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NEWS BRIEFS

2 foreign boats seized

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: Bangladesh Navy Ship SR Amn impounded two foreign machinized boats and arrested 38 crew members on board near the St. Martin's island yesterday, an ISPR press release said tonight. The boats carrying 31 cattleheads, 100 pieces of cow hides and 80 kg of dry fish were apprehended well inside the territorial waters of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Valuables worth Tk 5 lakh gutted

From Our Correspondent BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 15: A fire gutted valuables worth about Taka five lakh at Sarakbazar here early today. Originating from a shop in the market, the fire engulfed an adjacent two storey building and reduced all the valuables to ashes. Firemen took two hours to bring the blaze under control.

Ctg Polytech opens

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: Classes of Chittagong Polytechnic institute have resumed today after eight months. Fifty per cent students attended the classes on the opening day while police contingent remained vigilant on the campus. Meetings, processions, provocative slogans and any sort of agitational activities are banned on the campus. Hostels will open soon, the source said, reports BSS.

Talks with ruling party very useful: Ninian

By Staff Correspondent

Sir Ninian Stephen, emissary of the Commonwealth Secretary General, had a meeting with the leaders of the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) yesterday morning.

After the 95-minute meeting, held at the Sangsad Bhaban, Sir Ninian told newsmen that he had a very useful and informative discussion with the leaders of the BNP and government.

"Today I had a very useful and informative meeting, especially as far as I am concerned, discussion with leaders of the ruling party and government", the emissary said.

Sir Ninian, who arrived in the capital Thursday to facilitate a 'productive dialogue' between the rival political camps, had a similar meeting with the leaders of the Opposition in Parliament Friday.

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder, who was in the five-member ruling party delegation at the talks, expressed satisfaction over yesterday's discussion with the Commonwealth emissary.

In reply to questions from newsmen, Salam Talukder only said, "We are satisfied with the discussion."

The other members of the BNP delegation were Chief

Whip of Parliament Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Information Minister Nazmul Huda and Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam. Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury led the team.

Meanwhile, sources close to the BNP leaders attending the meeting told The Daily Star that Sir Ninian wanted to have a clear idea of the government position on all the three issues on the agenda for the proposed talks with the Opposition. The agenda includes strengthening of the Election Commission (EC), holding of general elections under a

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Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen (2nd from R) met leaders of the ruling BNP at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. Also seen (from L) are Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain, CW official Dr Moses Anafu, Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam, Secretary General of the BNP and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Deputy Leader of Parliament Dr A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Information Minister Nazmul Huda and Christopher Childs (back to camera), another CW official in Sir Ninian's team.

Ninian calls on PM, may meet Hasina today

By Staff Correspondent

Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen, here to facilitate talks between the government and the Opposition to find a way out of the current political impasse, paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

The Prime Minister and the Commonwealth Secretary General's special envoy— a former Governor General of Australia— exchanged pleasantries. Lady Stephen was also present during the brief meeting.

Opposition sources told The Daily Star last night that Sir Ninian may meet Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina sometime today.

JMB: Dredging begins today

By Staff Correspondent

Construction work on the multi-million dollar Jámuna Multi-purpose Bridge (JMB), the country's biggest civil engineering project, begins today with inauguration of the dredging of the river channel.

Communications Minister Oli Ahmed will perform the ceremony, to be held on the eastern bank of the mighty river near Elega under Kalihati thana of Tangal district this morning. It will mark the commencement of actual construction of the long-cherished, 700-million US dollar project, scheduled to be completed by the end of 1997.

Dredging forms part of a 276-million dollar river training component of the massive project.

JMB authority sources told The Daily Star last night all

preparations have been completed to start physical work of the project, co-financed by the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Japanese government. Each of them will dish out 200 million dollars with the remaining hundred million being contributed by the government.

Part of some 5,680 acres of land on either side of the proposed 4.8-km bridge, acquired by the government, has been handed over to the contractors who have moved in their state-of-the-art building equipment.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, immediately upon her return from Japan after finalising the documents for the Japanese participation in the project, laid foundation stones at both ends of the proposed bridge — at Soyedabad in

Sirajganj district and Elega in Tangal — on April 10 last.

The 18.5-metre wide four-lane bridge, including one breakdown lane and two-way footpaths, has also been designed to facilitate transmission of electricity and natural gas as well as help telecommunication links.

A flood embankment-cum-access road has been constructed by a local firm on the eastern bank of the river, under Bhuapur and Kalihati thanas of Tangal district.

The bridge will have a provision for extension of a 128-metre road approach viaduct at each end. It will have 47 concrete spans, each 99.375 metres long.

The length of the approach roads from the existing narrow-gauge railway line at Soyedabad in

Aristide returns home

President Jean-Bertrand Aristide flew back home today after three years under a bloody military coup sent him into exile, reports AFP.

