The Midnight File

Ciller wins confidence vote

Ciller today won a vote of confidence in the Turkish

parliament for her renewed coalition with the social

democrats. Speaker Ismet Sezgin told the chamber,

ANKARA, Nov 5: Conservative Prime Minister Tansu

of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) at its meeting yesterday approved six projects with a combined outlay of Taka 355 crore, reports BSS. The projects cover areas

such as education, pisciculture, surface communication. rehabilitation of 1991 cy clone victims and afforesta-

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman presided over the meeting held at the secretariat cabinet room.

The education project aimed at developing 65 nongovernment degree colleges at a cost of Taka 20 crore is expected to be completed by

The integrated pisciculture development project will cost Taka 66 crore -The European Economic Commission will provide Tk 64 crore while the government will provide Taka 2

The ECNEC meeting approved low cost bridge and culvert construction project on the rural roads. The project involving Taka 139 crore will be completed by 1996-

The meeting also approved the extended social afforestation project with an

#### Young man commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent A young man reportedly

committed suicide by taking poison at his residence at West Tengra under Demra police station.

The victim, identified as Mohammad Nasirul Haque Babu aged about 25, died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday morning. He took poison on Saturday night. His body was sent to the

DMCH morgue for autopsy.

The Executive Committee expenditure of Taka 45 crore. The government will bear the entire cost of the project scheduled to be completed in the next fiscal

> ECNEC also okayed the special assistance project for helping the families affected by 1991 cyclone. International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) will provide Tk 66 crore out of the total cost of Taka 72 crore for the project scheduled to be completed by June next.

The "Rangamati Television relay station development and relocation" project was also approved. The project which will cost Taka 13 crore is expected to be completed by June 1997. It is aimed at construction and tional." setting up of a 10 kilowatt transmitter to a new site.

# Saqib's kidnapping DU to take action against Asad

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities will take action against Asaduzzaman, a student of DU who was arrested on charge of kidnapping a child from a city school.

Asaduzzaman, a first year student of the Islamic History and Culture, was arrested from DU campus where he was waiting to receive ransom money.

The kidnappers demanded a ransom of Tk 5 lakh for the child's release.

A student of Little Jewels Infant and Junior School Saqib was kidnapped on November 31 from his

The Disciplinary Council of DU will take decision regarding the matter at a meeting on November 8.

# Saifur: Privatisation

From Page 1

The minister emphasised credit facilities for the rural farmers and called for a breakthrough in technology to feed the ever increasing population of the country. He said most of the credits had gone to the urban people so far, while the rural

people felt the dearth of Saifur Rahman said that non-crop activities like fishery, poultry and livestock

raising had achieved significant success. The people of Rangpur, Dinajpur, Faridpur and Madaripur performed well in rearing cattle and in milk and dairy products sector, he pointed out. Terming the workshop

vital and most important, he said such workshops should be organised to find out and to suggest a better strategy for the development of agriculture sector in which twothirds of the population were employed.

Dwelling on the use of pesticides and insecticides in agriculture the minister said. these were badly affecting the fish production in the waterbodies in the country.

Many developed countries were going back to organic fertilisers in their farmlands. he pointed out. The finance minister was

critical of the performances of agriculture extension workers. "They go to the village, sit down under a banyan trees and have cups of tea and pass idle noons there, he said, adding such practice should end.

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said, to alleviate poverty, agriculture was still a potential sector. "But agricultural research has been neglected so far" the Food and Agriculture Minister said. The role of agriculture in the national economy was still dominant,

About irrigation problems in the country, he said that due to lack of credit facilities, irrigation coverage of lands was declining.

The World Bank resident mission chief in his speech said a credible and durable agriculture development strategy must be developed to ensure that the growing population will be fed and rural incomes raised.

# SAPTA ratified

The Cabinet earlier de-

cided to ratify the SAPTA. The SAPTA concept was conceived at the seventh SAARC summit held in Dhaka in 1993. On May 4 last, the eighth SAARC summit, held in Delhi, adopted the "Delhi Declaration" outlining the SAPTA. The summit agreed on studying free-trade zones. It was agreed that the SAPTA would be ratified by November 8 and made operational by December 8, the day which marks the 10th anniversary of SAARC.

The foreign ministers of the countries approved a draft accord for a regional trade agreement that would begin lowering tariffs on certain goods by December 8.

India offers duty concessions for 106 items and Pakistan three times less.

The SAPTA proposes gradual lowering of tariffs on 0.85 crore. a broader range of goods and eventual building of a trade block to be known as South Asia Free Trade Area. In this connection there is also a proposal to set up a South Asia Development Fund.

