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DSE MARKET

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| DSE price index | 844.14 (+1.18%) |
| Market capital Tk | 5403.24 cr |
| Transactions in volume | 98306 |
| Transactions in value Tk | 2.46 cr |

CSE MARKET

| | |
|--------------------------|-----------------|
| CSE price index | 417.41 (+2.24%) |
| Market capital Tk | 2275.16 cr |
| Transactions in volume | 1790 |
| Transactions in value Tk | 2.79 lakh |

Magazine

Literary significance of early Bengali translation of Shakespeare; The season of delights; Ashapurna Devi: A jewel of a writer; and Viewing video with Rising Stars; Teens and Twenties; Travel and Tourism and a special supplement on World AIDS Day
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Dhaka Day by Day

Drivers and Dented Cars
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NEWS BRIEFS

Gunshots rock DU

Dhaka University was rocked once again with gunshots yesterday. Witnesses said a band of gunmen drove into the DU premises at about 1:45 pm in a microbus and a motorbike. Halting at different points of the campus they opened fire scaring the students. Panicky students ran helter skelter for their safety. However, no casualty was reported. The gunmen also damaged a mobile fast-food shop in front of the Art Institute, reports UNB.

JCD, BCL clash in Satkhira

From Our Correspondent
 SATKHIRA, Nov 30: Two activists of the Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal were injured in a clash with the Bangladesh Chhatra League on the Satkhira Government College campus yesterday. Both the groups used brick bats and Chinese axe during the clash, eyewitnesses said. Of the two injured, Feroz was in critical condition and admitted to the Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

Traffic safety campaign

By Staff Correspondent
 The Traffic Division of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police is going to launch a traffic safety campaign to raise awareness of traffic rules among the city dwellers. The three-day campaign from Sunday is aimed at organising a smooth traffic system in the metropolitan.

Troops capture hideout of Prabhakaran

COLOMBO, Nov 30: Sri Lankan troops captured a key hideout of Tamil Tiger supreme Velupillai Prabhakaran, the island's most-wanted man, and were gearing to storm the rebel citadel of Jaffna, the military said today, reports AFP.

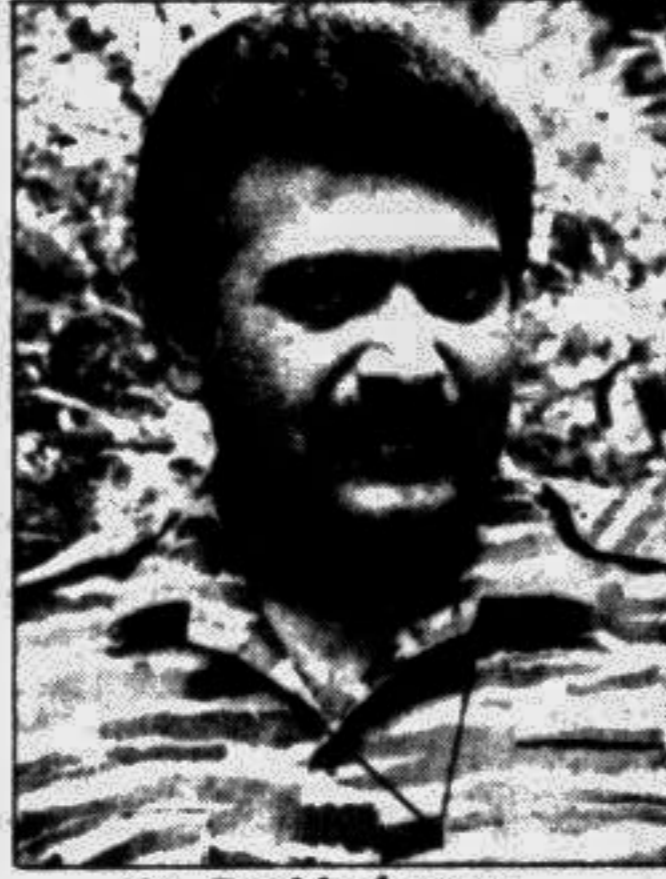
Soldiers seized the semi-luxury two-storey building where Prabhakaran posed for pictures and dined with his elite black Tigers suicide unit prior to ordering them on missions, military spokesman Srath Munasinghe said.

