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 VOL. II NO. 274 REGD. NO. DA 781

The Daily Star

KARTIK 14 1399 BS, DHAKA THURSDAY, OCTOBER 29, 1992 JAMADI-UL-AWWAL 1 1413 HIJRI

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12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

Article
 How TV took over the American elections Page 4

International



Bush signs bill to open lines on Kennedy Lankan Muslims seek protection Page 5

Business

Asia turning to private sector for energy Page 6

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Mixing the Folk with the Classics Page 7

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 4-page supplement on BEPZA on Pages 7, 8, 9 & 10

House boycott to continue

Opposition chooses agitation against anti-terrorism bill

By Staff Correspondent
 The Opposition, excepting the Jamaat, last night announced "continuation of boycott" of the House and taking to the streets to force the ruling party to withdraw the controversial anti-terrorism bill.
 The Opposition leaders at a joint press conference vowed that they would resist by all possible means the passage and application of the law which they termed the blackest in history designed to repress political opponents.
 They announced a set of programmes aimed at "involving the people" with their movement and said they would meet every day to decide their course of action depending on the ruling party's response.
 "We'll resist by any means... it's application... it's passage", said Abdus Samad Azad, the Deputy Leader of the Opposition.
 "We've exhausted all procedures of Parliament... the only way out now is to go to the people and we are going to the people", said Suranjit Sengupta speaking after the announcement of programmes by the Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim.
 Nasim — on behalf of the Awami League, the Ganatantri Party, the Jatiya Party, the Communist Party of Bangladesh, the JSD (Siraj), NAP, the Islami Oikya Jote who all had attended a meeting chaired by the Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina just before the briefing — said that

Talks with Delhi on 'push back' continuing: FM

A total of 177 Bengali-speaking Indian nationals have been pushed-in to Bangladesh under the so-called "Push Back" operation of India, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.
 Replying to a question from Kazi Abdur Rashid (AL-Madaripur) in his absence the Foreign Minister said the figure was collected from Bangladesh Rifles and other sources.
 Replying to another question whether the government was taking any step to send those people back to India, Mostafizur Rahman said the issue would be settled after mutual understanding of the two countries. He also told the House that talks between the two governments were continuing.
 Replying to a question from Mosharraf Hussain (AL-Farid) — See Page 12 Col 6

Anti-terrorism Bill Opposition misleading people: Khaleda

SAIDPUR, (Nilphamari), Oct 28: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today (Wednesday) blasted the opposition for objecting to the Anti-terrorism Bill, reports UNB.
 "BNP wants peace and discipline in the country, and the anti-terrorism bill has been brought in a response to people's wishes", Begum Zia said while addressing a huge rally at the Railway ground here this afternoon.
 The Anti-terrorism Bill, 1992, was introduced in Parliament on Tuesday amid strong protest and walkout by the members of Awami League, Jatiya Party and their allies. Jamaat-e-Islami also opposed introduction of the Bill through voice vote but did not walkout.
 Referring to threats by the opposition to paralyse the government, the Prime Minister confidently said, "We will continue our development efforts and paralyse them instead. We have the support of the people".
 People have no confidence in the opposition, Begum Zia said adding that they had voted BNP to power for ensuring peace and welfare of the common man.
 The nine-year autocratic regime could not paralyse the movement of BNP, which believes in and works for welfare of the people, Begum Zia reminded.
 She accused the opposition of misleading the people and called for united efforts to resist them. "It is your responsibility to resist those who want to create indiscipline in national life."
 Begum Zia also blamed certain vested quarters who, she said, had made black money in the past and were involved

Five new UNSC members

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 28: Brazil, Djibouti, Pakistan, Spain and New Zealand were elected by the General Assembly on Tuesday to two-year terms on the 15-nation Security Council, beginning January 1, 1993, reports BSS.
 They will fill council seats being vacated at the end of this year by Ecuador, Zimbabwe, India, Austria and Belgium.
 The council includes five other non-permanent members whose two-year terms expire at the end of 1993. They are: Cape Verde, Hungary, Japan, Morocco and Venezuela.
 The council's five permanent members, each with the power of veto, are: the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France.

Unfair means in public exams

Jail terms raised to ten years

The Jatiya Sangsad last night passed an amendment bill providing for stringent punishment to those indulging in corrupt practices or abetting others in adopting unfair means in public examinations to check offences in examinations, reports BSS.
 Jail terms ranging from five years to 10 years have been raised from the existing two to four years for the offences in the public examinations, according to the amendments brought to The 1980 Public Examinations (Offences) Act.
 The House rejected all the amendments moved by the opposition including that of circulating The Public Examinations (Offences) (Amendment) Bill, 1992 to elicit public opinion on the bill was introduced in the House four months back during the budget session.
 While piloting the bill, the Education Minister, Jamiruddin Sircar in his statement of object and reasons for bringing the bill said The 1980 Public Examinations (Offences) Act had the provisions to award punishment to those involved in adopting unfair means or abetting such corrupt practices in the examinations.
 The speaker said The Public Examinations (Offences) (Amendment) Bill had brought amendments to certain provisions of the 1980 Act to make the punishment stringent for



