Tender purchase in N'ganj

Armed rivals still move

into the office.

Meanwhile, an Executive

Engineer (Rural Development

Project-6). Mashiur Rahman

from Dhaka visited the LGED

office at Isdair yesterday and

submitted a report on the

latest development there to

Quamrul Islam Siddique, the

It is learnt that in the re-

port Rahman made it clear

that the whole situation in

the area was not in favour of.

opening the tender bids to-

Son of police

officer, 2 others

missing in Bogra

By Staff Correspondent

along with two other boys are

missing from Bogra since

November 18, according to

Ali Biswas, son of police offi-

cer Shajahan Ali Biswas,

Shafiqul Islam and Mo-

hammed Sohel, were stu-

dents of Bogra Armed Police

Battalion School. Sharafat Ali

Biswas and Mohammad Sohel

were students of class ten

while Shafiqul Islam Palash

armed Police Battalion com-

mand at Bogra confirmed the

incident and said a GD has

been lodged with the con-

The Ambassador also felt-

Merrill observed that the

that protection of intellectual

property rights is a must for

attracting US investment in

representatives of American

businesses in Bangladesh can

gradually increase the accep-

tance of international stan-

dards in the business com-

munity and in the govern-

community should organise

itself better to provide a flow

of up to date information on

the economy. "There is a

great deal to be done to de-

velop current measures of

business, investor and con-

setting up a research unit by

the business community for

generating dependable data

of trade and investment

compared with foreign aid.

Merrill said there should be

dialogues between the donors

need for improving the effi-

ciency level specially in the

garments sector as the new

GATT agreement will inten-

sify export competition be-

tween countries with the

be well managed during the

next few years and adequate

"The quota system must

He also highlighted the

and the private sector.

withdrawal of quotas.

and analysis of the economy.

He stressed the need for

In view of the importance

sumer confidence," he said.

He also said the business

cerned thana.

port," he said.

the country.

When contacted the

was a student of class nine.

The missing boys. Sharafat

family sources there.

Son of a police officer

Chief Engineer of the LGED.

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 21 Contractors were unable to purchase tender documents of a work order worth Tk one crore of the Local Government and Engineering Department (LGED) here as armed activists of rival politi cal parties took positions around the office at Isdair to-

Over a hundred people were injured in a series of gunfights between the political activists over the tender

Tender of the LGED's rural infrastructure development project is scheduled to be opened tomorrow. But officials of LGED at Isdair in Narayanganj thana are apprehending that opening of the tender may trigger fresh vio-

The LGED officials are now concerned about the fate of another works order worth Tk 11 crore, for which the Department was contemplating to call tenders within a month.

Witnesses said, armed cadres of a political party took over the control of the LGED office this afternoon while their political opponents, also equiped with fire arms, took position just 50 vards outside the office premises. But, no clash took place as a heavy contingent of police force was patroling the

Some contractors alleged that they could not purchase tender schedules even on the last selling day today as

centres tomorrow. armed groups themselves bought the schedules while barring them from entering

tional University said, the examinations will be held under the University's own curriculum for the first time. In the last two years, the National University conducted the examinations according to the curriculum of the universities of Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chit-

A total of 1.81,135 candidates are appearing in the

The authorities took necessary measures for holding the examinations smoothly. A strong vigilance team has also been setup.

From Page 1

Mahtab. 35, a private car driver: Badshah, 35, a van driver; Rokan Miah, a shopkeeper, and Abdul Hug, 50 They were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

When contacted, the Mohammadpur police said that the clash took place between the two groups as a sequel to previous enmity. No one was

SAARC ministers' meet in Delhi Dec 18-19

of SAARC will meet in New Delhi on December 18-19 to endorse the appointment of the new Secretary General of the seven-nation regional forum, reports UNB.

The present Secretary General, YK Silwal, who is now on a farewell visit to Dhaka, will complete his twovear term on December 30.

The post, filled in rotation among member states, will go to Pakistan and Silwal is likely to be replaced by Naeemuddin Hasan, a senior Pakistani diplomat who has been his country's Ambassador to Syria.

In New Delhi, the Council of Ministers comprising the SAARC Foreign Ministers, is also expected to review the progress of SAPTA, due to come into operation from December 8, the 10th foundation day of the association.