A last supper with the Tiger chief was considered the ultimate prize for suicide bombers of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), now desperately defending its besieged Jaffna town stronghold in northern Sri Lanka.

Prabhakaran's whereabouts were not known, officials said.

Prabhakaran, who turned 41 on Sunday, founded the LTTE in 1976 and has been spearheading a violent campaign for a Tamil homeland that has claimed more than 50,000 lives.

The Sri Lankan army has captured large areas in the northern peninsula of Jaffna since launching its biggest-ever offensive October 17 and is now facing stiff resistance from LTTE guerillas in Jaffna town.



V. Prabhakaran

Munasinghe said more than half of the town was under military control but several key landmarks were still held by the guerillas, some 1,000 of whom are believed trapped in Jaffna.

The Jaffna district secretariat, the traditional seat of the civil administration, was still half a kilometre away from army lines, he said.

See also Page 5

World AIDS Day today

World AIDS Day '95 will be observed today in the country, reports UNB.

This year's theme of the day is "Share Rights, Share Responsibility".

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday issued separate messages on the occasion.

The National AIDS Committee yesterday held a press conference at the National Press Club.

Addressing the conference the committee Chairman Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury said the government has allocated Tk 25 crore in the current fiscal to contain the deadly AIDS as many of the determinants for an explosive outbreak of the disease exist in the country.

In Bangladesh, 44 people including nine women have so far been identified as HIV carriers against the WHO estimate.

Constitutional solution to impasse Possible, say legal experts but differ on ways

Legal experts agree that there can be a solution to the present political impasse under the Constitution but differ on the ways to reach it, following the dissolution of Parliament.

Renowned lawyers Rafiqul Haq, Khandaker Mahabuddin Ahmed and Dr Zahir all agree that one should not look beyond the Constitution but they have divergent views on the President's role and the next step forward.

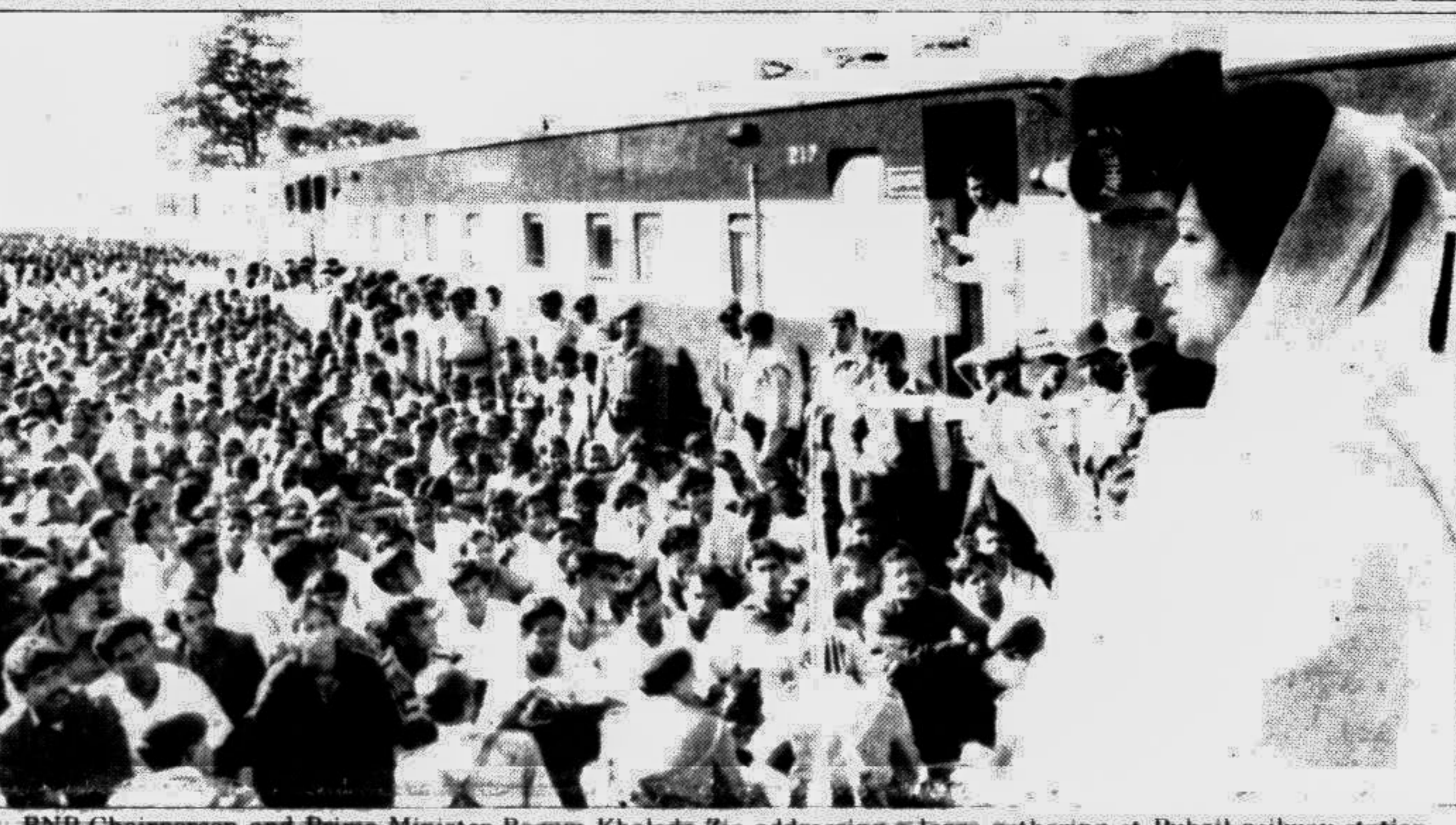
According to Rafiqul Haq, a former Attorney General, it is possible to give the President power to appoint the Prime Minister and ministers from among persons of his choice until the next election

