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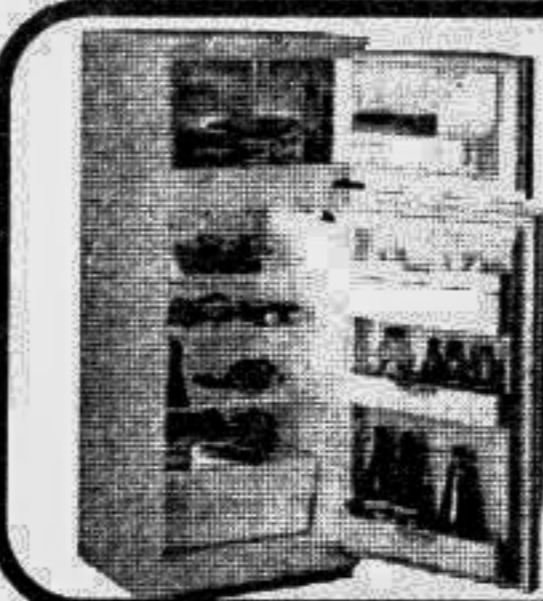
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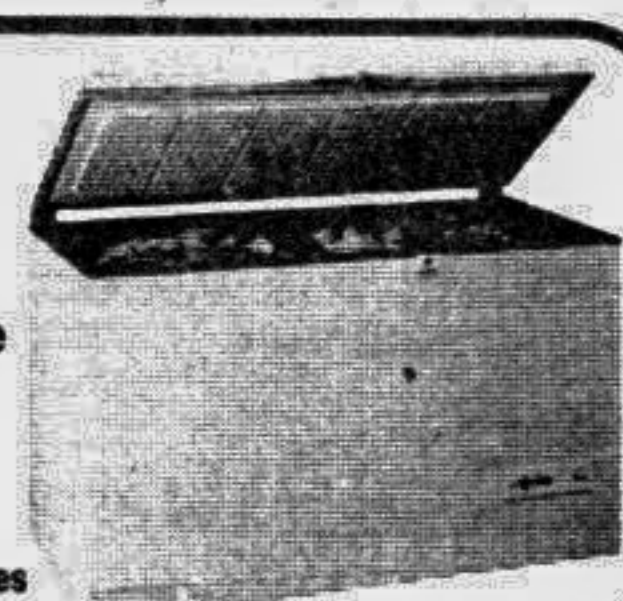


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Unesco award AL plans public reception to PM

By Staff Correspondent Awami League meets today to discuss preparations for the planned public reception to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on the reception 26 at Paltan Maidan.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina speaks at a reception by US-based Bangladeshis at Marriott hotel in New York Sunday.

The reception is to be accorded to the prime minister, now attending the UN general assembly session in New York, on her winning the UNESCO Peace Award. The prime minister is scheduled to receive the award at a ceremony at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris on September 24.

Hasina, also Awami League president is due to be back on September 26. The preparatory meeting will be held at the party central office at Bangabandhu Avenue at 10 in the morning.

All MPs, and presidents and general secretaries of the units of the party and its affiliated bodies in the city and in the districts of Dhaka, Gazipur, Myrmeningh, Jamalpur, Tangail, Manikganj, Munshiganj, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Comilla and Brahmanbaria have been invited to attend the meeting, according to a party press release.

Acting president of AL Amir Hossain Anu will preside over meeting. Central leaders including general secretary and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman will also attend it.

The ruling party also plans to organise a huge public gathering on the occasion of the PM's public reception in the capital, said party sources who believe such a programme would also help to reactivate the party workers and solicit public support in the wake of current opposition agitation.

JU students

From page 1... passed on Sunday night. The Syndicate members had been under the siege for more than five hours. Classes were not held for the third consecutive day in the campus.

Two groups of students under the banner of 'General Students' and 'Admission Fee Hike Protest Committee' called for the fresh strikes at separate rallies on the campus. They also announced that the university bus service will be under the purview of the strike although there was difference over the examinations.

