

AL meeting in Ctg

Roundtable meeting of all parties proposed

CHITTAGONG, Nov 15: Leaders of Awami League (AL) at a public meeting today decided to constitute a citizen security committee comprising representatives of all sections of people in each ward of the city against anarchy and destructive activities, reports BSS.

The public meeting against anarchy and terrorism held at Laidigha Maidan also proposed a roundtable meeting of all political parties to find out ways and means against anarchy and other agitating programmes for overall development of the Chittagong city, the commercial hub of the country.

The meeting organised by city chapter of Awami League was presided over by chapter president and Minister for Labour and Employment M A Mannan.

Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Chittagong City Mayor Alhaj ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury and Commerce and Industry Secretary of AL Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury (Babu) were among others who addressed the big public meeting while office secretary Naimuddin Chowdhury conducted it.

Addressing the public meeting Labour Minister MA Mannan said no government in Bangladesh could be able to make such remarkable achievement like the present government within the short span of its tenure.

"It is the Awami League which after prolonged struggle came to power with people's verdict and thus it will remain in the streets for establishment of rule of law and as a vanguard of democracy in the country," he said.

Employment Minister Man-

nan said the movements of BNP can never be compared with those of Awami League, because Awami League had launched movements against the vote thieves as well as to establish people's rights to vote and food, whereas, the BNP, the minister said, indulges in destructive activities in the name of hartal for only grasping power and protecting the killers.

Civil Aviation Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain said the constitutional steps for establishment of the rule of law, undertaken by the present government under the leadership of Sheikh Hasina will be remembered in the history of the country.

The way the government is serving the nation, the BNP will not get more than fifty seats in the next general election, the minister said.

Engineer Mosharraf Hossain said fearing this BNP is leaving no stone unturned to disrupt the democratic process.

Chittagong city mayor Alhaj ABM Mahiuddin Chowdhury, who announced various programmes against anti-terrorism and anarchy, said all foreign investors consider Chittagong as an ideal place for investment and it is the sole responsibility of all patriotic and conscious citizens to ensure an investment climate in the port city.

The mayor also the general secretary of the city Awami League, urged all opposition political parties not to give hartal calls during the annual examinations of the students.

Central leader Akhteruzzaman Chowdhury (Babu) demanded execution of the death sentences awarded to the killers of Bangabandhu at Ramna Maidan in public.



BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleida Zia interviewing a party candidate for Pabna-2 constituency by elections at her Minto Road official residence yesterday.

Look for alternative sources of power, experts suggest

Energy experts have suggested exploring alternatives to hydrocarbon gas that runs about 64 per cent of the country's present power plants, reports UNB.

Out of the estimated 13.74 trillion cubic feet (TCF) of gas in the country, about 3.27 TCF has already been consumed. The remaining recoverable 10.47 TCF can hardly feed the country's power plants for 30 more years, they said.

With the expansion of gas pipelines to the western zone through the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge, gas-fired power plants will also be set up in that zone creating more pressure on the gas reserves, they forecast.

pinning hopes on coal, solar, nuclear, wind or other prospective alternative raw materials for power generation.

"From the point of view of availability of raw materials for power generation, overall electric power development faces difficulties today," Power Development Board Chairman Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal said in a paper presented recently at a BUET function.

He said current estimates of gas reserves suggest that the country could meet its electricity needs through use of gas for the next two or three decades at the most.

An expert from BUET's Mechanical Department, Prof MA Taher Ali, strongly advocated authorities to look for a nuclear power plant, only one of which can satisfy the power demand of whole country. "Technological advancement today ensures fool-proof safety of nuclear plants and there is no fear of another Chernobyl-like disaster," he said.

About 30 per cent of power in Germany comes from nuclear plants, Prof Taher observed, wondering why Bangladesh government itself was not taking steps to complete the decades old Ruppur plant or not approving the proposal of a giant multinational for setting up a new nuclear power plant.

Both experts, however, saw bleak prospects for major-scale wind-propelled power plants, but were optimistic about the future of solar power plants.

Present production of gas exceeds 860 million cubic feet per day, 46 per cent of which goes to power and 35 per cent to fertiliser plants.

According to the 1995 Power System Master Plan, power generation will consume 4.5 TCF gas or 42 per cent of the present recoverable reserves with an average annual consumption of 0.225 TCF.

