US budget dispute

Last minute efforts to avert shutdown fail

From Masud Hasan Khan

visas will be issued, except

Federal courts will re

- National Parks, muse

Schools will remain

Public works, like

Shutdown occurs when

only on "life and death basis.

main open but most civil

ums, public libraries and na-

tional zoo will remain closed.

open but its administration

building repairs and trash

collection, will be stopped.

US Congress and the presi-

dent can not agree on legis-

lation to extend the spend-

ing authority of the govern-

ment agencies to cover ex-

For most US federal agen-

With the shutdown seem-

WASHINGTON, Nov 14:

The US government officially

began to wind down its non-

essential operations today for

lack of funds as a result of the

battle between the White House

and Congress over the budget,

ingly inevitable, the only

trade-off earlier in the day

was that President Clinton

vetoed twin bills extending

the government's authority to

spend and borrow money,

until a long-term budget can

cans of "Blackmailing" on the

budget issue and said it

would "rob the American

dream from millions o

"I am fighting it today,"

Clinton told an audience of

cheerful democrats, "I will

fight it next week and next

would negotiate if Clinton

embraced balancing the fed-

eral budget in seven years

Bob Dole accused the presi-

dent of using objections to a

medicare premium increase

as a "smokescreen" for his

reluctance to balance the

his side. His right-handed

opening partner Clarke with

a plucky 39 and one-down

Adrian Murphy, who chipped

in with 32, were the other

20-plus contributors to the

For the local bowlers left-

arm spinner Sharfudowla

ibne-Shaheed Saikat and Se-

lim Shahed took two wickets

apiece while another left-arm

spinner Mohammed Rafique

proved to be most economi-

first session was two brilliant

direct hits by an agile Javed

Omar Belim. Fielding at mid-

off, Javed ran out West Indies

wicket-keeper Amarnath

Basdev (0) at the bowler's

end and later removed lower-

order bat Reon King from the

same position but this time at

the Bangladeshi counterparts

in their second exhibition

match tomorrow at the same

venue in a day-night affair

Some changes

From Page 1

OSD at the Establishment

Ministry, has been given

posting as Joint Secretary at

the Relief Ministry. Relief

Ministry Joint Secretary Go-

am Martuza has been trans-

ferred to the Rural Develop-

ment and Cooperatives Divi-

nomic Relations Division

Jalaluddin Ahmed has been

transferred to Information

Ministry of Land Mohammad

Majharul Islam has been

made OSD of the Establish-

ment Ministry and attached

celled the contract appoint-

ment of Bangladesh Water

Development Board (BWDB)

official A H M Aminul Islam

from the Handloom Board

and sent back to his own

Uddin has been transferred

to Bangladesh Tea Board as

Secretary and his job placed

under the Commerce Min-

mad Abu Sayeed was ap-

pointed Deputy Secretary of

the Economic Relations Di-

Moulvibazar DC Moham-

DC of Sunamgani Kalam

The government has can-

to the Statistics Division.

Joint Secretary of the

Ministry.

istry.

Joint Secretary of Eco-

The visitors will take on

the other end.

But the highlight of the

cal with figures of 9-0-21-1.

West Indies total.

which he refused.

Republicans said they

But Senate Majority leader

He accused the Republi-

cies, spending power expired

Monday midnight.

reports AFP.

be enacted.

Americans.

month.

Hosts humble Windies

cases will be postponed.

will not

WASHINGTON, Nov 14 President Bill Clinton and Republican Congress leaders Monday night failed to reach any agreement to avert a shutdown of the federal government.

After the talks at the White House midnight Monday, Senate Republican leader Bob Dole told newsmen: "We had a very constructive meeting, though we don't have any agree-

Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingirich, who also attended the Oval Office meeting that lasted more than one and a half hours, said talks would be held today among White House and Congressional representatives to break the deadlock.

A Senate leader, however, disclosed that Clinton refused to compromise on his insistence that medicare changes be dropped from legislation.

The failure to reach an interim agreement meant that some 800,000 out of 21 lakh federal workers will report to work this morning and be told to go home because the government had no money to pay them.

Some of the visible impacts of the shutdown are:

- All the "non-essential" elements of the federal agencies will not be available. However, 60 per cent of the federal workforce, beginning from US troops overseas to White House cook, would remain on the job.

Traditionally, Congress awards the idled federal employees back pay for the time missed through no fault of their own.

- If it continues until December 1, the nation's 3.5 million low-income disabled veterans will not receive supplemental income.

 US embassies overseas and other missions will operate with about four-fifth of its employees-strength and will provide minimal ser-

No new passports or budget.

