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**Hasina visits Bangabandhu's mazar**

TUNGIPARA (Gopalganj), Nov 19: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today visited the mazar of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

She placed wreaths at the mazar and offered fatcha there. It was her first visit here after the pronouncement of the historic verdict in Bangabandhu Murder Case on November 8.

The Prime Minister straight went to the mazar from the helipad at 12:50 pm to pay tribute to her father. Later, a munajat was offered for the eternal peace of Bangabandhu.

Col (ret'd) Faruq Khan MP, Sheikh Helal Uddin MP, district AL president Mohammad Ali Khan Abu Mia and general secretary Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah were present.

Prime Minister will stay overnight here and distribute documents of khas land among the landless people of the area tomorrow morning.

The Prime Minister will return to the capital in the afternoon after attending a milad mahfil here at 1:30 pm.

**Clinton tells Japanese people in Tokyo Have patience, be more open to American goods**

TOKYO, Nov 19: US President Bill Clinton urged the Japanese public today not to be discouraged by their struggling economy, but also called for more openness to American-made goods, reports AP.

"If Japan is very strong, that brings back Asia," Clinton said at a "town hall" meeting broadcast nationally from Tokyo.

After meeting Emperor Akihito at the Imperial Residence, Clinton faced an hour of questions ranging from the strained economic relations between Tokyo and Washington to personal matters, including the Monica Lewinsky affair.

"The United States views Japan as our friend, our ally for the future," Clinton told an audience of students, merchants and other workaday Japanese.

"We regret that you have the present economic challenges that you have but we don't think you should be too pessimistic about the future," he said. "Do not be discouraged by the present economic difficulties. They can be overcome."

A woman from Osaka bluntly asked Clinton how he had apologized to his wife and daughter for his affair with the former White House intern, and whether they had forgiven him. "I did it in a direct and straightforward manner," Clinton replied. As for forgiving him, "I believe they did, yes," he said, quickly adding, "That's really a question you could ask them better than me."

Sensing the awkwardness, the TV moderator quickly interjected: "Let's change the topic now."

Clinton acknowledged at the outset efforts Japanese leaders have undertaken to combat the nagging recession.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi announced earlier this week a 196 billion dollar package of spending and tax cuts to spur Japan's economy, the country's eighth recovery plan, and largest, in eight years of economic distress. Obuchi said he expected it to put Japan on a "recovery orbit" within two years, but the White House fears the package will turn out to have less punch than advertised.

Yet, Clinton said, "I think, to be fair to the present leadership, they have not had enough time for people to make a fair judgment. They just recently entered office. The problems that Japan has today will not be solved overnight."

"The best days of Japan and the best days of America lie before us in the 21st century if we determine to go there together," he said.

**17 envoys to meet Khaleda today**

Envoys from 17 Muslim and Asian countries are likely to meet Khaleda Zia today.

The envoys would discuss the current political and economic situation of the country as well as Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent announcement renouncing hartal. BNP sources told UNB yesterday.

They said the meeting would be held at 29 Minto Road in the evening.

**Khaleda to start 5-day tour of 4 N-dists from Nov 24**

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will start a 5-day tour of four northern districts from November 24, reports UNB.

Party sources said yesterday the opposition leader would address four public meetings at Syedpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram and Rangpur.

She will first address a public meeting at Syedpur High School ground at 4pm on November 25 while at Lalmonirhat Railway Maidan next day.

On November 27, she will address a rally at Kurigram College ground while the final one at Rangpur Zia School ground on November 28.

The BNP chief is scheduled to stay at Rangpur circuit house from where she will conduct her campaign. She is expected to return to the capital on November 28.

**'Asma's mother administers drug as nurses refuse'**

By Staff Correspondent

Asma is administered drug by her mother at the Bangabandhu Medical Hospital.

"I have been asked by nurses to administer drug and I have been doing it since Asma was admitted to the hospital", her mother Zahura Begum replied when asked why she was doing it.

