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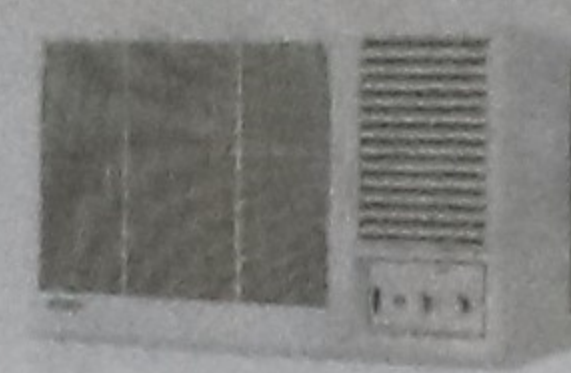
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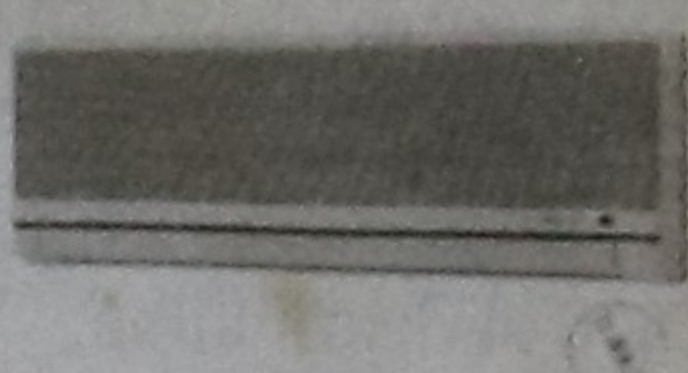
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## Sachin sits on the top

Sports Reporter

Champion India batsman Sachin Tendulkar set a new world record although his team lost to a spirited New Zealand in the final of the ICC Knockout in Nairobi yesterday.

The batting maestro, with an average of 42 in his astounding one-day career, topped compatriot Mohammad Azharuddin as the highest run-getter in the abridged version of the game.

Tendulkar, 14 runs short of equalling Azhar's 9378 at the outset of the match, scored 69 runs before running himself out. The 27-year-old hit a record 25 centuries and 48 fifties in his 253 one-day international.

SR	Tendulkar	M	R	HS
1	SR Tendulkar	253	9433	186*
2	M Azharuddin	334	9378	153*
3	DL Haynes	238	8648	152*
4	A de Silva	268	8334	145
5	S Anwar	211	7573	194

## Docs submit memo to VC of BSMMU

Postgraduate doctors of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University (BSMMU) yesterday protested the authorities' decision to abolish MD and MS degrees and diploma courses without consulting the doctors concerned, reports UNB.

They submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor of BSMMU.

The physicians under the banner of 'Postgraduate Doctors Association' said a meeting and brought out a procession on BSMMU premises, said a press release.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Dr Sakhawati Ullah, Dr Mohammad Hossain, Dr Abdul Gani Mollah, Dr Zahurul Haq Shachchu, Dr Kamrul Hasan Zaigirdar, Dr AZM Zahid Hasan, Dr Abdul Awal Rizvi, Dr Kazi Shahidul Alam and Dr Tariq Mehedi Parvej.

## Two shot, robbed of Tk 2 lakh in city

 By Staff Correspondent  
Muggers shot two employees of a Textile Mills and snatched away Tk 2 lakh from them at Kakrail in the city yesterday morning.

The injured were identified Abu Yusuf, 31, and Mohammad Satter, 30, employees of Shahi Textile Mills at Kakrail.

The incident took place when the two were returning after drawing the money from a bank at Dilkusha commercial area at about 11 am.

The bullet-injured employees were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A case was filed with Motijheel police in this regard.

When the two employees reached near Kakrail crossing, a gang of muggers waylaid their babytaxi. They shot at the two and snatched away the money.

# Summit in Egypt today

## Warring parties keep expectation low

JERUSALEM, Oct 15: Israelis and Palestinians played down chances that a summit with US President Bill Clinton in Egypt could do more than break a wave of violence that claimed its 100th fatality today, reports Reuters.

There were no reports of new unrest, but hospital officials in the West Bank city of Ramallah said Raed Hammouda Yacoub, 30, had died of a bullet in the head from a clash last week.

He was the 100th person to die in fighting that erupted after a visit on September 28 by Israeli rightwinger Ariel Sharon to a Jerusalem shrine sacred to Muslims and Jews.

