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NOTICE

The Daily Star introduces today a new fortnightly feature Law Page, dealing with legal matters, on Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Two killed in road mishaps

Two people, one of them a college student, were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday. Tariqul Islam, 23, wife of Suchitra Majumder was knocked down by a jeep on Biswa Road near Deputy Colony in Muzigapara at 2:30 pm. Tariqul was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where she expired at about 3:30 pm. Police and hospital sources said. Sabujbagh police arrested the driver of the jeep. In another accident, Ziauddin Bablu, 18, a student of New Model Degree College, was hit by a truck on the tunnel road of Sangsab Bhaban about 12:30 Monday night, reports UNB.

Strike observed at Chhatak

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Nov 15: A half-day strike was observed at the Chhatak thana headquarters of Sunamganj district today to press the demand for immediate arrest of the driver of the killer vehicle which caused the deaths of two young men, including a law college student and an expatriate on October 30 last. The All-Party Students Union called the strike.

4 terrorists held in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 15: Panchali police in a drive arrested Sagar, kingpin of the 'Asgar Bahini' and his three associates from Burma Colony here last night. According to a police press release today, one pistol was recovered from their possession. They were wanted on several criminal charges including hijacking and toll extraction, reports UNB.

Belgian envoy hosts reception

On the occasion of King's Day, the ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium held a reception in Dhaka yesterday evening at his residence.

The Daily Star

AGRAHAYAN 2, 1401 BS, DHAKA WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 16, 1994 JAMADEUS SAANI 11, 1415 HIJRI

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APEC to lift trade barriers by 2020

here.

The agreement, announced by Indonesian President Suharto, followed an informal summit in the lush tropical setting of the Bogor Palace south of Jakarta.

It amounted to an apparent victory for champions of trade liberalisation, led by the United States and Australia.

Malaysia had previously held out against a deadline, saying trade liberalisation should be conducted according to national interests.

Developed countries will be asked to scrap tariff barriers by 2010, whereas poorer countries have been given until 2020, said a statement released by the 18-member APEC group after a summit

point summit communiqué said.

The pace of implementation will take into account the differing levels of economic development among APEC economies, with the industrialised economies achieving the goal of free and open trade and investment no later than the year 2010, and developing economies no later than the year 2020.

Suharto, addressing possible concerns elsewhere in the world, said APEC "is not closed ... we want to be open, not only to Asia-Pacific countries, but to the world."

APEC countries include the United States and Japan, the world's two most economic.

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Tourism Month opens

By Staff Reporter

A month-long tourism promotion campaign began yesterday with a call for local and foreign investors to take advantage of the incentives being provided for the growth of the industry.

The programme was inaugurated by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Osmany Memorial Hall in the city.

Addressing the function, Begum Zia urged the local and foreign entrepreneurs to invest in the tourism sector and said the government has been offering lucrative incentives for investments in the sector.

The Prime Minister said the foreign and local investors can make huge profits by investing in this potential sector and utilising the facilities of UNPROFOR spokesman said.

The SA-2 missiles, used as ground artillery, were fired Monday evening from an area

to the east of town, controlled by Bosnian Serbs. Major Mohammed Bashir-uddin reported from the UN Bangladeshi headquarters in the enclave.

Sarajevo radio said there had been many casualties, but this could not be immediately confirmed.

The Serb onslaught threatened thousands of civilians and some 1,300 UN peacekeeping troops trapped in the town and pocket, which has been cut off by a Serb blockade on UN food and supply convoys.

Ten surface-to-air missiles slammed into the Muslim-held town of Cazin and surrounding area, a UN protection force (UNPROFOR) spokesman said.

The SA-2 missiles, used as ground artillery, were fired Monday evening from an area

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Opposition scrutinises new BNP formula

By Staff Correspondent

The leaders of the parliamentary opposition yesterday scrutinised the ruling party's latest proposal for an interim multi-party cabinet for holding general elections.

Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, after a closed-door meeting of the opposition leaders at the Sangsab Bhaban, told newsmen: "We are discussing the latest government formula handed over to Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina by the Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian Stephen Sunday evening." He, however, declined to give details.

Sources close to the leaders attending yesterday's meeting told The Daily Star late last night that implementation of the government's latest formula would require amendment.

