

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT

The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD & SEAFOOD in CHITTAGONG (NO BRANCH). Please try us and you will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than ever before.

140 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y.M.C.A. NASIRABAD, CHITTAGONG. TEL: 22603. Fax: (880) (31) - 22538

The Daily Star

FOR HOARDING & NEONSIGNS

MODART PUBLICITY

17/6-B, Purana Paltan, Dhaka-1000
Tel: 238935, 405898

VOL. II NO. 307 REGD. NO. DA 781 AGRAHAYAN 18, 1399 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 2, 1992 JAMADI-US-SANI 6, 1413 HIJRI 12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

Article

A PM's Sliding Marked by Scandals, Tensions and Ennui

Column : Between the Lines by Kuldip Nayar
Page 4

International

SC okays oil embargo on Khmer Rouge

Page 5

Business

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman says privatisation will need close cooperation of the opposition

Page 7


Supplement

Special two-page supplement on the 21st National Day of the United Arab Emirates

Pages 8,9

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Assimilating Cultures on Stage
Page 3

OIC FM's confce opens in Jeddah Fahd's call to lift UN arms ban on Bosnia



An old man from the hospice of Nedzanicia, Sarajevo, takes food from a truck unloaded by French-UN troops yesterday. — AFP photo

From Mahfuz Anam

JEDDAH, Dec 1: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia today appealed to the United Nations to lift UN arms embargo on Bosnia to fight the Serbian army.

Inaugurating the sixth conference of the 47-member Organisation of Islamic Countries (OIC) here, the Saudi monarch also called for a world-wide outrage against what he termed oppression and continuous transgression of the rights of the people of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

'Bosnian people must be allowed to receive arms to protect themselves', he said in emotion-filled voice.

King Fahd, however, expressed his deep appreciation of the United Nations response to situation, especially its delivery of humanitarian assistance.

The Saudi monarch's call is widely interpreted as a move by the Islamic countries for partial lifting of ban on arms supply to the besieged Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The two-day meeting is expected to issue a strongly worded call on the UN to use force to end what the OIC states term Serb aggression against Bosnian Muslims.

This is the second emergency meeting of OIC, on Bosnia-Herzegovina issue following the first one that was held last June in Istanbul. The OIC was established in 1969 after the worldwide protest against the fire that partially burnt down the Al Aqsa Mosque.

See Page 12 Col 1

Cabinet suspends construction of building at 30 Hare Road

The cabinet at a meeting on Monday decided to suspend the construction work of the government building at 30 Hare Road in the city, reports UNB.

The cabinet also ordered inquiry by a high-level committee into the alleged irregularities in the construction work involving expenditure in excess of the approved amount, an official handout said yesterday.

The meeting held at Bangabhaban was presided over by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The construction of the building which was intended for use by the Vice-President was taken up by the previous government involving an expenditure of Tk 7,00,38,000.

The government had decided in August 1991 to go ahead with the construction work in view of the fact that major part of the building was already completed. The Ministry of Works was asked to complete the work strictly within the stipulated cost.

The handout said the Ministry of Works has now reported to the cabinet that the cost of construction of the building exceeded the original estimate.

The cabinet has taken a serious view of the matter. It further ordered that construction work of the building be suspended forthwith and decided to constitute a high level committee to enquire into the irregularities and to identify the persons responsible for the unauthorised expenditure, the handout added.

BNP central body meets Dec 20

By Nurul Kabir

The BNP Central Executive Committee (CEC) meets December 20 to discuss the Party preparation to hold its council sessions soon, sources said.

The CEC, with a view to working out specifically its political strategy to combat Opposition criticisms against the government will evaluate the overall political scenario.

BNP Secretary General and Minister for Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Barrister Salam Talukder, talking to The Daily Star Monday, hinted that the central council sessions of the party would virtually be held in January next year.

The specific dates for sessions, however, were likely to be decided in the Central Executive Committee meeting, the BNP leader added.

The BNP policy makers had planned to hold the council sessions by the end of this year, an influential leader of the party said yesterday, adding that the plan had now been shelved as 31 out of 75 district level units of the party were yet to hold their council sessions.

The BNP Secretary General, however, told The Star that the local level units had already been asked to hold their council sessions by December 31 this year.

The BNP meanwhile, in a bid to consolidate its organisational strength across the country, has launched an 'organisational week' that began today.

See Page 12 Col 8

Dhaka protests violations of airspace by India

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs yesterday lodged a strong protest to the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka against repeated airspace violations of Bangladesh territory by Indian Air Force planes on November 27, 30 and December 1, an official spokesman said, reports BSS.

Bangladesh called upon the government of India to take urgent action to see that such violations do not recur in the interest of friendly relations existing between the two countries, the spokesman said.