From Page 1

solid foundation for the facile

victory. He shared 45 runs

for the opening stand with

Jahangir Alam (14), added

another 40 odd runs with

Habibul Bashar Sumon (16)

for the second wicket before

finding a willing partner in

Selim Shahed with whom he

scored an eventual match-

winning partnership of 73

Javed, who kept his cool

during his marathon 186

minute stay at the crease.

reached his half-century play-

ing exactly 100 balls and was

limping after scoring 70 runs

before being yorked by a

44th over leaving the score-

board poised comfortably for

He was given a standing

ovation on his way back to

the dressing room and his

excellent efforts was duly

recognised by the Bangladesh

Cricket Control Board (BCCB)

when they named him the

Man-of-the Match. Javed was

Javed, unorthodox left-

handed bat Mohammed

Rafique wielded his willow

scoring much of the 25 runs

for the fourth wicket. He jus-

tified his promotion up the

batting ladder with a rapid-

fire 21 off 22 balls which in-

cluded two fours. Rafique was

the last batsman out in the

49th over leaving Bangladesh

three runs short of victory

with 11 deliveries remaining.

playing a very responsible in-

nings, remained unbeaten

bowlers leg-spinner Mahan-

dra Nagamootoo lived up to

his reputation finishing with

a telling analysis of 10-2-14-

Earlier, winning the toss

and predictably electing to

use the wicket first. West

Indies U-19 were cruising

comfortably with their open-

ers Wavell Hinds and Shirley

Clarke putting 71 runs for

But once Selim Shahed,

with his off-spin, got the

much-needed break having

left-handed Hinds caught and

bowled, the West Indies in-

nings never got back its

new-ball bowlers of

Bangladesh Youth hitting

them all over the ground

scoring highest 44 runs for

Hinds ran over the two

the opening stand.

rhythm.

Among the West Indies

with 29.

Skipper Selim Shahed

After the departure of

richer by Taka 5000.

Bangladesh at 158 for four.

Reon King in-swinger in the

runs for the third wicket.

Press Note Medical board formed for

. The government has formed a high-powered medical board for treatment of former president H M Ershad, suffering from viral hepatitis since November 4.

A Press Note issued vesterday by the Ministry of Home Affairs said different newspapers have been publishing reports about the health of former president Ershad, a class one prisoner in the Dhaka Central Jail

Some of these newspapers said, the treatment of former president was not being done properly while some others mentioned that his health had been deteriorating. This types of baseless reports could create confusion in the minds of the people and hence the government is giving correct picture of the actual state of health of the former presi-

The Press Note said: Ershad has been suffering from viral hepatitis since November 4. The prison doctors and civil surgeon of Dhaka examined his health in time and his treatment started as per their advice immediately. Arrangements were also made for necessary pathological examinations as per the advice of the doctors.

Afterwards on November 8 all types of pathological and other examinations of Ershad were done on an emergency basis at the advice of renowned liver specialist Professor Mobin Khan. At the same time a high-level medical board comprising five eminent physicians, namely doctor of PG Professor Mohammad Tahir, Professor Sheikh Nessaruddin Ahmed Professor C H Kabir, Professor M A Mobin Khan and civil surgeon of Dhaka Dr Mohammad Abdur Rahman Khan, was formed for his treatment. The medical board has been examining Ershad everyday since November 9 and he is being treated as per its advice and prescription.

Body recovered

One person died and an-

The body of an unidentified woman, 22, was recovered yesterday by the Sabujbag thana police from near the Chishtia Mazar Sharif on Biswa Road.

Our DMCH Correspondent reports, the body was later sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for

In another incident Mizanur Rahman, 18, was severely injured in his head, yesterday when he was hit by a chapati at Rajabazar in sequel to a previous enmity.

According to ruling party sources, a bill to debar bank loan defaulters from contesting elections, and another on the Code of Conduct for the political parties for elections will be tabled in the House.

Sources in the Parliament Secretariat said, one bill on the Jatiya Grantha Kendra and a few questions and no-

Besides, they added, the last session's pending bills including one on the election of Zila Parishad representatives are also due to be

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday met with Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali in the chair, at the Sangsad Bhaban to discuss various issues, including du-

liament, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Choudhury, Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni, Chief Whip of BNP Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Housing and Works Minister Barrister Rafigul Islam Mia, Farida Rahman and other members of the Committee were present at the meeting.

