

Bidding for blocks 4 foreign oil cos to be invited for negotiations

Star Report
 The high powered committee on investment headed by the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister yesterday instructed the negotiation committee for second round block bidding to invite four multinational oil and gas companies — Enron, Hondo, Triton and South Asia — for negotiations in the next two weeks, sources said.
 The four-member investment committee is providing guidelines to the negotiation committee since the latter began negotiations with different foreign oil and gas companies on October 22.
 As per the investment committee See Page 12 Col 1

SEC bill, report on 3 others placed in JS

By Staff Correspondent
 A bill seeking to raise the number of permanent members in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) from two to four was placed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.
 Besides, the JS Special Committee also submitted its report on three other bills placed in the House earlier.
 The seventh session of the parliament resumed at 4:30 pm after a six-day recess with Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury in the chair.
 The main opposition BNP continued its abstention from participating in the proceedings while the Jamaat-e-Islami that staged a walkout on the opening day of the current session returned to the House yesterday.
 See Page 12 Col 6

The Daily Star on the Internet <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

Inside Today

Article

An Emerging Order in the Middle East

Column: Perspectives by Brig (Rtd) M Abdul Hafiz
 Page 4

Focus

Nuclear power plant: A prescription for disaster
 Page 5

Business

Govt decides to set up EPZ in Comilla
 DSE index declines on bearish mood
 Pages 6,7

The Daily Star Business Special
 November 1997

A New Era for Growth

Why Invest in Bangladesh?

The Daily Star Special
 An Independent Review of Bangladesh's Business Climate and Economic Scene
 A 56-page compendium featuring indepth interviews and write-ups by eminent economists, researchers and business leaders of the country.
 Order for your copy by phone 500091 or collect it from The Daily Star office between 10 am & 5 pm everyday
 Price Tk. 50.00

Nasim, Rafiq to scrutinise list today BNP places fresh list of 'political cases'

By Reaz Ahmad

BNP yesterday sent a 'fresh list of political cases' against its leaders and workers to the ruling Awami League after weeks of telephonic conversation between key negotiators of the two parties.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim last night acknowledged receiving the list. Upon his return to the city after a day-long visit to Rangamati yesterday, Nasim told this correspondent that he would sit with Home

Minister Rafiqul Islam today to scrutinise the list to see the merit of the cases against the Opposition MPs, leaders and workers.

Mohammad Nasim said that in its 'updated' list, BNP mentioned cases against 19 party lawmakers. The list also includes some 60 to 70 cases against BNP leaders and workers lodged with different thanas in the city in the recent past, Nasim added.
 "I received the list sent by a

messenger to me. I will hold a meeting with the Home Minister tomorrow to see the merit of the cases BNP mentioned in its list", Nasim said. "Definitely, we will examine the cases against MPs with utmost seriousness. In general, we will scrutinise all cases to see if there is any 'political case' as they (BNP) claimed", he said.
 About BNP's strong urge for "unilateral steps" by government before holding of a formal

See Page 12 Col 1

Jute, textile workers go on 48-hr strike today

By Staff Correspondent

The workers and employees of jute and textile sectors jointly go on a 48-hour industrial strike this morning to press implementation of two accords signed earlier between the government and their leaders.

The workers will also observe a dawn-to-dusk rail-road barricade programme today and a half-day programme tomorrow.

According to the leaders of the striking workers, they will not allow movement of motor vehicles on the roads adjacent to various jute and textile mills across the country during the barricade hours. "Movement of

See Page 12 Col 7

Nepal-Bangladesh transit Tk 66cr project to build infrastructure awaits approval

By M Anwarul Haq

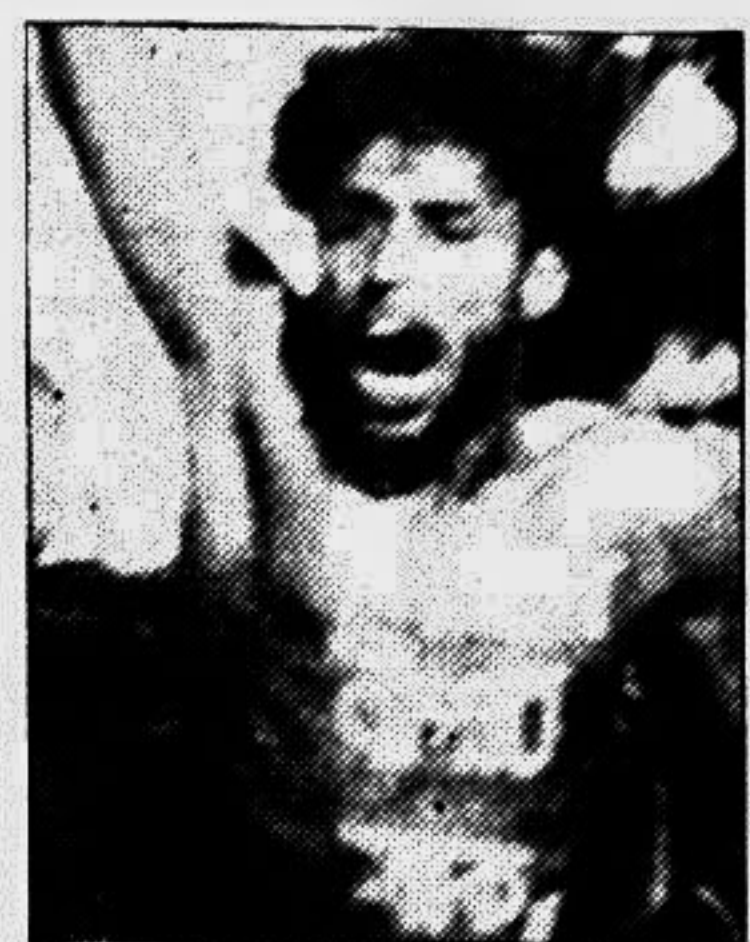
A Tk 66 crore project concept paper (PCP) is now awaiting approval of the Ministry of Planning for improvement of infrastructure and communication facilities for transportation of Nepalese transit goods through the northern tip of Bangladesh, according to official sources.

