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**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Division into Small Economic Regions—a Development Pre-requisite**  
 Page 4

**International**



**Sikhs will seek Clinton's help to stop human rights abuse in Punjab**  
 Page 5

**Business**

**Industrialisation and policy of import liberalisation**  
 Page 6

**Magazine**

**Malaysia: The Best of East and the West, Suddenly an Unexpected Sister, My World by S M Ali, Dhaka's Changing Skyline, Secret of Enamels, Write to Mita and Limelight on the International Treatre Scene**  
 Page 9,10,11

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**The Vanishing Breed**  
 Page 3

## 2nd round of talks end without accord Labour Minister for SKOP-PM meet

By Nurul Kabir

The Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has suggested the SKOP (Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad) leaders meeting the Prime Minister to secure her pledge for public pronouncement that the government would implement major aspects of the agreement regarding their five-point charter of demands by December this year.

The Minister's offer came at the second round of negotiations between the government and the SKOP leaders yesterday in the backdrop of a 48-

hour strike called by the SKOP for November 29 and 30 to press implementation of the bilateral agreement signed on July, 1991.

The first round of negotiations after announcement of the strike call was held on November 21.

According to meeting sources, the Labour Minister would arrange the proposed meeting between the Prime Minister and the SKOP leaders on the issue only after the SKOP decide to either defer the strike or withdraw it.

Yesterday's negotiations be-

gan at 3 pm and lasted till 7-30 pm.

The SKOP leaders, in a bid to decide its course following the Labour Minister's proposal, met last night but adjourned the meeting till 10 this morning.

Sources in the SKOP told The Daily Star that it was likely to decide in favour of deferring the strike on condition that the Prime Minister publicly announce the deadline for implementing the accord before November 29.

On the question of police

See Page 12 Col 1

## Nirmul Body hartal to create chaos : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday criticised the opposition for its anti-government agitational programmes saying their actions were designed to obstruct the democratic process and development efforts, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister said attempts were being made to create chaotic situation in the name of observing Nirmul Committee programmes, and by making the non-issues into issues.

She also said hartal was being called frequently to disrupt the ongoing production programmes, and so that the elected government could not carry out its people-oriented programmes.

The Prime Minister was

See Page 12 Col 7

## Law Minister terms Ainjibi Samity notice malafide

By S Y Bakht

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Mirza Golam Hafiz Thursday termed the Demand of Justice Notice served on his relating to the promotion of sub-judges as 'absolutely malafide and politically motivated'.

'It is unfortunate to bring the Supreme Court into this controversy, it is being done to drive a wedge between the ministry and the Supreme Court,' the Minister told The Daily Star in an exclusive interview at his Secretariat chamber.

Issued on November 22, the Notice was served on the Law Minister, the Cabinet Secretary, the Secretary, ministry of law and the Secretary,

ministry of establishment by Barrister Amir-ul Islam on behalf of Syed Mahub Ali and Khandakar Abdul Mannan, President and Secretary respectively of the Dhaka Ainjibi Samity.

Asserting that there were no irregularities in the recent promotion of 21 out of a panel of 30 sub-judges, Mirza Hafiz clarified the government's position regarding the formulation of the panels for promotion and also explained the related constitutional provisions.

Commenting on the newspaper reports published on the Demand of Justice Notice, which, he said, he was yet to receive, Mirza Hafiz said that it

See Page 12 Col 2



## Anniversary of Dr Milon's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The second anniversary of death of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan alias Milon, whose martyrdom fuelled the anti-autocracy movement that culminated into the fall of Ershad's nine-year autocratic rule, will be observed today (Friday).

A lecturer of Dhaka Medical College and joint-secretary of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA), Dr Milon died instantly when a gunshot believed to have been fired by the then pro-government activists hit him near the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University on November 27, 1990.

Accompanied by Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Dr Milon was on a rickshaw when a bullet reportedly came from the direction of Suhrawardy Uddyan.

To mark the day, different socio-cultural organisations, political parties and professional groups have chalked out elaborate programmes.

