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Withdrawal of lock-out, wage hike demanded

Garment workers' rally teargassed: 20 injured

By Staff Correspondent

Demonstrating garments workers clashed with police near Science Laboratory crossing in the city Wednesday noon leaving at least 20 of them injured including a number of women.

At a rally following the clash, they gave a December 1 deadline for reopening of closed garment factories and

pay hike. Over a dozen tear gas shells were lobbed to stop hundreds of agitating workers marching towards the Beximco head office at Dhanmondi to protest the closure of a garment factory owned by the company, witnesses said. Dhanmondi police arrested one demonstrator from the

spot. None of the injured were taken to the hospital. The agitated workers marched towards Dhanmondi led by the Bangladesh Garment Sramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad after a rally in front of the National Press Club demanding withdrawal of lock-outs and closure of a number. See Page 12 Col. 6



Police fired tear gas shells and chased garments workers near the Science Laboratory on Wednesday. —Star photo

Shop owners threaten complete closure if search starts

By Staff Correspondent

Shop owners in some 30 supermarkets of the capital Wednesday threatened complete non-cooperation and closure if the government launches a massive anti-smuggling drive from December 1 across the country.

They urged the government to publish a list of contraband items and stop harassment of shop owners by the law enforcing agencies in the name of searches for smuggled goods.

The five-point charter of demands of the shop owners also include listing of the "real smugglers" and adequate time

to sell the items "if any remained in some shops." The government in a press note November 10 announced that it would launch the country-wide drive searching shops and marketing centres in cities and towns around the country.

The campaign will be in addition to strengthening to recover contraband. The anti-smuggling activities in the borders and coastal areas and sea and airports.

Stringent measures will be taken as per law against those found guilty of possessing contraband commodities, the

press note added. Banners and festoons announcing "clearing sale" at discounts decorated the city markets as shop owners began furnishing their shop windows with commodities made in the country.

Fresh price tags with reduced markings were hung on ready-made garments, shoes, sarees, crockeries and other gift items.

However, the selling spree had little effect on the buyers with the month ending. Talking to The Daily Star, different shop owners ex-

See Page 12 Col. 4

Writ on presidential poll Judgement today

The hearing of the writ petition filed by Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, and six others challenging the Presidential Election Act 1991 concluded Wednesday and the judgement may be pronounced today (Thursday) by the High Court division bench of the Supreme Court, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Fazle Hussain Mohammad Habibur Rahman and Justice Abdul Hasib. Amr-ul Islam, the counsel of the petitioner, in his final

APSU calls hartal in Ctg today

Chittagong Correspondent All Party Student Unity (APSU) of Chittagong University calls a half-day hartal in Chittagong city today (Thursday) in protest against attack on the residence of the University Vice-Chancellor and condemned the terrorist activities of Islami Chhatra Shibir. The CU teachers abstained from taking classes Wednesday protesting the attack.

BSS adds: Chittagong University unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir Wednesday demanded the resignation of the Vice-Chancellor, arrest and

See Page 12 Col. 1

FM's visit to Myanmar may resolve refugee issue

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman leaves Dhaka today (Thursday) for Rangoon, hopeful that his talks with the leaders of Myanmar would yield positive results on Muslim refugees issue.

"We had similar problem in 1978 and the issue was resolved through negotiations in a spirit of good neighbourliness," he told BSS on Wednesday.

The Foreign Minister, who will be visiting Myanmar for two days, said his talks with his counterpart U Ohn Gyaw would cover different issues

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Shantibahini men fall to tribal tricks, lose arms

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 20: Tribals took four automatic weapons from Shantibahini Tuesday near Modok village under Thanu upazila of Bandarban district.

The weapons, one Indian-made SMG, two G-3 rifles and one 303 rifle, were deposited to the security forces, according to police.

Four tribals, during a hunting round in the forest, were preparing to take food when four Shantibahini men came there all of a sudden and attempted to take the foods forcibly. The tribals, playing trick, managed to make the Shantibahini men eat with them in a cordial atmosphere.

After dining, the Shantibahini men, unaware of the trick, were taking rest while the tribals escaped with their weapons. They chased the tribals and fired shots but failed to catch-up.

UN envoy Cyrus Vance, on a visit to assess the chances of deploying such a force, met Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in Zagreb but gave no details of his talks.

His mission will fail unless a permanent ceasefire is imposed in Croatia's war zones.

Budimir Loncar, Foreign Minister in the Yugoslav government sacked by the Serbian-controlled parliament last week, announced his resignation in a newspaper interview published today.

Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic, for his part, has rejected the November 15 no confidence vote by the federal parliament, calling it "illegal and unconstitutional."

We can't spare an inch of land, says Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday said the prime objective of her government would be to alleviate poverty through rural development and optimum use of national resources, reports UNB.

