

The Midnight File

Kohl's presidential nominee withdraws

BONN (Germany), Nov 25: Chancellor Helmut Kohl suffered a big embarrassment Thursday when his presidential nominee withdrew because of a public furor over the candidate's views on the Holocaust and women's rights.

IRA to continue war

DUBLIN, Nov 25: The Irish Republican Army today dismissed calls for it to halt its 25-year war against Britain to help an Anglo-Irish peace drive for Northern Ireland.

Egyptian PM escapes car bomb blast

CAIRO, Nov 25: Prime Minister Atef Sedki narrowly escaped a car-bomb blast near his home in the Egyptian capital today but the attack by Islamic fundamentalists killed a 15-year-old schoolgirl.

Schoolgirl set on fire by jilted lover

By DMCH Correspondent A teenaged schoolgirl was doused with petrol and set on fire by her jilted lover at Mohammadpur in the city yesterday.

Sherpur College closed sine die

SHERPUR, Nov 25: Sherpur Government College was closed today sine die following a violent clash between two groups of students, reports UNB.

Biman

From Page 1 Col 4 one flight from Nagoya, which turned out to be another unprofitable proposition.

Israeli pullout

From Page 1 Col 6 Israel television broadcast scenes this week of the army moving tanks out of a base near Jericho.

New phone lines

From Page 1 Col 7 would reduce the price for cellular phones — which now cost nearly a lakh taka — because an increased number of companies would be offering competitive prices to the customers.

ADB to fund

From Page 1 Col 4 structure, the sources explained. "It is likely that the units of the inter-city services or the container services would be separated," the sources said.

Tania sent to Jail

Film actress Tania, arrested in a murder case, was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday as the court rejected her bail prayer at the end of a second police remand, reports UNB.

Gunmen storm Ctg BIT hostel

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 25: Police recovered a walkie-talkie, a rifle and 100 bullets from a hostel of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) this morning.

Tribal students stage march to Naniarchar

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 25: Several hundred supporters of the Pahari Chhatra Parishad today marched from Kutubchhari and Gilaichhari areas to Naniarchar bazar to protest the recent violence there.

4 killed in Ctg bus plunge

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 25: At least four people were killed and 20 others injured when a bus fell into a ditch from Patiya road this morning.

WB embargo

From Page 1 Col 7 allower Bangladesh. From 1990 the Flood Plan Coordination Organisation (FPKO) has been sharing the BWDB's planning mandate.

FCO chief due today

The head of the British South Asian Department of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) Barney Smith, arrives in Dhaka today on a four-day official visit, reports BSS.

Brief session

From Page 1 Col 5 Minister Jamiruddin Sircar. The second question, which was also submitted by an AL MP, Mirza Azam, was raised by treasury bench member Fazlul Huq.

JCD wins most posts in DAMECSU

By DMCH Correspondent The pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) bagged 15 seats while the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) picked up five posts in the Dhaka Medical College Students' Union (DAMECSU) polls held yesterday.

SAARC ministers

From Page 1 Col 8 seven member countries who constitute the council will participate in the meeting and discuss the future course of actions to make the SAARC more dynamic in fulfilling its objectives for which it was formally launched in Dhaka in 1985.

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A British UN soldier allows a Sarajevo youth to look through the sights of his rifle yesterday. — AFP photo

Back-stage moves on

From Page 1 Col 5 rate two-hour discussions on both the motions. Meanwhile, the ruling party high command, in an informal meeting Wednesday night, assigned Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury to open dialogue with the AL-led Opposition to avert any possible situation which could obstruct the continuity of the present Sangsad, a cabinet minister told The Daily Star.

JS boycott

From Page 1 Col 4 Samad Azad described Wednesday's crisis in Parliament as unfortunate and said it was no stray incident since the constitution of this Parliament. Criticising the attitude of the Prime Minister towards Parliament, Azad said "A Parliament cannot be made effective by making speeches outside it. The Prime Minister has not made any statement on national issues so far discussed in Parliament."

