## Govt urged to suspend **FAP** activities

By Staff Correspondent

The Association of Development Agencies in Bangladesh (ADAB) and Coalition of Environmental NGOs (CEN) yesterday demanded immediate suspension of all activities of the Flood Action Plan (FAP) in the country as it was against the interest of the

"We have been campaigning for last four years against the FAP which does not help the people, rather it affects the crops and arable land in the project areas creating draught and water logging. said Khushi Kabir, Chairper son of the CEN while briefing journalists on the "mass conference" on FAP held on Monday at the BMDC audito-

Demanding ecologically balanced water management in the region she said river routes should not be disturbed using technology in the name of flood protection.

"Water is not our enemy but it is our resource which was not considered in the FAP," she said at the press conference at the Jatiya Press Club. Rasheda K Chowdhury, director of ADAB. Atique Rahman and Hamidul Hag both members of the ADAB and some affected people from FAP project areas were also present at the press conference.

Khushi Kabir said "it is totally impossible for Bangladesh to solve its water and flood problems alone, because the sources of most of the rivers flowing over the country are outside its terri-

In this regard, she informed the press that the NGOs, working in this region were trying to create a pressure group advocating a broader water management policy covering all areas of the South Asian region.

The flood protection dam is a life and death problem to us." Abul Kashem of Tala thana in Satkhira district said referring to a flood protection dam which was erected by the government without considering the problems of the inhabitants of his area.

"We were forced to cut the dam partially to release the water which submerged 17 villages of Tala and Dumuria thanas, Kashem said. A total of 53 villages under those two thanas were affected by the 24 Number folder sluice gate, he said.

Malati Prova Dey, from a village in the FAP project area in Tangail, said no crop was harvested in her seven bigha of land this year due to

## PM: Army

From Page 1

Bangladesh. The modernisation of the army, she said, was linked with the country's develop-

Extending her sincere thanks to the newly-commissioned army officers, the Prime Minister said that they were going to begin their working life with a new responsibility.

Begum Zia said that she was proud to see the standard of the BMA which has now acquired dignity interna tionally.

Begum Zia thanked a foreign national who also received commission today.

Begum Zia earlier inspected the smartly turnedout parade and took salute at the impressive march past.

A K M Azam Chowdhury was adjudged the best all round cadet and was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour.

## Shantibahini buying time

From Page under our grip, it would be hard to control (Shantibahini) activities.

Meanwhile, in related developments, the Pahari Chhatra Parishad (PCP), Pahari Gano Parishad (PGP) and Hill Women's Federation (HWF) ave geared up motivational and mobilising ctivities.

The three organisations are out to take the issue to a political level, both nationally and internationally. They are also spreading panic among the tribals to make them antagonistic to army and plain

Army officials specifically named some NGOs and west ern countries that are supporting the activities of these organisations.

These organisations want to disturb the present calm in the hills," said Gen Rahman. "They are regularly holding motivational classes in the schools to antagonise the tribals against the Ben-

"These organisations have been able to muster more support from the tribals than the SB could ever do." said a high official of Counter Insurgency unit. "They are building

as a must for 'continuation of economic development of the hills'. Restrictions on people's movement have been lifted, which has once again geared up economic activities in the region. People are coming to markets from far

flung areas taking the advan-

tage of improved road com-

munications and are selling

their produces at higher "If the ceasefire is not extended, a panicky situation will return to the hills," said Brigadier Kazi Ashfaq Ahmed. Regional Commander, Kha-

grachhari. "Our pacification

programme that benefits the hills people will be affected." The army is now spending Tk 1.5 crore each quarter for pacification programme the CHT. Projects like pond digging, tubewell sinking, school construction, bridge-making etc come un-

der this programme. "The government is also giving special preference to tribals regarding education. business ... everything," said Gen Rahman. "We carry out Food for Works Programme for tribals. Tribals have been kept out of income tax net."

The US ambassador was

also seen speaking to both

Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia and Awami

League chief Sheikh Hasina at

the Armed Forces Day recep-

tion on Nov 21, where the

two leaders were found ex-

changing pleasantries. Ac-

costed by journalists, Merrill

described the exchange say

been made.

ing: "A good beginning has

on several occasions stated in

public forums that the politi-

cal parties should strive to

resolve the crisis. At a lun-

cheon meeting of the US-

Bangladesh Economic Forum

last week, Merrill said: "A

resolution of the stalemate

leading to an election with

full participation and leading

to a period of calm, would

permit a fair look at whether

the government which comes

to office has the will to tackle

agenda is in turn hostage to

some degree to the current

Earlier on September 4.

