The Midnight Rile

10 killed as firecrackers

blast in Andhra Pradesh

ing a Hindu festival exploded Tuesday and at least 10 people

were killed news agencies reported. The explosion wrecked the

house in which the firecrackers were stored, police said. The

blast occurred in Rapelle town of Andhra Pradesh state, about

1.800 kilometres south of New Delhi. The blast, which was

NEW DELHI. Nov 9: Crates of firecrackers stored for use dur-



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia handing over the flag inscribed in Arabic with the Kalima-e-Taiyeba at a function marking the presentation of 'National Standards' to the 13th and 14th Battalions of the East Bengal Regiment at Shaheed Lt Col M R Chowdhury drill square of the East Bengal Regimental Centre in Chittagong Cantonment yesterday. — PID photo

PM: Opportunities

march past.

took salute at the impressive

lantry awards to ten officers

and soldiers for their coura-

geous role in protecting the

On her arrival at the drill

sovereignty and territorial in-

square Begum Zia was received

by Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen

Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan.

Chittagong Area Commander

Maj Gen Muhammad Azizur

Rahman Bir Uttam and EBRC

Commandant Brigadier Abu

placed a wreath at the mass

grave of unknown soldiers of

the War of Independence at the

Later the Prime Minister

She also planted a jacaranda

Begum Zia then addressed

The Prime Minister detailed

the regimental commanders at

the development programmes

taken up by her government for

improving the lot of the teeming

country's armed forces had

been acclaimed by the interna-

tional community for their ef-

fective role in the UN peace

keeping missions in different

countries. She hoped that the

continue their sincere efforts to

brighten the image of the coun-

armed forces should be moti-

vated to involve themselves in

the development programmes,

especially in crop diversification

programmes and family welfare,

processions brought out by all

opposition parties appreciated

Hossain's innovative idea of reg-

istering protest against the au-

tocratic regime. But the then.

undemocratic state machinery

was not amused. Police shot

Hossain at point blank range.

The young man succumbed on

Hossain died. But his death

photograph of Noor

added a remarkable impetus to

Hossain, taken only moments

before his death, which was

later widely published in the

print media at home and

abroad, attracted, a lot of sym-

pathy and support for the

democratic struggle which

toppling of the Ershad regime

power on Dec 6, 1990. And

Noor Hossain's heroic martyr-

dom had inspired the people to

sustain the tempo of their

struggle in the face of all re-

The government released a

commemorative postage stamp

on Noor Hossain this day last

year. But an ideal democratic

society, as dreamt by Noor

Hossain, is yet to be established

in the country. May be the na-

tion will need a few more mar-

tyrs like Hossain to reach that

almost three years later.

pression.

cherished goal.

eventually culminated in the

General Ershad had to quit

the people's struggle for democ-

the way to hospital.

She said the members of the

She said the members of the

the Darbar Hall of the EBRC.

Ahmed Zahirul Amin Khan.

EBRC premises.

tegrity of the nation.

Begum Zia distributed gal-

From Page 1 Col 7 country, facing various national crises and devoting themselves to nation building tasks,

The Prime Minister said the East Bengal Regiment is the mainstay of the Bangladesh Army. The contribution of the members of this regiment to the country's Independence War would be written in golden letters, she added

She expressed happiness at the achievements of the East Bengal Regiment and said their contribution and achievements had brought for them the confidence and love of the people.

Begum Zia said that the East Bengal Regiment had a glorious tradition. Felicitating the members of the regiment on this occasion she said new success and pride were being added to the history of the East Bengal Regiment today.

The Prime Minister paid tributes to Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, founder of the East Bengal Regiment M A Ghani, General M A G Osmani General Khwaja Wasiuddin and

others associated with it. She also recalled the supreme sacrifices of the members of this regiment, including Bir Shrestha Sepoy Mohammad Mustafa Kamal and Bir Shrestha Sepoy Hamidur Rahman in the country's country's armed forces would Liberation War.

She said there was no alternative to training and discipline in a soldier's life.

The ceremony was attended. among others, by ministers, members of Parliament and high civil and military officials.

Earlier the Prime Minister reviewed the smartly turned out parade by the regiments and

Noor Hossain From Page 1 Col 5 Khaleda: Nepal Everyone in the numerous

From Page 1 Col 5 her trip, is expected to meet King Birendra and Prime Minister GP Koirala. She will also visit the SAARC Secretariat situated in Kathmandu.

