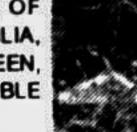


# The Baily Star

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE

WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA, BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN, MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE OF DIFFERENT TYPES.



NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD. 199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.

TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

VOL. VIII NO. 284 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: http://www.dailystarnews.com

KARTIK 23, 1405 BS

### Judgement in Bangabandhu Murder Case tomorrow

The countdown to the verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case began as judge Kazi Golam Rasul will pronounce his judgement tomorrow, reports

The nation is anxiously waiting to hear the verdict of the trial, held after 21 years of the assassination of Father of the Nation and most of members of his family on August 15,

March 12, 1997 at a makeshift court of the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge beside the

The judge will deliver his verdict after 148 days' of hear-

If found guilty, the accused might face death penalty on charges of murder, conspiracy. concealing evidence and com-Penal Code.

August 15, 1975: Bangabandhu was assassinated along with most of his family members. Total killed: 32. Only two daughters of Bangabandhu -Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana — survived as they were in abroad.

June 12, 1996: Awami League wins majority in general elec-

government with Sheikh Hasina as Prime Minister.

August 12, 1996: Col (retd) Syed Farooqur Rahman and Col (retd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan were arrested.

vears of assassination of Bangabandhu, a case was filed with Dhanmondi thana. Plaintiff Mohitul Islam, a resident personal assistant of Bangabandhu, said the case could not be filed earlier due to adverse situation.

tion into the case began. ASP Abdul Kahhar Akand of Crimi nal Investigation Department See Page 12 Col 7

## project with Bangladesh

and Bangladesh, reports BSS.

on hydro power development in India he said discussion between the two countries were continuing for having transmission lines over their political borders strengthening sub-

Bangladesh, as has been proposed, he added.

Kumaramangalam said that the Indian government had

He said India and Pakistan are currently having talks over the issue with New Delhi intending to buy electricity from

Pakistan. The minister expressed optimism in this regard but said a clear picture is likely to emerge

#### Inside Today

#### Article

Poor Men's 'Hallo' Column: Beneath the

> Surface by Abdul Bayes Page 4

## Literature

Art: Modern art in the century's turmoil; Personality: Soyinka returns home, but not quietly and Fiction: The abandonment

## Business

Key IMF macroeconomic targets remain unrealised, says SAPRI report

Multinationals suspend over a dozen investment projects in Pakistan Pages 6 & 7

## Supplement

One page supplement on National Revolution and Solidarity Day' on Page 11

Mid-term polls demanded

7-party announces

programmes today

**DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 7, 1998** 

#### **RAJAB 16, 1419 HIJRI**

16 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

## Trade unionism contaminates civil service

officials, in violation of service rules, have organised themselves in more than 50 associations or groups, which are virtually functioning as trade unions and pressure groups.

Inside the Secretariat, there are more than a dozen organisations of employees and officials; some of them have fought among themselves for dominance and clashed with police agitating for various issues including pay.

By Shehab Ahmed

Government employees and

Rules say they cannot be organised in trade unions but are allowed to have service associations for welfare.

But instances are there that they are operating more like trade unions or pressure groups than welfare associations, sometimes creating obstacles to smooth functioning of the administration, particularly in-

BNP led seven-party alliance

yesterday demanded of the gov-

ernment to resign immediately

and hold mid-term polls ad-

mitting its failure, reports UNB.

of the alliance also rejected the

intention of Prime Minister

Sheikh Hasina to hold early

general elections in the year

The Prime Minister report-

edly asked his party MPs during

Awami League Parliamentary

Party meeting at the Jatiya

Sangsad on Thursday to take

preparation for elections in the

29 Mintoo Road with BNP

leader Shamsul Islam MP. in

seven political parties will be

announced today, the meeting

Khoka, Jamaat-e-Islami lead-

ers Muhammad Quamruzzaman

and ATM Azharul Islam, JP

leaders, Mainuddin Bhuyian,

Shamim Al Mamun and Shah

Shaheed Sarwar, JAGPA lea-

ders, Dr AKA Aziz, Anisur Rah-

man and Shahjahan Sardar,

PNP leaders Shawkat Hossain

Nilu and Mostafizur Rahman.

DL leader Miraj Abbassi and NDA leader Adv Abu Baker

Siddique attended the meeting.

Criticising alleged armed

The meeting was held at the

Identical programmes of the

BNP leader Sadeq Hossain

year 2000.

the chair.

A resolution of the meeting

### 50 associations function as 'pressure groups'

side the Secretariat complex. During a number of occasions, when there were the clashes between rival groups of employees or agitation demanding better pay, the working atmosphere became the casualty.

