

**Inside Today**  
**International**



**Pakistan and India should negotiate a settlement to Kashmir dispute, otherwise it could lead to disaster, warns Mirza Aslam Beg**  
Page 5

**Article**

**Despite repeated ceasefire declarations, the conflict has raged on thanks largely to the flow of arms into the loose-knit federation created by Josef Tito now being torn apart by his heirs**  
Page 4

**Sport**



**Pakistan beat India to lift Wills Trophy in Sharjah**  
Page 10

**Business**

**SAARC will launch plan next month to raise living standards by liberalising trade**  
Page 7

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**When architects go in for urban planning they have the chance to learn about form, texture and design in painting, but few take painting lessons as seriously as Salam had done**  
Page 3

**Feature**

**Banking and Finance**  
Capital Market Development : Internationalisation  
Page 8

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Student shot**  
A student activist was injured when shot at allegedly by a group of youths at his home at West Nakhalpara Friday afternoon. Barkatullah (24), a private B Com examinee and an activist of Awami League-backed Chhatra League, was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet wound on his right leg, hospital and family sources said. One Munna allegedly led the attack, reports UNB.

**5 more held for killing cop**  
SIRAJGONJ, Oct 25: Police arrested five more activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on charges of killing constable Shakhatay Hossain and ransacking Government office and property on October 18.

## Official death toll 2100, over 1.5 lakh attacked Diarrhoea spreads to 30 dists

By Staff Correspondent

Diarrhoea continues to spread unabated and 30 districts have already come under its attack.

Official sources said last night that since September 1, a total of 1,47,265 people have been attacked with the disease and 2100 of them died so far.

However, unofficial sources said the number of diarrhoea victims would be much higher, since all the cases, particularly from remote areas, were not reported to authorities. According to the unofficial estimate over five thousand people died of this disease while several lakhs were attacked.

When contacted, officials of the Health Ministry said that the outbreak of diarrhoea at this time was a seasonal inci-

dence every year. But this time it is much more severe mainly because of the effect of the flood. Scarcity of drinking water coupled with malnutrition has aggravated the situation. However, the officials hope that the situation would be controlled within a couple of weeks.

But experts say that the scarcity of drinking water is not the only reason which has been causing diarrhoea for the last two months. According to them, intake of sub-standard food is causing spread of the disease, particularly in the northern districts where millions were badly affected by the recent flood.

"Only medicine and saline cannot improve the diarrhoea

situation unless adequate food and succour are arranged for the affected people," said an expert.

According to government sources, spread of diarrhoea was reported from different upazilas of Sylhet district Friday, which raised the number of affected districts to 30. Besides in the 16 districts of Rajshahi division, the disease has broken out in Magura, Manikganj, Jamalpur, Tangail, Netrokona, Kishoreganj, Sunamganj, Mymensingh, Habiganj, Sherpur, Chandpur, Maulvibazar and Kushtia.

Another 4281 people were attacked in these districts in 24 hours till Friday morning while 26 persons died during the period. Highest death of

four occurred in Sherpur.

Nilphamari is the worst affected by diarrhoea where, according to official estimate 217 people died in 56 days. But, other sources claim that the death toll in the district has already crossed 1000. In Pabna, 138 deaths have been officially recorded.

Reports reaching from Sylhet says that the disease broke out in different areas of the Sadar, Companyganj, Goainghat and Zakiganj upazilas. Diarrhoea also spread to the Sadar upazila and Jagannathpur in Sunamganj district.

BSS adds: Health and Family Welfare Secretary M Mokammel Haque Saturday

## Anti-brothel campaigners call hartal after clash with police

**From Our Correspondent**  
NARAYANGANJ, Oct 25: At least 20 people, including three policemen, were injured when clashes broke out between the anti-brothel processionists and the police here this afternoon.