"Nurses come and ask me if I have given the dosage properly," she said. She was seen administering medicine on her daughter yesterday.

When asked, an on-duty nurse who refused to give her name said, "It is not possible for us to administer drugs to individuals. There are too many patients to look after. So we ask attendants of the patients to administer drugs."

Asked who would be responsible for wrong dosage of the drugs, one of the attending nurses said, "It is not our headache. We are doing what our doctors instructed us to do."

Asma Begum whose only functioning kidney was 'mistakenly' removed during an operation at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital received her second successive dialysis yesterday at Bangabandhu Medical Hospital to remove 'excess' fluid from her body.

But Asma is still unable to take solid food. She vomited twice yesterday while trying to take rice in the afternoon, her mother said.

Her weight came down to 37 kg from 40kg about a month ago.

No doctor was available for comment when this correspondent visited Asma at ward no. 4A in nephrology department about 7pm yesterday.

Health Minister Salauddin Yusuf visited Asma yesterday morning and inquired about her condition.

While talking to The Daily Star last night the minister said, "I have once again asked the doctors concerned to take proper care of Asma. Her health condition, according to doctors, is better now."

The minister also said, "Asma would soon receive a kidney from her mother once necessary medical examinations for tissue matching are complete."

Talking to this correspondent, Asma, who comes from a poor family of Shariatpur, appealed for financial help.



**Gulf War compensation 4th installment for Bangladeshis from Saturday**

The distribution of the fourth installment of compensation money to Bangladeshi nationals repatriated from Iraq and Kuwait will begin on Saturday, said an official announcement here yesterday, says APB.

The United Nations Compensation Commission (UNCC) has made available funds for payment to 13,544 repatriates in category 'A' and 108 in category 'C'.

On receipt of letters, eligible claimants are requested to draw their cheques after submitting required documents to Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) at 89/2 Kakrail in the city.

All necessary preparations, including issuance of letters to the claimants, have already been completed, the announcement added.

Applications from claimants will be received at the BMET office from 12 noon to 3 pm on Saturday, Monday and Wednesday, the announcement said, adding, cheques will be issued from 3 pm to 5 pm on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.

Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan, in a briefing yesterday, directed the concerned officials of BMET to extend cooperation to the claimants and ensure that they are not deceived and harassed.



One of the 13 dogs emerges from a wooden crate after they were flown to ZIA from London yesterday. — Star photo

**Detective dogs arrive**

A dozen of dogs were flown in from Britain as part of a government plan to set up dog squads for hunting terrorists, reports UNB.

Five experts accompanied the dogs. They were received at the Zia International Airport by AIG of Police Syed Bazul Karim.

A second consignment of dogs will arrive on Nov 22.

The dogs were taken in three microbuses from the airport.

A house for the dogs is being built at Mirpur, where a complex for the Dog Squad is coming up.

A 34-member police squad led by ASP Mahmudur Rahman will be trained to use the trained dogs in their hunt for terrorists, bombs and drugs.

The dogs will cost Tk 14 lakh and the entire project Tk 5 crore, police sources said.

**Rabeya chairs session**

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thumped desks and jubilated, the former general clapped to greet a former member of his Cabinet.

An apparently nervous Rabeya Bhuiyan, the reputed barrister, then began the day's business reciting Bismillahir Rahmanir Rahim and seeking cooperation from all the members after the customary ritual.

Entering into the day's first agenda -- the Question-Answer session -- the Chair invited Awami League MP Hazi Mohammad Selim to raise his starred question.

The young Hazi, known for his good sense of humour and deliberation in Dhakaite accent, clearly embarrassed the woman MP by his comment before putting up the question.

"The Prime Minister is a woman and so is the Leader of the Opposition. Now we see another woman in the Speaker's chair. And we have wives back at our homes. Where do we go now?"

Selim's remark added fresh elements of humour in the House.

However, none of the two powerful women -- prime minister Sheikh Hasina and opposition leader Khaleda Zia -- was present in the House at that time.