The plane touched down at 12:12 pm and a host of dignitaries lined up on the airport runway to greet the elected president, who was ousted Sept 30, 1991 by soldiers.

Thousands of people outside the National Palace cheered as the blue and white Boeing 707 descended toward the airport.

US soldiers guarded the airplane and dignitaries including US Ambassador William Swing and Aristide's Cabinet waited below the steps at the front end of the plane for Aristide.

The 20,000-member US military force here was on alert, reports AFP.

Hasina for at least three polls under interim govt

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Oct 15: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has said "We want a dialogue and through the dialogue the government should accept the people's demand for a caretaker government."

Addressing a public meeting organised by the Mymensingh district AL at the Circuit House maidan here this evening, Hasina said at least three consecutive general elections should be held under caretaker administrations.

"We believe the implementation of the caretaker system is needed in the greater interest of the country," she said.

The AL chief said that in many countries of the world, elections were being held under caretaker governments and warned: "Ignoring this demand would ultimately lead

the government to its downfall. The people will remove this government."

The meeting, chaired by district AL president Shamsul Haq, MP, was also addressed by central AL leaders Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Zohra Tajuddin, Motia Chowdhury and Mozaffar Hossain Paltu.

About the drought in the northern region, the leader of the Opposition said, "People are dying from hunger and of diarrhoea in those areas but the government is taking no steps."

She said that Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia never kept her promise. "Before the last elections, she had promised to turn the Ananda Mohan College into an university and set up an engineering college at Mymensingh. But she did not do it," she said.

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Two Rajuk housing projects hit snag, one abandoned

By Nazmul Ashraf

Two model town projects of the Rajdhani Unnayan Katiripakkhya (Rajuk) have hit a snag while another has been abandoned because of resistance to acquisition of lands for the project by a section of the land owners, sources concerned said.

The owners, reportedly backed by vested quarters, are opposing the acquisition of lands earmarked for the projects.

The Rajuk is facing problems in implementing the Purbanchal Model Town Project (PMT) at Rugganj and the Rimjhim Housing Project at Shantirakha and it has given up the Satellite Town project at Panchabati, all under Narayanganj district.

According to Rajuk officials, the authorities were negotiating with the land owners about the acquisition of 6000 acres of land earmarked for the PMT. A meeting of the Housing and Public Works Minister and the Rajuk chairman with the land owners and public leaders of the PMT area discussed the demands of the land owners September 15 last. The meeting assured rehabilitation of the affected people, payment of money to them on the spot and allotment of plots to them. The meeting, however, could not settle the price of the lands to be acquired. Section of the owners had been agitating since the acquisition of land was ordered last year.

Earlier, the DC had served notices upon the affected people asking them to lodge complaints with him in this regard. But the agitating land owners did not respond to the notice, sources told The Daily Star. The crisis over the land acquisition was deepening with an opposition political party leader patronising the agitating land owners. An influential minister was, however, trying to resolve the problem. The minister had assured increased compensation to the affected people, a source said, adding the matter had now completely taken a political colour.

The PMT, which was earlier named Yusufganj Model Town Project, will consist of 28,000 plots of two categories — residential and commercial. Besides, there will be plots for setting up educational institutions, medicare and recreation centres.

The authorities have now taken up fresh initiatives to remove the obstacles to the implementation of the Rimjhim Housing Project in the DND area. The project covering 957 acres of land had hit a snag as many of the land owners, allegedly backed by a ruling party leader, opposed the acquisition of the earmarked area. They demanded

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Curfew imposed on Karnataka town

BANGALORE, Oct 15: Authorities imposed a round-the-clock curfew today on a town in the south Indian state of Karnataka, scene of bloody violence a week ago, after four people were killed in fresh Hindu-Muslim fighting, reports Reuter.

Officials in Davaneri said the trouble started late on Friday. However, there were no reports of further trouble and the officials said the curfew would be lifted on Sunday if peace continued.

Davaneri is about 300 km (185 miles) from Bangalore.

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US, DPRK may sign accord today

GENEVA, Oct 15: The United States and North Korea are close to an agreement to remove the threat of nuclear war from the Korean peninsula, the North Korean chief negotiator says today, reports AP.

"We are almost at the final stages," Kang Sok Ju told reporters in Korean after a two-hour session with his US counterpart, Robert Gallucci.

He said the two sides were still discussing the document and hinted that an agreement was possible as soon as Sunday.

Gallucci remained more cautious. "Not yet," was his terse response to questions whether a deal had been reached.

A second meeting between the two heads of delegations was expected later Saturday but there was no word from either side when this might be.

The delegation will now be discussing the issues further and consulting with capitals and I expect the North Koreans will be doing the same," said a US official who spoke on conditions of anonymity.

