weekend paper

Your 20-page



INSIDE TODAY

SOUTHASIA Why Fall Behind? by Harun ur Rashid

Need for a Regional Approach by Ekram Kabir Forging Unity against the Military by ZaglulAhmedChowdhury

Hasnat Abdul Hye's LDC Forever?

Still Time for Mending Fences by **AMMShahabuddin EDITORIAL** Page 6

Mohammad Badrul Ahsan's In the Rigors

M Farhad Hossain

FOCUS

AkhterMahmood Abating child labour: Role of non-fomal education by ENVIRONMENT Page 8

Privatisation: The world-wide experience by Syed

Benefits of CDM beckon Bangladeshby Saleemul Huq Treasures of the seas are on the verge of extinction by MdAssadullahKhan

SUPPLEMENT Page 9 One page Supplement on "ISO 9002 Certification to MeghnaCement"

Page 10

PHOTO-FEATURE AKMMohsin's The Sunderbans: Huntedor be hunted

VOL. X NO. 305 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2000.

AGRAHAYAN 10, 1407 BS

of Violent Mortis

SHABAN 27, 1421 HIJRI

Page 4

20 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE PRICE : TAKA 9.00

SSF assault on

DC sparks

protest in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 23: Assault

on the Deputy Commissioner of

Chittagong allegedly by the mem-

bers of SSF last night at

Chittagong Circuit House.

angered the rank and file at

staged a demonstration in front of

the Court Building premises this

morning protesting the incident,

The magistrate courts did not

The officials and employees

brought out a procession

demanding trial of SSF (special

security force) members for

assaulting the DC Mohammad

Hasan of Chittagong after a civic

reception accorded to Princess

Anne by CCC Mayor A B M

Mohiuddin Chowdhury at

Chittagong Circuit House last

DC Mohammad Hasan alleged

that he was assaulted by the

members of SSF after the civic

push and threatened to arrest me though I introduced myself as DC of Chittagong engaged in main-

taining protocol," Hasan said.

"A member of SSF gave me a

"The incident occurred as I was

standing beside a passage in

front of the reception venue while

the Princess was leaving." Hasan

push asking me to go away and he

was later joined by another in

course of an altercation with me."

officials present there tried to

patch up the issue but DC left the

The matter was informed to

However, SSF could not be

venue, sources said.

higher authority.

"A captain of SSF gave me the

Later, the mayor and other

Talking to this correspondent

police and court sources said.

function till 2 pm.

night, police said.

reception.

The officials and employees

Chittagong Court Building.

### HC judge resigns

Latifur Rahman, a judge of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court, has resigned following a scandal widely reported in the press, reports

Deputy Attorney General Shamsuddin Ahmed Chowdhury Manik lastnight confirmed that Justice Latifur Rahman submitted his resignation to President Shahabuddin Ahmed early yesterday. The President has accepted the resignation.

Informed sources said that the name of Justice Latifur Rahman who was holding a single bench till Wednesday was not in vesterday's cause list. Finding his name absent, Latifur Rahman went to the Chief Justice in his chamber and sought leave for 15 days.

The Chief Justice suggested him to resign. Accordingly, he sent his resignation to the President at about 12 noon.

Latifur Rahman was junior judge of the two-member Division Bench of the High Court that heard the appeal of former president H M Ershad against his conviction by the district court in the Janata Tower Corruption

### BIWTC workers call off proposed JS session prorogued strike

By Staff Correspondent

Workers of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC) yesterday called off their proposed strike on November 26. The strike has been called off following a fruitful discussion between the BIWTC authorities and leaders of BIWTC Workers Union with State Minister for Shipping Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya in the chair, said a press release.

bills including the Constitution (Fourteenth) (Amendment) Bill. 2000 Shipping Secretary Sohel for retention of the women's reserved seats and on three other private Ahmed Chowdhury, Joint Secremembers' bills were placed in the House. tary M. Anisur Rahman. BIWTC Chairman M A Matin, president tricts, National Health Policy and dishonoring the National Anthem by of Jatiya Sramik League Abdus a daily newspaper were held during the session that began on Novem-See page 11 col 6

#### Forestry students continue hunger strike

By Staff Correspondent

Students of forestry departments of the country's three universities passed their fourth day of fast-unto-death programme at the Central Shaheed Minar yesterday demanding cancellation of the 'defective' recruiting process in the 22nd BCS examinations.

The other demands of the Bangladesh Professional Forestry Students Association (BPFSA), a platform of forestry students, include reservation of BCS Forest cadre posts only for four-year forestry graduates and appointment of only four-year professional forestry graduates to the rank of Assistant Conservator of

The number of sick students rose to 45 as 16 more students fell sick yesterday. The condition of fasting students deteriorated yesterday as they have been observing the strike under open

At least 400 students of for See page 11 col 8

#### Stolen baby rescued from Narayanganj

One arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police rescued the baby boy yesterday who was stolen from the Gynaecology Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital

Wednesday morning. A team of Ramna police went to Shimulpara Bihari Colony of Siddirganj in Naryanganj and rescued the baby from Sarwari Begum at about 1:30 a.m. yester-

Police also arrested Sarwari Begum for her alleged involvement in the lifting of the baby.