Late last year, presence of riot police inside the Secretariat looked like a permanent

Although one of their leaders says protecting the rights is also part of welfare.

A recent tussle on promotions of 321 junior or midranking civil servants had resulted in postponement of the process until December.

It followed protest and lobbying from Civil Service Coordination Committee, which groups 26 out of 29 cadres of

procession by the ruling party

activists in the name of keeping

streets on their possession and

provocative and repulsive

statements of the ruling party

leaders, including Prime Minis-

ter Sheikh Hasina, the meeting

observed that by doing so the

government itself was creating

demned the repression, killing

and harassment of opposition

political leaders and workers

and demanded immediate re-

lease of all arrested leaders and

Reviewing the post-flood re-

habilitation programme of the

government, the meeting ac-

cused the government of politi-

cising the relief activities and

stealing relief materials, com-

mitting irregularities in dis-

tributing VGF cards and agri-

of the people has increased in

manifold as the government

failed to check the price hike of

essentials, including onion.

green chilly, and deteriorating

people to intensity the anti-

government movement and ex-

pressed determination to take

forward the movement in

phases for establishing the

The meeting called upon the

aw and order situation.

rights of people.

It observed that the misery

The resolution also con-

disturbance and anarchy.

workers.

Bangladesh Civil Service, opposing the elite Bangladesh Administrative Services Association (BASA).

The co-ordination commit-

tee encompasses engineers. physicians, agriculturists, customs, taxation, livestock, education and other services. Their leaders say they were not treated fairly when the de-

cisions on the promotions were taken. They charged merits were not counted in filling the upper echelons of administra-The BASA leaders who are going to face new elections on

December 11-12 have also been

under pressure from their

members to clear their way for

promotions. On the issue of promotions, a group of BASA members formed

BNP observes

Nat'l Revolution

and Solidarity

Day today

By Staff Correspondent

cal parties will observe 'Na-

tional Revolution and Solidar-

ity Day' today marking the 'se-

poy-people uprising, which ac-

cording to them had foiled the

conspiracy against indepen-

dence and sovereignty on

Today is the 23rd anniver-

Till 1996, this day was offi-

cially observed as "National

Revolution and Solidarity

Day." It remained a public holi-

ment after it assumed office fol-

lowing the last general elec-

tions annuled the public holi-

day. It has seriously opposed

the significance of November 7

as upheld by BNP. Prime Minis-

ter Sheikh Hastna is on record

to have termed the day as 'free-

dom fighters-soldiers killing

killing of President Banga-

bandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rah-

man and his family members.

and assumption of power by

Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed

assisted by a few mid-ranking

army officers, the entire chain

of command of the army was

(CGS) Brig Khaled Mosharraf

was in the process of removing

See Page 12 Col 3

While Chief of General Staff

broken and in chaos

Following the August 15

The Awami League govern-

November 7, 1975.

sary of the day.

BNP and some other politi-

the BCS Administration Action Committee earlier this year, lobbying for immediate promo-tions, basing on discontentment against retaining the services of retiring officials on

Conflict between the elite also embroiled BASA recently. A debate on reported comments by four senior civil servants -including the establishment secretary -- sparked off high tension among junior civil servants. The four received a letter from the BASA general secretary, then a joint-secretary at Establishment, asking them to

It seemed to have blown the top. The seniors who are mem-

clarify their positions.

bers of the former Civil Service of Pakistan ignored the letter. · Public statements and a

Govt may go

for early

polls in

2000: PM

By Staff Correspondent

League Sheikh Hasina has told

her party lawmakers that gov-

ernment might think of early

on June 12, 1996 and the tenure

of the present parliament ex-

reserved seats for women in the

Jatiya Sangsad at a meeting of

Awami League's Parliamentary

seats was made for 10 years by

Daily Star that Sheikh Hasina

had just hinted at a possibility

of early polls without specify-

"After expiry of the time-limit for reserved seats by early

2000, parliament can extend it

with support from two-third of

the lawmakers. But if the main

opposition party opposes it.

early elections would be re-

quired," said a ruling party MP.

fied that none should take it as

'mid-term elections' because

mean it.

Another AL legislator clari-

the fourth parliament in 1990.

The provision for reserved

Meeting sources told The

Party (ALPP) on Thursday.

The last elections were held

Hasina raised the issue of 30

general elections by 2000.

pires in June, 2001.

Prime Minister and Awami

meeting called to discuss the issue on October 21 revealed the existence of a number of subgroups and associations and forums within BASA.