without contravening the Constitution. Under the Constitution and the law as it stands today, the President has power only to appoint the Prime Minister and ministers under Article 56 (4), Haq pointed out.

Article 56 (4) states that "If occasion arises for making any appointment under Clause (2) or Clause (3) between a dissolution of Parliament and the next following general election of Members of Parliament, the persons who were such members immediately before dissolution shall be regarded for the purpose of this clause as continuing to be such members."

Haq noted that, contrary to what some senior lawyers believe, the President's choice would be limited to mainly members of the ruling party. "Members who have tendered resignation long before dissolution and who the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in an advice to the President have confirmed they have resigned or ceased to become members of Parliament cannot be called members immediately before dissolution," Haq explained.

In such a case, Haq states that the Constitution does not give the President any 'residuary power' to form a



BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a large gathering at Pubail railway station yesterday during her mass contact tour by train from Dhaka to Chittagong. — PID photo

Khaleda rejects Opposition demand as 'illegal'

ON BOARD PM'S SPECIAL TRAIN, Nov 30: Begum Khaleda Zia ruled out the Opposition plea for appointing an unelected person as Prime Minister, saying the demand is illegal and unconstitutional, reports UNB.

"Today they (Opposition) want to make an unelected person as Prime Minister. This just cannot be, this cannot be allowed. There is no such thing in the Constitution, nowhere in the world," she told crowds during her whistle-stop train march from Dhaka to Chittagong.

The Prime Minister blamed the opposition for harming the interest of the people and nation in the name of realising "illegal demand."

Without naming the Awami League, she said: One party in entente with the autocrat against whom we had waged united movement has launched movement to remove an elected government by illegal means.

But people are not joining this movement as the Opposition is engaged in unjust movement, the Prime Minister said asking the people to build united resistance against those who are subverting democracy.

She said people's support was the main resource strength of the BNP, people are the only force. "We always stand beside the people during their good and bad days, and now again we came to you for your support for the continuation of the democratic process."

