

Inside Today

Sport



George Foreman becomes oldest heavyweight boxing champion

Pages 10, 11

Article

Now it's War in Bosnia

Eqbah Ahmed writes from USA Page 4

International

Pakistani troops recapture Mingora Airport: Death toll rises to 23

Muslims, Croats tighten grip on strategic town Kupres Page 5

Business

Jute traders, exporters yet to start business operation

Russian new DPM vows to fight inflation Pages 6, 7

Development

On managing the Bangladesh economy without economists; When aid gets down to business Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



A Master Performer Who Charms His Viewers Page 3

Holiday Notice

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Monday) on the occasion of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Tuesday).

NEWS BRIEFS

BNPPP meets Nov 9

A meeting of the BNPP Parliamentarian Party will be held on November 9, at 6 pm at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban. Leader of the House Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting, reports BSS.

ALCWC meets today

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) will meet at 5 pm today at 29, Minto Road. The Awami League Parliamentary Party will meet tomorrow at the conference room of the Leader of the Opposition. Sheikh Hasina will preside over both the meetings, reports UNB.

Strike at DU tomorrow

General students of the Dhaka University have called a day-long strike in the university tomorrow demanding increased supply of newsprint and whiteprint at fair price. The Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Andolon (Movement for General Students' Rights), a newly formed student organisation, took the decision at a meeting yesterday, reports UNB.

Private sector power company in offing

By Chapal Bashar and S Y Bakht

A new electricity generating company, the Rural Power Company (RPC), is going to be launched soon with private sector participation, according to an authoritative source at the Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry.

In a government-backed move to encourage greater private sector participation in meeting the country's increasing power demand, a 60 mw power generation unit would be set up under the new company in Mymensingh at a cost of about Tk 280 crore. The RPC would be incorporated as a public limited company.

The project, initiated with the concurrence of the Energy

Ministry, has already been approved by the cabinet sub-committee on finance and economic affairs at its meeting chaired by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman on Saturday. It also received pre-ECNEC approval in an interministerial meeting at the Planning Commission yesterday.

The total project would be financed under a 70:30 debt to equity ratio with the Asian Development Bank's (ADB) funding, while the equity would be jointly financed by the Rural Electrification Board (REB) and five Palli Bidyut Samity (PBSs), independent rural power distribution cooperatives, the source said.

The equity would be held by

See Page 12 Col 7

Describing the move as "historical with far-reaching implications," he noted that this would be the first power plant to be financed with private sector participation in Bangladesh. "This project fits in perfectly with the government policy to reform the power sector and to encourage private sector participation in this field."

The 60 mw single-cycle power plant would be set up near the Shambhuganj Bridge in Mymensingh town. The

plant would then be gradually upgraded to a 180 mw com-

bined-cycle unit in phases.

The equity would be held by

See Page 12 Col 1

2 murdered in city

By DMCH Correspondent

Two young businessmen were murdered in Gulshan and Demra in the city Saturday night.

Liton, 22, son of a police habildar, Iskander Ali, was shot dead by a gang of unidentified gunmen at Gulshan-2 Around 11:30 pm.

Liton, who was a jute trader, is believed to have had an enmity with some bullies of his area at Kuril, Biswa Road.

Witnesses said, six or seven gunmen riding three motorbikes shot Liton from behind when he was standing near Video Connection a video rental shop, with some friends. The gunmen immediately left the spot.

Liton was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead.

In another incident, agrocer,

See Page 12 Col 1

Opposition agrees on resignation

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties in Parliament yesterday unanimously resolved to resign from the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) to mount pressure on the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) to concede to their demand for a non-partisan caretaker government for holding general elections.

This was announced by the Awami League (AL) leader, Tofael Ahmed, after a meeting of the leaders of the opposition parties and groups held at the JS Bhaban with Sheikh Hasina

in the chair.

The Opposition is, however, yet to fix any date for submitting the resignation letters to the Speaker.

"We have decided to resign en masse to force the government to meet the Opposition demands", Tofael Ahmed told

See Page 12 Col 2

Solidarity Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The nation will observe the revolution and solidarity day today.

On this day in 1975, a sepoypole revolution foiled a conspiracy against the country's independence and sovereignty.

Today is a public holiday.

The newspapers have published supplements and Radio

Editorial on page 4

and Television will air special programmes highlighting the significance of the day.

Different political and socio-cultural organisations have arranged special programmes on the occasion.

The highlights of the day's

programmes include discussion meetings, public rallies and special prayers in different parts of the country.

The national flag will fly atop public and private buildings

See Page 12 Col 7

Meet demand or quit power, Hasina asks BNP

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the ruling BNP either to meet the demand for a neutral caretaker government or quite power reports UNB.