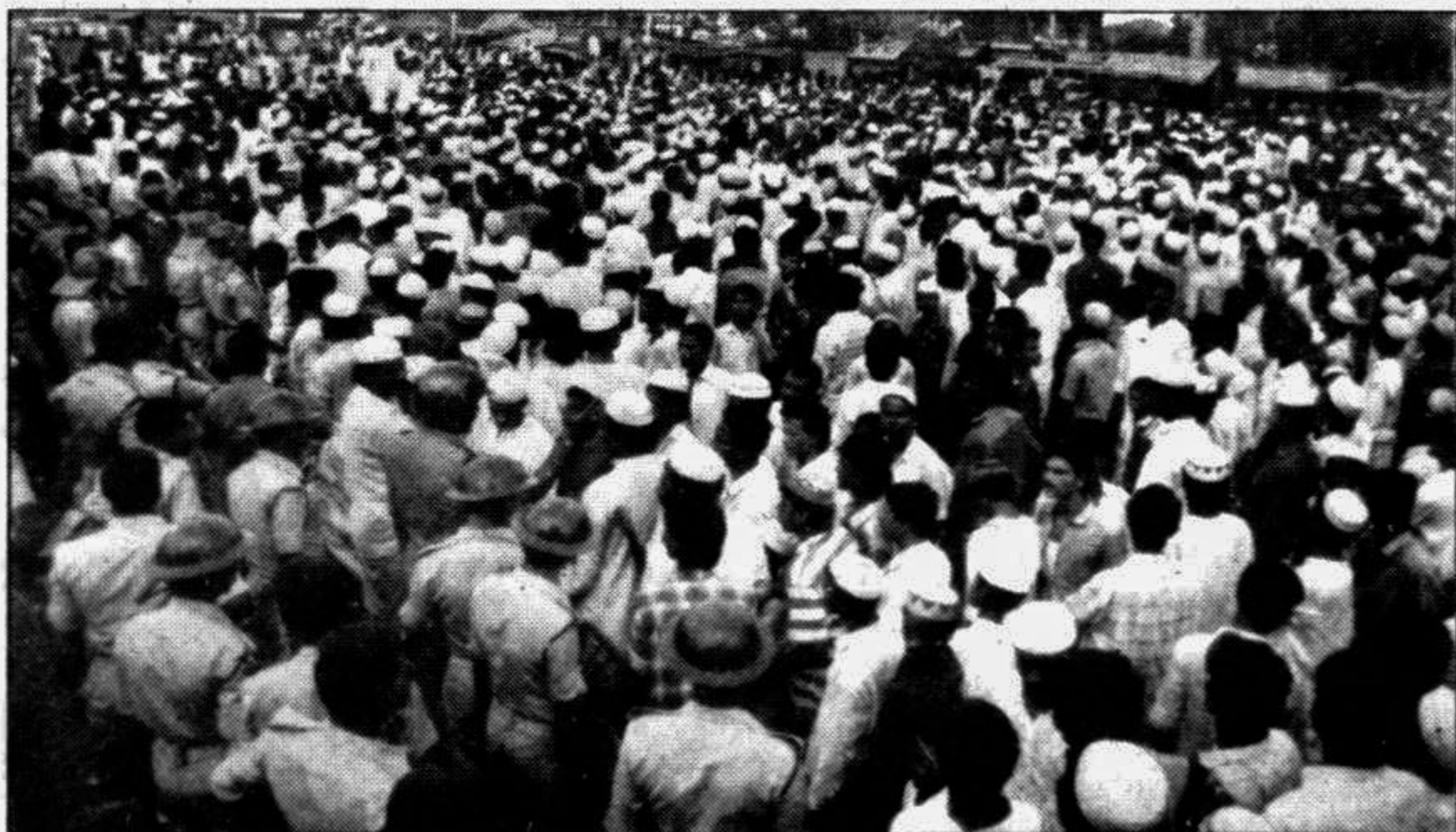
Police arrested 18 persons, including an ex-commissioner of the local paurasava, during the clashes. The Unislamic Activities Resistance Committee (UARC), which organised the anti-brothel programme called a day-long hartal in the town on October 31 to protest the police action and the arrests.

During the hours-long clashes police resorted to lathi-charge as the processionists started pelting stones at them, damaged motor vehicles and shops.

Over five thousand registered prostitutes of the Tanbazar, and Tantibazar brothels have become uncertain about their fate since the UARC threatened to evict them from the area. Besides, all the shops, including that of liquor and drugs around the brothels have remained closed.

The prostitutes are now in acute economic hardship since no clients turned up during the last few days.

See Page 12 Col. 5



**THE MOB AND THE WRETCHED**: Top: Armed police blocking the way of anti-brothel processionists who tried to force their entry into the red-light area of Tanbazar in an eviction bid yesterday. Bottom: Prostitutes with uncertainty and helplessness take cover under a shed.

## Delay in transfer of powers affects CHT peace process

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 25: The fifth amnesty has fallen on the deaf ears of the insurgent Shantibahini because of delay in giving more administrative powers to the elected hill district councils.