The 'Admission Fee Hike Protest Committee' announced that the examinations will also come under the purview of the strike while the other group said those will not.

Betar to broadcast live PM's UNGA address today

Bangladesh Betar will broadcast live the Prime Minister's address to the General Assembly of the United Nations today at 7.05 pm, reports UNB.

The speech would simultaneously be broadcast from Chittagong, Rajshahi, Rangpur, Sylhet, Rangamati, Thakurgaon and Barisal centres of Bangladesh Betar.

Rajakumari dead

CHENNAI, Sept 20: T R Rajakumari, a celebrity of Tamil celluloid world and the 'dream girl' of yesteryears died here today after a prolonged illness, reports PTI.

Rajakumari, a spinster, was 79, family sources said. Making her debut in the Tamil film, 'Kacha Deivayani', directed by K Subramanyam in 1941, she had acted in more than 60 films, including some Hindi and Telugu.

Her popular films included box-office hits 'Manohara', 'Chandralekha', 'Kulebakavali' and 'Enn Veedu'. Popular film director late T R Ramanna was one of her brothers.

PM tells expatriates in New York

We won't cling to power by force or any other means

NEW YORK, Sept 20: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sought help from expatriate Bangladeshis so that convicts of Bangabandhu Murder Case cannot escape trial and the court verdict could be executed, reports UNB.

'Some of the self-proclaimed killers are living abroad, three are in the USA and two in Canada. We are negotiating with governments of these countries and we need your help so that the killers cannot escape the trial,' she told a reception accorded to her at the Marriott Hotel in Brooklyn on Sunday.

The 'All Citizen Committee' organised the reception in honour of the prime minister who arrived here on September 14 to address the UN General Assembly session today.

The prime minister said the killers, no matter where they stay, are dangerous. They have violated human rights, children and women rights, and should be punished because the nation

does not want that such heinous killings recur in Bangladesh. Referring to the Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia's threat of pushing her government out of power, Hasina said: 'It bleeds when a person hits his head on a rock. They are giving three months' ultimatum from the very first day of this government. But we have already passed more than three years.'

She said her government would resign after the completion of its tenure and handover power to a non-party caretaker government for a neutral election. 'If people vote us, we will come to power, otherwise not. But we'll never try to cling to power by force or any other means.'

About the opposition's haral and recent movement against the transhipment move, Hasina said they are launching movement against something that has not been given. 'We are only discussing

with India to allow transhipment. But they are demanding cancellation of the agreement which has been signed at all.' About the role of the expatriates, the prime minister said they should be careful so that the country's image can be further brightened abroad.

'You should abide by the local laws and try to brighten the image of the country more and more.' She said that the government is negotiating with Washington about the legalisation of the expatriate citizens of Bangladesh who are yet to get legality. The government is also trying to increase all sorts of facilities for the expatriates.

She said an investment climate has been created in the country and foreign investors are getting interested to invest in Bangladesh. She called upon the expatriate Bangladeshis to invest more in the country.

Foreign minister Abdus Samad Azad, Citizen committee representative Gazanfar Ali Chowdhury and US Awami League general secretary MA Salam also addressed the function, presided over by All Citizen Committee president Dr Enayetur Raheem.

Expatriate citizens of all levels joined the function at the impressive hall of the Marriott Hotel and listened to the 90-minute speech of the prime minister.

Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullh, Dipanker Talukder MP, Bir Bahadur MP, AL leader Advocate Shahara Khatun and Nazma Rahman were also present.

Khaleda warns Stern action if anybody fails to turn up for agitation

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday warned her party men that stern disciplinary action would be taken against those who will not be seen on street during the anti-government agitation programme, reports UNB.

The warning came while addressing the leaders and workers of Cantonment-Gulshan-Budda-Uttara led by Maj (rtd) Quamrul Islam met her at her official residence yesterday evening.

'Those holding posts at different tiers of the party must be on the street,' said Khaleda, apparently disenchanted by lackluster attitude of the party men during September 13-15 countrywide hartal.

