



Inside Today

Article

It's Chavan
against PilotColumn: Between the
Lines

by Kuldip Nayar

Page 4

International

Rallies banned in
NagpurWoman suicide bomber
liable for Dissanayaka's
killing

Page 5

Business

Delhi offers Dhaka co-
operation in small-scale
industriesOPEC output freeze
unlikely to boost
oil prices

Pages 6, 7

Weekend
MagazinePropagating the lan-
guage you didn't know,
you knew; What is pro-
gress? Asian diary; The
sacred world of hunt-
ing; a promising and
praiseworthy painter;
and Viewing video
Pages 9, 10 and 11

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Pin-pointing Social Evi-
lils through Cartoons
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

PM returns

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returned home last night concluding her two-day official visit to the Indian Ocean-island-state of Maldives. Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, other members of the cabinet and senior civil and military officials were present at the Zia International Airport to receive the Prime Minister, reports UNB.

Three Sarbaharamen
held in Barisal

BARISAL, Nov 24: Police today arrested three members of the outlawed Sarbaharamen Party from Jangalia village in Mehdiganj thana of the district. They are Rafiqul Islam, 23, Motiuddin Mazi, 28, and Nurunnabi, 30. On a tip-off, police raided the village and nabbed the suspected outlaws at about 9:30 am. Police said they were involved in various crimes like murder, kidnap, extortion of money and terrorism, reports UNB.

JCD activist
stabbed

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 24: An activist of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Faisal Ahmed, 20, was stabbed at Mirjajangal here this afternoon. A 2nd year student of the MC College, Faisal was called out of his residence by a group of young men who later stabbed him severely. He has been admitted to a clinic. Police confirmed the incident but none has yet been arrested.

Mushfiqur Rahman
World Bank AED

By Staff Correspondent

Mushfiqur Rahman, Member, Planning Commission, has been appointed as the Alternate Executive Director of the World Bank for a three year term. He leaves Dhaka today to take up his new assignment with effect from December 1. Mushfiqur Rahman would replace Abu Sayeed who has completed his tenure.

Convoy with aid for troops enters Bihac

ZAGREB, Nov 24: A UN aid convoy arrived in the embattled Bihac enclave today bringing aid to more than 1,000 besieged Bangladeshi peacekeepers, UN spokeswoman Claire Grimes said, reports AFP.

Grimes said the convoy had entered the northwest Bosnian Bihac pocket and was still some 50 kilometers from Bihac town. The United Nations has been unable to supply the Bangladeshi troops since they arrived about a month ago.

Earlier Michael Williams, spokesman for UN envoy Yasushi Akashi, said the 10-vehicle convoy — mostly armoured personnel carriers — had left from the Croatian city

of Topusko en route to the Muslim-held enclave, where more than 1,000 Bangladeshi UN peacekeepers trapped by fighting are desperately short of supplies.

Williams said the convoy

BRUSSELS, Nov 24: NATO failed to endorse a detailed US plan to save Bihac from falling into Serb hands but sent the plan to the United Nations, reports Reuters.

was carrying 'urgently needed' resources, fuel and winter supplies.

Akashi said Croatian Serb separatist leader Milan Martic had agreed to allow convoys to resupply 1,200 UN Bangladeshi troops in the Bihac area during talks in Belgrade Wed-

nesday.

Meanwhile, Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic said there was heavy fighting around Bihac today and government forces lost high ground near the town to attacking Serb forces.

Silajdzic told Reuters that the Serbs had offered a ceasefire only as a means of buying time and he appealed to NATO to intervene to stop Serb attacks on the town.

Akashi had offered to arrange a Bihac ceasefire and

See Page 12 Col 6

Young Muslim girls from the east side of Mostar city say their evening prayers Wednesday in a mosque damaged in the Bosnian fighting.



— AFP photo

Ninian had no partisan role, says Emeka

ISLAMABAD, Nov 24: Commonwealth Secretary-General Chief Emeka Anyaoku said today his envoy had not been partisan in mediating an end to Bangladesh's political crisis and said he might go there personally to revive the mission, reports Reuters.

The Bangladesh political Opposition made the charge of partisanship in a letter to Anyaoku on Tuesday after special envoy Sir Ninian Stephen ended his mission without achieving a political dialogue between the government and Opposition.

Anyaoku told a news conference Stephen had been in touch with him during his mission and 'at no point did I have reason to think that he deviated from the strict path of impartiality and the extreme concern with what would help Bangladesh, and the parties concerned'.

He said all the Bangladeshi parties, including the Opposi-

tion, had cooperated with Stephen and he was sorry to hear the charge of partiality.

Anyaoku was in Islamabad to attend three-day Commonwealth senior officials' meeting that ended today. He said he had no plans to go to Dhaka for at least the next 10 days and had not received an invitation from the Bangladeshi government. But he said he would not rule out the possibility of going there later. The Commonwealth will not turn its back on Bangladesh,' he said.

Stephen arrived in Dhaka on October 13 to try to mediate the dispute, in which the Opposition has demanded the government resign and hold fresh elections under a neutral caretaker administration.

The opposition parties have boycotted Parliament since February and held repeated strikes and street protests to back their demand, which Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has rejected as unconstitutional.

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