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Holiday notice

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Saturday) on the occasion of National Revolution and Solidarity Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Sunday).
— Management

NEWS BRIEFS

President assents to two more bills

The President yesterday assented to 2 (Two) more bills passed by the Jatiya Sangsad in its current session. The bills are the Bangladesh Tariff Commission Bill, 1992 and the Anti-Terrorist Bill, 1992, reports BSS.

BCTA confce November 9

The two-day national conference of Bangladesh College Teachers' Association (BCTA) will begin on November 9. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to attend the conference as the chief guest. The conference, to be held at the Engineers' Institute with the theme 'education for national development' will be participated by more than 2,000 teachers' representatives, teacher leaders and educationists from 664 non-government colleges of all over the country, reports BSS.

Shilpakala Academy function today

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy will hold a cultural function at its auditorium at 6 pm today on the occasion of National Revolution and Solidarity Day. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum will attend the function as chief guest, reports UNB.

Parliament autumn session prorogued

Return to House next time, Badruddoza urges opposition

By Staff Correspondent

Parliament was prorogued Friday amid a call from the Treasury bench towards the boycotting Opposition members to return to the House in the next session and make it 'active and lively.'

Chaired by Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali, the final sitting of the seventh session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad passed three more bills while the on-going controversy over the statements of Dr Ahmed Sharif was also discussed.

The Speaker read out the prorogation order of the President at 9:35 pm. He

thanked the members for attending the session and also expressed his gratitude to the members not present.

In his winding up speech, Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury appealed to the boycotting Opposition members to return to parliament in the future.

The Opposition members belonging to the Awami League, the Jatiya Party, the Ganotantri Party and the JSD-Siraj continued their boycott of the current session following a walkout in protest of the introduction of the anti-terror-

ism bill in parliament on October 27.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) which also joined the boycott later withdrew and returned to the House on November 3.

"It is unfortunate that they (the boycotting Opposition members) are not present here today. I earnestly request them to come back and hope that we will see them in the House in future so that they can use the parliament properly and make it more active and lively," Chowdhury said.

Acknowledging that walkout

from parliament is a democratic process, he, however, questioned the effectiveness of boycotts in a parliamentary democracy.

B Chowdhury observed that the boycotting Opposition members were not using the parliament effectively. "If they are not satisfied with certain moves they can stage a walkout and even after that if they are not satisfied they can use the media to project their views and after that they can also go to the constitutional courts."

This, he added, is the proper way.



Mothers with babies refused admission for want of beds in renal and dialysis unit of the PG Hospital hang on in the corridor of the hospital (top); Maria Mohsin, an ARF patient struggling for life at dialysis ward (above left) and paediatrician Dr Moazzem Hossain.

Kidney disease grips babies

Staff Reporter

Scarcity of peritoneal dialysis (PD) sets is hampering the treatment of acute renal failure among children which has reached an alarming level in the country.

The PD sets, mainly imported from Japan and Germany, used to sell between Taka 300 and 400 at the end of the last month. The price shot up to Tk 1000 Wednesday and since then it became out of market.

PD is the only treatment for acute renal failure (ARF) among children, according to

experts. At present PD is administered in only two hospitals of the country: the PG Hospital, which has eight beds and the Shishu (children's) Hospital, which has four.

None of these hospitals have PD sets in their stock. The capacity of the two hospitals is so meagre compared to the need that over 500 children had to go back home without any treatment during the month of October alone.

During the same period 30

children were admitted to the PG Hospital. Six of them went back cured, 20 died while the rest removed from the hospital by their parents, presuming the inevitable consequence.

Some of the parents, out of desperation, have kept waiting in the corridors of the dialysis ward with the ailing children in their laps. Their hopes for treatment would be a reality only if the beds are available. But no bed is available if somebody is not released or is not dead.

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Sharif issue again surfaces in Parliament

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday held a short discussion on alleged remarks by Professor Ahmed Sharif on Islam at a discussion meeting held at the National Museum on October 21 last, reports BSS.

The short discussion took place on a notice by Jamaat-e-Islami member Moulana Mohammad Shakhawat Hossain in which he alleged that the "sacrilegious statement" of Prof Sharif about Islamic religion had created a situation in the country and hurt the religious sentiment of the people.

The notice demanded trial of Ahmed Sharif for what it alleged his atheist observation

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Report on Indemnity Ordinance bill in next session

By Staff Correspondent

The Special Parliamentary Committee on the Indemnity Ordinance Repeal Bill Friday decided to submit its report in the next session of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The committee at its 15th meeting at the Sangsad Friday decided that it would submit the report to the House, accommodating all opinions, committee sources said.

Since the parliament session has been prorogued, the House would discuss the ordinance in the next session following the submission of the report by the special committee, they said.

The two-hour committee meeting discussed the preparation of the report.

