

The Daily Star

Panda Garden
BUFFET LUNCHEON
SATURDAY-THURSDAY
The best Sichuan food this side of the Great Wall.
Served with taste in elegant surroundings.
12:30-3:30 p.m. and DINNER 6:30-10:30 p.m.
2, Abbas Garden, Mohakhali, Dhaka.
Tel: 608456, 608469

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to
BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
The House of Peace & Rest, The Place of High Class.
We cordially invite you to try our Beautifully
prepared and Beautifully presented authentic
THAI CUISINE and **SEAFOOD** in the cosy
atmosphere of a **LOVELY HOUSE**.
1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY ROAD, NASIRABAD,
CHITTAGONG. RSVP CALL TEL: 226803

VOL. 1 NO. 279 REGD. NO. DA 781 KARTIK 16, 1398 BS, DHAKA FRIDAY NOVEMBER 1, 1991 RABIUS SANI 23, 1412 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

Magazine



R. P. Shaha: A Dream Fulfilled by Rahat Fahmida; Everything You Wanted to Know About the Economy by Sabir Mustafa
Page 9

The 'Digging' Season is Here by Parveen Anam
Page 10
Rising Stars
Page 11

Article

Budget 1991-92: Alternative thoughts
Page 4

International



A Hindu sadhu chants before the foundation stone for the proposed Rama temple at Ayodhya
Page 5

Focus on ME talks

Bush revives his land-for-peace formula — with a twist
Page 6

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Beyond the deformed body, glazed eyes and seemingly unresponsive face is a lost soul craving for love, affection and a sense of belonging
Page 3

Business

Australia-Bangladesh joint venture plant producing 25 tons of powdered milk in one kg packets a day. A field report from Chittagong
Page 7

NEWS BRIEFS

Biman services made essential
The services of all employees of Bangladesh Biman Corporation have been made essential, according to an official announcement Thursday. The measure was taken in accordance with the Essential Services (Second) Ordinance, 1958 to ensure uninterrupted services to the people, reports UNB.

Lotus arrested
Former VP of Jagannath College Students' Union Alamgir Sikder Loton, wanted in several criminal cases, was arrested from Uttara Wednesday. A squad of the detective branch of police, acting on a tip, raided a residence in the model town and nabbed him, police said. He was brought under a 24-hour police remand Thursday, reports UNB.

Dahagram, Angorpota exit points sealed off: People face near-famine situation : 3 picked up by BSF

Indians step up anti-Tinbigha transfer move

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Oct 31: Indian nationals assisted by members of the Border Security Forces (BSF) have tightened their cordon on the enclaves of Dahagram and Angorpota as part of the movement against the transfer of the Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh.

Thousands of Bangladeshis in the two enclaves are now in the grip of a near famine and uncertainty.

The Indians have also sealed off all key exit points keeping the Bangladeshis in the two enclaves in total captivity.

The people of the enclaves cannot move even under cover of darkness to get relief and other essentials including medicines from the Bangladesh mainland.

An acute food shortage coupled with an outbreak of diarrhoea in an epidemic form is making the enclave people survive in misery.

Activists of Komol Guha's Forward Bloc who have the support of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and other extremist political parties have chalked out an anti-Tinbigha transfer programme and have far the past few days been holding demonstrations in the enclaves in this regard.

Three people returning to their homes in one enclave

after collecting relief rice about a week ago were arrested by the BSF and sent to a sub-jail in Mekliganj.

A school teacher told local pressmen that people in his enclave were facing a famine situation compelling them to go out begging inside Indian territory.

A Bengali daily 'Uttar Banga' published from West Bengal reported that BJP leader L K Advani along with his top aides is due to visit Mekliganj on November 2 in an effort to muster public support and stage demonstrations against the Tinbigha transfer.

Furthermore the BJP has

called a bunth on November 4 and the Forward Bloc on December 16 in protest against the transfer.

