

What's on today.....

Forum: An executive forum on 'Climate change and development' will be held. Organisers: Department of Environment, Ministry of Environment and Forest, Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies and Institute of International Education, Energy Group, USA. Venue: Conference Room of BARC, Farmgate. Time: 9:30 am.

Discussion: Discussion on 'Advancement in UPVC Technology National Polymer Industry Ltd will be held on the 2nd day of the annual conference of the Public Works Directorate. Venue - Public Works Building. Time: 2:30 pm - 4:00 pm.

Discussion meeting: Communist Kendra will hold a discussion meeting on 'Aggressive Fundamentalism: Our Duty: National and International Perspective.' Venue: Jatiya Press Club. Time: 4:00 pm.

Film Festival: Dweep Ka Rahasya by Tapan Sinha will be screened on the second day of the Children Film Festival. Organiser: Indian High Commission. Venue: Indian Cultural centre. Time: 5:00 pm.

Premiere: A video documentary titled Sundarban by Aminul Islam will be premiered. The video has been jointly produced by Community Development Library (CDL) and Television Trust for the Environment (TVE), UK. Venue: Gothe Institut, Dhanmondi: R/A. Time: 6:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Workshop: Local Government Engineering Department (LGED) and World Food Programme (WFP) will jointly hold a workshop on 'Food-Assistance for Enabling Development.' Venue: Conference room (Level-2) of LGED Bhaban. Time: 9:30 am.

Film Festival: Dost by Sadhu Meher will be screened on the 3rd day of the 'Children Film Festival'. Organiser: Indian High Commission. Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, Satmasjid Road. Time: 5:00 pm.

Weather

Dry weather likely

Prevailing dry weather is likely to continue over the country during the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Night temperature may rise slightly over the country during the period. Met. Office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 31.7 degree Celsius was at Sitakunda and the lowest 14.5 degrees at Sakthira.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:13 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:14 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	29.8	18.3	65	77
Chittagong	31.2	19.4	78	69
Rajshahi	29.8	15.4	68	72
Khulna	30.6	16.8	72	61
Barisal	30.0	17.5	74	61
Sylhet	30.7	18.8	61	85
Cox's Bazar	31.0	21.0	69	71

HERE and THERE

MMC

The DANIDA mission observed Mass-line Media Centre's (MMC) activities at its central office in Dhaka and the regional office at Patuakhali & Barguna districts recently, says a press release.

A group of four members led by Lisbeth Fich, external consultant to DANIDA met with MMC personnel and the beneficiaries of MMC. They visited MMC from October 31 to November 11.

During the visiting period, the team talks with Kamrul Hassan Monju, Executive Director of MMC, about the ongoing project and the future expansion of the project. The team hold talks with the personnel of MMC and inquired about the training programme and other activities performed by it. The team also attended a training programme at Patuakhali.

The team comprises Lisbeth Fich, external consultant to DANIDA; Jan Larsen, External consultant to DANIDA; Tina Graven Nielsen, trainee and Dr N A Kalimullah. Ove Fritz Larsen, the Minister Counsellor of Royal Danish Embassy and Mehel Aminuzzaman were also present with the team.

Rotary Club of Savar, CRP

The Rotary Club of Savar and CRP jointly organised a Handingover Ceremony in connection with Rotary International Maching Project for CRP on Saturday, says a press release.

The ceremony was held at CRP in the Reddaway Hall and presided over by CRPs founder Valerie A Taylor. The ex-minister and PDG Habibullah Khan was the chief guest. PP Rotarian Maj (Gen) Mogheruddin Titu, President and Secretary of Rotarian Kamal Reza and advocate Nazrul Islam and CRPs social welfare officer Abdus Salam also spoke on the occasion.

Highlighting Rotary's history Habibullah Khan said that it was founded in 1905 in America and in 1916 a council gave it the name of Rotary. He also said that Rotary international is fighting to combat polio all over the world.

Armed Forces Day Nov 21

The Armed Forces Day will be observed on November 21 with due solemnity and enthusiasm, reports BSS.

The day's programme will begin with the offering of 'munajat' after Fajr prayers in all mosques at army garrisons, naval ships and establishment as well as air force bases throughout the country.