4 killed, 20 injured as train hits minibus

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Dec 1: At least four people were killed, two of them on the spot, and 20 others were injured as a speeding train hit a minibus at a rail crossing at Dharipara in the district Tuesday afternoon.

A 30-year-old woman Lalita and a middle-aged woman who could not be identified died on the spot while two others, Jasimuddin, 35, and Nil Mohon Das, 26, succumbed to their injuries on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The accident took place at Dharipara between Aripara and Nalchitti rail stations in the district at around 4 pm Tuesday, witnesses said.

Isha Khan Express hit the minibus bound for Dhaka through Kaliganj from Mymensingh.

The sources said, on primary investigation, it was found that the rear wheel of the bus got stuck in rail-track while passing through the level crossing and was hit by the express train.

Police rushed to the spot and conducted the rescue operation with the help of local people. The driver of the ill-fated bus could not be traced after the incident, police said.

Of the injured, some eight bus passengers were sent to the hospital.

See Page 12 Col 7

Jyoti for strong Dhaka-Delhi relations

CALCUTTA, Dec 1: West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu today underlined the need for strengthening bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India by removing the existing irritants.

In an exclusive interview with BSS correspondent Quamrul Islam Chowdhury here this morning at the Writers Building, Basu said that he favoured better relations between Bangladesh and India for the mutual benefit of both the countries.

Basu a respected elderly politician of India said Indian government should consider positively the duty free import of Bangladesh goods to India to reduce the yawning trade deficit against Bangladesh.

Replying to a question, the West Bengal Chief Minister said he was in favour of taking full advantages of the existing global economic reforms. 'We

See Page 12 Col 6

'Poverty, trade, investment should be SAARC priority areas'

By Staff Correspondent

Poverty, trade, investment, finance and industry are the prospective areas the seven-year-old South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) should concentrate on in this decade.

Dhaka-based top SAARC diplomats, the country's prominent academics, researchers, scholars and policy planners yesterday made this observation at a round-table discussion styled 'Priorities for SAARC in the nineties'.

Participants spoke on three themes — preferential trade arrangements, formation of a development fund and poverty alleviation — at the discussion designed 'to hold informal and frank exchanges of ideas on ways to evaluate the progress achieved by the association so far and on the imperatives, challenges and priorities' during the decade in the changed global perspective.

Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman made the opening statements while Prof Rehman Sobhan acted as moderator at the four-hour meeting, co-hosted by the Bangladesh Institute for International Strategic Studies (BISS) and the International Studies Association of Bangladesh (ISAB).

They said that the proposed South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangements (SAPTA), the South Asia Development Fund (SADF) and the programme on poverty alleviation, if adopted by top political leaders at their forthcoming meeting, would be significant step for improving the regional atmosphere marred by 'mistrust' and tension.

A scrutiny of the past programmes and performances, and a foresight for the future would be the prime tasks of the summiters, said Reaz Rahman giving a resume of the regional alliance's achievements and prospects.

Prof Shamsul Haq, one of the panelists, spoke on the political overtones of a tangible

See Page 12 Col 5



Police chasing JP activists near Gulistan Square yesterday. — Star Photo

Gunshots, blasts rock campus: JU tense

By JU Correspondent

The Jahangirnagar University campus continued to remain tense with shots and blasts in protest against attempts to punish students involved in Friday's incident.

Two Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists were accused of abusing and threatening the Provost of Al-Beruni Hall Friday when he reportedly declined to provide an ambulance to the students for an ailing student staying at his home at Kallakoir.

The two accused, Md Moazzem Hossain, organising secretary of JCD JU unit and S M Abu Yousuf, assistant general secretary of Al-Beruni Hall in their written statement denied the charges against them.

They termed the allegation of the Provost of Al-Beruni Hall

Dr Golam Hossain 'baseless and biased'. They also criticised Dr Hossain for abusing them in public.

Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU) and JCD in two separate memorandums submitted to the Vice Chancellor yesterday defined the show cause notices issued on Moazzem and Yousuf 'illegal'.

The JCD brought out large processions on the campus Monday night and Tuesday chanting slogans against a section in administration. Several shots and explosions rocked the campus Monday night, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, police forces were deployed on the campus as tension escalated on the

See Page 12 Col 7

BBC to broadcast SAARC summit live

By Staff Correspondent

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) World Service will provide live radio coverage of the upcoming South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit from Dhaka.

This was disclosed by William Crawley, head of Eastern Service, at a press briefing yesterday at a local hotel.

The BBC executive said that BBC World Service was also negotiating with Bangladesh Radio for hiring an FM-Band for local transmission and was also interested in broadcasting television programmes in Bangladesh.

