

## Inside Today

## Article

## Hubli: Another Eye of Controversy

Column: Between the Lines  
by Kuldeep Nayar  
Page 4

## International

Palestinian police arrest 300 Islamic militants in Gaza

US offers concessions to DPRK in Geneva talks  
Page 5

## Business

Bangladesh team will go abroad for exploring new tea markets

Communists blamed for rouble crisis  
Pages 6, 7

## Weekend Magazine

Towards a Secular Festival; My Most Fascinating Experience; The Concept of Mother Durga and Her Retinue; The Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research: How it Began; Match Making Not that Easy; Rising Sen; Jean Monnet, the Great Inspiration behind Europe; A subtle Amalgamation of Optimism with Pessimism; Staging of a Greek Tragedy in its Own Traditional Way  
Pages 9, 10 and 11

## Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



An Artist to be Reckoned with  
Page 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

## Hasina goes to Mymensingh tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent  
Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will address a rally in Mymensingh tomorrow demanding resignation of the government and elections under a caretaker government, says an AL press release. The Mymensingh District Awami League has organised the rally at the Circuit House Maidan at 3 pm on Saturday.

## Kazi Zafar leaves for London

By Staff Correspondent  
A former prime minister and president member of the Jatiya Party, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, MP, left Dhaka for London Wednesday midnight for treatment, according to a JP press release. Kazi Zafar was under treatment at the Cardhope Heart Centre in the city since October 3.

## One killed in Khulna

From Our Correspondent  
KHULNA, Oct 13: Mohammad Abdul Jabbar 35, a poor of the Khulna Collectorate, was hacked to death last night at his village home at Sripaitala under Rupsha thana, 15 Kilometres from here. According to police, he was attacked by the assailants soon after his return home from the office. Police later recovered some leaflets from the place of occurrence. The leaflets are, however, bearing the name of "Purbo Banglar Communist Party". The cause of the murder was not known immediately.

## A productive dialogue is my mission: Ninian

By Staff Correspondent

The Commonwealth Secretary General's emissary Sir Ninian Stephen has said he is 'neither optimistic nor pessimistic' about the outcome of the planned dialogue between the government and the opposition parties.

"I am in a situation where I am neither optimistic nor pessimistic... I understand the parties are long way apart... and it is a drawing together process," Sir Ninian said at a press conference at state guest house Padma on his arrival in the city yesterday.

"My main mission is to get the parties talking, to see the parties can get engaged in a productive dialogue," he said.

The Commonwealth Secretary General, who was here last month, must have discovered materials and attitudes which gave him grounds for optimism, otherwise he

would not go ahead with his endeavour, Ninian said. "Both the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition agreed to the proposal he (C'wealth Secretary General) put forward is itself a ground of his optimism."

Political adviser to Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina SAMS Kibria and two Commonwealth officials, who arrived in Dhaka earlier as an advance team, were also present at the press conference.

A former Governor General of Australia, Sir Ninian said Bangladesh's current political problem is a matter which has to be resolved by leaders and people of the country themselves.

"My mission is to be available to facilitate discussions between the parties in any way that might be appropriate," said the 71-year old Common-

wealth emissary, who served as Justice of the Australian High Court for 10 years before becoming Governor General in 1982.

A second world war veteran, Ninian said the discussions would initially take place at the level of deputies but it is hoped that direct talks between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition could be held as early as possible.

"I look forward to working closely with them and their colleagues to facilitate the dialogue," Sir Ninian, who played a major role for resolving the Ireland crisis, said in an arrival statement.

He said, "It is the hope of the Commonwealth Secretary General that by means of discussion between the parties the prevailing atmosphere of

See Page 12 Col 3



Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen and his wife being received by Foreign Secretary MR Osmany at the Zia International Airport yesterday. — Star photo

## Election fever grips business community

By Staff Correspondent

An election fever has gripped the country's business community as the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), the apex body of the community, goes to polls on October 17.

On that day, office-holders of the affiliated business organisations from around the country are going to elect a president, a vice president and 30 executive committee (EC) members of the Federation for a two-year term.

Some of the leading industrialists and businessmen are contesting the polls and the candidates themselves are seriously campaigning for the coveted posts.

The reason the elections this year has aroused so much interest among trade and industry circles is that this is for the first time in its 21-year history the federation's office-holders are being elected under a direct voting system replacing the proxy voting system used earlier.

This change has forced the prospective candidates to launch a vigorous campaign replete with formulating their respective election manifestos, holding projection meetings in

different cities and even conducting door-to-door style campaigns among the voters.

The change in the voting system has compelled the candidates to come forward with specific agenda to win votes as the stakes are very high. Earlier, the winners were decided well before the polling day, remarked a voter in the elections who leads a trade association.

Under a rotating system, the FBCCI president and vice president are elected from amongst the representative trade associations and chamber bodies. This year, the president would be elected from amongst the candidates for trade associations as the incumbent president, Mahbubur Rahman, was elected by the chamber group when he was the president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI).

The 30 EC memberships are split equally among the trade associations and chamber groups.

