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NEWS BRIEFS

BNP Standing body meets today

An emergency meeting of the National Standing Committee of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will be held today at 7:30 pm at Sugandha, Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Secretary General of the party, has requested the members of the committee to attend, reports BSS.

Body recovered from DU campus

Police recovered the body of a 50 year old vegetable vendor from the Dhaka University campus yesterday. The body was found behind the Jasmuddin Hall at about 4 pm, hospital sources said. Police sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy reports UNS.

Missile sale to Pakistan violating arms pact US imposes sanctions on China

WASHINGTON, Aug 25: The United States imposed economic sanctions against China today after concluding that Beijing had sold missile technology to Pakistan, reports AFP.

State Department spokesman Michael McCurry said the sanctions barred Chinese institutions, notably the Defence Ministry and its Space Research Ministry, from access to the US market. Beijing was notified of the measures today.

An earlier Reuter report said: The State Department said the sanctions would affect US exports of items that can be used in military application as well as electronics, military aircraft and space systems and equipment.

Spokesman Michael McCurry told reporters that up to 500 million dollar a year in US

exports would be barred to China over the two-year life of the sanctions.

An AP report said: Three US congressmen warned Chinese leaders Wednesday of possible sanctions against China for its alleged sale of M-11 missiles or parts to Pakistan.

The State Department said Tuesday the United States was reviewing evidence of the alleged missile sales to determine whether sanctions are required under US law.

On Wednesday, however, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry denied it bought M-11 missiles from China. China has also denied the allegation.

"China did supply some short-range tactical missiles but they didn't violate an international arms pact that limits missile sales, Foreign Ministry

spokesman Munir Akram told reporters in Islamabad, Pakistan.

Akram said the Chinese-made missiles delivered to Pakistan fell within the Missile Technology Control Regime guidelines, which outlaws the sale of missiles with a range exceeding 300 kilometres (180 miles). The range of the M-11 missile is more than 450 kilometres (270 miles).

At a news conference in Beijing, Rep. Dave McCurdy, Democrat-Oklahoma, said the Clinton Administration wanted him and two other visiting congressmen to warn Chinese leaders of possible sanctions if the allegations are proven.

McCurdy, chairman of a subcommittee of the House Armed Services Committee, was accompanied by Reps. Jim

Chapman, D-Texas, and Tom Foglietta, D-Pennsylvania.

They met with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen, former Defence Minister Qin Jiwei, senior military officials and legislators.

The United States has been having high-level discussions with China for the past four months on the missile sales, which US intelligence reports say violate the Missile Technology Control Regime.

China has pledged to abide by MTCR guidelines, aimed at limiting the spread of advanced missile technology. Chinese officials have repeatedly denied that the Pakistan sale violated the accord.

The congressmen had said the Chinese made little progress toward resolving the issue in their meetings.

France committed to backing FAP: envoy

By Staff Correspondent

The French government remains 'strongly committed' to provide support for the on-going Flood Action Plan (FAP) study, in spite of some local and international criticisms of the plan.

This was stated by French Ambassador Jean-Michel Lacombe yesterday while speaking on "Bangladesh-France relationship: An expanding vista" at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga in the city.

"I can assure you that France will go ahead" with providing financial assistance for FAP, he said. "Our government is strongly committed (to support the plan)."

The French envoy said that his country has already committed 150 million French franc for the FAP study, including the Jamalpur Pilot Project which is scheduled to be completed by 1995.

Ambassador Lacombe said that France provides Bangladesh with about 100 million franc (Tk 75 crore) in grant and

assistance annually.

The grant for 1993, the envoy said, would be used for setting up a digital telephone exchange in Chittagong, modernising the radar system at the Zia International Airport, establishing eight modern cardiovascular units in local hospitals and setting up of solar generators for the rural electrification programme.

Held at the Sonargaon Hotel, the meeting was presided over by club president S M Al-Hussaini and attended by other Rotarians.

When his attention was drawn to the criticisms of the FAP study regarding its effects on agriculture, fishing and the displaced people, the French envoy acknowledged that these concerns have to be taken into account.

About the participation of the local people in the plan, he said "We cannot have this kind of thing done against the will of

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DCC to charge fees for public meetings

From now on prior permission from the Dhaka City Corporation has to be obtained and rent at a fixed rate must be paid for holding public meetings, gatherings and rallies at some special roads and places including the Manik Mia Avenue, according to a press release of the corporation here last night, reports BSS.

