1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y. M. C. A. NASIRABAD CHITTAGONG, TEL 226803, FAX (880) (31)-225258

VOL. III NO. 300 REGD. NO. DA 781

# The Baily Star

AGRAHAYAN 8, 1400 BS, DHAKA MONDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1993 JAMADIUS-SAANI 7, 1414 HIJRI

**NirmanTiles** In Broken Marble Tiles Brighter Home At Lesser Price Tel:605957,861985

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

#### Inside Today

#### Article

**Integration Does** not point to a Fortress Europe yet

Column: Along My Way by S B Chaudhuri Page 4

#### International



Winnie escapes death Fresh battle leaves 7 dead in Kashmir Page 5

#### **Business**

NAFTA unlikely to have adverse effect on Bangladesh Article by Professor Hafiz G A Siddiqi

Crucial meeting on GATT talks begins today: France, Spain blast US declaration Pages 6, 7

#### Feature

#### Development

Need for rethinking on irrigation policies; Free trade must not suffer from double standard; Boosting West Africa's self-image

Page 8

## Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



An Instantaneous Love Affair Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS** 

**Three Services** 

Chiefs meet PM

Services made courtesy call on

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

Zia jointly at the Armed Forces

headquarters here yesterday on

the occasion of the Armed

Forces Day. The chiefs stayed

with her for sometime. The

Prime Minister also met the

members of family of seven Bir

Srestha at the headquarters.

Chiefs of Staff of the Three

# Three hill districts get more administrative powers

Several ministries yesterday signed some 24 agreements on a number of subjects and handed those to the local governments of the three Hill Districts, reports UNB.

Rangamati Local, Government Parishad Chairman Pariiat Kushum Chakma, Khagrachhari Local Government Parishad Chairman Samiran Dewan and Bandarban, Local Government Parishad Chairman Saching Pru and concerned Secretaries and Joint Secretaries of the government signed the agreements aimed at giving

greater administrative responsibilities to the local bodies of the three hill tracts districts.

Under the agreement, local government parishads of the three districts will appoint all third and fourth class employees from among the local inhabitants for filling up the vacant posts under the ministries that signed the agreement. Besides, the parishads will have administrative powers with regard to their transfer, suspension, removal and any kind of punish-

A government handout said

the agreements are aimed at strengthening the structures of the local bodies of the three hill districts by way of decentralising the administration to strengthen the efforts of socio-economic development of the

Earlier, the government had transferred the hill tracts three subjects: primary education health and family planning and agricultural extension.

Yesterday's agreements in volved the following subjects. Industries Ministry - BSIC Local Government Depart

ment - Directorate of Public Health Engineering and Rural Development and Cooperative Department, Cooperative Direc-

Fisheries and Live Stock Ministry - Fisheries Directorate and Live Stock Direc-

Social Welfare Ministry -Social Welfare Directorate. Youth and Sports Ministry -Sports Department affairs.

Cultural Affairs Ministry Concerned institutions of cultural affairs.

#### Armed Forces vanguard of nation: PM

Prime Minister Begum Kha leda Zia said yesterday that the Armed Forces Day is a glorious day of unity and determination for the national life, reports

Begum Zia was speaking at a reception held on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day at 'Senakunja' in Dhaka Canton-

She said the country's Armed Forces are the pride and vanguard of the nation.

Begum Zia said the activities of the Armed Forces were not limited to military spheres now rather their functions had been extended to face the natural calamities and nation building activities.

The Prime Minister said the significant role of our Armed Forces in UN peacekeeping missions had brightened the country's image in the interna-See Page 12 Col 1

## Discussion on PM's remarks demanded By Staff Correspondent

JS winter session begins

The winter session of the resolution. Jatiya Sangsad began vesterday with the Opposition demanding a general discussion on the reported comments of the Prime Minister regarding Parliament.

Rising on a point of order just a few minutes before the Speaker adjourned the House. Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim said that the comments of the Prime Minister and leader of the House had spoiled the sanctity of the

"Her comments have tarnished the image of the MPs as well as Parliament." Nasim said while other Opposition members shouted "shame, shame!"

'Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia told a rally on November 7 at the Gulistan Square that 'untrue statements are made in the House by some members.

"Being the Leader of the House, should she make such comments?" Nasim asked of the Speaker. Both Begum Zia and Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina were present during Nasim's speech.

As many as 28 notices seeking a discussion on the issue were submitted to the Parliament Secretariat.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali cut short Nasim's speech by saying that he would give a decision regarding the notices to-

The Speaker took his chair at 4 pm and started the proceedings with the customary recitation from the Holy Quran, election of a panel of chairman and adoption of a condolence.