Terming the SAARC summit as a 'major international event', Crawley said a special BBC team would arrive in the

See Page 12 Col 7

Police disperse JP rallies: 25 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

Police used tear gas shells and batons to disperse several hundred Jatitya Party supporters protesting police presence near their meeting venue in front of the National Press Club Tuesday.

At least 25 people including 13 policemen were injured in clashes between police and JP activists during the rally which ended in a melee immediately after it started at the changed venue.

Four of the injured were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where one Noor Jahan was admitted, attending doctors said.

The JP supporters also blasted cocktails and clashed with police near the south gate of Baitul Mokarram mosque, the original venue of the rally.

Police refused to let the JP hold any meeting without prior permission.

The JP organised the rally demanding release of its jail leader H M Ershad and its other detained leaders and workers.

The rally near the Press Club started at around 3-45 pm but trouble began within a few minutes when a group of 25 policemen took up positions near the rostrum of the meeting beside the Press Club main gate.

A section of JP supporters started shouting while other started stoning police at the time. Police used batons and lobbed at least 10 tear gas

See Page 12 Col 8

40,000 Rohingyas willing to return home

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 1: More than 40,000 Rohingya refugees at different camps here have expressed their willingness for repatriation to Arakan, Myanmar, their homeland, reports BSS.

According to official sources today, all 16,000 Rohingya refugees at Noapara camp had volunteered for repatriation to their homeland while another 3,000 refugees at Raingakhali transit camp are awaiting repatriation during the current week.

Bangladesh officials are in

See Page 12 Col 2

By-election to Bhola-4 JS seat today

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Dec 1: By-election to the Bhola-4 Constituency will be held tomorrow.

The seat had fallen vacant following the death of Principal Nazrul Islam, an Awami League MP.

A total of seven candidates will contest the poll. Of them Zafarullah Chowdhury will contest from Awami League, Abdus Shaheed Maltia from BNP and Motahar Hossain Maltia will contest as an independent candidate.

A total of 2 lakh 10 thousand and 402 voters will cast their votes at 88 centres of the Constituency.

RU paralysed as GCO, BCL observe strike

RAJSHAHI, Dec 1: Classes and administrative works in Rajshahi University were not held today (Tuesday) as a day-long strike was enforced by student organisations, excepting JCD and Chhatra Shibir, reports UNB.

The strike was called by Gantantrik Chhatra Ofkya (GCO) and the Awami League-backed Chhatra League demanding fresh date of the postponed RUCSU election and resignation of Vice Chancellor Prof Anisur Rahman and pro-VC Prof Asharuddin.

The striking students threatened to go on a greater action programme if election date was not announced within 24 hours. Otherwise, they said, the authorities will be responsible for any repercussions.

UN may favour Desert Storm-type operation in Somalia

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 1: The Security Council is likely to favour a Desert Storm-type operation, led by the United States, to break the stranglehold of warlords blocking relief supplies for starving Somalis, according to several council members, reports Reuters.

But the council might wish to ensure the operation remains under closer UN scrutiny than the coalition which drove the Iraqi army out of Kuwait last year.

Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali, in a letter to the council on Monday, said there was 'no alternative but to decide to adopt more forceful measures' to secure humanitarian efforts in the stricken east African country.

A UN presence of some 600 Pakistani soldiers has been unable to deter armed gangs from attacking relief convoys and stealing a large proportion of the aid being funnelled in to fight famine.

Plans to deploy several more battalions of UN troops have failed to win the approval of rival warlords, whose gunmen have been accused of stealing and of demanding payments to protect aid workers and food shipments.

Setting out likely alternatives, 'all of which involve the possible use of force', Boutros-Ghali said the United States had offered to 'take the lead in organising and commanding such an operation' in which a number of other member states would also take part.

Although he did not say how many troops would be needed, a figure of 30,000 has been widely mentioned and Pentagon officials said the United States might provide up to 20,000.

Boutros-Ghali said another option would be a similar operation under United Nations command and control.

But he acknowledged the world body is already overstretched in managing existing peace-keeping missions and 'does not at present have the capability to command and control an enforcement operation of the size and urgency required' by the Somalia crisis.

Participating countries would therefore also have to send staff to UN headquarters in New York.

The Secretary-General acknowledged the reluctance of some countries — certainly including the United States — to put their forces under UN command, making it uncertain whether enough troops would be obtainable elsewhere.

Council members have referred these and other, less likely, options to their governments and extensive consultations are expected over the next few days.

Some diplomats speculated the outcome might be an operation like desert storm but more closely bound to UN.

\$11,000 seized at Cox's Bazar

COX'S BAZAR, Dec 1: Police today seized 11,000 US dollars from a young man travelling in a Taksnaaf bound bus from Cox's Bazar. The traveler Mohammad Idris of village Barodona, Satkania, was carrying the money in hundred dollar notes. Police said he was suspected to transfer the money to Burma, reports UNB.