A public debate brought in focus the existence of Muktijoddah Officers Welfare Association, Post-independence BCS Forum, BCS (admin) Forum, Deputy Secretary Forum, Mujibnagar Officers Association and associations of different batches of BCS cadres etc.

In the Secretariat, there are more than dozen associations. grouping of different categories of employees of class three and four associations, drivers, typists, accountants, stenogra-

They have often fought with each other for dominance, forcing the authorities to keep the

The government's negotia-

It is likely that Maersk will

Sources said that both the

tion with Danish oil company

Maersk Olie for deep sea blocks

is nearing completion, sources

be given two blocks -- 19 and 20.

Earlier, the government had

sides more or less agreed on

various tax issues and two

The Danish company is

known as a leading deep sea oil

and gas explorer. It contends

that a venture in two deep sea

blocks was more cost effective

for Bangladesh than a venture

Meanwhile, talks on five

'awarded' blocks are being de-

"Petrobangla has formed

Production Sharing Contract

(PSC) negotiation committee to

sit with the companies which

have been given Letter of Intent

(Lol) for five blocks," said one

finalising negotiations with the

government are Enron-Okland

(blocks 3 and 6). Shell-Cairn

(Block 5), Triton-Unocal (Block

7) and Pangaea (Block 8). Be-

The companies waiting for

layed for various reasons.

offered it one block.

blocks for Maersk.

in only one block

Danish co may get

2 deep sea blocks

Star Report

recognised employees associa-tion's office under lock and key. Even police are not out of the

fray. They have at least one group beside the police service association. Recently one group called Bangladesh police officers association has appeared. The BASA was earlier known as BCS (Administra-

tion) Association. When it

changed its nomenclature a few

years ago, the police welfare association also changed its Asked to provide the lists of how many organisations operate legally and beyond rules, the establishment ministry offi-cials declined to provide any de-

The Daily Star could obtain a list that shows that the National Pay Commission formed in 1996 had held discussions with as many as 40 service or-

ganisations and representa-See Page 12 Col 1

waiting for their turn to come to

Bangladesh and discuss a gov-

ernment-moderated partner-

"Although the government

has awarded the five blocks to

these companies, it hardly ne-

gotiated details. The negotia-

tion committee was supposed to

discuss issues relating to bank

guarantees, work programmes,

financial and technical capa-

bility of the companies and

their track record. But actually

none of these issues were dis-

cussed properly," the source

said, adding, "at least the bid re-

sults do not reflect detailed dis-

Among the companies,

Tullow is the government's

which were given LoI, Pangaea

did not have any track record or

most favoured company, which

is yet to be given an Lol. It has

also not submitted any bank

"The PSC negotiation com-

The new committee might

mittee will now go into details

also discuss 'adding 15 per cent

carried over share' of

Bangladesh's exploration unit,

on the issues," said the source.

proper bank guarantee.

cussion.

guarantee.

ship in blocks 9 and 11.

#### VGF: Expanded programme by tomorrow

of VGF cardholders and quan-

tity of food. A relief ministry official said a detailed plan regarding expansion of the programme will be worked out by the Prime Minister's Office by tomorrow and 'we will act accordingly'. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had already announced at a public rally in the city on Tuesday that two lakh additional VGF cards would be issued.

However, WFP (World Food Programme) sources, that provides food aid for the purpose, told The Daily Star that the government had already been informed that the number of VGF cards could be raised to 55 lakh. "Besides, we suggested that at least 25 lakh of the card holders, obviously the worsthit ones, could be even be given double the quantity of foodgrains they get now, that is 32 kg a month," said a WFP official in Dhaka.

So far, VGF cards were distributed among some 40 lakh flood-hit families, covering two crore people or one-sixth of the country's population. Each cardholder is entitled to get eight kg of rice and eight kg wheat per month.

A donors' representative in Dhaka said the government is cautious that its food reserve is not depleted. "That we understand well. But, sooner or later as food aid shipment comes by, the government's stock will be replenished".

An ERD (Economic Relations Division) official, however, explained that the government has to strike a balance between its stock position and shipment schedules. "Government can't let its wheat reserve to dry up while shipment of food aid depends on different va-

#### Arrested BTV officials placed on remand

Five BTV officials, arrested on Thursday in connection with the killing of four of their senior colleagues on November 7, 1975, were taken on a 4-day police remand yesterday, re-

ports UNB. The CID investigators produced them before the Metropolitan Magistrate's Court and sought five-day remand to interrogate them about the

gruesome killing. The arrested are: BTV Producer Lutfar Rahman Talukder. Assistant Directors Abul Kashem Bagchi, Abdul Awal Sharker and Controller of Transmission Ainul Kabir, and former BTV official Aynuzza-

The killing took place in the early morning of November 7. 1975, behind the BTV Bhaban when it was under the siege of the army.