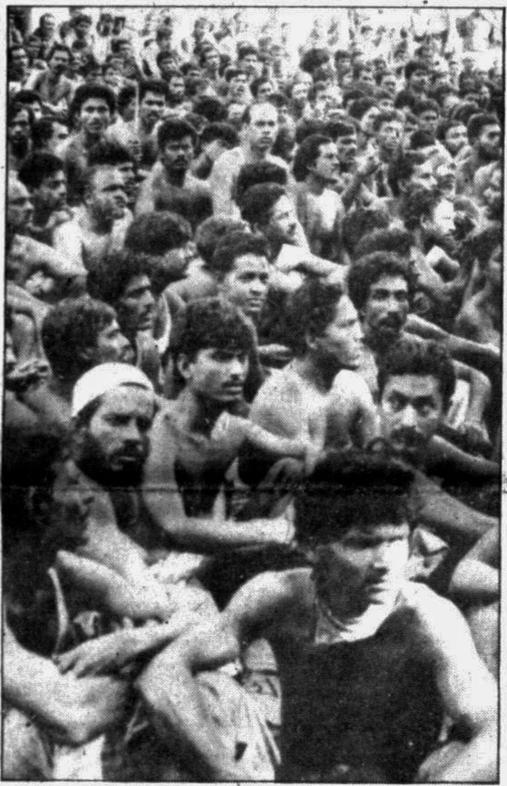
Shaheed Dr Milon Sangsad will observe the day as 'Mass

## No more push-in, assures India

KUSHTIA, Nov 26: India assured in a flag meeting today that no more attempt would be made to 'push' immigrants into Bangladesh and any confusion in this regard be thrashed through emergency border talks in future, reports UNB.

Officials here said the meeting between BDR and BSF also decided that Bangladesh would take back if any of its nationals migrate to India illegally and is caught by the Indian Border Security Force.

But the Bangladesh side made it clear that no Bangla-speaking people living in India over 10 years and exercising their franchise there would be accepted.



Gulf returnees demonstrating in front of the National Press Club yesterday. —Star photo

## Returnees seek UN help to get back jobs

By Staff Correspondent

Several thousand returnees from Kuwait and Iraq Thursday demonstrated bare-chest in the capital demanding their jobs back and also the compensation money.

The demonstrators earlier staged an overnight sit-in in front of the GPO. They started stripping off their shirts Thursday morning before marching towards the National Press Club via Dainik Bangla crossing.

Representatives of the returnees, who were forced to flee the two Gulf countries following August 2, 1990 invasion of Kuwait by the Iraqi troops, also submitted a memorandum to the local United Nations Information Centre (UNIC).

In the memorandum addressed to UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, the Bangladesh Association of the Kuwait-Iraq Returnees which organised the demonstration, urged Ghali to intervene personally for reinstating them to their respective jobs.

RSS adds: A total of 61 thousand Bangladeshis including 20 thousand old workers went to Kuwait taking legal employments since the end of the Gulf War.

On the other hand

See Page 12 Col 6

## BNP won't be spared for its 'betrayal', says Hasina

GAFFARGAON, Nov 26: Sheikh Hasina today castigated the government for not fulfilling its election pledges and warned that BNP would not be spared for its 'bluff and betrayal' with the people, reports UNB.

'BNP's election slogan that 'sheaf of paddy' will usher in better days has proved false. After its assumption of power, better days did come for BNP ministers, not for common-

See Page 12 Col 2

## Islamic Varsity student hacked to death

JHENIDAH, Nov 26: A group of assailants Wednesday night hacked to death a student of the Islamic University and injured another at Harinrayanpur, 5 km from the University, police said, reports UNB.

The victim was identified as Saiful Islam Milon, 1st year student of Islamic History Department, who was killed on the spot at about midnight.

Rokonuzzaman, 1st year student of Law Department, is lying in Kushtia hospital with

See Page 12 Col 3

## Foreign Secy briefs press SAARC poised to shift from symbolism to substance

By Staff Correspondent

The Seventh SAARC Summit is expected to approve the launching of a 500-million-dollar South Asian Development Fund (SADF) and the proposed South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangements (SAPTA) as part of the grouping's thrust on co-operation in 'hardcore' economic areas, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman said yesterday.

Briefing newsmen, Rahman

said that development and poverty reduction would top the agenda in next month's summit of the seven-year-old forum now poised to shift its approach from symbolism to substance.

Detailing the achievements of the SAARC and its prospects, the Foreign Secretary expressed the hope that the second Dhaka summit would

See Page 12 Col 1

## JCD, BCL, BCU share posts in EUCSU polls

By BUET Correspondent

Jatnyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) shared the posts of Engineering University Central Students Union (EUCSU) with Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and pro-JSD Chhatra League in the election held Thursday.