PDB chairman Nuruddin said that although the country's eastern part enjoys gas facilities for cost-effective power generation, the western zone still depends on more expensive imported petroleum products.

The country does not possess abundant hydropower potential. Coal deposits have not yet been exploited although a 300 MW power plant has been planned to be constructed on the Barapukuria coalmine, he said.

There are prospects for coal find at Jamalganj (Joypurhat), Khalaspur (Rangpur) and Dighpara (Dinajpur). Though a long stretch of coastal belt exists, the prospects for harnessing power from wind or tidal sources have not yet been tapped while other al-

ternative energy resources are still academic, said the chief of the state watchdog of power generation and supply in its keynote speech.

Unless very careful in investigation and production efforts, fossil fuels might find it difficult to meet most of Bangladesh's commercial energy needs for the future, he said, apparently disapproving of the idea of raw gas export.

"Rather it is necessary to explore other viable options like renewable energy resources," he told UNB yesterday.

Chairman of the Mechanical Engineering Department of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) Prof MA Taher Ali however said there was no reason to be worried about the exhaustion of gas stores.

"We may have more gas in reserve. Besides, after 30 years technology will advance much to explore new alternatives," Prof Taher told UNB.

Technology has already been evolved to raise output of the existing power plants from 30 up to 50 per cent using the same quantum of heat, he pointed out. "Japan is using the technology and we can also adopt it."

Solar energy has not yet been efficiently used in Bangladesh, but high technology can lead to a wider area of power generation, he observed.

Nuruddin, chairman of PDB also cited that a photo-voltaic plant, a pilot-basis solar plant set up by REB with French assistance, is running successfully at Karimganj in Narsingdi, giving power to rural people of the area.

'Govt firm to ensure best medicare facilities'

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf yesterday said the government is committed to ensure best medicare facilities for the country's cardiac patients, reports UNB.

"Efforts to introduce modern technology-based treatment facilities at the National Cardiac Diseases Institute and Hospital are on," he said.

The minister was addressing the inaugural ceremony of a five-day national workshop organised by National Institute of Cardio Vascular Diseases in collaboration with Health Ministry and World Bank at the auditorium of NICVD.

Chaired by DG of Health Department Prof A K M Nurul Anwar, the programme was attended, among others, by State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah, Vice Chancellor of Bangabandhu Medical University Prof M A Quadri, NICVD Director Prof Akhteruzzaman and WHO representatives Brigadier (retd) Shahjahan Hafiz and Prof Kamaluddin.

2 arrested on rape charge

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 15: Police arrested two persons on charge of raping two garment workers in Dhaka Baju colony under Siddhirganj thana early today.

The arrested are Kashem, 32 and Kalam, 28, workers of Mill No 2 and 3 of the AJM.

About 7 men reportedly forced their way into a house at Kacha Ling and violated the two women, both in their thirties. The victims filed a case with Siddhirganj thana this morning.

The women have been taken into safe custody by the police.

Dhaka offers to help establish regional hub for UNIC

Bangladesh has offered its services for establishing a new regional hub for the UN Information Centres (UNIC) in Dhaka in the event that United Nations take such a decision, reports BSS.

The offer was made by Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury permanent representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, while making a statement at the special political and decolonisation committee of the General Assembly on Friday.

While drawing the attention of the committee to the drastic fall in the service delivery of the UN Information Centre in Dhaka following its integration with the UNDP office, Chowdhury called upon the Secretary General to carry out a comprehensive review of the UN Information Centres.

The ambassador also called for a specific timeframe for conducting such a review, according to message received in the city yesterday.

Annual confce of PWD engineers held

Minister for Post and Telecommunications and Public Works and Housing Mohammad Nasim yesterday urged the engineers of the Public Works Department (PWD) to utilise their talent and competence to implement the government plan of ensuring low-cost housing, reports BSS.

Speaking as the chief guest at the annual conference of the engineers of PWD, Nasim said that the Public Works Department has made its mark in the development of the country's infrastructures by constructing the Jatiya Smriti Soudha at Savar, Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban and Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

The minister said that a decision has been taken to involve the PWD with all construction works in the country.

Presided over by chief engineer of the Public Works Department M Siddiqur Rahman, the function was addressed, among others, by Public Works Secretary Jagannath Dey and additional chief engineer Murtoza Ahmed Chowdhury.