In Dhaka, the President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, Shahabuddin Ahmed, and the Prime Minister and Defence Minister, Sheikh Hasina, will place wreaths at 'Shikha Anirban' (the eternal flame) at Dhaka Cantonment with the sun-rise to pay homage to the members of the armed forces who had embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Muhammad Mostafizur Rahman, Bir Bikram, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral A. Taher, and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice-Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed will also lay wreaths at the Shikha Anirban separately on behalf of their respective services.

Chiefs of staff of the three services will pay courtesy calls on the President at Bangabhaban. They will also pay similar call on the Prime Minister at the Prime Minister's Office, Armed Forces Division, Dhaka Cantonment.

A reception in memory of selected shaheed gallantry award winning freedom fighters will be held at the Prime Minister's office, Armed Forces Division, Dhaka Cantonment.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will meet the nearest ones of Shaheed Captain Mohiuddin Jahangir, Bir Shrestho, Shaheed Sepoy Hamidur Rahman, Bir Shrestho, Shaheed Sepoy M Mostafa Kamal, Bir Shrestho, Shaheed M. Ruhul Amin, ERA-1, Bir Shrestho, Shaheed Flight Lieutenant M Matur Rahman, Bir Shrestho, Shaheed Lance Naik Nur Mohammad Sheikh, Bir Shrestho, and Shaheed Lance Naik Munsir Abdur Rauf, Bir Shrestho, on the occasion. She will also meet some of the gallantry

17 miscreants held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 14: Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) arrested 17 miscreants on various charges from different areas of the city today, reports BSS.

Double Mooring police caught red handed two toll extortionists from Begaripara while they were demanding Tk 50,000 from Al-Madina Store. Local people immediately informed Double Mooring police of the matter who rushed to the spot and arrested Dewar Kamal Sohel, 23, and Majed Ahmad Chowdhury, 25, on charge of demanding tolls.

Fifteen other miscreants were rounded up by different police stations of CMP. Absconders, violators of CMP act and terrorists were among the arrested.

Memorial meeting on Ahad

Eminent cultural personalities and police officials, at a rare memorial meeting, yesterday condoled the killing of renowned drama activist and police sergeant Ahad Parvez, reports BSS.

They called upon the law enforcers to be imbued with the spirit of the example of dutifulness, honesty and courage set by the deceased on October 28.

Organised by Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation (BGTFF) in the Bailey Road Guide House auditorium the speakers urged the conscious section of society to build up strong resistance against the criminals and their patrons.

Presided over by senior drama activist and cultural personality Ataur Rahman, the meeting was addressed, among others, by eminent freedom fighter, writer and chief editor of BGTFF Haroon Habib, president of BGTFF Sarah Zaker, Natyachakra President M M Hamid, General Secretary of Sammilita Sangskritik Jote Golam Qudus, chairman of the Linguistic Department of Dhaka University, Prof. Rajib Humayun, Group Theatre leader Liaquat Ali Laki, eminent drama activist Sajjad Hossain, eminent drama artiste Tariq Anam and Falguni Hamid, DC (north) police Mukhlesur Rahman and DC (traffic) Mushtaq Ahmed.

Rokeya Fraich, the widow of sergeant Ahad who is also a drama activist and his only daughter Rimjheem attended the condolence meeting.

The speakers recalled the contribution of the genius police officer who earned reputations for Bangladesh police abroad and in the field of cultural arena.

They also thanked Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for her sympathy to the bereaved family and assurance for providing all-out cooperation to Ahad's wife and orphan daughter.

The speakers have also words of praise for police department's decision to name the Gullistan Police Box after sergeant Ahad Parvez.

Father of Nargis Akhter Nayeem, a 12-year-old girl who was abducted seven months ago, sought intervention of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to rescue his daughter, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday afternoon, Mohammad Solaiman Chowdhury, an old man who was speaking in a choked voice blamed Arif and his accomplices for the kidnapping of his minor daughter from the school gate under Badda Thana in the city in May.

He said despite filing of a case against Arif and his accomplices and a court order issued for necessary steps, police especially the CID department could not yet arrest any of the accused, he alleged.

"Instead, the kidnapers who are influential have been repeatedly threatening us over telephone and through hired goons not to move ahead," he said.

