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## Inside Today

### Article

#### Immigration Blues

Column : As I See It  
by Ikram Sehgal  
Page 4

### Focus

Education is power!  
Light of equal right  
burning bright, but...  
Removing the reasons  
of poverty  
Page 5

### International

Lankan jets bomb  
LTTE positions in  
Jaffna

Taliban recapture two  
more areas  
Page 8

### Business

Tk 678cr irrigation  
project found  
ineffective

Gold consumption in  
India soars  
Pages 6, 7

### DSE MARKET

DSE price index 860.38 (+0.30%)  
Market capital Tk 5505.94 cr  
Transactions in volume 3028823  
Transactions in value Tk 4.43 cr

### CSE MARKET

CSE price index 422.90 (+0.95%)  
Market capital Tk 2137.87 cr  
Transactions in volume 1880  
Transactions in value Tk 2.63 lakh

### Metropolitan

### Dhaka Day by Day

Profile of a Mahalla  
Page 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

### PM's mass contact tour Nov 26

BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will undertake a mass contact tour from Dhaka to Chittagong by a special train on November 26. Acting Secretary General of the BNP and Minister for Food and Agriculture Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement has requested concerned local committees of the BNP and its front organisations and MPs belonging to the party to take preparations for public meetings at the stations on way from Dhaka to Chittagong make those a success, reports BSS.

### FFs' grand rally on Nov 29

The Mukhtodha Sangsad Central Command Council will hold a grand rally in the city on November 29, says a press release. To drum up support for the programme, the Sangsad leaders yesterday exchanged views with a group of intellectuals.

### 175 more Rohingyas repatriated

COX'S BAZAR, Nov 22: A group of 175 Rohingya refugees of 30 families returned to Myanmar today. With this a total of 1,94,800 Rohingyas have been repatriated. Another 56 thousand 77 Rohingyas are still waiting in six camps for repatriation. According to the official sources, the repatriation process has become slow due to lack of clearance from Myanmar authorities.

### 15 injured as JCD BCL clash

SYLHET, Nov 22: At least 15 activists were injured in a clash between the Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Jonab Ali College in Bariachang thana of Habiganj district today. Of the injured, two JCD men have been sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## By-polls to 145 JS seats Dec 15

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission (EC) has announced the schedule for by-elections to 145 Parliament seats, fixing December 15 for voting. The 145 seats fell vacant following consecutive 90-day absence of 143 Opposition MPs from the House and death of two ruling party lawmakers. As it is constitutionally obligatory for the EC to complete the polls to the vacant seats by December 16 under Article 123 of the Constitution, this schedule for the polls has been announced, said a press release

issued by the EC yesterday. The Commission has fixed November 24 for filing nomination papers, November 25 for scrutiny and November 29 as the last date for withdrawal of candidature. It has appointed 54 returning officers and 300 assistant returning officers to conduct the by-elections. Fifty-three deputy commissioners will act as returning officers in 144 constituencies of their respective districts. The Additional Divisional Commissioner-1 of Dhaka has been appointed Returning Officer of 160

Mymensingh along with Neত্রাকona constituency. The EC had earlier extended the 90-day period for by-elections due to floods in the country and later it did not announce the schedule because of the persisting political crisis in the country, the press release said. The Opposition MPs had started boycotting Parliament session from March 1, 1994 and then resigned en masse on December 28, 1994. The Speaker did not accept their resignations on grounds related to constitutional provisions.

## AL, BCL activists go on rampage

By Staff Correspondent

In an instant reaction to the announcement of the by-election schedule, some Awami League activists and supporters went on rampage and damaged dozens of vehicles at the Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday injuring at least 6 persons. One microbus was set on fire. The demonstrators had moved in a procession from in front of the Awami League office chanting anti-government slogans and turned violent at the Bangabandhu Avenue. Police resorted to lathicharge and lobbed tear gas shells to disperse the demonstrators. On the Dhaka University campus, activists of Chhatra League, Awami League's stu-