Her appeal to the government came within hours after the combined opposition had decided yesterday afternoon to resign from Parliament en masse if the demand for a caretaker government was not met.

Opposition parliamentary parties, however, did not specifically say when they would tender resignation to the Speaker of Parliament.

"We don't want to share power, but we want to realise the people's right," the Opposition leader told a meeting of leaders and workers of her party's Dhaka City committee at 29 Minto Road.

Hasina said her demand for a neutral non-party caretaker

See Page 12 Col 8

Tk 14cr embezzled 8 Krishi Bank employees sacked

By Staff Correspondent

Eight employees of the Bangladesh Krishi Bank's Tea Board Branch in Chittagong including its manager, have been sacked on charges of misappropriating Tk 14 crore

According to a BKB press release issued yesterday, the bank authorities have also ordered punishment of various types to 14 more employees of the branch on the basis of an enquiry report.

The employees who have been sacked are Badur

See Page 12 Col 3

Readymade garments for Moscow

By Staff Correspondent

The first consignment of ready-made garments has left Chittagong recently for Moscow under the six million dollar credit line opened by the government for promoting exports to Russia.

The amount is part of a the 25 million dollar credit line for encouraging exports to the CIS countries. Hitherto trade with

See Page 12 Col 1



RICKSHAWS REIGN: This was the scene on several roads leading to Topkhana Road near the Jatiya Press Club yesterday where non-gazetted government employees staged a big rally demanding higher pay and other benefits. Traffic in the area was dislocated for several hours from morning till mid-afternoon.

— Star photo

Govt staff threaten strike from Dec 7

By Staff Correspondent

Hundreds of employees came out to join the rally.

Volunteers sporting red flags positioned themselves at all the gates of the Secretariat from the morning, letting in only the high officials.

The non-gazetted staff were not allowed to enter. Instead they were all diverted towards the rally venue.

Inside the Secretariat, almost all the elevators remained stalled and most of the rooms were seen locked.

Ministers and top bureau-

See Page 12 Col 2

Four killed in road accidents

Four people including a minor boy were killed in separate road accidents in and around the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Police said, Arif, 5, was crushed under the wheels of a truck near Monipur at Mirpur at about 1:50 pm.

In another accident, Ariful Islam, 15, died on the spot when a truck hit him on Roketa Sarani near West Kazipara at 11 am.

Abdul Gafur, 18, a push cart driver was knocked down near

See Page 12 Col 7



Posters of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga surround a cobbler at work yesterday in the Sri Lankan capital, Colombo. She is the presidential candidate for the upcoming election from the ruling People's Alliance party.

— AFP photo

CU closed sine die

JCD leader succumbs to injuries at CMH

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG: Nov 6: Chittagong University was closed sine die today apprehending violence following the death of a student leader.

A large contingent of police has been deployed on the campus to prevent any outbreak of violence.

Nurul Huda Musa, a Jatiyatabdil Chhatra Dal leader of Chittagong University, who was kidnapped on October 27 and tortured allegedly by Islamic Chhatra Shibir activists, died at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in Dhaka at 6:30 am today (Sunday). The Shibir has denied any involvement in the killing.

It is in this context, he said, that Bangladesh would like the UN to highlight and consider the indispensable elements to move towards resolution of the problem.

The decision to close the university was taken at an emergency meeting of the

See Page 12 Col 6

Iran fires missiles inside Iraq

BAGHDAD, Nov 6: Iraq today protested to the United Nations over an Iranian attack on its territory and warned that it reserved the right to self-defence, reports AFP.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman quoted by the official Iraqi news agency accused Tehran of having "carried out a new act of aggression against Iraqi territory, by firing three Scud missiles at a target more than 80 kilometers inside" Iraq.

Baghdad "reserved the right to defend itself against this Iranian aggression with appropriate means and at the right time," he said.

A strongly-worded protest letter condemning the "Iranian aggression" was sent to UN Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali by Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al-Safah, the spokesman said.

The Foreign Ministry also handed the Iranian charge d'affaires in Baghdad a similar protest note, IRNA reported.

Iran said today its border guards had raided a base near the Iraqi capital used by the main Iranian armed opposition group, the People's Mujahideen, killing a number of rebels.

The Iranian thrust came shortly after security forces thwarted a Mujahideen cross-border raid to sabotage oil installations in the southwestern province of Ilam, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

But the Iraq-based group denied the report, and said instead that another of its camps, 120 kilometres (75 miles) from Baghdad, had been the target of an Iranian surface-to-surface missile attack late Saturday.

The Ashraf camp was struck by four missiles, including at least one Scud-B, which has a range of 300 kilometres.

See Page 12 Col 7

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