The Midnight File

Afghan govt to withdraw militia

bowed Sunday to renegade rebel Chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar's

demand that a commando-style militia leave the capital.

Shomali Khan told reporters outside the heavily tortified

Presidential palace where he met interim President

ME talks open Wednesday

enth round of peace talks in Washington warning that the es-

calation in killings on the occupied territories underlined the

urgency of a settlement. "I regret the loss of life especially in-

nocents on both sides," said Hanan Ashrawi, spokeswoman for

the Palestinian delegation to the Middle East peace negotia-

JERUSALEM, Oct 18: Palestinians left today for the sev-

Burhanuddin Rabbani that troops would leave Kabul Monday.

KABUL, Oct 18: The beleaguered Islamic government

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating assured Bangladesh Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman of increased trade between the two friendly countries, reports BSS.

Rahman told the newsmen in Dhaka yesterday morning at Zia International Airport on his return from Australia after a week-long visit at the invitation of the Australian govern-

The Finance Minister said that he had met the Australian Prime Minister on October 13 in Canberra and briefed him on the recent economic and fiscal policy reforms undertaken by the present government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

Rahman specially emphasised Australia's possible investment in Bangladesh in the form of joint ventures in areas like coal exploration, livestock and cattle development, dairy farming and processing of hides and skins and aluminium processing.

The Australian Prime Minister showed his keen interest to strengthen further the bilateral relations between the two friendly countries.

"I am not looking for more aid but for more trade and more Bangladeshi exports into Australia," Rahman told the

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 18: Nine

leaders of the Ghatak-Dalal

Nirmul Committee, including

district unit convenor and lo-

cal correspondent of the

Ittefaq Aminul Islam Chow-

dhury, were sent to jail with a

murder charge after they

surrendered to the court

tivists of the committee who

appeared before the Sadar

Thana Magistrate today in

connection with the Kashem

murder case. Fifteen of them

day are district JSD president

Abdul Hye Talukder, convenor

of the district BSD Firoze

Bhuiyan, member of central

BSD labour wing Abu Bakr

Bhuiyan, district CPB secretary

Dissension

From Page 1 Col 6

defused and overlapped among

different institutions such as

the Controller of Capital

Issues, Registrar of Joint Stock

Companies and other bodies,"

Joint Stock Companies is un-

der the Commerce Ministry

while the Controller of Capital

Issues is under the Finance

The proposed commission

Observers note that major-

will be under the Ministry of

ity of the countries around the

world have a similar singular

body to regulate the capital

market. In the Asian region,

India, Thailand and Malaysia

have formed such a body ear-

PM: Italians

From Page 1 Col 4

She said that the Italian

government had assured of

help in the modernisation of

the Zia International Airport

and the construction of the

Rupsha Bridge and some other

the chief executives of the

FAO, IFAD, WFP, the Prime

Minister said that these organ-

isations had renewed their

received by Law and Justice

Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz,

other Cabinet colleagues, Dean

of the Diplomatic Corps Myan-

mar Ambassador Soe Myint,

the Law Minister, the Foreign

Minister, the Information Mi-

nister and the Foreign Secre-

question, the Prime Minister

said her "Daal-Bhat" approach

as a means of poverty allevia-

tion in countries like Bangla-

desh earned laurels from

IFAD's plan to control flood in

Bangladesh since the organisa-

tion had considered the floods

here in 1988 as due to

"Farakka" problem, Begum Zia

said the IFAD had taken up

plans towards flood protection

Answering a question about

During the press briefing,

BSS adds: Replying to a

Italian Charge d' Affairs.

tary were present.

different quarters.

Earlier, on arrival, she was

pledges to help Bangladesh.

Referring to her talks with

Presently, the Registrar of

ADB said in a report.

Ministry.

Finance.

lier this year.

Eight others sent to jail to-

They were among 24 ac-

today, reports UNB.

were enlarged on bail.

