



From U. K

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NEWS BRIEFS

ALWC meets
today

An emergency meeting of the Awami League Working Committee will be held today at 10 am at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament. Party chief Sheikh Hasina will preside, reports UNB.

Janaza for Walie
Ashraf today

The namaz-e-janaza for ATM Walie Ashraf, MP will be held at the BNP central office premises today at 9:30 am. BNP secretary general and LGRD and Co-operatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder has requested the leaders and workers of the party and its front organisations to attend the janaza, reports BSS.

Finnish envoy
meets Hasina

Finnish Ambassador in Bangladesh MS Marjatta Rasi paid a courtesy call on Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at her Minto Road Official residence yesterday, reports UNB.

One more Bill
placed in JS

Deputy Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Abdul Hye yesterday introduced the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (amendment) Bill, 1994, at the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

Adulterated liquor
kills 50 in Bihar

NEW DELHI, Nov 20: Adulterated liquor has killed nearly 50 people in the north Indian state of Bihar, domestic news agencies reported today. reports Reuter.

The Daily Star

Ninian expresses disappointment

By Staff Correspondent

Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen yesterday declared the talks process as a failure and warned against violence for achieving political ends.

"I was so eager to ensure the success of my mission and am so disappointed that I have not succeeded in doing so," Sir Ninian said.

Addressing a crowded press conference at the state guest house Padma yesterday morning, Sir Ninian said that when there seemed to be no agreement arising out of the dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition, he had himself put forward proposals which he thought would permit the resolution of the current impasse.

By Staff Correspondent
Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku is likely to visit Dhaka shortly to meet political leaders here to get a first hand account of the dialogue process that had failed as stated by his emissary Sir Ninian Stephen, a diplomatic source hinted yesterday.

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my proposals will remain on the table and that both parties will, in time, feel able to return to them."

The Commonwealth emissary read out a three-page typed statement and declined to answer any questions from newsmen.

At the beginning of the statement, Sir Ninian said that he and Lady Ninian would be leaving Bangladesh soon and that he would be making a full written report to the Commonwealth Secretary General.

"Unfortunately, barring unforeseen and unlikely developments in the next 24 hours, I will not be able to report a successful outcome to my mission."

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BNP blames Opposition for creating crisis

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leader and Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said the government-Opposition dialogue was over.

Chowdhury, the BNP spokesman in the dialogue, blamed the Opposition for creating the political crisis by first raising an unconstitutional demand for holding elections under a non-partisan government and then turning the dialogue into a futile exercise by rigidly sticking to their original position until the very end.

The BNP leader, however, said that despite its apparent failure, the talks could be revived again if good sense prevailed in the Opposition camp.

Prof Chowdhury, along with his colleagues in the negotiating team, made these observations yesterday evening while

briefing newsmen at his Parliament chamber on the outcome of the Commonwealth-brokered dialogue.

The copies of all the three proposals put forward by the ruling BNP to the Opposition through the Commonwealth Secretary General's envoy Sir Ninian Stephen between October 29 and November 17 to resolve the political impasse were released to the newsmen yesterday.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Communications Minister Col (retd) Oli Ahmed and Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain were present to assist the Deputy Leader of the House.

"We are feeling very comfortable because today we can

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**Ninian's
Proposal**

Following is the full text of the proposal made by Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen to the government and the Opposition:

A. The Leaders shall agree that:

1. Forty-five days before the expiry of the fifth Parliament by effluxion of time, the incumbent Prime Minister shall:

(a) Procure the resignations of all ministers;

(b) select in their place nine Members of Parliament for appointment by the President to Cabinet as ministers without portfolio, four to be nominated by her and five by the leader of the Opposition.

2. The Prime Minister shall

thereafter until the expiry of the fifth Parliament only exercise the executive power of the

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Business leaders' call to continue dialogue

Staff Correspondent

The country's business leaders yesterday expressed concern at the failure of the Commonwealth-brokered talks and requested both the government and the Opposition to continue the dialogue process.

Salman F. Rahman, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), while giving his reactions to The Daily Star last night on the reported failure of talks, said, "It is very, very disheartening and a cause of serious concern to the business community".

The political situation is now very uncertain, he said and appealed to the government and the Opposition to continue the dialogue for the greater interest of the country.

When asked if the business community can come forward with a helping hand for resuming and mediating the dialogue, Salman Rahman said if both the parties feel the need "of course, we can do it."

Otherwise, the business leaders can merely request the political parties to resolve the crisis, they cannot volunteer to mediate, he added.

President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) Latifur Rahman said his initial reaction was one of disappointment.

"One has to remember that our people have always shown good sense at times of crises. I

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Shocked public still hopeful

Star Report

Surprise, disappointment and guarded optimism reigned equally in the minds of the people as Commonwealth envoy Sir Ninian Stephen left behind a collapsed government-Opposition dialogue.