See Page 12 Col 4

## Opposition will boycott by-elections

Opposition leaders yesterday said that announcement of the schedule for by-elections will only deepen the present political crisis and made it clear that they would boycott it, reports UNB. They also gave a cold shoulder to the Prime Minister's offer of forming an interim national government for holding election. Giving their reaction to the announcement of the by-election schedule, leaders of the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami indicated that they would not only boycott the by-elections,

but would resist it. The Election Commission yesterday announced the schedule fixing December 15 for by-elections to 145 parliamentary seats left vacant by opposition lawmakers. The opposition leaders thought that instead of announcing the schedule for by-elections, the parliament should have been dissolved to pave the way for a neutral caretaker government to hold fresh elections. AL leader Tofael Ahmed said: "The by-election schedule has been given to buy

See Page 12 Col 7

## Why this farce? asks Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to seek immediate dissolution of Parliament for holding elections under a caretaker government. "The PM herself said a country like ours cannot afford two elections within such a short time... BNP is not interested in by-elections... There will be no need of by-elections," Hasina pointed out in a statement and asked "Then why this farce of announcing by-polls schedule?" Referring to the PM's proposal for a national interim government for holding general elections, the AL chief said the PM made the proposal taking into consideration the reality that parliamentary elections would not be free and fair under

See Page 12 Col 3

## Strong tremor shakes ME: Ten killed

CAIRO, Nov 22: A powerful earthquake shook the Middle East from Lebanon to the borders of Sudan at dawn today, causing 10 deaths, at least 69 injuries and damage to buildings in Israel, Jordan, Egypt and Saudi Arabia, reports Reuters. Four people including the hotel manager were killed and 10 people were injured when the four-storey baracuda hotel collapsed in the Egyptian Port of Nuweiba, near the centre of the Gulf of Aqaba, security sources said. In Saudi Arabia, the quake hit the north-western part of the Kingdom, killing a five-year-old child in Al-Bada' and a Pakistani labourer from Haql, an official statement carried by Saudi television said. Jordan's national news agency said 19 people were treated at hospitals for broken bones, cuts, nervous

breakdown and shock in Aqaba, where the quake drove thousands of residents and tourist into the streets. Many, fearing aftershocks, refused to return, preferring to stay in the open. Two people died of heart attacks—an Israeli tourist aged 66 in Eilat and a 70-year-old Jordanian man in nearby Aqaba. In Egypt, two men were killed when they jumped off balconies in Cairo, one in the northeast Cairo suburb of Helopolis and one in the southern city of Assiut. A young Jordanian man broke his leg jumping out of a window and a woman in the Egyptian city of Suez did the same running down stairs. Throughout Israel, frightened citizens called police, ambulance services and fire stations. In Palestinian-ruled Gaza city witnesses said people fled their homes.

## PM iterates her proposal to form interim nat'l govt

JESSORE, Nov 22: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the Opposition to take part in the by-elections for maintaining the hard-earned democratic process and the present trend of development, reports UNB. She reiterated her proposal for forming an interim national government in the run-up to national elections and said opposition parties could help formation of such a government by taking part in the upcoming by-elections. The Election Commission yesterday announced the schedule for by-elections to the 145 parliament seats vacated by the Opposition, fixing December 15 for voting. Begum Zia made the call while addressing a public meeting at the Jessore Eidgah Maidan in the afternoon. She again made it clear that her government would not go beyond the bounds of

See Page 12 Col 2



A group of agitated, opposition political party activists set a car on fire at Bangabandhu Avenue in the city yesterday protesting announcement of the by-election schedule. — Star photo

## BNP may seek to prolong life of JS till early Dec

By Nazmul Ashraf  
The BNP government may take yet another opportunity to prolong the life of the present Parliament until the first week of December, which would facilitate holding of general elections in March next, authoritative sources hinted. The policy planners of the ruling BNP are not so optimistic of a negotiated settlement of the current political impasse within the framework of the Constitution since Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's latest call to the Opposition to contest the by-polls to help form an interim national government for holding the next general elections has not received a positive response, the sources said. Only one day is left for filing nominations for the by-polls to 145 Parliament seats.