The delay has created mistrust among the insurgents about the government's good intentions and is hampering the peace process in the hill districts of Khagrachari, Rangamati and Bandarban, torn with insurgency for apart 17 years.

Transfer of powers in 22 administrative areas including recruitment of police and collection of taxes were agreed upon but only those relating to

agriculture, health and primary education have so far been vested with the local councils.

Top Shantibahini sources said the hardliner Shantibahinimen were hesitant to avail of the October 22 amnesty. Rather, they were looking for a 'bargaining platform' and a new 'liaison committee' from their side was in the offing at the initiative of tribal leader Hongshadoz Chakma for talks with the government.

The sources said the liaison committee would demand transfer of more administrative powers before any further move in the peace process. It was a political problem and not

an economic one and it should be looked from political angle, the sources observed.

Decision to hand over the rest of the 22 administrative subjects was taken in a meeting of the Hill Tract Cabinet Council held on June 9 with former Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in the chair and accordingly the concerned ministries were instructed to expedite implementation of the decision. But even after four months, the decision of the cabinet council has not been effected.

Meanwhile members of the elected hill district councils in a recent public meeting at

See Page 12 Col. 3

## Armed groups trade fire on DU campus

Our DU Correspondent

Chhatra League (S-A) and JCD activists exchanged over 30 rounds of gun fire in a clash a few minutes before Friday midnight on Dhaka University campus.

The armed groups traded fire for about 15 minutes from positions near Mohsin Hall, Surjaseen Hall and Arts Faculty building.

## Tk 56 lakh gold haul

Customs officials at Zia International Airport seized 700 tola gold valued at Taka about 56,00,000 (fifty six lakh) soon after the arrival of a Thai Airlines flight, a Customs press release said, reports BSS.

## Tornado sweeps city suburb

At least 30 tin-sheds were blown away when a tornado that swept over some parts of Meradia under Subujbag Thana in Dhaka on Friday evening, reports BSS.

The tornado which originated from a nearby flooded beel, during its two-minute duration damaged dwelling houses and other properties.

The tornado also blew away two earth carrying boats. The fate of the boatmen could not be known immediately.

Another boat with four youngmen aboard also capsized. They were later rescued by the villagers.

Details of losses or damage could not be ascertained, be-

cause of darkness.

Talking to BSS, Bahar Chowdhury said out of 17 houses in a small strip of land on the beel, 16 were blown away. About 14 other houses were also blown away by the tornado in the Uttarpura of the beel area, about one and a half kilometres east of Rampura television station.

Fire Service personnel who reached the spot about four-and-a-half hours after the tornado carried out search and rescue operations.

One woman identified as Gul Bahar (60) was injured when a flying piece of CI sheet hit her on the head. She was released after first aid.

## Top-level talks on KAFCO today

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

Shareholders of the Karnaphuli Fertiliser Company Limited (KAFCO) are expected to meet the cabinet sub-committee concerned today as requested by the government.

The meeting will concentrate on the key issues of the project agreement relating to issuance of letter of guarantee, refixation of gas price and mode of payment.

Today's meeting follows the September 30, decision of the Council of Ministers to implement the KAFCO project subject to fulfillment of a number of conditions which included revision of gas price in line with international and commercial prices and their payment in cash along with duties from the date of production. The cabinet decision was taken following recommendations of the cabinet sub-committee.

Transport workers' strike Dhaka-Ctg road communication snapped

FENI, Oct 25: Road communications between Dhaka and Chittagong snapped as the transport workers went on an indefinite strike today, reports UNB.

The strike was jointly called by the local unit of Bangladesh Inter District Transport Workers Association and Khagrachari protesting Wednesday's alleged attack on transport workers.

A group of miscreants attacked some transport workers at Shonagazi bus stand in the town as they refused to pay tolls.

The strike call was given after the district authorities failed to take any decision at a meeting

The cabinet also decided to request the KAFCO shareholders and aid giving countries and agencies to mobilise necessary fund for expanding gas supply network in the project area and ensure its uninterrupted supply. It also decided that Bangladesh should not give guarantee beyond her equity participation (which is 30 per cent of the total project). The interests of Bangladesh should be well protected in the KAFCO accounts opened in Singapore.

Finally, the cabinet decided that the conditions of the agreements and guarantees should conform to the economic situation of the country and safeguard the national interests.

