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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.

He also disclosed that one of the parties — the government side — had indicated its willingness to accept his proposals and said: "I hope that 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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An otherwise disappointed Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen (L) tries to put on a brave face at yesterday's press conference at the state guest house Padma. — Star photo

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 pointsman 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.

LGRO and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Communications Minister Col (ret'd) 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 State.

See Page 12 Col 4

Diplomats concerned

By M Anwarul Haq

A ripple of shock mixed with concern gripped the diplomatic community in Dhaka yesterday as news spread about the failure of Sir Ninian Stephen's facilitatory role in solving the political impasse in the country.

British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler echoed the feelings of many other Western diplomats, contacted yesterday by this correspondent for their reactions, when he said, "This is a sad moment indeed."

The envoy said, "A democratic society has to thrive by discussion, by compromise and a sense of understanding. Let us hope the impasse is resolved through discussions. Bangladeshis should attempt to solve the issues themselves."

Asked if he was optimistic about a negotiated settlement, the career diplomat replied,

See Page 12 Col 6

Opposition to go for mass agitation

By Staff Correspondent

Nasim told a crowded news conference at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday evening: The talks had failed because of the ruling party's obstinate attitude towards the spirit of the Opposition demand for holding national polls under a non-partisan caretaker government. We did not want to share power in the interim cabinet, rather we wanted the creation of an institution to ensure that the people could exercise their franchise in a free and fair atmosphere.

The Opposition also denied Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen's statement that he had put forward a plan for fruitful negotiation between the country's conflicting political camps.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Mohammad

See Page 12 Col 1

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 Fajr prayers in all mosques of army garrisons, naval ships and establishments, and airforce bases throughout the country.

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

See Page 12 Col 1

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

See Page 12 Col 7



Aishwarya Rai, 21, of India poses for photographers after the Miss World crowning ceremony in Sun City, the casino resort in northern South Africa late Saturday. She beat 86 contestants. — AFP photo

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 disappointment.

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

See Page 12 Col 8

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.

See Page 12 Col 3

Two JCD activists shot dead in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 20: Two activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) were killed and 12 others injured in an armed attack by a group of unidentified assailants at Chittagong Polytechnic Institute this morning, witnesses and police said.

Those killed were identified as Jamir Uddin (23), General Secretary of the Students Union of the institute and Jahangir Farid (20), convener of JCD, institute unit.

The injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and various clinics in the city. Two of them with bullet wounds were stated to be in critical condition.

Witnesses said the assailants entered the Polytechnic Institute campus by a microbus at 11 am and opened fire on the JCD activists there. They fled the spot immediately.

JCD leaders termed the attack a pre-planned one and blamed the activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir for this. Shibir denied the allegation.

The incident created tension in the port city. Demonstrations were staged by the supporters of JCD.

A section of the demonstrators went on rampage at different places in the city and See Page 12 Col 6

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 Alaiapur today.

The mishap occurred when a Mongla port-bound Tempo collided with a Rupshaghat-bound passenger bus at Alaiapur under Rupsa thana, four kilometres 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 Kawsar Ali. Two of the deceased could not be identified. The injured persons were admitted to Sadar hospital.

Eyewitnesses said the accident happened when the driver of the Rupsa-bound bus failed to control the vehicle.

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 LGRO 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.

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 Reuters.

UN spokesman Jan Dirk Mireveldt admitted there was major concern for more than 1,000 Bangladeshis marooned in the enclave without medical supplies. Only a quarter of them are armed with rifles.

The situation in Bihac considerably worsened in the last 24 hours, Mireveldt said. The safety of Bangladeshi battalion was under threat due to the annoyance of the local population at the ineffectiveness and inactivity of (peacekeepers).

The Bangladeshis now virtually unable to defend themselves, were rushed to Bihac without proper equipment during the autumn when French peacekeepers withdrew hurriedly.

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

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গাছ লাগান পরিবেশ বাঁচান

বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়

কয়লা পরিদপ্তর (বিলুপ্ত) বিলুপ্তিকরণ সেল

৪৮, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা, ঢাকা।

নং কনি/কয়লা বিক্রয়/৭৪৮/৭৪৩-৩/৯৪/৪৫১ তারিখ: ৯/৮/৯০১ বাং ২০/১১/১৯৯৪ইং

কয়লা বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তির সংশোধনী

গত ১৮-১১-৯৪ইং তারিখে দৈনিক জনকণ্ঠ, ডেইলী স্টার ও দৈনিক ইনকিলাব, ১৯-১১-৯৪ইং তারিখে দৈনিক ইত্তেফাক এবং ২০-১১-৯৪ইং তারিখে দৈনিক সংবাদ, দৈনিক বাংলা ও বাংলাদেশ অবজারভার পত্রিকায় প্রকাশিত কয়লা বিক্রয়ের দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং কনি/কয়লা বিক্রয়/৭৪৮/৭৪৩-৩/৯৪/৪৩০ তারিখ: ১৭-১১-৯৪ইং এর আংশিক সংশোধনক্রমে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, দরপত্র তফসিল নারায়ণগঞ্জ জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয় হইতেও আগামীকাল ২২-১১-৯৪ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে এবং আগামী ২৩-১১-৯৪ইং তারিখে সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকা হইতে দুপুর ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত উক্ত জেলা প্রশাসকের কার্যালয়ে রকিত টেন্ডার ব্যাল্ডেও দরপত্র দাখিল করা যাইবে। উক্ত দিন বেলা ১২-৩০ ঘটিকার দরপত্রদাতাদের উপস্থিতিতে (যদি কেউ উপস্থিত থাকেন) উক্ত টেন্ডার ব্যাল্ড এবং অত্র সেলে রকিত টেন্ডার ব্যাল্ড খোলা হইবে।

এম, শহিদউল্লাহ
সেল প্রধান
ও
আহবায়ক, টেন্ডার কমিটি।
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