The whistle-stop tour, the first by the Prime Minister,

Special train's operation cost paid in cash

By Reaz Ahmad
 The operation cost of the special train that left Dhaka with the Prime Minister and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia on board for Chittagong yesterday was paid for in cash.

However, the Bangladesh Railway (BR) authorities could not confirm if the cost was paid from the party fund or if it came from the government coffers.

BR officials last night told The Daily Star that 102 first class tickets were purchased by the organizers for ministers, BNP leaders and workers who accompanied the PM

has been described as a "mass contact" exercise. But it is seen by many political watchers as the virtual launch of election campaign for her ruling BNP.

"I am undertaking the train journey to meet cross-sections of people and enlist their support for democracy and development which go hand in hand," the Prime Minister told cheering crowds on different station platforms.

The Prime Minister reminded that the 1996 general election is very important for the people and the nation. "In 1996, we will free ourselves from the chains that shackled the nation after the liberation. Coming election is the election to unshackle the nation," she said.

The general election will be held next year, she said, "but I cannot say just now when it will be held," she said calling upon the opposition political parties to join the coming electoral fray.

She said in a democratic polity solution of a problem comes through dialogue and discussion. There should be discussion for the solution of a problem, for the realisation of a demand. "If any means

See Page 8 Col 1

AKC, MSC clash for title today

Sports Reporter
 Defending champions Abahani Krira Chakra will take on arch rivals Mohammedan Sporting in the final of the 16th Damal Summer Cricket Tournament at the Dhaka Stadium today.

The 50-over a side match will begin at 9.00 am.

Bangladesh Television will telecast live the match and Radio Bangladesh will air running commentary.

(Details on page 7)

Fresh 'golden handshake' for BADC staff

Star Report
 The government plans to offer another "golden handshake" programme to the employees of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC).

According to official sources, the new early retirement scheme for the BADC employees would be completed by February 1996.

"This is the third such offer of the Ministry of Agriculture," said an official of the BADC, adding that the government was expecting that about 4,000 employees will avail the opportunity for early

Trafficking Six teenage girls rescued, 5 arrested

By Staff Correspondent
 Police rescued six teenage girls from a bus near Jatrahari in the city yesterday and arrested five persons on suspicion of trafficking.

The arrested persons were accompanying the girls from Narsingdi. Police intercepted the bus near a petrol pump close to the Saddam Market at Jatrahari at about 10:00 am. The arrested persons, mostly aged between 35 and 40, were taking the girls to Dhaka from Narsingdi, according to sources.

The rescued girls were disguised in white school uniforms.

Sources said that the girls



Demra police yesterday rescued these six teenage girls in school uniforms, who were brought to Dhaka from Narsingdi. Five alleged traffickers were also arrested. — Star photo

British team tells press Six areas of joint ventures identified

By Staff Correspondent
 Six prospective joint ventures have been identified by British and Bangladeshi entrepreneurs during the week-long visit of the British Southern Asia Advisory Group (SAAG) Trade Mission here.

Disclosing this at a media briefing at a local hotel yesterday Peter Lee, a member of the SAAG, Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), said "we all agree that this mission is very successful it had opened doors to new quality contracts."

He, however, declined to elaborate on the joint ventures as these were still at a preliminary stage.

The briefing was also attended by, among others,

Adrian Hockney, Director, SAAG; Neil Semple, Secretary, SAAG, and Miriam McIntosh, Deputy High Commissioner of UK in Dhaka.

Hockney said this is not a one-off mission but one in a series to explore investment in this country.

Hockney further said that the Commonwealth Development Corporation, which already has 30 million US dollars invested in the country, will open its office here to boost investment.

Moreover, a British Commercial Information Centre will be set up at the office of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce

PM's letter to Hasina being redrafted

By Nazmul Ashraf
 The fourth letter of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina is likely to be redrafted to incorporate "some new ideas" in it, BNP sources indicated last night.

The sources, however, could not specify the changes in the letter, considered "very significant" or settling the 20-month-long political standoff.

The letter which got the PM's approval prior to her train-march, was scheduled for delivery yesterday but it was not done until 11.30 last night.