He said so far we have heard that she (Nayeem) is still alive and last month she was confined in a solitary room of 'Soudia Super Market' at Farmgate in the city. He also sought help of law enforcing agencies to ensure security for members of his family.

Father seeks PM's help to rescue daughter

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Obituary

CHITTAGONG, Nov 14: MA Majid, younger brother of late MA Aziz, a prominent Awami League leader, died of old age complications at his Halishahar residence here this afternoon, family sources said. He was 76, reports BSS.

He is survived by five sons, four daughters and a large number of friends and relatives to mourn his death.

The *namaz-e-janaza* of M A Majid will be held tomorrow in front of his Halishahar residence after Zohr prayers. Later he will be buried at his family graveyard.

Late M A Majid was an MNA. He was elected MCA after the death of his elder brother MA Aziz, a veteran Awami League leader.

SC stays HC order on GSS

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed for four weeks the operation of the High Court judgement, which was passed discharging the rule filed by Gono Sahajya Sangstha (GSS) in a writ petition, reports UNB.

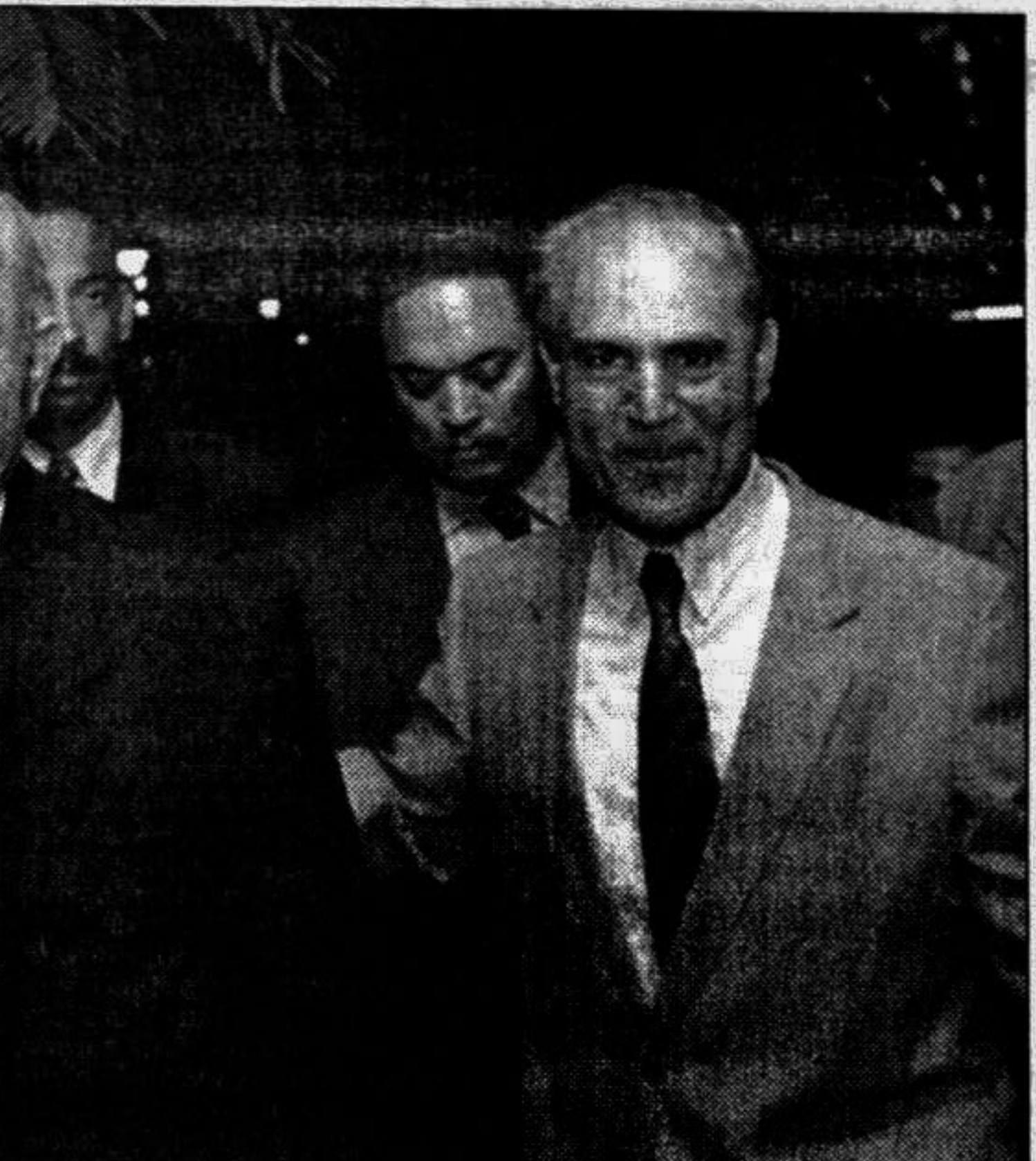
The Appellate Division also directed the GSS authorities not to dispose off any asset of GSS and retrench any employee during the stay period.

