

**Good News for Builders**  
NEWLY IMPORTED  
**SNOWCEM**  
Sole Agent & Distributor  
**Ronny International**

- 1. New Eskaton Road, Dhaka  
Phone: 416105, 833617
- 3. Municipal Shopping Complex,  
Noor Ahmed Road, Chittagong.

# The Daily Star

**Nirman Tiles**  
In Broken  
Marble Tiles  
Brighter Home  
At Lesser Price  
Tel: 605957, 861985


VOL. IV NO. 295 REGD. NO. DA 781 AGRAHAYAN 5, 1401 BS, DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19, 1994 JAMADEUS SAANI 14, 1415 HIJRI 12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 5.00

**Inside Today**

- Article**
- Currency Convertibility: Why and When?**  
by Abdul Bayes  
Page 4
- International**
- North Korea takes steps to freeze N-facilities
- Indian election commission urges dismissal of two ministers for influencing voters  
Page 5
- Business**
- DSE trading on the rise
- OPEC renews quest for higher oil prices  
Pages 6, 7
- Rising Stars**
- True friends are forever; Why detective Holmes remains a hero for millions  
Page 8
- Teens and Twenties**
- The reasons for becoming a street child are varied and not simple; A brief account of an ambitious individual  
Page 9

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



The streets of the slums  
Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**City BNP meets today**  
A meeting of all the vice-presidents of the Dhaka City BNP and presidents and general secretaries of thana units will be held today at office room of City BNP's general secretary Salahuddin Ahmed, MP, at Sena Kalyan Bhaban at 3 pm, reports BSS.

**ROK sets up ties with Zimbabwe**  
SEOUL, Nov 18: South Korea today established full diplomatic relations with Zimbabwe, the Foreign Ministry in Seoul said. The protocol to exchange ambassadors was signed in Harare by South Korean ambassador to Zambia, Kim Jin-ho, and Zimbabwe's permanent secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Stanislaus Chigwedere, reports Reuter.

**Avalanche kills 11 in Nepal**  
KATHMANDU, Nov 18: An avalanche has killed eleven members of a German expedition that was attempting to climb a 6,091-metre (20,100-foot) high Himalayan peak, rescuers said Friday. Nine Germans, one Swiss and their Nepalese Sherpa mountain guide were attempting the Mt Pisang Sunday when they were hit by an avalanche and lost radio contact, reports AP.

**UNITA won't sign peace treaty**  
ABIDJAN, Nov 18: UNITA rebels will not sign a peace pact with the Angolan government as scheduled on Sunday, the UNITA representative here said today, alleging treaty violations by government forces reports AFP.

## Opposition formula handed over to BNP Envoys of 3 top Western countries meet Hasina

**Star Report**

Three Western envoys — US Ambassador David Merrill, British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler and Canadian High Commissioner Jon J Scott — called on Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina separately yesterday at her official residence at Minto Road.

The diplomats, during their discussions with Sheikh Hasina, expressed concern at the continued political impasse centring the caretaker government issue and stressed an early amicable settlement of the dispute, sources said.

The British High Commissioner was the first to see the Awami League chief at 10 am, followed by the Canadian High Commissioner at noon while the US Ambassador met Sheikh Hasina later.

Sheikh Hasina was assisted by her political adviser S A M S Kibria and party leaders Tofael Ahmed and Abul Hasan Chowdhury during her meetings with the diplomats.

Top AL leaders remained tight-lipped about Hasina's talks with the envoys.

According to sources close to Opposition camp, the diplomats underscored the need for immediate resolution of the crisis by narrowing down the gap between the two sides — the government and the Opposition. The envoys reportedly mentioned that the political leaders of Bangladesh would be blamed if they failed to resolve the crisis through dialogue. They emphasised the need for maintaining congenial atmosphere for attracting more foreign investment in the country.

The Leader of the Opposition agreed in principle with the diplomats and said that the demand for holding general elections under a neutral caretaker government is aimed at ensuring peace and political stability for speedy economic development.

The merits of the Opposition's latest proposal were also explained to the diplomats, the sources said.