EC objection

From Page 1 In a press release last has observed that some political leaders were commenting on or giving statements regarding the time and schedule of the by-

the country, it was the sole jurisdiction of the Commission to announce the timeschedule of the Jatiya Sangsad election. The Commission, therefore, requested all concerned to refrain from issuing such



sponsored poster in Dublin Monday as Ireland prepares for the November 24 referendum to end the constitutional ban on divorce. — AFP/UNB photo

Cost of political crisis

City dwellers concerned

By Staff Correspondent

The city dwellers are deeply concerned at the economic consequences of the present political crisis and they also expressed an 'across-the-board" desire for a fair election.

These were the findings of a survey on "Political Crisis and Democratic Graduation," conducted by the Power and Participation Research Centre (PPRC) between October 7 and 21 last.

The results of the survey were read out in a seminar organised by the PPRC in the city yesterday. The seminar was attended, among others, by Peter J Fowler, British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, Ahmed Safa, Abu Abdullah, Ahmed Kamal, Imtiaj Hossain, Abul Hossain and

Saiful Hoque. The survey was conducted among 1195 city dwellers. Professionals represented 30.1 per cent of the survey sample, while, the rickshawpullers and labourers constituted 21.3 per cent, businessmen 21.9 and students

10.6 per cent. Of the 1195 respondents, 80.3 per cent were male and 19.7 per cent female. The survey was conducted in 14 thanas of Dhaka.

Hossain Zillur Rahman, the survey coordinator, while presenting its outcome said there was a relative absence of political polarisation among the general voters.

But, the electorate were optimistic about the future and they were enthusiastic about participating in the election, Rahman told the

gathering. When asked to identify the most critical problem of the present time, 40.1 per cent said it was the political impasse, 21.6 per cent identified the deteriorating law and order situation, while 20.1 per cent said it was the price hike that worried them most.

In response to the question as to how to solve the crisis, 20.1 per cent wanted compromise by both sides, 19.5 per cent suggested the formation of a caretaker government and 9.5 per cent viewed that the government

showed be able to fulfil its

Responding to a question on the biggest barrier to a fair election, 23.3 per cent identified "mastans", 14.9 per cent said it was vote buying, and 10.1 per cent said it was intimidation by political parties.

Regarding steps to be taken to ensure fair election, 28.6 per cent of the respondents were in favour of deploying military and para-military forces to assure a fair election, 18.8 per cent suggested for a neutral administration and 22.3 per cent asked for issuing the identity cards.

Most of the respondents have not decided whom they will vote for in the next election (48.6 per cent). Among the "decided" voters, 14.9 per cent of the young voters and 18.8 per cent of the labourers wished to elect BNP. The corresponding figures for the Awami League are, 11.3 per cent and 11.5 per cent respectively.

Delaying tactics in forming Wage Board resented

Leaders of three federations in the newspaper industry yesterday expressed their resentment at the delaying tactics in constituting the full-fledged Wage Board, reports BSS.

The leaders in a joint statement demanded immediate formation of the fullfledged Wage Board and declaration of the dearness allowanced (DA) at the earliest.

The leaders of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ), Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Press Sramik Federation (BSPF) and Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Karmachari Federation (BS-KF) said that in the backdrop of high market price, the journalists, press workers and the general employees were continuing movement for a long time for the formation of 5th Wage Board.

indefinite strike Nov 26

The Prokrichi and BCS Action Council will begin an indefinite strike from November 26 to press for its 17-point demand for restructuring the administration. reports UNB.

Some 70,000 members of the council will join the strike if their demands are not met by November 24, its chairman Dr M A Majed said vesterday.

Prokrichi representing engineers, physicians, agriculturists and officials of 26 BCS cadres will carry out a countrywide campaign from November 15-25 to mobilise support in favour of its denands

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, Dr Majed demanded selection grade for all officials working under the national pay scale to remove annomalies in pay structure with the administration cadre.

He also demanded reinstatement of the council's Secretary General Abu Hena and an end to repressive measures against the leaders of the forum.

Indian hurt in Riyadh blast dies

RIYADH, Nov 14: An Indian wounded in a huge explosion that severely damaged a US-run training centre in Saudi Arabia died today, the US embassy said, reports Reuter.

The embassy said the Indian, like five Americans who died in Monday's blast, was employed at the centre Saudi Arabia has also reported the death of a Filipino.

The six Gulf Arab allies condemned a bomb attack in Saudi Arabia which killed six people and said it would not disturb security and stability in the region.

The Gulf Cooperation Council general secretariat based in Riyadh where the bomb attack took place on Monday, said in a statement it "strongly condemns this criminal and sinful act that caused the loss of innocent lives ... and terrified civilians in the city.

"This ugly crime, intrusive to GCC communities and contradictory with teachings of Islam, shall not under mine its security and stability," the statement issued late on Monday added.

