

Come to CHITAGONG 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 ASIA: HIGHWAY ROAD, NASIRABAD,
 CHITTAGONG. RSVP CALL TEL: 226803

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, Mohakhil, Dhaka.
 Tel: 608458, 608469

Inside Today Magazine



The Faces of Racism by Tarzie Vittachi; The Glory that was Sonargoon by Fayza Haq Page 9
 Advice column Write to Mita Page 10
 Young readers' page Rising Stars Page 11

Article

At the heart of the Middle East problem is land. But only hours after talks ended in Madrid Israel dedicated a new settlement on the Golan Heights Page 4

International



Janata Dal's Uttar Pradesh unit splits Page 5

Sport

Arch rivals Abahani and Mohammedans meet again in Damal Summer Cricket final today Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Bangladesh has a special place in our heart, says Finnish ambassador Marjatta Rasi Page 3

Supplement

Special supplement on "SAFA Conference '91" Page 7

NEWS BRIEFS

10 nomination papers valid
 Nomination papers of 10 candidates for the by-election to the Jatiya Sangsad constituency 125 (Bakerganj-5) have been found valid after scrutiny Thursday. Nomination of one candidate was rejected by the Returning Officer after scrutiny. The last day for withdrawal of candidature is December 4. Polling will be held on December 21, reports UNB.

Hartal observed in Pabna
 From Our Correspondent PABNA, Nov 28: A half-day hartal was observed here from 6 am to 2 pm. Chhatra League (S-A) called for the hartal to protest the release on bail of Kader, an activist of JCD, who was arrested on September 6 in connection with the murder of Chhatra League leader Ariful Haq Parag.

Ban on molasses production in mills areas goes

By Staff Correspondent

The government has lifted ban on production of molasses in sugar mills areas. The decision, taken at the weekly meeting of the Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Bangabhaban on Wednesday night, came into immediate effect.

Official sources said production of molasses will be allowed only through the country-crushers.

The decision is one of the key planks of the sugar and sugarcane policy for the year 1991-92, approved by the Cabinet.

Despite increase in the operational cost and enhancement in the salary-structure, the government has also decided not to enhance the present ex-mill rate of sugar which has been Taka 25 per kg.

The Cabinet has directed the Ministry of Industries to ensure timely movement of sugarcane to the mills and exercise strict supervision to gear up production and increase the recovery rate.

Ministers and State Ministers-in-Charge of different ministries attended the meeting which continued till mid-night.

Principal Finance Secretary, Cabinet Secretary, Secretary to the Prime Minister's Office and concerned Secretaries were present.



Fishing in calm water is perhaps more difficult than that in troubled water. And fishermen, whether fishing in a sea or in a river, have to take all the trouble for their day's catches that bring them home their bread. —Star photo

UZ 'chairmen' plan agitation from Dec 1

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Chairmen Samity Thursday announced an agitation programme beginning next month and a half-day nationwide hartal December 9 unless the government withdraws what it termed the 'black ordinance' abolishing the upazila system, by November 30.

Leaders of different opposition political parties also called for the immediate withdrawal of the Ordinance while addressing a special conference of the Samity at the Dhaka District Sports Association auditorium.

Announcing the 9-day programme, the Governor of the Samity, Feroz Khan of Savar, said that starting December 1, black flags will be hoisted at all upazila headquarters. Protest rallies will be held December 2 and 3 and rallies will be held at district headquarters December 4. A mass contact campaign will be conducted between December 5 and 7 and countryside torch processions will be held December 8.

He said that if the government fails to withdraw the Ordinance even after the half day hartal on December 9 the Samity will announce the date for staging a grand rally in the capital and gherao the secretary.

The Samity also extended support to the 72-hour strike and barricade called by the jute and textile workers December 22.

Presided over by Firoz Kabir, the conference was attended by the Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad as the chief guest.

Among others acting Jatiya Party Chairman Mizanur Rahman Choudhury, MP. See Page 12 Col. 3

Gunshots rock DU campus again

By DU Correspondent

Several rounds of gunshots fired by the two rival student groups rocked the Dhaka University campus again on Thursday creating panic among the general students.

Police fired several teargas shells to disperse the warring students and raided the Zahurul Huq Hall of the university, but nothing was recovered nor anybody arrested.