Proper compensation has to be paid to the corporation if any damage is done to the roads or property of the corporation because of the public meetings, gatherings and rallies.

ECNEC approves rural uplift programme

The Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) yesterday approved a programme for expansion of rural income-generating activities through rural women's co-operatives in 200 thanas, reports BSS.

In view of the positive impact of the project which provides education motivation and incentives for strengthening the population control planning through rural women's cooperatives—already implemented in three phases in 100 thanas at a cost of Taka 18.14 crore—the ECNEC expressed its willingness to expand the programme to 200 thanas of the country.

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Dhaka gaining respectability, says Milam

Bangladesh is gaining in respectability and image in the United States due to the establishment of democracy here, reports BSS.

This was stated by Ambassador of the United States in Bangladesh William B Milam when he called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday afternoon.

The prevailing democratic atmosphere and the continuation of the economic reforms in Bangladesh have moved the American people, the Ambassador said, adding the gesture shown by the Bangladeshi people during the recent flooding in the Mid-western the United States was also appreciated.

Milam said the gesture of the

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Some nurses reject deal with govt

By Staff Correspondent

Three nurses' groups affiliated with the Bangladesh Diploma Nurses' Association (BDNA) yesterday rejected the agreement signed Tuesday between the government and the BDNA saying the agreement had "sold out" the interests of the nurses to the government.

Five nurses' groups affiliated with the BDNA organised a six-day strike till Wednesday protesting a government order transferring the Nurses' Directorate to the Health Directorate. The nurses called off the strike following an agreement between the government and the Kohnoor Begum-led BDNA.

Central committee president of BDNA Ambia Parvin, the BDNA nursing college wing president Shahanara Khatun and GS Mahbuba Khatun, Bangladesh Nurses' Association (BNA) secretary general Hosne Ara Begum and secretary Tahatun Nahar, in separate

