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Aparna's 'cooking programme'

Aparna Sen, Editor of Indian fortnightly Sananda and former actress yesterday announced launching of a cooking programme on Channel 1 from Pahela Baishak (April 14) next year. Sen told a press conference at Hotel Sheraton in the city yesterday that she hoped the audience of both Bangladesh and West Bengal would like the programme 'Sananda Cooking', which is also a popular section of the magazine. — Starphoto

Malaria: 88pc people in Bangladesh at risk

TB kills 70000 every yr, regional confce told

By staff correspondent

About 88 per cent of the population in Bangladesh are at risk of attack with malaria and 10 million people are at the 'highest risk', speakers said at a regional health conference in the city yesterday.

Malaria cases reported are a gross under estimate of incidence of the disease due to lack of proper surveillance and information management, revealed a paper on 'Impact of Tuberculosis and Malaria on Poverty' presented at the conference.

The paper said malaria situation in the country worsened in recent years. In 1997, out of 68, 500 cases, 478 deaths were reported, followed by 528 deaths in 1998 and 551 last year.

Tuberculosis (TB) kills about 70,000 people every year or one TB patient dies every eight minutes in the country with more than 300,000 new cases every year, it said.

In his inaugural speech at the three-day 'Regional Conference of Parliamentarians on Impact of Tuberculosis and Malaria on Poverty', WHO Regional Director Uton Muchtar Rafel said, "TB and malaria have re-emerged which is becoming a serious public health concern."

Terming TB, AIDS and malaria as 'diseases of poverty', Rafel said, "Poverty, illiteracy, malnutrition and anaemia and low socio-economic status of

women were affecting the health of our populations. The growing recognition of the centrality of health to all development is one single trend in health development."

About malaria, Rafel said it is the single greatest cause of poverty in several developing countries. In this region, an estimated 25 million people suffer from malaria which is spreading to new areas.

Forty parliamentarians from the WHO-SEARO region are attending the three-day conference, jointly organised by the health ministry and WHO, at Sonargaon Hotel.

Speakers at the conference stressed that steady health development requires strong political will and social mobilisation, more than financial resources. This has been clearly shown by the remarkable progress made towards polio eradication.

Health Secretary Syed Alamgir Farouk Choudhury in his welcome speech said, "The parliamentarians and leaders who can influence the government and social thinking can play a significant role in securing a greater share for the health sector from the national resources as well as in creating an awareness about public health aspects."

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Formulate guideline to combat TB, malaria: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called for formulating an effective guideline for control and prevention of deadly diseases like tuberculosis and malaria to reduce impacts of the public health hazards on poverty, reports UNB.

"Otherwise, our achievements in the health sector would be severely threatened. We hope that we would be able to control these diseases within a short time," she said while inaugurating a 3-day regional conference of parliamentarians on impact of tuberculosis and malaria on poverty at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

Members of Parliament and representatives from Bhutan, India, Indonesia, the Maldives, Myanmar, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand are attending the meeting aimed at creating awareness of parliamentarians about the impacts of the killer diseases on the health of the poor and WHO

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All the main roads in Karwan Bazar are piled with mountains of rubbish. Legal businessmen of the markets expect the Mayor to clean up the whole area and remove all illegal occupants following the instruction of the Prime Minister (Story on page 1).

— Star

Bush certified as winner of Florida vote

WASHINGTON, Nov 27: Florida's secretary of state certified George W. Bush the winner over Al Gore Sunday night in the state's near-deadlocked presidential vote but court contests left in doubt which man will be the ultimate victor and 43rd president of the United States, reports AP.

Bush said he had won the White House and asked Gore to reconsider his challenges.

"Now that the votes are counted, it is time for the votes to count," Gov. Bush said from the state capital in Austin, Texas, after Secretary of State Katherine Harris, a campaign supporter, announced that he had captured Florida by an infinitesimal 537-vote margin.

Bush announced that running

mate Dick Cheney will direct his transition operations in Washing-



Katherine Harris

ton, the government agency that would make the arrangements was not ready to do so.

Beth Newburger of the General Services Administration said "There is not an apparent winner and the outcome is unclear" so the agency cannot authorize transition funds and offices for Bush.

Bush tried to pre-empt Gore with a campaign to persuade Americans that the election is over with, and that the outcome announced in Florida should be the last word.

Sen. Joe Lieberman, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, already had declared that it won't be, declaring that he and Gore had no choice but to challenge the Florida certification.

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20 injured as Muslim devotees clash in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 27: At least 20 people were injured in a clash between two groups of Muslim devotees at Tinpool Mosque near Reazuddin Bazar today, police and witnesses said.

The trouble began following an altercation between the two groups at 1pm over use of microphone during prayer time at mosque. One group wanted to use microphone while another opposed it.

The injured were admitted to the hospital and private clinics.

Police arrested 22 people during the clash. Police cordoned off the mosque after bringing the situation under control. A tense situation prevailed in and around Tinpool crossing while traffic came to a halt for three hours from 1 pm, witnesses said.

Vested quarters oppose reforms fearing loss of their interest

Temple tells FBCCI seminar in city

By Staff Correspondent

World Bank Country Director Frederick T Temple yesterday stressed reforms to reduce 'cost of business' adding that certain quarters oppose those fearing loss of their interest.

Every political party should have reforms on their election agenda, he told a seminar on Private Sector Development and World Bank's Contribution in the city. The seminar was jointly organised by the WB and the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI).