Police handed over the baby to her mother Jhorna Begum, 22, wife of late Nizamuddin Ahmed of Mirpur in the city, at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yester-. day afternoon.

The baby boy went missing when the mother went to the bathroom. Jhorna Begum was admitted to the hospital on November 13 and the following day she gave birth to a son at bed number I on the Baranda of ward 15. She was sharing the seat with one Nargis.

See page 11 col 6

# Ershad's plea rejected

Public career of deposed president virtually ends

By Staff Correspondent

The Supreme Court yesterday rejected the petition for leave to appeal by former president and



Jativa Party chief H M Ershad against the High Court verdict confirming a five-year jail term and a fine of Tk 5.5 crore in 1990. Janata Tower case.

The Full Bench of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court

cluding session of the House.

for women.

July last year.

SHARKER

By Staff Correspondent

The 20th session of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad was prorogued

yesterday with a fresh call from the Speaker and some other lawmakers

to the boycotting opposition to attend the next session and help pas-

sage of the Bill seeking retention of the 30 reserved parliamentary seats

Besides Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of

Lawmakers from BNP, a faction of Jatiya Party led by HM Ershad

Seven bills were passed and six others introduced during the nine

and Jaamat-e-Islam have been boycotting parliament session since

working days of the session. Besides, scrutiny reports on eight other

General discussions on the recent floods in the southwestern dis-

the House Zillur Rahman, Jatiya Party Whip Fazle Rabbi and Maj.

(Retd) Akhtaruzzaman, expelled from BNP, made the call at the con-

headed by Chief Justice Latifur Rahman modified the High Court verdict, taking into account that Ershad had served most of his jail term since he was convicted by a trial court in 1993. It said he could come out of jail on payment of the fine and in default will have by the Supreme Court on Januinstead of two years as ordered by the High Court.

Legal experts said the conviction of Ershad by the highest court on charge of 'moral turpitude' has disqualified Ershad as a Member of Parliament and he cannot contest Parliament elecis released from prison.

The SC judgement which came after three days of hearing virtually sealed the political future of the former army chief, who seized power in a coup in 1982 and ruled the country till he was toppled in a mass upsurge on December 6.

Ershad was taken into custody on December 11 by the caretaker government that succeeded his

regime and was charged in 18 cases including murder and keeping unauthorised arms.

He was sentenced to three years' jail in the arms case in 1992 but was acquitted by the High Court. He was granted bail to serve a six-month jail term, ary 9, 1997. The other cases against him are now in trial and appeal stages.

The former president is also facing a contempt of court rule by the High Court for alleged conversation with a judge of the court following his conviction. The rule was issued on Wednesday and he tions in five years from the day he was asked to show cause by December 3.

He was taken to Dhaka Central Jail after he surrendered before

the trial court on November 20. Ershad was found guilty of abusing his authority as the then president in the allocation of a piece of commercial land at Karwan Bazar in the name of his wife and building a high-rise there beyond his known source of See page 11 col 7

### News Analysis

### A dull session

By Nazmul Ashraf

The otherwise dull session of the Jatiya Sangsad that was prorogued yesterday triggered off widespread controversy through its deliberations against the higher judiciary, a practice never done in the country's parliamentary history.

In fact, the parliament took stand against the High Court that summoned the House proceedings about a statement made on the role of the court as regards granting of bail to the editor of daily Ingilab in a late-night sitting. And, the parliament did not comply with the court order that was sharply criticised by the lawmakers.

See page 11 col 3

"YOU'RE ARRESTING SO MANY

TO MUG!

THAT SOON THERE WON'T BE ANY

INNOCENT PEOPLE OUT THERE FOR US



yesterday. Leader of the opposition in parliament Khaleda Zia accused the ruling party of planning to win the next elections with money and arms.

# AL plans to win polls with arms, money

Khaleda tells opposition meeting at Paltan

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday alleged that the ruling Awami League was conspiring to retain power by using illegal arms and black money in the next national election.

AL leaders have amassed huge black money by misappropriating public funds and its activists have collected arms by looting than as and through smuggling, she said.

She was addressing a huge public meeting of the four-party opposition alliance at the Paltan Maidan

The meeting was addressed by, among others, Jatiya party Presidium member Raushan Ershad. Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam and Islami allowed to rig votes and capture polling centres in Oikkya Jote (IJO) Chairman Azizul Haq.

\*MUGGERS (P. (OTT)

תופוד מתפי המפוצ

अव्यक्ष हुना स्थान

City BNP President Sadek Hossain Khoka MP presided over the meeting.

Tens of thousands of people attended the public meeting. The crowd spilled over to roads outside the Maidan and adjoining areas. People were also seen on roofs of the adjoining National Stadium and other

The people will foil all conspiracies by the ruiling party, Khaleda Zia said.

Backed by its masters, Awami league came to power in 1996 by using illegal arms, black money and by rigging and manipulating the election results, she alleged. There will be no repetition of 1996 events ... Those days are gone ... Nobody will be

See page 11 col 7

'Listed criminals'

slip through

police raid

Majority of 52,119 arrested innocent?