Over 300 Indian, Pak companies on US blacklist

NEW DELHI, Nov 15: Indian Commerce Minister Ramakrishna Hegde Sunday criticised the US government for blacklisting 40 Indian companies and 200 subsidiaries, saying the American decision violated the World Trade Organisation's philosophy and rules, reports AP.

The US government Saturday released a blacklist of over 300 Indian and Pakistani companies and government agencies that will be denied access to US dual-use technology, the Economic Times newspaper reported Sunday.

"They should withdraw this decision. We will lodge our protest with the WTO and the US government," Hegde said.

The Economic Times quoted a US Commerce Department official as saying the blacklist was to "ease the burden on US exporters by clarifying their responsibilities and helping them to comply with the sanctions."

Among the 40 Indian parent entities blacklisted along with their subsidiaries are several leading research institutions like the Defence & Research Development Organisation, the Bhabha Atomic Energy & Research Centre, the Indian Space Research Organisation, the Indian Institute of Science, Indira Gandhi Centre for Atomic Research and the Indian Institutes of Technology, the Economic Times said.

"Sanctions against India didn't work earlier. American business interests will suffer more than our interests," Hegde told reporters at the sidelines of a trade conference he

inaugurated early Sunday.

The US imposed sanctions on India and Pakistan after the two countries tested nuclear devices in May. Just last week, the US administration waived some of the sanctions for one year, citing progress in peace talks between the two countries.

But the waiver was temporary and partial. For instance, the US didn't revoke a clause under the May sanctions that India and Pakistan will be denied access to dual-use technology — or technology which the US thinks may have nuclear or military applications.

And the US said it would back Pakistan in seeking aid from multilateral agencies such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, but wouldn't support India.

Rebels kill 30 in Sudan

KHARTOUM, Nov 15: A rebel group attacked a convoy of commercial trucks, killing 34 northern Sudanese merchants in a southern town, a pro-government newspaper reported Sunday, reports AP.

The group was quoted government sources in the Upper Nile state as saying the attack took place last week in the Khordong area near the town of Renk, 450 kilometres (280 miles) south of Khartoum.

The area is one of the main trade centres where northern Sudanese merchants sell their products and buy southern goods.

The daily quoted the sources as saying the incident was the worst of its kind since the outbreak of the rebellion in 1983.

It said the attackers also burned a truck belonging to the government-owned National Development Foundation and killed some employees. It did not say how many.

Officials in southern Sudan confirmed the incident. Speaking on customary condition of anonymity, they told

Election today

Gunshots, blasts at Rajendra University College

FARIDPUR, Nov 15: Rajendra University College was rocked with gunshots and bomb blasts today, a day ahead of its students' union election, reports UNB.

Campus sources said armed youths numbering 30 to 40 fired shots and exploded bombs. They also set fire to three motor cycles of teachers and ransacked furniture of its office.

Violence also occurred at the degree section of the college at Baitul Aman in the suburb in the evening.

Three armed police battalions were brought from Khulna to avert further trouble. Chhatra League brought out a procession in the town protesting the campus violence.

The sources said 66 candidates are contesting the tomorrow's election from four panels, two of BCL, one of JCD and the other of Zaker Party-backed Chhatra Front.

Shuttle train service between Sirajganj, Jamtail

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 15: A shuttle train service between Jamtail and Sirajganj Bazar stations has been introduced for the local passengers of intercity Padma Express, reports AP.

The Padma Express plies between the Bangabandhu Bridge-East and Rajshahi via Jamtail station on the Sirajganj-Iswardi section.

Railways West Zone General Manager Farhad Reza inaugurated the shuttle service at Sirajganj Bazar station at 9:30 am yesterday.

The shuttle train with the passengers for the Rajshahi-bound Padma Express will leave Sirajganj Bazar station for Jamtail, about 16 kilometres off the town, at 9 am daily.

Brother kills sister for land?

JESSORE, Nov 15: Saleha Khatun, 25, died at a clinic today after her brother Dabir Uddin allegedly beat her up in Setai under Sharsha thana, reports APB.

They were having a dispute over a piece of land they inherited, police said. Saleha left behind a one-and-half-year old child.

A case was filed in this regard with Sharsha police.

