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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Four foreign trawlers seized

KHULNA, Nov 28: Bangladesh Navy apprehended four foreign fishing trawlers and arrested 41 crew members near the Fairway buoy off Hiron Point on Saturday. The total number of impounded vessels stood at 14 with the latest seizure while the arrested people numbered 254 within a short period of drive in the Bay of Bengal, reports UNB.

### Total lunar eclipse today

A total lunar eclipse will take place today beginning at 0927 BST. According to the Bangladesh Meteorological Department the moon will enter penumbra at 0927 BST and leave penumbra at 1525 BST on the day. The moon will enter umbra at 1040 BST and leave it at 1412 BST. However, the total eclipse will begin at 1202 BST and end at 1250 BST. The magnitude of the eclipse will be 1.092. This eclipse will not, however, be visible anywhere in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

### Janakantha Editor sued

Dr Khandaker Mosharruf Hossain, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister, has filed a defamation suit against Md Atiqullah Khan Masud, Editor and publisher of the Dainik Janakantha, and Noor Mohammad, a reporter of the daily. It was stated in the case that the newspaper in its November 25 and 28 issues published reports on the Energy Minister which were false, fabricated, baseless and motivated. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate ordered warrants of arrest to be issued against the accused, reports UNB.

### 18 houses gutted in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Nov 28: A child was killed and 18 houses were gutted in a devastating fire in Nasir colony here this (Sunday) evening. Witnesses said the fire originated from a lamp of a local fisherman family while one of its members was offering puja. The fire soon engulfed the area and gutted 18 houses. Details of the accident and extent of loss could not be known. Firemen were still at the scene till late evening, reports UNB.

# JS stalemate over as BNP, Public shares of oil, gas companies to be floated

The stalemate in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS), created out of two privilege motions, was over last night with the Awami League (AL)-led Opposition re-entering the House at 11:15 pm.

Earlier, the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the AL-led Opposition reached an understanding on the four-day crisis through hectic negotiations eventually mediated by Speaker Sheikh Razzak All.

The negotiating teams of the BNP and the AL, led by Deputy Leader of the House, Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, could reach the accord only when both the parties agreed to step back from their original positions.

At the beginning of the official

negotiation, the AL demanded that the Speaker's ruling allowing the motion against Hasina must be withdrawn while the one against Khaleda Zia would be discussed.

The ruling party stuck to its position that both the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition had to make separate statements clarifying their respective positions.

The Speaker ultimately accepted Leader of the Opposition's Wednesday speech in the JS as her clarification and on the other hand ruled out the scheduled discussion on the motion against Leader of the House.

"As per the consensus reached by the negotiators," the Speaker told the House at 10:56 pm, "there is no need for discussion on the privilege motion

against the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina which was scheduled for November 30."

Speaker Sheikh Razzak All then said, "I now call upon the boycotting Opposition to return to the House."

The boycotting Opposition, barring the Jatiya Party (JP) MPs, entered the House last night after four days of stalemate.

Earlier, Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia appeared in the House at 11:08 pm. Five minutes after the Speaker had made his request to the boycotting Opposition to return, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury took the floor to seek the chair's permission for the Leader of the House to speak.

But the Speaker informed

the House that under the agreement reached by the negotiators of both the sides, the Opposition was scheduled to return before the Prime Minister's address."

The Speaker requested the Treasury Bench to allow the Opposition sometime for their return. The Speaker also said that he was confident of the Opposition's return.

The Prime Minister took the floor three minutes after the Speaker's assurance that the Opposition would join the House. She then made a statement clarifying her November 7 speech.

"This Sangsad was constituted following nine years of struggle against autocracy and the victory against an autocratic regime was achieved at the cost

of lives and property," she said. "We will float shares of those gas and oil companies which have reasonable prospects of declaring dividends." Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman confirmed to The Daily Star last night.

The move was immediately hailed by the private sector which viewed it as a positive development in firming up the country's capital market.

"This will make the share market vibrant and with the

increase of share supply, the hidden demands in the shares will be met," Imtiyaz Husain, vice chairman of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) said welcoming the decision.

The government has already identified the Chittagong gas field, the Bakhrabad gas field and the Jalalabad field for floating a limited number of public shares.

"Instead of the classical idea of selling off enterprises to the private sector, we will go for a share holding democracy," Saifur Rahman said. "I have already prepared all documents for the venture."

However, the government has yet to consider the percentage of shares to be floated because the total capital of the

## BDR, BSF trade gunfire at Belonia again

FENI, Nov 28: The border guards of Bangladesh and India traded gunfire for the third consecutive day today as Indians again trespassed on a frontier landmass in Parshuram thana this morning, reports UNB.

The trespassers fled leaving a tractor in the face of resistance by the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) jawans.

BDR sources said a large number of Indian people guarded by their Border Security Force intruded into Muhurjchar and started tilling the 11-acre landmass in river Muhuri at 10 am.

They said BSF opened fire as BDR resisted the Indians. The encounter lasted for about an hour. No casualties were reported.

During the exchange of fire the Indian intruders escaped the scene abandoning the tractor they brought with them for farming at Muhurjchar.