Elaborate programmes are underway to celebrate the decade of the SAARC at the capitals of all the seven

Bhutan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, the Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka — was formally launched in Dhaka on December 8, 1985, with a commitment to promote socio-economic condition of more than one billion people

Businessmen

The programme will start with holding of rallies of businessmen at divisional headquarters to be followed by a 'grand' rally at Manik Mia

Business leaders from all over the country attended conference and discussed about programmes to create pressure on the political leaders for immediate reso-

stopping tax payment for a ing pressure for resolution of lowing participation of loan the proposals which were made by the speakers at the

The meeting authorised the executive committee of the FBCCI for taking final decision about the programmes.

FBCCI vice-president Rashiduzzaman Dudu, Nure Alam Siddiqui of BGMEA, Alhaj Mohammad Ali of jute goods producers association, Khoka Shikdar of Paduka Samity, Khandaker Ruhul Amin, president Restaurant Owners Association, Manjur Ahmed, executive committee member of the FBCCI, Kandaker Asrafuzzaman, Amir Hossen Khan and Iqbal Khan

also spoke on the occasion.

Addressing the conference, Salman F Rahman said, "We are still hopeful of a political settlement, but a time may come when we have to take a stand," he said, we want to show the political leaders that the whole business community is united against this political impasse. He said that whenever he

talked about the right of the business community, a section of the people blamed him for doing politics. "We want the safety of our life, property and investment. We do not want to do politics," the FBCCI president said.

whether there is any embargo from court upon Ahmed's movement. M Dewan Md. Shah Alam. counsel for Ahmed replied in the negative. The judge told the de-

fence counsel that matters raised by him will be put up before the presiding judge

The state was represented by Abdur Razaque Khan, public prosecutor.

Armed Forces Day

From Page 1

After a little while. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who is also the Defence Minister placed wreaths at the Shikha Anirban to pay her respect to the martyrs.

Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen Abu Saleh Muhammad Nasim, Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral Muhammad Nurul Islam and Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed also placed wreaths at the Shikha Anirban.

A reception to the next of kin of those who had been posthumously conferred upon gallantry award "Bir Shrestho" was accorded reception at the Prime Minister's Office in the Armed Forces Division of Dhaka Cantonment.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia met the nearest ones of the seven Bir Shrestho - Captain Mohiuddin Zahangir, Sepoy Muhammad Mostafa Kamal, Sepoy Hamidur Rahman, Shaheed Muhammad Ruhul Ameen ERA-1, Shaheed Flight Lieutenant M Matiur Rahman, Lance Naik Munshi Abdur Rauf, and Shaheed Lance Naik Noor

Mohammad Sheikh. A reception to the next kin of Bir Shrestho and retired army officers, junior commissioned officers and soldiers who had received the gallantry award Bir Uttom,' 'Bir Bikram' and 'Bir Protik' was held at the Army

headquarters. A similar reception was held at the Naval headquar-

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice

ters at Banani.

Marshal Jamaluddin Ahmed

Later, the chiefs of the reme Commander of the Armed Forces Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban.

Meanwhile, President Abrated a grand exhibition of

military hardware arranged at the north-western part of the old airport at Sher-e-Bangla Ministers, diplomats and

display ground. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia who holds the portfolio of Defence Ministry attended a reception at Senakunja at Dhaka Cantonment in the evening. Ministers, MPs, diplomats, distinguished guests, high civil and

Similar receptions were also held in Chittagong. Khulna, Jessore, Bogra, Rangpur, Comilla, Mymensingh

Bangladesh Television telecast a special programme "Dipta Chetona" to mark the day. National dailies brought out special supplements

and Sylhet.

30 injured in Delhi blast

NEW DELHI, Nov 21: A Kashmiri militant group, the Jammu Kashmir Islamic Front, late today claimed responsibility for a blast in the Indian capital's main commercial district, Connaught Place, police said, reports

The Press Trust of India said about 30 people were in jured in the explosion - taking into account those injured who were not admitted to hospital

A caller claiming to be a spokesman from the Front. which was previously known as the Ikhwan-ul-Muslemeen told newspaper offices and news agencies in Srinagar that "we did this to avenge the killings of Kashmiri militants by Indian troops."

Our intention was not to kill the commonman," he told them in Hindi.

PM urged to hold talks with Opposition

By Staff Correspondent

University teachers and lawyers at a seminar vesterday urged Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to hold talks with the opposition leaders on the caretaker gov ernment issues to end the political impasse.

They said that there was no alternative to a neutral caretaker government for holding a rigging-free elec-

The constitution is for democracy, democracy is not for the constitution," said Dr M. Mostafa Chowdhury, Professor of the Department of Political Science, Dhaka University, at the seminar on "The crisis of democracy in Bangladesh and the way out organised by the Ganatantra Sanghati Sangsad at the Engineers' Institute.