Meanwhile, news agencies quoting unspecified sources said last night that the envoys, See Page 12 Col 2



Four Indian Tamils carrying fake Bangladeshi passports were arrested at the Zia International Airport yesterday. —Star photo

## Palestinian police fire on Hamas activists: 10 die

GAZA CITY, Nov 18: Palestinian police opened fire on a crowd of unruly Islamic militants and worshippers outside a mosque today. Ten civilians and a policeman were killed and at least 160 were wounded in rioting, reports AP.

The clash was the most serious confrontation between militants and the self-rule administration of Yasser Arafat since autonomy was established in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho in May.

Tensions have been fed by a series of suicide bombings and other fatal attacks on Israelis by Islamic militants that have threatened the expansion of autonomy throughout the West Bank.

A curfew was imposed in part of Gaza City and seven truckloads of detainees were sent heading for the central jail. Police sources said about 300 Islamic militants were detained, and street fighting continued past nightfall.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat summoned his top security advisors. Aides said he blamed fundamentalists who oppose his peacemaking with Israel. At his seaside headquarters, distant gunfire could be heard in late afternoon.

Police had been stationed outside the mosque in response to reports that Hamas planned a large rally. The shooting started when Islamic militants pelted police with bottles and rocks, and about 6,000 worshippers poured out of the Palestine Mosque afternoon prayers, witnesses said. A riot followed.

A police statement to The Associated Press said the crowd of worshippers had been incited to riot and that Islamic activists "opened fire suddenly at some of our forces and burned two vehicles." There was no witness confirmation of Islamic activists opening fire at the mosque although three or four militants could be seen carrying pistols.

Hospital officials said seven civilians were killed in the rioting, and a police statement said a Palestinian officer also was killed. More than 100 people were wounded in the rioting, including at least 10 policemen, the police statement said. Members of the militant group Hamas burned two police cars and a military truck.

Police said the Hamas rally had been planned in defiance of Arafat's orders. Militants in See Page 12 Col 8

## 4 Tamils held at ZIA with fake passports

Immigration authorities detained four foreign nationals at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) yesterday, reports UNB.

The foreigners identified as Indian nationals arrived by a Singapore Airlines flight from Singapore at 4:45 pm bearing Bangladeshi passports.

Immigration personnel held the fake Bangladeshis as they failed to reply to their queries in Bengali.

A brief interrogation revealed that they were Indian citizens hailing from Tamil Nadu.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Arrested Indians placed on police remand

**By Staff Correspondent**

The two Indians arrested Thursday for their bid to enter the Sangsad Bhaban with a dagger were placed on police remand for one day for questioning.

The arrested Meena Malik, 18, and her maternal uncle Ashfaq Hossain, 40, — were produced before a metropolitan magistrate yesterday. See Page 12 Col 8

## Peasants' agony mounts as lathials out for harvest

**Star Report**

The lathials looted crops worth crores of Taka and set fire to dwellings, rendering poor peasants homeless.

Among the victims, 50 were killed in the chars along the common borders of three districts — Bhola, Barisal and Laxmipur alone.

The clashes and violence over the harvested crops occur mainly due to disputes over the ownership of newly-accreted land.

Such ownership disputes are usually triangular tussles. The most powerful actors are the relatively affluent jotedars who claim the land by right of inheritance. Their claims are often challenged by rival landlords holding some contrived or forged documents. The See Page 12 Col 4

With the harvesting of Aman crop having just begun across the country the small farmers of the coastal region are passing their days and nights in agonising tension.

The farmers in the char (accreted land along river banks) areas of Bhola, Barisal, Bogura, Patuakhali, Pirojpur, Noakhali and Laxmipur districts are now apprehensive of the onslaught of the lathials — the stick-wielding musclemen or land grabbers.

The jotedars (landlords) hire these professional lathials or mercenaries to snatch the harvested paddy from the poor farmers.

Reports reaching Dhaka from the coastal districts say that the lathials all over the char areas are readying their bamboo sticks, often mounted with spearheads, to swoop on the farmers. Movements of such hirelings, many of them carrying firearms are also becoming increasingly visible lately.