US Assistant Secretary of

State for South Asia Robin

Raphel arrived in Dhaka on a

4-day visit. Although it was

termed as a routine visit, the

US official met top leaders of

the government, the Opposi-

tion and the business com-

Chief of Army Staff.

government.

munity. She also met the

Secretary of State had a 90-

minute meeting with Sheikh

Hasina. Although the full de-

tails were not given out to

the press it was speculated

that she had hinted at certain

The US visiting Assistant

political deadlock," he said.

The economic reform

difficult issues."

The US envoy had earlier

## **US urges Govt, Opposition**

From Page 1 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Monday last and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina last Thursday, a day before Parliament was dissolved.

Informed sources said that the US ambassador and envoys of western donor countries were impressing upon both the leaders to come to an amicable understanding so that the democratic process was sustained through elections participated by all par-

### PM's reply soon From Page 1

with her senior party colleagues to discuss her fourth letter to the AL chief and other issues relating to the political crisis and the next general elections.

Meanwhile, Salam Talukdar is hopeful of a negotiated settlement of the current political impasse if the agitating Opposition sits for a discus-

Asked if any consensus between the government and the Opposition was possible before the coming general elections, Talukdar told The Daily Star yesterday, "They should first come to the negotiating table to talk with an open mind. Following the dissolution of Parliament. there should be a discussion (between the two sides) in the interest of democracy."

Mentioning the Opposition's pre-condition for the proposed dialogue - to accept in principle the idea of a neutral caretaker government — he said there would be no need for talks if they accepted the pre-condition.

Kurigram districts, reports UNB.

Meanwhile, settlement of

the Hill Tracts issue is seen

announced here today by Ambassador Michael Drury. Head of the European Commission delegation in Dhaka, after his extensive up a 'dangerous' network." three-day tour of the flood

> affected northern districts. The announcement came during a meeting between the ambassador and the deputy commissioner of Rangpur,

cian, who received fatal in-

juries from electric shock in

Mohammadpur on Monday

night, died at the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital

Huda, 24, was choked to

death when the scarf around

his neck got stuck with the

lathe machine at an enginee-

ring workshop at Adamjee

wife of one Kalim Matbar, re-

portedly committed suicide

by hanging herseli it a slum

near Mohammadpur flood

protection embankment in

EU to provide

Tk 3.71 cr more

for flood victims

European Union (EU) will

provide an additional Tk 3.71

crore for the post-flood reha-

bilitation in Lalmonirhat and

The special EU huma-

nitarian assistance was

RANGPUR, Nov. 28: The

Meanwhile, Rashida, 30,

In another incident, Nurul

(DMCH) early yesterday.

vesterday.

the alternoon.

The money will be channelled through three European NGOs - Oxfam, Concern and Terres Des Homes (TDH-Switzerland) - and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Society.

## Six rooms of DU hall sealed off

By DU Correspondent

The authorities of the Kab Jasimuddin Hall of the Dhaka University yesterday sealed off six rooms of the dormitory in a bid to free the hall from illegal occupants. The hall sources said

some outsiders were staying in the rooms.

Angered by the action. some resident students reportedly belonging to the JCD, barred the hall provost Dr Md Shahiddullah from entering till 9:30 pm. However the provost could finally enter the hall with the help of proctor Prof Nazrul Islam, sources said.

Earlier, the authorities issued a notice regarding the eviction after a television set worth Tk 35,000 was stolen from the recreation room of the hall on November 20.

From Page 1

cash boxes, scissors and

other accessories. Some took

initiative to set up boundaries

of the markets with ropes

while some connected elec-

The fire department set

up a six-member enquiry

committee to probe into the

fire and refused to provide

estimates of the total amount

of damages until the commit-

cial version on the total

amount of damages caused by

the fire different associations

came up with various claims.

The officials of the Shop-

owners Association claimed

that the loss would be about

Tk 400 crore while another

to be ascertained but some

people at the site cast doubt

over the initial suspicion of

the fire originating from an

electric short-circuit while

others discarded the allega-

Bangabazar this month, in the

previous incidents the fire-

fighters tackled the fire but

this time they just did not act

at all, they could not even

save a single shop," alleged a

leader of the Association.

