

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia placing a wreath on behalf of the BNP at the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman in the city on the National Revolution and Solidarity Day Monday. Seen from (L) are Deputy Leader in Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Salam Talukdar, Agriculture Minister M Majid-ul - Star photo Huq and Works Minister Rafigul Islam Mia.

Solidarity Day

From Page 1 Col 5

tional dailies published sup-

plements highlighting the

Police, Ansar and VDP bands

performed at different vantage

prayers were offered at

mosques and other places of

worship seeking peace and

the hospitals, jails, orphan-

ages, children centres and va-

Party (BNP) organised a dis-

cussion meeting on Monday

afternoon at the National

Museum auditorium in which

BNP Secretary General Bar-

rister Abdus Salam Talukdar

and senior party leaders spoke.

brought out a truck procession

from the Manik Mia Avenue

which later drove through im

The Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal

(JSD-Inu) and the Jamaat-e-

Islami also held separate dis-

Smriti Sangsad organised dis-

cussion meetings in the capital

on Monday in memory of Major

General Mosharraf Hossain,

Colonel Haider and Colonel

Nazmul Huda who were killed

north district branches of BNP

held special prayer for peace

and prosperity of the nation

and placed wreaths at the first

A discussion was held at

Nasimon Bhavan office of BNP

in the afternoon where BNP

leaders including Mir

Mohammad Nasiruddin paid

tributes to late President Ziaur

Khaleda

The Prime Minister assured

them of looking into their de-

mands. She said the sadar

hospital would be upgraded to

100-bed from 50-bed one.

Construction works of stadium

and auditorium will also start

the people that the Sherpur-

Jhagrarchar road would be

metalled and development

works of other roads begin as

soon as possible. A tribal cul-

tural academy will be estab-

lished in Sherpur and mea-

sures will be taken to intro-

duce Honours course in local

government college. A bus

terminal will be constructed

and her cabinet colleague,

rushed to Halgara village in

Sreebardi thana, the home-vil-

lage of MP Dr Serajul Hug who

died on October 28 in a tragic

grave of late Sirajul Huq and

consoled the bereaved family

also inaugurated the newly

constructed bhaban of local

nursing training institute at

Gas in Sherpur

From Page 1 Col 5

The Prime Minister cau-

imported oil and coal to meet

tioned that natural gas is a

finite resource and stressed

on its optimum utilisation as

well as continuing the drive

for exploring new sources of

In this context, she said ex-

traction from Barapukuria

coalmine had already been

started and decision taken to

dig at least one exploratory

well each year with domestic

80 fundamentalists

arrested in France

made more than 80 arrests

early today during a large-scale

swoop on Islamic fundamental-

ist circles linked to Algeria's ex-

tremist armed Islamic group

(GIA), sources said, reports

ordered by France's top anti-

terrorist magistrate Jean-Louis

The dawn operation was

PARIS, Nov 8: French police

financing.

AFP.

Bruguiere

the country's fuel demand.

Sherpur Sadar Hospital.

She offered fateha at the

Earlier, the Prime Minister

road accident.

members

Meeting over, Begum Zia

Besides, Begum Zia assured

From Page 1 Col 7

grave of President Zia.

and an auditorium.

In Chittagong, south and

on the day.

Rahman.

The Khaled Mosharraf

cussions to mark the day.

portant streets in the capital.

In the afternoon, the BNP

Improved diet was served a

The Bangladesh Nationalist

progress of the country.

Army, Navy, Airforce, BDR,

Milad mahfils and special

significance of the day.

points of the city.

grant homes.

programmes while na-

Draft of conservation strategy approved

The preliminary draft of the National conservation strategy of Bangladesh has been approved, an official handout said vesterday, reports BSS.

The approval was given in a workshop organised by the Environment and Forest Ministry held in the Cabinet Division conference room yesterday with Agriculture and Water Resources Minister M Majid-Ul Haq in the chair.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman. Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal-Ibne Yusuf Housing and Public Works Minister Rafigul Islam Mia. Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah, Industries Minister AM Zahiruddin Khan, State Minister for Textiles Abdul Mannan. State Minister for Disaster Management and Relief Harun-Al Rashid, State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan. Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister ANM Eusuf. Environment and Forest Secretary Sved Amirul Mulk and concerned senior officials took part in the workshop.

Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain presented the draft of the national conservation strategy of Bangladesh towards sustainable development of the country. The strategy is a blueprint for the integration of both environmental and economic con-

It suggests that, there should be new ways of assess-

velopment by protecting and preserving our national resources in various fields. After finally preparing and approving this strategy by the cabinet, this will be used as a guideline for concerned ministries and executing departments to protect and preserve our national

resources The Agriculture Minister said, the national conservation strategy is very much important and necessary in respect of preserving and protecting our environment and the total socio-economic infrastructural development. The preparation of this long cherished strategy is grand achievement of the present democratic government, he said

Majid-Ul-Haq said, peaceful and planned use of agricultural lands is one of the main aspects in this regard. Unplanned use of lands and housing in any place must be checked and building up rural planned housing is essential for conservation of our national resources, he added.

The Agriculture Minister emphasised formation of a small committee to supervise and monitor the implementation procedures of the national conservation strategy after its approval by the cabinet.

He also called upon the concerned ministries to provide all possible cooperation to implement this proposed strategy for the sake of our ing and attaining economic de- greater national interest.

Diplomatic circles striving

From Page 1 Col 3 over the past few days "to see what can be done to end the political deadlock.

These countries are. Australia, Britain and Canada all belonging to the Commonwealth - Germany representing the European Union and the US as the sole superpower. Envoys of these five countries met with Sir Ninian at

the residence of a diplomat. More such meetings are likely. it is reliably learnt.

The efforts of this important caucus of major donors suggest they are quite concerned about the future of Bangladesh if the present deadlock is allowed to run.

A leading High Commissioner, when was asked the reason for such a special concern of these five countries, said jokingly: "We are not a Gang of Five. May be it's just a matter of convenience. How ever, it is not a necessarily a representative group. Others may also join.

He continued, "We are giving advice to anyone who is asking. We want a settlement. We are not trying to replace the roles of the Awami League or the BNP or of the Commonwealth facilitator.

Several diplomats, when asked if there was any specific proposal from their part for the talks to succeed, all

replied in the negative. The Canadian High Com missioner Jon J Scott said: "It

is not for us or anyone else to give any specific proposals." William Aspinall, the Aus-

tralian High Commissioner replied in the same vein. Said he: "If you are asking if we have a common formula, then the answer is that we do not have a common formula and we are also not pushing for a common

formula. Aspinall, who went to see Sir Ninian Sunday to enquire about his health, told this correspondent he was leaving the country today for ten days. He described his proposed trip as a vacation However, it was learnt he was not going to

Australia. Asked if Sir Ninian also had a 'holiday schedule'... the High Commissioner replied, "Not that I know of." British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler, responding to a question, said he was still op-

cuss the situation.

timistic that a common ground could be found to solve the present political impasse.

"We are very much concerned about the success of the talks. We see this political uncertainty as very bad for the country, for democracy and development. I am sure both sides are aware of the conse quences of a breakdown of the dialogue.

Asked about the reported move of the Opposition to resign from Parliament, the British High Commissioner said: "If it happens, it would be another move for the breakdown of parliamentary process I hope they will maintain their patience and continue with the on-going dialogue."

Several other western envovs, giving their views on the on-going dialogue, said they expected greater flexibility would be exercised by both the ruling party and Opposition. They all reiterated that the parties involved in the dispute should utilise the Commonwealth Secretary General's efforts to arrive at a settle-

Many diplomats openly admitted that they have not only been watching the situation but also talking to both sides with a view to reaching a solu-

However, some diplomats would not comment. Nor would they like to take a stance.

The observation of one diplomat can perhaps aptly describe the position of a few overseas missions present in Dhaka: "We are watching the developments alright. But we are sitting on the sidelines."

Ambassador of a European Union country who was unduly optimistic even last week, offered a slightly guarded comment yesterday.

"If the dialogue has not succeeded, it has not failed vet. Let us wait and see."

Tandone cawarad rendons severed

From Page 1 Col 8 Anwar is a 'local' student. Local JCD activists blocked the Dhaka-Aricha highway near

5 pm to protest the incident. The JU Syndicate and the Provost Committee held a joint meeting in the evening to dis-

the campus for two hours from

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The city Awami League yesterday brought out a torch procession to drum up support for today's sit-in in front of the Prime Minister's secretariat. - Star photo

Clashes leave 100 injured, Faridpur Polytech closed

FARIDPUR, Nov 8: Faridpur Polytechnic Institute was closed today for 15 days following a series of clashes between students and shopowners and villagers in the last three days which left some 100 people wounded, reports UNB.

Officials said the decision was taken Monday morning. after two student hostels had been ransacked in mob attacks allegedly led by a local UP chairman. Dozens of students were injured. 11 with bullets. in the attacks.

