

ANNOUNCEMENT

Good news for readers.
Sixteen pages on
Fridays.

Starting today, in keeping with our constant endeavour to serve our readers better, the Friday issue of The Daily Star will consist of two separate eight-page sections — the news and the magazine.

The expanded magazine will also contain the popular RISING STARS, TEENS & TWENTIES and LIVING sections.

The price, however, will remain Taka 5.

— Management

Inside Today

Article

India Factor does Incite the Nepalese

Column: Between the Lines
by Kuldip Nayak

Page 4

International

Chechen capital bracing itself for imminent Russian invasion

British officials to sit with Sinn Fein next week
Page 5

Business

Traffic through Chittagong Port increases
Page 6

NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas assets to two Bills

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has assented to two Bills passed in Jatiya Sangsads, said an official press release yesterday. The Bills endorsed by the President Wednesday are The Acquisition and Requisition of Immovable Property (amendment) Bill 1994 and The Suppression of Terrorist Offences (Special Provision) Bill 1994, reports UNB.

PM to open seminar on 'safe motherhood'

A two-day national seminar on 'Safe Motherhood' will begin in the city tomorrow. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the seminar at the International Conference Centre (ICC). Executive Director of UN Population Fund Dr Nafis Sadik and representatives from Nepal and Bhutan will also join the conference, reports UNB.

Matin leaves for Myanmar

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury left Dhaka yesterday for Yangon, the capital of Myanmar on a three-day official visit. He is leading a six-member delegation. During his stay in Myanmar, the minister will meet his counterpart and sign agreement on mutual co-operation between Bangladesh and Myanmar for preventing illicit trafficking of narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and controlled precursors, reports UNB.

Lady commissioners of RCC take oath

RAJSHAHI, Dec 1: The six newly elected woman commissioners of the Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) were sworn in at a colourful ceremony today. Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu administered oath of the lady commissioners. They are Rehana Begum, Selina Khanam, Jahan Panna, Lila Arzumand Banu, Shahnaz Parveen Shaki and Nazma Beg, reports UNB.

Zedillo becomes Mexican president

MEXICO CITY, Dec 1: Ernesto Zedillo becomes president Thursday, promising profound political and legal reforms to match the market-opening that resulted in a free trade agreement with the United States and Canada, reports AP.

Officers assaulted, held hostage: 30 injured in clashes

Angry Ansars revolt

Ansars sepoys apparently rose in a revolt against their officers and regular staff to press for raise in pay and facilities, reports UNB.

Witnesses said constables both at the Shafipur Ansars Academy and the Ansars headquarters at Khilgaon in the city manhandled and drove out the officers and staffers.

Unconfirmed sources from Gazipur said at least 30 people, including Ansars, were injured, 19 of them seriously, in clashes between the civilian staffers and the protesters inside the academy.

Five Ansars officers have been kept captive inside the Khilgaon headquarters, said one of the constables guarding its gate, locked from inside. "We are ready to face any consequences," said the defiant member of Ansars, an auxiliary force which assists police to keep law and order.

The uniformed demonstrators also went on the rampage, shouting their demands in both the academy and head-

quarters areas, he told UNB reporters from outside the gate.

The rebellious Ansars personnel reportedly barred Director General Major General Badruzzaman and other high officials from entering the academy in the morning when they went there to attend an official function.

An official source said angry constables assaulted and drove out other civilian staff from the academy and blocked the highway nearby, disrupting traffic. They reportedly also set ablaze eight motor-cycles and damaged several other vehicles on the Dhaka-Tangail road.

A Home Ministry source said large contingents of police were reinforced at Shafipur and the paramilitary BDR was kept ready in the wake of the revolt by the Ansars constables.

The sepoys in the headquarters even clashed with local people at Khilgaon as the residents also brought out a procession demanding removal of the office from the residential area.

A home-made bomb hurled from outside exploded inside the Ansars headquarters premises during the melee. Tension gripped the Khilgaon area.

Earlier, in a leaflet the disgruntled constables announced their action programme and asked all their TVDOs, Circle Adjutants, Battalion Commanders, Deputy Directors serving in the battalion headquarters, different camps, the Ansars Academy and Khilgaon headquarters to leave their respective offices by December 5 and not to return until their de-

See Page 8 Col 7



Revolted constables guarding the main gate of the Ansars Headquarters at Khilgaon in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Police-examinees clash: 5 hurt in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 1: At least five persons received injuries when police baton-charged a group of unruly students at the Sunderban College here today.

Police also lobbed tear gas shells when attacked while preventing degree examinees from adopting unfair means at the English examination at the centre.

According to eye witnesses, brickbats were showered on the police who did not allow outsiders from sealing the walls of the college for supplying answers to the examinees.

