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Dhaka should also be careful, says Vajpayee

KRISHNAGAR, West Bengal, Sept 28: Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee today said India wants to further improve its relations with Bangladesh but that country should also be careful about maintaining its reports PTI.

Addressing an election meeting in support of BJP candidate Satyabrata Mukherjee in the town bordering Bangladesh, he said it is good if there is increase in trade with Bangladesh or if rail link with it is established.

But Bangladesh should also be careful about improving the ties, he said.

Stating that India wanted good relations with its neighbours, Vajpayee said he had gone to Lahore to improve ties with Pakistan but at that time they had sent intruders in Kargil.

But Kargil action has proved that our army can throw out intruders, he added.

Dhaka protests deployment of Indian troops along border

Bangladesh has expressed its concern over the deployment of Indian troops along the border, a foreign office spokesman said yesterday, reports BSS.

The spokesman said Bangladesh High Commissioner to New Delhi Mostafa Faruque Mohammed met Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Basundara Raje and expressed Dhaka's concern over the development along the common border.

Mostafa Faruque also expressed the government's grave concern over a series of border incidents in recent times in which a number of Bangladeshi nationals, including BDR personnel were killed. He further stated that there was also intrusion by Indians into Bangladesh territory, the spokesman said.

Some diplomats of the Indian High Commission in the city, including the High Commissioner, were summoned. See Page 11 Col 8

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Source: Islamic Foundation

ANNOUNCEMENT

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Writ challenging Mig purchase deal

HC halts further payment, asks govt to show cause

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday ordered stay of further payment against the MIG-29 purchase deal till one week after reopening of the Supreme Court on October 21 following vacation.

The HC also directed the government and others concerned to show cause as to why the Treaty dated February 9, 1999 and the Agreement dated June 28, 1999 shall not be declared to have been made without lawful authority.

The Court further ordered the secretaries of the ministries of defence and finance and Air Force chief Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed to explain why they should not be directed to comply with the resolution of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Defence to submit the Treaty and the Agreement to the Committee. The resolution was taken at the 12th meeting of the Committee.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Syed J. R.

Rudassir Hossain and Justice Bijon Kumar Das passed the orders yesterday after hearing Acting Attorney General Mahubey Alam and Dr Kamal Hossain, counsel for the petitioner.

Maj. (Retd) Mohammad Akhtaruzzaman, a BNP MP, who is also a member of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Defence, filed a writ petition challenging the Treaty and the Agreement.

On Monday, upon a verbal prayer from Deputy Attorney General Obaidur Rahman Mustafa for time for submission, the court adjourned the hearing till yesterday and restrained the government from making any payment against the deal, made with Russia.

It was stated in the writ petition that the government signed the Agreement with the government of Russia on June 28, 1999 for purchase of eight MIG-29 aircraft at a cost of 124 million US Dollars under a Defence

Technical Co-operation Treaty, which was entered on February 9, 1999.

But the Treaty itself has yet not been approved by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, as required by the Rules of Business, 1996. It was neither submitted to the President nor placed in the Parliament as required by Article 145A of the Constitution, the petition said.

It was further stated in the petition that the petitioner had raised the issue at the 12th meeting of the JS body. It was resolved at the meeting that members of the JS body 'shall be provided with the copies of the Treaty and the Agreement and the matter will be decided later'.

But neither any copy of the Treaty and the Agreement was supplied to the members nor the Committee took any decision in this regard, the petitioner

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Going the 'ambitious', 'irrelevant' way



Save the Buriganga

By Morshed Ali Khan

As the government keeps promising a coordinated effort to save the river Buriganga, different agencies are going their way to work on the river without consulting one another.

The WDB, Rajuk, BIWTA have chalked out their own plans and projects to 'save the river'. But most of these plans are either 'over ambitious' or 'irrelevant' to the actual problems of the river, sources said.

Other than forming two committees in the light of the 'Save the Buriganga' drive, the government has no immediate action plan to protect the river Buriganga from rapid encroachment and pollution, according to officials of different agencies involved. The second committee headed by the Divisional Commissioner has held only two meetings since it was formed in 1997.

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Shikdar's shopping mall demolished

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Sept 28: Shad-Moni Shopping Complex of Ershad Shikdar was demolished today.

The shopping complex was illegally built by Ershad Shikdar on KDA and railway lands last year.

Joint forces of police, BDR and APBN demolished the entire complex having over 100 shops this morning.

The demolition was ordered by Home Minister Mohammad Nasim while addressing a public gathering at Skid Ghat during his visit here on Monday.

Two bulldozers of KCC knocked down the shops there at about 8 am and razed them to the ground one after another. Top ranking officials of KDA, Railway department and KMP were present during the demolition drive.

A source in KMP told his correspondent that another shopping complex named 'Nalchity Complex' constructed by Ershad on railway land will also be demolished tomorrow.

Ershad Shikdar holds from Nalchity thana of Jhalpur district and therefore the complex has been named after the thana.

People have also demanded demolition of S M A Rob Shopping Complex as it has been illegally constructed on Railway land.

The complex has been named after S M A Rob, AL Mayoral candidate. When asked, the Estate Officer of Railway department said that the AL Mayoral candidate was not given permission to build unauthorised establishments. Rob grabbed the land and built the shopping mall after joining the ruling party from Jatiya Party, he said.

JU students continue hunger strike

From JU Correspondent

SAVAR, Sept 28: agitating students of Jahangirnagar University continued their hunger strike for the second day today demanding withdrawal of enhanced admission fee.

Some 20 students joined 'fast unto death' on the campus Monday, creating a deadlock in academic activities.