The PCP prepared by the Ministry of Communications envisages immediate work on a 60-kilometre stretch of the highway connecting the tip of Nepalese transit point with the

southern districts of Bangladesh. It also highlights the need for replacement of existing ferries at Paksey and Rupsha to facilitate movement of Nepalese transit cargo to Mongla although no amount has been proposed as regards the expenditure for this.

Talking to The Daily Star, a high official of the Communications Ministry said that once the PCP was approved by the Planning Ministry, it would enable reconstruction, renovation and

See Page 12 Col 1



Shaheed Noor Hossain Day today

By Staff Correspondent

Shaheed Noor Hossain Day will be observed in the country today.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain, a young man, sacrificed his life for democracy. During an anti-autocracy demonstration in the city, he was shot dead in police firing near Zero Point.

With slogans 'Down with Autocracy' and 'Let Democracy be Unchained' painted in his back and chest, Noor Hossain was participating in a procession when a bullet pierced through his body.

In observance of the day, different political parties and socio-cultural organisations have

See Page 12 Col 4

Transport treaty 'Dhaka, Delhi still differ over terms'

NEW DELHI, Nov 9: India and Bangladesh are having problems in starting a bus service which would take Bangladeshi pilgrims to the famous Muslim shrine in Ajmer in western Rajasthan state, reports IANS.

While Dhaka wants an agreement exclusively to start the bus service, New Delhi

See Page 12 Col 3

Truck drivers put up road barricade

By Staff Correspondent

Traffic movement near the Farmgate crossing was disrupted for about two hours as truck drivers put up a barricade on a road beside a police box on Old Airport Road last night.

The barricade halted hundreds of vehicles on the Old Airport Road and the other one-way roads connected with the crossing, creating traffic congestion.

Local people said the incident occurred as a police sergeant allegedly assaulted a truck driver following an altercation at about 8:30 pm. Besides, chase and counter-chase between police and truck drivers created panic around

See Page 12 Col 8



Abahani's Pakistani recruit Shahid Afridi gets his stumps disorganised by Shanto Mohammedan Sporting Club during the Damal Smriti cricket final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday. Abahani won the title beating their arch-rivals by 73 runs. (Story on Page 11)

— Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Manzoor murder Next hearing for framing charges November 23

By Court Correspondent

The hearing for framing of charges in the Major General Abul Manzoor murder case could not take place yesterday as the prosecution side sought time.

Assistant Public Prosecutor Mohammad Abdur Rahman told the court he could not proceed as the Public Prosecutor had gone to the Secretariat for urgent business.

Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad is a co-accused in the case.
 First Additional District
 See Page 12 Col 8

AL out to hand over CHT to another country: Khaleda

BARISAL, Nov 9: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today called for unity of all nationalist, Islamic and patriotic forces to save the country from what she called conspiracies against the country's independence and sovereignty, reports UNB.

She alleged that the AL regime wants to hand over Chittagong Hill Tracts, an inseparable part of the country, to another country through an 'unequal, unrealistic and unconstitutional treaty with insurgents.'

The opposition leader said the government has restricted public meetings on the streets to prevent the opposition from demonstrating against its 'misdeeds.'

Begum Zia was addressing a mammoth public meeting at Bells Park here in the afternoon at the start of her countrywide mass contact programme to make the people aware of the AL government's 'anti-people and undemocratic activities.'

Presided over by district BNP president Mujibur Rahman Sarwar the meeting was also addressed by BNP Vice

Chairman Lt Gen (rtd) Mir Shawkat Ali, former air chief Alif Hossain Chowdhury, Amanullah Aman MP, Major Hafizuddin Ahmed MP, Nasim Biswas MP, Nazimuddin Alam MP, Mosharraf Hossain Mungu MP, Abul Hossain MP, Shah Muhammad Abul Hossain MP, Selina Rahman, Brig Anwar Hossain Chowdhury, Zahiruddin Swapon, Moazzem Hossain, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anie and Principal Abdur Rashid Khan.

