Mujahideen fail to agree on political settlement

ISLAMABAD, Nov 24 Afghan Mujahideen eommanders have failed to reach an agreement on a political settlement of the war in Afghanistan, guerilla sources in Pakistani city of Peshawar said today, reports BSS.

They said the commanders. while generally in favour of a political accord to end the 13year-old war, were at odds over whether to back more talks between the Pakistanbased Mujahideen political leadership and Moscow.

The 200 commanders and their representatives met on Friday and Saturday at the

Zhawar headquarters of com-mander Jalaluddin Haqqani in eastern Afghanistan.

Mujahideen and Soviet leaders met in Moscow this month for peace talks, boycotted by three hardline guerilla groups but welcomed by Pakistan, home to some three million Afghan refugees and the main conduit of arms supplies to the guerillas.

During the talks, the Mujahideen promised to free some of the 60 to 80 Soviets, Moscow believes still held by the rebels three years after it withdraw its last troops from Afghanistan.

CU Honours exams begin amid strike

CHITTAGONG, Nov 24 Honours final year examinations began today (Sunday) at the Chittagong University amid an indefinite strike enforced by All Party Students Unity (APSU) since Saturday, reports

Examinations were kept out of the strike.

Doctors strike

From Page 1 Col. 8

College Hospital (DMCH), most of the 36 wards were run by the nurses, hospital sources said adding that the emergency squad attended the critical patients.

Professors and Assistant Registrars were present in their respective wards but normal 'round' were not held. Patients were also admitted in different hospitals, sources said. The out-patients were treated at the out-door and emergency wards. .

BSS adds: Internee doctors at the medical college hospital in Chittagong Sunday observed 24-hour work abstention and held a rally in support of their six point demand.

Bangabandhu Bhaban

From Page 1 Col. 8 in their possession, bearing Sheik Mujib's memory, to send them to the museum for preservation.

The Dhaka city museum has extended its cooperation in establishing the museum, the press release said and people have been requested to contact the AL office at Bangabandhu avenue or Advocate Gaziul Hug at 67/7, East Hajipara in this regard.

Upazila Parishad

From Page 1 col 7 "illegal and undemocratic" and said that the promulgation of the "anti-people ordinance" had undermined the power of the sovereign Parliament and its members.

The Association leaders called upon the people of all walks of life to protest against dissolution of the upazila administration.

Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) President Nur-e-Alam Ziku and General Secretary Prof Humayun Kabir in a joint statement Sunday resented the government step to scrap the upazila administration system.

The first instance of a politically false step" of the present government had frustrated the people, they said.

The JSD leaders said the decision demonstrated the present government's lack of confidence in Parliament and would increase suspicion towards the newly achieved parliamentary system of government. They urged the people to unite against the move.

Muslim League leaders also resented the decision to abolish the upazila system and said that it was an established system determined by the people.

Women's workshop on environment begins

From Nazmul Ashraf

COTEBARI(Comilla), Nov 24 Women representatives from various ecological zones of Bangladesh began a three-day workshop here today to identify the country's environmental dangers and recommend ways to avert them.

The workshop on environment, being participated by 121 women representatives of 66 NGOs working in 51 districts, is being held at the Bangladesh Academy of Rural Development (BARD).

Sponsored by UNIFEM, the United Nations Development Fund for Women, the workshop is intended to bring together women involved in development activities at the grassroots levels

Rajuk restarts demolition from

By Staff Correspondent The Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK) will start its 'massive demolition programme" of unauthorised houses, roadside shops and other constructions in the city from Tuesday

tomorrow

The dead-line given by the RAJUK for obtaining its clearance by the owners of such unauthorised constructions expire today.

Along with the private unauthorised (unplanned and unapproved) buildings, some government buildings have also been marked unauthorised, by the RAJUK.

The RAJUK authorities declined to give the number of such unauthorised construc-'tions but said they included buildings of some important governments offices and departments. The newly constructed annex buildings of Bangladesh Bank at Motifheel and police department at Rajarbag were constructed without proper approval of RAJUK.

The Building Construction Act, 1952 had provided an owner to take approval from the then city corporation for any construction. Latest amendment to the Act in 1987 required the government constructions also to take approval from RAJUK. "But the authorities concerned hardly get their plans approved by the RAJUK", said a RAJUK official.