Another group of students under the banner of 'Admission Fee-like Resistance Committee' today organised a rally on the premises of Social Science Faculty on the same demand.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Ganjo Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain, Advocate Sultana Akhter, Hajera Sultana of Sammilta Nari Samaj, Shamsunnaah Jotsna of Nari Pragati Sanga, Shirin Akhter of Samajtantrik Mohila Forum and economist Anu Mohammad. The speakers expressed solid

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Gold remains elusive for Bangladesh



From Hasan Masood

KATHMANDU, Sept 28: The 173-member Bangladesh contingent is yet to get a gold after the third day of the 8th SAF Games today.

It turned out to be yet another disappointing day for Bangladesh as they could manage only a silver and three bronzes.

The day's only silver came through ace athlete Mahub

Alam in 200m sprint. Defending champion Mahub finished at par with Pakistan's Maqsood Ahmed, clocking 21.15 seconds each. After a 30-minute scrutiny of the photo finish, the verdict went in favour of Maqsood.

The close finish of this event brought back similar memories of the Madras SAF Games four years ago. But at that time Mahub won the photo verdict at the Nehru Stadium to win the only athletics gold for Bangladesh.

The three bronzes of Bangladesh came from three disciplines — karate, swimming and shooting.

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Mahub Alam

Bangladesh face Lanka in crucial match today

Sports Reporter

With their back against the wall Bangladesh will be looking for at least a draw to keep their hopes alive for a maiden SAF football gold when they take on Sri Lanka at the Dashaarath Stadium in Kathmandu today.

While Bangladesh will be looking for a draw in the last Group B match, Sri Lanka has a tougher task — that of winning, for a place in the semi-final behind Maldives.

Maldives confirmed their semi-final berth with consecutive victories against Sri Lanka and Bangladesh.

The tournament's 'dark horse' blanked Sri Lanka 4-0 before defeating Bangladesh by the odd goal in three on Monday.

The defeat of the national team shocked millions of football fans at home. But coach Samir Sakir has vowed to make a turnaround in the competition, which they never won despite making it to the final for a record four times.

Heroin haul Arrest, attachment of property of three businessmen ordered

By Staff Correspondent

The Chief Metropolitan magistrate, Dhaka yesterday issued warrant for arrest of three businessmen and attachment of their property for their alleged involvement in smuggling of 24.1 kg heroin into the country recently.

The three are Abul Kamal, Mohiuddin and Jahangir. The Department of Narcotics (DNC) sought warrant for arrest of four businessmen and attachment of their property. The court issued warrant against the three as specific address of the rest one — Hanif — could not be submitted to the court.

DNC Sources yesterday said that acting on a tip-off, they conducted an operation at the Palwel Market at Naya Paltan in the city late Monday night to

arrest two more persons allegedly involved in the racket. But they fled away.

The DNC personnel then arrested two other persons — Nurul Asfar and Mir Hossain — from a travel agency office at the market on charge of helping the suspects flee.

The arrested two were produced before the Metropolitan Magistrate's court. The court sent them to Dhaka Central Jail.

The consignment of heroin which was recovered from Hotel Rajmoni Isa Kha in the city on September 20 was flown to Dhaka in a PIA flight from Pakistan. Some PIA men might be involved in the racket. DNC sources claimed.

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Khaleda urges HR bodies, NGOs to rehabilitate sex workers

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia has called upon the human rights organisations and NGOs to rehabilitate the sex workers evicted from Narayanganj, reports UNB.

The call came from the BNP chairperson when a group of sex workers led by Samia Afrin of Naripakha and Juliana Rozario of CARE called on her at her official residence yesterday evening.

'We don't want that women engage in this profession. They (sex workers) should be rehabilitated properly so that the society is not polluted,' Khaleda was quoted to have told the NGO leaders.

Khaleda's press secretary Ahmed Nazir briefed newsmen after the meeting. See Page 11 Col 8

Clinton to visit 'missing part of his life' early next year

NEW YORK, Sept 28: President Bill Clinton plans to visit India and Pakistan after the Indians elect and install a new government, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told India's foreign minister, report AP Reuters.

Clinton also will stop in Bangladesh on a visit that originally was planned for 1998 but was postponed when India and Pakistan both set off nuclear tests.

The president has viewed a visit to India as 'a missing part of his life,' Albright said Monday.

Albright, in New York for the two-week opening session of the UN General Assembly, met in her hotel suite with Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh and later, separately, with Pakistan's foreign minister, Sartaj Aziz.

A senior administration official briefing reporters on the condition of anonymity, said Clinton's planned visit to the subcontinent was discussed at both sessions.

No specific date has been set, the official said. But other officials said a Clinton visit is likely early next year.



US officials told Reuters they are looking for Clinton to make the trip as early as January and no later than March.

The United States wants India and Pakistan to take steps to 'create a positive environment' for the visit, the officials said.

With both foreign ministers, Albright discussed tensions between their two countries over disputed Kashmir and the need to get peace talks moving again, nuclear nonpro-

liferation and the fight against international terrorism and narcotics trafficking.

They also discussed sanctions in the aftermath of 1998's nuclear tests. Lifting sanctions continues to be 'a moving target' in the US Congress, the official said. Although sanctions on agricultural goods have already been eased, efforts to lift other sanctions are tied up in end-of-fiscal-year maneuvering in the Republican-led Congress.

With Aziz, Albright also expressed concern over the arrests of several hundred people in Pakistan before a planned opposition weekend demonstration, the official said.

That echoed remarks earlier in the day in Washington by State Department spokesman James Rubin, who said the arrests appeared to be 'an attempt to suppress a peaceful protest against the government.'

Albright told Singh that curbing the spread of weapons of mass destruction is 'one of our highest priorities as we look out to the 21st century.'

The official said Singh reiterated the desire of the current

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