

Inside Today

Sport



Kapil Dev retires

Pages 10, 11

Article

Pessimism Grips Citizens as Crisis Lingers in Society

by Md Asadullah Khan
 Page 4

International

Lanka to seek India's help to probe Dissanayake's assassination



Miss India, Aishwarya Rai, prepares for the celebration of Diwali at Sun City in South Africa

Page 5

Business

Depressing trend continues at tea sale in Chittagong

Casablanca summit pledges to remove trade barriers among ME states

Pages 6, 7

Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a two-page supplement on the National Day of Italy

Pages 8, 9

NEWS BRIEFS

OIC summit in Casablanca Dec 16

A three-day summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) will begin in the Moroccan city of Casablanca on December 16, diplomatic sources said in Dhaka yesterday. It will be the seventh summit of the OIC, the last one was held in Dakar, the capital of Senegal in 1991, reports UNB.

AL team meets EC

A delegation of the Awami League yesterday met with Election Commissioner Justice Md Abdul Jalil and discussed with him matters relating to voters' identity cards and election rules. Members of the delegation were Md Rahmat Ali, MP, Mafizur Rahman, A S H K Sadik, A K M Fazlul Mia and Mahbubur Rahman, according to a press release of the Election Commission Secretariat reports UNB.

Ninian visits Nat'l Mausoleum

Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian Stephen and Lady Stephen yesterday visited the National Mausoleum at Savar. They placed flowers at the altar of the Mausoleum as a mark of respect to the martyrs of the Liberation War in the morning, reports UNB.

1470 Rohingyas go home

From Our Correspondent
 COX'S BAZAR, Nov 2: Some 1470 Rohingya refugees of 282 families today repatriated to Myanmar from different refugee camps in Cox's Bazar.

Opposition gets BNP's interim govt outline

By Nurul Kabir

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has proposed, in black and white, holding of the next general elections under an interim government, headed by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, with 'specific scope' for accommodating Opposition MPs in the cabinet.

The plan was put forward to Sir Ninian Stephen, the Commonwealth Secretary General's envoy who is here to facilitate a productive dialogue between the country's conflicting political camps, Monday midnight.

Sir Ninian's aide Christopher Childs handed over the

single-page outline of the government-proposed interim administration to S A M S Kibria, political advisor to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, Tuesday morning.

Kibria admitted last night the receipt of the written outline of the government proposal and told this correspondent, over telephone, that the Opposition would give its official reaction to the plan 'very soon'.

According to the BNP's formula, the President will invite the incumbent prime minister to form a mini-cabinet for the period between the disso-

lution of the present Parliament and election of the next.

The Prime Minister will pick the members of the interim cabinet from among the members of the outgoing Parliament, the outline says, without quite mentioning anything about the political identity of the interim cabinet ministers.

Three top-ranking BNP leaders, including one in the negotiation team, told The Daily Star on the condition of anonymity that the political identities of the members of the interim cabinet were not mentioned in the outline so

See Page 12 Col 6

New WB mission chief says

Export performance not satisfactory

By Staff Correspondent

The new World Bank Resident Mission Chief, Pierre Landell-Mills, yesterday expressed concern at the recent slow down in export earnings of Bangladesh.

"In the past six months, exports were running at a rate of only two per cent above that during 1993," he pointed out at a meeting with the members of the Economic Reporters' Forum at the local mission office.