The victims of the incident were — Administrative officer AFM Siddique, Chief Accountant Akmal Hossain, Director (Programme) Monirul Alam

and Assistant Photographer Firoz Qaiyum Chowdhury. Police yesterday interrogated them several times in various ways, said an investigation

official. They were looked exhausted. CID sources said, adding that they have given some sensational information regarding the murder. "We are verifying their statements and information

#### sides, Tullow Oil, Chevron-Texthe prime minister did not BAPEX, in all the awarded aco and Mobil-Petronas are blocks. Demolition of illegal structures

### DCC to resume drive after 'political heat' subsides By Morshed Ali Khan

Dhaka City Corporation's cannot immediately launch its planned drive for demolition of illegal structures as the political situation is not 'favourable', official sources said.

The drive, scheduled to have started 10 days ago, would not start until the present political 'heat' subsides , the sources

" It would be difficult now to get help from police because they would be engaged other-wise," said a DCC official hinting at the massive police deployment to thwart any trouble after the verdict in Bangabandhu murder case scheduled for November 8.

In October last year, DCC demolished more than 100 illegal party offices, clubs, shops and other structures. The drive instantly became a success as it drew public applause.

#### But as soon as the DCC demolition team withdrew from the streets, most of the illegal occupants returned to their

spots and rebuilt their structures. Within the last six months hundreds of shops, clubs, party and trade union of fices and other structures have been illegally set up in the city. This year the DCC demolition team is much stronger

than last year's. Eighteen metropolitan magistrates have been assigned to the DCC court, bringing the number to 21. Moreover, in a letter on October 7. the government gave metropolitan magistracy power to all the 10 zonal officers of the DCC. Now the total number of metropolitan magistrates under DCC is 31.

A DCC official, requesting anonymity, said a strong team DCC team did not mean that ac-

tion against encroachment would be prompt and efficient. The team is dependant firstly on green signal from 'above' secondly police assistance and finally on availability of transport, bulldozer and earth removers. At present most of the bulldozers and earth removers of DCC are being used for post-flood road repairs, he

There was considerable doubt whether DCC would go for eviction of hawkers from the city pavements. Mayor Mohammad Hanif had earlier assured that hawkers would not be evicted until they were rehabilitated. A DCC source said the Mayor

was quite cautious about the evictions because "he would not like to upset any quarters prior to the mayoral elections due early next year".

## No headway in talks

#### on Siachen dispute NEW DELHI, Nov 6: India and Pakistan today failed to make any headway in their talks on the Siachen issue but agreed to continue discussions

during the next round of the dialogue process, reports BSS. In a joint statement issued at the end of the talks, the two sides reiterated their respective positions on the issue. The discussions were held in a frank and cordial atmosphere, the

statement added Indian Defence Secretary Ajit Kumar and his Pakistani counterpart Lt Gen (retd) Chowdhury Iftikhar Ali Khan led their respective sides at the

During the talks, the Pakistani delegation turned down New Delhi's suggestion to effect a ceasefire and instead pleaded for implementing the June 1989 agreement on redeployment of forces in the area.

Emerging from the meeting, the Pakistan defence secretary

complex situation. It will take Later, briefing newsmen the Indian defence secretary said

been characterised by its desire to have peace and tranquillity in the Siachen area and to put an end to hostilities.

With this end in view, he said, "We have proposed an agreement on ceasing fire in Siachen."

Such a step, the Indian defence secretary said would immediately defuse tension and the atmosphere of confronta-

Ministry spokesman Tariq Altaf told newspersons that there had been no specific escalation in military activity in the Siachen Glacier during the past three or four weeks, as was

tary Ajit Kumar said, "Pakistani provocative actions in the Siachen area have been particularly marked since September this year," adding "Even as our delegations were engaged in the opening round of the composite dialogue in Islamabad last month, Pakistan forces made an attempt to capture one of our posts in the

#### with their previous statements." CID investigators said. Seminar told Software industr to earn forex,

create jobs By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday said the country has great potential to earn foreign exchange and solve the unemployment problem by developing an export-oriented software industry.