After the Director General of Social Services on June 15, 1999 suspended the executive body of GSS, its chairman Justice (ret'd) KM Sobhan and executive director FR Mahmood Hasan filed the writ petition challenging the suspension order.

The High Court, after hearing the writ on November 11, discharged the Rule upholding the suspension order of the DG Social Services.

A provisional stay petition was moved yesterday before the chamber judge of the Appellate Division, Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury, praying for stay of the High Court judgement till filing of regular leave petition after obtaining the certified copy of the judgement.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, with Rokonuddin Mahmood, moved the stay petition.



Moroccan Prime Minister Abderrahmane Yousoufi (L) is accompanied by his Libyan counterpart, Mohamed Ahmed El Mankouch (R), as he arrives in Benghazi on Saturday. The two men will preside over the mixed cooperation commission which meets each year in one of the two north African countries. —AFP photo

AL leaders to hold talks with different groups today

Leaders of Bangladesh Awami League will exchange views with different professional groups and trade union leaders in separate meetings today on the political situation in the country, a party press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The AL leaders will meet the physicians, engineers, agriculturists and Frorkrich BCS Coordination Committee members at Bangabandhu Avenue party office at 11 am today.

They will also exchange views with the leaders of various labour organisations at 4 pm, the press release said.

Israel court orders demolition of memorial to mass murderer

JERUSALEM, Nov 14: Israel's highest court today ordered the demolition of a mausoleum erected in honor of Baruch Goldstein, the militant Jewish settler who murdered 29 Palestinians in 1994, judicial sources said, reports AFP.

The supreme court said the army must dismantle the structure and a vast plaza surrounding it in the West Bank settlement of Kiryat Arba, near Hebron, which has become a pilgrimage site for hardliners opposed to peace with the Palestinians.

"Such things incite hatred and violence because they depict Goldstein as a saint," the judges said in their order, according to the sources.

Members of the outlawed anti-Arab group Kach make daily visits to the site to honor Goldstein, who was lynched by worshippers after he gunned down his 29 victims inside a mosque at the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

The court ruled on the case after Goldstein's parents appealed against the dismantling of the mausoleum, saying its destruction went against both Jewish law and human rights.

Jewish law prohibits the desecration of burial sites, while the Israeli parliament passed legislation a year ago outlawing the construction of monuments to honor terrorists.

Meanwhile the court said it would postpone for six months any decision on whether to demolish or relocate Goldstein's grave itself.

Turkish Cypriot leader agrees to proximity talks in December

NICOSIA, Nov 14: Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş said today he had agreed to attend UN-sponsored proximity talks on the future of the divided island in New York in the first week of December, reports AFP.

Denktaş told Turkish Cypriot BRT television that UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan telephoned him and Greek Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides on Saturday to extend the invitations.

Denktaş said he welcomed the invitation.