The money-wise Motijheel area, Paltan's political pavement and the scholarly staff rooms of the Dhaka University yesterday echoed with speculations and gossip on what could be the possible consequences of the failed talks of the country's politics, economy or on the lives of the ordinary people.

Many felt the failure was a blot on the country's image as an emerging democratic society.

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Jamaat asks govt to concede to demand

Jamaat-e-Islami leader Abbas Ali Khan yesterday urged the government to concede to the Opposition's demand for a caretaker government to save the country from further crisis, reports UNB.

Addressing a rally at the north gate of Baitul Mukarram mosque, he said the government should give up its "arrogant and impulsive attitude" and instead work for the welfare of the people.

The Jamaat leader warned

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Clash leaves 11 hurt at BAU

From Our Correspondent

MYMENSINGH, Nov 20: At least 11 people were injured when youths of two villages near the Bangladesh Agricultural University clashed last night. The clash followed a quarrel between two groups at the University auditorium on Friday.

Two persons, Babu and Bonhi were arrested. Some 30 rounds of gun shots were fired and 50 crackers blasted during the clash that began at 9 pm yesterday.

The warring groups also

ransacked several shops.

Bangladeshi troops in Bihac on safety alert

SARAJEVO, Nov 20: The Bangladeshi troops in Bihac were put on safety alert after vehicles belonging to UN military observers were damaged during the air raids by the Bosnian Serbs last night, reports Reuter.

The Bangladeshi now virtually unable to defend themselves were rushed to Bihac without proper equipment during the autumn when French peacekeepers with whom they are armed with rifles

They have been exposed by the refusal of commanders of the United Nations Protection Force to confront a Serb blockade preventing vital equipment reaching them.

Bihac is being attacked by Serb forces from Bosnia and neighbouring Croatia and by rebel Muslim troops opposed

to the Muslim-led government in Sarajevo.

The Bangladeshi were restricting their movements to a minimum with fighting raging around the northern Bihac town of Velika Kladusa and the

ZAGREB, Nov 20: Bosnian Serbs and Croatian Serbs from the neighbouring Krajina region have been raining shells on Bihac town, in the UN-mandated Bihac safe area, "without a break since Sunday morning," AFP quoting local Bihac press agency reports said.

Western Front

Mireveld said the morale of the Bosnian government army's 5th corps which is defending Bihac was high but that a joint force of Serb and rebel Muslim troops was likely to ad-

vance further during the next 24 hours.

The commander of peacekeeping troops in Bihac today demanded urgent UN action to protect the Muslim enclave after two Serb air raids and

hac and Cazin "cannot be tolerated."

UN headquarters in Sarajevo said Lemieu spoke out as civilians in Bihac turned on UN peacekeepers after an air raid on Saturday when an attacking Serb warplane crashed into a block of flats wounding at least nine people. The pilot died.

The UN security council late on Saturday authorised NATO air strikes against the Serbs operating from Udbina airfield in captured Croatian territory neighbouring Bosnia.

NATO later endorsed the UN decision to authorise air strikes.

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Armed Forces Day today

The Armed Forces Day will be observed today with due solemnity and enthusiasm, reports UNB.

The day's programmes began with the offering of special prayers after the Fazr prayers in all mosques of army garrisons, naval ships and establishments throughout the country.

In Dhaka, President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister and Defence Minister Begum Khaleida Zia, Chief of Army Staff Lt General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Moinul Islam and Chief of the Air Staff Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury will place wreaths separately at the Shikha Anbaran (the Eternal Flame) to pay homage to the members of the Armed Forces who had embraced martyrdom in the 1971 War of Liberation.

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Hasina blames BNP for failed dialogue

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the dialogue failed to deliver result as the government insisted on holding election keeping the incumbent Prime Minister in power, reports UNB.

"Our proposal was clear—a non-party neutral personality will head the caretaker government while the BNP wanted a partisan personality, the incumbent Prime Minister as the head," she said.

The Awami League President made the remarks while speaking at an installation ceremony of the Lions Club of Dhaka New Market at a city hotel last night.

Defending her demand for a non-party caretaker government, Hasina said people's voting rights can be exercised independently and safely only under such a government.

She also narrated how the

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Five killed in Khulna road mishap

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 20: Five persons were killed and eleven others injured in a road accident at Alipur today.

The mishap occurred when a Mongla port-bound Tempo collided with a Rupshahar-bound passenger bus at Alipur under Rupsa, Rupsa under Rupsa from here.

The dead include the driver of Tempo (Ctg Metro-Pa 1104) Lablu Shaikh (30) and four passengers of the vehicle. One of them, Haripada Das, is a high school teacher while the other is Kawser Ali. Two of the deceased could not be identified. The injured persons were admitted to Sadar hospital.