

Inside Today

Article

Things Change

Column: Enchiridion
 by Waliur Rahman
 Page 4

Focus

What do you want to be when you grow up; Hope replaces hate on the airwaves
 Page 5

International

Tamil Tigers poised to lose control of Jaffna Town

BJP describes govt bid to grant autonomy to Kashmir "Shocking"
 Page 8

Business

Slide in crop output worries scientists, WB mission chief tells seminar

Pak cotton farmers voice anger at govt mismanagement
 Pages 6,7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index	889.47 (+0.025%)
Market capital Tk	5692.11 cr
Transactions in volume	182706
Transactions in value Tk	3.63 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	427.98 (-0.677%)
Market capital Tk	2116.79 cr
Transactions in volume	2080
Transactions in value Tk	2.77 lakh

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Beautifying the Dhaka City
 Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Filipino minister due today

Minister for Education, Cultural and Sports Department of the Philippines Ricardo T Gloria arrives here today on a three-day official visit. During his stay here, T Gloria will call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas, reports UNB.

Hartal at Chhatak thana HQs today

From Staff Correspondent
 SYLHET, Nov 5: Down-to-Dusk hartal has been called at the thana headquarters of Chhatak tomorrow to press the demand for installation of a 1000-line NWD Telephone Exchange immediately. An action committee formed with the people from all walks of life called hartal. All political parties have supported the hartal.

Young woman commits suicide

From Our Correspondent
 KHULNA, Nov 5: A 22-year-old woman reportedly committed suicide at her residence by taking poison at Muggunni in the city this noon. The victim was identified as Lata she was rushed to the Khulna Medical College Hospital in a critical condition where she died at 3:30 pm. Police said she committed suicide after being refused by her boyfriend.

Newspaper holiday

All newspaper offices will remain closed on November 7 on account of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day, a press release of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad said yesterday, reports BSS.



THE LAST SPEECH: Rabin addressing the rally 'For Peace - Against Violence' attended by tens of thousands of Israelis at Tel Aviv Saturday — AFP/UNB photo

Peres takes over, vows to continue peace process

Rabin assassinated

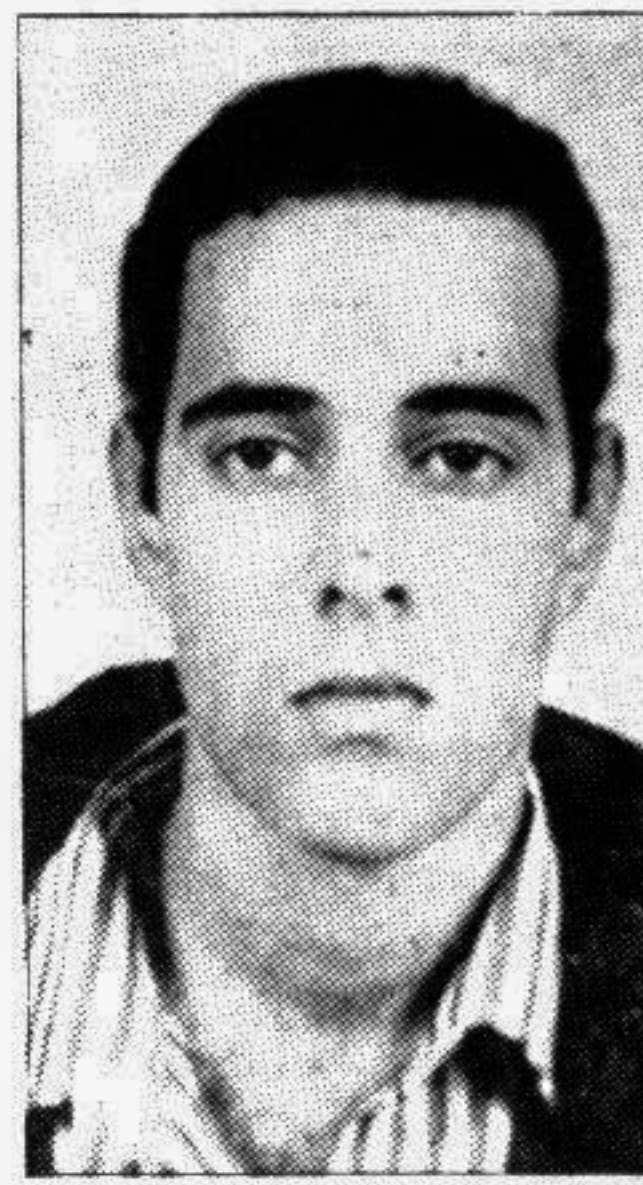
TEL AVIV, Nov 5: A lone Jewish gunman assassinated Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Saturday night as he left a huge peace rally in Tel Aviv. Stunned by the killing, Israel vowed to carry on working for Middle East peace, a pledge echoed by Western leaders who said this should be their testimony to Rabin. Police named the alleged killer as Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old Jew, who Israel radio said had confessed and told police: "I acted on God's orders and I have no regrets", reports Reuter.