Chaired by Advocate Gaziul Haq, it was addressed by Dr Shamsul Huda Harun, Dr ATM Jahurul Haq, Dr Md Hossain Mansur, Dr Golam Mostafa, Prof Dr Imamul Haq. Journalist Abul Kalam Azad and Advocate Ozair Faruk.

In his key-note paper, Dr Mostafa said, "After the resignation of the Opposition from the Parliament it is not possible to amend the constitution for a caretaker government. Therefore, the government should appoint, on the basis of discussion with the Opposition, the Chief Justice or any other acceptable person as the head of the caretaker government."

Pleasantries From Page 1

at the Armed Forces Day reception held at Senakunja vesterday evening.

This was the first time the two leaders were known to have met at a gathering after Begum Khaleda Zia went to attend the wedding reception of Sheikh Hasina's daughter few month's back.

The two leaders sat on adjacent sofas placed under a pandal. They remained seated together for nearly half an hour while visitors filed past them exchanging courtesies. They were seen talking occasionally to one another and also smiling.

Both looked relaxed. Begum Khaleda Zia had tea while Sheikh Hasina

munched on a patties.

The Prime Minister took her seat after having delivered a short speech from a dais eulogising the role of the Armed Forces. Sheikh Hasina, who arrived a few minutes ahead of the Prime Minister, was first led to the sofa in the pandal but later stood up to join the crowd of hundreds of guests invited on the occasion to hear the Prime Minister deliver her short address. She was accompanied by party General Secretary Zillur Rahman.

At one stage, US Ambassador David Merrill presented himself before the two leaders and courteously enquired if they were engaged in a dialogue. The Prime Minister replied, "We have already given offer for a dialogue." Accosted by journalists later Merrill said, "A good beginning has been

Among the few leaders of opposition political parties present at the reception were Dr Kamal Hossain Rashed Khan Menon and Hasanul Hug Inu.

15 hurt as BCL rivals clash

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 21: At least 15 persons were injured four of them seriously, in a series of clashes between two factions of the BCL in Pirojpur today

According to BCL sources. the clashes began following abolition of the district body as per directive of the BCL central committee.

The Midnight File

Kashmir goes without newspapers SRINAGAR, Nov 21: The strife-torn Kashmir valley went

without local newspapers today after Muslim militant groups banned four publications and others failed to appear in an expression of solidarity. Ikhwan-ul-Muslimoon, a renegade militant group, ordered the editors of four Urdu dailies on Monday to stop publishing and to present themselves to leaders of the organisation, reports

Hasina threatens

From Page 1

immediate resignation of the Prime Minister, dissolution of the Parliament and holding of the general election under a neutral caretaker government, she said.

Sheikh Hasina today warned rail-road-air traffic and ports would be shut down from December 7 if Begum Zia did not accept the demand for general election under a non-party caretaker government. UNB adds: Hastna further

said the government would be responsible for any situation arising out of its steps disregarding the demand for general election under a caretaker government.

"The Prime Minister knows well that she won't go for by-polls, it's not possible also. Even then, why she is going to stage a drama by announcing schedule for byelections?" Hasina asked.

Hasina said crores of taka in conducting the byelection would be a wastage. "Who has given the BNP government the authority to waste peo-

hunger strike By Staff Correspondent Begum Raushan Ershad continues her hunger strike for the fifth day yesterday de-

Raushan continues

some other political parties to break the strike. Raushan, wife of former president Ershad, is on hunger strike to press the government to shift her ailing husband from jail to a hospital for treatment.

spite appeals from well-wish-

ers, partymen and leaders of

Ershad has been suffering from viral hepatitis since Nov 4. Meanwhile, a medical board expressed its concern over the deteriorating health condition of Raushan and her sister Mamta Wahab, also on hunger strike, said a Jatiya Party press release. Both the sisters were on intravenous saline for the second day yesterday, it added.

10 students hurt as BCL, BCU clash in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: Ten students were injured in a clash between the activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League and the Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) at Nizampur College in Mirersarai thana today, reports

Today's clash between the two rival student organisations occurred as a sequel to Saturday's trouble that erupted after the BCL supporters allegedly tore down a

BCU poster, witnesses said.