Presided over by Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, chairman of the 15-member special parliamentary committee, the meeting was attended by Deputy Leader of the House

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Nirmul body calls half-day hartal tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

A half-day hartal has been called in the capital tomorrow (Sunday) in demand for Jamaat leader Golam Azam's death by hanging, as pronounced by a 'People's Court' for his war offences, withdrawal of cases against 24 sponsors of Azam's public trial and imposition of ban on Jamaat-Shibir politics.

The National Coordination Committee for Implementation of the Spirit of Liberation War

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Barapukuria coal exploration Understanding with Chinese consortium reached

Star Report

The Petrobangla and a Chinese consortium have reached understanding for the implementation of Barapukuria Coal Mine Project.

After the end of a five-day discussion between two sides Thursday evening in Dhaka, the Chinese delegation agreed to undertake the project on turnkey basis and proposed suppliers' credit for it.

The consortium is composed of the China National Machinery Import and Export Corporation (CMC), the China Machinery Building International Corporation (CMIC) and

the China Coal Overseas Development Corporation (CODCO). The CMC headed the delegation in the discussion with Petrobangla.

According to a reliable source, a contract for implementation of the project will be signed between the consortium and the Petrobangla before mid-1993.

The cost of Barapukuria Coal Mine Project was estimated at over 250 million US dollars based on British consultant's report. But the Chinese experts' recent estimation

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7 killed, 61 injured in road accidents

FENI, Nov 6: Five people were killed and 20 others injured, seven seriously, in a bus accident at Lalpur, 4 km off the town on Feni bypass early today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 1 am when the Dhaka bound night coach from Chittagong rammed into a roadside mosque after hitting two trucks parked beside the road, one rickshaw and a tea stall.

Four unidentified bus passengers, including a woman (30), died on the spot while another Muniruzzaman (40) of Bandarban thana, succumbed to injury on way to the hospital.

The bodies were sent to

Feni Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

Of the injured, 12 passengers were rushed to Feni Sadar Hospital. Seven of them were later shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH) in critical condition. Rest of the injured were given first aid at different clinics.

Those shifted to the CMCH were identified as Sudhir and Norobir Paul (16) of village Fatikchhari in Chittagong, Abul Hashem (35) of Lohagara in Narail, Masud Karim (36) of Dabidwar in Comilla, Noor Mohammad (30) of Trisal, Mymensingh, Kudrat Ali (65) of Sirajganj and Shahjahan (25) of Majdee in Noakhala.

See Page 12 Col 7

'BNP voted to power not to repeal Indemnity Ordn'

Information Minister Barister Najmul Huda said here yesterday that the people had voted BNP to power to implement the development and production oriented policies and not for repealing the Indemnity ordinance, reports BSS.

The minister was addressing a huge public meeting organised by Lalbagh thana of BNP in connection with unveiling of the plaque of the 465-feet Lalbagh-Kamrangirchar link bridge built at a cost of Taka two crore.

The plaque was unveiled by Meer Shawkat Ali MP.

Criticising the recent remark of the Opposition leader, the Information Minister said those who had switched over to one-party rule by changing the Constitution within 24 hours, and did away with the multi-party system, tortured people by the Rakshi Bahini, snatched away the fundamental rights of the people, and freedom of the press, were great autocrats.

He said Awami League joined the parliament in 1986 in exchange of a big sum to give legality to the autocratic regime of Ershad. The leader of the Opposition then did not talk about the repeal of the Indemnity ordinance which she could have done easily, he said.

The Information Minister wanted to know why BNP would repeal the Indemnity Bill. He said the Indemnity Act was promulgated by Awami League leader and the then President Khandakar Moshataque, one month and 10 days after the killing.

He said no one, even no Awami League leader, had filed any case against the killing anywhere in Bangladesh.

The minister said the people did not vote for BNP to implement the Awami League programmes, rather they had

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See Page 12 Col 7

Clinton to unveil economic programme in 100 days

WASHINGTON, Nov 6:

President-elect Bill Clinton has pledged to unveil a new economic programme within 100 days of his inauguration, January 20, and having a large contingent of new members in Congress will boost his chances of enacting it, reports AFP.

A series of scandals over the past two years, including massive overdrafts at the House of Representatives' Bank promoted some lawmakers not to run for another term and

helped force incumbents out of office in Tuesday's general election.

The result is that 121 new senators and representatives, the largest number in 50 years, will set up shop on Capitol Hill in January.

Among incumbents who ran for re-election, 93 per cent will return to Congress, reinforcing the complaints of both President George Bush and his predecessor Ronald Reagan about the weight of incumbency.

Revolution, Solidarity Day today

National Revolution and Solidarity Day is being celebrated all over the country today (Saturday) in a befitting manner, reports UNB.