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

the beginning of a special drive across the country on October 22.

the operation designed to combat terrorism.

have arrested 131 terrorists last month.

people in the name of law.

The police have failed to apprehend any of the 'listed' criminals since

Official figures show that 52,119 people have been arrested so far in

Of them 19,159 were arrested for various charges while some 32,748

There are allegations that the police have harassed mostly innocent

In the early part of the operation, son of a joint news editor of a

national daily was arrested along with his four friends while he was

returning home from a computer school at Dhanmondi. The boy was

Corruption in police is at its severest in and around the old part of

See page 1 col 1

later released following requests. But his friends were not that fortu-

nate, each having to pay Tk 1,500 to get out of police custody.

the city. Several persons were picked up by Kotwali, Sutrapur and

wanted criminals were taken into custody. However, not a single

accused in major murder cases could be nabbed. Police claim that they

contacted for comments.

### Mayor's rejoinder & our reply

Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) in a rejoinder yesterday said that the news item published in The Daily Star on Thursday under the caption "Hanif Violates PM's order" is untrue, motivated, and imagi-"DCC or the Mayor has

never violated prime minister's order. There is a Children's Park in Karwan Bazar. No permission was given to build any shops around the Children's Park and it remains intact. In the late 80s, Rajuk handed over a piece of land to DCC and ever since it has been designated as a car park. The car park has been encircled with an iron fence. Mayor Hanif has simply allocated space for 51 shops on a temporary basis outside the car park area," the rejoinder

Our Reply

We stand by our report. DCC rejoinder admits that Mayor Mohammad Hanif has given permission to build 51 shops outside the car park This clearly proves our story. Our first question is, if the car

See page 11 col 5

## Bush takes recount to federal supreme court

Gore seeks resumption of Miami-Dade County hand count

TALLAHASSEE, Florida, Nov 23: With a deadline for the final result of the US presidential election only four days away. Al Gore and George W Bush have taken their clash over vote recounts in Florida to the state and federal supreme courts, reports as a "slight heart attack."

Republican Texas Governor Bush filed two motions Wednesday with the top federal court seeking to block manual recounts that could give Vice President Gore the state of Florida and the White House.

Gore, for his part, will ask the Florida Supreme Court to force Miami-Dade County to resume its manual recount of ballots -- with some 650,000 votes, the county could provide Gore the extra votes he needs to overtake Bush, who held a scant 930vote lead in the unofficial state-wide tally before the recounts.

While state and federal courts have been quick resolve requests from both sides in the past 16 days since the November 7 election, little court action was expected Thursday as the United States observed its Thanksgiving Day holiday.

In other developments Wednesday, the Bush campaign said it would not seek a vote recount in Wisconsin, which Gore won by a narrow margin, and the race for the US Senate seat in Washington state was near the end with the Democratic challenger holding a slender 1,780-vote lead.

Meanwhile, Bush's running mate Dick Cheney. 59, was recovering from heart surgery Thursday in a Washington hospital where he was admitted Wednesday after suffering what doctors described

The Bush campaign said it filed two petitions Wednesday with the nation's highest court to overturn a decision by the Florida Supreme Court ordering that manual recounts be included in the state's final tally.

The petitions contend that manual recounts are "unconstitutional and that they should be stopped ... before further irreparable harm is done to the integrity of this election and to the rights of voters in Florida and everywhere else in the United States, Bush attorney Theodore Olson said. He said Bush was also pressing for expedited

treatment of the case so it can be resolved before Florida's December 18 deadline for choosing its electors for the Electoral College which is due to formally choose the next president on December 18. Legal experts have said that federal courts would look very closely before becoming involved in state matters. A US federal district court and a federal

appeals court, for example, have already rebuffed the Republicans. The Florida state Supreme Court on Tuesday gave three key Florida counties until 5:00 pm (2200 GMT) See page 11 col 7

### KAFCO resumes operations soon

By Staff Correspondent

The urea plant of Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company (KAFCO) in Chittagong is expected to resume operations soon after its unexpected shutdown about three weeks ago.

KAFCO, a multinational joint venture company, was forced to shut down the plant early this month due to technical fault. Company sources said some

engineers and experts from Japan and Singapore have arrived to examine the defect and restore production. KAFCO attributed the shutdown to the malfunctioning of

one of the over 100 heat exchanger units of the plant. Designed by Stamicarbon of Holland, the plant has a production capacity of 1725 metric tons per day of high-grade granular

Since production started in the factory in 1995, the urea plant has had as many as 38 closures due to technical fault. This was however the first shutdown after the company was re-organized

few months back. The company claimed that it has been operating without any major problems since March

### Attention

## Garment Manufacturers & Exporters!

Velvet Textile Mills Limited offers you an exquisite range of finest quality 100% Cotton Twill, Canvas, Sheeting etc. Product of latest German-American technology using state-of-art methods, our fabrics can match the best in the market. GSP facilities available.

Place your order early to at oid disappointment!



**Velvet Textile Mills Limited** 

Fax: 880-2-881 3882 World Wide Web : veltex.com E-mail: veltexbd@bol-online.com veltexbd@bdonline.com

