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**Inside Today**

**International**



Prince Norodom Sihanouk returns home today after nearly 13 years in exile  
 Page 5

**Article**

The role of the UN in the post-Cold War era  
 Page 4

**Business**

Saifur Rahman assures all facilities to foreign investors  
 Page 6

**Metropolitan**

Dhaka Day by Day



Academic training is absolutely essential for artistic creation, says Shuvaprasanna  
 Page 3

**Feature**

Science and Technology

Research on sunspots challenges accepted ideas  
 Page 8

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**BJP leader shot dead**

AGARTALA, Nov 13: Shyam Hari Sharma, the BJP Secretary and candidate for the by-election to the Agartala-six assembly constituency, was shot dead tonight by unknown miscreants as he was addressing an election meeting near the Lalbahadur Club here, according to official sources, reports PTI.

**Youngman found dead**

A youngman was found dead in a waterbody near Bashbari Glass Factory at Mohammadpur in the city Wednesday. Police recovered the floating body and sent to Dhaka Medical College hospital for post-mortem, reports UNB.

**465 electricity lines snapped**

The 2nd electricity court of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) snapped 465 illegal lines in a drive at Kaoranbazar, Old Airport Road and Tejjagon areas on November 11. The drive was conducted by the 2nd court magistrate. Huge quantities of wires and heaters were seized. Four persons were arrested and 51 cases were registered against illegal users in the drive, reports BSS.

**Hartal observed at Sarail**

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 13: A half-day hartal was observed at Sarail upazila today demanding judicial inquiry into Friday's bus accident and protesting police assault on a bereaved family chief. Protesters said Abul Kashem Faizhan, who lost five members of his family, hurried on Tuesday unpleasant words at police on duty at the scene of the tragedy and incurred their wrath, reports UNB.

## City sewerage pipe explodes : Prime Minister visits site

### Two killed, 14 missing

By Staff Correspondent

At least two workers were killed and another 14 reported missing when an underground sewerage pipe collapsed next to a storm drainage tunnel being dug along the Panthapath Road near the Green Road intersection Wednesday evening. According to Fire Service officials, one body was recovered from the spot and another five injured persons were rescued. However, Dhanmondi Thana said two bodies were recovered from the site. Witnesses said at least 14 persons were reported by their co-workers at the site as missing. However, law enforcement officials would not confirm or deny the report. When contacted, sources at DMCH said 6 persons were admitted at the hospital. They said about 30 persons

were involved in the earth work at the tunnel when the sewerage pipe burst open flooding the tunnel at around 6.30 pm. Many of the workers were swept off their feet by the onrush of water and subsequently some of them were trapped against the protection wall erected along the north side of the tunnel, they added. The tunnel was being dug up from the Begunbari Jheel to the corner of Green Road as part of the Storm Water Drainage Improvement Project being implemented by WASA with Japanese assistance. UNB adds: Nearly 100 fire-fighters split into five units were pumping water out of the ditch in a frantic search for bodies under the debris. After recovery of the body, See Page 12 Col. 5



Fire Service personnel rescuing workers trapped when an underground sewerage pipe near Panthapath-Green Road intersection collapsed on Wednesday. —Star photo

### BAU Dy Registrar abducted, freed

Our BAU Correspondent

AGRI VARSITY (Mymensingh), Nov 13: A group of students today abducted the Deputy Registrar of the University and held him hostage for about five hours. Abducting Deputy Registrar ATM Ruhul Amin from near the Mymensingh Zila School at about 11 am the abductors held him for five and a half hours in the Anandamohan College hostel demanding security on campus and postponement of today's third year final examinations of the agricultural faculty. However, the examinations were held amid tight police guard with only 13 out of the 200 examinees remaining absent. A BAU source identified the abductors as workers of the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A). Witness said that the abductors first took the Deputy Registrar to the Vice-Principal's room in

Anandamohan College at about 11 am and later shifted him to the college hostel. He was released at 4.30 pm after negotiations between the abductors and a delegation comprising local political leaders and a BAU engineer. At around 7.30 am today, another group of students detained two buses of the BAU at the Anandamohan College campus. Police freed the buses later. Blank shots were also heard near the Soharwardi hall of the BAU at midnight last night. Tension has been prevailing on the BAU campus since activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Chhatra League (S-A) clashed there on November 11. Meanwhile, teachers of the University have decided to observe a day-long strike tomorrow (Thursday) in demand of effective initiatives by the authorities to check terrorism on the campus.