Rabin, 73, a former general who shared a Nobel Peace Prize with his Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and PLO leader Yasser Arafat, died in a Tel Aviv Hospital after being shot in the spleen, spine and chest. He was pronounced dead at 11.10 pm (2110 GMT). Police said his alleged killer was a student at Tel Aviv's Bar-Ilan University — a stronghold of religious and right wing Jews identified with political groups opposed to Israel's peace agreements with the Palestinians. "I wanted to do it in the past but failed because the security was too good," army

radio quoted Amir as telling the police. "This time I succeeded."
 Rabin, unpopular with settlers and right-wing Israelis for agreeing to transfer authority to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, told 100,000 supporters at the rally — "I always believed that most of the people want peace and are ready to take a risk for it."
 Ninety minutes later he was dead, with one of the three bullets that hit him tearing through the words to the "song of peace" which he sang with supporters at the rally and which he had put in

Dhaka deplors killing

The Bangladesh government deplored the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and strongly condemned all cowardly acts of terrorism including political murder, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said in Dhaka last night, reports BSS.
 While expressing the deepest sympathy for the members of the bereaved family, the Bangladesh government unequivocally ex-



THE KILLER: Yigal Amir, 26, held on the spot. — AFP/UNB photo

PM has closed door for talks: Hasina

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Prime Minister has closed the door for talks and is pushing the country towards confrontation by calling for resistance against the opposition programmes, reports UNB.

"We wanted a solution of the present political crisis through discussion. And we requested the Prime Minister to create an environment for a dialogue by accepting in principle the demand for a neutral non-party caretaker government," she said.

Hasina said: "I did not give any pre-condition. I suggested that a specific agenda be fixed for the dialogue. Because a dialogue without any aim would not be fruitful."
 The Awami League chief was talking to the members of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA), who submitted a memorandum to her with an

Garments owners, exporters hold rally

Memos to PM, Hasina to 'save' industries

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association yesterday submitted separate memoranda to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and former opposition leader in the parliament Sheikh Hasina demanding immediate steps to protect the emerging garments sector from "ruination" due to the persisting political impasse.

The memoranda were submitted after a grand rally at the Pantha Path, in the city. Leaders of industries producing garments accessories and other export oriented sectors like handicrafts, corrugated carton and jute and leather goods also attended the rally.

At the rally BGMEA President Redwan Ahmed MP announced a day-long token hunger strike Thursday at the BGMEA office premises demanding immediate solution to the persisting political impasse.

'Resolve political impasse to safeguard democracy'

By Staff Correspondent
 Speakers at a seminar on "The present political situation: citizen's rights" in the city yesterday called upon the political parties to resolve the persisting political impasse to safeguard democracy and ensure citizen's rights. "Democracy can be firmly rooted only if citizen's rights are ensured," they observed at the seminar organised by the Bangladesh Nagorik Adhikar Parishad at the Jatiya Press Club.
 Chairman, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Rashed Maksud Khan, Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam, chief of Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) Burhan Ahmed and Fazlul Haq, General Secretary of the Parishad, addressed the seminar.
 Rashed Maksud urged the political parties to find an alternative to hartal that will not affect the country's economy. One day's hartal in the country causes a loss of Tk 350 crore, he claimed.
 Mahfuz Anam said, "People in our country do not exercise their rights as citizens, and as taxpayers as the democratic norms of protest are not practised."
 He said the positions of the BNP and the opposition parties are not as far apart as it appears publicly. Both sides more or less agree on a five plus five formula for an interim government to supervise the next elections. "What remains to be agreed is

Opposition's barricade programmes today

By Staff Correspondent
 The major opposition parties observe road, rail and waterway barricade programmes across the country today to press their demand for holding general elections under a non-party caretaker government.

The dawn-to-dusk programmes, to be observed separately by the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, begin at 6:00 am to stop traffic movement.

The activists of the parties will put up barricades at all the entry and exit points of the capital and stage sit-in on major city streets capital. Supporters of the AL, the JP and the Jamaat will stage day-long sit-in at different crossings obstructing movement.
 See Page 12 Col 8

PM addresses public meet at Chandpur Resist hartal, barricade

CHANDPUR, Nov 5: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today gave a clarion call to the people to build united resistance against hartal which 'causes immense suffering to commonman,' reports UNB.

"Now is time to build a mass resistance against those who are enforcing hartal and barricade as they impede the people who live from hand to mouth from earning their bread," she said.