West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu is scheduled to visit the Tinbigha corridor on November 12 but reports say that Indian extremists plan to launch a mass anti-transfer movement just after his visit.

Meanwhile, Shamsul Alam Prodhan, Chairman of Dahagram enclave expressed doubt over Indian's sincerity in transferring of the Tinbigha corridor to Bangladesh on the scheduled date of December 16 as per a verdict by the Indian Supreme Court.

DU classes, exams suspended till November 7

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Syndicate at a meeting on Thursday suspended all classes and examinations of the university till November 7 in view of the Dhaka University Teachers Association's (DUTA) decision to go on strike from November 2.

The Syndicate will however decide about resuming classes See Page 12 Col. 7

Condition of injured RU student critical

By RAJSHAHI, Oct 31:

The condition of bullet-injured Rajshahi University student and BNP-backed Jatyaabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) worker Shah Ahmed Shamim was still critical. Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) sources said today.

Dr Abu Ahmed, Professor of surgery, told this correspon- See Page 12 Col. 7

Shamir's call to move talks to Israel rejected

Palestinians' plea for freedom, state of their own

MADRID, Oct 31: The Palestinians mounted the world stage at a historic Middle East peace conference today with an emotional plea to Israel for freedom and a state of their own, reports Reuter and AP.

After decades of exile, dispersal, war and occupation, a Palestinian leader was admitted to recount the misery of life under occupation as grim-faced Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir sat bristling in the glare of publicity.

In return, almost the entire

Arab world sat and listened to an Israeli leader speak for the first time in 43 years without walking out.

"We come to you from a tortured land and a proud, though captive people, having been asked to negotiate with our occupiers," Palestinian delegate Haidar Abdel Shafi said.

Shamir began the second day of the Madrid conference with a highly-charged justification of Israel's existence, warning Arab foes they would lead negotiations to a dead end if they stoked the return of

land it captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

Shamir urged his Arab neighbours Thursday to move peace talks to Israel and other Middle East countries. But Arabs and Palestinians rejected the proposal, saying it would disrupt the Mideast peace conference.

Omitting any mention of the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip and Golan Heights, Jewish settlements on captured Arab land or the status of Jerusalem, he reaffirmed See Page 12 Col. 7

Private members' resolutions rejected

By Staff Correspondent

Three private members' resolutions were rejected by the House Thursday night. The resolutions, moved by Awami League MPs, were on: fixation of minimum price of jute at Taka 500 per maund, banning consumption of alcohol and gambling and fund allocation for upazilas on the basis of population.

The resolutions were rejected by voice vote while Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panui was in the chair.

Thursday was the private members' day of Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament). A total of eight resolutions were introduced among which six were from AL and two from BNP MPs.

Moving the resolution on immediate banning of alcohol consumption and gambling, Rahmat Ali of AL, said these

were not only immoral, but were also against the Constitution of the country. Members of both treasury and opposition benches appreciated and supported those who spoke for the resolution by thumbing desk.

Advocate Dharendra Deb-nath Sambhu, Dr Mozammel Hossain and Mosharraf Hossain of AL, A M Riasat Ali and Sheikh Ansar Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami spoke for the resolution and also proposed some amendments. Chief Whip of Opposition Mohammed Nasim and AL MP Matiya Choudhury also spoke in favour of the resolution and urged the treasury bench to pass it unanimously.

However, Agriculture Minister Majid-ul-Haque, who was representing the Home Minister, opposed the resolu-

tion because already there were laws against alcoholism and gambling. But some exceptions were there for foreigners, non-muslim citizens and tribals, he added that gambling was also illegal, only house was allowed, with limitations for some sports and cultural organisations.

AL MP Mirza Golam Azam moved the resolution on fixation of minimum price of jute at Taka 500 per maund saying it was essential to save the jute growers as well as the economy of the country.