All but seven of those killed were Palestinians or Israeli Arabs, and about one in five were children or teenagers.

In Lebanon, the Hizbollah guerrilla group said it had captured an Israeli colonel. Israel's army chief said no soldiers had been seized at the border with Lebanon, where Hizbollah captured three of his troops on October 7.

Channel Two television said

Israel believed Hizbollah may have kidnapped an Israeli businessman living in Europe. Cabinet Secretary Yitzhak Herzog declined comment.

**SHARM EL-SHEIKH (Egypt), Oct 15:** Palestinian negotiator Nabil Shaath said today the peace summit planned for tomorrow may not take place for lack of agreement on an agenda, reports Reuters.

The Hizbollah statement cast another shadow over the summit between Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat set to open with Clinton in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh tomorrow.

See also page 9

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak will host what diplomats expect to be a one-day summit, with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan and European Union foreign policy chief Javier Solana representing the international

community. Annan and Mubarak met in Sharm el-Sheikh on Sunday to prepare for the summit, and Arafat was expected to meet Mubarak there later in the day. Israeli and Palestinian officials say the summit might not even end the violence, let alone renew peacemaking.

Barak blamed Arafat for inciting the unrest. "What the hell kind of purpose could he have in having this kind of violence?" he told the US magazine Time. "So I already know quite probably we don't have a partner for peace, unfortunately."

Senior Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said Arafat would again demand an international inquiry into the violence, a condition that scuppered an Arafat-Barak meeting with US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Paris on October 4.

"I honestly don't want to raise anyone's expectations and I don't have high expectations myself," Erekat said. "I think the situation is going to be nightmarish." See page 11 col 7

## CAAB yet to provide new guns to bird shooters

By Shehab Ahmed

The Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) is yet to provide new guns to bird shooters at Zia International Airport to keep the airport free of birds threatening safety of aircraft while landing and taking off.

CAAB sources said its efforts since early this year to procure new guns to replace the old and often unserviceable ones have so far failed due to bureaucratic tangles. Its attempts to procure those through official channel Trading Corporation of Bangladesh (TCB) — bogged down on procedural issues.

Besides, repair of the six old guns to make those serviceable again took a long time.

As the two state-owned organisations fought over how to procure guns, at least six incidents of birds hitting aircraft took place in ZIA since March this year.

TCB declined to import guns in the name of individual shooters.

Last week, CAAB sent a fresh proposal that the Director of ZIA would have licence for the guns.

"We are now hopeful that TCB would accept the proposal", a CAAB official said yesterday.

CAAB also tried to replace use of guns. "But its move to obtain modern electronic echo system that emits sound to scare away birds failed because of high prices of the equipment."

When it sought proposals from suppliers, the lowest price quoted for one equipment was Tk 3.50 crore, the official said.

The sound system would also require change every two months because birds would become used to the sound. So the idea has been dropped.

Meanwhile, officials said vigilance has been stepped up at the airport. "Before each take-off or landing of aircraft, the runway is checked by mobile teams of shooters who also patrol it every half an hour", one official said.

Two shooters are always on duty at the airport, using buck shots to scare the birds away or shooting them down if they are on the flight path, he added.

Besides 10 bird shooters, the airport is also secured by four gunmen from the air force which uses part of the runway.

But keeping ZIA free of birds has become a difficult task. See page 11 col 8

## JS body asks authorities to make Biman profitable

A parliamentary watchdog has directed the authorities concerned to take all possible steps to turn Bangladesh Biman into a profitable organisation, reports UNB.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry at a meeting held at Sangsad Bhaban yesterday, also reviewed the progress of implementation of its earlier decisions.

The meeting, chaired by Bir Bahadur MP, called for taking pragmatic steps to reduce the sufferings of passengers at airports, improvement of passenger service, beefing up security and removal of structural weakness and limitations.

The meeting called upon all concerned to sincerely perform their duties to transform Biman, the national flag carrier, into a dynamic organisation.

## Japan to provide Tk 234 cr grant for debt relief

Japan and Bangladesh yesterday signed here an agreement on Japanese grant aid for debt relief amounting to 4766.489 million yen equivalent to about Tk 234 crore, reports BSS.

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Kazuyoshi Urabi and Dr AKM Masihur Rahman, Secretary, Economic Relations Division signed the Exchange of Notes on behalf of their respective sides.

