

Announcement

Today's issue contains a 4-page special on The Daily Star-BUP Roundtable on Water Policy for Bangladesh, participated by leading water experts of the country.



From today, our longest writing columnist, Shahed Latif, resumes his column, "Window on Asia." From next week it will be published every Tuesday.

The weekly Star Magazine will be published on Saturday as there will be no issue of the paper on Friday owing to the public holiday on Thursday.

Inside Today

Article

What did November 7 Portend?

Column: Currents and Crosscurrents by M M Rezaul Karim

Neither Local Nor Government

Column: Window on Asia by Shahed Latif Page 4

Focus

Jute geotextile: Stands out in versatility Page 5

International

Clinton sails into 2nd term—distinctly different from the 1st Leghari firm to abide by February 3 date for fresh polls Page 8

Business

Bangladesh, three other South Asian economies may grow to 6.6 pc in '96 Massive 233-point fall in DSE index Pages 6, 7

Holiday

The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on account of government holiday. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

NEWS BRIEFS

JS session adjourned till Nov 10

The House was adjourned last night till November 10 at 4.15 pm. Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate announced the adjournment at 9.55 pm. reports UNB.

Prof Mannan new CU Vice Chancellor

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 6: Prof M A Mannan has been appointed vice chancellor of Chittagong University, sources said. Prof Mannan replaced the outgoing vice chancellor Prof Dr R I Chowdhury. Prof Mannan took over the charge this afternoon.

Khulna BNP leader stabbed

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Nov 6: Ruhul Azim Rumi, (30), Publicity Secretary of city BNP was stabbed allegedly by a BCL activist near the City College this afternoon. He was admitted to the Sadar hospital. The BNP has blamed AL activists for the attack.

Republicans retain control of both houses Landslide victory for Clinton



US President Bill Clinton (L) and Vice President Al Gore hold their hands up in victory yesterday in Little Rock, Arkansas after being elected to a second term as president and vice president.

WASHINGTON, Nov 6: President Clinton won re-election in a landslide from New York to California, with voters rejecting Bob Dole's challenge to the president's economic leadership and character, reports AP.

But Republicans retained control of the Senate and the House of Representatives, ensuring at least two more years of division between the White House and Congress.

"It is time to put politics aside and get the jobs done for America's future," Clinton told thousands of wildly cheering supporters Tuesday outside the Old State House in his home town of Little Rock, Arkansas.

They have affirmed our cause and told us to go forward," Clinton said of the voters who returned him to office. With 95 per cent of the nationwide vote counted, Clinton had won 49 per cent to 41 per cent for Dole and 8 per cent for Ross Perot. The rest was scattered among minor candidates.

Voter turnout, however, was

See Page 12 Col 7

Unscheduled debate in Jatiya Sangsad over Nov 7

By Staff Correspondent

The debate started when Dharendra Debnath Shambhu of AL asked the Home Minister whether he had taken any steps against Deputy Leader of the Opposition Badruddoza Chowdhury for his recent remarks that amounted to a statement subversive of the state.

Shambhu claimed that Badruddoza, while addressing a discussion meeting sponsored by his party's cultural front, had eventually called upon the soldiers to repeat the November 7 situation. "I think the speech amounts to a statement subversive of the state, and I want to know whether the Home Minister has taken any step against the person concerned."

Echoing Shambhu, Sultan Mohammad Monsur told the House: "To us the November 7 is a day on which hundreds of freedom fighters were killed."

In reply Badruddoza accused the AL MPs concerned of making untrue statements and told the House that he did not call upon the soldiers to repeat the November 7 situation.

"But the November 7 is a his-

It's better to listen to each other, they finally decided

By Special Correspondent

A shouting match between members of the Treasury and the Opposition benches yesterday brought the Jatiya Sangsad to a state of near pandemonium several times.

As tempers frayed, and MPs duelling with invectives against

One arrested for attacking car of Dr Moyeen

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that police have so far arrested one person on charge of attacking the car of former state minister and BNP lawmaker, Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan, in front of Madhabdi bazar on Tuesday, reports BSS.

Making a statement on the incident, the Home Minister said that the deputy commissioner and the Superintendent of Police of Narasingdi district visited the spot immediately after the incident and they had suspected some people for the incident.

Teenage boy stabbed to death in city

By DMC Correspondent A teenage boy was stabbed to death and another injured when an unidentified gang attacked them inside a tailoring shop at Narinda early hours yesterday.