Supporting the resolution, Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammed Nasim said that ensuring fair price of jute was also a commitment of the BNP which should be fulfilled now. He said that the treasury bench and the opposition See Page 12 Col. 4



PICTURES OF SORROW AND JOY: Peasants of Laxamanpur village of Patanpur union in Saidpur grappling with pests to save aman crop (top) and people of Choudhajari village of the much-talked about 'famine-stricken' Gangachhara in Rangpur staging a variety show (above). Both the pictures have been taken in this week. — Shafiuddin Bitu

PM's Thursday meet begins with over 100 visitors

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had an extraordinary Thursday evening meeting yesterday evening meeting people from different walks of life and listening to their individual problems ranging from unemployment to dowry, reports BSS.

Begum Zia had earlier decided to meet members of public every Thursday at her Sugandha office without prior appointments to know their problems.

In response to the Prime Minister's offer of meet-the-people day, a large number of people braving drizzle queued up at her Sugandha office to register their names in the morning.

In the evening, Begum Khaleda Zia listened to the problems of 110 persons, from a 14-year old girl to a nearly 70-year old man. Begum Zia listened to their problems patiently and referred those to respective ministries for quick action. The meeting lasted about four and a half hours.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia and State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain were present on the occasion.

The problems narrated by the people to Begum Zia include accommodation, problems of dismissed persons from the service, job situation of government employees, problems of getting bank loan, problems relating to misappropriation of money in the name of employment, dowry, treatment crisis due to want of money and compensation for See Page 12 Col. 6

'Night plotters' are enemies of democracy

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Leader of the House, Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury Thursday identified the 'night conspirators' as the number-one enemies of democracy.

"We must be aware of the conspirators who talk tall in the day and sell themselves out to money and power at night," Chowdhury said while speaking at a discussion on "Enemies of democracy — the obstacles in the way of institutionalising democracy" in the city.

JSD(Inu) organised the discussion at the Taher auditorium Thursday evening to mark its 19th founding an-

niversary.

"We may have differences in political ideology, but our common goal should be one — to resist these conspirators for whose evil activities democracy repeatedly failed in the country," Chowdhury opined.

The Deputy Leader called all concerned to work together so that the continuity of democracy might not be curbed due to conspiracies of the night.

Referring to illegal transfer of power he said that it could occur even under a parliamentary democracy and called to See Page 12 Col. 1

Jute workers plan 48-hour barricade

By Staff Correspondent

Patkal Srantik Karmachari Sangram Parisad on Thursday announced a 48-hour road and rail blockade from November 25 to realise its eight-point demands which include mainly stoppage of off loading of jute mills and enhancement of workers' wages.

While announcing the action programme at a press conference at the National Press Club, Abul Bashar, Convenor of the Parisad claimed its demands were in conformity with the ruling party's promises while in opposition. "So it is their duty to fulfill the demands now," Rehanuddin Rehan and See Page 12 Col. 3

Siddique Ahmed Sarder, two workers' leaders of Adamjee Jute Mills and Anwara Begum and Iqbal Majumder two leaders of textile mill workers were also present.

The jute and textile mill workers jointly observed a 12-hour similar programme on Monday last severely disrupting road and rail communications across the country to press their almost identical demands.

He refuted governments statement of 1500 crore taka loss in public sector jute mills since 1972 and claimed it earned 4,500 crore taka profit See Page 12 Col. 3

Germany watching development of democracy

By Staff Correspondent

The visiting parliamentary delegation from Germany led by Dr Fritz Hopmeier called on Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina at her Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament) office on Thursday, reports UNB.

During the meeting, Dr. Hopmeier appreciated Hasina's role as Leader of Opposition in Parliament and said his country is closely watching the development of democracy in Bangladesh.

Jamaat resents Bush's ME peace formula

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh on Thursday protested against the call of US President George Bush to end the 43-year Arab-Israeli conflict. Jamaat has termed the move as tilted towards Israel.

The real solution to the problem lay in complete withdrawal of Israel from occupied Arab territories including Jerusalem, they added.