According to BNP sources, party Secretary General Barister Abdus Salam Talukdar carried the PM's letter in a

Hasina at Chittagong rally Hand over power to caretaker govt

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Nov 30: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today asked the Prime Minister to resign immediately, dissolve the cabinet and hand over power to a non-partisan caretaker government.

Otherwise, she said, the people will strengthen the ongoing movement and block the road, rail, water and air links for an indefinite period from December 7.

Hasina was addressing a peasants' grand rally of Chittagong Division this afternoon at Fatikchhari College ground, 25 miles off the city.

She said "We are waging movement for a caretaker government to ensure right of the people to vote as well as to check vote-buying." "We don't want that anybody returns from vote-centre as a victim of violence," she added.

Referring to her recent telephonic talks with the Prime Minister, Hasina said "I did it with a view to having an amicable settlement of the crisis. But when I requested the PM to agree to the demand for a caretaker government and hold elections

under a neutral government, she (PM) replies that she does not understand anything about caretaker and neutral government."

The BNP government has no proper plan or policy to run the country. That is why the country is facing crises always," Hasina said.

Turning to peasants Hasina said "If the peasants survive, the country can survive and prosper."

"I will do everything possible to establish the rights of the peasants as my father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman did," she added.

"There is a scarcity of 45 lakh tons of foodgrain in the country, which cannot be made up in next three years," she told the rally.

Hasina said if the AL is voted to power, it would give subsidy in agriculture sector supply agricultural equipment at subsidised rate and develop an industry and agriculture-based economy for the economic emancipation of commonman.

The AL chief said her party has waged the movement for establishing an ac-

9 killed in Bhaluka truck plunge

From Our Correspondent
 MYMENSINGH, Nov 30: Nine people were killed and 15 others injured when a truck in which they were traveling fell into a roadside ditch near Bhandar under Bhaluka thana of the district early this morning.

Four seriously injured were admitted to the My-mensingh Medical College Hospital.

The accident occurred when the driver lost the control over the vehicle which was carrying salt bags and passengers from Dhaka, according to official sources.

Police recovered the bodies and resuscitated the injured with the help of local people.

King Fahd hospitalised

DUBAI, Nov 30: King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, ruler of the world's richest oil producer, is in hospital in Riyadh for check-ups, the official Saudi press agency said today, reports Reuter.

The royal court in the Saudi capital said the 73-year-old King had been admitted to Riyadh's King Faisal Hospital "to undergo some ordinary medical check-ups," the agency said.

"May god protect him from all discomfort and keep him in good health," it said.

Bangabazar markets Collected funds spent for 'other purposes'

Star Report
 Money deposited with the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) by the traders associations of Bangabazar markets, for construction of permanent shopping centre, was spent for other purposes, according to sources in the accounts wing of the DCC.

The four makeshift markets in Fulbaria area, commonly known as Bangabazar, were gutted in a devastating fire on Monday.

Fire Service authorities had advised the market authorities several times in the past to take necessary fire preventive measures, cautioning them about severe losses in the event a fire,

sources said.

Fire broke out in Bangabazar area seven times since 1989.

The DCC, according to sources, collected a contribution of Tk 30 crore from 10 markets in Fulbaria area during the period 1985-90. Of the amount, the share of Bangabazar was Tk 12 crore 14 lakh 20 thousand.

The 'possession holders' of the markets contributed the money on the assurance that they would get a permanent market in the area, they claimed.

When Mayor Mohammad Hanif took over on March 12,

Burnt out scraps of Bangabazar sold for Tk 5 lakh

Star Report
 The burnt out remains of the fire devastated Bangabazar area was sold out for around Tk 5 lakh in an auction yesterday.

Shop-owners were seen busy clearing the ashes to set up the makeshift shops in the area till the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) constructs the long promised shopping centre.

Burnt out tin shades, collapsible iron gates along with other remains of the fire-ravaged Bangabazar markets were auctioned, according to the shop-owners. The scrap vendors of old Dhaka the auctioned ruins of the Bangabazar, they said.

Ruins of the four markets