

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
 The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD & SEAFOOD in CHITTAGONG. Please try us and you will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than ever before.
 1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY OPPOSITE Y. M. C. A. NASIRABAD, CHITTAGONG. TEL: 226803 FAX: 180-31-22558

The Daily Star

NIRMAN TILES
 Broken Marble Tiles In More Shades Than The Rainbow
 Tel: 605967, 861985

VOL. III NO. 281 REC'D. NO. DA 781

KARTIK 18, 1400 BS.

DHAKA TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1993

JAMADIUL-AWAL 16, 1414 HIJRI

12 PAGES PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

Article

Funerals and Festivals: Fact and Challenge

Column Passing Clouds
 by Zillur Rahman Siddiqui
 Page 4

International

Peruvians approve new constitution



Clinton-Zemin meeting in Seattle is of great significance: Li Peng
 Page 5

Business

White House launching big push for passage of NAFTA

Jakarta blasts World Bank over policy of investment
 Pages 8, 9

Supplement

Special supplement on the Sixth Asian Art Biennale Bangladesh 93
 Pages 6, 7



Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



The Telephone Healer
 Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

ALCWC meets today

An emergency meeting of the Awami League central working committee will be held today at 7 pm at 29 Minto Road, Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will preside. Party's General Secretary Zillur Rahman has requested members of the central committee and the advisory council to attend the meeting, reports UNB.

Probe into BPC begins

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 1: A parliamentary sub-committee began probe into the functioning of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) and its subsidiary oil companies Sunday, official sources said. The committee members including Abu Taher, MP, Azizul Hoque Mollah, MP and A K M Jahangir, MP, have already held meetings with the officials of oil sector. The investigation is expected to be completed tomorrow, official sources said.

Newspaper holiday

The offices of all the newspapers will remain closed on November 7 on the occasion of the National Solidarity Day, according to a Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parshad press release last night. Therefore no newspaper will be published on November 8, reports BSS.

Telecom in private sector allowed

The government has decided in principle to offload the industrial units under public sector corporations and also allow private enterprises in telecommunication by amending the existing laws for accelerating the denationalisation process, reports UNB.

The decision came at a cabinet meeting held yesterday at the Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

An official announcement said the cabinet approved, in principle, the proposal of the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication for partial amendment to the Telephone Board Ordinance 1979.

The decision was taken to encourage entrepreneurs to establish telecommunication service in the private sector, the handout said, adding this will help remove the confusion regarding management, operation and control of telecommunication services in government and non government sectors.

The cabinet also approved a proposal of the Ministry of Industries for amending the Presidential Order No 27 of 1972 to hand over government shares of the industrial units under the control of state run corporations to private ownership.

This will facilitate necessary amendment to the articles of association of industrial units included in the denationalisation programme of the government besides accelerating the process of denationalisation of industries.

Ministers, State Ministers in charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting.

Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and Secretaries concerned were present.

Programme to train youths soon: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here yesterday that an integrated training programme would be introduced in five divisional headquarters soon to make the youth community more useful for self-employment generation, reports BSS.

A Youth Loan Project has been taken up to make the country's youth force income generating after their training under the integrated programme, Begum Zia said while opening the National Youth Day-93 at the Engineers Institution premises.

She said the government had decided to establish a National Youth Centre and was considering to introduce a programme to encourage the non-government youth organisations in group development activities.

The Prime Minister said the

One killed, 3 hurt in DU violence

A leader of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was killed and three Dhaka University (DU) employees were injured when a group of gunmen allegedly a faction of the JCD, fired indiscriminately at an office room of the university Registrar's Building around 11 am yesterday.

Jinnatul Islam Jinnah, 25, an MA student of the Food and Nutrition Department of the DU and the cultural secretary of the university unit of the JCD, critically wounded in the shooting, was removed to hospital where he succumbed to his injuries.

The other victims are a Section Officer of the Jasimuddin Hall Abdus Sattar, 55, a security guard Haider Ali, 30, and a retired peon Abdul Alim.

Abdus Sattar, who received bullet injuries in his abdomen, was at the intensive care unit of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) last night following a successful operation, according to our DMCH correspondent.

Haider Ali and Abdul Alim, who both received bullet injuries in their legs, were admitted to the Pangu Hospital and the DMCH respectively.

Witnesses said, that at about 11 am eight gunmen armed with sawed-off rifles and pistols attacked Jinnah and his friends at a tea stall in front of the Surya Sen Hall, just beside the Registrar's Building.

While Jinnah's friends made a safe escape, the gun-toting group chased their main target Jinnah to the Registrar's

Hazratbal siege: Rebels demand mediation by former prince

SRINAGAR, Nov 1: Some Muslim rebels and pilgrims inside the besieged Hazratbal Mosque here were involved in a minor scuffle today and said they would resume talks with the government to end the deadlock only if a former Kashmiri prince acted as mediator, reports AFP.