British export credit cover for Bangladesh

By Staff Correspondent

The British Export Credit Guaranteed Department (ECGD) has extended normal medium and long-term export credit cover for Bangladesh, according to an announcement by the British High Commission in Dhaka yesterday.

Prior to this, ECGD was only prepared to consider support exceptionally.

The more relaxed policy follows a growing interest in the market by UK capital goods exporters and a review which highlighted the authorities' achievements in recent years in reducing inflation, debt service and fiscal deficit.

ECGD is Britain's official export credit insurer. It is a

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Many feared killed in shelling Serb forces close in on Bihac

By Staff Correspondent

SARAJEVO, Nov 15: Bosnian Serb forces, supported by Croatia's rebel Serb artillery, closed in on the embattled Muslim enclave of Bihac today and co-opted local rebel Muslims to help them in the campaign, report Reuter, AFP.

The Serb onslaught threatened thousands of civilians and some 1,300 UN peacekeeping troops trapped in the town and pocket, which has been cut off by a Serb blockade on UN food and supply convoys.

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British trade team highly impressed

By Staff Correspondent

The business leader of the visiting British trade and investment mission yesterday said that the team members would leave with a 'radically' changed perception of Bangladesh.

"I am confident that our mission would leave with their perception [of Bangladesh] radically changed," said Iain L Dale OBE, while referring to the problem of perception of the team members acquired through the negative coverage of Bangladesh in the international media.

The mission has led to a radical change of the "minds and attitudes" of the team members, he pointed out.

Now they realise that the

perceptions are unreliable and that reality is much more positive, he added. That's the real achievement of this mission and it has also created greater interest in this market."

Addressing a press conference at a local hotel he said that companies represented in the mission signed at least three contracts in Bangladesh during the visit.

He found very little evidence of the general perception of aid dependency. Dale said, instead he found a very pro-active attitude among government officials and representatives of the private sector.

It is evident that Bangladesh is

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Anti-Terrorism (Spl Provision) Bill placed in JS

The Anti-Terrorism (Special Provision) Bill 1994 was introduced in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury introduced the bill aimed at disposing of cases filed under the Anti-Terrorism Act on or before the expiry of the Act, the tough short term law which was enacted two years back to deal with growing acts of violence.

The law enacted in 1992 for at least two years expired on November 5, 1994.

Earlier, the government party decided not to extend the time of the act.

JCD places 5-pt demand to end CU crisis

CHITTAGONG, Nov 15: Chittagong University chapter of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) today placed five-point demand to end the present crisis on the campus, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the press club here this afternoon Mahbubur Rahman Shamim, assistant general secretary of CUCSU and chapter president blamed the island Chhatra Shibir for creating present stalemate on the university campus.

He urged the authorities of Chittagong University to expel the accused activists of Shibir in connection with the killing of Nurul Huda Musa immediately.