Ctg fair From Page 1

Ronald Grafe will be present as special guest. The industrial fair will

provide a grand meeting place to the manufacturers, buyers and sellers, Nizam The 43-member high

powered British trade delegation now in Bangladesh is scheduled to visit the industrial fair on November 28, president of the chamber, Sarwar Jamal Nizam said at a press conference here today. The visit by the British

trade delegation is aimed at reviewing the investment possibilities in the areas of steel, fertilizer, banking, defence equipments, leather, textile. garments, power generation, frozen food infrastructures, travel and tourism, the chamber president said. The visit is very significant

because the British team comprises representatives from the South Asian Advisory Group (SAAG) British Chamber of Commerce and Industry and Bangladeshi ex patriate investors in Britain. Nizam also informed that

the Chittagong Chamber has already completed the feasibility study for setting up a 'flatted industrial block' here like these of Singapore and Taiwan for development of small and medium industries.

. The work for "flatted industrial block" will be started soon after the availability of a suitable land, Nizam said.

Replying to a question Nizam said that the model of the World Trade Centre to be built by Chittagong chamber at Agrabad commercial area at an estimated cost of Taka 40 crore, has already been completed.

ple's money?"

She alleged that the Prime Minister was running the country forcibly by keeping the "one-party" parliament. In the past, autocratic regimes had disturbed the democratic process time and again and ruled the country. Present government also is following the same old tactics and has created political cri-

Hasina said all opposition parties and the people were unitedly waging movement for the sole demand - caretaker government. But the BNP government does not want free and impartial election. They want to snatch people's freedom of choice by ignoring the constitution."

This government, said Hasina, has lost people's trust by rigging by-election in Mirpur. killing voters at Lalbagh after Dhaka mayoral election. "The only aim of BNP regime is to remain in power by staging a mock election."

Holiday Inn Case From Page 1

The court directed the government to show cause within four weeks as to why the delay of 1,341 days in filing the revisional petition should not be condoned.

The court stayed all further proceedings of the case till disposal of the rule. The Senior Special Judge.

Dhaka, framed charge on March 17, 1992 against the accuseds including former president H M Ershad. former vice-president Maudud Ahmed, former minister for works, Shafiqul Gani Swapan and Abul Khayer Litu, a businessmen, on allegations of misappropriation of Tk. 13,40,43,636.97 through leasing out of a piece of land. north of the Hotel Sheraton, in the name of the Holiday

inn Hotel. Barrister Maudud Ahmed filed on application before the HC on March 22, 1992 for quashment of the entire proceeding of the case which was rejected by the Appellate

Division on November 2 last. Therefore, the proceeding of the case began on November 20 in the court of senior special judge, Dhaka and the trial court fixed January 3 for examination of the witnesses.

Now Moudud Ahmed has filed this revisional application challenging the correctness legality and propriety of the charge after 1,341 days of the time-bar.

Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and M Shamsul Alam, both Deputy Attorney Generals, represented the state in the

By-elections

From Page 1

schedule for by-election to vacant seats if the political parties failed to reach any understanding beforehand."

Justice Sadek recently had said it would be difficult for the Election Commission to hold two big elections by-election and general elections - within such short span of time. But the EC would have to fulfil its constitutional obligation, he now observed.

Digital phones From Page 1

phone demands.

Talking to this correspondent, the Project Director said, of the 20,000 some 3,000 new telephones would be installed while the rest would be the replacement of existing analogue sets.

The commissioning would take one week, said AR Saber adding that digital telephones under the project would be commissioned in Sylhet in December.

Post, Telegraph and Telephone Minister Tarigul Islam had earlier said that the T & T board would install 1.12 lakh new digital lines in the country by December, including 32,000 in the capital. The completion of the

project would fetch an additional income of Tk 300 erore which would bring the gross revenue of T & T upto Tk 1100 crore per year The Board is expected to

repay the investment in this project with interest in three years time. Currently, there are only

three lakh telephones in the country and the annual turnover of T & T Board is around Tk 800 crore. The target is to have eight lakh telephones by the year 2000.

around LGED office

on November 19.

US envoy: Resolve crisis From Page 1 ment stands as an additional

constraint to maximising

economic progress," Merrill

observed. "The stalemate

gives the government an ex-

cuse not to tackle reforms at this time. But Merrill also maintained that "even with the impasse, there is a lot that can be done by the business community to help Bangladesh make the most of whatever political environ-

ment it is faced." "The business community has a good opportunity now to shape the next five years of economic policy, and to build a consensus on what steps need to be taken," Merrill said. "For many governments the best time to make big economic changes is right

after they are elected." Elaborating the economic achievements of Bangladesh, the US Ambassador maintained that there are still many issues like electricity. the capacity of the ports and improvement in customs service to be streamlined for

omy further. Merrill emphasised a transparent and fair procurement system in the country so that US firms canparticipate in bids which will help lower cost of procure-

the country to boost its econ-

"The movement to establish Transparency International is one such activity that

provision made for transition to the new regime," he said. the government could sup-Di confesses adultery

From Page work. I desperately loved my husband and I wanted to share everything together. and I thought that we were a very good team," she said.