Abul Faraz Khan, Chairman of the Building Construction Committee-2 of RAJUK, who is also an authorised officer to carry on the demolition programme, told The Daily Star, government buildings are still being constructed violating RAJUK's rules."

About the newly constructed building of police department at Rajarbag, Abul Faraz Khan said that they asked the authorities concerned to leave ten feet open space around the building as per RAJUK rules, but they left only four feet.

Asked what action will be taken against the unauthorised government buildings, he said, "We informed them and we shall go to them, but we have not yet decided to take any drastic action against them."

Mostafiz

From Page 1 Col. 8 jectives of the tour have been

achieved.

According to the agreement reached at the bilateral talks in Yangon (the renamed Burmese capital Rangoon), Dhaka will submit a list of the Burmese citizens in exile to facilitate their repatriation.

The Foreign Minister said the talks with his Myanmar counterpart U Ohn Gyaw also covered other bilateral matters, including expansion of trade and setting up of jointventure cement and pulp industries.

A border treaty and an agreement on border trade between the two neighbours will be signed in due course, he added.

Mostafiz said formalities for concluding the two accords had already been finalised.

Govt warns

From Page 1 col 4

'At present, all measures have been taken to build up a self-reliant economy but designs were being hatched to curb the process.

"The government will not tolerate any evil design to create chaos and anarchy, attack on government organisations and private property. disruption of law and order to ensure safety of public life and property, infuse new life into all sectors of economy and restore peace and discipline in all mills, factories, organisations and establishments in the greater national interest Stern legal actions will be taken against those involved in such activities.

Editor: S. M. Ali

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motifheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial offices: 28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000.



Eden College girls rejoicing as the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal won the college students union election Sunday. - Star photo



Democratic Students Alliance brought out a procession in the city Sunday in demand for arrest and trial of terrorists stalking educational institutions. Star photo

Sugar crushing begins with 46000-ton carryover stock

By S Y Bakht

More than 46,000 metric tons of sugar remained unsold from the previous season's production as the sugar mills under the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) began the 1991-92 cane crushing season.

According to BSFIC officials, the current season's production target is 2.08 lakh tons of sugar by crushing 24.5 lakh tons of cane.

A record 2.46 lakh ton of sugar was produced, out of a target of 1.99 lakh ton, by the 16 sugar mills under BSFIC last season. About two lakh tons have been sold so far.

About 31.5 lakh ton of cane was crushed during the last season extended till May of

Crushing began in some sugar mills during the first week of this month and by now 14 of the mills are in operation. The crushing season normally continues for about 120 days, but, to help the

growers, the mills remain open as long as the supply of cane is there, the officials Sugar cane price this sca-

son has been fixed at the last scason's Taka 37 per ton. The record production last

season exceeded the previous record of 2.02 lakh tons set in the 1988-89 season and also exceeded the total capacity of 1.99 lakh tons of all the BSFIC

The current BSFIC price of sugar is Taka 25,000 per ton, officials said. About 1000 tons are being lifted per day by traders and the remaining stock will be sold soon, officials hoped.

The price of sugar was reduced a number of times during the last season. In April this year the price was reduced from Taka 29,740 per ton to the present price of Taka 25,000 to make it competitive with sugar smuggled from neighbouring countries and boost sales.

The Commerce Minister had told the Jatiya Sangsad in April last, that because of the influx of smuggled sugar from neighbouring Burma and India, the demand for locally produced sugar went down.

India had a huge surplus of sugar last season owing to the loss of export markets in the Soviet Union and the Middle East due to the Gulf war, observers pointed out.

Thus, the price of Indian sugar declined and the rate of smuggling into Bangladesh increased, they added. Indian sugar was being sold in border areas for Taka 22 per kg against Tk 25 for locally produced sugar.

The total sugar requirement of the country is about 3.25 lakh tons per year, according to Commerce Ministry figures. The balance requirement is met with imports. The Trading Corporation of Bangladesh and private traders import sugar from the international market to meet the requirement.

Khaleda visits India

From Page 1 Col. 8 pointed out that certain politi-

cal elements are sadly trying to whip up agitation over "things that are groundless."

