visited the site last night.

said the Palestinian legislature had never passed such a law.

"Why did Arafat agree in the Wye accord to outlaw them if he has already done it?" he asked.

The Wye memorandum states that the Palestinian Authority "will inform the United States fully of the actions it has taken to outlaw all organisations or wings of organisations, as appropriate) of a military, terrorist or violent character, and their support structure and to prevent them from freedom of action in the areas under its jurisdiction."

A Palestinian security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said a joint Israeli-Palestinian meeting was held Saturday night to discuss security in the wake of Friday's attack.

The idea of outlawing Hamas and Islamic Jihad was brought up in the meeting and also proposed by Netanyahu to Arafat during a phone call, the official said.

The Palestinians said they could ban activity by Hamas or Islamic Jihad that endangered either Israelis or Palestinians, but could not outlaw them outright as political movements.

Israel as a rule is harshly critical of the Palestinian Authority's security efforts when attackers come from Palestinian-controlled areas or have been released from Palestinian prisons.

On Sunday, Palestinian Justice Minister Freih Abu-Medin accused Netanyahu of using the blast as a pretext for delaying implementation of the peace accord.



British rock star Elton John, right, gives a check of 100,000 Swiss francs (US \$73,500) to Gro Harlem Brundtland, Norwegian Director General of the World Health Organisation to fight Hepatitis B, after a concert at Geneva, Switzerland on Saturday. — AP/UNB photo

EASTERN REFINERY LIMITED (A SUBSIDIARY OF BANGLADESH PETROLEUM CORPORATION) PO BOX NO 35, NORTH PATENGA CHITTAGONG-4000, BANGLADESH CABLE: EASTRNOIL, CHITTAGONG, TELEX: 633291 ERL BJ FAX: 880-31-740296 Extension of Closing Date For INTERNATIONAL TENDER ENQUIRY NO ER-STG-98 FOR SUPPLY, CONSTRUCTION, ERECTION & COMMISSIONING OF 2X3 M.W STEAM TURBINE GENERATION SYSTEM AT ERL. The closing date of the tender is extended up to 07-12-98. Technical offers will be opened on the same date. All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged. GD-902 Project Manager