On this day in 1975, Sepoy-Janata created a history by crushing conspiracy against the country's independence and sovereignty through a so-called counter revolution. The Sepoy-Janata uprising had safeguard and consolidated the national independence.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to celebrate the occasion through milad mahfils, seminars, symposium and cultural functions.

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Sink differences to consolidate democracy: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has called upon all to sink differences and dedicate in the work of improving the lot of the people for attaining the objectives of independence and democracy, reports BSS.

In a message on the occasion of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day the Prime Minister said an elected government had been reposed with the responsibility to run the country with the fall of autocracy and establishment of democracy.

At present the major objectives of the nation are improving the lot of the people and attaining economic emancipation which were the objectives of War of Independence, she said.

The Prime Minister said the National Revolution and Solidarity Day was significant

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6 arrested in connection with Satkania clash

CHITTAGONG, Nov 6: Satkania police today arrested six persons in connection with yesterday's clashes there and Section 144 continued to remain imposed for an indefinite period, police told BSS here tonight.

At least fifty persons were injured, five of them seriously, in the clashes between the activists of two rival student organisations at Satkania Thana HQs about 50 kms south of here.

Police said a group of students also raided today the residence of Babul Kanti Nandi, the headmaster of local girls high school and beat his son Nayan Kanti Nandi' a first year college student in sequel to yesterday's incidents.

However, the situation was brought under control by the police. The president of Bangladesh Islami Chhatra Shibir Satkania Chapter and a former president of Satkania Awami League were among those arrested today police said.

Make tomorrow's hartal a success: Hasina

Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on the people from all walks of life to make the half-day hartal on November 8 (Sunday) a total success, reports UNB.

The hartal was called by the Nirmul Committee to press for implementation of the verdict of People's Court on 'war criminal' Golam Azam.

In a statement, the Awami League president and leader of the Opposition said Golam Azam is a foreign citizen and he must be tried in this soil.

Two die in separate incidents

By Staff Correspondent
Two people died in two separate incidents at Tallabagh and Banani in the capital Friday.

A garments factory owner, Mohammad Shamsul Karim Mahmud, reportedly committed suicide by hanging at his Tallabagh residence early Friday, according to police.

On an information Mohammadpur police rushed to the spot and recovered Mahmud's body which was hanging from a ceiling fan in

See Page 12 Col 5

Britain to ratify Maastricht Treaty after Denmark does

LONDON, Nov 6: Prime Minister John Major said Thursday that Britain will hold off ratifying a treaty on closer European union until after Denmark, which rejected the pact, holds a second referendum in May, reports AP.

The announcement, a day after Major narrowly averted a parliamentary defeat over the Maastricht Treaty, appeared aimed at mollifying treaty opponents in his Conservative Party.

It meant that unless the treaty collapses altogether under a second Danish rejection, Britain is virtually certain to be

the last to ratify of the 12 nations in the European Community.

The treaty, which provides for a single European currency by 1997 and close cooperation on foreign policy and defense, must be endorsed by all member nations either through legislation or popular vote.

Questioned in the House of Commons, Major acknowledged that he promised one potential rebel legislator on Wednesday that the treaty ratification bill would not reach its final legislative stage in Britain before the Danish referendum. "It is important to carry the

assent of the House for this bill and that will take time," said Major.

Commentators said that as the upper House of Lords would have to ratify the treaty after the Commons, the process might take until October.

The opposition Labour Party accused Major of hypocrisy. "He was saying one thing in the Commons and saying something completely different behind our backs to get people to prop him up," said Labour foreign affairs spokesman Jack Cunningham. On Wednesday, Major's 21-vote majority in the 651-member

Commons collapsed to just three, barely defeating a combination of Labour and Conservative rebels. They sought to delay bringing the ratification bill to Parliament.

The bill still has to go to committee. But many saw Major's largely symbolic victory was crucial to his survival. He had called for Wednesday's vote in order to confront the Conservative rebels and had staked his political credibility on winning. Major, current president of the community, said his victory Wednesday meant he was in a stronger position to host a

community summit in December.

The leaders plan to issue a protocol emphasizing national sovereignty to make the treaty more acceptable to voters worried about being swallowed up in a European superstate.

Explaining how the Commons ratification process could last until May, Major said there would be a "limited discussion" before Christmas and "more detail" in the New Year.

"Given the committee timetable we have in mind and the full discussion we need, we will need to take the Third Reading (final legislative stage)

after that (Danish referendum) date in May," said Major.

Labourites hoped Paddy Ashdown, leader of the 20-seat Liberal Democratic Party whose support saved Major on Wednesday.

"The price of principle is often abuse," Major shouted to Ashdown across the Labour jeers.

Labour also supports the treaty. But the opposition party said the vote was for or against Major and his troubled administration, now running 10 points behind Labour in opinion polls.