Asked by this correspondent why the West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu has added a new element to the issue by calling for fixing up a time-frame for movement of Bangladeshis through the corridor after its leasing in perpetuity, the officials said the matter is being looked into. "We're in constant touch with Basu and we believe, everything will go on smoothly, they added.

The South Block expressed its hope that the Ganges water-sharing issue too will be solved in a spirit of good neighborliness and mutual understanding. Reminding that India is seriously considering the life-and-death interests of "friendly Bangladeshis", they said New Delhi is moving "quite quickly" to settle the outstanding problem.

They cited the holding of two secretary-level meetings on the Ganges water-sharing this year alone as indicative of "significant progress" in this regard. "Bangladesh needs water badly during winter season and so does India," they pointed out and said there must be a lasting solution to the issue.

The South Block officials denied harbouring the Shanti Bahini insurgents and firmly said India has also asked the rebel tribal leaders to go back to Bangladesh and hold talks with the present democratic government to talk and find out a solution to their problems. "But we still firmly figure out the tribal refugees in the state of Tripura at 50,000 and

they are a drag on the Indian economy," they said.

Bangladesh has, however, disputed the figure. Four years ago, Dhaka put the number of tribal refugees at 29,000.

India also expressed its grave concern over the alleged "alarming" exodus of Bangladeshis — both Hindus and Muslims — into West Bengal and other states. The officials quoted a weekly as revealing that there are about 50,000 Bangladeshis in Delhi alone. "The influx is continuing," they

Asked by this correspondent why the Bangladeshis should prefer to cross the border to India despite growth of democracy in their homeland, the South Block officials agreed that there was no com-

Parties urged not to hold programmes near Press Club

The managing committee of Jatiya Press Club Sunday called upon all political parties, student organisations and sociocultural groups to refrain from holding any programme in the Topkhana Road in front of the Jatiya Press Club, reports BSS.

The committee, in a statement, also urged the government to take necessary measures considering the gravity of the problem.

It observed with concern that different organisations have been organising meeting. rally, cultural function, demonstration, sit-in-strike and hunger strike impeding smooth traffic movement and creating endless sufferings to the common people.

munal disharmony in Bangladesh now. "Maybe economic reasons are behind their exodus," they suggested. New Delhi deeply appreciates the way Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handled the situation following the "unfortunate incidents" in Ayodhya recently, they said.

The South Block officials said India is keen to reverse the existing trade imbalance of Bangladesh with India. But at the same time, the Bangladeshi entrepreneurs should make survey of Indian market and gear up their industrial production as per the market needs," they said.

Regarding current drive in Bangladesh against rampant smuggling, the South Block officials said they are equally enthusiastic about it. "Smuggling harms the Indian economy too," they pointed out. "We like all Indo-Bangladesh trade to be routed through official channels," they said.

Mentionably here, India has given a stall to Bangladesh free of all charges in the on-going international trade fair in the Pragati maidan here.

JCD activist beaten

By DU Correspondent A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal

(JCD) activist, Murad was beaten up severely Sunday noon allegedly by the activists of Chhatra League (S-A) at the SM Hall of Dhaka University.

Witnesses said he was dragged by the BCL activists from the Palassy crossing near the SM Hall and beaten up. He was later taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for treatment.

JCD sweeps **Eden Girls** College election

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP won a unique victory by sweeping all the posts of the Eden Girls College Students Union in peaceful elections held Sunday,

Helen Jerin Khan, Saimum Begum and Nastma Akhtar of JCD were elected Vice-President, General Secretary and Assistant General Secretary of the students union by scoring 1362, 1162 and 1187 votes respectively.

Their nearest competitors were Rokey Akhtar, Ferdousi Begum and Shahi Rakiba Irin of Chhatra League (S-A) who scored 498, 622 and 629 votes respectively.