The FBCCI represents 55 chambers and another 132 trade associations from around the country. There are 840 eligible voters — 614 would vote

See Page 12 Col 1

## DCC female commissioner polls tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The elections to the reserved seats of female commissioners of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will be held tomorrow, according to a government handout.

The elections will be held at the office of the Deputy Commissioner who will be the Returning Officer.

The voting will take place from 10am to 4pm without any break.

## Jessore-3 bypolls November 15

By-election to the parliamentary seat of Jessore-3 (constituency No -87) will be held on November 15, according to a press release of the Election Commission yesterday, reports UNB.

The seat fell vacant following the death of Awami League MP Roushan Ali on August 19. The election commission schedule announced set October 22 for submitting nomination papers to the returning officers and assistant returning officers.

The nomination papers will be scrutinised on October 23 and the last day for withdrawal of candidature is October 30.

## Talks with Opposition leaders today

By Staff Correspondent

The Commonwealth Secretary General's emissary Sir Ninian Stephen, who arrived in the city yesterday to facilitate dialogue between the opposing political camps, sits with the leaders of the opposition parties and groups in Parliament this morning.

The opposition leaders met yesterday evening to decide the strategy for today's talks with Ninian. According to meeting sources, the opposition leaders would explain to Ninian the nature of the present political stalemate and reasons behind it.

We shall explain to him the justification for the Opposition struggle, including boycott of Parliament proceedings, in demand for holding general elections under a non-partisan caretaker government, an opposition leader who attended yesterday's meeting told The Daily Star. On the question of the order of subjects at the proposed talks, the Opposition yesterday resolved once again that it would not allow any topic to come before the caretaker government issue. "May be, Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeke's proposed agenda included the caretaker government issue as the second item, but the ruling party leader and Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, in his letters to Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, always mentioned the caretaker government issue as the first item for the proposed dialogue", the opposition leader added.

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) sources, however, said that the Opposition did not respond positively to a government initiated dialogue. They have actually agreed to the

See Page 12 Col 6

## First ever Asian medal for Bangladesh

## Sports Reporter

Bangladesh earned its first ever Asian Games medal when the national Kabaddi players wrapped up their Round Robin League engagements with four wins and a defeat, ensuring at least a bronze in the 12th Asian in Hiroshima.

However, the squad will have to wait until the end of the crucial India-Pakistan tie to know the colour of the medal they will take home.

The Indo-Pak encounter was postponed a few minutes into the second session when an argument over an umpiring decision held up the match for more than 20 minutes, resulting an automatic postponement. The Asian Kabaddi Federation regulation states that a match cannot be suspended for more than 20 minutes and if it does, the match has to be replayed.

The called off tie has been rescheduled for today. In the case of an Indian victory, Bangladesh, who have six points from four matches, will get a silver but if Pakistan prevails the three Subcontinental neighbours will be at par on

See Page 12 Col 6

## Cedras, Biamby arrive in Panama

PANAMA CITY, Oct 13: Haiti's former military ruler arrived in exile in Panama today looking weary, and asked understanding for the hard times he said he and his family are suffering, reports AP.

He was accompanied by Philippe Biamby, his chief of staff and the No. 3 man in Haiti's most recent military dictatorship.

Many Panamanians opposed the decision to take in Cedras, a leader of the coup that toppled Haiti's democratically elected president and installed a brutal three-year military rule. Opposition politicians said Panama risked becoming a "world class garbage can" for tyrants and dictators.

"We say thank you to the president (of Panama) and to the Panamanian people who receive us," Cedras, flanked by family members, said upon arrival. — AFP photo

See Page 12 Col 8

Nobel Literature Prize for Oe  
Obsession turns into style

Japanese author Kenzaburo Oe smiles while answering reporter's question at his home in Tokyo. — AFP photo

STOCKHOLM, Oct 13: Kenzaburo Oe, whose brain-damaged child became a primary symbol in his works showing the dark side of post-war Japan, won the Nobel prize in literature today, reports UNB.

Oe, 59, invented a vivid, almost assaultive writing style, a far departure from traditional Japanese literary expression.

Among his most important works was the 1967 novel 'The Silent Cry,' which deals with people's relationship in a world where 'knowledge, passions, dreams, ambitions and attitudes merge into each other,' the academy said.

Kenzaburo Oe (pronounced ken-za-boo-roh oh-eh) is the second Japanese writer to win the Nobel literature prize. In 1968, the academy honoured Yasunari Kawabata.

Oe said today that he was heavily influenced by authors. — See Page 12, Col 7

## ASEAN-SAARC linkage need of the hour: PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Oct 13: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today stressed the need for establishing institutional linkage between ASEAN and SAARC to promote cooperation between the two Asian regions, reports BSS.

"I believe, institutional linkage between ASEAN and SAARC is the need of the hour to promote cooperation between the two regions", Begum Zia said at a press conference here at Hotel Regent on the outcome of her official visit to Malaysia.

Describing Malaysia as an 'influential member of ASEAN' the Prime Minister said Malaysia could take initiative in establishing the linkage and urged her Malaysian counterpart Dr Mahathir Bin Mohamad to discuss the matter with

other members of ASEAN.