The terror unleashed on the poor farmers by the lathials is an age-old feature in the coastal regions. Looting of harvested crop, arson, torture and killing of local inhabitants have been continuing for a long time. But over the past several years such incidents have been occurring with ominous regularity.

According to information gathered from the coastal region, such violence in the char areas has claimed over 100 lives leaving thousands injured during the last three years.

## 6 killed in city road mishaps

**By DMCH Correspondent**

Six people were killed and a minor boy was injured in six road accidents in and around the city yesterday.

A woman was killed and her son seriously injured when a speeding Dhaka-bound minibus knocked them down at Khilkhet under Cantonment Police Station at about 7 am yesterday.

The victim Fatema Begum, 24, was declared dead after she had been taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while her son Bipul, 7 was admitted to the DMCH in a critical condition.

Police arrested the driver Mohammad Sayeed, 30, and seized the vehicle.

In another road accident a 35-year-old man was killed when a minibus ran over him in front of the Shishu Park at Shabbagh at about 10:35 am yesterday.

The victim who could not See Page 12 Col 6

## JU students leave campus fearing fresh violence

**By JU Correspondent**

Many resident students of the Jahangirnagar University left the campus last night apprehending renewed clashes between rival factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD).

Tension mounted on the campus last night when a large group of people from the nearby villages marched into the campus chanting slogans against campus terrorism.

The villagers abused the inmates of the Bhashani Hall and left the campus at around 10 pm.

A faction of JCD, known as 'locals', seriously injured two rival JCD activists — Golam Sarwar and Shawkat Kabir — Tuesday last.

All the five residential halls of the university were being guarded by armed activists of different student organisations.

## Missile, napalm bomb attack on Bihac

SARAJEVO, Nov 18: Serb aircraft launched a missile and cluster bomb attack on the Muslim held town of Bihac in northwestern Bosnia today, according to UN officials and Bosnian media reports, says Reuter.

UN spokesman Colonel Jan Dirk Merveldt said two jets, believed to be of the orao (eagle) type, had been spotted flying at a height of 200 metres over Bihac.

One fired a missile and UN military observers (UNMOs) found evidence that napalm and cluster bombs had been used, but the UN said no casualties had been caused.

"UNMOs on the ground found fragments of napalm and cluster bomb weapons within the safe area," UN spokesman Paul Risley said. "There were no casualties."

The UN has threatened to call in NATO air power if the UN-declared "safe area" of Bihac is attacked.

Risley said: "We made it clear yesterday an attack on a safe haven would lead to serious consequences."

**SARAJEVO, Nov 18: The Bosnian federation assembly building in Sarajevo was hit by a wire-guided missile today. The building's glass facade disintegrated in the explosion. A second missile missed its target and landed near a school without exploding, witnesses and police said, reports Reuter.**

inevitably to the use of NATO air power.

NATO, however, said it could not confirm reports of the raid. "I am not denying the attack took place, but the data we have collected with radar from the air has not determined that the attack took place."

Western military sources said the Serb aircraft were able to slip away after the attack because NATO, which has expended huge resources on enforcing a no-fly zone over Bosnia, did not have a patrol in the area.

The incident was being seen as a major embarrassment for the NATO alliance, the sources said.

The last air attack on Bihac, on November 9, in which an ammunition dump was destroyed, was carried out by a Serb orao jet, a ground attack aircraft built in a Yugoslav-Romanian joint venture.

Like the November 9 raid, the jets that attacked on Friday were reported to have flown in from an airport in Serb-held Croatia. NATO and Croatia are still discussing the extension See Page 12 Col 7

## Nepalese CP set to form coalition govt

KATHMANDU, Nov 18: A communist alliance consolidated its lead today, bagging 84 of the 169 seats for which results were declared, moving closer to becoming the single largest party in parliament and forming a coalition government in Nepal, reports AP.

The governing Nepali Congress party was trailing with 61 seats and the pro-marchy National Democratic Party had bagged 16. The remaining seats were shared by independents and a smaller party.

The communists appear to have appealed to the many poor people in Nepal by promising land reforms that would fix a limit on the amount of land a Nepali can own. Any one owning more than that would lose it to peasants.