The other office-bearers of the students union are — Baseratul Jannat Luna (1288)

 Religion and Social Welfare Secretary, Farhana Ahmed Runa (1254) - Assistant Social Welfare Secretary, Shakila Naznin Sathi (1292) - Literary and Cultural Secretary, Nilufar Yasmin Nilu (1270) — Assistant Literary Secretary, Shabana Yasmin (1303) - Sports Secretary, Sylvi Afrindi (1241) - Assistant Sports Secretary. Shahnaz Mirza Bita (1269) -Auditorium Secretary, Munira Jahan Irin (1301) - Publication Secrétary and Fahima Hossain Jubily (1299); Ferdous Ara Khanam (1154), Khondokar Farhana Yasmin (1061),and Shahina Begum Sima (1189) - Executive

Members. Total votes were 6208 of which around fifty per cent votes were cast.

Demand to arrest armed outsiders from halls

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University unit of Ganatantrik Chhatra Okkiya on Sunday held a rally in front of the secretariat and submitted a memorandum to the Home Ministry demanding arrest of armed outsiders from university halls and campuses.

Presided over by Suntl Das, the rally held the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League responsible for patronising terrorism in the campuses which has threatened the education of thousands of students.

The rally was addressed by Ziaul Huq Zia, Rokonuzzaman and Mainuddin.

The leaders said that the killers of Dr Milon, whose death toppled the autocratic ruler, were still at large even a year after the killing.

The Chhatra Okkiva, a component of nine student organisations, alleged that the present government was harassing the students and political leaders by reviving fabricated cases.

The leaders also demanded arrest of the culprits of the October 27 incident in Dhaka that claimed four lives.

Call to create awareness about hypertension

By Staff Correspondent

An open discussion on hypertension held in the city Sunday stressed the need for creating awareness among the people about the dangers of high blood pressure and its remedies.

Identifying hypertension as a health hazard, participants in the discussion urged the physicians, social workers and mediamen to extend their help in this regard.

Organised by the Bangladesh Society of Hypertension, the discussion was participated by, among others, Deputy Leader of the House Dr A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Health Secretary M Mokammel Huq and president of the society Prof SGM Chowdhury.

Govt-workers talks

From Page 1 col 4 Islam. The meeting was also attended by Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Another meeting was held between Textile Minister Maj (Retd) Abdul Mannan and leaders of textile workers at the BJMC office at Kawran Bazar.

Convenor of the Sutakal Karmachari Sangram Parishad Iqbal Majumder and other leaders and also high official of BTMC attended the meeting. The Labour Minister also

held a meeting with the SKOP leaders at his office where Nazrul Islam, Nurul Islam, Pratapuddin and Shafigur Rahman Majumder represented the SKOP. Sources said that the work-

ers' leaders demanded written

assurance from the government that it would not proceed further with its denationalisation programme which the Ministers declined. Consensus was however reached on the other points, the sources added.

The Midnight File

US pressuring Israel to accept Washington as talks venue

JERUSALEM, Nov 24: Cabinet ministers close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir criticised the Bush administration today for pressuring Israel to accept Middle East peace talks in Washington. "We are speaking here of an administration that doesn't try or pretend to show - even for appearancessome amount of friendship or effort to coordinate as was common with other administrations in the past," Health Minister Ehud Olmert told Israel radio.

Intifadah leadership calls for ending settlements

JERUSALEM, Nov 24: The clandestine unified leadership of the Palestinian uprising (intifadah) called today for an end to Jewish settlements on the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and for the two territories to be placed under UN trusteeship. But it made no mention of the upcoming second phase of the Middle East peace conference scheduled for December 4 in Washington, reports AFP.

UN military advisor in Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Nov 24: The United Nations Secretary General's military advisor arrived here today to determine how many troops Cambodia needs to keep its peace. "Our desire is to get UNTAC (the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia) in place as soon as possible said Major General Dimothy Dibusma who arrived in civilian clothes on a UN military transport plane at Pochentong airport. He was accompanied on his 10-day mission by UNTAC's military commander, Australian General John Sanderson, reports AFP.

Sajeda defends Hasina

From Page 1 Col. 4

play our role from our respective positions", she said. She deplored the comments of some newspapers about Sheikh Hasina's letter and termed the comments as

motivated and inconsistent

with the contents of the letter. The AL General Secretary also mentioned that leader of the ruling BNP and Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury also exchanged views with the leaders of different countries including the USA when he visited those countries during

the anti-autocracy movement. In the said letter, Sheikh Hasina informed the foreign diplomats and donors about "some serious developments in the political arena". She mentioned that her partymen have come under physical attack at various gatherings and their safety is seriously threatened.