Seen from the Gallery
 by Sabir Mustafa
 When a bearded, bespectacled but otherwise non-descript maulana began reciting from the Holy Quran at 5 pm yesterday, there were precisely 36 MPs present in the House — 31 from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, four Jamaat-i-Islami members and the lone representative of the Islami Oikya Jote Maulana Obaidul Huq.
 The seats began to be filled up as the recital went on. His Arabic original to Bengali translation, but the party representations remained unchanged.
 The absence of the Awami League and its allies gave the House a pretty desolate look, and the pressure put on the Home Minister, whose turn it was to answer questions yesterday, by Jamaat's mostly clerical members would have put a small-sized pressure-cooker to shame.
 Even in this heaven-sent situation, which was tantamount to one side fielding 11 players against two opponents with no goalkeeper, Abdul Matin Chowdhury had his uncomfortable moments. He barely avoided scoring an own-goal, and once at least was rescued by some deft footwork by the referee himself.
 Rasat Ali of Jamaat laid a neat little trap, with a supplementary question.
 The original question was, how many political leaders and



A group of BRTC workers attacked and ransacked a rival workers' union office at Kamalapur Bus Depot in city. Ten BRTC workers were injured in the incident — Star photo

3000 stranded Pak families may be repatriated by Dec: FM

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the government was taking all necessary steps to ensure repatriation of the 3,000 families of the stranded Pakistanis well before their scheduled repatriation in December next, reports BSS.
 Replying to a question from Awami League member Mirza Azam, during the question hour, the Foreign Minister said that this was decided after the Prime Ministers of Bangladesh and Pakistan held successful talks on August 9-11, he said.
 The minister was replying to the question in absence of the questioner.
 The Foreign Minister said the total number of stranded Pakistanis as estimated in a recent census was 2 lakh 38 thousand 93.

Owners of sick units threaten movement

By Staff Correspondent
 Entrepreneurs of sick industries at a press conference yesterday gave the government an ultimatum of 15 days for taking appropriate measures to rehabilitate the sick units of the country.
 Otherwise, they said the entrepreneurs will organise a grand conference on November 30 in Dhaka to announce an action programme.
 The press conference organised jointly by the Inter-Association Sick Industries Rehabilitation Council (IASIRC) and the BSRS Entrepreneurs Forum at the National Press Club also demanded immediate implementation of the recommendations of the Sick Industries Rehabilitation and Revival Cell.
 Addressing the press conference, Convener of IASIRC Alauddin Ahmed said that a massive movement programme would be taken at the grand rally of the entrepreneurs and the government itself would be held responsible for any

SAARC invitation Tariqul off to Thimpu

The special envoy of the Prime Minister and Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Minister Tariqul Islam left Dhaka yesterday for Thimpu, reports BSS.
 He will handover an invitation letter of the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the King of Bhutan Jigme Singhye Wangchuck to attend the seventh SAARC summit to be held in Dhaka in December.
 Islam will also hold discussion with the King on matters relating to the SAARC summit.

Donors favour foreign consultants: Saifur

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman was critical yesterday of donors for favouring foreign consultants in their technical assistance programme which encouraged brain drain from the country, reports UNB.
 Very often donors tend to prefer consultants having least knowledge on the subject only because they are foreigner, Rahman said while inaugurating a national workshop on Transfer of knowledge Through Expatriate Nationals at the NEC auditorium yesterday morning.
 UNDP and the Economic Relations Division (ERD) jointly organised the workshop, the sixth such exercise.
 TOKTEN is a UNDP-sponsored scheme in over 30 developing countries including Bangladesh designed to mitigate the adverse consequences of exodus of their talented specialists. Under the scheme, skilled expatriates are brought back to home for short consultations.
 Saifur Rahman particularly mentioned some multilateral

One shot, one hurt in blast at AJM

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Oct 28: A non-worker was shot and a canteenboy sustained bomb injuries in the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) area today, mills sources said.
 Ohid, 25, reportedly an Awami League activist, was wounded when the assailants fired at a group of people gossiping at Alipara around 3.30 pm.
 He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where his condition was stated to be critical.
 Alamgir Hossain, a 12-year-old canteenboy, was seriously injured when a cracker exploded falling from the hand of its carrier near a gate of AJM at 11.30 am.