Under the agreement the government of Japan will provide Bangladesh with a grant assistance of the said amount for producing the same effect as canceling the debt. When the repayment is made by a least developed country, Japan, instead of reducing the debt, offers the same amount as the repaid debt. So, the grant will enable the recipient country to purchase commodities and equipment from all member countries of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

The grant will be utilised for import of commodities and equipment especially for power plant and much needed investment programmes like chemicals, lubricants machinery, cotton, vehicles, pumps and spare parts.



Flood-hit people squabble over high-protein biscuits distributed by Concern Bangladesh, an NGO, at Shatani Primary School relief centre in Satkhira sadra yesterday. -- Star photo



## Miss America

Miss Hawaii Angela Perez Baraquio (front) reacts as she is crowned Miss America 2001 by Miss America 2000 Heather French (back) during the Miss America Pageant on Saturday at Convention Hall in Atlantic City, New Jersey. Baraquio, 24, an elementary school gym teacher, resides in Honolulu, Hawaii. Miss Louisiana Faith Jenkins was first runner-up and Miss California Rita Ng was second runner-up, followed by Miss Mississippi Christy May and Miss Kentucky Whitney Boyles. -- AFP photo

## 10 BCL activists hurt in clash in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 15: At least ten BCL activists were injured, two of them seriously, in a factional clash at Badamtala under Gourmadi upazila of the district last night.

Police and witnesses said, two factions, one led by Anish Sharif and the other by Kabir Talukder clashed over establishing supremacy in the area.

Both the groups exploded crackers and traded gunshots during an hour long clash.

## 5 killed as trucks collide in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 15: Five people were killed and 10 others injured as a truck carrying passengers collided with another near the Bangabandhu Bridge today. Four people died on the spot while the rest succumbed to injuries on way to hospital.

## Indian tribal rebels shifting bases to Arunachal state

ITANAGAR (India), Oct 15: Tribal rebels from various militant groups were shifting their bases to the far eastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh, previously untouched by separatism, officials said today, reports AFP.

Chief Minister Mukut Mithi in state capital of Itanagar said the outlawed National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN) and the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) were moving into Arunachal Pradesh from nearby states.

"We are concerned about the reports of NSCN and ULFA taking shelter in the dense forests of our state and using our land as a corridor..." "We cannot allow our

## Court told as Bangabandhu murder trial resumes

### Entire army in Dhaka was involved in massacre

The hearing on the death reference of Bangabandhu Murder Case resumed yesterday after the Supreme Court's autumn vacation with the defence claiming that almost the entire army in Dhaka was involved in the August 15, 1975 massacre, reports BSS.

Advocate JK Pal, the state-appointed defence counsel for the fugitive convict sacked lieutenant colonel Khondoker Abdur Rashid, continuing his submission for the third day, argued that his "innocent" client was being "harassed unnecessarily" in this case in a bid to divert the "real incident".

The defence lawyer argued that according to prosecution evidence, the then army chief was informed about the tank movement on the very night of August 15 while the chief of general staff ordered the supply of ammunition for the tanks later. Advocate Pal also argued that

one of the prosecution witnesses told the trial court quoting his client that senior army officials knew about the August 15 plot in advance.

The mandatory death reference hearing began two days ahead of the start of the vacation on completing of appeal hearing and arguments for four convicts in jail out of 15.

The state has appointed 11 lawyers to defend the 11 absconding convicts with death penalty in line with the legal provisions in the death reference hearing required by law to confirm the capital punishment.

The prosecution side headed by Senior Advocate Serajul Haq is likely to start its submission and reply to the defence arguments after presentation of arguments for the fugitives, hiding abroad. The convicts facing the trial in person are former lieutenant colonels Syed Farooq Rahman

(sacked), Sultan Sharif Rashid Khan, Muiuddin Ahmed (artillery) and ex-major Bazul Huda.

The absconding convicts are: Sacked Lt Colonel Khondoker Abdur Rashid, Sariful Haque Dalim and AM Rashed Chowdhury, former Lt Col Mohiuddin Ahmed (Lancer), S H B M Noor Chowdhury, Abdul Aziz Pasha, former major Shariful Hossain alias Shariful Hossain, sacked captain Kishmat Hashem, former captains Nazmul Hossain Ansar and Abdul Mazed and former Risaldar Mosleh Uddin.