### 'People have right to watch head of govt on TV'

Information Minister Nazmul Huda on Wednesday said the people have the right to watch on the television the important programmes of the persons whom they had voted to power, particularly the head of the government. In this context, he drew a parallel between the television programmes during the days of autocracy and the present government and said while the TV was earlier used as a weapon to legitimise the illegal rule, the popularity of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party had been tested before it came to power. "We saw the Saheb-Bibi-Golam during the autocracy because the government was desperate to cling to the illegal power" Mr Huda said adding the case is different with a democratic government now. He was addressing a function in city on Wednesday, organised by Bangladesh Human See Page 12 Col. 8

### Repatriation of 2.5 lakh stranded Pakistanis soon: Rabita chief

By Masud Hasan Khan

The repatriation of about 2.5 lakh stranded Pakistanis to their homeland is to begin soon and modalities to ferry them to Pakistan are being worked out, said the Rabita Al-Islami Secretary General Dr Abdullah Omar Nasseef yesterday. Dr Nasseef, who arrived in Dhaka yesterday (Wednesday) on a three-day visit, said repatriation would start shortly while arrangements have been made to assess the logistics and to categorise the citizens. Speaking to the press after a certificate-awarding ceremony at the Darul Ihsan University complex at Savar, the Rabita Secretary General, however, declined to specify the time when the repatriation would begin or its duration. A meeting of the Rabita Trust Board in Islamabad Monday decided to chalk out a plan to settle the repatriated Pakistanis in 32 districts of the Punjab province. Making a comment on the

possibility of using Indian transit facilities, Dr Nasseef said "Any country can come forward to help solve the problem... we'll welcome". Rabita, a Jeddah-based humanitarian organisation, earlier decided to fund an estimated three crore rupees for repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis, living in 60 refugee camps in Bangladesh. Responding to a query, he said that "some difficulties" in Pakistan as well as among the stranded Pakistanis here hampered the beginning of the repatriation process since Pakistan's announcement of taking back all of its stranded citizens on August 13. The announcement followed a meeting of the leader of the Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) M Nasim Khan and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Islamabad the same day. When asked to comment on the possible cost of ferrying the returnees, Dr Nasseef said "We have a fund... Inshallah money will not be a problem to resolve this humanitarian issue".

The meeting called for a comprehensive plan to bring back the nationals who opted to go to Pakistan after Bangladesh's emergence as an independent country in 1971. The Islamabad meeting, presided over by Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif, discussed possible arrangements for transportation, housing and economic rehabilitation of the returnees. The Rabita Secretary General said that three sub-committees have been formed to explore ways and means for the repatriation. A survey to identify and categorise stranded Pakistan nationals will begin shortly, he said. When asked to comment on the possible cost of ferrying the returnees, Dr Nasseef said "We have a fund... Inshallah money will not be a problem to resolve this humanitarian issue". Making a comment on the

### Gold smuggling case Proceedings against Ershad stayed

A High Court Division Bench of the Supreme Court Wednesday stayed the proceedings of the gold smuggling case against deposed President H M Ershad till December 12, reports BSS. The bench comprising Justice Anwarul Huq Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Ansar Ali also fixed the date of the hearing on December 10, but proceedings in respect of other accused should begin at once, they decided. Ershad, who was charged following further investigation, had filed an application of appeal before the High Court Division Bench against the order of the Special Tribunal. Earlier the charges had already been framed against six co-accused including two foreigners for their involvement. The other accused in the

gold smuggling case are David Anthony Chalker holding British passport, Bernard Rudgard with German passport, Air Commodore (rtd) Moynul Islam, Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority, Major (rtd) Alsaruddin, airport manager, Abu Taher, security officer, and Mohammad Moksudur Rahman, Private Secretary to the Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority. "Except Moynul Islam who still remains fugitive, all appeared before the court. Two foreigners carried 3,000 tolas of gold worth Taka 2.4 crore without valid documents from Singapore to Zia International Airport, Dhaka, on July 17, 1990. Strajul Huq appeared on behalf of the petitioner while A F M Shahid, Deputy Attorney General, appeared for the state.