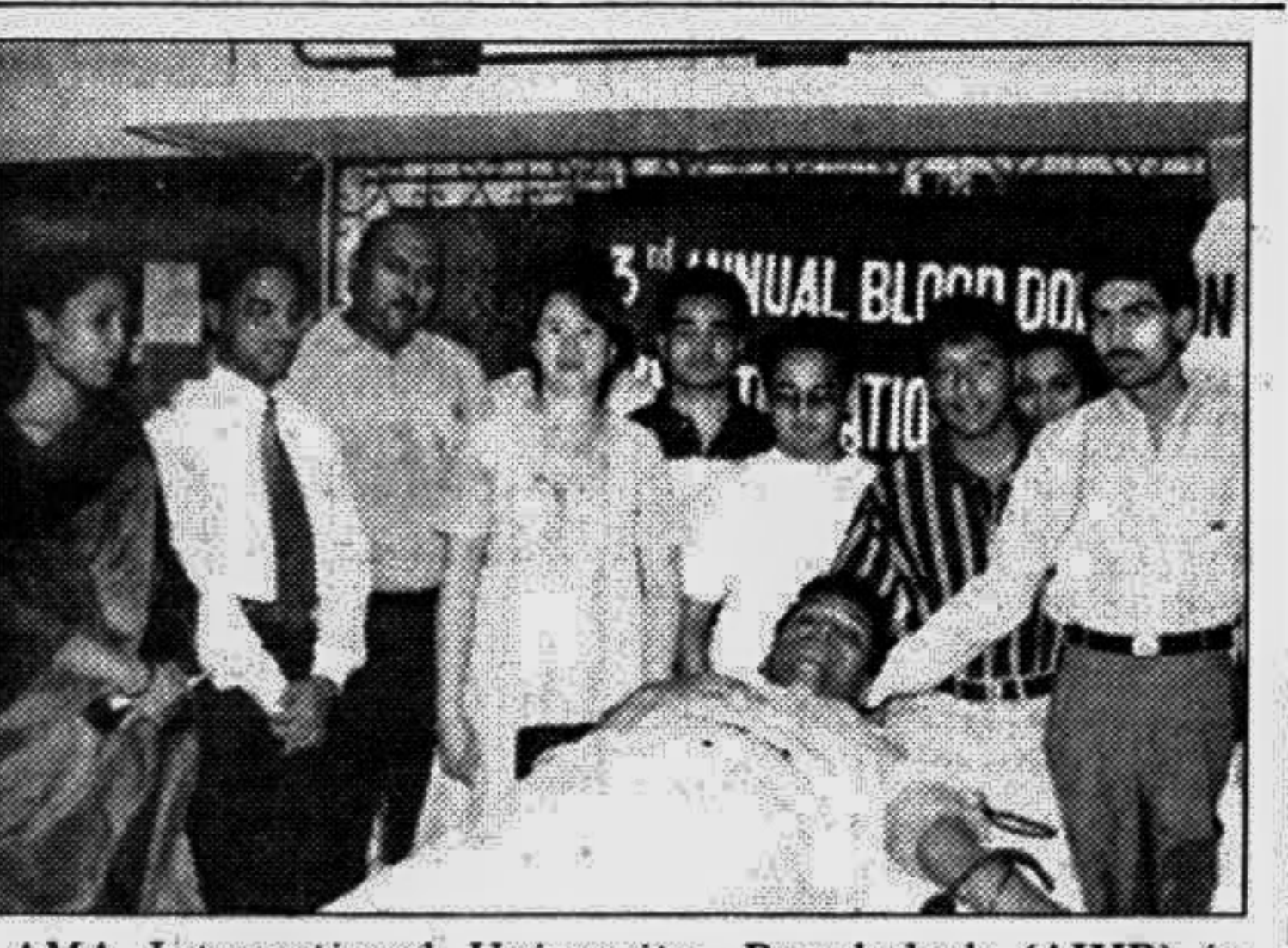
His spokesman, Ugur Karagoz, told AFP they did not know how Clerides, who is attending the Commonwealth summit in South Africa, had responded.

But the Greek Cypriots are unlikely to be impressed, particularly as Denktaş is still holding out for international recognition of the 'state' he governs.

The Clerides government wants talks without preconditions on the future of Cyprus, divided into a Turkish north and a Greek south since 1974, when Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in response to an Athens-engineered military coup in Nicosia aiming to join Cyprus with Greece.

Denktaş and Turkey say no face-to-face talks can take place unless the breakaway Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) is acknowledged.

Only the Greek Cypriot state is internationally recognised and international efforts to reunify the island have failed so far.