The Foreign Ministry and police officials said the government has already traced some of the fugitives in the United States, Canada and several other African and European countries and is trying to track down others with the help of Interpol and police departments of the respective countries.

## Akhter's reply to EC notice

### There was no controversy regarding my JS seat

Star Report

In a reply to the Election Commission's (EC) notice, expelled BNP lawmaker Akhteruzzaman said that there was no controversy regarding his parliamentary membership which may prompt cancellation of the same.

In a letter on October 15 the EC asked Akhter why his seat should not be declared vacant. The EC move followed a request by the Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury who was earlier requested by the Opposition Chief Whip Khondoker Delwar Hossain to declare Akhteruzzaman's seat vacant.

Akhter, a retired Major defended himself saying, "There is no controversy regarding my parliamentary membership as per the Constitution. Therefore, there should arise no question to declare my seat vacant."

"I haven't violated any clause of the Constitution which may cause cancellation of my membership," Akhter said in his reply to the EC.

He quoted clauses 66(1) &amp; (2), 66 (4), 67(1) (a) (b) (c) (d) &amp; (e), 70(1), and 70(2) &amp; (3) from the

constitution and said Bangladesh's constitution does not bar a lawmaker from attending the session or assisting the lawmaking process.

"So, nobody has been given the authority to declare my seat vacant for attending the session," Akhter said, adding that it was "my sole responsibility to attend the parliament as a member."

The controversial legislator once again maintained that if necessary the EC could hold a referendum in his constituency before vacating his seat.

Akhteruzzaman joined the 19th session of the seventh parliament against the will of his party and was expelled from BNP on September 24. The opposition chief whip charged him for violating party decision, which he said, is tantamount to immediate resignation from the party.

The BNP and other opposition lawmakers are abstaining from attending parliament session for more than a year, excepting a token participation in the last budget session to fulfil the constitutional obligation to protect their membership.

"We want the center to provide us army along with additional paramilitary units to launch a counter-insurgency operation and drive out the militants from our state... It is our pledge to keep Arunachal an island of peace."

The NSCN has been fighting for an independent tribal homeland in the nearby state of Nagaland since India's independence in 1947. An estimated 50,000 people have lost their lives in the insurgency.

Another 10,000 people have died in ULFA-related violence in Assam, which has also stunted economic growth in the region.

## West Bengal govt forms spl cell to arrest Moslehuddin

CALCUTTA, Oct 15: The government of the Indian state of West Bengal has formed a special cell in the Ministry of Home Affairs to arrest Risaldar Moslehuddin, one of the absconding convicted killers in the Bangabandhu Murder Case, reports BSS.

Buddhadev Bhattacharya, Deputy Chief Minister of West Bengal said this while talking to a group of visiting Bangladeshi journalists at his Writers Building office yesterday.

He said authorities have reports that Moslehuddin moves between the states in eastern India. Two attempts have been made so far to arrest Moslehuddin, Bhattacharya told journalists.

The discussion covered a wide range of issues including the recent floods in the state and the Indo-Bangladesh trade.

Bhattacharya, who is also in charge of Home and Cultural Ministry, spoke of India's interest in importing gas from Bangladesh with particular reference to West Bengal.

He, however, made it clear that the decision to sell gas must be Bangladesh's own and not at the dictate of anyone.

## 7 employees of RU hall suspended for serving jackal's meat

 From Our Correspondent  
RAJSHAH, Oct 15: Seven employees of Madar Box Hall of the Rajshahi University have been suspended for serving the students meat of jackal.

The inmates of the hall laid a siege to the VC's residence on the night of September 28 demanding punishment to the employees responsible for serving the students jackal's meat at dining hall.

The authorities formed a committee to investigate the allegation.

The committee found five dining workers and two hall employees guilty. They are dining manager Hasan, dining workers Anis, Arif, Shamsuddin and Farooque, commonroom attendant Shahidul Islam and the hall gateman Joinal.

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## Five alleged terrorists held in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: Five alleged terrorists were arrested in the port city yesterday.

Pahartali Police in a raid arrested Abbas from Bacha Mea road area. He was wanted in four criminal cases, police said.

Double Mooring police arrested Jafar, 18, from Charlapara and recovered one light gun and some cartridge from his possession.

Panchalaish police with the help of local people arrested Zakir, 27, Mazur Rahman, 26, and Farid, 24, while they were demanding Tk. 20,000 from Rahmat store of Anturur Depot in the city.