Devashish Roy's wife dies

RANGAMATI, Nov 15: Tatu Roy, wife of the chief of Chakma Circle, Raja Devashish Roy, died today at BIRDEM Hospital in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Tatu, 35, was suffering from liver ailments. She left behind her husband, one son, one daughter, and a host of relatives to mourn her death.

Chairman of the Task Force on Repatriated Tribals and Internal Refugees Rehabilitation Affairs, Dipankar Talukdar, MP, Chairman of Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council, Ching Keo Roaza in separate statements, condoled the premature death of Tatu Roy and expressed their sympathy for the members of the bereaved family.

Syed Atiqullah's death condoled

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday expressed deep shock at the death of eminent journalist and poet Syed Atiqullah, reports BSS.

In a message of condolence Rahman conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for peace of the departed soul.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader also condoled the death of eminent poet and journalist Syed Atiqullah.

Expressing deep shock, the state minister said the nation has lost a creative talent of Bengali literature and uncompromising and out-spoken journalist.

"He expressed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family." Director General of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (CPIB) Dr. Sheikh Abdus Salam condoling the death of Syed Atiqullah, said his death has caused an irreparable loss to the newspaper industry and Bengali literature.

Bangladesh Public Relations Association (BPRRA) expressed its deep sorrow at the sad demise of Syed Atiqullah. In his death, the BPRRA said the country has lost a noted journalist and a true professional.

JKP condoles

Jatiya Kabita Parishad (JKP) yesterday condoled the death of renowned poet Syed Atiqullah and expressed deep sympathy for the family of the late poet.

In a statement Rafiq Azad, president and Muhammad Samad, general secretary of the JKP said that the countrymen will always remember the contribution of the late poet in different democratic movement and activities of JKP.

CJAB condoles

The Commonwealth Journalists Association, Bangladesh (CJAB) yesterday condoled the death of prominent journalist Syed Atiqullah, reports UNB.

In a condolence message CJAB President Hassan Shahriar and Secretary General Farid Hossain said late Atiqullah will ever remembered as a courageous journalist and author who upheld freedom of speech.

Smuggled goods worth Tk 1.59cr recovered

Bangladesh Navy Ships during their routine patrol recovered smuggled foreign cigarettes and Burmese salt worth about Tk one crore and 59.14 lakh respectively and arrested 59 Bangladeshis crew recently, an ISPR press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

During its routine patrol BN ship Madhumati apprehended one mechanised boat with 299 master and 35 mini cartons of smuggled foreign cigarettes along with 10 crew near the St. Martins Island on Thursday. Value of the cigarettes is estimated to be about Tk 74.94 lakh.

Bangladesh Navy ship Tawfiq apprehended five mechanised boats with 684 metric tons of Burmese salt worth about Taka 84.20 lakh and arrested 49 Bangladeshis crew on Monday November 9 near Chawking under the Batkhali thana of Bhola district.

All the crews along with boats and smuggled goods were handed over to the appropriate authority for legal action.

Moulana Bhasani's death anniversary programmes

TANGAIL, Nov 15: The 22nd death anniversary of national leader Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani will be observed here on November 17 in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

A detail programme has been chalked out in Santosh by his disciples to mark the day. The programmes include khatme Quran, mazar ziarat, special munajat for the departed soul, distribution of shirni, exhibition of publications on the life and works of Maulana and display of cottage industries products.

The programme also include murshidi and marfati songs at night and discussion meetings at the mazar premises.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations will arrange separate functions on the occasion.

Sena Kallyan Sangstha stipends

Sena Kallyan Sangstha has invited applications for degree and higher level stipend from the wives and children of ex-servicemen, retired or released from armed forces, an ISPR press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

Students who obtained 40 per cent and more marks and are studying in degree and higher classes, engineering, medical, agriculture, veterinary, textile, leather, marine academy, marine and fisheries, ICMA and C etc are eligible to apply for stipend for the session 1998-99. Not more than two members of a family at a time will apply for the stipend in all levels. Children born after retirement are not eligible to apply for the stipend.

Prescribed application form will be available from all district armed services boards and Sena Kallyan Sangstha's head office at Sena Kallyan Bhaban, 195 Motijheel, Dhaka on production of pension or discharge certificates. The last date of submission of duly filled in applications at district armed services boards is March 20, 1999. District armed services boards will submit all the application forms duly completed in all respect to head office of Sena Kallyan Sangstha by March 31, 1999.