In Seoul, Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hong-koo said Friday the two countries were close to finalising detailed regulations that would open up the communist country's suspect nuclear facilities to full inspections.

Canada to help develop power, rly sectors

By Staff Correspondent

Canada is keen to expand commercial ties with Bangladesh and increased cooperation in developing the country's power and railways sectors is feasible at the moment, said Roy McLaren, the visiting Canadian Minister for International Trade, yesterday.

"In the past the relationship between the two countries was mainly confined to... Canada providing development assistance, but now we need to augment that relationship by developing stronger commercial ties," he added while addressing a press briefing at the state guest house Padma.

The Canadian Minister arrived in the capital on an official visit earlier yesterday and a series of meetings with a number of cabinet ministers, including the Minister of Commerce and the Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources. Later in the evening he also called on the Prime Minister.

Explaining the purpose of his visit, he said it is to "explore additional ways in which we can ensure that the interest of both Canada and Bangladesh coincide" in the expansion of future ties.

"I hope that the existing nature of bilateral trade between the two countries can be expanded," he said.

Since 1972 Canada has disbursed two billion Canadian dollars in grant aid to Bangladesh and it is the coun-

try's largest bilateral aid programme.

Currently Bangladesh enjoys a trade surplus with Canada with exports in 1993 of 57.69 million US dollars and imports of 24.83 million dollars.

"More cooperation is possible in the energy sector — in power, and in the railways sector — in

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Khaleda invited to visit Canada

The Canadian Minister for Trade, Roy McLaren, yesterday conveyed Prime Minister Jean Chretien's invitation to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to visit Canada at her convenient time, reports BSS.

MacLaren conveyed this invitation to Begum Zia when he called on her at the Prime Minister's office yesterday evening.

The Canadian Minister said he was impressed to see that the government had been able to create opportunities to attract foreign investment in Bangladesh.

MacLaren said interests had been generated among the Canadian investors to invest in different fields, especially in the power sectors of Bangladesh. He expressed hope that the private sectors of both Bangladesh and Canada would work hand-in-hand in future.

The Prime Minister described the existing relations between the two countries as

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Candidates and supporters seen on the terraces of the Deputy Commissioner's office during yesterday's polling for the 18 woman commissioners of the Dhaka City Corporation. — Star photo

All DCC woman commissioners are from AL

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League-backed candidates bagged all the 18 posts of woman commissioners of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in the elections held yesterday.

Those elected are: Taslima Chowdhury (Zone-1), Safia Khatun (Zone-2), Ashrafun Mosharrar (Zone-3), Mahmuda Begum (Zone-4), Jahanaara Begum (Zone-5), Advocate Nazma Akhter Kaoser (Zone-6), Naima Chowdhury (Zone-7), Aleya Parveen (Zone-8), Rosy Harun (Zone-9), Sabera Begum (Zone-10), Anjali Sarker (Zone-11), Asma Jebin Jhuma (Zone-12), Joly Kabir (Zone-13), Selina Akhter (Zone-14), Shahida Khanam (Zone-15), Halima Haq (Zone-16), Nasibun Ahmed (Zone-17) and Nasima Montu (Zone-18).

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World Food Day today

World Food Day will be observed today in the country as elsewhere round the globe highlighting the importance of water in producing food for human survival, reports UNB.

The main theme of the Day this year is "Water for Life".

Government leaders, on the occasion, focused on a serious man-made water crisis affecting Bangladesh's agriculture and the eco-system as a whole. In a message on the eve of the Day, President Abdur Rahman Biswas said this planet consists of animal and plant which are very much dependent on water to live.

"Food is essential for the very existence of human being and water is essential for producing food," Biswas said, adding agriculture is the source of food. Water is an essential factor for agriculture which includes crops, fisheries, livestock and forestry.

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ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৫ সচিবালয়
 রত্নানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরো
 ১২২-১২৪, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা
 ঢাকা

ষ্টল/প্যাভিলিয়ন বরাদ্দ

বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয় ও রত্নানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর উদ্যোগে ঢাকার শেরে বাংলা নগরস্থিত প্রাণিং কমিশনের দক্ষিণ-পশ্চিম পার্শ্বে ১৯৯৫ সালের জানুয়ারী ৭-২১ সময়কালে ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৫ অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে।

২। বিভিন্ন সেক্টর কর্পোরেশন, পণ্য উৎপাদন ও রত্নানিকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের নিকট হইতে এ মেলায় অংশগ্রহণের জন্য দরখাস্ত আহবান করা যাইতেছে।

৩। মেলায় প্যাভিলিয়ন/ষ্টল বরাদ্দের নির্ধারিত আবেদনপত্রের ফরম এবং অন্যান্য তথ্যাদির জন্য অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৫ সচিবালয়, রত্নানি উন্নয়ন ব্যুরোর সদর দপ্তরে যোগাযোগ করিবার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

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