She held the ruling party responsible for all these attacks. Hasina said that the government has been totally indifferent in this regard and there is ample evidence that those responsible for these activities are either supporters or activists of the ruling party, being encouraged to stifle the voice of the opposition politi-

cal parties. She alleged that the law enforcing agencies have failed to provide security against their threats and said, "our partymen and students belonging to Chhatra League are being intimidated in various ways. False charges are brought against them and even their kith and kin are not been spared by the workers belonging to the ruling party. This is the sad scenario prevailing in Bangladesh

Sheikh Hasina said that all these developments pose a

serious threat to the future of democracy in this country. She urged the diplomats and donors to remind the present regime to avoid recurrence of such incidents in future for the

sake of democracy. Meanwhile, several political parties chided Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina for seeking intervention of donors and foreign diplomats in domestic politics.

National Democratic Party

(NDP) leader Gias Uddin Qader Chowdhury denounced Hasina, saying her move was mysterious and contrary to political Dispatching such a letter tantamounts to "hitting the

newly-introduced democracy

at its roots," Chowdhury said adding it's "foreboding." in a statement, former parliamentary party leader of Muslim League Md Ayenuddin termed the letter as "unfortunate and unwarranted." It was also an attempt to provide an excuse for foreign in-

tervention, he said. Pragatisheel Ganatantrik Shakti General Secretary Wahiduzzaman also issued a statement protesting the con-

tent of the letter. Islami Shasantantra Andolon (Islamic Constitution Movement) leader Syed Mohammad Fazlul Karim termed the letter as conspira-

torial and audacious. Khaleguzzaman Dudu, another opposition leader, in a statement demanded legal ac-

tion in this respect State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda addressing a conference of the diploma engineers in the city said, seeking such interference would seriously jeopardise democracy now taking firm roots with the formation of an elected democratic gov-

Four medical colleges

ernment.

From Page 1 col 7 cratic movement. The foundation of the auditorium would

be laid on November 2, she added. The function was also addressed by Deputy Leader in Parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Health Secretary Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf,

DAB chairman Dr A K M

Kamaruzzaman MP and

Secretary General Dr Mohammad Atikur Rahman. The Prime Minister said steps would be taken to strengthen the free Friday clinic being run by DAB to ensure free healthcare facilities to the downtrodden people.

Begum Zia said the government wanted to make the hospitals more effective in providing healthcare to the suffering humanity. She called upon the doctors and nurses to do their respective duties properly and help the present government to achieve its target

in the health sector. She called upon the physicians to go to the rural people to give proper treatment.

The Prime Minister said the doctors, who would work in the rural areas for mitigating the sufferings of the downtrodden people, would be provided with assistance and help to have higher training from home and abroad on priority basis.

Begum Zia said, "We are working with best of our efforts to solve the existing problems in the healthcare sector but as we have resource constraints it would take time to solve all the prob-

lems. She called upon the physicians to work with more dedication to translate into reality the hopes and aspiration of

the general masses. Begum Zia also urged the members of DAB, the organisa-

tion which had been formed with feelings of nationalism, to work at the grass root of the country for giving relief to the suffering humanity.

Prof B Chowdhury said the

time ' has come when the

physicians community should

make themselves aware of

their responsibilities to the nation. He underscored the need for undertaking the medpolicy with modern outlook fitting to the need of the

Industrial peace

From Page 1 col 4 ing a favourable climate for industrial development.

The federation, however, said because of handover of loss-making units to the private sector, these private industries could not earn profit due to accumulated loans, bank liabilities, damaged machinery and surplus manpower. The new owners landed into a trouble in managing the situa-

tion, it added. The democratic government, taking into account some suggestions from FBCCI, has decided to hand over some loss-making industries to the private sector.

Finding no other way, it said, these vested quarters have now resorted to indiscipline and illegal activities to take hostage country's economy and industry by creating anarchy and deteriorating law and order.

economy by hartal, illegal strike, rail and road blockade, it added. The federation urged the

They are out to cripple the

government to uphold interest of the people rather than such cumbing to pressure of a hand-

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