The Communists held 82 seats in the dissolved parliament and the Nepali Congress 114. They need 19 more seats to win a majority.

But results for 33 seats would not be known until next week because the Election Commission has ordered new voting at 64 polling stations where violence marred the first ballot on Tuesday.

"The leftist alliance will have a majority in Parliament and we will form the government," Madhav Kumar, secretary-general of the Communist Party of Nepal (Marxist-Leninist) said. See Page 12 Col 7



A fire broke out in two large country boats carrying jute bales close to Baushia ghat near the Meghna-Gumti Bridge yesterday evening. —Star photo

## LTTE to resume attacks on military targets

COLOMBO, Nov 18: Tamil rebels Friday asked its guerrillas to resume attacks on military targets, ending an unilateral cease-fire they had ordered less than a week back, military officials said, reports AP.

The rebels had announced a cease-fire Saturday after Sri Lanka's new President Chandrika Kumaratunga said she would continue peace talks to end an 11-year ethnic war that has killed 34,000 people.

On Friday, rebel leaders said they were abandoning the cease-fire because government troops had continued attacks in the rebel held northern and eastern areas, military officials, who intercepted rebel messages, said on condition of anonymity.

There were no immediate reports of attacks by the Tamil Tiger guerrillas after the cease-fire was called off.

On Thursday, the rebels indicated their unhappiness over the government's failure to respond to its cease-fire and accused the navy of killing at least four Tamil fishermen.

"Even though our cease-fire is in operation the government under the leadership of President Chandrika Kumaratunga has continued its attacks," rebels said Thursday over their clandestine radio.

The rebels had not launched any attacks since Saturday when military intelligence intercepted a message from Tiger chief Velupillai Prabhakaran ordering rebels to retaliate only if attacked.

They have accused the navy of killing three Tamil fishermen Wednesday by naval gunboats at Arrippukadal 230 kilometers (142 miles) north of Colombo.

## Nazmul Huda's letter to The Daily Star

The following handwritten letter signed by Nazmul Huda, MP, was hand delivered to The Daily Star office last evening contradicting our story appearing on November 17, which said Nazmul Huda was seeking meetings with western diplomats.

We publish below the unedited relevant text along with our reply:

The news item published in your esteemed Daily on 17th Nov 94, under the caption "Huda seeks meetings with Western Envoys" is absolutely false, baseless, concocted and has been published with an ulterior purpose of shunning my reputation in the esteem of the right thinking people of the society. I demand an unconditional apology and call upon you to publish the same with this rejoinder."

We stand by our story.  
—The Daily Star

## China ready for unification talks with Taiwan

JAKARTA, Nov 18: China said today it was willing to hold high-level reunification talks with Taiwan as long as they did not take place in an international arena, reports Reuter.

"We believe that high-level meetings are conducive to the peaceful reunification of China," President Jiang Zemin's spokesman said when asked if Jiang was willing to meet Taiwanese President Lee Teng-Hui.

However, we believe this is a matter for the Chinese people themselves and arrangements should be made through diplomatic channels," said the spokesman, Chen Jian.

He briefed reporters after Jiang met Indonesia's staunch anti-communist president Suharto on Friday for talks focusing on economic cooperation between two of Asia's biggest economies.

Chen said the two men did not discuss Suharto's meeting with Lee on the resort island of Bali during Lee's southeast Asian tour in February.

Beijing expressed displeasure over the Taiwanese leader's "holiday diplomacy" and had tried to stop the tour by issuing warnings to the three countries on his itinerary — the Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand.

But China has had better success in preventing Lee from representing Taiwan at international events.

## UP member killed in Sylhet

**From Staff Correspondent**

SYLHET, Nov 18: Unidentified assailants killed a UP member in Golapganj thana yesterday.

The body of Nantu Chandra Paul, 45, was recovered by police some two kilometers off his village home on the Sythet-Zakiganj road. The body bore a number of wounds.

The victim, a member of Fulbari Union hails from village Haripur Patpara.

Golapganj police sent the body to the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College Hospital for autopsy.