Earlier, question papers were smuggled out of the centre by the candidates who reportedly roughed up some of the invigilators, said police.

The parties have asked for a schedule and we are trying to make it on December 4, said Rahman who extended the invitation to both the BNP and the Awami League earlier on November 27.

The BNP, however, was yet to see Page 8 Col 1

BNP-Opposition may meet FBCCI Dec 4

Rahman said the two sides Wednesday formally confirmed their readiness to join the tripartite dialogue.

At an emergency meeting at the Federation Bhaban yesterday afternoon, the FBCCI president apprised his executive committee members of the parties' willingness to sit with the business leaders.

The Awami League communicated the Federation that Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abus Samad Azad, party president's adviser S A M S Kibria, AL economic affairs secretary Ataur Rahman Kaisar and Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP would be attending the meeting.

Earlier co-accused Abul

Khair Litu's petition for quashing in the same case was rejected unanimously by the court this afternoon.

The BNP, however, was yet to see Page 8 Col 1

HC bench split over Moudud's quashment appeal

A High Court bench yesterday delivered a split judgement on a petition for quashment filed by Moudud Ahmed against the charged and proceedings in a corruption case, better known as the Holiday Inn Hotel Case, reports BSS.

Senior Judge of the bench Justice Naimuddin made the rule absolute, allowed the petition for quashing the proceedings against Moudud Ahmed while Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin rejected the petition and discharged the rule.

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KALMAKANDA (Netrokona), Dec 1: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said her government wants to firmly establish the voting rights of the people, reports UNB.

Introducing voters' identity cards will stop false voting and more powers to the Election Commission will enable it to hold free and fair polls, she said while explaining salient features of a Bill passed by Parliament on Wednesday.

Democracy will be strengthened, citizens' rights established and you will feel proud as citizens, she maintained at a huge rally at bordering Kalmakanda area this afternoon.

Begum Zia said the Finance Ministry pledges fund for ID cards

Opposition was invited to discuss the Bill in Parliament and give their suggestions for strengthening the electoral process, "but they did not listen to us."

The Prime Minister said the BNP is working for the welfare of the people and development of the country. She listed the development programmes of her government aimed at socio-economic emancipation of commonman.

Referring to local problems, Begum Zia said they would be solved in phases. She assured that the bridges at Kalmakanda and Dashdara will be constructed soon.

She also said that Kalmakanda-Durgapur and Lengabazar-Shiblibazar roads will be metalled very soon.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abus Salam Talukdar, Whip Abdul Karim and local leaders also addressed the function.

The Prime Minister later distributed cattle and poultry among distressed families of the area.

Our motive is not to remove anybody from power: Hasina

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the lust for power of an individual was leading the country towards confrontation, reports UNB.

The government is pushing the country towards anarchy ignoring the Opposition demand for a caretaker government to conduct national elections, she said addressing a spontaneous gathering at Mirpur in the capital where they went to the dais and set it on fire. At least ten persons received injuries, police said.

In an effort to heal the divisions, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher swung behind the European view that

See Page 8 Col 5

ID cards will put stop to false voting: PM

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See Page 8 Col 5

Opposition still undecided about date of submitting resignation

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition members of Parliament at a meeting yesterday discussed the probable date for giving an ultimatum regarding their resignation from the House but no date was fixed.

The opposition parties will again meet soon to fix the date, the sources said.

The parliamentary opposition parties' meeting, held at the Sangsab Bhaban in the evening, warned that any move to hold voterless by-elections would be foiled through a mass agitation.

Briefing newsmen on the outcome of the meeting, Chief Whip of the Opposition Moudud Nasim accused the ruling party of threatening the Opposition with confrontation and said "We will face them along with the people."

The government has totally blocked the way for the Opposition to return to Parliament by not introducing a bill for caretaker government in the current session," Nasim said.

Chaired by Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abus Samad Azad, the meeting said that the BNP government had not only ignored the Opposition demand for a caretaker government.

See Page 8 Col 4

Red star over the Himalayas

By Masud Hasan Khan back from Nepal

Nepalese people no longer wanted to see the four-year-old Nepali Congress (NC) government in power.

Still, they did not give a clear mandate to any of the parties — not even a minimum working majority of 108 seats. The CPN-UML commanded 88 seats in the 205-seat House of Representatives. The Congress bagged 83 seats while the Rashtriya Prajatantra Party (RPP) won in 20 seats.

It was the need for a change and giving a chance to the political parties that the people of the "India-locked" Himalayan kingdom had in their mind.

Why did this happen in Nepal — after all the fall of Communism across the world — and a country enjoying some political freedom wrest from the Panchayet system?