Campus sources said the incident originated from an attempt of some Chhatra League (S-A) activists to shoot a Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader at the TSC premises Thursday at about 5:30 pm.

The JCD leaders along with some other JCD activists managed to flee away and the attackers rushed towards the 'Bashunia Toron' firing gunshots on the Suryasen Hall and Mohsin Hall areas. Several rounds of gunshots were also fired.

See Page 12 col 7

BADC in a fix over equipment

By Moinuddin Naser

Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) is now grappling with its irrigation equipment to be sold by next March as per a belated government decision taken in the first week of November.

The employees union of the BADC has strongly protested the government decision to sell its deep tubewells, shallow tubewells and low lift pumps and instructed all its members not to cooperate with the authorities in selling the irrigation equipment, at the behest of the donor agencies in Bangladesh.

Though the government took a decision to privatise the irrigation equipment of the BADC by disposing of all of its tubewells and power tillers at any rate it has not yet formulated any irrigation policy, said BADC employees while talking to this correspondent.

At present there are about 12,000 deep tubewells in the hands of the BADC while the total number of shallow tubewells is about 7889. It also has 14,000 low lift pumps. Besides there are many deep and shallow tubewell engines.

According to BADC sources after the decision to sell all the equipment from November 4, the BADC could only negotiate the sale of 99 deep tubewells, 565 power tillers and 263 shallow tubewells.

According to the BADC Employees' Union President Mofizul Islam, the BADC employees were not assisting the authorities in implementing the government decision because the employees thought that the selling of the irrigation equipment would ultimately force the BADC workshops close down.

He further said that after the government decision to sell the irrigation equipment there was virtually no work in the workshops and the BADC employees had to go from door to door to get jobs of repairing machinery from the private parties.

Mofizul Islam further said that the irrigation equipment to be sold is not used for agricultural purposes. He said many of the buyers are using the power pumps to thrash rice and operate boats.

He said that the withdrawal of subsidy on agricultural inputs and irrigation equipment may ultimately hamper crop production.

It is learnt that the BADC Employees' Union will hold a council by the end of December and it has already invited the Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to attend the meeting to know its grievances.

The BADC Employees' Union sources said that if Khaleda Zia did not listen to them they would have no other option but to go for a greater movement.

English to continue in courts

By Supreme Court Correspondent

English shall continue to be the language of the subordinate judiciary of the country parallel with Bangla until the government directs otherwise. The government may declare what the language of the subordinate courts shall be.

This was the verdict of a Division Bench of the High Court Division in 18 Civil Revision Cases heard together in which a question was raised whether English would hold its field in the subordinate judiciary of the country after the introduction of Act 2 of 1987 (Introduction of Bengali language) on March 8, 1987. The judgement was delivered on Thursday in open Court.

The judgement on behalf of the Court was delivered by Justice A R M Amirul Islam

See Page 12 col 8

Writ on women seats in JS dismissed

By Supreme Court Correspondent

The Writ petition challenging the 10th Amendment to the Constitution was dismissed Thursday by a Division Bench comprising Justice Md Abdul Jalil and Justice Nayemuddin Ahmed.

Dr Ahmed Hossain, a senior Advocate of the Supreme Court challenged the 10th Amendment to the Constitution which provides 30 women seats in Parliament through indirect election by the members of Parliament.

A certificate sought for appeal to the Appellate Division was refused.

Short SAARC summit by Dec, Lok Sabha told

NEW DELHI, Nov 28: India hopes that it would be possible to hold a short, functional SAARC summit in Colombo before the year-end, the Minister of State for External Affairs, Eduardo Faleiro, informed the Lok Sabha today, reports PTI.

In a written reply to CP Mudalagiriappa and Sanat Kumar Mandal, Faleiro said the Maldives President, Maumoon Abdul Gayoom, in his capacity as SAARC Chairman had already initiated consultations in this regard with member states.

The postponement of the summit early this month because of non-participation of the Bhutanese King is not a problem, he said.

See Page 12 Col. 6

Union Parishad polls candidate shot dead

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Nov 28: Vice-President of Ganna Union Awami League Abdul Hakim Khan was shot dead by a group of miscreants Wednesday night.

Abdul Hakim, 40, was also a chairman candidate for the coming Union Parishad election.

A group of armed miscreants attacked him and his supporters and shot him dead at around 8-30 pm when they were on an election campaign at West Alampara village.