Australian Prime Minister. Paul Keating said that his country was now interested to expand relationships with the South Asian countries particu-

larly with Bangladesh. The Finance Minister during his stay in Australia also met Australian Treasurer (Finance Ministerl John Dawkins, Foreign Minister Gareth Evans and Minister for Trade and Overseas Development John

meeting with the Australian Foreign Minister the Rohingya refugee problem had come up for discussion. He sought Australian cooperation in forming international opinion to resolve the issue.

Australian investors at a luncheon hosted by the Australian Minister for Trade and urged them to invest in Bangladesh.

He told them about the congenial investment atmosphere now prevailing in Bangladesh after necessary policy reforms and improved law and order.

The Australian side expressed satisfaction on the various policy initiatives, taken by the present government and gave indications for enhanced Australian aid to Bangladesh and hinted to explore Australian investment possibilities in Bangladesh, the Fi nance Minister said.

Tk 25000 looted from bakery

By DMCH Correspondent

Extortionists severely beat the owner of a bakery and looted Taka 25,000 in cash at Mogbazar in the city yesterday

A group of trouble-mongers who earlier demanded tolls to Mohammad Kasem Mia, owner of Chand Bakery at Mogbazar, stormed into the shop at around 9 pm last night, severely beat the owner and looted Taka 25,000 in cash, the victim said.

DB to probe gold case

Customs officials Saturday noon seized about 65 KG of gold bars from a baggage of one Syed Amir Ali, of 151 Bangla Bazar, at the Air Freight Department of the Zia International Airport (ZIA) The gold was smuggled from Singapore, customs sources

endent Kazi Golam Mostafa lodged a case with Cantonment Police in this connection Saturday night, said police.

Meanwhile, following a directive from the higher authorities, the case was Branch yesterday.

police in Dhaka told The Daily Star that they had received the case but were vet to start the investigation.

Bangla Bazar, but they did not find any house bearing number 151 and could not trace out Syed Amir Ali, a police source

went on the attack with makeshift weapons, prompting of all property of the Directors the police to fire on them,

From Page 1 Col 8

Taking the floor on a privilage motion, Jativa Party leader Monirul Huq Choudhury brought it to the Speaker's attention that non-introduction of the Parliament Secretariat Bill was an infringement on his privilage as a member.

"I am hoping that the Parliament Secretariat Bill will be placed before the House in this session and I request the Law Ministry to take necessary measures," the Speaker said.

Shahjahan Siraj, the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader, requested the Speaker to read out the Privilage Committee decision taken earlier in regard to the Parliament Secretariat Bill.

"We are hoping that after the existing misunderstanding about the bill is sorted out it may be possible to place the bill during this session, Shaikh Razzaque Ali said, adding "I cannot say antying

more at this moment." JP stalwart Mizanur Rahman Choudhury stood up and sought a statement of the Law Minister regarding the bill.

Mirza Hafiz noted that the Parliament Secretariat has already sent a bill, to be placed as private members bill, to the

"We are scrutinizing the contents of the bill and if it is possible to bring it as a government bill we will do it or else it will come as a private members bill within the next few days," the minister said, adding "in that case if we have any objections we will place it

before the House at that time." Mirza Hafiz also observed that the Parliament Scretariate in both India and Pakistan and other SAARC countries are run under the rules of procedure. "We will provide our views when the time comes," he

Recalling that the Law Minister himself strongly advocated for a Parliament Secretariat while he was a Speaker in 1979, JP leader Moudud Ahmed asked "does he not feel as strongly as before that a Parliament

Secretariat should be set up?" Ganotantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta pointed out that Article 79 of the Cons-

The controversial memorandum of understanding between New Delhi and Kathmandu paves the way for completion of a 120-megawatt hydroelectric power and irrigation project to be built by India that involves an em-

BCI depositors demand arrest of directors

bankment in Nepalese terri-

Sheikh Hasina addressing a discussion meeting organised by Russel Jatiya Shishu Kishore

leaving seven injured.

The arrests in today's pro-

test included NCP-UML parlia

mentarian Prem Singh Dhami,

advocate Bhoj Raj Joshi, pro-

leftist journalist Rishi Raj

Lamsali and a woman activists

Shanti Joshi, local police said.

Parishad on the occasion of Russel's 28th birth day in the city yesterday.