The SAPTA aims at improving trade relations among the SAARC countries by removing trade barriers and creating a regional com-

petitive market and a regional trade information centre, Commerce Ministry sources said. If intra-regional trading increases, it would benefit all the SAARC countries equally, the sources

Bangladesh's trade gaps with India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Bhutan continue to go out of gaps but the country enjoys trade surplus with Maldives and Nepal.

From 1984 to 1994. Bangladesh's trade gap with India was Tk 5634.67 crore. with Pakistan Tk 7,29.57 crore with Bhutan Tk 106.93 crore and with Sri Lanka Tk 32.09 crore. The grand total of the trade gap with these countries was Tk 6503.26

However, the trade surplus with Nepal during the same period was Tk 241.10 crore with Maldives Taka

The SAARC countries occupied the third position in the import list of Bangladesh in 1993-94. Bangladesh imported goods worth Tk 2085.1 crore from the SAARC countries during this fiscal which is 13.1 per cent of the total import of Tk 11224.5 crore, according to Bangladesh Bank (BB) statis-

#### Editor : Mahfuz Anam

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# Khaleda's remarks criticised

A top-ranking Awami League leader vesterday termed the Prime Minister's latest rejection of a caretaker government as a 'slap' on the democratic aspiration of the nation.

"When the people were hoping that the Prime Minister would perceive the reality and take pragmatic steps to end the crisis, her outrageous utterance like past autocrats about a caretaker government is nothing but a slap on the whole nation," Tofael Ahmed told UNB

He was giving his reaction to Prime Minister Begum Zia's remarks at Chittagong Saturday where she rejected the plea for a neutral care taker government saying it was "illogical and unconstitu-

The Prime Minister also reportedly asked the people to resist anarchy in the name of hartals and siege.

Tofael, a senior member of Awami League Presidium. said it was now clear that the Prime Minister wrote letters not for a peaceful solution to the prevailing crisis but to hoodwink people and disrupt the oppositions' move-

Quoting Begum Zia's statement that she had written in the letter at the request of some journalists, Tofael said the Prime Minister herself exposed of her intention that she did neither want to write letters nor seek a solution to the crisis.

Meanwhile, Jatiya Party Secretary General Anwar Hossain Manju said people must regain their independent rights to vote which they had won in 1991.

Reacting to the Prime Minister's latest rejection of a neutral caretaker government as 'illogical and unconstitutional', he quipped; "May be she is right. She is at her liberty to say whatever But the JP leader said

since the caretaker provision is not in the Constitution, the people "are engaged in a long-drawn movement to have their rights to vote according to their independent will as guaranteed in the Constitution. Jamaat-e-Islami Secretary

General Moulana Matiur Rahman Nizami, in his reaction, said the Prime Minister cannot resolve the crisis by turning down the demand for a neutral caretaker govern-

"She shouldn't have done it ... the demand is a reality of present politics," he added. Nizami observed since the

Prime Minister Begum Zia started writing letters, hopes were raised that some solution to the present political crisis would come.

"But now it appears that her letter writing initiative was not a sincere move. She was just buying time," he

#### PM welcomes

From Page 1 "The nation is proud of you," she added.

The Prime Minister expressed the hope that the Bangladesh football team would be able to maintain its winning spree in the future

In this regard, she said, the government would provide all necessary coopera-

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman and State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain were present on the occasion.

# Shibir ransacks CMC principal's office

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: Some students of the Chittagong Medical College (CMC) this afternoon went on rampage damaging the window panes of the principal's office and exploding cock-

Police said the supporters of Islami Chhatra Shibir staged demonstration and attacked the college office protesting the announcement of college sangsad election

slated for December 12. The protest came immediately after the academic council made the announcement which was hailed by the supporters of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), police said. Campus sources said series of blasts and gunshots had rocked the campus from 12 noon to 3 pm.

#### JCD-Shibir clash in Satkania: 5 hurt

CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: At least five persons were injured during a clash between the supporters of the Islami of Chhatra Shibir and the Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) this afternoon at Satkania, sources said.



