

Inside Today

Article

What it Takes to Get a Better Power Supply

Column: Along My Way
by S B Chaudhuri
Page 4

International

India developing sea-based missile system

Nepali Congress may not win enough seats to form govt
Page 5

Business

British-Dutch joint venture company signs accord with Petrobangla

APEC summit opens today: Clinton spells out terms for closer economic link with China
Pages 6, 7

National

Development works of 79 schools in in Moulvibazar

Organised gangs committing crimes in Jessore
Page 9

Supplement

Special supplement on the Tourism Month
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Isha's Murder Left a Question to Ponder
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

DU announces fresh exam dates

By DU Correspondent
The Dhaka University authorities have announced fresh dates of some examinations which were postponed earlier. According to a DU press release yesterday, the degree (Pass and Subsidiary) examinations of Statistics and Home Economics 1993, earlier scheduled for November 12 and 13, will be held on November 23 and 24.

Saifur off to Jeddah

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman left Dhaka last night for Jeddah to attend the annual meeting of the board of governors of the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). He is leading a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the meeting, reports BSS.

Fuller meets Speaker

William P. Fuller, President of the Asia Foundation, called on Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali at his office chamber in the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Paniri was present on the occasion, reports BSS.

Newsmen robbed of

By Staff Correspondent
A senior journalist Joyntal Abedin and his friend Aktaruzzaman were robbed of cash and wrist watches at the Suhrawardy Uddyan yesterday evening. Abedin, an editorial consultant with the Financial Express, was having evening walk along with his friend. They were waylaid by several gunmen who snatched Tk 200 from Abedin and two wrist watches from them.

Several MPs hurt as Benazir rolls prayer beads Fist fights, scuffles during Leghari's NA speech



Pakistani opposition MPs and activists assault a ruling party supporter outside the parliament building in Islamabad yesterday. — AFP photo

ISLAMABAD, Nov. 14: Several opposition MPs were injured today in Pakistani Parliament, where fist fights, scuffles and pandemonium broke out during a speech by President Farooq Ahmed Leghari, reports AFP.

Witnesses said at least five deputies were assaulted as they emerged from the hall following the 45-minute session, during which the opposition continuously booed and shouted slogans against the president.

Barely 20 minutes into his speech, an army officer leapt from his seat and positioned himself in front of Leghari's podium, afraid that dozens of screaming opposition members would attempt to attack the president.

One member of the National Assembly, Rao Qaiser, was taken out of the parliament building on a stretcher and had facial bruises. The official Associated Press of Pakistan said two other opposition MPs were injured.

The uproar made Leghari's address inaudible. The opposition...

UN forces won't act to halt attack on Bihac

SARAJEVO, Nov 14: Bosnian Serb forces pressed ahead today with a fierce counter-attack on the Muslim enclave of Bihac, but UN peacekeepers said they would not intervene to halt the onslaught around a designated 'safe area', reports Reuters.

Bosnian Serbs had recaptured most of the territory lost to Muslim troops last month in northwest Bosnia and seized high ground above Bihac town, UN military spokesman Colonel Tim Spicer said.

"It appears the BSA (Bosnian Serb Army) have retaken most of what they lost, probably around 80 per cent," said Spicer. "We think they managed to get back up on high ground dominating Bihac town in a push on Sunday afternoon and evening."

United Nations officials said they would not act to halt the Serb assault, despite shelling attacks on Bihac town, which is a UN designated 'safe area' on the southern edge of the enclave.

Serbs shelled the outskirts of the town on Sunday, Spicer said.

The UN special representative in former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, has played down any suggestion that the United Nations protection Force (UNPROFOR) might step in around Bihac.

"We are deeply concerned about the offensive and counter-offensive spiral," said Akashi. "But unless there is a resolve of the parties to come to terms, what a peacekeeping force can do is very limited."

The UN argues that it is not equipped to impose peace by force and to try to do so would expose its widely dispersed and lightly armed units to reprisals, particularly from the Bosnian Serbs.

The Croatian government, earlier rebuffed a request by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic for military aid against the Serbs and said it was up to the United Nations to act.

The Bosnian Serbs had seized back most of the ground captured by Muslim-led troops in an offensive some two weeks ago in the northwest and were now threatening to move the Muslims past previous front lines.