The body was sent to Jhenidah Morgue and a case has been filed.

Probe into all political killings demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Choudhury, MP, has strongly demanded an investigation into all the political killings since 1975 and the trial of the killers to protect the hard-earned democracy from the conspirators.

The politics of killing and coup began in the country with the murder of Bangabandhu in '75 and the exemption of his killers from trial which caused many other killings later. Sajeda said on Thursday while addressing a discussion meeting in memory of Dr Milon, a martyr in last year's anti-autocracy movement, at Nawabpur in the city.

"I demand punishment to all the killers including those of Bangabandhu, Ziaur Rahman, Col (Retd) Taher and even Maj (Retd) Manjur after probing their killings properly to end the politics of conspiracy once for all," the AL leader said.

She observed that disunity among the pro-liberation forces including the Freedom Fighters (FFs) helped the enemies of liberation to rise.

The anti-liberation elements were still active even after the restoration of the democratic process in the country, she added.

Let's behave democratically with the opportunity we have achieved through a long struggle against autocracy. Sajeda urged adding that, otherwise, the enemies of democracy would again find their way into politics.

Accusing the ruling party of maintaining the attitude of past autocrats in work and words, the AL General Secretary called upon the party to give up its 'autocratic acts' for the sake of consolidating democracy.

Sajeda Choudhury alleged that the killers of Dr Milon were not yet tried, and not even arrested due to the unwillingness of the government.

She demanded that the government look after all the families of the martyrs during Ershad's autocratic regime.

Organised by Joy Bangla Sangakritik Oikya Jote, the discussion meeting was also addressed by the AL Joint Secretary Amir Hossain Amu, Gazul Haq, Fayed Ahmed, Shaheed Milon's mother Begum Selina Akhter and his widow Mahmuda Alam Kabita, shaheed Noor Hossain's father Mujibur Rahman and others.

Amu alleged that the government was harassing the AL leaders against whom 'false' cases were filed by the fallen.

See Page 12 Col. 5

Repression in '71 was a madness, says Asghar

By Staff Correspondent

Repression on the people of erstwhile East Pakistan in 1971 was a 'madness', Air Marshal (Retd) Asghar Khan, chief of Tahrik-e-Istiqal said on Thursday, reports BSS.

"I was here during the turbulent days of March 1971 and I had told the then government that united Pakistan would be finished if a single bullet was fired to tackle the situation," the senior Pakistani politician, now in Dhaka on a private visit, said.

See Page 12 col 7

5 injured as train derailed at Tongi

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Nov 28: Five persons were injured as two compartments of the Dhaka-Chittagong Karnaphuli Express derailed near Natun Bazar at Tongi Thursday noon.

Of the injured, one is a Railway security guard and four were pedestrians. Tongi station sources said.

Following the accident around noon, rail communication was disrupted for an hour.

Immediately after the accident a relief train rushed to the spot and restored rail communication.

Unrest jolts garments industry

By Special Correspondent

Last year (1990-91) Bangladesh earned Tk 3,000 crore from the exports of readymade garments which accounted for 43 per cent of the total export earnings.

This was Tk 1,000 crore up from the garments exports earnings of 1989-90 fiscal year. The projected earnings for the current fiscal plus six more months (up to Dec 1992) are more than Tk 5,000 crore.

This phenomenal growth has taken place in a country which did not have any mentionable garments exports until 1979.

Today, Bangladesh exports more than 54 categories of readymade garments to 24 countries, mainly to the US and the EEC countries. Bangladesh is the 5th largest garments exporter to the US, only after the big four exporters — Hong Kong, South Korea, Taiwan and China.

One factor that contributed most to this success story is the cheap labour Bangladesh has. Nearly 90 per cent of today's estimated five lakh workers in about 850 garments factories are women, many of them teenage girls coming from poor families.

Until recently the labour front in the garments sector was quiet. But last month a simmering unrest flared into street protests when garments girls clashed with police and musclemen allegedly hired by a factory management. The unrest erupted at the beginning of the peak export months of November, December and January is clouding this year's export prospects.

The current unrest was triggered by the Oct 21 lock-out of Comtrade Apparels Ltd, a garments factory owned by the BEXIMCO group. The reason of the lock-out: a violence on Oct 20 because of the termination of 17 workers and employees of the factory on charges of unauthorised leave. The management and the workers have contradictory versions on the issue.