Rao due in Kathmandu today

Police, protesters clash

in Nepal: 17 held

KATHMANDU, Oct 18: An

anti-government transporta-

tion strike was foiled early to-

day when police arrested 17

communist activists in the

southwestern town of Mahen-

dra Nagar, party sources said,

mined the 24-hour 'wheel-jam'

strike along the Mahendra

National Highway to Kath-

mandu called by members of

the Nepal Communist Party-

United Marxists-Leninists

(NCP-UML) in the town, lo-

cated 390 kilometres (240

against a police firing Thursday

night in which seven people

were injured following distur-

bances over a controversial

erupted after activists carrying

protest letters to Indian Prime

Minister PV Narasimha Rao

and Nepalese Prime Minister

Girija Prasad Koirala were pre-

vented from going to Kath-

mandu and detained by police.

to Nepal starting Monday.

be built by India.

Rao is to begin a state visit

The letter opposed an

agreement between the two

countries over a hydro-electric

power and irrigation project to

in Rupandehi township, 290

km (180 miles) southwest of

Kathmandu, protesters began

setting up roadblocks with

the roadblocks the activists

When police tried to clear

boulders and tree trunks.

After the police intervened

Thursday's disturbance had

The strike was to protest

The police action under-

reports AFP.

miles) from here.

water project.

Depositors of Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI) Ltd at an emergency meeting in Dhaka yesterday demanded immediate arrest of all directors, reports UNB.

President of BCI Ltd Depositors Central Association Akbar Hossain Manju chaired the meeting which sought direct intervention of the government for the return of their

The meeting also demanded that its Managing Director Mostafizur Rahman or any other director must not be granted bail until the depositors were certain of getting their money back.

It also called for attachment

Hasina: Parliament From Page 1 Col 7

Star photo

won democracy and plug the conduit of capturing state power through killing in future".

Hasina appealed to the countrymen to stand against the government's "conspiracy" to, what she said, protect the killers and offenders.

"The ruling party is now playing hide-and-seek on the question of Indemnity Act" Hasina said, "despite its earlier commitment to annul the black laws".

Besides, she remarked, a national consensus had been emerged on holding the trial of those "who staged the heinous crime of murdering the father of the nation."

"The government's unwillingness to repeal the ordinance is obstruction democracy's onward march."

Hasina became emotional while narrating the tragic episode of the black night of August 15. The killers even did not spare her youngest brother Describing the scene of

killing Russel, an emotionchoked Hasina said, "when Russel was screaming for going to my father, the killers took him upstair near the bodies of my father and mother and killed him. Russel as our youngest

brother was the apple of the eye of our family, she said. Russel's birth during the Ayub regime's repression on the Bangabandhu family was a matter of great joy for us, she

The AL leader urged al concerned not to shelter terrorism of any sort so that none suffers the pains of losing his or her near and dear ones.

Organised by the Russel Jatiya Shishu-Kishore Parish-ad, the rafly was also addressed by AL presidium member Amir Hossain Amu, Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim, Publicity Secretary Mo zaffar Hossain Paltu and other party leaders including Advocate Fazlul Haque. Raqibur Ra-

hman chaired the function. Addressing the function, Amu commented that this government's anti-terrorism drive was only to hoodwink the peo-

ple and not the curb terrorism. Mohammad Nasim said Sheikh Hasina met the Prime Minister's nephew Atanu remembering her brother Russel. But he alleged, the statecontrolled mass media attempted to assassinate the character of a section of the political leadership capitalising the

Later, Sheikh Hasina distributed awards among the members of the parishad for their outstanding results in this year's SSC examinations.

Milad Mahfil and Quran Khawani were held at the Bangabandhu Bhaban and the students of Sobhanbagh Darul Ulum Madrasa were fed lunch in observance of the birth anniversary of Russel.

AL programme From Page 1 Col 5

nation anything other than terrorism, dead bodies, famine, corruption, nepotism and politicisation", the strongly-worded resolution said.