Raushan From Page 1

Speaking at a press briefing at her Gulshan residence yesterday, Raushan, who is also a presidium member of the Jatiya Party, described the condition of Ershad she saw during a visit last Monday to the Dhaka Central

Ershad has been suffering from viral hepatitis since November 4 and Raushan alleged that despite repeated recommendations of doctors to treat him properly, the government has not done anything. She also said that none of Ershad's relatives have been allowed to see him at the jail after he fell ill.

"The level of bilirubin in his blood has reached 26 counts, and when I saw him yesterday it was hard for me to recognise him," said Raushan in an emotionchoked voice adding that Ershad has lost a lot of weight and his skin has turned "completely" yellow.

Answering to a question she said that the party was not trying to transfer Ershad abroad for treatment," when the treatment is available here why should we demand that?" she said.

3000mw power shortfall feared

From Page 1

plan suggested that the country should either discover new gas reserves by the year 2000, or plan to set up hydro power plants based on coal and Heavy Fuel Oil (HFO) to meet the ever-increasing demand.

The country's present demand for 1925.1 mw power would jump to 3205.7 mw in 2000, 4342.4 mw in 2005 and 9357 mw in 2015 while the present power generation capacity of around 2000 mw would start deteriorating by notable proportion from 2001, the PSMP

said. Many private sector investors have shown their interest in setting up power plants in the country, the PSMP noted suggesting that there should be some form of coordinating body to encourage the investors.

In view of the country's limited gas reserve, the Master Plan discouraged construction of gas fired steam turbine power projects which consumes more gas than any other types. It however, recommends gas fired

combined cycle generation. The plan suggested construction of up to 1200 mw of new base-load combined cycle plant with 600 mw at Meghnaghat and 600 mw at Baghabari. "This programme would carry the power sector to the year 2005," it said.

For the next 10 years, the plan suggested construction of another 3000 mw combustion turbines.

Power generation up to 4200 mw will be possible by utilising the 5 t. cu. ft gas reserves. This will meet the demand for the next 20

The plan pointed out that after the completion of the 210 mw steam turbine plants (Ghorasal No 6, Raujan No 2 and Siddhirganj No 5). no such type of plants should be considered in future.

The PSMP noted that construction of gas line on the Jamuna would be very much cost-effective but the Petrobangla was not decisive about setting up the line on the Jamuna Multi-Purpose Bridge (JMB), the Petrobangla and BPDB must

reach consensus on the issue immediately as the bridge is expected to be completed by 1998," it said.

Regarding the proposed 250 mw coal power plant to be constructed at Barapukuria coal mine site, the plan recommends," the BPDB should do everything possible to ensure that the plant is completed as soon as possi-

It also stressed suggested that engineering potential be studied to further develop the Siddhriganj thermal plant site.

Since 1910, only 53 wells were drilled in the country and 12.4 t.cu. ft. gas reserves were confirmed. As the success rate of finding hydrocar bon reserve is 40 per cent, a number of foreign exploration companies now working in Bangladesh is very much hopeful about finding fresh gas reserves, official

sources said. Work on the PSMP project financed by the Asian Development Bank, began in October 1994 and was completed in August

Prokrichi starts

Lankan forces capture main LTTE political HQs

VAVUNIYA, Sri Lanka, Nov 14: Sri Lankan forces have captured the main political headquarters of the Tamil Tigers on the outskirts of the guerilla stronghold of Jaffna. civilians arriving in the northern town of Vanuniya said today, reports Reuter.

Fourth day of hartal

From Page 1 rickshaws at Mirpur Section I as riot-police was present there.

Activists of Awami League. Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami brought out small processions at different points of the city and held rallies.

Shops remained closed during the hartal hours but attendance in offices was near-normal in the city. Although there were few

passengers, a number of long-distance launches reached the Sadarghat terminal during the hartal hours. Some also left the terminal in the morning.

Long-distance bus and railway services remained suspended till noon.

Sources at the airport said all but one international flights operated on schedule during hartal hours while three domestic flights were cancelled

Our correspondent from Narayanganj reports: A bomb was hurled at the residence of the local BNP MP at Shaista Khan road. The bomb was hurled allegedly from a Awami League procession passing by the house at around 9:30 am yesterday. Four people received bomb injuries in the incident.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports: The 6hour hartal from 6:00 am passed off by and large peacefully barring some sporadic incidents of cocktail blasts and picketing. None was injured.

Delivery of goods to and from Chittagong port was hampered during the shutdown but cargo handling in-

2 Western hostages in Kashmir sick SRINAGAR, India, Nov 14:

Two of the four Western hostages being held captive by Al-Faran guerillas since early July in India's troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir are sick and one of them is struggling for life, the captors said today, reports Reuter.