Wanted DHAKA UNIVERSITY: Applications are invited for a permanent post of Deputy Director for the TSC in the New Scale of pay of Tk 7200-260-10840/-. Candidates should have Master's Degree and possess atleast Second Division/Class in all the examinations. They should have ten years experience as an officer in student management in a University. Preference will be given to one having experience in management of a big cafeteria, conducting extra curricular activities especially cultural activity of teacher-students of any higher educational institution. Ten copies of application in the prescribed form, obtainable from the office of the Registrar, with attested copies of certificates and testimonials along with a Pay Order/Bank Draft worth Tk 100/- (one hundred) only payable in favour of the Registrar should reach him on or before 30.11.98. Candidate already in service must apply through proper channel. CD.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড চাকা বিজ্ঞপ্তি আমদানিকৃত পণ্যের খালাস ত্বরান্বিতকরণের লক্ষ্যে সরকার প্রাক-যানজাতকরণ পরিদর্শন পদ্ধতি (পিএসআই) প্রবর্তন করেছে। এ পদ্ধতির আওতায় আমদানিভা পণ্যের মূল্য, পরিমাণ, গুণাগুণ ও শুল্ক শ্রেণীবিভাগ সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে সর্বাধিক পণ্য যানজাতকরণের পূর্বে সরকার নির্ধারিত পদ্ধতিতে প্রত্যয়নপত্র প্রদানের লক্ষ্যে প্রাক-যানজাতকরণ পরিদর্শন কোম্পানীগুলোকে নিবন্ধন এবং পুনঃনিবন্ধনের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত যোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন প্রাক-যানজাতকরণ পরিদর্শন কোম্পানীগুলির নিকট থেকে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। ১) নিবন্ধনের/দরখাস্তের শর্তাবলী: (১) কোন সার্বভৌম রাষ্ট্রের জন্য আমদানিকৃত পণ্যের মূল্য, পরিমাণ, গুণগতমান ও শুল্ক শ্রেণীবিভাগ সম্পর্কিত প্রত্যয়নপত্র প্রদানের ৫(পাঁচ) বছরের অভিজ্ঞতা থাকতে হবে। (২) আবেদনকারী বা তার Principal কে International Federation of Inspection Agencies (IFIA) এর পূর্ণ সদস্য (Full Member) হতে হবে। (৩) বাংলাদেশে অফিস থাকা এবং অফিস ভবনের মালিকানা বা বন্দোবস্তীয় স্বত্ব সম্পর্কিত দলিল এবং উক্ত অফিসে কর্মরত কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীদের তালিকা দাখিল করতে হবে। (৪) প্রাক-যানজাতকরণ পণ্য পরিদর্শন সংক্রান্ত নীতিমালা অনুসরণের জন্য অঙ্গীকারপত্র প্রদান করতে হবে। (৫) নিবন্ধিত হতে হলে জামানত হিসাবে সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত অংকের টাকার ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি প্রদান করতে হবে। (৬) প্রাক-যানজাতকরণ সংস্থা অথবা তাদের স্থানীয় প্রতিনিধি নিবন্ধনের জন্য আবেদন করতে পারবেন তবে উভয় ক্ষেত্রেই আবেদনকারী কোম্পানী তাদের স্থানীয় প্রতিনিধিকে বিভিন্ন দায়িত্ব গ্রহণ করার অঙ্গীকারনামা দাখিল করতে হবে এবং এই মর্মে স্থানীয় প্রতিনিধির সাথে সম্পাদিত চুক্তিপত্র জমা দিতে হবে। ০০। পুনঃনিবন্ধনের আবেদনপত্রের সাথে পুনঃনিবন্ধনের জন্য অফিসের/যোগ্য ফিস ১ (এক) লক্ষ টাকা পরিশোধের এবং দাখিলকৃত জামানতের মেয়াদ বৃদ্ধির অঙ্গীকারনামা দাখিল করতে হবে। একই সাথে অনুচ্ছেদ ২এ বর্ণিত শর্তাদির সমর্থনে প্রামাণিক দলিলাদি দাখিল করতে হবে। ০১। প্রাক-যানজাতকরণ পত্রের পরে যে সব প্রাক-যানজাতকরণ কোম্পানী নিবন্ধনের যোগ্য বলে বিবেচিত হবে সে সব প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত জামানত হিসাবে ব্যাংক গ্যারান্টি ইত্যাদি প্রদানের জন্য আহ্বান জানান হবে এবং প্রদত্ত শর্তাদি পালন করলে যোগ্য প্রতিষ্ঠানসমূহকে নিবন্ধিত করা হবে। ০২। এই ধরনের নিবন্ধন প্রতি বছর নবায়নযোগ্য হবে। নিবন্ধন ও নবায়নের জন্য সরকার কর্তৃক নির্ধারিত ফি জমা দিতে হবে। ০৩। যে সমস্ত প্রাক-যানজাতকরণ পরিদর্শন কোম্পানী উপরিউক্ত শর্তাবলী পরিপালনে সক্ষম তাদেরকে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডের দ্বিতীয় সচিব (শুল্ক ও মূল্যায়ন) এর অফিস কক্ষে (কক্ষ নং- ৫০৭, ৫ম তলা) রক্ষিত বাজে আগামী ৭ই ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৮ তারিখ অপরাহ্ন ১.০০ টার মধ্যে দরখাস্ত জমা দিতে হবে। নিবন্ধন এবং নবায়ন সংক্রান্ত শর্তাবলীর বিশদ বিবরণ এ বিষয়ক প্রজ্ঞাপন দলিলে পাওয়া যাবে। ০৪। কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরখাস্ত গ্রহণ কিংবা বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করে। ডিএফপি-১৩৪৯২-এ/১১ মোঃ মাসুদ সাদিক জি-২৫০৬ দ্বিতীয় সচিব (শুল্ক ও মূল্যায়ন)