See Page 12 Col 1

## British trade team due tomorrow, may sign a number of accords

By RM Titumir

A British trade mission is likely to enter into contracts in energy, physical infrastructure and textile sectors with their counterparts here, sources said. During their week long visit, starting tomorrow, the 35-member strong trade and infrastructure delegation — comprising representatives of 30 companies and trade bodies in power, construction, textile, jute, machinery and leather sectors and government departments — will meet key business and government leaders in Dhaka and Chittagong. Led by Peter Lee, managing director of Mott MacDonald Group, with experience in 130 countries, the industrialists of the team will also make sectoral presentation at a seminar on Sunday next to express what they are looking for in Bangladesh. The seminar will be facilitated by the Southern Asian Advisory Group of the British government.

Trafalgar House Construction, working in a full range of design services, building, materials, civil engineering and structural steel with a turnover of 1.1 billion pounds per year, is expected to set up joint venture in low-cost river crossings, coal mining and rock recovery, port and harbour construction, and water and sewerage treatment. RG Foster Textile Machinery Ltd, with its presence in Bangladesh for ten years, is

likely to spread its market base, especially in supplying machinery of composite textile. Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), as the sources say, may agree to invest in local business enterprises by way of equity and medium term loans on commercial basis. According to sources, Midlands Power International and other power generation companies, along with ANZ Grindlays Bank, consider that Bangladesh has an additional power requirement of 2200 MW to meet the demand. The IPP can help to meet this shortfall. J Hides and S Staley of Midlands Power International and B Nicholson of ANZ Grindlays Bank, representing the power sector, are likely to seek adequate protection to the projects in the form of 'sovereign guarantees', covering Implementation Agreement, Power Purchase Agreement and Fuel Supply Agreement. They are also expected to demand the conversion of local currency into hard currency. On financing the IPP, they may suggest a typical debt to equity ratio of 4:1. They can opine that equity may be held

See Page 12 Col 7

## SIBL opens Banks can help eradicate poverty: Biswas

By Staff Correspondent

President Abdur Rahman Biswas has said banks can play a pioneering role in poverty alleviation in the country by supplementing government efforts. It is not possible for the government alone to eradicate poverty, he added. The President was speaking as chief guest yesterday at the inaugural ceremony of the Social Investment Bank (SIBL), the fifth of the seven

See Page 12 Col 6

## Cyclonic storm over Bay

The cyclonic storm over south-east Bay and adjoining Andaman sea moved slightly north-westward and was centred at 9 pm yesterday about 1500 kilometres south-south-west of Chittagong port, reports UNB. A Met office special bulletin said last night the cyclonic storm is likely to intensify further and move in a north-westerly direction. Maximum sustained wind within 54 kilometres of the cyclone centre is about 85 kilometres per hour. Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted distant warning signal number 2. Trawler capsized: 5 sailors missing  
From Our Correspondent  
COX'S BAZAR, Nov 22: Five sailors were missing when a rice-loaded trawler capsized at the J M Ghat in the Mohesh Khali channel today. The trawler had started from Cox's Bazar town in the morning for Khalar Mar Chara with 10 metric tonnes of rice and capsized in the channel due to overload.

## Tight security around Tripura camps to hold back Chakmas

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Nov 22: Security has been beefed up in and around the refugee camps in Tripura state of India to check voluntary return of Chakma refugees to their homes in Chittagong Hill Tracts, according to reports trickling in from across the border. Armed Shantubahinimen, aided by border guards in Tripura, stepped up their surveillance over the refugee camps immediately after Prime Minister Khaleda Zia had called upon the Chakma refugees on November 16 during her visit to Khagrachhari hill district, to come back to their homesteads and live with dignity, the reports said. According to official sources, a total of 1988 Chakma refugees belonging to 470 families fled camps and returned home voluntarily in the past one year and three months although the third phase of formal repatriation remained stalled. Sources said delay in resumption of formal repatriation and severe hardships in camp-life had prompted those Chakma refugees to return voluntarily to their homes in Bangladesh. Many others opted to follow the same strategy to escape the camp-life, sources informed. Officials said these refugees had returned voluntarily through Ramgarh and Panchhari border points under Khagrachhari district. The refugees who returned voluntarily were also