The meeting adopted separate resolutions on the repeal of indemnity ordinance, antiterrorism ordinance, trial of Jamaat leader Golam Azam, the Gana Adalat and the country's economic condition.

It said that in view of the prevailing situation, the Awami League announced the programmes to realise the demands of the people.

The programmes are: protest meetings, processions and mass contact in different wards October 21-25, workers' meeting of city Awami League on October 26, joining the "march towards parliament" on October 27, countrywide mass contact tour by central leaders, protest rallies and processions from October 28- November 1, public meeting in Dhaka in observance of "Jail Killing Day" on November 3 and joining hartal on November 8.

tions, which open on Wednesday, reports AFP. New Kuwaiti cabinet sworn in

KUWAIT, Oct 18: A new 16-man Cabinet that includes six politicians drawn from opposition ranks - the largest number ever - was sworn in Sunday. In a ceremony at Bayan Palace, the minsters pledged to the Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmed al-Sabah to respect the constitution, abide by the law and defend the people's freedoms, interests and financial interests. The same oath will be taken by deputies of the 50-member parliament on Tuesday as it begins its first session following elections earlier this month in which opposition candidates took 35 seats, reports AP.

From the Gallery

From Page 1 Col 8

splendidly attired in a gleaming white safari suit, said he was new in the House (after 18 months of regular sittings!) and that he would only learn what the elders (Nasim?) taught him. As far as Akhteruzzman was concerned, what Nasim "taught" him was not a novice parliamentarian should learn at all.

"When the minster had already started speaking, Nasim stood up and demanded the floor. He kept on standing, giving the impression as if he had some sort of right over the floor, as if he had to be given the floor", complained the retired warrior.

This was not, the Major maintained, the sort of example to set, as "We want to follow the rules and become good parliamentarians", he said.

Speaker Shaikh Razzaque Ali didn't seem terribly impressed by this discourse on ethics, and confined himself to mumbling "well, if the minister does not say anything, what can I do", or something to that effect.

One thing that keeps coming back to the House like a bad coin is a bill providing for an independent secretariat for parliament, still pending at the Ministry of Low, for reasons unknown. The matter was raised again yesterday, and Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz looked a little unprepared.

"I know quite a bit about laws, but I seem to have lost track of this one, I don't even know how the subject has come up at this moment' Hafiz said in his usual soothing voice, before going on to give a lengthy lecture on happenings in the East Bengal Provincial Assembly in 1954.

Many in the House suspected the veteran minister might be losing interest in the bill, an interest he had back in 1979 when he was Speaker of the second Jatiya Sangsad. Some Treasury front-benchers

remarked that he was getting old, which was quickly refuted by Moudud Ahmed of the Jattya "He is very young and very

energetic, don't underestimate him". Ahmed said, leaning towards the government benches, "We just want to know if his feelings for the idea is still as strong as it was in 1979". Suranjit Sengupta suggested

that if the cabinet was split over the bill, then the Opposition would come forward to help. What's more, he said mischievously, Hafiz could always withdraw the Anti-Terrorism Ordinance and table the secretariat bill instead. Hafiz remained silent, to

speak another day no doubt.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda likes to be categorical. Well, sometimes more than other times. When fellow BNP-man

Helaluzzaman Talukder of

Bogra wanted to know what had happened to plans to setup a television station in his home town, Huda was categor-"There shouldn't be any

misunderstanding or confusion about this. Plans for TV station at Bogra are included in the Fourth Five Year Plan, and there will be a TV station at Bogra and Rajshahi", he said.

But when Talukder wanted to know a) how much money has been allocated for this project and b) by when would the project be completed, Huda was anything but categorical.

Talukder had said that answers to his questions were necessary to get rid of confusion from the public mind, but Huda thought the opposite. "This will create even more

confusion. At the moment, I have no way to say anything more than I have already said. These questions will have to come to me in notice forms for me to find the answers", he said, swaying, as usual, from side to side on his legs with his hands restlessly moving around on his table.