A handwritten statement given to newspapers in Srinagar, summer capital of the state, similar in style and writing to earlier ones delivered to the media, said the Indian government would be responsible if any of the sick hostages dies.

Britons Pual Wells and Keith Mangan, German Dirk Hasert and American Don Hutchings were taken hostage in July

Third World

From Page 1

Union - now Russia - Britain, France and China, which have veto power. Ten other countries rotate for two-year-Colombia, representing

the Non-Aligned Movement, said the proportion of new members from developing countries should be substantially increased. "Any attempt to exclude

non-aligned countries would be unacceptable," said Ambassador Julio Londono-Pare-

Hasina From Page 1

chise freely and safely under this government," she asserted

Sheikh Hasina held the Prime Minister responsible for losing credibility of the government in holding elec-

It was evident from the incidents during the Mirpur and Magura by-elections and Lalbagh killing that polls under the ruling BNP could not be fair and free, she said.

Alleging irregularities in compiling the voters list, she said it was "a BNP manipulated voters list". "The present Election

Commission will not be able to ensure a fair election," said the AL president.

Sheikh Hasina said that she had urged the Prime Minister to create a 'dialogue-friendly environment' by accepting the demand for a caretaker government in principle. "But, by attacking our office, ar resting the party activists and resorting to oppressions. the Prime Minister herself spoiled environment of dialogue," she added.

She noted that central party leader Begum Matia Chowdhury, Jubo League leader Prof Fazlul Haq and Chhatra League General Sec retary Ishak Ali Khan Panna. were victims of police atrocities.

side the jetties was normal, port sources said.

All vehicles except few rickshaws staved off the road and commercial centres and offices remained closed during the hartal hours.

Our Staff Correspondent reports from Barisal: Hartal was observed peacefully in Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Pirojpur, Barguna and Jhalakathi under Barisal division.

One out of two Dhaka-Barisal flights of the Aero Bengal Airlines was suspended.

All vehicles remained off the roads during the hartal hours.

JU buses ransacked

near Amin Bazar By JU Correspondent

Three buses of the Ja

hangirnagar University (JU) were ransacked by some unknown hoodlums near Amin Bazar yesterday noon.

The buses were returning to the campus from Dhaka. Nobody but

the concerned drivers and conductors were inside the busses during the attack. According to sources the attack might be a sequel to

earlier incidents on the

campus in which Islami Chhatra Shibir activists attempted to take control of at least two halls and were ousted by the All Party Students' Unity (APSU). The incident of ransack-

ing was confirmed by University officials while Savar Police declined to comment.

Meanwhile, JU syndicate in a meeting yesterday reviewed the campus situation and decided to strengthen the security measures at the halls and different points on the campus.

Some 60 police, including mobile ones, have been posted at three hostels.

Two ministers From Page 1

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain and some central leaders of the Juba Dal, the youth front of the BNP, were also present.

As a sequel to their rivalry, some Juba Dal activists supporting Goyeshwar had roughed up Prof Mannan during his visit to the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman on November 7 last, according to insiders.

After the incident, BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had called the two state ministers at her office on Sunday to express her disappointment and asked them to settle this disputes. Later, she assigned Mannan Bhuiyan to settle the

Sirajganj clash

From Page 1

Hossen, 21, Abdul Kuddus Lenin, 19 and rickshawpuller Korban Ali, 45, were admitted to Siraigani General Hospital

The clash erupted between the two groups of student overtaking seats in the classroom.

The authorities declared the college closed for an indefinite period. Police force was deployed on Islamia College campus and other important places. A tense situation is prevailing in the area.

Nick Leeson to be extradited to Singapore

BONN. Nov 14: The German government today authorised the extradition to Singapore of the former financial trader Nick Lesson, reports AFP.

Leeson, a Briton who worked for the Barings Merchant Bank in Singapore, is wanted on charges relating to huge losses that bankrupted the institution.

Returnees

From Page 1 urday and Monday last.

Of the first group of 157 alleged deportees, 145 came aboard a Bangladesh Biman flight, while the rest came by an Emirates flight from Karachi the same day. The second batch of 125

arrived at the ZIA by an Emirates flight on Monday. All these people were ar-

rested and sent to the Can tonment thana. Later they were produced before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM)

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Ershad

reports BSS

during the last few days.

dent, the Press Note added.

By Staff Correspondent

other injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

JS session

From Page 1 26 last.

tices were submitted till vesterday.

placed in the Parliament. ration of the session.

Deputy Leader of the Par-

night the commission said it elections or general election. As per the Constitution of

kind of statements.