"Not an inch of land can be afforded to spare," she said, stressing maximum utilisation of all available national resources, including the huge population, to turn the country progressive and self-reliant.

Begum Zia said the country cannot remain dependent on foreign aid for ever and urged the experts to assist the government with their practical knowledge and specialisation in respective fields.

"All our development programmes will be meaningless if poverty cannot be alleviated," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing members of the Task Force, constituted during the previous caretaker government, who called on her at the International Conference Centre Wednesday morning to present its final reports published in four volumes.

The Task Force, composed of 250 local experts headed by Prof Rehman Sobhan and divided into 29 committees, identified various national problems and suggested poli-

cies to resolve them for sustainable development in different sectors ruined by nine years of autocratic rule.

"Government's main objective is rural development for socio-economic progress," Begum Zia said, adding the people had high hopes on the new democratic administration.

"We all have fought unitedly for the independence of this country which is ours — now is time to build it together and steer it towards development."

The Prime Minister thanked the members of the Task Force for taking up such a selfless and important responsibility for preparing the report which can become an example in poor countries like ours.

She assured the best use of the report, expressing her confidence that it will be helpful in the country's development process.

After Rehman Sobhan, who was Planning Adviser to the caretaker government, had focused on the Task Force and its intention, the conveners of different committees including Prof Yunus, Dr Mahboob Hossain, Dr Iqbal Mahboob, Dr Fasiuddin Mahtab, Mohammad Moniruzzaman and Al-Hussaini spoke briefly elucidating their

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Armed Forces Day today

The Armed Forces Day will be observed today. The day's programme will begin with lying of wreath at the 'Shikha Anirban', the Eternal Flame, at the Dhaka Cantonment by President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Abdur Rahman Hossain.

Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Noor Uddin Khan, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Mohaiminul Islam and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury will also pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who embraced martyrdom in the War of Liberation, report UNB and BSS.

In a message on the eve of the Armed Forces Day, the President said the Armed Forces of the country were the vanguard of independence and sovereignty with their professional reputation being appreciated in the international arena. In this context, he mentioned that the members of the Armed Forces have performed their duties with reputation in monitoring Iran-Iraq ceasefire, independence process of Namibia as part of UNTAG contingent and in the

See Page 12 Col. 7

Lawyers boycott courts today

Supreme Court Correspondent

Lawyers will boycott courts today (Thursday) at the call of the Co-ordination Council of the Bar Associations to press their six-point demand which includes abolition of upazila courts Co-ordination Council press release said in Dhaka Wednesday.

The council also claimed that the court boycott has been supported by different bar associations of the country including the Supreme Court Bar Association.

The six-point demand also include the demand for separation of the judiciary from the executive.

The press release said a Bill seeking placement of subordinate judiciary under the control of the High Court has been placed in the Parliament but the ruling party is showing an indifferent attitude towards its passage.

Jalilatabadi Ainjibi Forum, a lawyers wing of the ruling BNP has denounced the coordination council's call for court boycott.

In a press statement the Association for Democratic Constitutional Advancement of Bangladesh (ADCAB) has urged upon the Government and the members of the Parliament to immediately enact necessary law for separation of judiciary to strengthen the process of democracy. The Association has also demanded the repeal of all black laws.

Our staff correspondent adds: The Lawyers Concern, an organisation for the young lawyers, in a separate statement expressed their solidarity with the programme of

See Page 12 Col. 8

Panthapath sewer accident Foreign consultants liable, says report

Star Report

Inadequate safety and protective measures were the primary reasons behind the recent accident at the storm sewer construction site at Panthapath, according to a Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA) investigation report compiled last week.

All responsibility for safety and protective measures at the site lies with the foreign consultants implementing the project and the sub-contractor employed by them according to the agreement between WASA and the consultants, the

report pointed out.

The three-member investigation team led by a WASA superintendent engineer and two executive engineers found that the construction company failed to take even the minimum level of safety measures for the protection of the workers at the site, a high WASA official preferring anonymity said Wednesday.

One worker was killed and several others were injured when the existing brick-arch sewerage line, adjacent to the

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Sihanouk made second President of Cambodia

PHNOM PENH, Nov 20: The Phnom Penh government Wednesday named Prince Norodom Sihanouk President of Cambodia, leaving two people in the largely ceremonial post, reports AP.

The surprise move came less than a week after Sihanouk returned to the Cambodian capital from 13

years in exile to head the Supreme National Council, a reconciliation body composed of the country's four warring factions.

Heng Samrin is currently serving as President, but is reportedly ill with typhoid. The real powers in Phnom Penh are Premier Hun Sen and

See Page 12 Col. 7

NEWS BRIEFS

Hartal call at RU today

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Nov 20: Ganjantrik Chhatra Oikyo of Rajshahi University unit called for a strike in Rajshahi University tomorrow. Leaders in a rally held today at Shahab Bazar square of the city called this day-long strike in demand of lifting cases against 60 RU student leaders, withdrawal of police from campus and constitute a enquiry committee for July 20 violence.