Milon

From Page 1 Col 7 occasion of the opening of a sculpture in memory of Dr Milon on Dhaka University campus yesterday morning. Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, Joint Secretary of BMA, was gunned down on the DU campus on November 27, 1990 by hired goons at the flag end of the anti-autocracy movement against Ershad.

Latur rocked again

AURANGABAD, Nov 25: At least 10 people were injured when tremors of mild intensity rocked parts of Latur and Osmanabad districts of Maharashtra region late last night, reports PTI.

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Jyoti Basu against onion export to Bangladesh

CALCUTTA, Nov 25: West Bengal Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu, has urged the centre to consider suspension of onion export to Bangladesh for "a certain period" till a new crop is harvested, and demanded that the states be consulted before according such permission for exports, reports PTI.

In a letter to the union Commerce Minister, Pranab Mukharjee, the Chief Minister said, it was important that before allowing exports of onions, there should be consultation with states in order to correctly assess the position of scarcity which may prevail for some time.

Requesting Mukharjee to examine the scope of suspending for a certain period onion export till harvesting of a new crop, the Chief Minister said, this would help stabilise the market price in the state at a reasonable level.

Stating that ordinary consumers in West Bengal were being hard hit due to 'abnormally high market price of onions,' Basu said, the state had to depend largely on Maharashtra, UP and Tamil Nadu for onions. But due to inadequate supply from these states, the market price had gone up. "As per report, from November eight to 15, 672 tonnes of onions have been exported to Bangladesh," the letter said.

25 hurt as police, mob clash in Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Nov 25: Twenty-five people were injured as mob clashed with police here following a road accident in which one person was killed on the spot.

The mob set fire to a truck and damaged several other vehicles. Police fired gunshots and lobbed teargas shells to bring the situation under control.

A fertiliser-loaded truck that crushed an unidentified man at the Second Railgate area in the town at around 7:30 am triggered the violence.

The mob also beat up the truck driver Poresh Chandra Das, 35, severely. The hour-long clash spread to Railgate, Uklipara, Chamber Road and Diamond Hall areas.

Milon

From Page 1 Col 7 occasion of the opening of a sculpture in memory of Dr Milon on Dhaka University campus yesterday morning. Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, Joint Secretary of BMA, was gunned down on the DU campus on November 27, 1990 by hired goons at the flag end of the anti-autocracy movement against Ershad.

The BMA and the Smriti Sangsad jointly sponsored the sculpture, built at a cost of Tk. 4.5 lakh, and erected at the south-east corner of the DU Central Library.

Vice Chancellor Prof Enajuddin Ahmed formally opened the plaque of the memorial sculpture.

Speaking on the occasion, the VC said people had established democracy after a nine-year long struggle against the autocratic regime. But democracy is yet to become fully alive.

"This sculpture is not only to commemorate Dr Milon, it is a memorial to all democracy-loving people of the country", he observed.

The function, presided over by BMA President Dr M A Majed, was also addressed by Selina Akhter, mother of late Dr Milon. BMA Vice-President Dr Mahbubur Rahman, Secretary General Gazi Abdul Huq, Joint Secretary Dr Rafiq Chowdhury, DUCSU AGS Nazimuddin Alam and Chhatra Moitry President Ragib Ahsan Munna.

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The association has so far identified 13 areas of cooperation.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman who is the current chairperson of the council will preside over all working sessions of the meeting.

It will be the 13th session of the SAARC Council of Ministers, which is due to fix the date of the eighth SAARC summit to be hosted by India.

The meeting of the Council of Ministers will be preceded by sessions of the Standing Committee and Programme Committee of the association.

The Standing Committee consisting of the Foreign Secretaries will meet on December 1-3.

The Programme Committee which is composed of senior officials of the government of the member countries will hold its session on November 30.

Clinton-Rushdie meet

US fears attack on its citizens in Asia

ISLAMABAD, Nov 25: American embassies in Asia were calling and faxing US citizens today to warn them to be on the alert for terrorist or mob action following President Bill Clinton's meeting with British author Salman Rushdie, reports Reuters.

The US embassy in Islamabad was calling American residents to stay away from known trouble spots, avoid going out if possible and try to be as inconspicuous as possible in Muslim Pakistan.