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Sun shines over city

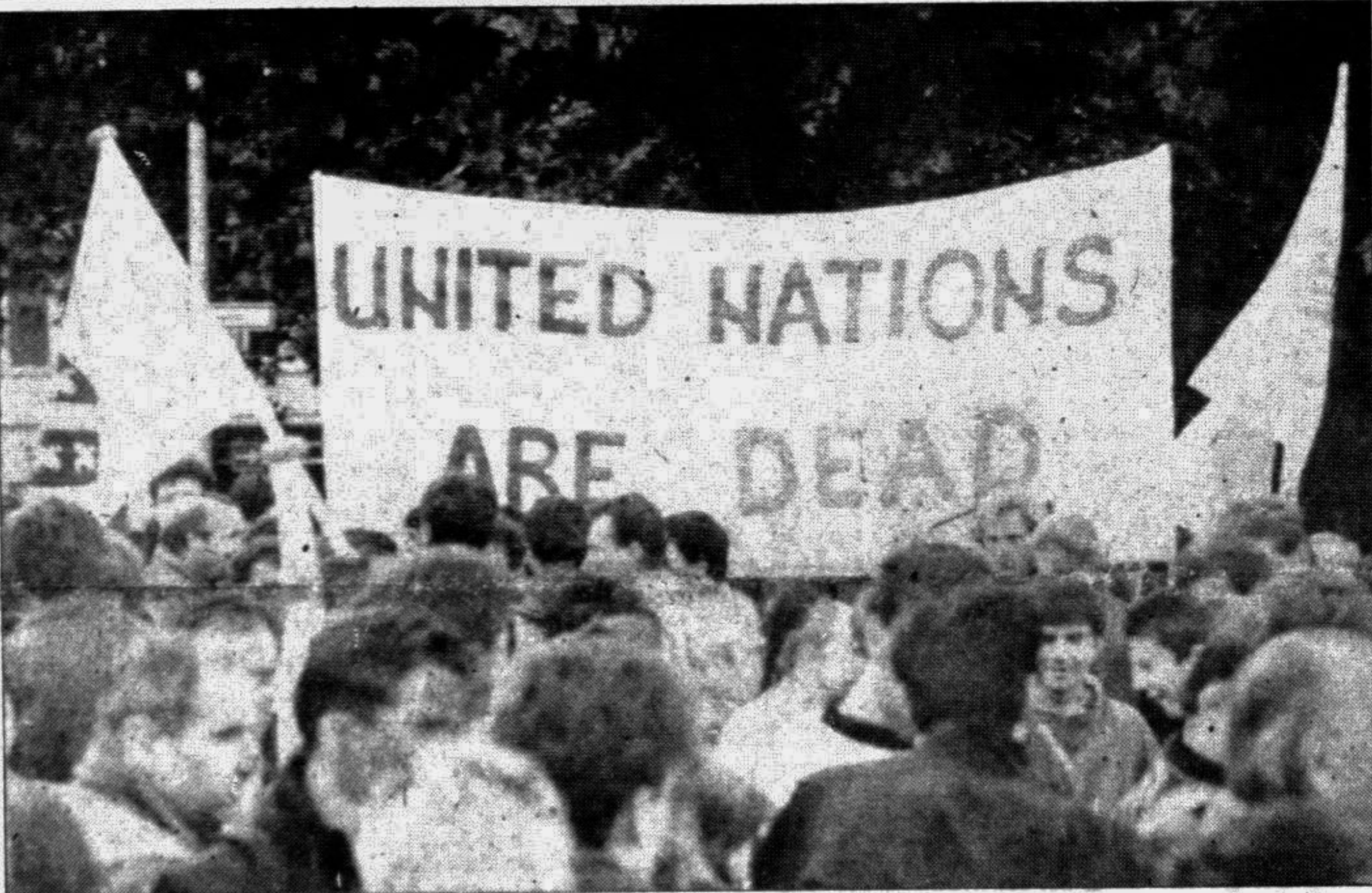
By Staff Correspondent

After three days of continuous heavy rainfall the city and its suburbs had a relatively dry day yesterday.

Except for occasional brief drizzles in some parts, the sun shone through almost all day. This helped to ease some of the water logging due to accumulation of rain water in the low-lying parts of the city.

But stagnant water remained in most of the low lying areas because of the city's poor drainage system.

With the rain stopping the vendors were back on the streets with their wares. Supply of vegetable and fish in the city markets was almost normal but prices were rather high.



Some 500 Bosnian Muslims demonstrating with banners in front of the International Court of Justice yesterday in the Hague. The court is hearing a request from Bosnia-Herzegovina that immediate measures be taken to stop what it says is genocide by the rump Yugoslavia, and to punish the state for crimes already committed. — AFP photo

Tk 100 cr ZIA expansion project

By Staff Correspondent

A 100-crore taka project for expansion of the terminal building and repair of the runway cracks begins shortly at the Zia International Airport (ZIA). State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism said yesterday.

"The terminal building needs expansion because of the growing traffic while the British and US experts suggested recarpeting of the runway," Abdul Mannan told newsmen during inauguration of the computerised Departure Control System (DCS) at ZIA.

The DCS, installed by Biman Bangladesh Airlines at a cost of Tk two crore, would facilitate the outgoing passengers during their check-in. The Society of International Telecommunication Aeronautics (SITA) provided the technical support to the system in which computers would issue the passengers' boarding cards, luggage tags and other information. Other airlines operating in

Bangladesh would also use the facilities.

The Minister said that currently some two million passengers annually travel through the airport established in 1979 and made fully operational in October 1980.

The Minister said by the year 2000 the traffic load would be more than double and it would be impossible for the airport authority to accommodate them without its expansion.

Another DC-10 joins Biman fleet

By Staff Correspondent

The second of two DC-10-30 aircraft leased by Biman from the manufacturers McDonnell Douglas arrived at the Zia International Airport last night. The delivery of the aircraft was delayed by nearly a month because it had to undergo a

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He said tender for the expansion work has already been floated. The 100-crore taka project also includes installation of four boarding bridges, which should be completed by next December he added.

"A number of cracks have developed on the runway which the foreign experts suggested should be repaired and recarpeted," Mannan said adding that the runway repair itself would cost Tk 76 crore.

He dismissed the possibility of a major air accident because of the cracks on the runway by saying "if it were so, the major airlines would have refused to land at ZIA."

Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation Afzalur Rahman, Managing Director of Biman Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh Air Commodore Shamsur Ali and other senior officials were present at the function.

No peace unless Serbia halts genocide

THE HAGUE, Aug 25

Bosnia accused the international community Wednesday of allowing it to be destroyed, and warned that any Geneva peace settlement will crumble unless Serbian 'genocide' is halted, reports AP.

Bosnia came to the World Court to pressure the outside world to halt what it says is an attempt by Bosnian Serbs and neighbouring Serbia to destroy Bosnia's Slavic Muslims and annex their land to a "Great Serbia."