Finance Minister M Saifur

Rahman yesterday asked the

commercial banks to reduce in-

terest rates further, by 1 to 2

interest rates ... they should cut

down the interest rates by 1 to

dressing a reception accorded to

him on his election as the

Chairman of the Board of Direc-

tors of the World Bank and IMF.

ciation (BJA) accorded the re-

ception at a local hotel. The

ofunction was also addressed by

Commerce Minister Shamsul

Islam, BJA Chairman Md

Rezaul Karim MP and Vice

the banks should take neces-

sary steps in order to make

The Finance Minister said

Chairman Abdul Mannan.

The Bangladesh Jute Asso-

2 per cent," he said while ad-

"Banks can still reduce their

per cent, reports UNB.

The panel of chairman includes Ziaur Rahman Khan,

Straj, Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury and Abu Taher. In the absence of the Speaker and Deputy Speaker one of the members of the panel will chair the House. The House condoled the

Wing Commander (retd)

Hamidullah Khan, Shahjahan

death of seven prominent persons and former parliamentarians who passed away since the Set Page 12 Col 3

#### JS probe body yet to agree on its terms of reference

By Staff Reporter

The parliamentary commit tee to probe into the Opposition allegations of corruption against the Irrigation and Flood Control Ministry and the minister concerned yesterday once again failed to reach' an agreement on the terms of reference for its investigations. However, the body, at its

ninth meeting since its formation on July 13 last, agreed to submit a 'primary repert' on their points of differences regarding the terms to the House during the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad(JS).

The meeting of the 15member body headed by Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali was held yesterday morning. See Page 12 Col 4

them profitable in the changing

economic perspective and sug-

gested them to reorganise their

that banks are not lending

money, he said the nationalised

banks more or less provide loan

while the private sector ones

end money 'only to the relatives

tremendous future of jute.

Rahman underscored the need

for more promotional work for

diverse and sophisticated use of

the environment-friendly prod-

International Jute Organisation

(IJO) for its alleged failure to do

anything for promotion of the

Saifur Rahman hit out at the

Foretelling a very good and

Speaking on the allegation

Banks asked to reduce

interest rates further

structures.

of the directors'

#### Biman rejoinder on Airbus buying

Following is the rejoinder issued by the Biman Bangladesh Airlines yesterday in response to our Sunday's front page item tilled 'Doubts cloud Biman's Airbus buying procedure':

"Our attention has been drawn to a news-item headlined "Doubts cloud Biman's Airbus buying procedure" published in your esteemed daily on Sunday. November 21, 93, Since the newsitem is not based on actual position, the same is being clarified to dispel any misgiving that may have arisen in the mind of the readers.

"Tender for Airbus was floated on two-envelope system, which is a common practice. Sec Page 12 Col 2

#### 115 killed in Macedonian plane crash

SKOPJE. Nov 21: One hundred and fifteen people were killed when a plane crashed into snow-covered mountains near Ohrid airport in southern Macedonia on Saturday night, Radio Macedonia reported today, says AFP.

Only one passenger survived. a young man in his twenties. the radio said quoting a policeman. Goce Trajanovski, who had just returned from the scene where the plane burst into flames.

Earlier, an official at Ohrid airport spoke of several survivors' and Radio Macedonia had reported that three people had been pulled out of the burning wreckage.

The plane, a Soviet-built YAK-42, operated by the Macedonian domestic airline Avio Impex, took off from Geneva and should have landed in the Macedonian capital Skopje. It was diverted to Ohrid because

#### Licences of 14 recruiting agencies cancelled

The government has cancelled licences of 14 recruiting agencies and suspended function of 21 others for misbehaviour and irregularities under the Immigration Ordinance of 1982, reports UNB.

Cancelled agencies are: M/S Depon Trading Corporation, Palash Enterprise, Popular Trade(BD) Ltd, Al Farid Trade International, Alan International, Al Nakir International, Al Maher International, Babubhai and Company, Alif International Agency, N Hossain and Company, MAF International Enterprise, Winner International, Unique International and Masiat Enterprise Ltd.