'Anyone found abstaining from active participation in the next agitation programme will be removed from the party position,' she was quoted to have told the party men in a closed door meeting.

Sources said Khaleda was annoyed with the poor participation of party leaders and workers during the last three-day hartal.

She said that she did not want to get any message over mobile phone that hartal was on. The claim will be investigated, she told the city activists.

Some of the leaders told the party chairperson that they could not picket during the hartal as the ruling party activists armed with fire weapons took to the streets.

Khaleda asked them to take position at places where the ruling party terrorists were not present. They must be on the streets, she emphasised.

City BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka was present at the meeting.

BAU students ransack health centre

MYMENSINGH, Sept 20: Agitated students of Bangladesh Agricultural University today ransacked the university health centre over the death of a student, reports UNB.

Shamim Ahmad Masud, a final year student of Agricultural Engineering and Technology, died of asthma at the Myrmeningh Medical College Hospital Sunday night.

The students alleged that the health centre authorities made unnecessary delay in sending Shamim to MMCH.

As the death news spread on the campus in the morning, the students became agitated and ransacked the health centre. The doctors and employees of the centre fled the scene.

Police have been deployed on the campus.

Delay in procurement of DC 10 Biman decides to issue ultimatum to GIA

By Shehab Ahmed

Bangladesh Biman has landed in trouble to procure its fifth DC-10-30 aircraft from a non-descript US-based company, GIA, sources concerned said.

The company was to fly the aircraft to Dhaka from New York by May this year.

But trouble in opening of letter of credit for the company and technicalities have cost the national airline valuable time.

Finally, it has decided to ask GIA's local agent to bring the aircraft within seven days. Otherwise the company would face cancellation of the order given on the basis of a bidding in March last year, the sources said.

Biman's board of directors at a meeting on Sunday reviewed the situation and decided to issue the ultimatum to GIA.

If GIA fails to bring the aircraft, two other companies who participated in the bid would be

asked to negotiate supply of the aircraft as soon as possible, a Biman source said.

Delay in getting the aircraft on dry lease for three years has put pressure on the four DC-10-30s that carry the bulk of Biman's passengers across the continents.

The flight to New York via Brussels is suffering in particular.

Long haul flights often suffer erratic schedules as aircraft are not always available due to various reasons.

Meanwhile, bids have already been made for supply of one more Airbus-310 on dry lease. Biman badly needs it to expand the medium haul fleet serving mainly the Gulf routes with two Airbus-310, the sources said.

The financial offers will be opened after talks with four companies who qualified in preliminary rounds.

Alleged acid thrower held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday arrested an alleged acid thrower, who was undergoing treatment along with his victim, at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday evening.

Anwara Begum, 28, an employee of BRAC at Chargopalpur village at Belkuchi thana in Sirajganj district received burn injuries on September 31 night.

Anwara said her neighbor Abdul Alim, father of seven children, wished to have illicit connections with her, when her husband was away from home.

An enraged Alim sprinkled acid on Anwara when she refused to respond positively to his proposal. Alim attempted to throw acid on her face and, in the process, both of them received serious burn injuries.

Anwara received injuries on her face, back and chest while Alim received injuries on the right side of his face.

After the incident Alim fled the area and got himself admitted to a hospital at Uttara. He was shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital when his condition deteriorated.

Anwara was also admitted to DMCH in a critical condition on Sunday, after being treated at a local hospital at Sirajganj.

Alena Khan of Manabadihikar Bastobayan Sagasta (MBS) told The Daily Star that his organisation had been informed of the incident a week ago by the Acid Survivors Foundation, who extended financial help to the acid victims for medical treatment.

MBS investigated the matter and finally took the victim near the bed of the acid thrower at the DMCH where she identified him.

Police arrested the accused from the hospital yesterday night. A general diary has been lodged with Ramna police.

Businessman mugged

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman was allegedly robbed of Tk 1.60 lakh at Fakirerpool Bazaar in the city yesterday evening.