Deng's policy

From Page 1 Col 4

their efforts to make ideological purity dominate the party

Instead, the week-long congress was an affirmation of the pragmatic policies of Deng, who over 14 years in power has reduced state control over the economy in favour of free markets. Deng, 88, did not attend

the congress but was its dominant force. He and the other party elders scripted it beforehand, setting the tone of the speeches and choosing the Central Committee candidates. The congress' more than 2,000 delegates were given ballots with only a few more names than seats.

The conclave closed with more praise for Deng.

"Comrade Deng Xiaoping the chief architect for China's reform, opening up and modernisation programme, has made major historic contributions," the delegates declared in a resolution. They amended the party

constitution to include Deng's theory of "building socialism with Chinese characteristics" which means defying classical Marxism if necessary to serve China's needs. Then the delegates stood in

the Great Hall of the People, decorated with red flags and a huge hammer and sickle, to hear the Internationale, the anthem of the shrinking world communist movement.

Deng resigned from his main party posts at the last party congress in 1987. However, he remains the main power-broker and policymaker because of his prestige in the military and party.

So too, Yang and other

elders stepping down now are expected to still wield influence. Yang also remains president, at least for several months.

The new Central Committee, which is slightly larger than the one it replaced, will still take direction from Deng and the elders. For example, its first task is to select from its ranks a new Politburo, a

committee. However, the Politburo lineup has already been decided by the elders and the Central Committee vote is largely a formality. The new Politburo and its Standing Committee, the apex of the party organisation, are expected to

smaller and higher-level

be announced Monday. Armed men loot Tk four lakh

from a Lalbagh

By Staff Correspondent A group of armed men

barged into a business centre and looted about Taka four lakh from a shop at Lalbagh in the city Sunday afternoon.

About six armed men aged between 20 and 30 stormed into a plastic and chemical shop at 39 Nanda Kumar Datta Road at Lalbagh at 2:15 pm yesterday and looted Taka 84,000 in cash and bearer bank cheques for Taka 3,03,000 at gun-point, withesses said.

Witnesses said that they saw the armed men fleeing away by a 'Bikolpa' taxi bearing number Dhaka Metro Pa - 307.

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Rahman said that in his

The Australian Foreign Minster expressed his concern about the problem and assured him of all possible cooperation from the Australian government for immediate repatriation of the Rohingya refugees,

In his meetings with the Treasurer and the Minister for Trade and Overseas Development. Rahman drew their attention to the persisting unfavourable balance of trade between the two countries and suggested increased Australian imports from Bangladesh to narrow the yawning trade gap. Rahman met a group of

Ismail Hossain, convenor of

the district Muktijoddha

Sangsad Shahjahan Ali Tara

and Sangsad's district leader

Fazlul Haq, district Sangskritik

Jote activist Asaduddin Paplu a

secretary of Ekok Sangha Club

was killed in a clash between

the supporters of Nirmul

Committee and Jamaat-e-

Islami in the town on May 13.

Another Jamaat leader, Abu

Earlier on May 15, police

arrested accused secretary of

the district Awami League

Abdul Latif Mirja and comman-

der of sadar thana Mukti-

joddha Sangsad Abdul Bar

Talukder. Mirja was sent to jail

while Bari granted bail by the

Revenue

From Page 1 Col 8

earnings was Taka 8,480 crore

and the collection in the first

three months was 21.33 per

cent of the annual target of

In reply to Mirza Azam

(Jamalpur-3) the minister in-

formed the House that an

amount of Taka 36.76 crore

was realised following the en-

actment of the "Artha Rin

He told Maulana Sakhawat

Hossain (Jessore-6) that the

amount of demand deposit and

fixed deposit in the commer-

cial banks stood at Taka

5691.55 crore and 19,582. 28

crore respectively till August

tion of Prof Rafigul Islam

(Jessore-2) the Finance Minis-

ter said that on September the

foreign exchange reserve stood

at 1,720 million US dollar

which is the highest since

was little over 456.7 million

US dollar, the Finance

futed a supplementary ques-

tion on whether such huge re-

serve put an "ominous impact"

on the country's overall trade

and said that the reserve to

meet five months import could

be considered as normal and

satisfactory for a country like

million dollars were spent

monthly on account of imports.