The embattled Bosnian government wants the court to order a halt to any plans to partition Bosnia-Herzegovina, comparing such a division to the Nazi dismemberment of Czechoslovakia.

"Today we are here to inform you that the genocide continues," Mohamed Scirbey, Bosnia's UN ambassador, told

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Solve CHT problem politically: Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday demanded political solution of the problems in Chittagong Hill Tracts ensuring culture, heritage and individuality of the tribal people, reports UNB.

"We do not believe in the solution of problems in Chittagong Hill Tracts by weapon. These should be solved politically," she told a student delegation of Pahari Chhatra Parishad.

Hasina, the Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, regretted that for the last 18 years, efforts were made for military solution to the hill tracts' problems instead of seeking a political solution.

As a result, there have been bloodshed, casualty and damage to property in the region,

she said adding this tantamounts to violation of human rights.

"Without going for solving the problem politically and locally, the military regimes had resorted to force which failed to bring about any positive result in resolving the issue," Hasina said.

She mentioned that an unending misery and sense of insecurity exist among the tribals. "We hope that immediate steps will be taken to end the present embattled situation and ensure peace and security for the tribals."

The opposition leader said the tribal people had immense contribution and support to the country's War of Liberation. They have equal claim of enjoying the basic rights as citizens of Independent Bangladesh, she

added.

Like people of other communities and regions, measures would have to be taken to guarantee civic amenities and improve the condition of the people living in the hill tracts, Hasina asserted.

Earlier, Pahari Chhatra Parishad president Proshid Bikash Khisa, vice-president Shaktiman Chakma and general secretary K M Mong apprised the opposition leader of their problems and miseries.

The Chhatra Parishad leaders said they had high hopes that their longstanding problems would be solved with the restoration of an elected government. But that hope has now turned into despair.

They said 12 educational institutions were closed down and two students were arrested.

Houses were being set ablaze and tribals rounded up afresh.

The government fails to provide security to the tribal people, they added.

The Parishad leaders said during the rule of late President Ziaur Rahman, some 28,000 Bengali settlers were rehabilitated in the hill tracts. A new move was on to politically rehabilitate another 10 lakh Bengalis in the region, they alleged.

A party press release said Awami League leaders Abdul Jalil, Mohammad Nasim MP, Begum Matia Chowdhury MP, Azizur Rahman MP, K M Jahangir MP, Abdus Shahid MP, Khademul Islam MP, Fulu Sarker of Jubo League, and Faruq, Ahmed and Khizir Hayat Liza of Chhatra League were present during the meeting

PM reviews 6th SAF Games preparations

The 6th SAF (South Asian Federation) Games organising committee at a meeting yesterday (Wednesday) reviewed progress of various activities aimed at smooth holding of the eight-day meet in the capital beginning December 20, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, who is the chief patron of the organising committee, chaired the meeting held at the International Conference Centre last night.

The meeting was informed that the modern swimming pool, synthetic athletic track at the Mirpur stadium and the indoor stadium will be completed by November 30. However, the planned air-conditioning facility at the indoor stadium at Mirpur may not be ready before the Games.

Nearly 10,000 boys and girls, being trained by six Chinese

calisthenics experts, will take part in the opening and closing ceremonies of the SAF Games being hosted by Bangladesh for the second time.

The opening and closing ceremonies will be held at the Dhaka National Stadium.

Attended by most of the 160 organising committee members, the meeting was addressed, among others, by the committee President Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, alternate President Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Planning Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, Dhaka City Mayor Mirza Abbas, MP, and State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain.

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All set for Dr Kamal's convention tomorrow

Star Report

The three-day National Grand Convention (NGC) sponsored by Dr Kamal Hossain and his allies begins in the city tomorrow (Friday).

Over five thousand delegates and observers from all over the country are expected to attend the convention, to be inaugurated at 9:30 am at the Engineers' Institute premises. Besides a welcome address by Dr Kamal Hossain, special guests and leaders of different political parties will address the opening ceremony.

The first session of the convention will begin tomorrow afternoon where the discussions on national issues and pro-

grammes formulated by the convention preparatory committee will be initiated.

The preparatory committee has already completed the draft of a document in which national problems and possible solutions were spelled out. The document will be adopted by the convention with amendments, if any.

The 15-member steering committee of the convention met last night at Dr Kamal Hossain's residence to finalise the programmes of the three-day meet from which a new political party is likely to be floated.

A small team consisting

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