

Use **Touch** Facial tissue
Table Napkin
Memory Plate
Paper Clip

143/A, NEW BAILY ROAD, DHAKA, TEL: 417424

The Daily Star

The finest ice cream from Italy
Made with all natural ingredients and Italian technology.
dolce vita gelato
gelateria, ice cream parlour
54 Kemal Ataturk Ave.
Ground floor, Banani, Dhaka Ph. 807888

VOL. 1 NO. 300 REGD. NO. DA 781 AGRAHAYAN 8, 1398 BS, DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 23, 1991 JAMADIUL AWAL 15, 1412 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

International

Gorbachev ready to quit presidency to keep union Page 9

Article

Global business exchange needs cooperation between chambers Page 4

Business

Group of Seven agrees to defer Soviet repayments Page 10

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

A restaurant now Shah Alam's dream Page 3

Supplement

Special supplement on the Round Table on "LDC to NIC - Prospects for Bangladesh" Page 5-8

Canal digging resumes

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, treading the path charted by her late husband, Friday launched a country wide massive programme for canal digging and re-excavation, reports UNB.

Canal digging and re-excavation programme was initiated by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in 1979 as part of his "production-oriented politics."

Begum Zia grabbed a spade and moved a spadeful of mud to begin re-excavation of the DND and Titas canals near Shantir Akhra, only about three kilometres from the city centre.

Some of her cabinet colleagues, local leaders, students and people from all walks of life, including women, also joined the Prime Minister in the inauguration of the renewed phase of canal digging and re-excavation movement.

Nearly one kilometre of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at Shantir Akhra was packed with the local people who gathered there to greet the Prime Minister.

Labour and Manpower Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Energy Minister Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Dhaka City Mayor Mirza Abbas and city BNP President Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shaukat Ali spoke at the rally arranged on the occasion. Local MP Mohammed Salauddin presided.

Begum Zia in her address said that the huge gathering at the site demonstrated the firm determination and self-confidence of the people to

See Page 12 Col. 1



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating the canal digging and reexcavation programme at Shanir Akhra near Demra on Friday. — Star photo

Committee to be recast soon Drug Policy to be amended

Star Report

The government has decided to review the Drug Policy of 1982 for making necessary amendments.

"The Drug Control Committee will also be reconstituted soon for the same purpose," a highly placed source in the Health Ministry told the Daily Star.

The source informed that the process to reconstitute the committee is now at the final stage. The new committee will be formed only with the representatives of institutions or organisations related with the health sector. No individual or anybody on personal capacity will be inducted in the committee. The previous drug control committees were constituted mainly with the individuals who did not represent any institutions.

In April, 1982, the Ershad government formulated a national drug policy and also promulgated Drug Control Ordinance in June that year. The Ordinance incorporated recommendations of the drug policy under which about 1700 brands of medicines were declared banned. At present, nearly 500 medicines produced by multinational or local manufacturers are allowed by the government.

Under the provision of that Ordinance, government formed the drug control committee which was authorised to give registration to pharmaceutical products. The committee was headed by the Secretary of Health Ministry. In 1984, a drug appellate authority headed by Health Minister was also constituted. This body was formed to consider appeals from the manufacturers or importers against any decision of drug control committee.

It has been alleged by the medicine manufacturers that drug committee did not meet for about two years though the committee is supposed to hold meeting once in every month. Similarly no meeting of the appellate authority was held in last three years. So the multinational as well as the local manufacturers have been facing a lot of problems to get their products registered. A number of appeals are also lying with the drug appellate authority.

Since its introduction nine years ago, the drug policy faced criticism from the physicians while the manufacturers expressed resentment over some measures taken under it.

According to physicians, essential medicines including multivitamins, cough syrups, hormonal medicines, combination products were declared banned under the drug policy. However, many physicians were often found to advise the patients to take those banned medicines. The patients also procured

See Page 12 Col. 7

Boutros Ghali chosen UN Secy-Gen

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 22: Egypt's Deputy Prime Minister, Boutros Boutros Ghali, was chosen on Thursday to be the new Secretary-General of the United Nations, reports Reuter.

Ghali, the first person from the African continent to hold the world body's top job, will succeed Javier Perez de Cuellar, a Peruvian, on January 1, at a time when the prestige of the United Nations has never been higher.