Although officials in Dhaka would like to term the visit to Nepal as primarily related to SAARC in her capacity as Chairperson, yet Begum Khaleda Zia is not expected to pay routine visits to the other SAARC countries until after the Eid-ul Fitr next year. That schedule will also include Nepal once again, it was learnt.

Meanwhile, Dhaka is yet to receive any response from New Delhi on the water sharing issue, with another lean session just beginning.

Observers indicated that they hoped to receive a "realistic response" before the meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers in Dhaka mooted for December 4 and 5. Indian External Affairs Minister Dinesh Singh is expected to represent his country at the meeting.

The Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting between India and Bangladesh is also scheduled to be held on December 6 and 7, immediately after the conclusion of the SAARC Foreign Ministers' meet. Commerce Minister Prana Mukerjee will lead the Indian side to the JEC talks.

Saifur unhappy with income tax officials

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman vesterday expressed his dissatisfaction at the performance of income tax officials and asked them to improve their efficiency, streamline the tax department and gear up the revenue collection drive, reports

Saifur was addressing the income tax officials here yesterday morning at the NEC committee room. Internal Resources Division Secretary and National Board of Revenue Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan was also present at this twohour long stormy review meet ing. The Finance Minister also expressed his dissatisfaction at the very poor collection of revenue from the income tax

Saifur, cited a number of cases where collection of income tax ranged from Taka 21 to less than Taka 1500 per annum per assessee in different parts of the country while the present government had already enacted laws not to collect income tax less than Taka 1500.

"Do not touch the files of those paying less than Taka 1500 as income tax," the Finance Minister instructed the tax officials and said, "For God's sake, please try to collect taxes honestly, efficiently and sincerely without harassing good taxpayers. But do chase the bad

The Finance Minister said most of the income tax officials had resorted to corrupt practices and were either sleeping. playing golf or tennis instead of collecting taxes to help develop the country for a better and brighter future.

"The Income Tax Department people have created their own world where no one can bring them to book," he commented.

But Saifur asserted that his ministry would ensure accountability and transparency in the entire tax department and instructed the NBR Chairman to find out the income tax returns and assessments of the top tax officials themselves as a first step.

DU teachers, staff protest campus violence

By DU Correspondent

Hundreds of teachers, officers and employees of the Dhaka University jointly held a rally at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday to protest the violence at the DU Registrar's building on November 1.

The protesters demanded arrest and trial of the persons involved in terrorist activities on the campus.

A Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader was gunned down and three employees of the university were seriously injured at the Registrar's building on November 1.

Teachers, officers and employees brought out a silent procession from the Registrar's building at about 10:30 yesterday morning and dispersed at the Central Shaheed Minar after

marching through the campus. The protesters also demanded a terrorism free cam-

Meanwhile, all the classes and examinations were held on schedule.

Earlier on Monday last, the university teachers of the country observed a seven-hour token hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar demanding an end to violence at the Dhaka, Rajshahi, Jahangirnagar and Islamic universities.



Visiting World Bank Vice-President Joseph Wood called on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at his Sher-e-Bangla Nagar office yesterday. - PID photo

Bangladeshis submit memo to Indian envoy in UK

LONDON, Nov 9: A large number of Bangladeshis living in Britain staged a demonstration in front of the Indian High Commission in London demanding rightful share of the Ganges-Padma rivers' waters and protesting against India's delaying tactics to resolve the issue through discussions, reports BSS.

The marchers submitted a memorandum to the Indian High Commissioner pointing out plights of Bangladeshis during the dry season and the impact of India's unilateral withdrawal of the Ganges water at Farakka Barrage on the economy and environment of Bangladesh.

The Farakka Resistance Committee which organised the demonstration yesterday also staged a march near the resi dence of British Prime Minister John Major highlighting the woes of Bangladeshis due to the Farakka Barrage. They urged the British Prime Minister to use his good offices for a rightful solution of the Ganges water dispute between India and Bangladesh.

Sirajul Huq Siraj, leader of the Farakka Resistance Committee, led the demonstration.

Earlier, the Farakka Campaign Committee held a protest rally on Sunday in East London highlighting the problems of Bangladeshis due to the Farakka Barrage.