He termed the liquidity posi-

tion as satisfactory and in-

formed the House that his

ministry directed the banks to

release more credits for eco-

to come forward to take help

from the commercial banks in

ply to another supplementary

question said that the govern-

ment has no plan to repay the

foreign loans from the coun-

He urged the businessmen

The Finance Minister in re-

nomic activities.

proper ways.

try's reserve.

Currently on an average 300

On February '90 the reserve

The Finance Minister re-

independence.

Minister said.

Replying to another ques-

still hiding, police said.

The remaining accused are

Jamaat leader Abul Kashem

Shafiqul Islam Shafi.

in the clash.

September 9.

magistrate.

Adalat Act."

9 Nirmul body men sent

to jail in Sirajganj

By Staff Correspondent Detective Branch (DB) of police Sunday was entrusted with the investigation of the gold-case lodged with Canton-

ment Police Saturday.

Sayeed, was seriously injured Later a Customs Superint-A case was filed with sadar thana, accusing 51 in this connection. Police chargesheeted them after investigation on

> handed over to the Detective Deputy Commissioner of DB

> Meanwhile police rushed to

BSF From Page | Col 5 through Jubannagar Para of Maheshpur thana in Jhenidah

district. BDR resisted all the attempts and sent the people back to the Indian soil, accord

ing to the sources. During a trip to different frontier villages in Jessore and Jhenidah districts today, this correspondent found the morale of the people high and they had formed small vigilance teams to accompany the

BDR patrolmen. Talking to this correspondent, community leaders of different villages of Chougacha thana in Jessore and Maheshpur thana of Jhenidah districts said that the Indian "Operation push back" was an

act of bad neighbourliness. "The pushing of these Bangla-speaking people collected from different parts of India and herding them into a neighbouring country is very inhuman and barbaric," said Shahidul Islam, chairman of the Jadavpur union at Mahes-

hpur in Jhenidah district. The frontier villagers were in favour of a political solution to the push in issue and hoped that the operation would stop

Textile workers From Page 1 Col 8 between the textile workers

immediately.

and the government this evening failed to yield any positive result. Meeting sources said no settlement could be reached as the worker leaders, representing the textile sector only, were firm on their demands for implementation of their

accords concluded with the

government on July 27 this

year and December 19 last year. The meeting held at the BJMC Bhaban was chaired by State Minister for Textiles Maj (Retd) MA Mannan and was attended, among others, by BTMC Chairman Syed Yusuf Hossain and high officials of

the corporation. The textile mills workers were led by the BTMC Workers Federation President Badrul Alam Khan Lablu,

Meanwhile, the rival group of the workers called for a meeting today at Monnu Textile Mills.

titution says that a soverign parliament should have a Parliament Secretariat.

"Get over this deadlock, Sengupta pleaded "there is no scope to violate the constitution." He called for introducing the Parliament Secretariat Bill as a government bill as soon as possible.

JS: Push back

Rahman's approach during meetings with Indian leaders. The resolution to the moved by the Foreign Minis-

ter, will call for a consensus on

Last week, the Foreign Minister separately briefed the opposition leaders including the ones from the Awami League, the PDF, the Jamaat as well as top media personali-

The Foreign Minister, while condemning the Indian action in harsh terms for its "brutal and inhuman" aspects, is unlikely to issue a flat denial of cross-border migration, a source close to the minister

"The point he will stress is that there has been a two-way traffic not only between the two countries but also across the subcontinent for ages, for gious reasons. But this is no such a measure", the source,

Even though the Opposition is all for joining the chorus in the "condemnation" of the failing to "act".

acting not acting", said Abul Hasan Chowdhury of Awami League, speaking on the issue. "It is the duty of the gov-

ernment to protect and preserve the sovereignty of the country ... if it fails to act it should be condemned as much as the Indian move itself", said Chowdhury, the party's spokesman for international af-

Secretariat Bill

From Page 1 Col 7

handling the issue.

historical, cultural and relireason for India to undertake speaking on condition of anonymity said.

unilateral Indian action, the MPs, especially ones from the AL-led coalition, will go all-out to attack the government for "The government is just re-