Begum Zia said as the current chairperson of SAARC she would also discuss with other SAARC member countries the establishment of linkage with ASEAN.

The Prime Minister told a questionnaire that she had discussed this with the Malaysian Prime Minister said and modalities could be worked out in this regard after their discussions with the member countries of their respective regional forums.

Giving a brief resume of SAARC, Begum Zia said, all the seven countries, which form the regional forum, had recognised the importance of regional cooperation for development and alleviation of poverty.

See Page 12 Col 4

## Garments quota rules may be amended

By Special Correspondent

The Commerce Ministry's proposal to restructure the quota system of the garments sector is likely to be placed soon before the cabinet again for approval.

The eight-point proposal was considered by the cabinet at a meeting in August and sent to the committee on finance and economic affairs for further review and scrutiny.

According to official sources, the cabinet committee has completed the scrutiny and sent the proposal back to the Commerce Ministry with some minor amendments. The ministry is now preparing to place it before the Cabinet as soon as possible, sources concerned said.

To facilitate a balanced development of the garments industry, the Commerce Ministry had proposed amendment to The Textile Trade and Quota Administration Rules, 1991 and placed it for the consideration of the cabinet November 9, 1992. The cabinet formed a committee to examine the proposal and make recommendations accordingly.

The recommendations of that committee were forwarded to the cabinet in

March last year. Afterwards, a coordination committee, headed by the labour and manpower minister, was constituted to review the quota issue. This committee prepared another report containing a 19-point recommendation.

The Commerce Ministry has now finalised its draft proposal considering the report of the coordination committee keeping in view suggestions from the relevant quarters.

The final recommendations of the ministry includes provision for incentives to those who export garments fully made of local textiles. Such exporters would get quota allocation upto 200 per cent of their original export in the previous year.

It has also been recommended that if the applications for any category come under consideration for free quota, then a minimum of 500 dozens can be allocated. In case of smaller availability of quota, the allocation would be made on 'first come first served' basis or through lottery.

Allocation of unused portion of 10 per cent quota reserved for local textiles under the

See Page 12 Col 7

## 66 feared killed in Iranian plane crash

NICOSIA, Oct 13: An Iranian passenger plane carrying 66 people crashed in mountains in central Iran, and all aboard were believed killed, Iran's state-run media said today, reports AP.

It is expected that none of the 59 passengers and seven crew members has survived, said Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia. All aboard were Iranians, according to the Islamic Republic News Agency.

Earlier reports said 50 people were on the flight.

The Dutch-made Fokker 28 disappeared on Wednesday night around the Karkas mountains near Natanz, 200 kilometres south of the capital Tehran, according to the news agency.

Asseman Airlines flight 300. — See Page 12, Col 8

## 5 killed, 30 hurt in Comilla road accidents

From Our Correspondent

COMILLA, Oct 13: Five persons were killed and 30 injured in two road accidents near Comilla town today.

At around 3:30 am today, a Dhaka-bound night coach from Chittagong hit a parked truck on the Chittagong-Ishwardi highway at Kolumbar.

The accident left four persons killed on the spot and 26 injured. The injured were admitted to the Comilla Sadar Hospital.

In another mishap on the Comilla-Sylhet highway, a constable died on the spot when a bus was overtaken near Shaha Daulatpur.

The policeman was identified as Golam Mohamud Milon. The accident also left 10 others injured.

The drivers of both the buses are absconding.

## Quake shakes Joypurhat

JOYPURHAT, Oct 13: A mild earth quake shook this northern district town tonight creating panic among the residents, reports UNB.

Townsmen said the tremor began at 11:45 pm and lasted about 30 seconds shaking buildings and structures.

Panic-stricken people particularly devotees at Puja mandaps, ran helter skelter. There was no immediate report of any casualty or damage.

## Vijaya Dasami today

Durga Puja, the greatest festival of the Hindu community, will conclude today with due solemnity across the country, reports UNB.

Vijaya Dasami, the last day of the five-day puja festival will culminate with the immersion of the idol of goddess Durga. According to Hindu mythology, Durga Puja, also called 'Sharadiya Utsav' (Autumn festival), symbolises the victory of good over the evil.

Durga, a beautiful goddess with ten hands, is the symbol of peace and wellbeing against 'Mahishasur' — the symbol of evil.

Through the immersion, goddess Durga will return to the 'heaven' again for one year and will come back to her father's land, the earth next autumn.

## Lankan peace talks begin in Jaffna

PALALI, Oct 13: The first round of peace talks in four years between government officials and Tamil guerrillas fighting for independence began in rebel-held territory today, reports AP.

Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga, whose leftist coalition came to power in parliamentary elections in August, promised during her campaign to open negotiations aimed at ending the 11-year ethnic war, which has killed over 34,000 people.

The government team flew to Jaffna Peninsula in northern Sri Lanka from Colombo and began talks with rebel mediators at the University of Jaffna, 300 kilometres north of Colombo.

The officials gave the rebels a written message from Kumaratunga addressed to guerrilla leader Velupillai Prabh-

See Page 12 Col 6