### US to cut Armed Forces by 20 pc

WASHINGTON, Nov 13: The US military will reduce operations at 71 additional installations in Europe by 1995, bringing to 381 the number of such planned cuts in the area, the Defence Department announced on Tuesday, reports Reuter. The latest reductions mostly in Germany, are part of a deep cut planned in US defence spending over the next three years. Tuesday's list alone will mean a reduction of 3,646 more US troops and 1,276 American and local civilian personnel. The United States has some 300,000 troops in Europe and the Defence Department tentatively plans to cut that figure in half by 1995 due to tighter budgets and the death of Soviet communism. The cuts announced today are not the last you will see. We are reducing the size of the Armed Forces by 20 per cent by 1995 and the bases simply will not be needed, said one senior defence official, who asked not to be identified.

### Khmer Rouge violating accord : Phnom Penh

PHNOM PENH, Nov 13: The Phnom Penh government on Wednesday accused Khmer Rouge guerrillas of violating the peace accord signed last month to try and end 13 years of civil war, reports AP. "They are placing mines, attacking roads, and using their forces and artillery to attack us," said General Preap Tam, deputy political director of the Defence Ministry. "People are being killed and injured almost every day. We can tell you that the war is not over." The Communist Khmer Rouge slaughtered hundreds of thousands of people when it ruled from 1975 through 1978 and tried to turn Cambodia into a vast, primitive rural commune. The UN-brokered peace treaty allows the Khmer Rouge to return to Phnom Penh and contest UN-organised elections, expected in 1993, along with the Vietnam-installed government and two non-communist guerrilla groups. Many Cambodians fear that

the Khmer Rouge will use the peace accords to strengthen their position and attempt to return to power. On Wednesday the US representative in Cambodia said US-backed economic development and an end to government corruption are urgently needed to undermine the growing strength of the Khmer Rouge in the countryside. Charles Twining, the first US diplomat stationed in Phnom Penh in 16 years, said he was convinced that the Khmer Rouge has "gained strength recently because conditions in the countryside are appalling." "If people are not given the means for self-sufficiency, it just leaves fertile ground for the Khmer Rouge to make inroads," he told the Associated Press. Vietnam's late 1978 invasion drove the Khmer Rouge to the jungles, but they regrouped to become the largest guerrilla army. Related story P8

### Depression may cross Tamil Nadu coast this noon

By Staff Correspondent  
 Depression in Bay may cross Indian coast this (Thursday) noon or afternoon, Met Office forecast on Wednesday. The coastal belt of the country would experience light rain or thunder shower today and tomorrow (Friday) under the influence of the depression, Met Office added. "The data so far received indicates that the depression is approaching Tamil Nadu and Andhra coast of India but there are previous examples of change in direction at the last moment, a Met Official told The Daily Star. Dhaka Met Office in its latest bulletin Wednesday night said cyclonic storm over southwest Bay and adjoining west central Bay moved slightly westwards and was centred at 9 pm about 1440 km southwest of Chittagong port.

### Parliamentary body report on campus violence by Dec likely

Star Report  
 The parliamentary special committee on campus violence is expected to finalise its report by the end of December. According to concerned sources, the report will be placed before the House at the winter session of the Jatiya Sangsad scheduled to begin in January. Specific recommendations to curb campus violence will be incorporated in the report. The 15-member committee headed by Law Minister Mirza Gohar Hafez met six times till November 10. During these meetings, the committee recorded statements and views of the Vice Chancellor and Proctor of Dhaka University, the President and the General Secretary of Dhaka University Teachers' Association, Secretary of Home Ministry and the Inspector General of Police. In its coming meetings, the committee will invite leaders of political parties, which do not have representation in the Sangsad, to have their views on the campus situation. The committee will talk to the leaders of student organisations, professional groups and intellectuals. "We attach much importance to our discussion with the student leaders since their organisations are directly involved with the happenings on the campus", said some members of the committee. The committee members See Page 12 Col. 6