An incident in one factory should not normally have spread violence on streets and led to a strike that was observed on Nov 21. Analysts believe that an unrest has already been simmering among the workers, which flared up taking the Comtrade incident as an excuse. The garments workers have many complaints: poor working conditions, low wages, arbitrary firing disregarding labour laws of the land. According to an unofficial estimate 90 per cent of the workers do not have any appointment letters, even though they have completed three months of probation.

Though the garments industry did not have any formal trade unions during its initial years, the workers are now being organised by a number of federations backed by the country's major political parties. Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) resents the trade union activity in the industry.

The outsiders are creating problem in the garments industry. There is a deep-rooted conspiracy to destroy the booming industry," said a leader of BGMEA, speaking on condition of anonymity. He did not specify who the conspirators are.

But leaders of Bangladesh Garments Workers and Employees Unity council maintain that the conspiracy theory has been invented to hide the 'injustices done to the poor workers.'

It is difficult to say who is right and who is wrong. But most of those connected with the industry agree that the government's Chief Inspector of Factories should immediately move to enforce discipline in this sector.

Syria, Palestinians to attend Washington peace talks

TUNIS, Nov 28: Syria and the Palestinians will attend Middle East peace talks in Washington on December 4, reports Reuters.

Israel has rejected the US invitation to resume talks. It is insisting on a five-day delay coupled with a promise that the negotiations will be swiftly moved to the Middle East.

Israel is alone in holding out. Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and the Palestinians have all agreed to the date set by the United States.

PLO spokesman Ahmed Abderrahman said the decision was taken on Wednesday night at a special meeting of the Palestinian leadership chaired by Yasser Arafat.

The United States has ruled out accepting any conditions by the parties and says it wants to press on with the talks as planned.

Abderrahman said the PLO also hoped the US government would examine its request for facilities to be granted to PLO officials to enable them to attend the Washington talks.

Asked whether the requested facilities were a prior condition, the spokesman said: "No it is not a condition. A hope is not a condition."

Washington has turned down a PLO request that its officials be granted visas so that they could advise Palestinians forming a joint delegation with Jordan.

Syria will send a delegation to Washington for Middle East peace talks on December 4 whether Israel goes or not, a Syrian Foreign Ministry official said today.

"The Syrian delegation will be ready to take part in bilateral talks on December 4, whether the Israeli delegation attends or does not attend," he said.

The official said the Syrian delegates would leave for the United States after they voted on Monday in a Yes or No ballot to give President Hafez Al-Assad a fourth seven-year term as head of state.

Syria on Thursday accused Israel of trying to sabotage the Middle East peace process. The Syrian Foreign Ministry said in a statement Thursday that if the Israelis fail to appear, that would be proof "once again that Israel does not want peace, but is trying by all means to avoid following up the talks" that began in Madrid October 30.

Israel's attempt to move negotiations to the region aims at putting additional obstacles

in the way of the peace process and depriving it of the seriousness and momentum necessary for its success," the Syrian statement said.

Officials said that the 14-member Syrian delegation will be led by Muwaffak Alif, Damascus' ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva. The Syrian team at the Madrid talks was headed by Foreign Minister Farouk Al-Sharaa, who clashed with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

Asked Thursday by Israeli radio when the Israelis planned to go to Washington, Yossi Ben-Aharon, an aide to

Shamir, said: "The ninth. This is the decision of the government, and we will carry it out."

He also said Israel was sticking to its demand that the negotiations be direct, without UN mediation, and that they move speedily from Washington to the Middle East or nearby.

But in an interview one hour later with Israeli Army radio, Ben-Aharon said he hoped that "we will arrive at some kind of compromise." Asked whether such a compromise would involve a starting date somewhere between Dec. 4 and Dec. 9, he said: "I don't know."

PDB clarification on load-shedding

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) on Thursday clarified a news item on load-shedding saying that there would not be continuous load-shedding for five hours on Friday.

In a clarification the PDB said that the supply shortage due to repair work at Ashuganj and Ghorashal power stations would be adjusted by a phase-wise load-shedding from 5 pm to 10 pm Friday.

A section of newspapers on Thursday reported that there would be a continuous five hour load-shedding throughout the country which, the PDB said, was not correct.