"Bangabazar became so

preferring anonymity.

"This is the third fire in

tions of arson.

names for heading an interim | popular within so little a time

The cause of the fire is yet

leader put it at 700 crore.

Although their was no offi-

tee's enquiry was over.

tricity line on bamboo poles.



Artistes at a Lalon Geeti festival that began at the Shilpakala Academy in the city yesterday. - Star photo

## Ashuganj-Bhairab bridge

## British ODA will provide soft loan

A meeting between the government of Bangladesh and British Overseas Development Administration (ODA) on the implementation of the proposed Ashuganj-Bhairab bridge project over the river Meghna on the Dhaka-Sylhet road was held in the city yesterday, reports

The Tk 270 crore proposed bridge project is expected to be jointly financed by the government of Bangladesh and British ODA.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, British High Commissioner Peter J Fowler. Secretary, ERD, Lutfulahil Majid, Deputy Chief of the ODA Ainscow, representatives from the Planning Commission, ERD, Roads and Highways Department and technical and economic experts from the ODA took part in the meeting.

The finance minister said the government is determined to go ahead with the bridge project by any means.

### Walkie-talkie means for unfair means

COMILLA, Nov 28: Technology has even changed the method of adopting unfair means in the examinations, a candidate from the Comilla Victoria College proved this by using a walkie-talkie in the degree examinations, reports UNB.

Police said Abu Musa Asari was caught red-handed from the college centre while bugging an answer of 3rd paper of Islamic History through the walkie-talkie on the fourth day of the degree

examinations today. Musa confessed to the police that he also followed the same method in the previous three subjects - Bangla and

Islamic History part I and II. A case was filed with Kotwali police.

and this success has made

many others envious. Clien-

tele in the surrounding mar-

kets dropped considerably.'

said a shop owner of the gut-

Bangabazar was constructed

without any proper planning

or permission from the Fire

Department, according to

sources. An official of the Fire

Service and Civil Defence re-

vealed that only months ago

his department had sent a

warning letter to the shop

owners on the existing haz-

the fire hazards including the

highly inflamable merchan-

dise they were dealing with

in such a congested place but

they paid no attention to it."

the official alleged, promising

to produce a copy of the let-

the Association said, "This

market has been a source of

inspiration for the very grass

root people - unemployed,

educated, illiterate and so on.

We tried to set up our busi-

nesses in a decent place, we

gave money to the DCC and

moreover this land where we

are today belongs to the

Bangladesh Railway, so we had to build the structure on

ber enquiry committee

headed by Joint Secretary of

Meanwhile, the one-mem-

a temporarily."

When asked, a leader of

"We warned them about

Whatever the cause,

ted Bangabazar.

provide soft loan for the project subject to further economic appraisal and technical feasibility Both sides agreed to update the feasibility study re-

The British ODA team also

gave positive indication to

port made by the World Bank to expedite the implementa tion of the bridge project.

The finance minister said World Bank Vice President Joseph Wood, who recently visited the Ashuganj-Tamabil road, was highly impressed and convinced about the economic importance of the road. As a result, the World Bank is financing the construction project of the Ashuganj-Sylhet road. He said. Kuwait Fund for Development has also agreed to finance Sylhet-Tamabil road project.

### Schoolboy stabbed by classmates

By Staff Correspondent

A schoolboy was stabbed reportedly by his classmates at the T&T High School in Fakirerpool area in the city vesterday.

Raju, a student of class eight, was stabbed following a quarrel over the missing of a book, according to sources. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

Motifheel police said that a case has been filed in this connection.

### Amal Sen hospitalised

Workers Party president Amal Sen, 82, was admitted to Dhaka Community Hospital in a critical condition on Monday, said a party source yesterday, reports UNB.

· He became seriously ill two days ago. However, he was taking bed rest as he had been suffering from old-age ailment for the last one month.

Bangabazar: No report of death the Home Ministry Mohammad Giasuddin Pathan interviewed a number of shop owners and local people. He also held a meeting with the Fire Service officials in the

> agency report. "At this stage, nothing can be said about the extent of damage," Pathan told the

afternoon, according to an

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mayor, Mohammad Hanif, in a meeting with the leaders of the four affected markets — Bangabazar Hawkers' Market, Gulistan Hawkers Market, Adarsha Hawkers' Market and Mohanagar Hawkers' Market declared that the Corporation would provide Taka 40 lakh as aid for constructing temporary markets on the same

Mayor Hanif directed his engineering department to float tenders in the newspapers within 24 hours for building Adarsha and Mohanagar Hawkers' markets. In the case of Bangabazar and Gulistan Hawkers' markets, the Mayor asked the department to prepare the project profile within seven days.