The deceased, identified as Anis, 16, son of Md Rahim of Jangail of Barisal, sustained fatal injuries when the gang stabbed him after entering the Dress Heaven Tailors breaking open its shutter on Sarad Gupta Road, Anis, an employee of a nearby bakery, died on the spot at about 2 am, police said.

Besides, Sentu, 18, a cousin of Anis who was also inside the shop at the time, sustained serious stab injuries and was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) police said and added that the reason behind the attack could not be known immediately.

AL trying to undermine spirit of Nov 7: BNP

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday called upon all nationalist forces to unite under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia for safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty, reports UNB.

He was addressing a meeting organised by the Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal (JCDD) in front of Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon as part of the BNP's weeklong programme to celebrate the National Revolution and Solidarity Day.

Bhuiyan said the revolution which took place on the 7th of November, 1975, was to unite all nationalist forces in support of national independence, sovereignty and democracy.

Those who are now opposing

the revolution represent the forces which have been defeated on that day in 1975.

The BNP Secretary General said the ruling party was trying to undermine the spirit of November 7 as they have opposed the 'sepoy-people revolution' that day. "They want to diminish the glory of that day as well as the country's independence."

Referring to the attack on BNP leader Dr Moyeen Khan, he said democracy would never find a firm root in a country where a Member of Parliament suffers from insecurity. "The ruling party did not give us scope to discuss the matter in Parliament."

Mannan Bhuiyan charged

See Page 12 Col 3

Leghari's resignation demanded Benazir to go to court

ISLAMABAD, Nov 6: Disposed Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today demanded that President Farooq Ahmed Leghari step down, two days after he dismissed her and dissolved her government, report AFP, AP.

Earlier the interim government lifted restrictions on the movement of Benazir Bhutto but said her husband Asif Ali Zardari would remain in custody.

Speaking publicly for the first time since being ousted, Benazir Bhutto said today that Leghari had no right to sack her.

"What he (Leghari) has done is against the vital interests of the unity, integrity and prosperity of Pakistan. He had no

right to do this," Bhutto told a news conference at the Prime Minister's official residence in the capital.

Bhutto, who fought off a similar challenge to her power six years ago, eventually regaining

Editorial on page 4, News Analysis page 6

office in 1993, said she would fight her dismissal in court.

She said she was confident the Supreme Court would rule in her favour but indicated she saw elections as the surest way to regain power.

"I have no doubt that, given an opportunity for a fair, free and impartial election... that the people of Pakistan will give

See Page 12 Col 6

Transfer of 5 Ctg Customs officials stayed at PM's intervention

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 6: The order for 'stand-release' of five officials of Chittagong Customs house, issued by the National Board of Revenue, reportedly at the directive of an influential minister on Monday, was postponed following the Prime Minister's intervention, official sources said.

The Prime Minister took the step after she was informed, during her visit to Chittagong on Tuesday, about the agitation by the officials and employees in the premises of the Customs House, the sources added. The Prime Minister also ordered a probe into the matter, they said.

The agitating officials and employees had decided to tender mass resignation protesting the controversial transfer order.

When contacted, a top Customs official said that the order was now kept in abeyance on receipt of verbal instruction though written order was yet to be received.

But the order was not cancelled and, as such, it might be revived later, he informed.

He claimed that normal functions resumed at the Customs House although tension among the officials and employees prevailed.

had come within three hours on Monday after the five Customs officials declined to entertain 'unethical concessions' demanded by a Dhaka-based company Aromatic Cosmetics of the Jamuna Group, to release two of its consignments of imported goods including chemicals and cartons, official sources said.

Aromatic Cosmetics, being favoured by an influential minister, had made its bid to take delivery of chemicals without chemical examination and the cartons by paying only 30 per cent duties against the usual

See Page 12 Col 6

Nov 7 today: Public holiday but no govt programme

Seventh November, the day General Ziaur Rahman assumed power, will be observed today by different political parties of the country, reports UNB.

Although the historic 7th November remains a public holiday as in the previous years since 1976, the Awami League government has no programme on the day.

The successive governments in last two decades officially observed the day as 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day'.

Two coalition partners of the present government — Jatiya Party of former President H M Ershad and JSD of Shipping Minister ASM Abdur Rob — have differing outlook on 7th November. JP has decided not to observe the day this year while JSD calls it a 'sepoy-people uprising day'.