"They pushed each other... arguing in loud tones (on the lawns) then they went inside the mosque," said Brigadier Satpal Singh Kanwar, who is supervising the 17 day army siege of the shrine reputedly housing a hair of Prophet Mohammed.

"They have not come out since," he said, hinting at a growing rift between "hardliners" and those in favour of a negotiated settlement.

The 50-odd armed guerrillas along with some 70 pilgrims inside the shrine since October 15 refused to continue negotiations with officials and demanded the direct intervention of Karan Singh, a former prince of Kashmir.

The veteran politician and diplomat visited the complex on Sunday but the holed up militants said they had not been allowed to talk to him.

"We wanted to talk to Karan Singh and his wife... but the army did not allow them to talk to us," a rebel shouted from a window to reporters.



The victim of yesterday's violence at the Dhaka University. Jinnatul Islam, cultural secretary of the JCD unit, writhing and screaming in agony minutes before he expired at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The lady on the right is his sister. — Star photo

Ishaq won't run for presidency if PPP doesn't select him

ISLAMABAD, Nov 1: Pakistan's ex-president, Ghulam Ishaq Khan, a favourite to win back the job next week, said today he was impressed and willing to work with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto three years after he sacked her for corruption.

A total of 27 politicians filed nomination papers for Pakistan's presidential elections by Sunday noon deadline, but only a few are expected to remain in the fiercely fought battle when legislators cast their votes on November 13.

"I have filed my papers. It is up to the party to decide who is their candidate?" Ishaq Khan told Reuters when asked if he was willing to become the official candidate of Bhutto's

Pakistan People's Party (PPP) which emerged as the largest party in last month's general elections.

As for her manifesto and the manner in which it was presented, I was terribly impressed. The 79-year-old veteran politician said of the election campaign of the woman who was once his most bitter enemy.

It was like a breath of fresh air.

Ishaq Khan sacked Bhutto in August 1990, just 20 months after she took office as the Muslim world's first woman Prime Minister, on disputed charges of corruption and misuse. She had backed him in the 1988 presidential elections. She retaliated then by calling

him pathological and heckled his state of the nation address to parliament a few months later.

Ishaq Khan — former bureaucratic and great survivor of Pakistan's 46 year history of political intrigue and martial law governments — said he hoped Bhutto had learnt a lesson from her 1990 dismissal, adding that she had grown into an experienced politician.

It would not be difficult to work with her, he said. She is intelligent and well educated.

But he said he might pull out of the race if the PPP did not select him as its formal candidate.

To stand as an individual is an exercise in futility, he said.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is seen with the participants of the three-day eleventh meeting of Health Ministers of the WHO Southeast Asia Region. The Prime Minister inaugurated the eleven-nation meeting at the International Conference Centre in the capital yesterday. — PID photo

Dhaka for regional steps against common diseases

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday described most of the health problems in the countries of the South East Asia region as identical and underlined the need for forging regional mechanisms to combat the common diseases, reports BSS.

Most of the health problems in the countries of this region are identical. It is necessary to promote concerted and joint measures to fight against the common diseases," she said.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the three day eleventh meeting of health ministers of the countries of the WHO South East Asia region at the International Conference Centre (ICC) here Monday.

Begum Zia identified malaria, kala-azar, diarrhoea, tuberculosis and leprosy as some

of the common diseases in the countries of the South East Asia region.

Malaria, which was controlled effectively a few years back, has once again become a health problem, she said.

The Prime Minister mentioned that AIDS had also become a matter of concern for this region.

Present at the meeting were Minister of Health and Family Welfare of Bangladesh Chowdhury Kamal Uddin Yusuf, Vice Minister of Public Health of North Korea Dr Kim Yong Ik, Health and Family Welfare Minister of India B Shankaranand, Health Minister of Indonesia Dr Sujudi, Deputy Health Minister of the Maldives Dr Abdus Sattar Yusuf, Health Minister of Mongolia Dr P Nyamadawa, Deputy Health Minister of Myanmar Than Zin, State Minister for Health of Nepal Dr Ram Baran Yadav, Health and Women Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka Mrs Renuka Herath Ranawera and Deputy Minister of Public Health of Thailand Dr Demall Srisaengnam.

Besides Director General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) Dr Hiroshi Nakajima and representatives of international agencies attended the inaugural session.

The meeting provided an opportunity to discuss priority problems and exchange views on outstanding issues of common concern.

The Prime Minister welcomed the health ministers and participants of the meeting and hoped their deliberations would help provide new directions for

Proposal to set up emergency preparedness centre in Dhaka

By Staff Correspondent

Hongladesh proposed the setting up in Dhaka of an Emergency Preparedness and Response Centre for Asia and the Pacific at the meeting of the WHO's South Asian health ministers that began in the capital yesterday.

Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Uddin Yusuf tabled the proposal at the business session of the health ministers at Sheraton Hotel.

