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The Daily Star

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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 -BNP Parliamentary 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 organization, 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 Samitays (PBSSs), independent rural power distribution co-operatives, the source said.

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 combined-cycle unit in phases.

The equity would be held by

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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,

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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

reporters. The implementation of the Opposition decision was now only a matter of time, he added.

Tofael was flanked by Moudud Ahmed of the Jatiya Party (JP) and Sheikh Ansar Ali of the Jamaat-e-Islami at the press briefing.

Tofael also said the entire Opposition was now of the opinion that the government was leading the nation towards a state of confrontation by refusing to meet the demand.

"We shall announce the next course of action from the sit-in in front of the Prime Minister's secretariat on November 9," Tofael said.

Meanwhile, one Opposition leader who attended yesterday's meeting told The Daily Star that Hasina had proposed November

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Solidarity Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The nation will observe the revolution and solidarity day today.

On this day in 1975, a sepoys-pole 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 build-

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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

Some 12 lakh non-gazetted government employees observed a day-long work stoppage across the country yesterday and threatened to go on an indefinite strike from December 7 to press for higher pay and other facilities.

During the work stoppage from 8 am to 2:30 pm, thousands of lower level government employees rallied in the capital to drum up support for their demands and later announced a series of agitation programme, including the strike from December 7.

Announcing the programme, leaders of the liaison committee of the Bangladesh Government Employees' Coordinating and Solidarity Council urged the government to accept their demands by November 14.

The demands include a 30 per cent dearness allowance, selection grade to 50 per cent of the employees, free electricity upto 200 units, upgradation of 70 per cent of posts and festival allowance even for the retired employees.

The rally that started at 8:30am in front of the Jatiya Press Club almost paralysed all activities of the Secretariat as

hundreds of employees came out to join the rally.

Volunteers sporting red-tillets 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-

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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 Rokeya Sarani near West Kazipara at 11 am.

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

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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

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 "reserves 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-Ghali by Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Said Al-Sahaf, 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.

NSC lottery draw results

The draw of the fifth Sports Development Fund Lottery was held yesterday at the National Sports Council auditorium in the city, reports UNB.

Ticket no "Gha"-0138626, won the first prize of Tk 30 lakh while the 2nd prize, a 30-seater minibus, went to ticket No. "Cha"-0587543.

The 3rd prize — five 800cc Maruti cars to each — were won by ticket Nos: "Ka"-0304494, "Kha"-0604318, "Kha"-0484925, "Cha"-

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Dhaka's call to restore peace in Bosnia

Bangladesh has called for restoration of peace to the entire territory of Bosnia-Herzegovina and preservation of the state's territorial integrity and unity within its internationally recognised borders, reports BSS.

Taking part in the debate on the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina at the United Nations General Assembly session on Thursday, Bangladesh delegate Khandker Abu Taher, MP, reiterated Bangladesh's commitment to strengthening all efforts towards a negotiated settlement and restoration of peace in the area.

He said that the territories of the Bosnia-Herzegovina taken by the others and now under foreign occupation ought to be restored to the state of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Condemning the violation of international humanitarian law

as well as perpetration of genocide by the Serbs, he said, no one can doubt that the objective of such atrocities was nothing less than systematic dismemberment of a sovereign country and a member of the United Nations.

He said that such atrocities could not be supported by any state or the UN.

Bangladesh, Taher said, welcomed efforts by the UN Security Council and the contact group to create the ground work leading towards a peaceful settlement in difficult circumstances including ceasefire arrangements and deterrent measures.

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.

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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 Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal leader of Chittagong University, who was kidnapped on October 27 and tortured allegedly by Islamist 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.

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

university Syndicate with the Vice-Chancellor Prof RI Chowdhury in the chair.

Resident students have been asked to vacate their halls by 7 am tomorrow (Monday).

The Syndicate requested the law enforcing agencies to take action against those responsible for the killing of Musa.

The Syndicate condoled the death of the student and expressed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

The supporters of Chhatra Dal today put up barricades on the University Road No 1 on the Chittagong Hathazari road blocking the traffic movement

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