

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES.
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.
 TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

The Daily Star

Standard Chartered
Fingertip Convenience
 Standard Chartered
 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

VOL. V NO. 296 REGD. NO. DA 781 AGRAHAYAN 5 1402 BS, DHAKA SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 1995 JAMADI-US-SAANI 25, 1416 HIJRI

Inside Today

Article
 McNamara Visits Vietnam: Lessons of History
 Column: On The Record
 by Shah AMS Kibria
 Page 4

Focus
 'Cold War II' sparks Muslim anger; Putting garbage in its place; and Donors need to cooperate
 Page 5

International
 Tigers down air force jet, 5 crewmen killed
 Clinton apologises for rape of Okinawa girl
 Page 8

Business
 New energy policy may face setback due to inefficient power plants, fertiliser units
 Pakistan closer to grant India MFN trade status
 Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET
 DSE price index 878.32 (-0.24%)
 Market capital Tk 5620.75 cr
 Transactions in volume 287376
 Transactions in value Tk 5.31 cr

CSE MARKET
 CSE price index 426.57 (-0.13%)
 Market capital Tk 2108 cr
 Transactions in volume 1490
 Transactions in value Tk 1.72 lakh

JS session prorogued PM urges Opposition to take part in next polls

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has urged the Opposition to participate in the next general elections to "prove that they are for democracy and for the people".

"We don't have much time in hand. We'll have to go for elections. My friends in the Opposition, take part in the elections to prove that you are for democracy, for the people and for the continuation of the democratic process", Begum Zia said in her winding-up speech at the 22nd session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad last night. The session, which was prorogued at 9.25 pm, is likely to be the last one as the BNP government may seek dissolution of the present parliament by November 22, sources concerned indicated.

In her 40-minute speech, the Leader of the House also reiterated her call to the agitating Opposition to come to the negotiating table to resolve all political problems. "People want a negotiated settlement of the current (political) crisis".

Explaining how the 20-month-old political impasse had originated, the Prime Minister said, "My friends (MPs) in the Opposition boycotted Parliament for a simple reason and later resigned from it... They're now out of the House just because of their anger and dismay... Even then, I would like to repeat my call to them to sit for talks with an open mind and an open agenda".

Recalling that parliamentary democracy was established through united efforts in this House, the PM sought Opposition's cooperation in continuing the process of democracy and development in the country.

"Let's again work together", she said.



Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia delivering the winding-up speech at the 22nd session of the fifth Parliament at the Sangsad Bhavan yesterday.

Khaleda still optimistic of consensus

By Nazmul Ashraf

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is still optimistic of reaching a consensus with the Opposition on how the next general elections would be held.

"I've already expressed my views and I think there is still chance for a compromise," she said in response to a question if she would give any more concession to the opposition parties agitating for polls under a neutral caretaker government.

Begum Zia was talking to a few reporters at the Parliament lobby just before she stepped into the elevator.

Asked if her party discussed any name as head of an interim government for holding the next polls, Begum Zia said, "I don't want to see Page 12 Col 7"

EC plans JS polls in phases with help of armed forces

By Staff Correspondent

The next parliamentary elections are likely to be held in phases — in two divisions at a time — with the help of members of the armed forces.

This was indicated at a meeting yesterday between the Election Commission (EC) and some political parties. Major opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami — were not represented at the meeting.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice A K M Sadeq, Election Commissioner Justice Abdul Jalil and Secretary of the EC Irshadul Hoque attended the meeting held at the NEC conference room at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. The ruling party was represented by Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah who assured about support on behalf of his party to the EC for conducting a free and fair election.

Following suggestions from the political parties during the discussions, the EC said the EC might seek help from the armed forces to maintain law and order during the polls.

Justice Sadeq said various steps including formulation of a 34-point code of conduct, a ban on defaulting debtors' participation in elections and increasing the number of polling centres from 24,000 to 30,000 have been taken to ensure fair polls.

"People involved in business with the government will also be debarred from participating in the polls," the Chief Election Commissioner said.

The EC Secretary, announcing a set of programmes said that the commission would also make sure that the electronic media could be used both by the Opposition and the ruling parties for election campaigns.

The EC had sent invitations to a total of 66 political parties out of which only 22 were represented at the meeting.

Irshadul Haque said that they hoped that the government would see Page 12 Col 1

5th JS has maintained neutrality: Speaker

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali last night said that the fifth Jatiya Sangsad had maintained neutrality in conducting its business as per the Rules of Procedures of the Sangsad, reports BSS.