Speakers at the meeting, presided over by Mohidur Rahman, convenor of the Farakka Champaign Committee, appealed to the British government and world opinion to force India to accept the rightful demand of the Ban-

Strike in demand of Sylhet Division From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 9: A strike was observed in all the educational institutions of the four districts of the Greater Sylhet region to press for an immediate formation of a separate Sylhet admin-

istrative Division.
As part of the month-long programme of the Sylhet Division Implementation and Greater Sylhet Development Action Council, a 'Thana Gherao' was also observed in all the thana headquarters of Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Sunamganj and Sylhet districts

Memoranda were handed over to the Thana Nirbahi Officers today after the gherao of the thana parishad offices.

In Sylhet town a big truck procession of students and people was brought out from the Shahid Minar. It paraded the main streets of the town and later gheraoed the TNO's office.

gladesh as per the international law governing the share of waters of international rivers. The Farakka Campaign Committee earlier last week held a similar meetings in Birmingham and West London.

Both groups are also planning to organise rallies and demonstrations in different parts of the UK to mobilise international opinion in favour of Bangladesh's demand for its just share of water.

Mirza Abbas

From Page 1 Col 8 Khaleda Zia had to intervene personally to avert a possible bruising show-down between the supporters of Shawkat and Abbas and assigned some of her senior party colleagues to resolve the dispute.

According to the negotiation outlined by Irrigation Minister M Majid-Ul Hug, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and a number of other senior party members, Mirza Abbas will head the city unit following the induction of Mir Shawkat in the cabinet

Ahead of the conference Abbas had even carried out a signature campaign of all the 14 thana unit presidents and secretaries, rallying their support and throwing an open challenge to Shawkat.

Mir Shawkat was inducted in the cabinet on September 13 after a long-awaited reshuffle and was given the portfolio of the Ministry of Food.

Mirza Abbas has long been in charge of the youth front of the party —the Jubo Dal which helped him earn popularity among the workers and supporters. The mayorship has further helped him consolidate his position in city BNP politics.

Meanwhile, 67 posts of the 71-member city unit are being run by the previous office-bearers since no new nominations have yet been made for the posts.

Prime Minister Begum Zia announced the names of Mir Shawkat as president, Salahuddin Ahmed, MP as general secretary and two vicepresidents - Mirza Abbas and State Minister for Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka - during her inaugural speech at the city BNP conference last August.

When contacted, incumbent city president Mir Shawkat said "I am always ready to relinquish the position. But as of now, the high command has chosen me for the post."

"I will give up the post when the high command gives the order," he said.

Mirza Abbas declined to comment on the latest developments.

Wood-Saifur

From Page 1 Col 4 The Finance Minister told the WB not to disrupt the reform programmes by slowing down the aid disbursement.

At the meeting, Rahman also regretted that the WB's lending operations were not up to the expectations of Bangladesh.

He said the economy of the country was now moving on the right track. Rahman said if the WB pro-

vided funds in various projects in the country then automatically private investment would pick up. Wood last night also dis

cussed various issues with some selected ambassadors at Baridhara.

The visiting WB executive today calls on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. He will also discuss gas and electricity issues with Energy Minister Dr Khandakher Mosharraf Ho-

He is also scheduled to discuss a wide range of issues with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam, Industry Minister A M Zahiruddin Khan and State Minister for Planning Dr Moyeen Khan today.

Vehicle owners requested to avoid some roads today

Owners and drivers of heavy vehicles have been advised to avoid certain roads in Dhaka city in view of the apprehension of the breach of peace in connection with the sit-in-programmes and demonstration by certain political parties in front of the Bangladesh Secretariat here today, reports BSS.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police (traffic) in a press notification yesterday requested the owners and drivers of bus, truck and mini-bus to avoid using certain roads in the capital from 8 am to 7 pm today.

The roads to be avoided are From the corner of the P G Hospital to the National Press Club via the Ramna Park star gate, the Foreign Ministry and the Kadamful crossing

From the Doel circle of the Dhaka University to the old High Court crossing.

From western side of the Abdul Ghani Road to government employees' hospital (college road)

From Nightingel crossing point of the Bijoynagar Road to its police box at south.