Motijheel police quoting the FIR said four unidentified men mugged the businessman, Waliullah of Bara Moghbazar, at gun point while he was going to deposit money with a bank.

A case was lodged with Motijheel thana, but no one was arrested till writing of the report last night.

AL MP hurt

From page 1

after his brother returned from UAE. Tipu was also scheduled to fly for the UAE Saturday night.

One of Tipu's family filed a case with Fatikchhari police accusing 18 persons, including Taiyub, of the killing.

Dengue found in 4

From page 1

drowsiness, fever, headache and severe weakness. The viral attack may even cause death.

Dr Ashraf Uddin said, 'We are taking emergency measures to inform citizens about the diseases. Dengue is not common in the country but it is prevalent in neighbouring countries like Burma, India and Thailand.'

'As part of our campaign, we are preparing guidelines for people. The clear message is mosquito control, destroying the breeding places of mosquitoes.'

The DCC chief health officer claimed that mosquitoes which 'act as carriers of Dengue, encephalitis or cerebral malaria are not found in the city.'

However, Prof Nazrul Islam, Head of Virology department at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital, said anophelis (female) mosquito that causes cerebral malaria is found in the city.

'There are no facilities in the country to test samples to detect presence of encephalitis virus. There is also no known drug to treat patients attacked by the virus,' he said.

Scientists at the IEDCR said only about four per cent area of the country is known as endemic zone for Dengue or the area that harbors Dengue Virus.

National Programme Officer (NPO) of WHO Dr Hafiz, in reply to a question, said, 'If there is any request from the government, we are ready to help confirm such suspected viral attack cases.'

Zardari indicted on charges of drug trafficking

ISLAMABAD, Sept 20: Former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's jailed husband was indicted today on charges of drug trafficking, according to a press release issued by Pakistan's accountability bureau, reports AP.

Asif Ali Zardari, who has been in jail since his wife's government was thrown out of power on corruption charges three years ago, was indicted along with eight other people of drug trafficking.

The men were indicted by a special court in the eastern Punjab Capital of Lahore, the statement said.

Zardari, who faces several charges of corruption and abuse of power, already has been convicted on one charge of corruption along with his wife, who is living in self-imposed exile in Britain.

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Landmine blast kills four cops: Vajpayee fears more violence

PATNA, Sept 20: Four policemen were killed in a landmine explosion today as they checked a road to ensure its safety for election officials, while police in Bihar, where 38 election workers and polls guards were blown up Saturday, said they are worried about this weekend's voting, reports AP.

Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee cautioned late Sunday against more political violence after Saturday's voting brought the bloodiest day so far in India's monthlong parliamentary elections.

Explosions and violence across the country killed 49 people - 38 of them in Bihar.

India's poorest state, Seventy-one were injured in landmines there, where two leftist groups declared a boycott of the voting for 543 seats in a new lower house of parliament.

'We cannot give an assurance that there will be no violence in the next two phases but we hope that will not happen,' a dispirited Bihar state police director, KA Jacob, told reporters in Patna on Monday. He said security forces in India's poorest and most lawless state had neither equipment, nor enough men, to check for land mines.

He said the state had asked for 78,000 paramilitary troops and had gotten fewer than

18,000 to help provide security for candidates and voters on Saturday, the third phase of the staggered voting that ends Oct 3.

Vote counting is to start Oct 6 and a new government is expected to be named by mid-October.

Speaking in Patna, the Bihar state capital, on Sunday night, Vajpayee said, 'We have to be careful even after voting takes place. The votes have to be protected until counting gets over.'

His defense minister, George Fernandes, and another candidate in the governing alliance, Nitish Kumar, won a state high court order today demanding that the national Intelligence Bureau and the independent Election Commission answer charges that 150,000 extra ballots, capable of being stuffed into ballot boxes, were discovered in their constituencies.

Commission Secretary KJ Rao told reporters in New Delhi that the allegation of extra ballots in Bihar was 'baseless and unfounded.'