Earlier, hundreds of party leaders and workers greeted Begum Zia and other party leaders on their arrival at the launch ghāt here.

The BNP chief told the meeting that this government had lost its moral right to stay in power by failing to run the country. She called upon all to come forward to safeguard the country's sovereignty which is

See Page 12 Col 4

Potato harvest starts in 2 weeks Cold storages seek help to clear stock

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh Cold Storage Association yesterday urged the government and banks to bail its members out of the situation created due to a huge uncleaned lot in cold storages in the country.

"Unless we receive emergency help, the industry will face a disaster, unable to do anything with about 11 lakh tonnes of potato in the storages barely 15-20 days before the new harvest," president of the association Mohammad Nurul Islam told a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club.

He said the problem is compounded by a poor price, the result of four lakhs tonnes of extra production over the average annual output of 18 lakh tonnes.

The prices have come down to Tk 3.50 per kg ex-cold storages. The cost of production is

Tk 5.50.

Farmers and potato traders are not even taking delivery of the seed potatoes, worsening the situation. Smuggled potatoes in the bordering districts in particular are also contributing to the situation. Smuggling is continuing even though the government turned down an Indian proposal for importing potato from India, he said.

Cold Storage owners alleged that even smuggled potatoes were being sent direct to the warehouses at the wholesale vegetable market at Shyambazar in the city. On Friday, four truckloads were sent to a particular warehouse, one owner claimed.

The association president said unless they get emergency help in the form of TR (Trust received) up to Tk one crore this

See Page 12 Col 8

সোনালী ব্যাংকের লকার সুবিধা

তথু সঞ্চয় বা মুনাফা নয় আপনার সম্পদ নিরাপদ হেফাজতে রাখার জন্য সোনালী ব্যাংকের নিম্নোক্ত শাখা সমূহের রয়েছে লকার সুবিধা।

লকার সুবিধা সম্বলিত শাখাসমূহের নামের তালিকা :

ঢাকা বিভাগ	২২। নাটোর শাখা
০১। স্থানীয় কার্যালয়, ঢাকা	২৩। খেঁটার রোড শাখা, রাজশাহী
০২। মহিলা শাখা, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা	২৪। রংপুর শাখা
০৩। সদরঘাট কর্পোরেট শাখা, ঢাকা	২৫। সৈয়দপুর শাখা
০৪। মানিকমিয়া এডিনিউ শাখা, ঢাকা	২৬। জয়পুরহাট শাখা
০৫। ঢাকা সেনানিবাস কর্পোরেট শাখা	২৭। দিনাজপুর কর্পোরেট শাখা
০৬। গুলশান নিউ নর্থ সার্কেল শাখা, ঢাকা	২৮। বগুড়া কর্পোরেট শাখা
০৭। দিলকুশা কর্পোরেট শাখা, ঢাকা	চট্টগ্রাম বিভাগ
০৮। এলিফেন্ট রোড শাখা, ঢাকা	২৯। অম্মাবাদ কর্পোরেট শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম
০৯। শিল্পভবন কর্পোরেট শাখা, ঢাকা	৩০। কেসিডে রোড কর্পোরেট শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম
১০। মগবাজার শাখা, ঢাকা	৩১। রাংগামাটি শাখা
১১। মিরপুর ক্যান্টনম্যান্ট শাখা, ঢাকা	৩২। কোটবাড়ী শাখা, কুমিল্লা
১২। নারায়ণগঞ্জ কর্পোরেট শাখা	৩৩। মাইজদী কোর্ট শাখা
১৩। মাদারীপুর শাখা	খুলনা বিভাগ
১৪। টাংগাইল শাখা	৩৪। যশোর কর্পোরেট শাখা
১৫। ময়মনসিংহ শাখা	৩৫। খুলনা কর্পোরেট শাখা
১৬। জামালপুর শাখা	৩৬। যশোর বাজার শাখা
১৭। ফরিদপুর শাখা	বরিশাল বিভাগ
১৮। হোটেল শেরাটন শাখা, ঢাকা	৩৭। বরিশাল কর্পোরেট শাখা
১৯। লালমাটিয়া শাখা, ঢাকা	৩৮। পটুয়াখালী শাখা
২০। নরসিংদী শাখা	সিলেট বিভাগ
রাজশাহী বিভাগ	৩৯। দরগাগেট শাখা, সিলেট
২১। রাজশাহী কর্পোরেট শাখা	৪০। মৌলভীবাজার শাখা

আমাদের সম্বন্ধিত গ্রাহক, পৃষ্ঠপোষক এবং তত্ত্বাবধায়ক হিসেবে তাদের মূল্যবান সম্পদ এসব শাখা সমূহের লকারে গচ্ছিত রাখার সুযোগ নিতে পারেন।

সোনালী ব্যাংক
 সোনার বাংলার সোনালী স্বপ্ন বাস্তবায়নে নিয়োজিত