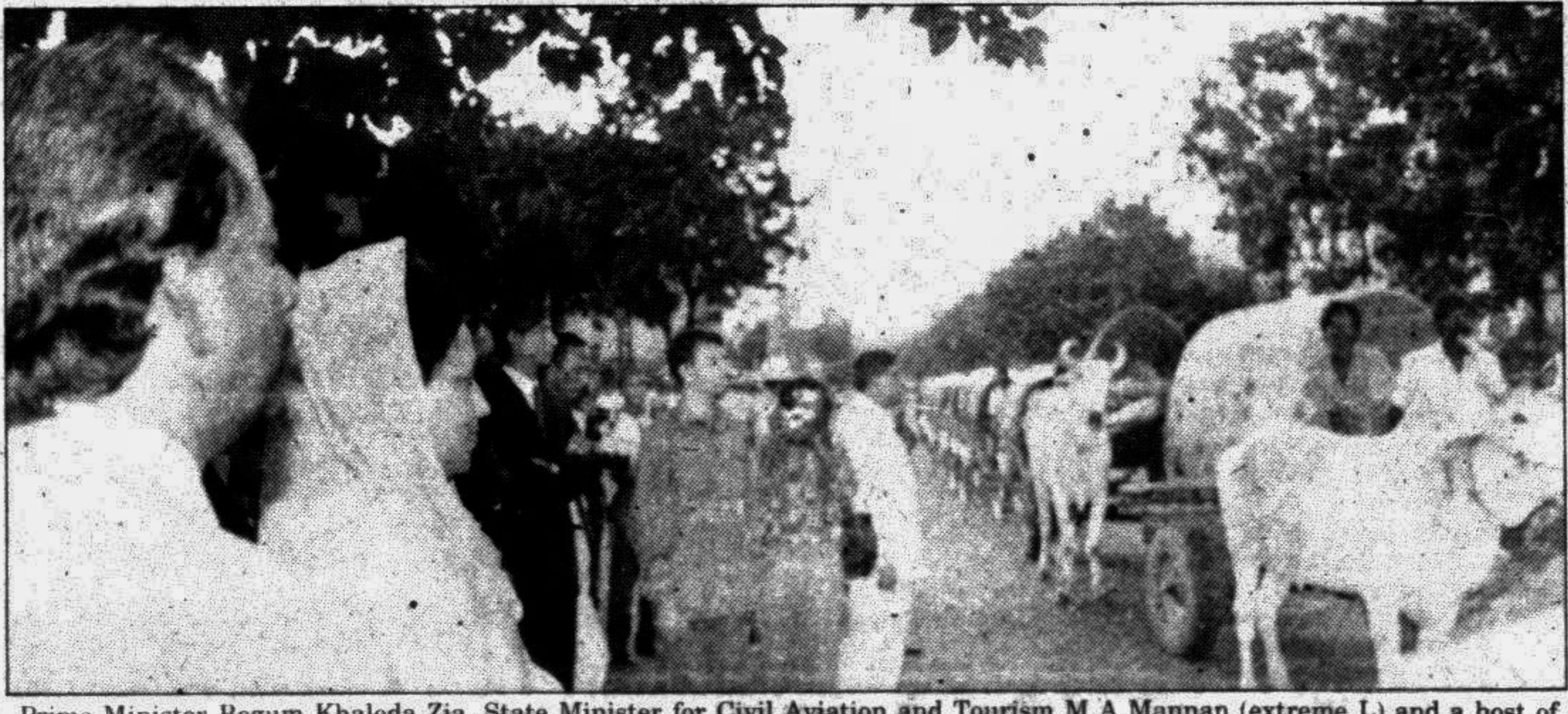
He pointed out that the half-baked terrorist activities by Shibir workers were repeatedly hindering the congenial academic atmosphere on the campus. He called upon the authorities to close down all male hostels to pave the way for opening the university.

PCJSS agrees to sit with govt Dec 12

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 15: The Parbatya Chittagong Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) has agreed to hold the next round of peace talks with the government on December 12 at Dudukhkhali border village under Panchhati thana of Khagrachari district, a highly-placed source said.

The PCJSS, in a letter, has also demanded release before November 30 of its 8 activists who were arrested on different occasions.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism M A Mannan (extreme L) and a host of other dignitaries watch a colourful rally of traditional transports of the country featuring horse drawn carriages, bullock carts, palanquins and rickshaws brought out in the city yesterday on the occasion of the Tourism Month. Star photo

Gunfight, looting of ballot boxes mar Nepalese polls

set to benefit from the polls is the rightwing Royalist Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP).

Analysts believe the NC may have to collaborate with the RPP to acquire the necessary 103 seats in the 205-seat House if it is to form a government.

The Nepali Congress won a majority in the 1991 elections, the first in 31 years. But Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala was forced to quit after losing a crucial vote in Parliament in July because 36 ruling party lawmakers rebelled against him.

Today's voting was the second in Nepal since popular uprising in 1990 forced the country's monarch, King Birendra, to transfer powers to an elected parliament.

The main contenders for power are the centrist Nepali Congress Party and the leftist parties, who form a loose alliance in Parliament.

Analysts say, Nepali Congress is expected to emerge as single largest majority.

Voting had to be suspended at three locations southwest of the capital because of factional

violence, and a Home Ministry source said polling may be held at 40 polling centres.

One policeman was injured when rioters threw a crude bomb — a tin pot packed with explosives and glass pieces — outside a polling station in Dhanusha constituency, 140 kilometres southeast of Kathmandu.

Political analysts said today's voting is unlikely to yield a clear majority. Final results will not be known until at least Friday.

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