The two sides also traded fire on Friday and Saturday during the similar trespass.

## BMA's action programme begins today

By DMCH Correspondent

The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) announced a month-long programme beginning today to realise its 21-point demands.

The programmes include poster, leaflet distribution, meetings at all the medical institutions of the city and wearing black badges until December 12.

The doctors will observe a three-hour token strike from December 19 to 21. On December 28 they will observe hunger strike and stage sit-in demonstrations in front of the office of the DG Health in the city.

The BMA has 11 District Offices in all the medical colleges and Civil Surgeon's Offices throughout the country.

The doctors meanwhile threatened to go on an indefinite strike from January 11 next if the demands were not met.

The 21-point demands include increase of budget in health sector, introduction of primary health-care system at union level under an MBBS doctor, establishment of medical university and administrative autonomy for all the medical colleges.

## BAF aircrash victims laid to rest

By Staff Correspondent

Four Bangladesh Air Force officers killed in the Saturday's aircrash in Jessore were laid to rest yesterday at the BAF graveyard here with full military honour.

The namaj-e-janaza of the officers, who died during test aerobatic flights at the BAF base Mattur Rahman in Jessore, was held at the BAF Shaheen College ground in the city.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, members of the cabinet, Chief of the Army Staff Lt. General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, Chief of the Naval Staff Mohammad Mohaiminul Islam, Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Chief Election Commissioner, Mohammad Abdur Rouf, PSOs of the three services including the PSO of the Armed Forces Division soldiers, sailors, airmen and relatives of the deceased attended the janaza.

## 8 hurt in Pabna bomb blast

PABNA, Nov 28: Eight people were injured in a bomb explosion at Banglabazar South Ramchandrapur village in Sadar thana today (Sunday), reports UNB.

Police said Rezaul, 25, Hirk, 28, Sweet, 25, Anwar, 23, Bhadrastan, 22, Nazu, 20, Tara, 25, and Kuddus were injured when a bomb went off while they were allegedly making the explosives.

The victims were rushed to the Sadar Hospital. Rezaul and Hirk are undergoing treatment in police custody.

The youths were reportedly the activists of the Jatiyatabadi Jubadal, the youth wing of the ruling BNP, but the district BNP president said they had no link with the party.

A case was filed with the police.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing Parliament Session last night. — PID photo

## Parliament will run its full term, affirms PM

By Staff Correspondent

The Fifth Parliament will successfully complete its full five-year term for institutionalising the hard-earned democracy, Prime Minister and Leader of the House affirmed the House yesterday.

"This Parliament has been established by the sacrifice of hundreds of martyrs and we should show respect to them," Begum Khaleda Zia told the House last night at 11 pm after it met following the understanding reached between the Treasury and the Opposition benches.

She said that the question of disrespecting Parliament does not arise since "I myself feel proud of being a member of Parliament."

"I consider myself a Parliament member first and then the Prime Minister," Begum Zia said amid thundering cheers from her party colleagues.

Parliament plunged into a deadlock on Wednesday after Speaker Sheikh Razzak All allowed a two-hour discussion on the reported comment by the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at the airport, and her subsequent threat to resign

## 4 bills placed in JS

Four separate bills — three relating to further postponement of the elections to the Hill Districts Local Government Councils of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban and another relating to the service condition of nationalised industrial workers — were introduced in the Jatiya Sangsad last night, reports BSS.

The bills relating to Hill District Local Government Councils of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban were introduced by Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and the Bill of Service Condition of Workers of Nationalised Industrial Sector was introduced by Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

In his statement on aim and objective of the three bills seeking further amendment of Hill District Local Government Councils of Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban law of 1989, the Foreign Minister sought the approval of the House for extension of time limit for holding of the elections to these local government councils by 910 days from the expiry date of the term of present council on July 11, 1992.

Speaking about the aim and objective of the bill relating to



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina addressing the editors of the national dailies at her Mirto road residence yesterday. — Star photo

## Cong, BJP suffer setback in regional polls

NEW DELHI, Nov 28: India's ruling Congress (I) Party today suffered serious reversals in elections seen as critical for Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, but its main rival also lost ground, reports AFP.

The Congress (I) was crushed in the politically crucial state of Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state, and lost badly in New Delhi city to the Hindu-revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, or Indian People's Party).

It also failed to stem the BJP's slow march to power in the northwestern desert state of Rajasthan, but swept to office in the tiny hill state of Himachal Pradesh after three years in the wilderness.

Political observers have warned that major reverses in the state polls could further loosen Rao's shaky hold over his party.

But the 108-year-old Congress (I) Party drew comfort from the BJP's poor performance in Himachal Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh, a state of 140 million where the BJP had hoped to win with ease on the strength of its Hindu ideology.

## BNP has little regard for JS, says Hasina

Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina was highly critical of the ruling BNP for "consistently undermining democratic institutions", reports UNB.

Talking to newspaper editors and foreign correspondents in Dhaka yesterday, Hasina said the ruling party was showing little regard for Parliament ever since it came to power.