Boy run over by bus

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 20: A 12-year-old boy was run over by a minibus on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway at Shimrai today. Sadoq Ali, son of Abdur Rahim of Shiddhirganj, died on the spot at about 1 pm. Police seized the bus, but the driver escaped, reports UNB.

IAF plane crashes

CHANDIGARH, Nov 20: A Mig of the Indian Air Force crashed today near village Bandaun about 35 kms from Una in Himachal Pradesh killing both the crew members. Three civilians in the village received injuries, reports PTI.

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains an 8-page tabloid size 4-colour Supplement on "Armed Forces Day '91", in addition to the regular 12-page issue. Price remains unchanged. —Management

Nuclear power cleanest source of energy, say experts

By Moinuddin Naser

Nuclear power plants are considered by experts as the cleanest sources of energy throughout the world from environmental point of view.

However, the environmental experts are of the opinion that adequate safety measures should be guaranteed against nuclear accidents.

Most of the developed countries including the United States also consider the nuclear power plants as one of the best sources of energy. The USA environmental planners think that by the end of the year 2000, nuclear energy and solar energy would be the main sources of power.

During a visit of this correspondent to United States last year Senator Tim Wirth of Colorado, who is responsible for framing environmental laws told that the USA would have no alternatives to nuclear and

solar energies as sources of power. He said that oil reserve would become so meagre by the end of the century, that the USA would have to fully depend on nuclear energy if there could be no development of solar energy, now at its preliminary stage.

Bangladesh is also planning to have a nuclear plant by the end of the year 2000. The Ruppur Power Plant which was planned much earlier is yet to be constructed due to lack of turned and proper coordination. According to official sources as the government emphasizes more on collecting fund for construction of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge it could not give much effort for collection of fund for Ruppur Power Plant which will be used for only peaceful purposes.

The main sources of energy in Bangladesh now are coal,

peat, oil, natural gas, hydro electric plants, thermal power plants, wood fuel, agricultural residue and animal dung. But all these sources have adverse effect on environment.

Manzur Morshed, Joint Chief, Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources in a working paper present in the ESCAP UNDP workshop in Dhaka this week stated about various environmental factors in using these sources of energy.

He said use of coal would cause loss of land at extraction sites and pollution of air by combustion gas (e.g. sulfur dioxide, carbon dioxide) and land by ash.

Moreover, potential coal site is located in a flood prone area that would require protection by embankments of appropriate size and height. See Page 12 Col. 5

Croats accuse Y'slav army of looting

DUBROVNIK, Nov 20: Croats in occupied region have accused Yugoslav army of looting and terror, reports AP, Reuters and AFP.

"Federal forces are carrying away everything that can be carried — possessions, animals, food", municipal authorities told Italian Immigration Minister Margherita Boniver while she was in besieged Dubrovnik awaiting arrival of an Italian relief ship.

The Serb-dominated army denies looting was widespread but dusk-to-dawn notices on walls acknowledge "individual abuses" by soldiers. Military police interrogators "were particularly brutal" clouting prisoners with batons and shoving guns down their throats, others said. The Yugoslav army un-

leashed a fierce artillery attack on the eastern Croatian town of Osijek today as the 13th ceasefire of the Yugoslav conflict crumbled, Zagreb Radio reported.

It said villages on the southern outskirts of the town were also being hit in attacks which killed two people and wounded seven. Osijek is 30 km (20 miles) northeast of Vukovar which fell to the Serbian-led federal army this week after a three-month siege.

Croatian Defence Minister Gojko Susak visited Osijek on Tuesday and promised it would not suffer the same fate as Vukovar. "Serbia has the power to attack Osijek but not to conquer it," he said. The renewed offensive against Osijek followed heavy

fighting in coastal areas of Croatia on Tuesday. The Yugoslav Tanjug news agency reported that federal forces in the port city of Zadar inflicted heavy losses on the Croatian National Guard which attacked them.

In Vukovar, hundreds of wounded people trapped in hospital awaited rescue by the red cross on Wednesday after fighting in the town had all but ceased. Troops mopped up dwindling resistance by snipers on Tuesday and army trucks collected civilians from cellars where they had hidden for months from the near-constant shelling and shooting.

Croatian military leaders said Vukovar was only the start of a major army offensive to grab all the land it could for

the rival republic of Serbia before United Nations peace-keeping forces arrived.

UN envoy Cyrus Vance, on a visit to assess the chances of deploying such a force, met Croatian President Franjo Tudjman in Zagreb but gave no details of his talks.

His mission will fail unless a permanent ceasefire is imposed in Croatia's war zones. Budimir Loncar, Foreign Minister in the Yugoslav government sacked by the Serbian-controlled parliament last week, announced his resignation in a newspaper interview published today.