From eastern side of the Topkhana Road adjoining secretariat to the Eidgah crossing. From the Golapshah Mazar

to the UBL crossing via the Zero point and the Muktangon.

From Gulistan to the Abdul Ghani Road via the GPO and the Zero Point and from the Dainik Bangla crossing to police box crossing at the Topkhana

heard several blocks away. flung bodies into neighbouring houses, the Press Trust of India said, reports AP. Seven killed in mortar attacks on Sarajevo

SARAJEVO. Nov 9: Seven people were killed in mortar attacks on Sarajevo today, including three children and a teacher at a school, hospital doctors said Some 40 people were wounded, six seriously in separate attacks on the Alipasino Polje district of Sarajevo in a day marked by increased sniper activity, reports AFP.

Resist autocracy

From Page 1 Col 7 government in the face of mass upheaval.

On the other hand the BNP is a political party that came to power with people's verdict, he During the BNP rule the

people have witnessed a fair and neutral role of the judiciary and the Election Commission and the voters have full trust in elections under this government, he said.

He also termed the demand for election under a caretaker government 'unconstitutional' and refused to accept it as a convention as demanded by some opposition

leaders. A solitary example can not be a convention, he said. Speaking on the occasion Rafiqul Islam Mia said the students had struggled for long nine years for the ouster of autocracy. Today with the introduction of democratic process in the country they have to play their role to carry ahead the process of development ini-

ernment, he said. Rafiq said after its election to power the BNP had implemented the outline of the three alliances, ensured the freedom of judiciary and the press and initiated the process of infrastructural development of the country.

tiated by the democratic gov-

But the opposition parties particularly the Awami League is hindering the processes in their efforts to disturb the ruling party instead of offering creative criticism, he said.

Through the destructive role of the Awami League, the ousted autocracy has got the opportunity to become active in the country's political arena

Police rescue

From Page 1 Col 8

The room belonged to an orphan student, Ismail, who reportedly fled minutes before the police raid.

Hundreds of orphans crowded round the dormitory and held the police hostage on the second floor by exploding cocktails and pelting brickbats at them. The policemen had gone upstairs along with the Superintendent of the orphanage, witnesses said.

On receiving an SOS from the confined policemen over walkie-talkie, a large contingent of police rushed to the scene and repeatedly lobbed teargas shells until they finally dispersed the mob and rescued their colleagues at around 9

No arrest or casualties were reported immediately.

again. Raflq observed. Abbas said people had

elected BNP to power and when they would withdraw their support to the party it would leave power. But the opposition through is destructive political programmes want to destabilise the government as well as the democratic process, he regret-

Amanullah Aman said November 10 of 1987 was an historical day in the country's political history. Shaheed Nur Hossain along with many other martyrs, at the cost of their lives, paved the way for mass

upheaval of '90 on this day. But after the fall of autocracy when the people had the hope for a happy and prosperous Bangladesh, the opposition parties were trying to disrupt the development process through disturbing the elected government

New US envoy

From Page 1 Col 8 voy. When formally appointed. David Nathan Merrill will succeed Willian B Milam as the eighth US ambassador to Bangladesh

David Merrill is now based in Washington, DC with the US-AID. A person with a wealth of experience in aid assistance and development. Merrill has worked in several Asian countries including Myanmar. Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines.

When appointed, it will be Merrill's first posting as

Ambassador Aussie envoy

Following the departure of Ambassador Richard K Gate. Australia has named Kenneth William Aspinal as its new High Commissioner to Bangladesh.

The new Australian envoy is also a development official, having worked with the Australian Development and Assistance Bureau (AIDAS) for several years. Before his appointment, he was the acting Deputy Director General of Community and International Programmes at the Development Assistance Bureau of the Australian

Foreign Ministry. William Aspinal arrives in Dhaka tomorrow, November 11 and is expected to present his credentials to the President on

November 18.

Bhutan

Bhutan has designated its senior most Cabinet member. currently the country's Health Minister Lyonpo (Dr) Tashi Tobgyel as its new Ambassador to Bangladesh, according to a source in the Prime Minister's office.

Dr Tashi Tobgyel is expected to arrive in Dhaka on November 20 and present his credentials on November 28.



Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation 233, Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka

TALKING BIRD AND **AQUARIUM COMPETITION**

In observance of Tourism Month-Talking Bird and Aquarium Competition will be arranged at the Rent-a-car premises of the Corporation at the above address on Saturday 13, November '93 at 10.00 AM. Attractive prizes will be given to 1st, 2nd and 3rd winners in both the groups. No entry fee is required

Interested persons are requested to contact immediately at the following address, personally or on phone.



Commercial Division Phone: 325418 325155-9

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by Mediaworld Ltd. 52, Motifheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed at City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Read No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205, PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct). Fax No: 88-02-863035. GPO Box No: 3257. Cable: DAILYSTAR DHAKA.

Yunus meets Clinton

From Page 1 Col 8

point Clinton turned to the Grameen Bank founder and said; "Send me a proposal on what we should do about the World Bank".

Last week, Yunus addressed the officials of the US State Department at a luncheon meeting in Washington.

Earlier in 1986, Yunus met Clinton and his wife, Hillary, in Little Rock at the invitation of the Governor of Arkansas Motivated by his discussions with Yunus, Governor Clinton launched a loan programme, the Good Faith Fund, for the poor section of people in the state of Arkansas, based on the Grameen Bank model.

The Grameen Bank concept has been replicated in a number of countries around the world. In the United States at least eight programmes were launched under the Grameen format, including the Good Faith Fund in Arkansas, the Freedom From Hunger Foundation in California, the South Shore Fund in inner-city Chicago, the North Carolina Rural Economic Development Centre, the Dakota Fund in South Dakota and the Full Circle Fund: Women's Self-employment Programme in

In an interview with the mass-circulated magazine Rolling Stones in September last year, Clinton spoke very highly of the achievements of the Grameen Bank and about

Chicago.

the possibilities of replicating the concept in the United States. He even went on to recommend the name of Yunus for the Nobel Prize for turning the radical concept of banking for the poor into reality.

In the interview. Clinton said: "You know, the South Shore Bank's Good Faith Fund (in Chicago and Providence) loans to real low-income people. mostly for self-employment ventures, was based on the work of Muhammad Yunus at the Grameen Bank in Bangladesh. which until the recent natural disasters, had a ninety-seven per cent loan repayment rate. better than the commercial banks in Bangladesh, even though it was making loans almost exclusively to poor peo-

Advocating similar community-based lending programmes for generating self-employment in the United States, specially in the inner-cities, he added: " think, every major urban area and every poor rural area ought to have access to a bank that operates on the radical idea that they ought to make loans to people who deposit in their

Responding to an expression of surprise by one of the interviewers at Clinton's knowledge about the Grameen Bank, he replied: "I think Muhammad Yunus should be given a Nobel

JU reopens: Attendance thin on first day By JU Correspondent

girnagar University was thin on the first day of the resumption of classes after a hundred days of closure. Students have started returning to their respective dormitories with extra police deployed on the campus. The institution was closed

Attendance at the Jahan-

sine die following an armed attack on teachers carried out by some unruly students on July 29. The JU authorities filed cases against 21 students - all belonging to the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) - with Savar police under the Anti-Terrorism Act. Amid repeated demands for

arrests of the criminals by the teachers and heated debate on the JU issue in parliament on September 17 the government assured the teachers of meting out justice. So far six of the 21 accused students have been arrested, including the vice president of the recently dissolved JU Central Students' Union (JUCSU).

Meanwhile, infighting within the JCD came to the surface when students earlier ousted from the campus planned to force their way back in the absence of their opponents. These students, mainly from the Savar region, got a free hand during the closure of the institution and are now determined to make their presence felt, thereby raising fears of fresh campus trouble. However, central JCD lead-

ers had a series of meetings with the feuding JCD factions - known as the 'locals' and 'non-locals' - and have reportedly managed to come up with a compromise to defuse the tension.

Yesterday morning, members from both the factions brought out a silent procession on the campus.

AL, JP programmes From Page 1 Col 7

strations, an AL leader told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity. The AL has tried to mobilise

the maximum number of people to make today's sit-in a success. It also plans to bring people from the capital's adjacent districts for today's programme. Today's agitations by the AL

and the JP mark the 'Noor Hossain Day." On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain, a young man committed to democracy. had sacrificed his life during a joint demonstration by the AL. the BNP and the student community against the then JP government headed by General Ershad.