Main opposition BNP will observe the day as 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day' marking the 'sepoy-people uprising' which, it says, foiled the conspiracy against independence and sovereignty of

Bangladesh four years after its birth.

Today is the 21st anniversary of the Day, but for the first time since 1976 it is not being observed by the government.

Though the ruling Awami League is yet to cancel the public holiday on the day, but it has seriously opposed the significance of November 7.

Official sources said the President and the Prime Minister will not give any message on the occasion. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, in a recent press conference, termed the day as 'freedom fighters-soldiers killing day'.

Following the August 15 and November 3 killings in 1975, the politics and administration in army had plunged into a total chaos with the chain of command completely broken.

At this stage, a group of army officers led by Brig Khalid Mosharruf and Col Shafayet Jamil had made an attempt to restore discipline in the army and seized Bangabhaban on

See Page 12 Col 1

Market indicators mark sharp fall at DSE

By Staff Correspondent All market indicators at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) marked a sharp fall yesterday.

The DSE All Share Price Index showed a record fall of 214 points and stood at 3415.54 points yesterday from the previous day's 3648.74 points.

The market capitalisation of the bourse declined by Tk 1,649 crore to Tk 24,157.55 crore from Tk 25,806.94 crore on the previous day.

Out of 93 traded issues, prices of 77 companies suffered losses while only 15 issues gained and the prices of one remained unchanged.

Market operators and DSE officials termed the decline as 'normal' because prices of most of the issues had surged to an abnormal high during the last two months.

People gherao PS, agitate alleging involvement of police in robbery

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Nov 6: Hundreds of angry people gheraoed the Goidanganj Police station today in connection with a highway robbery in which some policemen were allegedly involved.

The angry people put up barricades on the highway disrupting road communication between Bogra and Rangpur for several hours.

Police resorted to lath-charge and lobbed tear gas

See Page 12 Col 6

Muggers stab trader, snatch Tk 24,000

By DMC Correspondent

A businessman was seriously injured when a group of muggers stabbed him near the Fulbaria bus stand at Gulistan in the city yesterday morning.

The victim, identified as Ukhuddin aged about 40, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). He alleged that the muggers, numbering about three, waylaid him in the bus stand and demanded money from him.

JS tidbits

By Nazmul Ashraf

Opposition BNP lawmakers enjoyed the lengthy deliberations by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

The BNP deputies laughed and thumped tables as the minister made a number of accusations against some Opposition members.

Jointly Abedin Faruk and several other BNP legislators were heard repeatedly telling the minister, "Chacha, Aaro Bolen tuncle, say more."

Praising BNP lawmaker Salahuddin Quadar Chowdhury's deliberation in the House, the Foreign Minister said, "He speaks very nicely in a sweet tone and carries a lot of books. Anyway, I've also started carrying books to learn more."

During his speech, Samad Azad was seen talking directly to the front bench Opposition

See Page 12 Col 1

PM's call to invest more BEPZA offering a rare package of incentives

By Staff Correspondent

Hossain Khan.

Referring to various measures taken by the present government to attract foreign investment, the Prime Minister said that two more Export Processing Zones (EPZs) would be set up shortly — one at Mongla and the other in the northern part of the country.

The country already has two EPZs, one in Dhaka and another in Chittagong, while the third EPZ at Gazipur near Dhaka is likely to be operational by the year 1998.

She pointed out that the Jatiya Sangsad recently passed a bill allowing establishment of EPZ at private initiative and it already attracted a number of foreign companies in this regard.

See Page 12 Col 3

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has called upon the investors, both local and foreign, to come forward to invest and avail the facilities provided at the export processing zones in the country.

Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) is offering 'highly competitive and unprecedented package of incentives to the investors which is very rare in other countries,' she said while inaugurating the BEPZA investment conference '96 at city hotel yesterday.

The conference was also addressed by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Minister for Commerce and Industry Tofael Ahmed and executive chairman of BEPZA Moazzem

William Jefferson Clinton
made his **Acceptance Speech**
from Little Rock, Arkansas on the 6th of November, 1996.

Mrs. Chowdhury
of Uttara
heard her **10-month old grandson**
make his **first speech** from Little Rock, Arkansas
on the 6th of November, 1996.

The only difference was,
one said about 2000 words,
the other, only two,

"নতুন নী"

CityCell
I'll be there.

PACIFIC BANGLADESH TELECOM LIMITED, 4 / FLR., PACIFIC CENTER, 14, MOHAKHALI C. A., TEL: 802106, 802107, 802201, 802202