The suspended agencies are: See Page 12 Col 5

#### cing wreaths at the 'Shikha Anirban' (the Eternal Flame) at the Dhaka Cantonment on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day yesterday. The chiefs of the Army, Navy and Air Force are - PID photo Environment action plan delayed by two years

President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Abdur Rahman Biswas pla-

Formulation of an action plan for management of the country's environment has been delayed by nearly two vears. The delay has occurred because of delay in implemenation of a UNDP-funded **NEMAP** (National Environment Management Action Plan) pro-

Bangladesh is experiencing rapid deforestation, soil depletion, industrial pollution, increase in salinity level, coastal degradation and loss of bio-diversity. The country also lives under the ever present threat of floods of massive destructive

The interaction between

By A Special Correspondent

environment and development and quality of life was brought to focus by Bangladesh's experience with recurrent natural calamities since the mid-Eighties. All of these were linked by experts to effects of degradation of the global environment. Experts also established that the effects of natural disaster can be reduced through prior action aimed at protecting Bangladesh's own environment. An ambitious programme of afforestation has already been launched to increase forest cover which will reduce soil depletion and coastal degradation.

Programmes such as af-

forestation are only a limited implementation of the natural environment policy drawn up by the Ministry of Environment and Forests. Fuller implementation of the plan will require a comprehensive understanding of the state of environment and a plan of action

to improve it. The NEMAP project is aimed at fulfilling this requirement. The overall objective of the project is to operationalise the national environment policy drawn up by the Ministry of Environment When implemented, the government will have a compre-See Page 12 Col 3

#### PM goes to Nepal today

Prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia leaves Dhaka today for Kathmandu on a three-day official visit to the Himalayan Kingdom of Nepal, reports BSS.

The visit to Kathmandu, first by Begum Zia since she took office, is taking place at the invitation of Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala. Foreign Minister ASM Mos-

tafizur Rahman, Selina Shaheed MP. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister K M Rabbani. Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister Mozammel Haque, chief of protocol Masum Ahmed Chowdhury, Director General (South Asia) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs Iftekhar Ahmed Chowdhury are among others accompanying the Prime Minister. During her stay in Nepal.

the Prime Minister will discuss the whole gamut of relations covering bilateral, regional and international issues with the Nepalese leaders. Begum Zia, the current

Chairperson of the SAARC, will also exchange views on the issues relating to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) with her Sec Page 12 Col 3

## toll now 13

# Boat capsize

CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: With

morning in heavy mists after being hit by a fishing trawler. The sunken boat was salvaged yesterday afternoon by the Chittagong Port Authority.

## UNEP ready to help hold water talks By Special Correspondent

The visiting United Nations Under-Secretary General Elizabeth Dowdeswell stressed the need for a dialogue for solving the problem of the Ganges water sharing and offered the UNEP's assistance and cooper-

ation in this regard. Addressing a press conference at the Padma State Guest House yesterday, she termed Bangladesh's water problems and the issue of sharing the waters of common international rivers as 'a major environmental matter in the region' and said that a political will was essen-

Ms Dowdeswell, who heads two UN bodies - the United Nations Environment Programme

tial to solve it.

(UNEP) and the United Nations Centre of Human Settlement (Habitat) - as Executive Director, arrived in Dhaka yesterday morning on a two-day official Soon after arrival, Ms Dow-

deswell met Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and discussed with her issues of mutual interest, including the water-sharing problem. This is the first visit of the senior UN executive to Bangladesh since she took over the charge of the posts early this year. Dowdeswell also met other

ministers yesterday, including Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman, Works Minister See Page 12 Col 8

## From Staff Correspondent

the recovery of four more bodies today from the rivers Karnaphuli, the death toll in Friday's boat capsize rose to 13.

According to port police, the four bodies were recovered from the river near Majirghat. The boat capsized on Friday

## Regional water confce in city from today

By Staff Correspondent

An international conference Ahmed. on eastern Himalayan waters will begin in the capital today, bringing together water experts from India, Nepal and Bangladesh to discuss and find possible solutions to the problems of

water, sharing. State Minister fof Irrigation. Water Development and Flood Control Mosharraf Hossain Shahjahan will inaugurate the conference as chief guest at Hotel Sonargaon at 9:30 this morning.

The two-day conference, convened jointly by the Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP) and the Global Infrastructure Fund (GIF) Research Foundation Japan, will be presided over by chairman of the BUP Dr Qazi Kholiquzzaman

The occasion will be participated by a five-member delegation from India, seven delegates

from Nepal, 10 from Bangladesh and 13 from the GIF, Japan, the co-sponsors of the conference. This conference is a follow up

of the Eastern Himalayan Waters Conference, New Delhi held on March 22-23 last. At that meeting water experts from India. Nepal and Bangladesh recognised that inter-country collaboration was essential for proper water management in the eastern Himalayan region.