The Prime Minister's call came on the eve of a countrywide dawn-to-dusk road-rail-waterway barricade the major opposition parties are set to enforce from tomorrow morning to press for general elections under a neutral caretaker government.
 Begum Zia was addressing a mammoth public meeting at Chandpur Stadium here in the afternoon.
 Amid cheers, slogans and repeated applause, she expressed her firm determination to continue the constitutional process at any cost.
 It is legitimate, the Prime Minister observed, to build resistance against those who keep the people hostage, halt rickshaws, close shops and deprive the day labourers of incomes in the name of establishing the right to food.
 "Now there is no alternative but to build resistance against those who do not even spare the people who live from hand to mouth," she said, adding "the opposition parties in the name of establishing people's right to food are leading their programmes to 'keep the people unfed.'"
 Begum Zia further called upon the people stand against all sorts of repression and illegal activities the Opposition is indulging in.
 She told the gathering that the Opposition was upset to see the country march



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia talking to members of the national football team at a welcome ceremony yesterday at the International Conference Centre in the city. The team that won International trophy in Yangon returned home last night. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

PM welcomes soccer team

The Bangladesh Football team which earned laurel for the first time from abroad was given a hearty welcome by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the international conference centre here yesterday, reports BSS.
 Immediately after arrival from Yangon at the Zia International Airport the players, coach and officials of the team were led straight to the conference centre. The Prime Minister extended her heartiest congratulations and good wishes to the players, coach and officials of the team and presented them with bouquets for their historic success in the four-nation football tournament in Yangon.
 The Prime Minister said the win had enhanced the image of the country abroad.
 See Page 12 Col 3

Saifur admits at workshop in city Privatisation of irrigation has failed to benefit farmers

By Staff Correspondent
 Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday criticised the outcome of reforms in agriculture sector, particularly privatisation of irrigation.
 Admitting that privatisation of irrigation could not benefit the marginal and subsistence farmers, he asked "Should we rethink to what extent we would support reforms in this regard?"
 "The marginal and poor farmers now cannot bear the cost of irrigation," the minister said, adding that the cost of irrigation has surpassed the paying capacity of farmers.
 The minister was inaugurating a two-day workshop on "Bangladesh's Agriculture in the 21st Century" held at the auditorium of the Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons at Mahakhali in the city, the workshop is jointly organised by the Ministry of Agriculture and the World Bank to identify a strategy for sustainable as well as faster agricultural growth.
 Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Agriculture Secretary Akhtar Ali, World Bank Expert Ridwan Ali and World Bank Resident Mission chief Pierre Landell also spoke at the inaugural session.
 The finance minister said that the reform of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Corporation (BADC) which eliminated subsidy from agricultural inputs and privatised their supplies had failed to serve the grassroots farmers.
 "Only five to 10 per cent of our farmers use High Yielding Varieties (HYV) of paddy seeds," the minister said.
 "We should find out the reasons behind the stagnation in agricultural output despite increased use of inputs over years," he said.
 See Page 12 Col 1

Dhaka ratifies SAPTA

By Staff Correspondent
 Bangladesh yesterday formally ratified the SAARC Preferential Trading Arrangement (SAPTA) which will be effective from December 8.
 Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam signed the instrument of ratification of SAPTA, which provides arrangement for concessional tariff among the seven SAARC countries; India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Maldives and Bangladesh.
 Six other countries have already ratified the SAPTA, which is supposed to act as a bridge to minimise the ever-increasing trade gaps between the SAARC countries having 1.2 billion people. The SAPTA will open up a new horizon of trading in the region which already enjoys an intra-regional trade of 3 billion dollars annually.
 See Page 12 Col 1

'Bypolls schedule by Nov 22 if no consensus'

The Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) yesterday said he would have no option but to announce the schedule for by-election by November 22 if political parties failed to reach a consensus, reports UNB.
 "I am oath-bound to go by the Constitution," Justice AKM Sadek said and regretted some opposition parties' threat of resisting the by-election.
 "But under the Constitution, I will have to do it ... I will do it," he told politicians in a meeting, boycotted by all the major opposition parties.
 The CEC, however, hoped that the political parties would be able to solve the present crisis over the question of election in order to avert the trouble of holding two elections in a short interval.
 See Page 12 Col 8

BNP plans massive campaign

By Nazmul Ashraf
 The ruling BNP plans to launch a massive campaign against the Opposition agitations, specially hartals, party sources said yesterday.
 Train journey from the capital to the southern and northern districts by Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia, to mobilise public opinion against the Opposition agitations was now being discussed within the party.
 The Prime Minister is expected to make train journey to Chittagong and Dinajpur later this month, BNP insiders said.
 Begum Zia might stop at the stations between Dhaka and Chittagong and Dhaka and Dinajpur to address public gatherings.
 The main purpose of the PM's train journey is to mobilise public opinion against 'destructive political programmes like hartals and barricades a member of the party's central committee said, adding the programme would be finalised after the Opposition-planned six-day hartal (due to begin on November 11) was over.

4 kidnapped boys rescued from Barisal

BARISAL, Nov 5: Four boys who were kidnapped from Motijheel Ideal School in the capital on Saturday were rescued from Barisal Launch ghat early today, reports UNB.
 Police said the kidnapers picked up Jitu, 10, Suman, 11, Riad, 11, and Abul Kalam, 8. Saturday morning when they were playing badminton in the school premises.
 The miscreants dragged the boys into a microbus, made them unconscious and brought them to Barisal by a launch, MV Sagar-5.
 As the boys regained their consciousness at about 3 am in a cabin of the launch, the miscreants threatened to kill them if they tried to escape or cried for help.
 River traffic police detained the boys at about 5 am when they were moving.
 See Page 12 Col 5