Youths can easily seize the opportunity of having lucrative jobs abroad to fill up the shortage of more than 1.5 million IT professionals by the year 2000,

they said. The seminar on "Career Options in Information Technology" was held at the CIRDAP

auditorium yesterday. Jointly organised by Rotary Club of Dhaka Mid City and Ro-

taract Club of Dhaka Mid City. the seminar was sponsored by a leading computer education organisation, APTECH. The seminar was addressed by, among others, Executive Di-

rector of Bangladesh Computer Council (BCC) Prof MA Sobhan, Rezwan Bin Faruque of Axiom Technologies Ltd and Country Operations Manager of APTECH Tarun Mitra, Rotn Salah Uddin Mahmud Khasru and Rotaract Zakaria Ul Alam. Prof Sobhan said the coun-

try's main resource is manpower but it is not being used properly. Emphasising the need for IT

manpower of international See Page 12 Col 8

The trial of the case began on

Dhaka Central Jail. ing of the case.

mon intention under Sections 302, 34, 120 (b) and 201 of the Chronology

June 23, 1996: AL formed

October 2, 1996: After 21

October 3, 1996: Investiga-

## Delhi for power

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: Power Minister Kumaramangalam said here today that the Indian government had plans for electricity generation linking India

While announcing the policy transmission and distribution

There would be two sub-stations in Assam and two within

proposed to take initiatives to establish a SAARC power grid for partnership with SAARC countries.

by November 14.

Village Phones and

## Star

NEW DELHI, Nov 6: The assembly elections in four Indian states - Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Delhi and Mizoram -Pages 8, 9 scheduled for November 25 are the first major test of popularity for Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government

> than seven months ago. The outcome of the elections would also constitute a commentary on the leadership of Congress President Sonia Gandhi who took up the job of leading India's oldest political party early this year.

since it assumed office more

If BJP fails to retain power in Rajasthan and Delhi, where it has to cope with anti-incumbency factor, and regain control of Madhya Pradesh where Congress is in power, the Vajpayee government will come under considerable pressure. On the other hand, victory for Congress in Madhya

Pradesh, even if by a reduced

majority, and in Rajasthan and

Delhi would give strength to

anti-BJP forces' call for an al-

Sonia Gandhi's party in the event of Vajpayee administra-tion's fail. It will also give a big boost to Congress' revival bid after losing in 1996 and 1998 general elections. The top BJP leadership has left nothing to chance and pressed all its heavyweights in-

ternative government led by

Shops have been set up illegally on public land and part of the road near Meillat office in

Four Indian states go to polls on Nov 25

First major test for BJP govt

From Pallab Bhattacharya

the city's Fakirerpool area. Illegal structures are also being built on the land still vacant.

cluding Vajpayee, Home Minister L K Advani and party president Kushabhau Thakre, into electioneering in the four states. As the BJP leadership firmed up its election strategy, it found itself in the midst of a fire-fighting operation, especially in Delhi where it looks up

to 46-year-old lady politician

Sushma Swaraj to take the

challenge of steering the party

back to power. Within hours of Mrs Swarai's swearing in as Chief Minister of Delhi's BJP-led government, BJP central leaders announced their decision to project her as candidate for the same post if BJP returns to

The BJP leadership, according to political observers, has taken a "calculated risk" by inducting Sushma Swaraj as Delhi Chief Minister in place of Jat leader Sahib Singh Verma as it may have repercussions not only among Jat voters in Delhi but also in neighbouring Rajasthan. The strongest reaction to

Verma's removal came from

power in the coming elections.

- Star photo

none other than an ally of BJP-Indian National Lok Dal headed by Om Prakash Chautala, son of well-known Jat leader and former Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal. Chautala's party had threatened to withdraw support to Vajpayee ministry in protest against Verma's removal while

another senior Jat leader Ajit Singh, a former Federal Minister, also flayed the action. The BJP is particularly worried about the possible impact of the change of guard in Delhi state on Rajasthan's Jat voters. The party was jolted recently by from its ranks who switched over to Congress. To stave off possible adverse fallout of Verma's removal, BJP

desertion of some Jat leaders

quickly announced that he would be inducted in the Vajpayee cabinet. Rajasthan is expected to witness what promises to be one of the most closely-contested

assembly elections in the state. In the previous poll in 1993, the BJP fell short of majority with 95 seats in the 200-member state assembly but succeeded in cobbling the required strength by roping in most of the 21 independent MLAs legislators. The main opposition Congress was highly encouraged by the outcome of this year's

parliamentary elections in the

state where the party won 18 of

the 25 Lok Sabha seats. One Lok

Sabha seat constituency consist of on an average seven assembly constituencies. But statistics may not always be the right indicator as local issues play a See Page 12 Col 4 that the Indian approach has

said, "It is a very difficult and

tion in the area. Earlier, Pakistan Foreign

being alleged by India. The Indian Defence Secre-

#### By Reaz Ahmad The government is working out a plan to extend the VGF (vulnerable group feeding) programme following donors' suggestion to increase the number