The Baily Star

BGMEA President Redwan Ahmed handing over a memorandum to Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday at the party's central office in the city.

sociation President Abul

Kashem Haider, Bangladesh

Cartoon Manufacturers Asso-

ciation President Shafiullah

Chowdhury, Golam Kuddus

garments owners are now

facing the worst situation in

ten years. "We are not against

any party. We appeal to them

to solve the political crisis

politically. About forty per

cent of the total garments

exports of the current fiscal

year will have to be made by

apart 10 lakh families which

are dependent on the gar-

ments sector will launch an

all out agitation for survival if

the situation does not im-

prove. Nur-e-Alam Siddiqui

proposed a token hunger

strike as the next step of the

marched towards the Prime

Minister's Secretariat in a

procession for submitting the

memoranda but were

stopped by police near Farm-

gate. A delegation of BGMEA

leaders including Redwan

Sikder and M A Taher went

submitted the memorandum.

the PM they appealed for se-

curity measures in all mills

and factories to ensure unin-

terrupted production during

In the memorandum to

Sheikh Hasina, they appealed

for keeping garments facto-

ries and ports out of the

purview of hartal and other

MEA leaders went to the

Awami League central office

at Bangabandhu Avenue at

noon and handed over the

memorandum to Sheikh

Hasina. Hasina had about one

hour's discussion with the

BGMEA leaders during which

she assured them to consider

keeping garments sector out

of the purview of hartal, BG-

Kidnapped boys

around Barisal launch ghat

and failed to give any satisfac-

tory answer about their des-

tination. They were later

handed over to Kotwali po-

of the boys rushed to Barisal,

but police advised them to

get their children released

from Sabujbagh thana in

Dhaka in the evening, police

"Peace must be, and peace

will be, Prime Minister Ra-

bin's lasting legacy," Clinton

echoed his sentiments, with

French President Jacques

Chirac saying the killing

would not derail the peace

JERUSALEM, Nov 5: Yassen

Arafat will not attend the

funeral of Yitzhak Rabin for

fears of the reaction of Israeli

US analysts, however, said

the assassination had re-

blow to the peace process,'

said Michael Hudson of Wash-

ington's Georgetown Univer-

King Hussein of Jordan

whose country made peace

with Israel in October last

reports Reuters.

the price of peace.

Other Western leaders

The boys were sent to

Dhaka.

added.

process.

On information, guardians

From Page 1

MEA sources later said.

A delegation of the BG-

political programmes.

In the memorandum to

After the rally they

agitation.

hartal.

ASMF Fazlul Huq said

December 31, he said.

Redwan Ahmed said the

and Nur-e-Alam Siddigui.

# Memos to PM, Hasina

From Page 1

Salman said. Neighbouring Myanmar has attracted so much Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in only nine months which we could not do in 25 years, he mentioned.

Bangladesh has a good prospect in the present world economic situation and if we can utilise it, in a peaceful atmosphere, our annual exports will reach 10

billion dollars. Salman added. "Political leaders will have to solve the political crisis and if they fail their image will be tarnished.

# PM lauds role of Armed Forces

CHITTAGONG, Nov 5: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today called upon the Armed Forces to work relentlessly for safeguarding the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country, reports UNB.

Lauding the goodwill of Bangladesh Army in the international arena, she said: "You also have to attain more skill by maintaining discipline and regular training and practice."

Begum Zia reminded that the nation got independence through a lot of sacrifice. "We have to be ever-alert in order to safeguard the independence," she said, observing that the Armed Forces are the symbol of independence and sovereignty.

She was addressing army officers and jawans at a ceremonial parade marking the presentation of National Standard to 'The Invincible 17' and 'The Durbar Atharo' battalions of the East Bengal Regiment at the 'Shaheed MR Chowdhury Drill Square of the East Bengal Regimental Centre (EBRC) at Chittagong Cantonment in the morning.

The Prime Minister greeted the 'The Invincible 17' and 'The Durbar Atharo' for their rare achievement while handing over the two National Standards to them as mark of their brilliant and commendable services to the nation.

On arrival at the drill square, Begum Zia was received by Chief of Army Staff Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Chittagong Area Commander Major General M Azizur Rahman and the EBRC Commandant Brigadier Abu Ahmed Jahurul

Amin Khan. The PM also gave away gallantry award to the officers and other ranks for their heroic role in the Chittagong Hill Tracts in counter-insurgency operation.

Later, the Prime Minister went to the 'Ajana Shaheed Soudha' at the cantonment and placed wreaths.

From Page 1

acting Prime Minister, vowed

we can do ... but to continue a

great road paved by a great

leader." Peres told a news

conference after an emer-

gency cabinet meeting at

which an empty chair draped

in black marked the absent

highlighted the harsh divi-

sions that have accompanied

peace moves in the turbulent

Middle East and which cost

Egyptian President Anwar

Sadat his life in 1981, two

years after he made peace

who will attend Rabin's fu-

neral scheduled for 2 pm

(1200 GMT) on Monday said,

"The world has lost one of its

greatest men, a warrior for

his nation's freedom and now

a martyr for his nation's

US President Bill Clinton,

"Reaction to the killing

to pursue the peace process:

Peres, who took over as

"There is nothing else that

his breast pocket.

leader's place.

with Israel.