"If this process continues, Awami League members of Parliament will be left with no other option but to resign."

Replying to a question, she said the Awami League central working committee as well as its parliamentary party had already approved a decision to tender resignation en bloc. Resignation letters of the Awami League MPs have been kept ready and will be submitted as required, she added.

Referring to certain newspaper reports trying to portray the current crisis in Parliament as essentially a war of attrition between the Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition, Hasina said it is far from the correct projection of fact.

She said the current crisis is the culmination of a protracted struggle to ensure if Parliament would be regarded as a sovereign body or not.

The Awami League chief alleged that this Parliament was being bypassed right from the outset on all vital issues affecting the nation.

The ruling BNP, she complained, had been evading discussion on such issues as the bill to separate judiciary from the executive, repealing of the Indemnity Ordinance and the Anti-Terrorism Act, Farakka issue and economic problems affecting the nation.

She thought the government party was trying to reduce this Parliament into a rubber-stamp body in clear contravention of the joint declaration of the three alliances.

Pointing to the immediate issue at stake, Hasina claimed that the Speaker had admitted the privilege motion against her in clear contravention of the rules of procedures. She said at the first available opportunity she had taken the floor to clarify her position.

The Opposition Leader said

## Number of diabetics may cross 100m by century end: WHO

GENEVA, Nov 28: The World Health Organisation warned that the number of people with diabetes was rapidly increasing, and could exceed 100 million worldwide by the end of the century compared with an estimated 60 million three years ago, reports BSS.

A WHO study group on the prevention of diabetes predicted that the major part of the increase would occur in developing countries, says a press release of WHO.

For the third successive year, in an effort to increase awareness of diabetes among governments and the general public, WHO observed World Diabetes Day on 14 November, 1993, along with the International Diabetes Federation.

Dr Hilary King, the WHO medical officer responsible for diabetes said, "There is no doubt that this disease is now a global health problem, with populations of developing countries, minority groups and disadvantaged communities facing the greatest risk."

"The rapid rise in the frequency of the disease in these populations seem to be closely associated with lifestyle changes that accompany industrialisation, urbanisation and socio-economic changes in the developing world. Globally, the only question that remains is how huge the problem really is. We expect to have the answer soon, and it may well confirm the view of many experts that there are now as many as 100 million sufferers."

The study groups in a report to be published next year, says: "There is every reason to suppose that diabetes will remain a threat to the public health in the year 2000 and beyond. Demographic and epidemiological evidence suggest that in the absence of effective intervention diabetes will continue to increase in frequency worldwide. Thus prevention of diabetes and its consequences is not only a major challenge for the future but essential if health for all is to be an attainable target."

Diabetes prevention is largely based on encouraging positive lifestyle change — for example, reducing obesity, increasing physical activity, and switching to a high-fibre, low-fat diet.

Diabetes is a chronic disease, the severe complications of which can include blindness and kidney failure, and which also carries a particularly high risk for the development of coronary heart disease. Result of a study presented for the first time earlier this year have shown the importance of good control of diabetes in delaying, or even preventing, these serious complications. But researchers have shown that at least half of all people with diabetes are unaware of their condition, and in some countries the proportion of undiagnosed cases may even reach 80 per cent.

Diabetes is caused by an inherited or acquired deficiency in production of insulin by the pancreas, or in its effect. As a result there is increased con-

## Steps being taken for housing of journalists

Steps are being taken on a priority basis for the housing of the working journalists in Dhaka in the new project of the RAJUK at Yusufganj near Baridhara, reports UNB.

This was stated by Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia in a meeting with a delegation of the Housing Subcommittee of the Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) at his Secretariat office yesterday.

The Minister said the long-standing housing problem of the journalists would be resolved through implementation of the new project and called upon the newsmen to extend cooperation in implementing it.

The delegation was led by the Senior Vice-President of the DUJ and the committee's President Abu Saleh. BPUJ President Gas Kamal Chowdhury, Secretary General Amanullah Kabir, Vice-President Monjur Ahmed, DUJ office-bearers Sadrul Hasan, M A Aziz, Abdus Shahid, Mahmud Shafiq, Maruf Kamal Khan Sohel, Quayum Khan Milon, Kalkobad Milon, Mohamud Baker Hossain and Ali Mahmud were also present in the meeting.

## Pakistan to raise Kashmir issue at Dhaka confce

ISLAMABAD, Nov 28: Pakistan will take up the Kashmir issue at the conference of Global Action Forum being held in Dhaka from December 4 to 6, reports AFP.

The conference will be attended by the parliamentarians from sixty-three countries.

Dr. Noor Jehan Panzai, Deputy Chairperson Senate who left here this morning to attend the working committee's meeting of the forum being held in New York said the Pakistan would insist to include Kashmir issue in the agenda of Dhaka conference.

Talking to AFP before her departure at the Islamabad Airport she hoped the working committee which is at its meeting on November 29 and 30 to finalize the agenda must take note of the massive violation of human rights in the occupied Kashmir.

She said Pakistan delegation in the conference would try to move a resolution with the help of other friendly countries. To condemn the on-going region of Suppression in the held territory and for the implementation