**Degree examinees go on rampage in Barguna**

BARGUNA, Nov 19: Unruly degree examinees at Betagi Degree College centre here went on rampage after failing to adopt unfair means in the examination that began today, leaving three people injured, reports UNB.

Police said the injured were police constable Alauddin, candidate Babul and Additional Deputy Commissioner's (General) speedboat driver Yusuf.

Witnesses said the violence erupted when pro-Awami League BCL college unit president Masudur Rahman, who sat for the English examination, was expelled for adopting unfair means.

The mob chased TNO Kamal Reza who ran away and took shelter in the college Principal's room.

They damaged the college building, two motorbikes and the thana land office.

Police reported to baton charge and brought the situation under control.

**Cricket stadium now to be built at Fatullah**

A modern stadium will be built at Fatullah within 10 months, State Minister for Youth and Sports Abdull Kader told parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to a question from Major (Ret'd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, he said the proposed cricket stadium at Maghbazar could not be built because of private ownership of land.

In view of time constraint to acquire the private land, the new site has been selected and earth filling for the new stadium at Fatullah has already been started, Kader said.

Replying to another question, the state minister said there would be no problem in playing football and cricket at the Bangabandhu National Stadium.

**10 hurt in clash during hartal at Feni**

FENI, Nov 19: A dawn-todusk hartal was observed here today protesting the killing of Jubadal activist Noor Nabi and attack on the residence of district BNP general secretary Prof Jairesh Chandra, reports APB.

Some ten people, including two children, received injuries when supporters of BNP and ruling Awami League looked in a clash on Trunk Road during hartal hours.

Private offices, shops and commercial houses remained closed and all modes of transports were off the roads.

A good number of vehicles were stranded on both sides of the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway.

**India sets up nat'l security council**

NEW DELHI, Nov 19: India's Hindu nationalist government today set up a national security council where politicians would work with military generals to plan the country's defense policy, reports AP.

Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who will head the council, named his chief aide Brajesh Mishra the new national security adviser, United News of India news agency reported. Mishra will hold both positions.

The council will include the federal Interior Minister, the Defense Minister, the External Affairs Minister, the Finance Minister and the chief of the Planning Commission, UNI reported. The chiefs of army, air force and navy will be part of the council's strategic policy group, which will also include officials.

Military leaders see a council as a way to have more input on spending to defend India against China in the north and Pakistan in the West. India has fought three wars against Pakistan and one against China in the past 50 years over territorial disputes.

**Bill rejected**

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get cheated by many only because they cannot understand the meaning themselves."

He said, many officials as well as magistrates have been using English in their official correspondence, although there is law for compulsory use of Bangla. "A certain court order that came following a writ petition order has been giving them impunity. There should be a law that would compel the government officials to use Bangla in any circumstances," he said.

Yesterday was a private members day in parliament.

Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury opposed introduction of the bill on the ground that a law was already there under which the government officials are supposed to do official correspondence in Bangla.

The proposal for introduction of the bill was then rejected by voice vote.

**Khaleda vows to oust govt thru' movement**

BNP chief Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government must be forced to bow out through the movement she has launched for safeguarding people's lives, country's integrity and public order, reports UNB.

"We'll continue our movement defying all impediments for keeping the interests of the people. People's victory is inevitable in this movement," the opposition leader said.

She was addressing a spontaneous gathering in the city's AGB colony yesterday evening where she went to visit the bereaved family of Shamsuzzaman Palash who died on November 15 in the area.

The BNP chairperson sympathised with the family members of Palash -- his mother and sisters. Palash, a city JCD leader, was the only son of his parents.

Khaleda Zia said the truth must prevail and "we are in the right direction along the path of truth."

Pointing out what she said killings and terrorism by Awami League, she said it is the

**India sets up nat'l security council**

After the last date of withdrawal and announcement of the lottery results, a councillor, Jahangir Kabir, volunteered to retire in place of the chairman. The election committee, reportedly "under pressure," decided to allow the chairman to continue.

The committee's decision prompted protests from the retiring and some of the existing councillors.