AMA International University—Bangladesh (AIUB) in collaboration with the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society organised a voluntary blood donation programme yesterday as part of the Fifth National Voluntary Blood Donation and Posthumous Eye Donation Day. The function held at the university students' community place was attended by Ms Carmen Z Lamagna, Vice-chancellor of AIUB as chief guest, Hasanul A Hasan, Director, HRD and Admin, Prof Dr Tafazzal Hossain, Pro-vice Chancellor, Prof Dr Anwar Hossain, Advisor, Coordinator and Dean School of Business, among others, were present on the occasion.

'Demands for referendum in Aceh can't be resisted'

JAKARTA, Nov 14: Rising demands for a referendum on self-determination in the restive Indonesian province of Aceh can no longer be resisted, national assembly speaker Amien Rais said according to a report today, says AFP.

"I have heard from all circles in Aceh, the truth is all components of the people here have agreed on the referendum for independence," Rais was quoted as saying by the official Antara news agency.

"As chairman of the MPR (the People's Consultative Assembly) I have stated my approval for a referendum," he said on Saturday.

The MPR is the country's highest lawmaking body.

Rais, who was visiting the resource-rich province, said demands for an East Timor-style vote had been a "political decision" by the Acehnese but it should not be organised hastily lest the outcome be "counter productive."

The people of the province on the northern tip of Sumatra island had also yet to come up with a figure to lead an independent Aceh.

The Acehnese should approach the independence option with a sound mental outlook, organisation and, social cohesion, he said.

"Don't let the noble ideal for a referendum fall foul of a vague reality," he said, adding he hoped Aceh would not turn into another East Timor.

Pro-Indonesian East Timorese militia went on a bloody rampage after the people in the former Portuguese colony voted overwhelmingly for independence in an UN-organised ballot on August 30.

Indonesia officially let East Timor go last month.

Aceh, a staunchly Muslim region of some four million people, has been wracked by violence involving soldiers, civilians, and separatist rebels in the past months.

Indonesian soldiers have been accused of widespread human rights violations during a decade of harsh anti-rebel military operations in the province that ended last year.

The violence continued after the operations ended, and some 300 people have been killed in Aceh since May.

Resentment against Jakarta and the military has been further fuelled by dissatisfaction over the draining of Aceh's rich natural resources.

The discontent has led to the rising calls for a referendum and some one million people held a massive rally in the Acehese capital of Banda Aceh last week to press for an self-determination ballot.



Two women devotees lie on the street as they pray to the sun god as their family members receive the women's blessing during "chhat puja", a popular Hindu religious festival in North India yesterday. Chhat puja involves the worship of sun, when thousands of devotees take a holy dip in the River Ganges as they pray to the setting Sun. —AFP photo

Directive to RO

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ive measures against government officials misusing power during polls.

Clause 86 of the order says: A person in the service of Bangladesh is guilty of an offence punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and shall not be less than one year, and also with fine, if he misuses his official position in a manner calculated to influence the result of the election."

However, Deputy Commissioner of Tangail Mollah Wahiduzzaman, who is Returning Officer for the by-polls, admitted that he had already received the directive to the RO to take steps to withdraw from the constituency the three officials attached with the PM's Office.

As regards the PM's political adviser, the CEC informed the court that he was "not inclined" to issue such a notice to Dr Malek "since it is not clear whether such a directive could be issued in view of his status as a minister."

Arsenic survey continues in six thanas

Emergency survey in six arsenic affected thanas of the country are going on in full swing, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

The survey is being conducted as a part of ensuring safe drinking water in 1000 villages of Gopalganj Sadar, Bheramara, Ishardi, Ujirpur, Hajiganj and Gopalganj under Bangladesh Arsenic Mitigation Project (BAMP).

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the three-month long emergency programme at Gopalganj sadar thana on October 2 organised under the BAMP.

Under the survey every tubewells of the villages would be examined with the level of arsenic contamination and awareness would be created against the chemical contamination.

Mongla port

From page 1

hand, brought the same charge against the casual workers terming some of their demands as 'quite unacceptable.'

About 28 ships were waiting for loading and unloading. The strike is 'destroying national economy, said the port users.

UNB adds: Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industries president SM Nazrul Islam called upon the Port Authority to restore normal activities fulfilling the just demands of the workers and employees.