All the seriously wounded students were admitted to Faridpur General Hospital. Two of them - Imran Hossain. 22 and Surid Hasan. 21 - were sent to Dhaka in critical condi-

'Interim govt sans Khaleda unacceptable'

Ruling party MP Major (Rtd) Akhtaruzzaman yesterday said any proposal for interim government without Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia would not be acceptable to

In a statement given to UNB over telephone last night, Akhtaruzzaman contradicted certain media reports that tried to identify him as a rebel within the ruling party on the question of caretaker govern-

He said he had no different opinion other than the party's present stand on the issue and there should not be any misgiving about him.

"There is no grouping in our party over this issue and I have full respect for any decision of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia." said Akhtar.

Hearing of writ

From Page 1 Col 7 who filed the writ challenging the legality of the boycott of Parliament, yesterday filed a supplementary affidavit before the High Court praying to declare that the Opposition leaders and their members in Parliament had ceased to remain members of Parliament after expiry of 90 days from May 30 for not attending Parliament without leave and that therefore they be directed to refund all emoluments. salary and allowances, etc. received by them from May 30 till date, as contained in the rules and procedure of Parliament

Barrister Mohammad Ali, advocate Abu Baker Siddique and advocate Humayun Kabir Bulbul appeared for the peti-

Moudud Ahmed appeared

On Monday, Masud Hassan, a student of the institute, was stabbed by the rivals when he went to see his friends at the General Hospital.

Monday's incident was sequel to Sunday's attack by some 100 students of the Institute on a market. They allegedly burnt two shops and looted some others at Baitul Aman Market after a row with a shopowner. The shopowner demanded outstanding money from the VP of the student union of the institute on the

Three separate cases have been filed from both sides with Kotwali thana.

Additional Police Super Abdus Salam, who was in charge of the campus area, was withdrawn from the spot for his alleged negligency in discharging his responsibilities.

Four arrested for terrorist acts on DU campus

By DU Correspondent

Four persons were arrested vesterday on their alleged involvement in acts of terrorism on the Dhaka University cam-

The Detective Branch police picked up Moazzem Hossain from the SM Hall and Rajib from the Zahurul Huq Hall early yesterday.

DB police later rounded up Mushfigur Rahman alias Abdul Hannan from a house at the Free School Street in the city at about 1:15 am and arrested Hannan, an absconder, for his alleged involvement in the killing of Moniruzzaman Badal on the campus in January

Baghdad

From Page 1 Col 8

well as Iraq's Revolutionary Council and the ruling Baath

Meanwhile, Iraq's recognition of Kuwait is an "important decision" that should stabilize the Gulf region, Arab League Secretary-General Esmet Abdel Meguid said yesterday.

"I think this decision is the beginning of a process which I hope will lead to a normal sit-; uation in the area and that all the consequences of the August 1990 (Iraqi) invasion of Kuwait will be solved," Abdel Meguid told AFP.

He stressed the recognition "should be completed by the implementation of remaining UN Security Council resolutions ... so there will be security in the region."

Sit-in today

From Page 1 Col 7 Bangla Motors link road and

Sonargaon Road crossing, Panthapath and Green Road crossing, Manik Mia Avenue and Mirpur Road crossing, the western end of the tunnel road near the Sangsad Bhaban, the Korotoa crossing. Shyamoli Shishu Mela crossing, Agargaon crossing. Taltola petrol pump road, old airport area, Shaheed Jahangir Gate of Dhaka Cantonment, Mahakhali crossing, the Nabisco crossing, the Shatrastar crossing Rainbow crossing in front of the FDC. Bangla Motors crossing and all the roads covered by these areas. The carrying of fire arms

knives, guns, sticks, explosives, stones and any other missiles has also been banned. Meanwhile, a meeting of

the AL central working committee last night strongly condemned the imposition of Section 144.

"The autocratic government, afraid of the people's agitation, is trying to foil the peaceful sit-in." the meeting resolved. It said, the ban was a violation of the people's democratic and constitutional right.

Launch passengers looted in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Nov 8: A gang of 15 to 20 dacoits looted money and valuables of the passengers of a launch, MV Bappi and injured five persons Monday night at Bheduria on the Tetulia river on Bhola-Barisal

According to launch passengers, the dacoits looted money and valuables worth Tk three lakh and injured five passengers when they tried to resist them at around 12 mid-

14 Islamic activists held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested 14 people from the Baitul Mokarram Mosque area in the city Monday allegedly for creating chaos after the rally of the Sammilito Sangram Parishad.