JCD bagged four posts including the Vice-President while the General Secretary post went to the BCU along with another one. The rest one of the seven-seat body was

See Page 12 Col 6



A BUET student casting vote. —Star photo

## Awami League MP escapes assault

By Staff Correspondent

An Awami League member of the parliament escaped an assault on his life when unidentified assailants attacked him with iron bar at Madhupur in Tangail district Tuesday night.

Abul Hasan Chowdhury, International Affairs Secretary of Awami League, told The Daily Star Thursday that the assailants attacked him near the main gate of the local BADC bungalow, on his return from Dhanbari, some 10 kilometers off Madhupur.

Giving an account of the assault, Chowdhury said that on return by a microbus he saw one shawl-wearing man was about to close the main gate.

When the car came to a halt near the gate another assailant wielded a thick iron bar and aimed at his head.

## Low inflation rate brings hopes for more investment

By Inam Ahmed

Economists and monetary experts of the country feel that the present low inflation rate prevailing in the country would be beneficial for the economy if incentives could be provided to the productive sector.

Monetary experts in the Bangladesh Bank (BB) now expect that the economy will keep going steadily and there will be an increase in savings and investments.

Last month, the inflation was 4.5 per cent according to consumer price indices. The rate was much lower at only 2.9 per cent during the first quarter (July-September) of this fiscal year. On the other

hand, the inflation was 4.9 per cent in last fiscal year.

The present inflation rate is one of its lowest for the country.

According to the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics, it was 8.9 per cent in 1990-91, 9.3 per cent in 1989-90, 8.0 per cent in 1988-89, and 11.4 per cent in 1987-88.

Dr Abdullah Faruq, an economist and chairman of the Bangladesh Shilpa Rin Sangstha (BSRS) said the government action was aimed at cutting inflation and it had done that well. He viewed low inflation rate as one of the component of healthy econ-

omy.

On the other hand, Prof Wahid Uddin Mahmud of the Economics department of the Dhaka University views that the low inflation rate was the symptom of the on-going recession in the country. He said that it could not be considered as a symptom of increasing standard of living.

Prof Mahmud said that the consecutive bumper harvests of rice along with the stagnant investment and low rate of industrial activities made this low inflation rate possible. He viewed that the price level should not be the major con-

See Page 12 Col 3

## Dateline Nabagram—II

### Who owns the 'khas' lands?

By Masud Hasan Khan back from Noakhali

The 28096 acres of land now known as Nabagram emerged from the sea in the early 1970s. According to the 1959 Diara Survey, the land was recorded submerged. When it resurfaced, although fertile, it was uncultivable.

Landless peasants from Hatia, Sandwip, Ramgati and Comanjganj began to live on the newly-emerged Nabagram making it arable.

Sometimes, a land owner (jotdar) established his rule after vanquishing other jotdars and settled some destitute

families on condition that they protect the land on his behalf. In return, they received a share from the total produce of the one-crop land.

Of the total 28096 acres, some 2500 acres of land in Nabagram Mouja are cultivable. The government mapped the land in 1978-79 and announced it 'khas' or state-owned.

During 1983-84, the government began giving the Duplicate Carbon Receipt (DCR) for tax of Taka 300 per

See Page 12 Col 5



Bibi Fatema Khatun.

## Tale of Fatema's anguish

Masud Hasan Khan

Bibi Fatema Khatun of Nabagram does not even want to remember her hey days. She cannot even remember the date on which she claimed she was violated by four jotdars.

She could only recall that it was occurred one night in the month of Sraban in Bengali calendar, this year.

Her husband Abdur Rab was away from home on that fateful night.

At about 1 am she recalled that she suddenly, became aware of many people whispering outside her tiny thatched house.

Four people sneaked into the house and one of them put off the lamp. She screamed in

See Page 12 Col 1

**BANGLADESH UNIVERSITY OF ENGINEERING & TECHNOLOGY, DHAKA**

**4TH CONVOCATION, BUET**

**JANUARY 1993**

It is notified for information of all concerned that the 4th Convocation of the Bangladesh University of Engineering & Technology, Dhaka will be held sometime in the Second week of January, 1993. The exact date will be announced later.

Those who have obtained degree (s) from this university in the Calendar year 1992 and would like to attend the Convocation are requested to apply in the prescribed form available in the office of the Controller of Examinations by 15th December, 1992. A Pay Order/Bank Draft of Tk 300.00 (Taka Three hundred) only in favour of BUET CONVOCATION-1993 should be enclosed for each degree.

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