#### From Page 1 Presided over by Redwan

Ahmed MP, president BG-MEA, the rally was also addressed by FBCCI vice-president Khandaker Rashiduzzaman Dudu. BGMEA vice-"We sincerely want a solu president ASM Fazlul Huq. tion of the crisis .... We under-Bangladesh Sewing Trade As-

country under private initia-

posal for exempting the gar sured them of considering their point and said, "We do not want any damage to this

Prime Minister," Hasina said

planning to run the country. deepened for indecision, irpractices of the government. The Awami League wants

Rahman," she said. BGMEA President, Red

Ahmed, Zinnat Ali, Nurul Huq to the PM's secretariat and the afternoon.

Razzak, Mozaffar Hossain Mannan were present.

# others injured

At least five people including a schoolboy were injured in separate incidents in the

Of them, two persons were injured when two groups of mussalmen clashed at Mirpur Section 7 at about 1:30 pm.

craftsman of Benarasi Sari and Zakir, 18, a student of class ten of the Shaheed Smriti High School received blast injuries and were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another incident, two alleged muggers stabbed each other due to internal conflicts in front of the T & T office at Manik Miah Avenue in the afternoon.

The miscreants Ak ther, 22, and Babul, 23, were arrested and sent to the DMCH.

Meanwhile, one Tareen, received bullet injuries at Shahin Bagh at about 10:45 am yesterday.

# Hasina

demand, let us realise it unitedly," she said calling upon the garments manufacturers to press the govern ment to accept the demand.

stand your problem," she told the garments manufacturers. She said the garments in dustry has flourished in the

tive, government has no credit for that. Referring to their proments industries and port areas from hartal, Hasina as-

"We will try our best to resolve various problems facing this sector but the main responsibility lies with the

She said this government has no proper policy and "The economy is being ruined for mismanagement and corruption. Problems have responsibility and dilly-dally

to end the instability "created with the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

wan Ahmed, submitted the memorandum to Hasina at the party's central office in

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman Amir Hossain Amu. Abdur Paltu, Mamtaj Hossain, Begum Ivy Rahman and Abdul

# Schoolboy, four in city incidents

By Staff Correspondent

city yesterday. The victims Nazrul, 22, a

# Rabin assassinated

year, said Rabin's death

would not stop peace pro-

Rabin's former foe and then partner in peace, Arafat told reporters at his headquartes: "I am very sad and shocked at this awful and terrible crime against one of the brave leaders of Israel and one of the peacemakers."

In Iran, one of Israel's staunchest opponents, the official news agency IRNA headlined its reports: "Rabin dead, paid in his own coin." The Israeli army closed off

hardliners, PLO officials said, the Palestinian-ruled Gaza Strip and the West Bank indefinitely, a standard security procedure against Palestinian moved the one figure seen in opponents of peace in times Washington as strong enough of tension. But this time the to persuade Israelis to pay violence had come from inside Israel. "I think it's a very serious

Police there said they believed Amir acted alone. But other Israeli showed they shared his sentiments. On a street near the rally a small group held a sign saying: "A rope for the traitors."

#### The petitioner sought a

reports Reuter.

A writ petition was moved

yesterday before the High

Court challenging the 11th

and 12th amendments to the

Constitution which, it said.

termed the Ershad govern-

ment illegal and undemo-

cratic and ratified the ap-

pointment and activities of

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed's

government respectively.

rule nisi upon the government to show cause as to why the Constitution (Eleventh Amendment) Act, 1991 (Act XXIV of 1991) and the Constitution (Twelfth Amendment) Act. 1991 (Act XXVIII of 1991) passed by the 'socalled 5th Jatiya Sangsad and

assented to by the 'illegally inducted' President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, should not be declared to have been passed and assented to without lawful authority and juris-

A division bench of the HC, comprising Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury and Justice Muhammad Abdul Mannan upon hearing the counsel of the petitioner fixed next Thursday for