"While we are not aware of a concrete threat in connection with this trip, experience and the continuation of the Iranian Fatwa (decree) against Rushdie suggest that there may be terrorist or mob action directed against American or American interests overseas," the US embassy in New Zealand said in a statement.

An embassy spokesman told Reuters the statement had been released by the State Department in Washington.

The US embassy in Australia issued a similar statement, as did the American consulate in Hong Kong.

"It is a routine notification to Americans... to be cautious," said a consulate spokeswoman.

In Kuala Lumpur, the US embassy distributed the State Department advisory by fax to US citizens working in Malaysia and asked recipients to pass it along to other Americans where appropriate.

The Hong Kong spokeswoman said the worldwide statement was aimed at both private citizens and government officers but there was nothing to suggest that any attack was likely.

The US Department of State asks all Americans and those representing American interests overseas to be alert to the possibility of such a threat and to take the necessary precautions," the statement adds.

Americans in Pakistan were told to keep away from the weekly Friday bazaar, a favourite shopping spot in Islamabad, because Friday midday

prayers may provide an opportunity for Muslim clerics to give sermons condemning Rushdie and could be followed by anti US demonstrations.

Several people were killed when police opened fire on an anti-Rushdie demonstration outside the United States Information Service Office in Islamabad in 1989.

Rushdie met Clinton on Wednesday. The Indian-born author described the unannounced meeting as 'the pinnacle' of his long campaign to pressure Iran into lifting its death sentence against him.

The late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini issued the decree in 1989 because of what he termed blasphemy against Islam in Rushdie's novel 'The Satanic Verses.'

The author has been in hiding under guard ever since for much of the time. But he met British Prime Minister John Major in May and has had high level meetings in Canada, Portugal, Ireland, Holland and Scandinavia.

Cut system loss further, Saifur asks PDB officials

MOULVIBAZAR, Nov 25: Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman today asked the Power Development Board officials to further reduce the 'awful' system loss to a justifiable limit to make PDB a viable and profit-making organisation, reports UNB.

"Losses during the generation period or during transmission phase is understandable... But how can one justify system loss due to theft, meter tampering and other malpractices?" he asked the PDB men.

The Finance Minister was addressing as chief guest the foundation laying ceremony of the Sylhet 90-MW Combined Cycle Power Plant Project at Fenchuganj.

The function was also addressed, among others, by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Sharaf Uddin Ahmed Khasru MP, Energy Secretary M Faizur Razzak, Japanese Ambassador Seizo Tanekawa and local BNP leader Shaif Akhed Chowdhury.

The Tk 404 crore power project with a foreign exchange component of Tk 290 crore is expected to be completed by October, 1995. The Overseas Economic Fund of Japan will provide the foreign exchange component for the project.

When it goes in full operation, the plant will not only meet the additional demand of the greater Sylhet district but also provide 50 MW of electricity to augment the supply in the national grid.

The phase-one of the combined cycle power plant now under construction consists of two gas turbines and one steam turbine — each of 30 MW capacity.

The steam turbine will use excess heat from the two gas turbines to boil water without using any further fuel for itself making the whole plant cost-effective. The steam produced from boiling the water will rotate the turbine to generate power.

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Aid cut to Pakistan

From Page 1 Col 4 shall be the best example of French-Pak friendship," Ms Bhutto told a group of Pakistani newspaper editors.

Ms Bhutto did not give any details on when an agreement might be reached. But she said the plant was urgently needed to increase electricity supplies in Pakistan.

Pakistan and France reached a tentative agreement on the nuclear plant in 1990, when Ms Bhutto was serving her first term in office.

The project stalled when Ms Bhutto's government collapsed later that year. She returned to power following last month's elections.

Pakistan already has one nuclear power plant in the southern port city of Karachi.

Pakistan insists its nuclear programme is entirely for peaceful purposes. However, the Asian country has acknowledged that it has the ability to build nuclear weapons, but says it has not done so.

Arch rival India also is considered capable of assembling an atomic bomb. Neither country is willing to unilaterally sign the nuclear non-proliferation treaty.

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