"The proposal has been welcomed by the other ministers and it will be discussed tomorrow or the day after," one senior official of Delhi based WHO Regional Office told reporters at a briefing.

Kamal Uddin Yusuf, in his proposal, said that "Since Bangladesh is located centrally

Art gala in city from today

The Sixth Asian Art Biennale 1993 begins in the capital today.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the exhibition at the Osmani Memorial Hall at 11 in the morning. State Minister for Cultural Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum will chair the opening session.

The month-long exhibition of 684 paintings and sculptures by 354 artists from 30 Asian countries including 151 from the host country Bangladesh will open simultaneously at the Osmani Memorial Hall, the Shilpakala Academy and the National Museum.

The number of participating countries has almost doubled this year. Twelve countries participated in the last biennial held here two years ago.

Till yesterday, 42 delegates from 18 nations including the Cultural Affairs Minister of Bhutan and three jurors from Japan, Thailand and Pakistan had arrived in the capital while several others, including the Iranian Cultural Minister, are due today.

The art works from 25 out of 30 countries have already reached the city and those from the remaining five countries are expected within a day or two.

Dhaka invited 43 nations to this year's biennale. Dhaka had been hosting the biennial Asian Art Exhibition since 1981.

The displays of the Asian artists' paintings and sculptures will take place in the following order: At the Osmani Memorial Hall — Japan, Iran, India, Nepal, Singapore, Vietnam, Laos, Pakistan, Saudi

Hearing of appeal against Azam's citizenship resumes today

By Staff Correspondent

The adjourned hearing of the government appeal against a High Court verdict restoring the citizenship of Golam Azam is due to resume today in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

However, Barrister A R Yusuf, counsel for Azam, informed The Daily Star yesterday that the Attorney General's office has again placed an application before the court seeking an extension of the adjournment for another six weeks. The court is likely to decide on the application today.

See Page 12 Col 7

Govt hostile to chairmen, says Hasina

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday criticised the ruling BNP for not implementing its own decision on making the union parishad (council) an administrative unit of the local government, reports UNB.

"The BNP government is not sincere in giving due honour to the chairman and members of union parishads as the elected representatives — the government is showing a hostile attitude to the chairmen," she said.

The opposition leader was talking to the union parishad chairmen from Barguna district who called on her at 29 Minto

Reaz permanent envoy to UN

The government has decided to appoint Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman as Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, an official announcement said yesterday, reports UNB.

Born on July 5, 1940, Rahman obtained Master's degree in International Relations from the University of Dhaka in 1963.

He joined erstwhile Pakistan foreign service in 1963 and served in various capacities in Pakistan missions in Sweden, Geneva, New York and New Delhi.

Rahman was appointed counsellor and later promoted

150 arrested from Golden Temple

AMRITSAR, Nov 1: Plainclothes policemen entered the Golden Temple on Monday morning and rounded up 150 Sikh activists who were preparing to lead a banned march to New Delhi, reports AP.

The activists did not resist arrest but they shouted anti-government slogans before being taken away in buses.

The marchers planned to complain to the federal government that police raided a holy Sikh shrine in the town of Gurnawala in September and damaged it while searching for militants. No work has begun to repair the shrine, according to the activists.

On Sunday, police arrested 100 people, including top Sikh politicians, who were planning to join the march, and the people caught in the temple sought shelter there to avoid police

Israel presents Gaza withdrawal plan

TABA, Nov 1: Israel for the first time presented the Palestinians with a detailed plan for a military withdrawal, on the Gaza Strip at autonomy negotiations were today, reports AFP.

But the opening of the fourth round of talks on implementing self-rule was marred by a third day of violence in the occupied territories.

Settlers, who set up roadblocks, looted around a West Bank refugee camp firing shots at Palestinians, smashing car and house windows and burning a classroom, correspondents reported.

General Yoni Tov Shamiya, army commander in Gaza, gave the PLO delegation at Taba a map showing current army positions and another showing proposed withdrawal lines. Israeli delegations spokesman Ami Gluska said.

The plan includes modalities of re-deployment and withdrawal for the Israeli army, Gluska said. It also defines the roads which the army intends to keep under its control or the safety of settlers who remain on the Strip.

He refused to give further details and the maps were not shown to the press.

But Israeli sources said the army would pull back first from Palestinian refugee camps and towns on the Gaza Strip.

It would redeploy to three perimeters: Around settlements north of Gaza city around two settlements close of Gaza, and

Peace meeting held at Khagrachhari

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 1: In the backdrop of Saturday's clash between police and tribal students the authorities today held a meeting with the leaders of the Pahar Chhatra Parshad (PCP) at the Khagrachhari Circuit House.

The meeting decided to maintain peace and order in the Khagrachhari hill district and not to allow holding of rallies, processions and demonstrations there for a month to prevent incidents of violence, official sources said.

The meeting also decided to release some tribal students who were recently arrested by police.

The meeting, which continued