Greater awareness about greenhouse effect stressed

By Staff Correspondent

The need for close co-operation between the developed and developing nations of the world to mitigate the adverse effects of global warming was emphasised at a discussion meeting at the Jatiya Press Club on Thursday.

Two experts from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), Dr Ala Qureshi and Dr A Barrie Pittock and Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof

Muniruzzaman Miah were the main speaker at the discussion meeting organised by the Forum of Environmental Journalists of Bangladesh (FEJB).

The two IPCC experts emphasised the need for greater awareness about greenhouse effect of which Bangladesh will be one of the worst sufferers. Global patterns also show an increase in the unpredictability of weather.

Moazzem, Chand chargesheeted

By Staff Correspondent

Bureau of Anti-Corruption chargesheeted former Deputy Prime Minister Shah Moazzem Hossain and former State Minister for Food Nurunnabi Chand bringing corruption charges against them. The case in brief was that Shah Moazzem while in charge of the Ministry of Food in collaboration with Nurunnabi Chand misused power in ignoring the lowest bidders for ordering supply of 9 lakh pieces of gunny bags to two suppliers, reports UNB.

Killing of BDR man under BSF cover slated

By Staff Correspondent

Killing of a Bangladesh Rifles jawan and a tribal leader in Panchhari area, by the 'Shanti Bahini' reportedly under cover of the Indian Border Security Force (BSF) was protested by some political leaders on Thursday.

They hoped that such incidents would be prevented in future in the interest of good neighborly relations.

US support in consolidating democracy pledged

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday said her government's main objective is to reach the fruits of hard earned democracy to the common people and ensure development, reports UNB.

"We expect support in this regard from all democratic countries of the world," she said while talking to the visiting US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ms Teresita Schaffer who called on her this morning.

Schaffer, now on a three-day visit to Bangladesh, said the people and the government of her country will always stay beside Bangladesh in consolidating democracy.

Schaffer felicitated Begum Zia as leader of the new democratic country and said she expected a sound economic policy from the government for the sake of sound development.

The US official, in-charge of South Asian Affairs at the State See Page 12 Col. 8

Meets Hasina

Ms Schaffer also called on Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her parliament office in the afternoon.

US Ambassador William B Milam, Awami League Organising Secretary Tofael Ahmed, MP, Begum Motia Chowdhury, MP, and Abul Hasan Chowdhury, MP, were also present on the occasion.

They discussed, among other things, natural calamities, population growth, illiteracy, unemployment and other problems in agricultural and industries sectors in Bangladesh.

UK minister arrives

British Minister for Overseas Development Lynda Chalker arrived here yesterday on a three-day visit and said she would discuss with Bangladesh government how best to help this country in its development efforts, reports BSS.

"I am happy to be back to a democratic Bangladesh", the British Minister told newsmen at the airport referring to her visit this country last year.

Mrs. Chalker said she was particularly delighted at the return of democracy to this country and added that the British government was looking forward to work with the democratic government led by Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Mrs. Chalker was met at the airport by Finance Minister Saifur Rahman.

60.97 pc pass Jessore Board SSC exams

Jessore Education Board announced the result of Secondary School Certificate Examination, yesterday, reports UNB.

The pass percentage is 60.97.

A total of 98,513 candidates appeared in the examination this year of whom 58,951 came out successful, official sources said.

Debashish Kumar Pal of Barisal Cadet College topped the merit list while Md Enamul Huq and Mohammad Moudud Hasan of Jendidah Cadet College and Barisal Cadet College respectively stood second and third in the combined merit list.

Among the successful candidates, 6,965 secured first division while 25,169 got second division and 26,820 came out with third division.

EC to update electoral rolls

The Election Commission will update the existing electoral rolls in the country till November 15 under special arrangement, reports UNB.

Individuals, qualified to be voters but not included in the 1990 electoral rolls, will have to apply in prescribed form to the Registration Officer for inclusion of their names in the voters' list, a press release of the Commission said Thursday.

All District Election Officers have been appointed. Registration Officers for their See Page 12 Col. 5