The Mayor also welcomed the Prime Minister's direc tive of offering loans on easy terms to the affected trading and for donation of 1,100 bundles of corrugated tins

### Saidee's meet in Kishoreganj foiled

KISHOREGANJ, Nov 28: A student-people onslaught on the stage set at Husseinpur today by Jamaat activists for Moulana Delwar Hossain Saidee to deliver religious discourse foiled the meeting and left at least 40 injured on both sides, reports UNB.

Police and witnesses said the venue for gathering about 20,000 people at Husseinpur thana playground came under the wrath of several hundred students and people of different organisations when devotees and Jamaat workers were readying the rostrum.

The angry people also set fire to two motorbikes owned by the Jamaat activists.

The injured people were released after giving first aid. Saidee went back to Dhaka from the district Sadar hear ing about the dismantling of the stage

### Dacoity in Shurma Express, 3 stabbed By DMCH Correspondent

A gang of about ten dacoits stabbed three persons aboard the Sylhet-bound Shurma Express and robbed cash and valuable from passengers of a compartment near Tongi Monday night.

The gang) armed with maschettes, rods and sticks attacked the passenger of the compartment close to the engine at about 10pm, according to the injured persons admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The injured persons admitted to the DMCH are Badsha Miah, 25, Kaiser Rashid, 35, and Selimuddin, Railway police, however

said that only two dacoits had jumped into the running train and snatched only two bags from a passengers compartment and left within a short time.

## FFs' rally in city today

By Staff Correspondent Awami League chief Shei kh Hasina will address as chief guest a grand rally of the freedom fighters in the city this afternoon. The rally, organised by the

Bangladesh Muktijoddha Sangsad, will be held at 2 pm at Shapla Square. AL leader Abdur Razzak

**Dhaka City Corporation Mayor** Mohammad Hanif, Left Democratic Front (LDF) leader Kazi Aref Ahmed, Ganotantri Party leader Mohammad Afzal and Col (retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury, a sector commander of the War of Liberation, will also speak.

Chairman of the central command council of the Muktijoddha Sangsad, Principal Abdul Ahad Chowdhury will preside, says a press re

#### Master plan From Lage 1

Three components of the CMMP include planning, transportation and drainage

and flood control. It aims at involving the private sector for the first time, besides the public sector efforts. The master plan outlines

a government investment of Tk 1,000 crore for drainage and flood control and another Tk 400 crore for transportation. It envisages other investments by the private sec-The plan covers the aspects of population of the

port city, distribution of the population, economy, housing, environment, urban land development, rural land development and the city's prestige projects. In order to ensure private

investment in the urban planning, a CDA Ordinance Amendment Bill was drafted and placed before the TMC.

To stop malpractice by government employees in the process approval for building plans and land use, some amendments to the East Bengal Building Construction (EBBC) Act, 1952, were also drafted and placed before the TMC in February.

TMC members said that the amendments had to be studied before their approval and had set up a sub-commit tee for the job.

#### Hasina From Page 1

sent political crisis.

Another report adds: The Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) yesterday hailed Sheikh Hasina for taking initiative to end the political crisis by talking to the Prime Minister over telephone. Meanwhile, city unit of the

Awami League will hold a rally and stage a demonstration at Bangabandhu Avenue today to press its demand for holding elections under a caretaker government and ouster of the present government.

# The Midnight Kile

### NATO okays plans to send 60000 troops to Bosnia

BRUSSELS. Nov 28: NATO military planners have approved plans to send 60,000 troops to Bosnia to implement a peace deal, the chairman of NATO's military committee Field Marshall Sir Richard Vincent said today reports AFP.

## Hearing of JP Office Case on Jan 10

The Special Judge's Court yesterday adjourned the hearing of the Jatiya Party office case for six weeks as deposed president H M Ershad could not be produced in the court because of his indisposition, reports

Former works minister

Mostafa Jamal Haider and former works secretary M A Rouf, co-accused with Ershad in the Special Case No 50 of 1993, were in the dock for a brief period. Both prosecution and defence sought adjournment of the hearing citing different grounds.