For renewal stipend holders are required to submit their promotion reports or mark-sheets duly countersigned by the head of the dept. Principal to the head office of Sena Kallyan Sangstha by March 31, 1999. Due to delay in examination the promotion report, marksheet are to be submitted as soon as the examination result is published. Promotion reports/marksheet should bear the name of stipendiary and his/her stipend holding number, father's name and service particulars such as number, rank.

Sergei Eisenstein Retrospective at JU

JAHANGIRNAGAR UNIVERSITY, Nov 15: A day-long film show titled "Sergei Eisenstein Retrospective" will be held on the campus today, reports APB.

Three famous films — Alexander Navsky, Ivan the Terrible (Part-2) and The Battleship Potemkin will be screened at the retrospective organised by Zahir Rajhan Film Society, JU unit, said a press release.



British High Commissioner David Walker (R) handing over a Letter of Exchange to the President of Proshika, Dr Quazi Faruque Ahmed (L) at the British High Commission in the city yesterday providing a British grant amounting one million pounds sterling (Tk 8 crore) to Proshika for its flood rehabilitation programme in Bangladesh.

JS told Steps to solve drainage problem in Kushtia taken

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government had taken necessary steps to find out a permanent solution to the drainage problem in Mirpur, Bheramara and Daulatpur thanas under Kushtia district, reports BSS.

Speaking on a call attention notice, moved by Prof Shahidul Islam (BNP-Kushtia), the minister said that the government had constituted a technical committee to examine the existing problems to find out a permanent solution so that people around Sagarkhali do not suffer from water stagnation or damage to crops.

He assured Prof Shahidul Islam that the government would take up remedial measures immediately on the basis of the report from the technical committee.

8 thatched houses gutted in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 15: At least eight thatched houses were gutted in a fire at Kalamia Lane of Baraquarter under Pahartali thana here this afternoon, reports BSS.

According to Fire Service sources the fire originated from a kitchen of the area at about 1.20 pm and spread to adjacent houses.

Four fire units with the help of local people put out the fire which raged for half an hour. However, there was no report of any casualty.

Jatiya Press Club opens gymnasium

Jatiya Press Club (JPC) yesterday launched its gymnasium to provide health and fitness facilities to the club members, reports BSS.

JPC President Rezauddin Ahmed opened the gymnasium in the first floor of the club building at a simple ceremony.

The gymnasium has been equipped with physiotherapy provisions and other instruments.

Interested JPC members have been requested to contact the club office for membership of the gym.

6 get life term for murder in Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, Nov 15: A court today convicted six people and sentenced them to life term in jail in the sensational Kader Sikder Montu murder case, reports UNB.

The court also fined the convicts Hemayet Sikder, Amjad Sikder, Siddique Sikder, Rafiqul Alam Hiru, Firoj Mridha and Wajed Sikder — Tk 500 each, in default, to suffer one month more RI.

The six had entered the house of Kader Sikder Montu at the dead of night on November 15, 1993 and killed him with lethal weapons.

A case was filed and police charged nine people, including Barok, a relative of the victim. Barok committed suicide after submission of the charge-sheet.

Shab-e-Meraj programme

A discussion meeting on the significance of holy Shab-e-Meraj will be held tomorrow after Magrib prayers at Khankaya Toazia at 27, Siddheshwarai Road in the city, says a press release.

The Gaddisn Peer of Dariapur Sharif, Hazrat Moulana Shah Sufi Alhaj Abul Hasan Muhammad Abdul Quaiyum, will conduct the mahfil.

A zikir mahfil, discussion and a milad mahfil will be held.



Malaysia's minority Chinese are among hundreds of anti-government protesters in downtown Kuala Lumpur Sunday. Thousands of demonstrators took to streets to demand reforms and release of ousted deputy prime minister Anwar Ibrahim. Asia's longest ruling leader, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad chairs the annual Pacific Rim Economic Summit next Tuesday.

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A case was filed and police charged nine people, including Barok, a relative of the victim. Barok committed suicide after submission of the charge-sheet.

After examining all records and witnesses, the District and Sessions Judge punished the six and acquitted two others.