Two of the several boxes containing physiotherapy equipment donated by Kingdom of Saudi Arabia lying on the corridor of Dhaka Shishu Hospital for over a year. — Star photo

Physiotherapy equipment lying idle at Shishu Hospital

By Nurul Kabir
 Although the Dhaka Shishu Hospital has in its possession a good number of modern physiotherapy equipment the patients are not getting benefits of these machines.
 This is just because the hospital which got the equipment along with some more for treating other diseases from the Saudi Arabian Mission in Dhaka as gift in the first quarter of 1991 are yet to unpack and installed.
 However the equipment for intensive care unit, renal and dialysis unit, special baby care unit, pathology unit, surgical

Economy is back in gear Bush sees new hope of persuading voters

WASHINGTON, Oct 23: The last major economic report before Election Day gave President Bush new hope of persuading voters the economy is back in gear, but Bill Clinton insisted his plan would mean more jobs for more people. Ross Perot planned his second campaign outing since re-entering the race, reports UNB.
 With six days to go, new poll results Wednesday confirmed that the race has become a much closer one. The polls showed Clinton's lead over Bush shrinking to 6 and 7 percentage points among likely voters.
 A third poll, which also included some sampling after the weekend flap, showed Clinton with a 10-point lead among likely voters.
 Perot had 17, 21 and 18 per cent in the three polls.
 From sunup to sundown Tuesday, in Iowa, Kentucky and Ohio, Bush cheered the government's report that the economy grew at an annual rate of 2.7 per cent in the July-September quarter—less than in past recovery periods but more than economists had expected.
 Of Tuesday's good eco- See Page 12 Col 4

25 hurt as police, students clash at Tongi

From Our Correspondent GAZIPUR, Oct 28: At least 25 persons including five policemen were injured in a clash over the delay in the announcement of Tongi Govt. College Students' Union election results today.
 Tongi police arrested two students from the spot of the clash.
 Starting at 8 am, voting for the college students Union continued till 2 pm and the counting began at 3 pm.
 When the results were not being announced even at 3 pm, a section of agitated students started pelting stones at police guarding the main building of the college.

Eight killed as gunbattles continue in Srinagar

SRINAGAR, Oct 28: Gunbattles between Muslim rebels and federal troops erupted overnight in Srinagar as a visiting team of Indian MPs held talks with Kashmiri security officials, government sources said today, reports AFP.
 At least eight people died and 18 others were injured in Tuesday's skirmishes, they said, adding that sporadic firing was continuing Wednesday in protest against the visit by the 20-member team.
 An old woman and a child died in one of the skirmishes when Indian paramilitary troops fired in retaliation in Srinagar's walled city districts to bring down snipers, the sources said.
 They said the violence was in protest against the parliamentary delegation which flew in from New Delhi on Tuesday to review the situation in the strife-torn state.
 MPs belonging to Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's Congress (I) Party and from most major opposition groups held talks with Kashmiri governor Girish Chandra Saxena amid a general strike and street protests by the Muslim rebels.
 "Things have not changed here, a police officer quoted one of the MPs as saying today as militants and civilians chanted anti-Indian slogans through Tuesday night in the city.
 Muslim religious leaders also joined the non-stop protest, yelling "we want freedom" from loudhailers mounted atop mosques in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and urban hub of a four-year-old secessionist drive.
 The protesters hoisted black flags, burned Rao in effigy and shut down market centres, stores and offices to enforce the three-day general strike, witnesses and police said.
 Kashmiri militants say the three-day visit by the all-party delegation could start a political process in Kashmir which would not be in favour of the states Muslim-majority population.
 The visiting MPs, here on a fact-finding mission, plan to meet residents and local politicians to investigate reports of police excesses and to monitor the situation related to the secessionist drive.
 The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front, the Hizbul Mujahideen, the Ikhwan-ul-Muslimeen and other militant factions have urged residents and human rights groups to boycott the delegation.
 Reuter adds: Pakistan on Tuesday released more than 100 Kashmiri activists arrested while staging a banned march but expelled five leaders of the protest from the part of Kashmir which it rules, opposition sources in Islamabad said.
 Kashmiri political groups in Pakistan, meanwhile, held protests to mark the 45th anniversary of the entry of the Indian army into Kashmir.

Dacoity at PSC director's house

By Staff Correspondent
 About eight dacoits entered the residence of a Bangladesh Public Service Commission director early yesterday and decimated with valuables worth Tk 1.5 lakh.
 Following the incident, Cantonment Police took two persons into custody, one of whom was identified as a dacoit, Police sources said.
 Rabul Islam, a PSC director and owner of the house told The Daily Star that about eight armed men barged into his house at about 4.15 am Wednesday.

Condolence meet at DUJ office

A condolence meeting will be held at 11 am today at the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) office at Jatiya Press Club in memory of photo-journalist Khairul Alam Khair killed Tuesday in a train accident. Professional colleagues, relatives, friends and well wishers of late Khair have been requested to attend the meeting, reports BSS.

Nayyar Sultana dead

ISLAMABAD, Oct 28: Nayyar Sultana, a prominent Pakistani film star, died of stomach cancer late Tuesday, the official Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said today. Sultana, 60, died at the Agha Khan Hospital in Karachi where she had been under treatment for the last six months.

CABI team due today

A 5-member delegation of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau International (CABI), UK, headed by Dr Christina Cunliffe, arrives in Dhaka today. During its two-week stay, the CABI delegation will carry out survey of Bangladesh agricultural information needs. They will also visit different national agricultural research organizations, extension, rural development institutions of the country and Bangladesh Agricultural University at Mymensingh, reports BSS.