The court instructed the lawyer for the petitioner to produce his client before the court on the date of hearing as his and his father's names are peculiar. The name of the peti-

tioner is 'Field Marshal Shaitan'. Moreover, he is a Muslim, but his father's name is 'Sree Sree Brahma,' one of the names of 'Bhagaban' in the Hindu mythology. But according to the vot-

ers' list, the petitioner is a bonafide voter of Ward No-52, Dhaka City Corporation and he resides at 330 Elephant Road, Dhaka. It was stated in the peti-

tion that if the Ershad government was illegal, the Shahabuddin government and his activities, even the present Parliament and government established through the '91 election conducted by the Caretaker government are also illegal, as Justice Shahabuddin took oath as Vice-President from the then President H M Ershad. The preamble of the 11th

# Newspapermen's rally for DA Nov 20

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the journalist community, press workers and employees had a preparatory meeting yesterday with a view to making the November 20 joint rally a

The joint rally will be held at the National Press Club at 11 am to press the demand for a full-fledged committee of the 5th Wage Board and interim dearness allowance by 60 per cent of the basic pay.

The leaders also called upon all employees of newspapers and news agencies to observe a token strike between 11 am to 2 pm on November 20.

The meeting also set different dates for meetings at newspaper offices.

# Resolve impasse

From Page 1

who will head such a cabinet Here also an understanding is possible if both sides can overcome their mutual suspicion," he said. Presenting the keynote

paper Md. Fazlul Huq said," The present political situation is not at all conducive to protection of citizens' rights. Demanding a 'code of

conduct' for political parties. he said "it must protect the rights of the citizens and discourage programmes negating their rights." He also observed that there should be a constitutional provision for holding general election un der a caretaker government to institutionalise democracy and ensure voters' rights.

Urging the political parties to resolve the crisis Borhan said, "We have become victims of power struggle." He urged the people to be conscious of their rights as citizens. "We want to lead a normal life. We don't understand hartal."

The seminar, presided over by the Vice President of Bangladesh Nagorik Adhikar Parishad also included an open discussion by the participants following the speeches by the guest speak

# 11th & 12th amendments to Constitution challenged

By SC Correspondent

amendment to the Constitution says "Whereas in the face of the courtrywide popular upsurge for overthrowing the illegal and undemocratic government and giving democracy an institutional shape, the President was compelled to tender resignation. In the 12th amendment to

the Constitution, with regard to the return of of Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to the office of the Chief Justice. the period for which he held the office of the Acting President was deemed to be his actual service. The petitioner explained

actual service as the service of the chief Justice and sought an explanation if the period is considered actual service how and under what authority he held the post of acting President.

Barrister Mohammad Roushan Ali moved for the peti-

# 24 die in Orissa bus accident

NEW DELHI, Nov 5: Twenty-four people were killed overnight in Orissa, when an overcrowded bus in which they were travelling collided with a truck after one of its tyres burst, a news agency said today, reports

The Press Trust of India (PTI) said 25 passengers were injured in the incident. two seriously.

# CEC: By polls

From Page 1

He said it would not be possible on the part of the Election Commission to conduct two big elections \_ byelection and general election

 in such a short time. It is a constitutional obligation for the EC to hold byelection to 145 vacant seats by December 16 and fresh parliamentary polls on or before April 4, he pointed out. In such a short time, it would be a difficult task to conduct

two elections. He was exchanging views with the leaders of different political parties invited by the EC for their advice and cooperation as to what is to

be done as such. The Election Commission invited leaders of 66 political parties to the meeting, but only from 12 of them turned

The meeting in the NEC conference room was addressed by ruling BNP lead-Rafiqul Islam Mia, Jamiruddin Sircar and Aminul Hug.

#### Barricade

From Page 1 ments of motor vehicles. Leaders of the political parties concerned would address their respective party gatherings throughout the

whole day. The activists of the three parties will also seek to stop plying of river vessels and

trains. Leaders of the AL, the JP and the Jamaat at a meeting Saturday night finalised a few spots in the capital where they would concentrate their activities. The spots include Press Club areas, Kamalapur Railway station, Sadarghat, Mogbazar, Tejgaon, Mohammadpur, Mahakhali, Gabtali and Jatrabari bus terminal

#### Dhaka deplores From Page 1

pressed its support to the

Middle East peace process

leading to a just and lasting peace in the area and fervently hoped that the peace process will continue undeterred, the spokesman

From Page 1 asserted. Begum Zia emphatically said the opposition parties would not be able to oust the elected government and also not be able to defeat BNP in election fray because the en-

PM: Hartal

"BNP is not afraid of anyone and any kind of threat. No use threatening, the BNP as it is also in the street and people are very much with the BNP," she said.

tire nation is very much with

The Prime Minister assured the people of Chandpur that the government had already taken step to halt the river-erosion permanently.