The 68-year-old Egyptian, who played a major role in the 1978 Camp David accords between Israel and Egypt, still has to be approved by the Security Council.

Since its introduction nine years ago, the drug policy faced criticism from the physicians while the manufacturers expressed resentment over some measures taken under it.

According to physicians, essential medicines including multivitamins, cough syrups, hormonal medicines, combination products were declared banned under the drug policy. However, many physicians were often found to advise the patients to take those banned medicines. The patients also procured

See Page 12 Col. 7

No scope for chaos: PM

DEMRA, Nov 22: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today gave a clarion call to all political parties to extend wholehearted cooperation to her government's efforts to change the lot of the down-trodden, reports BSS.

Addressing a mammoth gathering at the Sanir Akhra on Demra-Narayanganj Road after inaugurating the canal-digging programme, Begum Zia said "let us join hands and prove that we want all-round development and uplift of the down-trodden." The Prime Minister said democracy, earned through a relentless struggle of the patriotic people, does not belong to any party. She said those, believing in democracy and development, should work and cooperate in all the efforts, aimed at the welfare of people.

She emphatically said there is no scope for creating chaos now, since democracy has been established. "If we want development, we have to work together," she maintained.

Begum Zia in this connection stressed the need for maintaining law and order and said peace and discipline are the pre-requisites for attaining socio-economic development in a country like Bangladesh.

She said that to be in the opposition did not mean that the government had to be opposed in every sphere and on every count. "The canal-digging will not benefit any particular political party but will help the entire people of the country," Begum Zia pointed out.

"If this programme benefited the people, all parties should come forward and participate in it," the Prime Minister said.

See Page 12 Col. 2

Parties slate police action on garment workers

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League and several other political parties and workers' organisations on Friday strongly condemned the police action on the garment factory workers in the city.

The Awami League President Sheikh Hasina in a statement said the attacks on the garment factory workers by the police and hired mastans of the owners had created an unexpected situation in the country's garment sector.

Recalling the glorious contribution to the anti-autocracy movement by the working masses, Hasina, also Leader of

See Page 12 Col. 4

World Bank suggests BRTC privatisation

By Asiuzzaman

The World Bank has suggested denationalisation of the Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC).

However, BRTC authorities have refuted the WB report as biased and misleading.

A high official of the BRTC, who preferred anonymity said that the report was misleading the government adding that the BRTC could be made operationally profitable by restoring discipline in this sector.

The official said that during the past few years a total anarchy was prevailing in the BRTC which brought the Corporation down to this level.

"The revenue earnings of the Corporation started increasing since January after some stern measures were taken and it rose by 50 percent" the BRTC official said adding "on public sector transport system in the world is profitable."

The World Bank in a report

See Page 12 Col. 7

Maldives FM due today to talk SAARC summit

Maldives Foreign Minister Fathullah Jameel, now visiting different South Asian capitals for finalisation of a date for holding the stalled 6th summit of the seven-nation SAARC, is due to arrive in city today Saturday, reports UNB.

The summit scheduled November 7-9 in Colombo was postponed at the last minute as King Jigme Singye Wangchuk of Bhutan expressed his inability to attend due to domestic compulsion.

Immediately after the collapse of the conference, leaders of four SAARC countries met in the Sri Lankan capital and agreed on a proposal to hold the summit at the same venue before the year is over.

At the parley, President Ranasinghe Premadasa of the host country Sri Lanka, Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Pakistan Prime Minister Mian Nawaz Sharif empowered President Maumoon Abdul

See Page 12 Col. 5

One abducted by Sharbahara

JHENIDAH, Nov 22: A person has been abducted by the members of out-lawed Sharbahara Party Thursday from Dakhin Monoharpur village of Shaikupa upazila. According to a case lodged by step brothers Sujit and Bidyut of the victim was identified as Gobinda Baroi (25), reports UNB.

Diarrhoea kills 50

RANGAMATI, Nov 22: Diarrhoea claimed 50 lives in Bagachari upazila alone in two weeks ending November 14, official sources said today. However, civil surgeon office confirmed only six deaths saying that few more people might have died of fever, dysentery and malnutrition, reports UNB.

Indian official arrested

MADRAS, Nov 22: A senior Indian government official was arrested on Thursday for colluding with a Sri Lankan rebel militia suspected of being behind the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. R. Nagarajan, who headed the interior department of Tamil Nadu state from 1989 until January this year, was not implicated in the assassination, but police said he was very helpful to members of the LTTE, reports Reuter.