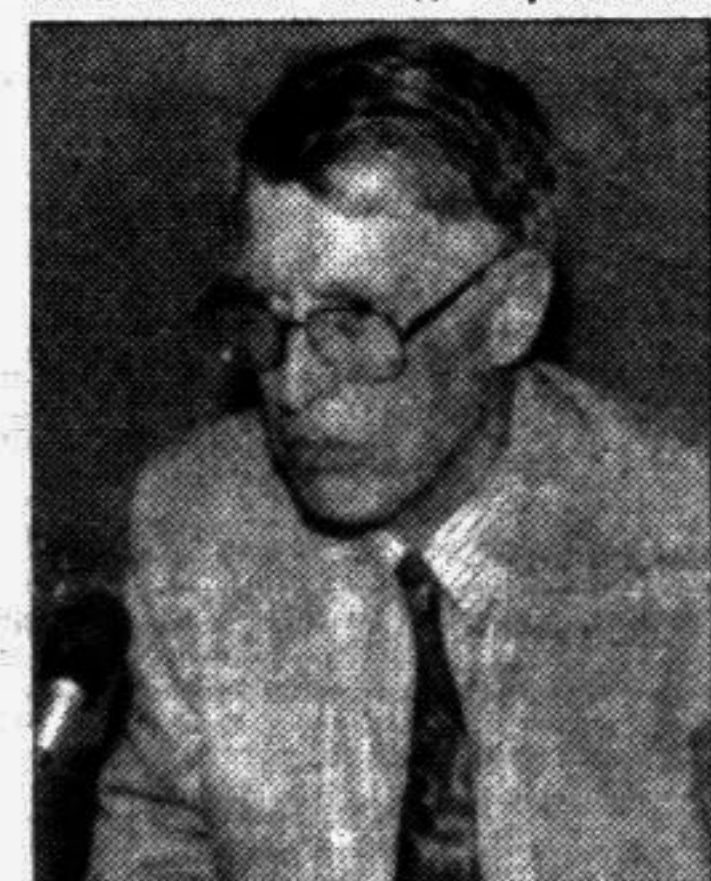
"Clearly, the factors underlying these recent trends need to be identified, including whether there has been a shift in export demand to other competing countries, and a strategy should be adopted to respond to any problems that may have contributed to this outcome."

During the hour-long meeting, Landell-Mills also briefed the reporters about the areas of economic priority for Bangladesh, a study on the labour market situation and about the possibility of resumption of bank loans to the power sector.

On the export front, he said, Bangladesh would have to make a big effort to raise exports, which is crucial for the country's economic growth and employment. He emphasised the need for boosting exports, particularly of non-traditional items, as the present export structure is dominated by two items, readymade

garments including knitwear and jute, which together account for three-quarters of the gross export value.

"Compared to some other Asian countries, Bangladesh's export performance has been less than satisfactory, and more importantly, it is highly vulnerable, being dependent



Pierre Landell-Mills on only two major products," he said.

Bangladesh's export orientation continues to be rather limited, he added, which is illustrated by the fact that the 1.903 million US dollar exports in 1992 represented only eight per cent of the GDP, compared to nine per cent in India, 17 per cent in Pakistan, 28 per cent in Sri Lanka, 29 per cent in Thailand, 71 per cent in Hong Kong.

See Page 12 Col 1

Jail Killing Day today

The Jail Killing Day will be observed today commemorating the death of four national leaders in prison on this day in 1975, reports UNB.

Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali and A H M Quamruzzaman were killed in the Dhaka Central Jail by a group of disgruntled army men.

They led the 1971 Liberation War as members of the provisional government under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman who had been detained by the occupation forces.

After the assassination of Bangabandhu on August 15, four of his close associates were imprisoned in the central jail and were killed there.

The Awami League, its front organisations and socio-cultural groups will observe the day.

See Page 12 Col 3

Scrap Indemnity Ord : Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday demanded scrapping of the 'black' Indemnity Ordinance and trial of the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and four other leaders of the Awami League, reports UNB.

She called upon the people to observe the 'Jail Killing Day' today and said the nation wanted trial of the killers.

Hasina also urged the people to intensify the agitation to establish the spirit of the Liberation War and people's right to vote and food by realising the demand for a caretaker government.

See Page 12 Col 6

Storms in Egypt kill 410

ASSIUT, Egypt, Nov 2: More than 410 people were killed in southern Egypt today, most of them when blazing fuel flooded into a village from a depot struck by lightning in a rainstorm, officials in the southern town of Assiut said, reports Reuters.

A health official said hospitals in the area had received 229 corpses from the stricken village of Dronka and a security source said another 122 corpses were still lying on the ground there. Flooding killed 63 other people, security sources said.

More than 200 houses in Dronka were destroyed by blazing water and at least 20,000 terrified town's folk crowded onto roads to the provincial capital Assiut city.

Lightning struck the complex of eight fuel tanks holding 15,000 tonnes of aircraft and motor fuel in the morning after a thunderstorm had raged for at least five hours, an Assiut province official said.

"It was like Napalm," said one man named Abdel Mohsen. He said three of his brothers aged six, eight and 11 were killed when burning petrol on flood waters burst into their home. They had been getting ready to go to school.

A woman with burns on her face and her hands said her two young children died in the fire.

Thick smoke shrouded Dronka in darkness.

The governor of Assiut province declared a state of emergency, sending rescue units with tents and blankets

for the homeless and army firefighters to try to control the fire.

Witnesses said fires were still burning four hours after the blaze erupted but a statement from the Ministry of Petroleum said later that firemen had controlled the situation.