Immediately after the cabinet decision on KAFCO, all the shareholders (excepting BCIC) of the 475 million dollar project expressed their concern over the fate of the project. The shareholders comprising Japanese, Danish, Dutch and British termed the government's action as a serious violation of agreements already negotiated and agreed and which form the basis for implementing the project.

The government of Bangladesh had fixed October 12 to complete all the formalities regarding the issuance of the letter of guarantee and give final 'go-ahead' to the project. After the deadline passed, the government wanted more time and finally invited the shareholders to participate in another round of talks.

KAFCO sources in Dhaka told The Daily Star that the situation has turned 'very serious' with the suspension of the construction work of the project. The contractors suspended work from October 1

See Page 12 Col. 8

## BJP dharna to stall transfer of Tin Bigha

CALCUTTA, Oct 25: The West Bengal unit of the BJP today announced a programme of dharnas, law violation and 'Rail roko' to stall transfer of the Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh, reports PTI.

The party General Secretary, Paras Dutta said that from October 20 to 27 conventions, meetings and seminars would be organised to mobilise public opinion against the transfer of Tin Bigha.

A BJP parliamentary delegation would visit Tin Bigha from October 28 to 30 and hold public meetings at Kuchlbari, he said.

The party, he said, would submit a memorandum to Chief Minister Jyoti Basu during his visit to Tin Bigha on November 12. Law violation, See Page 12 Col. 7

## Rajshahi chamber president joins BNP

The President of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI), A K M Mostafizur Rahman Saju, alongwith some committee members and prominent businessmen of Rajshahi lastnight called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha office and formally joined the BNP, reports BSS.

Begum Zia welcomed them in the family of BNP and said the party now had a greater responsibility since it was in power. The BNP is a people's party and the present government belongs to the people, she said and urged the new-comers to remain with the people and solve their problems.

Kabir Hossain, State Minister for Land, Aminul Huq, State Minister for Law and Justice, Azizur Rahman, MP and Kamrul Mannir, General Secretary of Rajshahi district BNP, were present on the occasion.

People won't spare Khaleda if democracy fails: Hasina

BOGRA, Oct 25: Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament has said wrong policies and inefficiency of the government have come as a disappointment to the people who have started losing trust in democracy as well, reports UNB.

The Awami League leader warned, 'people will not spare you (Premier Begum Khaleda Zia) and your government if the hard-earned democracy fails because of your wrong steps.'

Sheikh Hasina, President of Awami League, was addressing See Page 12 Col. 3

## Mobutu's villa set on fire

BRAZZAVILLE, Oct 25: Zairean protesters looted and set ablaze a villa of President Mobutu Sese Seko and pillaged the home of his new Prime Minister in Kinshasa, witnesses said Friday, reports AP.

Belgium and France were evacuating their citizens and troops from Zaire. Belgium Foreign Minister Mark Eyskens said, "It is apparent that there is much unrest within the army as the nation is sliding into a situation which is apparently uncontrollable and was unclear whether Mobutu had lost control of the army or, as the opposition charges, wanted the situation to deteriorate into chaos as an excuse to impose a military

government, as he did on seizing power when he was army commander in 1965.

The latest unrest in the capital is to protest Mobutu's firing of opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi as prime minister. Mobutu replaced Tshisekedi with Bernardin Mungul-Diaka, a minor opposition leader branded a traitor by his colleagues.

Belgium, former colonial ruler of Zaire, and France had pressured Mobutu to share power with Tshisekedi and move toward democracy.

Belgium, France and the United States installed Mobutu helped keep him in power as a bastion against communism during the Cold War despite

charges of gross corruption and brutal suppression. However, since the collapse of communism, they have shifted their support to the opposition.

Friday, France announced it was suspending cooperation agreements with Zaire and evacuating all of its aid workers.

France also announced it was withdrawing 150 paratroopers from the capital, the last of a contingent of nearly 1,000 and ordered its citizens out. French and Belgian troops, who entered Zaire last month to protect foreigners during the first wave of riots and pillaging, were seen by many as the last stabilising force in the

troubled nation.

France also said it would close its consulate in the mining capital of Lubumbashi, flashpoints of the latest violence, as soon as the evacuation is complete. The United States is considering closing its consulate in Lubumbashi as well. France says it will reduce its diplomatic staff in Kinshasa to a minimum after that city's evacuation is complete.

France has 600-700 citizens remaining in Zaire. The United States has told the 400 remaining Americans to get out, saying it was irresponsible to stay.

Belgium Foreign Minister Eyskens said the government See Page 12 Col. 1



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