Police lobbed teargas shells to quell the mob who hurled crackers at police in retaliation Monday afternoon. Hundreds of activists of the

Sangram Parishad were locked in a clash with police when the law enforcers intercepted their procession near the Purana Paltan. When the processionists

tried to break the police barricade, they were clubbed by po-All 14 arrested people were

sent to the Dhaka central jail vesterday, according to police.

High time for reconciliation many other countries have

From Page 1 Col 3 Party (BNP) to concede to their demand. However, the Opposition is yet to specify any date for the submission of resignation letters by the MPs of its constituents to the Speaker. Perhaps, they would take some more time to make up their minds on this, since the Commonwealth-brokered government-Opposition dialogue has not been abandoned

The process of dialogue is still on as the quest for an amicable solution to end the impasse continues. The negotiators of both the ruling party and the mainstream opposition AL are in close contact with the Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen. Diplomats of some Commonwealth countries and others, including the United States have also been involved in the mediation process for helping the contending sides to reach consensus.

In point of fact, the dialogue, initiated formally on 20 October, has remained stalled for more than 10 days. After the exchange of proposals containing formulas to ensure holding of free and fair elections, the formal talks between the government and the Opposition remain adjourned.

Both the sides have rejected

each other's ideas, sticking to their own positions, especially on the form of government under which the elections will be held. And, thus, the stalemate was created and it continues.

The crux of the problem is: whether the next general elections will be held under an interim government headed by the incumbent Prime Minister or a non-party caretaker government headed by a neutral person. The BNP is firm on its position to have Prime Minister Khaleda Zia head the proposed interim government while the Opposition is totally against the idea. It appears that they are ready to accept anybody other than the incumbent PM.

In such a situation, the dialogue - aimed at resolving the crisis - itself plunged into a deep crisis of its own. However, efforts are also on to bring back both the sides across the negotiation table for resumption of the talks. Deadlock or stalemate in a

dialogue is nothing unusual, rather it is a common phenomenon in such a process. And it can be overcome; examples abound in contemporary history. Some intractable political problems in South Africa, the Middle East and been resolved through fruitful dialogues. What next, if the govern-

ment-Opposition talks end in a fiasco? What course of action the Opposition will adopt and what will be the strategy of the ruling party to counter the opposition's movement? These are the questions that loom large in people's mind; since the consequences of any confrontation are not beyond imagination.

The Opposition has already threatened (and also decided) to resign from Parliament if their demand is not met. If they do so, will the government hold by-elections in the 156 JS seats vacated by the Opposition? Or will Parliament be dissolved to pave the way for holding a fresh election? The policy-makers of the ruling party are definitely aware that holding of such a fresh election may create a situation like that of 1988 when the polls were held without participation of the major Oppo-

Time is fast running out but there is still scope for a solution to end the impasse. It is not a spirit of confrontation but that of reconciliation which can help solve the crisis. And that is the cherished desire of the nation.

The Midnight File

LISBON. Nov 8: Angola's UNITA rebels said today they were unlikely to sign a peace pact with the Luanda government in the Zambian capital Lusaka next week because of the government siege of Huambo. UNITA commander. Paulo Lukamba Gato told Portuguese TSF radio form the rebel headquarters of Huambo by satellite telephone UNITA would definitely not attend Thursday's planned meeting of rival military commanders in Lusaka and did not expect a formal signing of a peace pact next week, reports Reuter.

Ghali for sending troops to Rwandan refugee camps

GENEVA. Nov 8: The UN Secretary-General said Tuesday he would propose sending security forces to try to restore order in border camps housing more than I million Rwandan refugees. But UN chief Boutros Boutros-Ghali was pessimistic about the chances of a speedy improvement in the situation in either the camps in Zaire or in war-shattered Rwanda itself, reports AP.

Stalemate persists

From Page 1 Col 4 Childs handed over the government proposal to SAMS Kibria, political advisor to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina, the same day and a meeting of the leaders of the opposition parties and groups presided by Hasina rejected the formula yesterday.

Meanwhile, the Awami League (AL), the principal opposition party, is learnt to have revised its previous decision to announce the date for tendering their members, resignation from the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Originally the announcement

Strike observed at DU

By DU Correspondent

Classes were not held at the Dhaka University yesterday as the students called a day-long strike on the campus demanding supply of newsprint and white print at fair price.

The Sadharan Chhatra Adhikar Andolon, a students body for realisation of their demands, called the strike on Sunday.