Guesses could fly in all directions. However, the election results showed that the



Mannan Adhikary

hard with its rival NC and RPP for major decisions in the House. The party has to chart its economic programme, foreign policy towards India and explain if it should pursue the secular line in the world's only Hindu state.

"Our efforts will be directed towards institutionalising the democratic process," Adhikary told reporters immediately after being appointed Prime Minister.

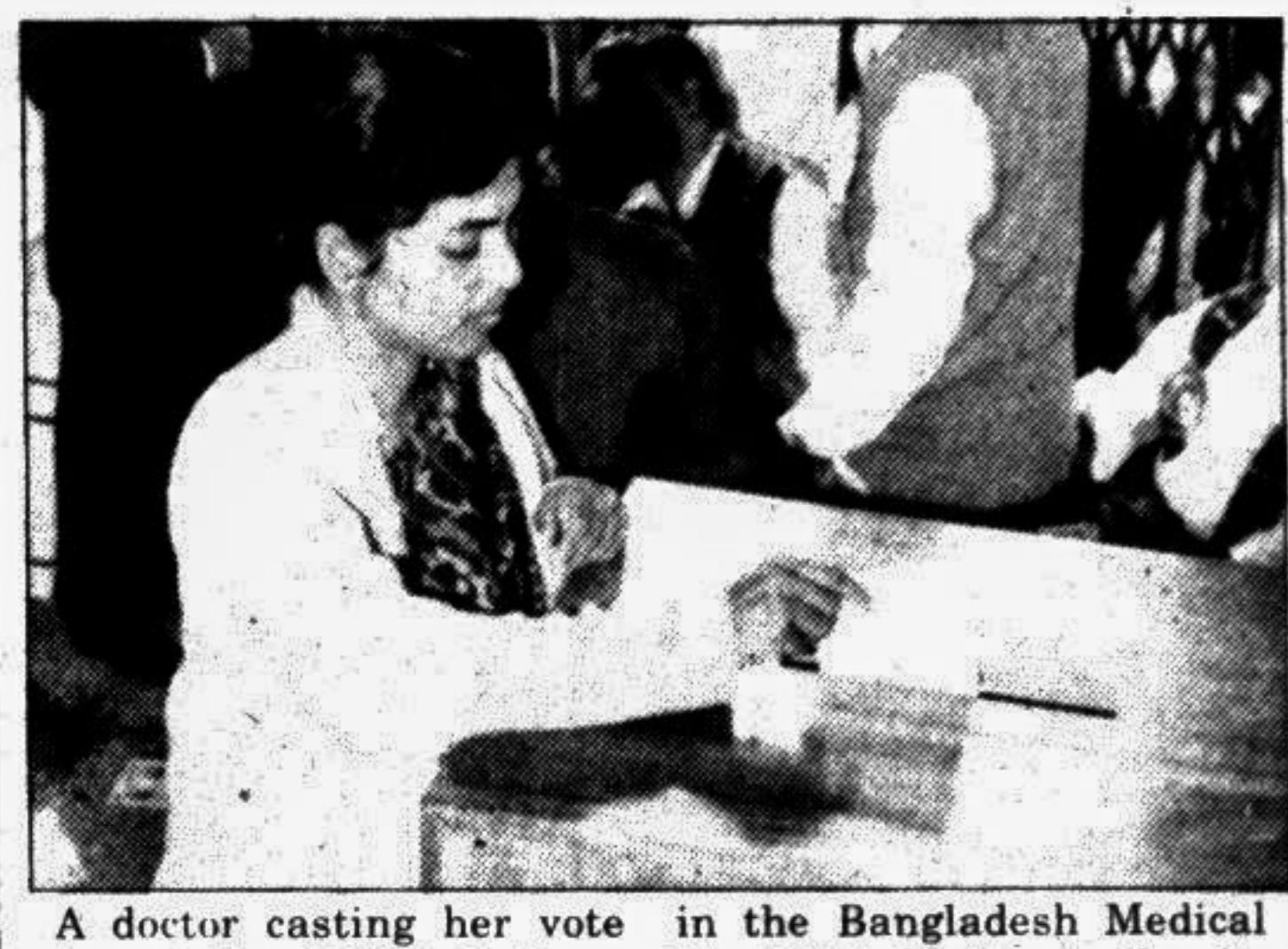
The 74-year-old communist, who has the hardened experience of a half century of revolutionary campaign against the monarchy and spent 17 years in jail, now describes himself and his party colleagues as social democrats and very much on the free market bandwagon. Esta-

See Page 8 Col 4

Another case filed with

Motijheel thana against a re-

See Page 8 Col 3



A doctor casting her vote in the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) elections at the BMA Bhaban in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Majed, Shahid leading in BMA polls

By Staff Correspondent

Prof M A Majed, presidential candidate