Before reading out the presidential order to prorogue the 22nd session he said that the members of the Opposition bench were allotted 70 to 75 per cent of the total time of Sangsad proceedings.

Refuting the charges that the Opposition members were not given the floor when they were in the House, the Speaker said, "The Opposition had taken 60 per cent of discussion".

See Page 12 Col 4

\$276m deficit in balance of payment in July-Aug

By R M Titumir

The country's balance of payment (BOP) showed a deficit of 276 million US dollars during the first two months of the current fiscal year as against a surplus of 128 million dollars during the corresponding period of the previous year.

According to sources in the Bangladesh Bank, the deficit was due to a substantial deficit in the current account.

The BOP includes current account balance, direct foreign investment, external borrowing, grants and others.

The current account — comprising trade gap, workers' remittance, non-factor services and other factor payments — registered a deficit of 119 million dollars mainly due to a high trade deficit during the July-August period of this year as against a surplus of 80 million dollars during the corresponding period of the previous year (1994-95).

The central bank sources said, traded gap — balance export earning and import bills — registered a deficit of 322 million dollars during July-August of the current fiscal as against the deficit of 112 million dollars during the corresponding period of last year.

The import jumped to 1003 million dollars in the July-August period of this year compared to 730 million dollars in the corresponding period of the previous year.

Although highly out-paced by import, export saw a slight increase during the period.

See Page 12 Col 8

Police constable strangled for protesting rape

By Staff Correspondent

A police constable was allegedly strangled by some staff of a hospital under Mohalchhari thana in Khagrachhari on Friday night, according to Khagrachhari Police Superintendent Abul Hashem.

When contacted upon he said police constable of Mohalchhari battalion, Sharif Ahmed, was found dead with a scarf tied around his neck at about 3 pm on Friday. His body was lying near the Mohalchhari thana health complex. Sharif Ahmed was admitted earlier for treatment of malaria, the SP said.

The SP claimed that investigations revealed that the constable was killed because he was protesting against the rape of a girl.

See Page 12 Col 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The Dilemma of a Would-be Doctor
 Page 3

Raushan Ershad's condition worsens

By Staff Correspondent

Condition of Raushan Ershad and three other members of her family deteriorated on the third day of their hunger strike yesterday, according to Jatiya Party press release.

The press release signed by Jatiya Party leader and former Health Minister Dr Azizur Rahman said Raushan got weaker as she was attacked by diarrhoea and her blood pressure went down with pulse beat increasing.

Raushan, her elder sister Mamata Wahab, younger sister of Ershad, Merina Rahman and a niece of Ershad, Rozina Rahman Popy began fast-unto-death on Thursday evening at JP's Banani office demanding shifting of the ailing former President Ershad from Dhaka Central Jail to hospital.

The advisor of the medical See Page 12 Col 2

'Talks without agenda won't be fruitful'

Opposition leaders yesterday gave a cold shoulder to the Prime Minister's fresh offer for dialogue and said a "free style" discussion without any specific agenda cannot yield any fruitful outcome in resolving the crisis, reports UNB.

Former Chief Whip of the Opposition Mohammad Nasim of Awami League questioned the efficacy of discussion with the Prime Minister who even hesitated to pronounce the demand for a neutral non-party caretaker government.

In his reaction, Nasim said being leader of the House Begum Zia did never feel it necessary to discuss with the leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina any issue of national importance when the Opposition was in Parliament.

The Prime Minister rejected all reasonable proposals in the House by dint of sheer majority and failed to take any step against corrupt ministers, he said.

Referring to Begum Zia's appeal for democracy, he said the word "democracy" does not suit this government.

See Page 12 Col 6

BCL calls strike at DU today

By DU Correspondent

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the Bangladesh Awami League, will enforce a day-long strike at the Dhaka University today demanding release of its activists arrested during six-day hartal.

The BCL activists yesterday brought out a procession on the campus in support of today's strike. The BCL leaders, at a rally, criticised the police attack on rallies on November 6 and November 8.

See Page 12 Col 6

Foreign cos may start off-shore drilling in Dec

By Sharier Khan

The country's first off-shore drilling since 1974 for hydrocarbon reserves is scheduled to begin from December 4, according to a well-placed source in the Energy Ministry.

Cairn Energy Plc of Scotland and Holland Sea Search of the Netherlands will begin drilling of wells in the Bay of Bengal, 10 km off Kutubdia island at an investment of US 20 million dollars.

If everything goes well, the companies will begin drilling of two 'pilot holes' of 6000 meters each in the exploration block No 16 in the shallow waters of the Bay from December 4 and begin the actual drilling from December 16. They plan to deploy one more barge, three support vessels, one tug and anchor tug and helicopter for the exploration work, the sources said.