Govt sets price for Aman, but no target

Star Report
The Cabinet yesterday approved the Aman procurement policy for the year 1994-95, fixing the purchase price of paddy and rice at Taka 220 and Taka 340 per maund respectively. The prices are 10 taka higher than that of the last year.

According to an authoritative source in the Ministry of Food, the procurement begins today. "There would, however, be no target for such drive this year."

Explaining the reason for not fixing any target, the source said the purpose of the...

Storm kills 2 in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 14: Two people were killed and 25 injured during a violent storm that lashed Kamarkhand and Sadar thanas of the district early today, reports UNB.

Some 1,500 thatched houses and crops on about 1,000 acres of land were damaged and nearly 1,000 trees uprooted during the storm, witnesses said.

The dead were identified as Kabul 35, and Shukur Ali, 42, of Charbarui village in Sadar thana.

Seriously injured Abdul Halim 7 and Shukur Ali, 42, were admitted to Sidabad Health Complex.

Govt employees assure Khaleda of all cooperation

Leaders of the government employees assured Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia of their sincere efforts to implement government programmes, reports UNB.

The leaders of the Labour Committee of the Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Samanvaya Parishad and the Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Sanghat Parishad called on Begum Zia at her Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday.

Led by convenor of the committee Syed Moinuddin, the 25-member delegation included member secretary Mohammad Salahuddin Selim and leaders Abdul Mannan, Dr Shah Alam and Sri Nani Gopal Das.

The employees, who were abstaining from work to press home their 14-point demand, expressed their thanks to the government for resolving their problem through discussion.

British MP tells press in city Aid, investment will be affected if talks fail

By Staff Correspondent

British Under Secretary of State Tony Baldry yesterday warned that if the ongoing political dialogue failed, it would frighten away overseas investment. It could also jeopardise the British aid programme in which Bangladesh currently occupies the second position as a recipient.

Tony Baldry, a Conservative Member of Parliament whose responsibilities as Under Secretary include developing bilateral relations with countries of South Asia and overseas development issues, stressed that it was important for both Bangladesh and its aid partners, including Britain, that the dialogue succeeds.

"Bangladesh stands at the

crossroads of development and it is the responsibility of the political parties to see that political instability does not hinder the development of Bangladesh," Baldry commented.

The British Under Secretary, addressing a press conference at the residence of the British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler at the end of a four-day visit, appreciated the opening up of the economy and the emphasis given on privatisation. Some 45 British companies have so far invested around 100 million pound sterling in Bangladesh, he said.

Baldry, who led a 27-member British trade delegation, said all the members of the

mission were interested in conducting business in Bangladesh directly or with partners. He also disclosed that many members had initial scepticism, but after their visit they no longer had reservations about investments in Bangladesh.

The British Under Secretary, referring to the country's political situation, said: "A one-day or a two-day halt does not necessarily worry investors. What concerns them is a state of political uncertainty, an unstable and unpredictable political situation."

Responding to a question, Baldry denied Britain or any of the countries would like to

Ninian apprises Emeka of state of talks

By Nurul Kabir

Sir Ninian Stephen is learnt to have sent, yesterday, a summary of his discourses with the country's conflicting political camps to Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku.

In the despatch, Sir Ninian gave a detailed picture of the latest situation relating to the dialogue between the ruling party and the parliamentary opposition, sources close to those involved in the negotiation process said.

Meanwhile, Sir Ninian's aide Dr Anafu met the Deputy Leader of Parliament and ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury at the latter's residence yesterday morning.

Sources close to the four-member BNP negotiating team said Anafu wanted to know from Prof Chowdhury whether the ruling party had any further...

Huda seeks apology

By Staff Correspondent

Former Information Minister Nazim Huda yesterday sought apology from the BNP standing committee for his recent controversial statement to the press on the issue of a caretaker government, ruling party sources said.

Huda was forced to resign from the Cabinet on November 5 for his formula of a caretaker administration, headed by the Chief Justice. This had embarrassed the government especially when the ruling party is involved in a Commonwealth-brokered dialogue with the Opposition camp.

Later, he was given a show-cause notice by the BNP standing committee to explain the reasons behind his controversial press interview in violation...