### Extension of entry permits a farce, says Dahagram union chairman

Our Correspondent  
 RANOPUR, Nov 13: The announcement by New Delhi of extension of permits to enable Bangladeshis visit Dahagram and Angarputa enclaves up to January 22, 1992 is a farce, Shamsul Huda Prodhhan, Chairman of Dahagram union, told a group of newsmen at Panbari mouja close to the Tinbigha corridor. Prodhhan himself had to flee the enclave and is now staying in the mainland because of continued protest by Indians against the transfer of the corridor to Bangladesh. No people from the mainland can visit the enclaves and none from there can come to the mainland because of the strong BSF cordon.

### Controversial Britons begin relief work today

Star Report  
 The two Britons, allegedly involved in sex offences, who arrived in Dhaka Monday, are now engaged in relief activities in Bangladesh. There are also allegations of their being involved in activities against the Bangladesh community in London. The two Britons have reportedly got the permission of the Relief Ministry to distribute relief materials among the flood victims in Sylhet. "The news of the World" in London published a news item on April 21 regarding sex offences committed by Justin See Page 12 Col. 4

### DMCH internee doctors observe two-hour strike

By Staff Correspondent  
 All the 32 internee doctors of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) Wednesday observed a two-hour strike from 10 am demanding acceptance of their six-point demand. They have also decided to observe work-stoppage today. During Wednesday's abstention from work the internee doctors also brought out a procession in the hospital compound and raised slogans in favour of their demands which include reintroduction of the in-service training system cancelled by the Ershad government, employment of the passed-out doctors in government service, increase in the monthly remuneration of the See Page 12 Col. 6

## Premadasa turns Lanka into autocratic state : Anura

COLOMBO, Nov 13: Sri Lanka's opposition leader Anura Kumardissan today appealed to all political parties to rally with him to curb the power of President Ranasinghe Premadasa and restore parliamentary democracy, reports AFP. In a statement released here, Bandaranaike, from the main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) called for the dismantling of the executive presidency which he said had led to the "emergence of an autocratic state." He said the total powers vested in a single individual

had created "utter chaos in the administration of this country", bringing about a "severe economic crisis" that the people were forced to shoulder. "All of us today have a fundamental duty to abolish the executive presidential system and reestablish parliamentary democracy and obtain for the people their rights," Bandaranaike said. "All political parties and organisations that believe in the restoration of parliamentary democracy... should join in the struggle with the SLFP and discussions should commence immediately to achieve this

objective," he said. Bandaranaike also described the alleged arming by the government of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) organisation as a serious threat to the country and the armed forces. The opposition and ruling party dissidents have accused Premadasa's government of supplying weapons to the LTTE during four months of peace talks between the two sides which ended in June last year. Bandaranaike said the "inconsistent and short-sighted foreign policy of the governing United National Party was re-

sponsible for the cancellation of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit last week. The summit was called off at the last minute following disagreement over whether the meeting should be held without the King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who withdrew at the eleventh hour. The Sri Lankan government has blamed Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's insistence on the participation of the Bhutanese King as the main cause for the summit debacle. Reuter adds: Sri Lanka

trade unionists joined journalists from state and private media in a demonstration for Press freedom today. More than 60 demonstrators displayed placards calling for media freedom and privatisation of the state-owned newspaper group and condemning a proposed Media Commission Bill. Most of those demonstrating in front of the Public Library in Colombo were members of the working journalists association. Journalists oppose the Media Commission Bill because they believe it will allow the government to control the

media. Placards called on police not to enter newspaper offices, a reference to an incident on Tuesday when workers of the state-owned Associated Newspapers of Ceylon went on strike for an increased year-end bonus. Police went into the offices and arrested members of the trade union which organised the strike, newspaper sources said. The strike was later settled when the management agreed to pay the bonus demanded by the workers.