However, the companies are yet to obtain clearance for bringing in their equipment including a rig for the exploration.

In addition, millions of dollars worth of equipment of these companies, "temporarily imported", for seismic survey in block 15 in Chittagong region, are stuck up at the Chittagong port since the first week of October as the Customs Authorities are asking for tax on these equipment although it was previously agreed that government would exempt tax on such tools.

The companies are paying US 36,000 dollars daily for these hired equipment and See Page 12 Col 2

Gunmen open fire on police van escorting JU teachers

By JU Correspondent

SAVAR, Nov 18: Armed gangs opened fire on a police van escorting the Jahangirnagar University teachers near Amin Bazar today in which the driver of the van received minor injuries.

The gangs allegedly the activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir, also hurled some handbombs at the van escorting the university teachers at around 9 am.

Police arrested three persons today from the spot for their alleged involvement in the attack. The arrested persons were identified as Nazmul Huq, Belaet Hossen and Abdul Mannan.

The police was escorting the bus carrying the teachers because tension mounted at See Page 12 Col 5

ANNOUNCEMENT

Read the full transcript of *The Daily Star* Roundtable on "Priority Agenda for 1996: Options and Challenges", to be published tomorrow. The Roundtable had brought together ministers, political leaders, policy-makers, administrators, entrepreneurs, international bankers, researchers, and representatives of multilateral bodies to discuss what policy options lie before the country for the coming year. The transcript presents a nearly unedited version of the discussion and provides an insight into our achievements and the challenges that lie ahead. Do not miss tomorrow's copy of *The Daily Star*.

Tax collection exceeds target during July-Oct

Country's tax-revenue collection during the first four months of this fiscal is well above the projection but slough in port clearance due to frequent shutdowns slimmed customs duty, reports UNB.

According to official sources, collection of tax-revenue during July-October period of 1995-96 totalled about Tk 3,389 crore, surpassing the period's target by about Tk 71 crore.

A record VAT (Value Added Tax) collection which amounted to Tk 1200 crore during the period, up from the projection by about Tk 95 crore, offset the shortfalls in customs duty, income tax and excise duty.

Official estimates show that customs-duty collection which amounted to Tk 1182 crore during the months fell short of the target by about Tk 44 crore.

A senior official of the National Board of Revenue (NBR), when contacted, told UNB last night that clearance of imported goods was slowed down by hartals, resulting in less-than-expected duty collection.

"If situation in the country See Page 12 Col 8

Bomb hurled on Rajshahi Polytech Instt bus: 7 hurt

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAH, Nov 18: Seven persons including two police constables were injured when several handbombs were hurled on a bus of Rajshahi Polytechnic Institute near Bindur crossing in the city at about 11 am today.

The bus carrying examinees with police escort was stopped by some youths by setting up a barricade on the road. The youths then hurled See Page 12 Col 7

4th Branch of Prime Bank

Opens at Khulna

On Monday, 20th November, 1995

Our Consumer's Credit Scheme, Lease Finance etc. have already unfolded a new horizon in banking.

We have already started direct transactions in Foreign Exchange, opening of LC all over the world, buying and selling of Traveller's Cheques, issuing Draft in Foreign Exchange, opening of FC accounts, Foreign Remittance etc.

We are committed to serve you

Prime Bank Limited
 Bank with a difference

'Chokhbandha Party' holds 30 lakh 'hostage' in four dists

SAVAR, Nov 18: At least 30 lakh people of six thanas in Dhaka, Manikganj, Gazipur and Tangail district have become hostage to "Chokhbandha Party", an organised terrorist group, reports UNB.

During last five years, they abducted at least 500 people from the region and realised about Tk 15 crore as ransom by keeping them hostage, police and local people said.

The terrorist gang, active in Savar and Dhamrai thanas of Dhaka district, Kaliakoir thana of Gazipur, Nagarpur and Mirzapur thanas of Tangail and Shaturia thana of Manikganj districts, killed at least 30 abducted people as their family members failed to pay the ransom.

Dhamrai thana police arrested one Nayeab Khan, 30, known as the "commander" of a gang on November 5 in a confessional statement to the police Nayeab said that he along with his accomplices abducted 30 people and realised Tk 11 lakh from their relatives during the last seven years.

Two youths, recently abducted by the gang were released after paying Tk two lakh, told UNB on condition of anonymity that the terrorists torture the abducted people at their underground cell and feed them once in a day.

There are at least 80 see See Page 12 Col 8