Dhaka to submit list of refugees to Myanmar

YANON, Nov 22: The visiting Bangladesh Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman today held official talks with his Myanmar counterpart U Ohn Gyan, reports BSS.

The talks covered regional and international issues and bilateral matters.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister raised the issue of movement of a large number of people into Bangladesh from across Rakhine state of Myanmar and urged the Yangon government to arrange early repatriation of the refugees to Myanmar.

It was agreed that Bangladesh side would provide the list of people who crossed over into Bangladesh from different parts of Rakhine state.

Documents and other proofs, if any, of their domicile and residence with reasons of their crossing over the border would also be provided.

The Myanmar side agreed to examine the list at the first instance and work out the modalities of the repatriation of genuine Myanmar people.

Earlier, Mr Mostafizur Rahman called on the Chairman of the State Law and Order Restoration Committee (SLORC) Senior General Saw Maung.

He conveyed good wishes and greetings of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to General Saw Maung.

The Chairman of SLORC wished success of the democratic government of Bangladesh.

See Page 12 Col. 7

SAARC ties with UN to be pursued

By Moinuddin Naser

Bangladesh will pursue the issue of establishing relations between the SAARC and other regional and UN organisations during the next SAARC summit likely to be held in Colombo by the end of the year.

The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) during its last seven years in existence could not set up relations even with the UN bodies for expanding its activities due to "negative response" from India.

According to a diplomatic source, though there was no restriction in the SAARC Charter to develop relations with any of the UN bodies, India did not like it.

When the matter was discussed in several meetings of

SAARC, India objected to it and said that it was not the time to go for any external relationship with SAARC, the source added. "Probably India did not want to see any other country or international organisation to see the interest of the SAARC countries", he said.

According to a Foreign Office source this time, all other SAARC countries have agreed to pursue the issue of developing cooperation between the SAARC and UN bodies. The source said, the SAARC Charter provided that it would uphold the UN Charter and would not take any step detrimental to the objective of the UN resolutions.

Executive Secretary of the

See Page 12 Col. 5

Israel ready to talk WB, Gaza issue

WASHINGTON, Nov 22: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said today he would be willing to discuss the future of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories in peace negotiations with Arabs, report agencies.

Shamir told reporters after meeting President George Bush: "The settlements are a part of the territorial problem and the territorial problem will be discussed and negotiated in the negotiations."

Shamir, in a brief exchange with reporters before departing for New York, described his 90 minute session with

Bush as "very friendly" and emphasised that Israel was ready to negotiate on all questions.

"We are the most interested to have peace in the Middle East," he said.

The United States has formally proposed holding bilateral peace talks between Israel and Arabs in Washington from December 4. The State Department announced in Washington on Friday.

State Department spokeswoman Margaret Tutwiler made the announcement shortly after visiting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir met

with President George Bush.

She said that invitations to be talks had been sent out by the State Department Thursday evening.

It was important to get back to the bargaining table, Tutwiler said.

Shamir had made a last ditch effort to shift the negotiations to the Middle East, but the sources, insisting on anonymity, said invitations were scheduled for early December in Washington.

The PLO warned today that the Israeli Labour Party's recognition of Palestinian national rights could backfire and

harm the Middle East peace process because it contrasts sharply with the policies of right-wing leaders in Israel.

Spokesman Ahmad Abderrahman told AFP that Thursday's decision lacked "political boldness" although it was a "half-way step towards" a resolution fully recognising Palestinian national rights.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation, said Abderrahman, was hoping that Israel's Labor Party would "fully accept the realities capable of helping to advance the peace process."

Instead, a party congress

See Page 12 Col. 5

Al Baraka Backs the Nation's Growth

Al Baraka— a Bangladeshi Scheduled Bank run on Islami Shariah. It's a joint venture bank of Al-Baraka Group Jeddah, Islami Development Bank, Bangladesh Govt, Local Sponsor Directors and general public.

At Al Baraka innovative management, dynamic executives and efficient staff—all combine to offer you best possible services.

Our 23 branches all over the country are equipped with computer, fax and telex to provide smooth and prompt services to our clients.

More branches will be opened soon.

AL BARAKA BANK BANGLADESH LTD.
The Bank which shares and cares
Head Office: 35/C Naya Paltan, Dhaka