Industrial fair begins in Ctg  
From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Nov 22: The eight-day long industrial fair began here from today amid much enthusiasm shown by the participants from different pieces of the country. Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) in cooperation with German Federation of Small Business (ZDH) and Technonet Asia (TA) organised the fair at the premises of the Krira Parishad. The fair has been styled Technology Exposition-95.  
See Page 12 Col 5

## Degree exams begin today

The degree examinations of 1995 under the National University begins throughout the country today, reports UNB. A total of 1,81,135 candidates are expected to appear in the examinations to be held under the National University curriculum for the first time. The examinations will be held at 433 centres across the country, including 20 in the capital, said a National University press release. The university conducted the degree examinations in last two years in accordance with the curriculum of Dhaka, Rajshahi and Chittagong universities. Meanwhile, necessary steps to hold the examinations in a fair and peaceful manner have been completed. A vigilance team has also been formed. The university authorities sought cooperation of all, including students, teachers and guardians, to maintain peace in the examination centres.

## JCD declares BNP leader persona non grata in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 22: Some leaders of the Sylhet district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) today declared Abul Haris Chowdhury, a central BNP leader and Special Assistant to the Prime Minister, persona non grata in Sylhet for "creating intra-party chaos". The JCD leaders at a press conference at the Sylhet Press Club also accused Haris of sheltering the killers of Jubo Dal leader Muhin Khan. Muhin Khan was killed in an intra-party gunfight at Sylhet MC College Tuesday. Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury joint convener of the Sylhet District JCD and some other leaders while addressing the press conference also urged Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia to intervene to stop "further killing of JCD activists" in Sylhet. Earlier in the day, the JCD brought out a mourning procession in the town to protest the killing of Muhin and declared a week long protest programme

## Over 200 religious militants and Afghans rounded up in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Nov 22: Pakistani police have detained hundreds of religious militants and Afghans in a nationwide crackdown on religious and political violence and after the Egyptian embassy bomb blast, officials said, reports AFP. More than 200 religious militants were detained nationwide in a move officials said was not directly linked to the car bombing that destroyed the Egyptian embassy in Islamabad on Sunday killing 18 people. Press reports said about 80 Afghans had been picked up in Islamabad over the embassy blast and that five Afghan employees of the embassy were missing after the blast. Another report says, Pak-

istani police are looking for five Afghan workers at the Egyptian embassy suspected of involvement in the car-bomb blast, Cairo's police chief said. Ahmad Mohammad Alawi, quoted in today's edition of Al-Ahram newspaper, said the police could not trace the five because their files were destroyed in Sunday's blast. They were suspected of complicity in the attack. Egypt's Ambassador to Pakistan, Noaman Galal, said meanwhile that the death toll had risen to 18, with two more of the wounded dying of their injuries. Nasim Akhtar Khan, a Pakistani, died in hospital today from multiple injuries he suffered in the blast, medical sources said. Three Egyptian fundamen-

talist groups have claimed responsibility for the blast. Pakistani police earlier on Tuesday arrested at least 57 people belonging to three Islamic extremists parties, police and officials said. Those arrested include leaders and militants of the Sunni Muslim's Sipah-e-Sahaba Pakistan (SSP), the minority Shiite sect's Sipah-e-Mohammed Pakistan (SMP) as well as activists of another Shiite political party Tehreek-e-Jaluria Pakistan (TJP), the sources said. Officials said administration chiefs in the country's populous Punjab province had been directed to apprehend all hardcore activists of sectarian parties who could pose a threat to law and order.



Leaders belonging to different extremist religious parties sit outside the sealed office of Shi'ite Muslim faction Tehrik-e-Jafaria Pakistan (TJP) at Karachi yesterday. Pakistani security agencies have sealed all the major religious party offices throughout the country, after the massive bomb blast in Egyptian embassy. — AFP/UNB photo