Libraries and department of fices also remained closed during the strike yesterday.

The Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) and the pro-Awami League Chhatra League (S-P) have extended their support to the demand.

The BCU brought out a procession and held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla monument in the morning.

The speakers at the rally threatened that country-wide students' strike would be called if the price of papers were not reduced.

The rally was addressed by Sajjad Zahir Chandan, Aslam Khan and others with Aslamuddin in the chair.

Newsprint price: Agitated students damage vehicles

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 8: At least 50 vehicles were damaged when some school students went on the rampage during a demonstration protesting the price hike of newsprint in the city today.

The agitating students paraded the city streets raising slogans against the price hike of newsprint.

They demanded immediate action to bring down the price. The port city and its surrounding areas have been witnessing during the last few days frequent protests against

Lankan polls

the price hike of newsprint.

From Page 1 Col 4 television and through a poster war. Dissanayake accused Kumaratunga of trying to intimidate her through a police raid on her home while the prime minister said her opponent was trying to fan communal tensions between the Tamils and the majority Sinhalese.

"A vote for Chandrika is a vote for LTTE," posters around the island proclaim. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are leading the Tamil

Maid accused of robbery in city

By Staff Correspondent A maid servant and her accomplices allegedly decamped with Tk two lakh and other valuables from a house at Elephant Road in the city yes terday.

Manwara Begum, 50, and two of her accomplices reportedly looted Tk 2 lakh in cash and other valuables including gold jewellery by confining the house wife, her mother and a daughter in a room around 11 in the morning.

Manwara, who had been working in the house of a businessman Abedur Rahman for the last fifteen years, yesterday introduced her two accomplices as her relatives. One of the accomplices, identified as Elahi, a son-in-law of Manwara, kept the three women captive at dagger-point, victims said.

was to have come during today's sit-in in front of the Prime Minister's secretariat. The change of plans came

following a meeting of the party's parliamentary wing with AL chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair yesterday afternoon. Some of the party MPs, although in favour of resigning from Parliament, felt it was not yet time for submitting the resignations to the JS Speaker.

They reportedly argued that the Opposition, before submitting the resignations to the Speaker, should "isolate" the Government entirely from the people. However, meeting sources said, all the MPs nevertheless signed their resignation papers and handed them to Hasina at the meeting. The meeting authorised her

to take 'any decision' on the issue, the sources added The major opposition parties.

instead of announcing a specific date for mass resignation, is now likely to call a hartal for Saturday. The Left Democratic Front (LDF) earlier called for a half-day hartal tomorrow. A meeting of Opposition

leaders today is also scheduled to plan their next course of ac-UNB adds: When contacted, Jatiya Party leader Barrister

nothing new in the government's second proposal, which is basically a rejection of the Opposition-proposed neutral. caretaker government. "This is an old proposal with

Moudud Ahmed said there was

a few amendments for an interim government," he said

Moudud made it clear that the Opposition demand for a neutral, non-party caretaker government does not mean sharing power, nor having a multiparty government.

"We want a neutral and nonparty caretaker government. Any government with political parties will not ensure free and impartial election," he observed.

3 Shibir activists

From Page 1 Col 8 ment in the gun attack.

Meanwhile, resident students of Chittagong University vacated the halls on Monday

morning. The university was closed Sunday apprehending fresh violence following the death of Nurul Huda Musa, a JCD lea-

Munna murder From Page 1 Col 8

que and Abdul Munim. Enamul Haque Munna was stabbed to death on Novem-

Meanwhile, thirteen leaders and workers of the Sylhet town and district units of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal have been ousted from the organisation for their alleged involvement in the murder of Enamul Haque Munna. The activities of the town unit have also been suspended. Those expelled include Shamsuzza-

man Zaman, joint-convenor of

the district unit. Kidnappers kill From Page 1 Col 2

son of the village reportedly had asked Sorman Ali, husband of Mazeda, to sell him a piece of land which she rejected. The police yesterday eve-

ning recovered the bodies of Mazeda and Masud from a village by the bank of Ichha-

A case has been filed with the Roygani Thana.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 4

tutional provision against rigging and violence." Hasina called for joining the sit-in demonstration in front of

the Prime Minister's Secretariat today to press for the caretaker government. Awami League Presidium member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin also addressed the opening ceremony presided over by

Nurul Majid Humayun, acting chairman of Juba League. General Secretary Fulu Sarkar conducted the function. Deputy Opposition Leader

Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Amu, Tofael Ahmed and party's MPs were present.

UNITA unlikely to

sign peace accord