Yesterday was earlier fixed for re-examination of three witnesses including one from the prosecution.

Additional Sessions Judge and Special Judge Akhlakur Rahman Chowdhury after hearing both sides fixed January 10, 1996, for the next date of hearing of this case.

Assistant public prosecutor M Masud Ahmed Talukder while seeking adjournment said since Ershad, the principal accused in this case is not present in court, it won't be proper to proceed with the reexamination of the witnesses. The reexamination will start only when he is back to the dock, he added.

#### British team From Page I

city for making investments.

Among others who took part in the discussion were Ali Ahmed, former president of CCCI, Jahangir Chowdhury Shamsul Kamal, Kamal A Khan, Igbal Ahmed, Abdur Rauf Dr Kabir Chowdhury and Neil Semple. Senior vice president of CCCl Jafrul Islam Chowdhury gave vote of thanks.

The British trade mission later attended a reception accorded by the ANZ Grindlays Bank and visited the industrial fair being held here. The delegation is scheduled to visit the Chittagong export processing zone tomorrow.

#### Zillur From Page I

ring her (PM) again at this stage as it will be just a futile exercise," the AL general secretary said. "Anything can happen —

anytime," said Zillur when his attention was drawn to the lingering political crisis. But he did not elaborate. The AL secretary further

clarified that the Opposition would not withdraw from the on-going agitation till the 'peoples demand' is met.

He said that AL president did not receive any fresh let ter from the Prime Minister till late last night.

Advocate Humayun Kabir, appearing on behalf of the deposed president, demanded adjournment of the hearing since a revision petition against the order of reexamination of the witnesses is awaiting in the High Court, Besides, the adjournment was also needed as Ershad is not in a position to be in the court, he said.

Judge Chowdhury after hearing both sides said that the trial could only be stayed when an order to that effect was available from the High Court. Otherwise, the trail will take place on the date fixed (January 10, 1996).

As for transfer of Ershad to a specialised hospital. Chowdhury said, as a subordinate court, we have nothing

#### Memo to DC From Page 1

and Akhter Hossain house keeper of Solaiman Haider, an industrialist of Talla area were killed and Nizamuddin another employee of Haider was injured in the seating at Dharmaganj. The processionists today

claimed that some persons of an influential man of Dharmaganj had initiated the beating purposefully, calling them child-lifters allegedly because Haider had refused one lakh taka toll, demanded by that influential man. The gang of that influen-

on the spot had identified the three as employees of Haider, the processionists and some witnesses claimed. Solaiman Haider has

tial man continued to beat

them even after some people

lodged a case with Fotullah thana in this connection.

#### JU bus attacked From Page 1

being ousted by the APSU from the university. Three ICS activists were arrested earlier by Savar police on charge of damaging the university buses.

University officials told this correspondent yesterday that more police have been deployed to escort the buses plving between Dhaka and the campus to the carry the university teachers.

## Perspective plan

Fron: Page 1

rather play a "promotional role" in this regard.

BCI President Subid Ali in his speech said, people must have purchasing power, so that the economy can grow. He said import of footgrains. specially rice, should be stopped by increasing its production in the country.



### Bangladesh Bank **Motijheel Office** Dhaka

## Treasury Bill Tenders for the 90-day Govt. Treasury Bill will

be received on 04-12-95. The intending tenderer should submit their tenders in the prescribed form which can be had from the General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel Office, Dhaka.

sealed cover superscribed "Tender for 90-day Govt. Treasury Bill" and should be deposited in the box exclusively kept for the purpose in the chamber of General Manager, Bangladesh Bank, Motijheel Office, Dhaka before 12-00 Noon on 04-12-95. The results of the auction would be announced on 5-12-95. Successful bidders would be required to make payment of cost price latest by 12-00 Noon on 06-12-95.

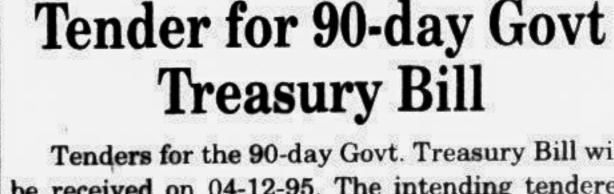
corporate bodies, banks and financial institutions residing/engaged in business in Bangladesh are

PR&PB 48/95-2564

A H Tawfique Ahmed General Manager

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