Kazi Feroz Rashid later filed an objection with the election committee challenging its decision.

Rashid insisted that all four councillors be allowed to continue for another term.

In a letter to the election body, Rashid said, "If one of them is allowed to continue, the decision should also apply to others."

The committee later advised the "aggrieved" councillor to approach the appellate board.

The appellate board, which was supposed to give its decision within two working days, came up with its verdict after five working days. "The acceptance of the voluntary retirement of one councillor in favour of another councillor has not invalidated the lottery."

Rashid, however, stuck to his position.

"There is no scope for accepting the voluntary retirement as the lottery was held after none volunteered till the last date," Rashid said.

"I will go to court," he told The Daily Star yesterday.

**Preconditions**

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dul Hamid Khan Bhasani, and late President Ziaur Rahman. "By this, in fact, they are belittling themselves."

The Deputy Opposition Leader also blasted the silence of intellectuals when, he said, the government continued misdeeds. "Even they held silent meeting against rape in Jahangirnagar University."

Referring to "reticence of the intelligentsia in present time," BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said not only the politicians, but also the intellectuals sometimes "mortgaged" their conscience.

Maulana Bhasani was such a leader who never compromised his conscience with anyone. Always he did his politics for grassroots people of the country and hence for truth and honesty," he said.

He told the meeting that a situation like pre-1975 period was now prevailing in the country when Maulana Bhasani had led a long march on Farakka. "The government will be washed away in a flood as BNP has 70 per cent support of the people," he added.

The discussion meeting, organised by a committee to observe Maulana's death anniversary, was also addressed by Dr Aftab Ahmed, Dr Mahabubullah, Begum Khurshid Jahan Haq, MF, Farida Rahman and Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, with Ashraf Hossain in the chair.

**Rajuk**

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'project' was sure to engulf huge areas of the lake as most green space along the lake had already been allocated as plots, the Azizul Haque said, "some areas of the lake would have to be filled to implement the project."

When asked how much the project would cost Rajuk, the Chairman said that he would be able to reply within the next two weeks. "We are committed to saving Gulshan Lake and this is the only way to do it," he said.

When asked whether he had obtained permission from the Prime Minister's Office, as required by a Prime Minister's recent directive before taking up a project to fill the lake, the Chairman replied his office did not feel it necessary because, "we did it from the planning point of view."

A recent directive of the Prime Minister forbid filling up of any low lying area, construction on parks or open space in the city.

**Starr kicks off impeachment inquiry**

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Starr and make a case on the president's behalf. A crisply dressed Kendall, who has accused Starr in court of prosecutorial misconduct, sat with a squadron of White House lawyers facing Starr.

Clinton, meanwhile, was far from the scene in Japan, where he began a five-day Asian trip today.

Republican members of the Judiciary Committee, undeterred by election losses and negative polls, pressed ahead with plans to broaden the impeachment inquiry beyond whether Clinton illegally tried to cover up his affair with Monica Lewinsky.

They were seeking subpoenas for four new witnesses, including Clinton lawyer Robert Bennett and presidential confidant Bruce Lindsey, and have requested a key document from the Justice Department laying out allegations over fund-raising by Clinton's party, the Democrats.

The committee also planned to question Daniel Gecker, the lawyer for Clinton accuser Kathleen Willey, and Nathan Landow, a Maryland Democrat who had contacts with Willey. She has accused the president of making a sexual advance inside the White House.

In his testimony, Starr spared no words for a president he has investigated for four years at a cost of 40 million dollars. Clinton, he said, "repeatedly used the machinery of government and the powers of his office to conceal his relationship with Monica Lewinsky from the American people, from the judicial process in the Paula Jones case and from the grand jury."

The prosecutor said Clinton used premeditated false statements, provided job assistance to Ms Lewinsky when she was a potential adverse witness in Mrs. Jones' sexual harassment case against the president, schemed to conceal gifts, and used his own Cabinet members and staff to unwittingly provide inaccurate information to the public and the grand jury, a

**কুলখানি**

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