The governor said it was too early to determine how many people had been killed. People who escaped the inferno said many families were trapped in their homes and that dozens of people were missing, security sources said.

The missing included at least 10 men trapped in a mosque during dawn prayers and a maintenance crew working inside the storage complex.



Artists of Shantiniketan, West Bengal, presenting Rabindranath Tagore's dance drama *Shyama* at the National Museum auditorium yesterday. The programme, organised by a cultural organisation Surer Dhara, was conducted by Kanika Banerjee, a leading Tagore song exponent of India. —Star photo

Tragic

Two persons were run over by a train yesterday morning near Khilkhet Bazar in Dhaka, police sources said, reports BSS.

Police said one Khorshed Alam, 25, was crushed under the wheels of a train when he made a futile attempt to save the life of an unidentified young woman who apparently committed suicide by jumping before an approaching train.

Khorshed Alam, a resident of Uttara, appeared at the HSC examination this year.

Forged pay orders, cheque books recovered

A squad of special branch of police in a drive in the capital and adjoining areas Tuesday night recovered large quantities of forged pay orders and cheque books of the Uttara Bank, said a police press release, reports BSS.

The police also recovered blocks and dices for printing forged pay orders and cheques as well as seals of the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate and deputy commissioner of taxes.

Two persons M Zakaria, 33, and M Munir Hussain, 30, have been arrested in this connection.

On a tip-off police arrested Zakaria, manager of the printing press 'Ahmed Ad Media Centre' at 15/17 Shantinagar Bazar Road, while printing forged pay orders and cheques. On the basis of his confession the police arrested Munir Hussain from Siddhirganj area.

They have confessed to be active members of an organised gang of forgers who have been running this counterfeit business for a long time and making many people penniless, the release said.

Cracker blast kills fleeing mugger

By Staff Correspondent

A suspected mugger was killed and at least three other persons were injured in a series of incidents in the city yesterday.

The suspected mugger, Shahjahan, 25, was killed when crackers exploded in the autorickshaw by which he and his accomplices were fleeing after snatching Tk 50,000 from a businessman at 8 in the morning.

Police said, crackers exploded inside the autorickshaw when a patrolling police team fired at four fleeing muggers in the vehicle. The roof of the autorickshaw was blown off in the blast, police added.

A police constable, Rajab Ali, and one of the four mug-

gers, Abdul Mannan, were also injured in the blast. A businessman, Mohammad Monirul Huq, who was robbed of Tk 50,000 at Demra at 8:00 am, was stabbed by the muggers. He was released after first aid at the Dhaka Medical College.

Witnesses said, two businessmen, Monirul Huq and his companion, Khan Jahan Ali, were waylaid by the four muggers near the Janapath Gate on the Biswa Road at Demra.

The muggers stabbed Monirul and snatched a bundle of one hundred 500-taka notes from him. Monirul was carrying 59,000 taka with him. Following the victims' hue and cry a police patrol in the

See Page 12 Col 5

35 injured as BNP, JP workers clash at AJM

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 2: A night-long clash between the labour fronts of the BNP and the Jatiya Party left at least 35 people injured on the Adamjee Jute Mills premises Tuesday night.

The clash broke out over watching the television programmes.

Twelve seriously injured persons were admitted to the Adamjee Medical Centre and local clinics. Eight of them belong to the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Samik Dal while the rest to the JP-backed Adamjee Patkal Samik Union.

They are: Syed Ahmed (25), Kamruddin (30), Ali Newaz (25), Amirul Islam (20), Solaiman Sarder (50), Jahangir (30), Shafi (35), Lokman (50),

Hanif (32), Mohsin (18), Motaleb (20) and Baten (22).

According to witnesses, the clash took place at the Ansar Club of the Dhaka Baju Colony at around 8:45 pm during a TV programme. Some viewers in the club room asked others in the front row to move aside in favour of the viewers in the back row.

This led to an altercation which ultimately turned into serious violence.

Witnesses said, activists of both the labour fronts attacked each other with cocktails, sawed off rifles, sharp weapons and hockey sticks and violence spread to the Dhaka Baju Colony, Pucca Line, Kutcha Line, Teddy Gate and Nutan

See Page 12 Col 7

Nov 2 declared Eye, Blood Donation Day

Bangladesh will observe the National Voluntary Blood and Posthumous Eye Donation Day every year on November 2, reports UNB.

Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia announced this while inaugurating the Voluntary Blood and Posthumous Eye Donation Campaign Week-1994 of Sandhani, an organisation of medical and dental students, at a local hotel yesterday morning.

Begum Zia stressed the need for inspiring the people to participate in voluntary blood donation programmes and urged all concerned to provide service to the humanity.

"Blood donation is not harmful for a healthy man. You can save lives," she said.

See Page 12 Col 3

Special VGF : 10 kgs a month for each family

By Staff Correspondent

The special vulnerable group feeding (VGF) programme for drought-affected people of the northern region began Tuesday with a sanction of 15,000 tonnes of wheat for 7.49 million families.

According to sources in the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, a destitute woman will get 10kg of wheat a month for her family under this two-month programme.

In each union of the eight drought-affected districts, some 1400 women will get the wheat under the special VGF. The local union parishad (UP) will select the recipients while the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) will allocate the wheat on monthly basis.

See Page 12 Col 6

Students block highway at Tongi

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Nov 2: Students blocked traffic movement for two hours on Dhaka Mymensingh highway at Tongi this morning protesting the abnormal price hike of newspaper. During the blockade from 9 am the agitated students damaged at least 15 motor vehicles, witnesses said. Earlier in the morning about 5000 students of different schools of Tongi municipality gathered near College Gate at Tongi and later brought out a procession which ended near Tongi Bazar.

New girls' hostel at DU

BY DU Correspondent

The Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University inaugurated a new girls' hostel named after Nawab Faizunnesa Chowdhury on the campus yesterday afternoon.

The five-storey building on Fuller Road, built at a cost of 1.58 crore, will accommodate 107 students.

Addressing the inaugural function, Prof Emajuddin Ahmed expressed gratitude to the Prime Minister for allocating the necessary funds for construction of the dormitory.

Housewife murdered in Patuakhali

From Our Correspondent

PATUAKHALI, Nov 2: A man reportedly killed his wife at Lebukhali Bazar under Dundi thana of the district early today following her refusal to agree to a divorce.

The victim, Rehana Begum, 30, a mother of two, refused to sign on a blank sheet of paper her husband Ruhul Amin Kanchan, 40, gave her on the night of occurrence.

Sources added that Kanchan was having an extra marital affair with a married woman of Mothbaria. Kanchan beat up Rehana yesterday evening, local people said, adding that at midnight again he started beating his wife.

At one stage Kanchan forcibly made her swallow poison, causing her death, sources alleged.

Kanchan took Rehana to the Patuakhali sadar hospital in the morning where the doctors declared her dead.

Meanwhile, Rehana's brother Hossain filed a case with the Dundi police. Kanchan is absconding.

How Many Royal Bengals in Sundarbans?

By Sharier Khan

How many Royal Bengal Tigers are there in the Sundarbans?

Officials say, it's over 800 and they can be spotted almost frequently. But a veteran tiger tracker says, the number has not increased since the independence of the country — it is around 250.

"The Sundarbans is not as impenetrable now as it was 25 years ago," said Khasru Chowdhury, a tiger tracker and conservationist who has made the Sundarbans his second home since 1974. "The people are getting an impression that the number of tigers has increased because they are seen more often than before."

Spread over an area of about 6000 sq km of deltaic swamp along the coastal belt of Khulna

See Page 12 Col 8



An adult Royal Bengal tiger wading across a creek of the Sundarbans. The photograph was taken recently by Kim Streatfield

Jordan pledges to transfer custody of holy sites to PLO

GAZA CITY, Nov 2: Senior Palestinian officials welcomed Jordan's pledge on Tuesday to hand over trusteeship of Muslim holy sites in Jerusalem to the Palestinians when an agreement on the city's final status is reached, reports AFP.

We welcome these statements," said Hasan Tahboub, the Palestinian authority's Minister for Religious Affairs and Waqf, or religious endowments.

They actually give an impression that there is no Jordanian motivation in continuing to supervise the holy sites.

Jordan's Crown Prince Hasan Ibn Talal made the pledge at a press conference in Casablanca earlier in the day.

When the negotiations on

Jerusalem have ended, "we promise to hand over trusteeship of the holy sites to the Palestinian authority," he said.

The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hit out at last week's Jordan-Israel peace treaty for recognising a special Jordanian role in the holy sites in East Jerusalem, which Palestinians want as the capital of a future state.

Under the declaration of principles signed in Washington last year, talks on the final status of Jerusalem are to start in May 1996, two years after the launch of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Israel annexed East Jerusalem in 1967 and claims the city as its eternal, undivided capital.