Temple said a section of government officials oppose reforms fearing that it would reduce their responsibilities and downsize the bureaucracy. "Some politicians don't want to give up sources of patronage, political power and corrupt income," he said.

"Some workers fear loss of jobs. Some labour leaders fear loss of power and, in some cases, dishonest income," he said. The government should

improve the environment to accelerate private sector-led growth, he added.

Temple said some private firms enjoy markets protected by high tariff, but do not want to repay bank loans.

Speaking on the occasion, former president of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) AKM Shamsuddin criticised the World Bank saying that the bank which always advocates transparency and accountability is "clogged with huge bureaucracy".

After years of consultations and preparing "tonnes of papers", the IFC, WB's private sector lending arm, declined to give any assistance to the much needed Central Depository System (CDS) for the country's capital market, he said.

Increasing cost of business due to increase in cost for bureaucrats is a major hindrance to growth of private sector, he said.

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Road accidents kill six in 2 districts

By Staff Correspondent

At least six people were killed and 50 others injured in separate road accidents in Narayanganj and Bagerhat districts yesterday.

Of them, four were killed in Arahazur Upazila of Narayanganj and two in Chitalmari Upazila of Bagerhat.

Our Narayanganj Correspondent reports: Four people were killed and 25 others injured in a bus-truck collision on Dhaka-Sylhet Highway in Chhanpara area under Arahazur Upazila at noon yesterday.

Police and witnesses said the accident occurred when a Kishoreganj bound bus from Dhaka collided head on with a speeding truck coming from opposite direction, leaving four dead on the spot.

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Procurement target of Aman paddy, rice fixed at 2.50 lakh tonnes

The Cabinet yesterday approved the proposal for procurement target and prices of Aman paddy and rice for the 2000-2001 season, reports BSS.

The approval was given at a regular meeting of the cabinet at the Prime Minister's Office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The meeting fixed the procurement target of paddy and rice at 2.50 lakh metric tons for the season, an official handout said.

It also fixed Tk 8 for procurement of per kilogram of paddy and Tk 12.50 per kilogram of rice. The cabinet approved the amendment proposals of Bangladesh Water and Power Development Board Order 1972, Rural Electrification Board Ordinance 1977 and Dhaka Electricity Supply Authority (DESA) Act, 1990.

These amendment proposals were placed before the cabinet to implement the government.

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AL, opposition activists clash: 50 injured

20 shops, 3 cinema halls set afire in Sirajgang

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 27: At least 50 people were injured, 17 of them seriously, in a clash between the activists of ruling AL and four-party opposition alliance at Belkuchi Upazila headquarters in the district today.

Twenty houses, three cinema halls and several shops were ransacked and set on fire during the clash.

Of the seriously injured, ten including JP leader Shahidul Islam were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital while the rest to different clinics in the town.

He was later referred to the orthopaedic (Pangu) Hospital in Dhaka as his condition deteriorated.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted at about 5:30 pm when activists of four-party alliance attacked a hotel belonging to an AL leader at Mukundagati Bazar. Five AL activists were injured during the attack.

The BNP-led opposition alliance brought out a procession urging all to maintain sanctity of the Holy Ramadan beginning tomorrow.

The situation turn worse when the processionists set fire to a medicine shop owned by thana AL vice president Fazlul Haq.

Witnesses said activists of AL and opposition alliance chased each other, fired gunshots and exploded crackers during the clash that lasted about 15 minutes.

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Inqilab editor files writ

By SC Correspondent

The Editor of daily Inqilab A.M.M. Bahauddin and publisher yesterday filed a writ petition against the secretary to the Home Ministry, IGP and five first class magistrates.

He filed the petition before a division bench of the High court comprising Justice Abu Sayed Ahmad and Justice Khadamul Islam Chowdhury.

He called upon the respondents to show cause why the impugned proceedings taken and orders passed therein issuing warrants of arrest against the petitioners shall not be declared to have been taken and passed without lawful authority and is of no legal effect.

Khandakar Mahbub Uddin Ahmed and Barrister Moudud Ahmed appeared on behalf of the petitioner.

No date has been fixed for hearing, however.

Warrants were issued by different courts against the editor and the publisher of the daily for publishing a parody of the national anthem in its October 20 issue.

Shikdar, 43 others acquitted of charge in police assault case

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 27: Forty-four accused including condemned prisoner Ershad Ali Shikdar have been acquitted of the charge in a police assault case.

The judgement was delivered on Sunday by the Additional District and Sessions Judge who is conducting the special court to try all murder and criminal cases against Ershad and his accomplices.

The case was lodged by S.I. Alamgir Hossain of Khulna thana as complainant on May 18 last year.

The prosecution story in brief: Ershad Shikdar and his armed accomplices attacked S.I. Alamgir and other forces of Khulna thana at Skid Ghat on May 17.

The police team came under attack when S.I. Alamgir and his forces were rescuing Juba League leader Khalid Hossain. AL activist Monir and his younger brother Chayan from Skid Ghat.

Juba League leader Khalid Hossain died on way to general hospital.

S.I. Alamgir sustained injuries from the splinters of hand bombs that were hurled at police team during rescue operation.

Twenty one out of 44 accused were tried in absentia, while 23 others were present in the special court of Hasan Imam.

The accused were acquitted of the charge due to lack of evidences.



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Asstt. General Manager
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