AL determined to realise demand: Hasina

From Our Correspondent

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 14: Sheikh Hasina said today her party is determined to realise the demand for holding of the next three consecutive general elections under the supervision of non-party and neutral caretaker administration.

The Awami League chief and leader of the Opposition in Parliament was addressing public meetings at different places of Pabna and Sirajganj districts on her way to Bogra on the first day of her three-day tour of the country's northern districts.

Hasina pointed out that the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) agitated along with other parties for a caretaker government to conduct national polls during the rule of Ershad.

But being voted to power, the party was now opposing such arrangements. "It's just to manipulate and rig polls with

the motive of clinging to power," she said.

Alleging rigging of the elections held under the BNP government, the AL chief once again said "People's right to vote is no more safe, in the hands of BNP."

The Leader of the Opposition said "We are struggling to restore the people's fundamental rights including their franchise." She urged the people to intensify the ongoing agitation for a caretaker government.

Hasina alleged that during the four-year rule of the BNP, the people witnessed unbridled corruption, widespread violence, joblessness, rising level of poverty and closure of industrial units.

AL central leaders Suranjit Sengupta, Abdul Jalil and Ashkur Rahman, local leader Prof. Mazharul Islam, Chhatra...

Bandaranaike sworn in as Lankan PM

COLOMBO, Nov 14: Sri Lanka's President Chandrika Kumaratunga today appointed her mother, Sirimavo Bandaranaike, as Prime Minister in a 23-member cabinet that was sworn in before her, reports AFP.

Bandaranaike, 78, who already has a place in the history books as the world's first elected woman premier after winning the 1960 elections, set another record with the first mother-daughter combination to govern a country.

Kumaratunga, 49, kept the crucial finance and defence portfolios for herself and made no major changes to the earlier cabinet she had named after winning the August 16 parliamentary election.

She, however, took away

supervision over highways from the only other woman in the cabinet, Sirimani Athulathmudali, and gave her only transport, women's affairs and the environment.

A Tamil politician and a former minister, S Thondaman, who defected to the government just two weeks ago, was given rural industrial development and livestock, instead of the tourism portfolio he field before.

See Page 12 Col 7

WP to reject any power-sharing formula: Menon

Rashed Khan Menon MP yesterday said the Left forces would reject any power sharing formula or election of privilege to the major parties in power and in the Opposition, reports UNB.

Menon told newsmen that the Left Democratic Front (LDF), of which his Workers' Party is a component, wanted guarantee of free and fair polls through necessary amendment to the Constitution, upgradation of election rules and for...

See Page 12 Col 5

Border with India closed as Nepal goes to polls today



Passers-by in Kathmandu check out displayed portraits of 196 candidates of the Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) in the Nepali capital on the eve of today's general elections. — AFP photo

KATHMANDU, Nov 14: Nepal today closed its border with India for 36 hours in a bid to ensure fair polling in tomorrow's general elections, a Home Ministry source said, reports AFP.

The 1040 kilometer frontier with Nepal's big neighbour was shut in the morning to prevent criminals from India entering the tiny Himalayan kingdom and potentially disrupting voting, the source said.

AP adds: After weeks of pre-election tension and at least five deaths, 100,000 security forces spread out across Nepal today on the eve of parliamentary elections.

Neither of the main contenders in Tuesday's voting — the governing Congress Party of Nepal or the leftist parties led by the communists — is likely to win an outright majority.

That could lead to instability for Nepal, which is still learning the ropes of democracy. This is only the second election since the King Birendra yielded to a popular democratic uprising in 1990 and became a constitutional monarch.

An electorate of 12 million will choose deputies for the 205-member House of Representatives. As many as 1,442 candidates from 24 political parties and independents are in the fray.

The Nepali Congress is contesting all the 205 constituencies as against 196 by the communists.

The month-long campaign has been subdued, lackluster, but at times violent. Clashes between rival political groups were blamed for the five deaths.

See Page 12 Col 3

Another **FIRST** from
The Daily Star

The Daily Star is happy to announce the launching of a new feature page titled "LAW PAGE" dealing with legal matters for the benefit of our valued readers and citizens of this country.

This "LAW PAGE" will be published every fortnight with the first issue appearing on Wednesday, 16 November, 1994.

SO DON'T MISS IT!

The Daily Star... we choose to lead