But depression set in after

the birth of their first son.

William, in 1982, and she deliberately attacked herself. "So yes, I did inflict upon myself. I didn't like myself, I was ashamed because couldn't cope with the pres-

sures," she said, adding : " ! just hurt my arms and my Later, Diana developed bulimia, a slimmer's disease that caused her to overeat

"It was a symptom of what was going on in my marriage. I was crying out for help." Charles himself admitted adultery in a similar televi-

and then deliberately vomit.

sion interview 18 months ago. Diana said she had known about her husband's affair with Camilla Parker Bowles. "Yes, I was aware, but I

wasn't in a position to do

said Charles's behaviour had

Asked how she knew; she

anything about it," she said.

made it clear. " A woman's instinct is a very good one," she said. But Diana said she did not what a divorce. "I don't want a divorce but obviously we need clarity on a situation

that has been of enormous

discussion," she said.

She said she had not discussed the issue with the heir-to-the throne. The couple, who separated in 1992, have two sons — William, 13 and Harry, 11.

"Why would it resolve matters?" Diana asked. "What about the children? Our boys - that's what matters, isn't it?"Diana, herself frequently

criticised for waging a popularity war in the press, accused courtiers of conducting a campaign against her. "They see me as a threat of some kind, and I'm here

to do good. I'm not a de-

structive person," she said.

Asked if she thought she would ever be queen, Diana answered: "No, I don't no." Diana — far more popular than her quirky husband in public opinion polls — said she valued her work and her supporters enormously and

wanted to work as an ambassador for Britain. AFP adds: Buckingham Palace today offered to hold talks with Diana over her future role in the royal family following her shock television interview in which she cast doubt on her estranged husband Prince Charles' fit-

ness to be king. A palace spokesman said talks with Diana had been offered "to help her define her future role and continue to support her as a member of the royal family."

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By Staff Correspondent The Degree Examinations of 1995 under the National University will begin in 433

A press release of the Na-

examinations.

Teenaged boy

arrested, they said.

The Council of Ministers

member countries. The SAARC - grouping

From Page 1

Avenue in the city.

lution of the political crisis. Besides holding of rallies, week as a means for mountthe political impasse, submitting memorandum to the Election Commission for aldefaulters in general election and stopping donation to the political parties were among

conference.

Yesterday was the first day The trial of the radar purof the case after a division chase case, involving HM Erbench of the High Court on a shad and three others includquashment prayer on behalf ing two former chiefs of of Ershad stayed proceeding Bangladesh Air Force, will against him (Ershad) on begin on January 17, reports November 9 till disposal of The date was fixed yester-

A model at the Korean Charity Fashion show yesterday

at the residence of the Korean ambassador in

Radar purchase case

trial begins Jan 17

Bangladesh.

day by Abdul Majid, fifth addi-

tional district judge, Dhaka

who is holding the charge of

Sixth Additional Judge,

Shafiuddin, the presiding

judge in this case, now on

The recording of evi-

dence, marking the start of

trial in the special case No

155 of 1994 which was

scheduled to start yesterday

will now begin on January 17,

Sultan Mahmud and Air Vice

Marshal (retd) Momtazuddin

Ahmed, accused in this case

were present in the court. Of

the two businessmen who

had been named in the

chargesheet, Shahzad Ali was

dropped when charge was

framed in August. AKM Musa

the other businessman re-

mained absconding since the

case came up for hearing.

Air Vice Marshal (retd)

the said prayer. Meanwhile, two petitions were submitted in the court of Fifth Additional District Judge Majid on behalf of Momtazuddin Ahmed seeking permission to file quashment prayer in the High Court and also to allow him to go out-

- Star photo

side the country for recre-Judge Majid gave no opinion on the prayer to leave the country, but enquired

Shaffuddin for disposal.

also hosted a similar reception at the Air headquarters. three services paid courtesy call on President and Sup-

They also called on Prime Minister Begum Zia at her Armed Forces Division office in Dhaka Cantonment. dur Rahman Biswas inaugu-

Nagar on the occasion. high civil and military officials were also present on the occasion. Chiefs of the three services and the Defence Secretary received the President on his arrival at the

military officials were pre-

highlighting significance of the day.