The experts also put emphasis on the economic development of the region, detailed empirical

studies at the grassroots level, and immediate action suiting the socio-economic conditions of the

The Delhi conference stressed the need for developing an institutional structure of regional or international character using models or new formulae to deal in the water-related problems.

The experts, laying importance on the environmental issues of the Himalayan region, viewed that the ecological concerns must be integrated with economic development. They all agreed that there should be no misplaced imposition of Western models on South Asian problems and social realities.

The Dhaka conference will focus on specific water-related problems like the Farakka issue. and would try to move towards

The Bangladesh delegation includes Kholiquzzaman Ahmed. Prof Sajjad Rashid, Prof Ainun Nishat, Amjad Hossain, M Altaf Ali, MH Siddiqui and others. The Indian team includes

Raj Gopal while the Nepalese delegation consists of Dr Bhatta, Dr Kamal Rijal, NK Lal and JC Pokharel. Dr M Yamamoto of the GIF. H Shibusawa, E Noda and T Ueki.

will also participate in the con-

ference from Japan.

George Verghese, CD Thatte, and

natural fibre, dubbing it as a See Page 12 Col 7 গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

## সতর্কবাণী ইদানীং গভীর উদ্বেগের সাথে লক্ষ্য করা যাচ্ছে যে, কিছু সংখ্যক বিড়ি প্রস্তুতকারক ও

বিড়ির আবগারী কর তথা ব্যান্ডরোল ফাঁকির বিরুদ্ধে

বিক্রেতা ব্যান্ডরোলবিহীন বিড়ি বাজারে বিক্রয় করে কর ফাঁকি দিয়ে যাচ্ছে। উল্লেখ থাকে যে, প্রতিটি বিড়ির প্যাকেটে ০.৪৮ টাকার ব্যান্ডরোল লাগানোর বিধান রয়েছে।

সকল বিড়ি প্রস্তুতকারক ও বিড়ি বিক্রেতাগণ ব্যান্ডরোলবিহীন, ব্যবহৃত ব্যান্ডরোলযুক্ত ও নকল ব্যান্ডরোলযুক্ত বিড়ি বিক্রয় পরিহার করুন।

ব্যবহৃত ব্যাভরোল সংগ্রহ, পুনঃ ব্যাবহার, ব্যাভরোল ক্রয়-বিক্রয় ও হস্তান্তরের মাধ্যমে তাহা ব্যবহার করা থেকে বিরত থাকুন।

বিড়ি উৎপাদনে আবগারী আইন ও বিধিমালা এবং স্রঠিকভাবে ব্যান্ডরোল লাগানোর মাধ্যমে আবগারী কর'প্রদান বাধ্যতামূলক। তা অমান্য করা আইনত দন্ডনীয় অপরাধ। এতে জেল ও জরিমানাসহ বিড়ি উৎপাদনের আবগারী লাইসেন্স এল-৪ সাসপেন্ড এমনকি বাতিল হতে পারে

বিড়ির আবগারী কর তথা ব্যান্ডরোল ফাঁকিরোধকল্পে বিশেষ স্কোয়াড ইতিমধ্যেই দেশের সর্বত্র তাদের অভিযান শুরু করেছে

ব্যান্ডরোলবিহীন বিড়ি, ব্যবহৃত ব্যান্ডরোলযুক্ত ও নকল ব্যান্ডরোলযুক্ত বিড়ি বাজারে বিক্রয় হতে দেখা গেলে নিকটস্থ কাস্টমস, একসাইজ ও ভ্যাট অফিসকে অবহিত করার জন্য জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড সকল সচেতন নাগরিকের প্রতি আহবান জানাচ্ছে এবং **জাতীয় রাজস্ব** আয়ের স্বার্থে সকল দেশপ্রেমিক নাগরিকের সহযোগিতা কামনা করছে।

DFP(G) 19121-18/11

G-1601

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

#### She enquired about their wellbeing, reports BSS. British envoy calls on Hasina British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler made a courtesy call on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina at her Parliament office yesterday Elizabeth Dowdeswell Tofael Ahmed MP and Abul Hassan Chowdhury MP were present. They discussed economic, social and political affairs of the two countries. meeting sources said, reports

#### Two killed in road mishap By DMCH Correspondent

(DMCH).

Two persons died on the spot and three others were injured when a speeding truck ran over them at Kawran Bazar in the city yesterday. Witnesses said the truck went berserk after its driver lost control over the vehicle at around 8:30 am. One Abul Matin and another pedestrian, who could not be identified, immediately died on the spot. Three others -Sarwar, Amir Uddin and Ayesha - were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital