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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### 494 arrested in city

By Staff Correspondent  
 Police arrested 494 people in a special raid conducted Sunday night in the city. Fourteen police stations of the Dhaka city and detective branch simultaneously took part in the six-hour raid in all the areas of the capital. Police source said that the special raid was conducted successfully and quite a good number of criminals were apprehended. Among the arrested persons 100 were mastans, while 89 were extortionists. Besides 71 alleged muggers were also arrested during the raid.

### Hasina off to Brunei

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina left here for Brunei Sunday evening to see her ailing brother-in-law there, according to family sources. Shafiq Ahmed Siddique, husband of Sheikh Hasina, younger sister of Sheikh Hasina, has reportedly been suffering from pneumonia, reports BSS.

### Dhaka in FAO council

Bangladesh has been elected to the Rome-based Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) council for a three year term from November 1991 to December 1994, according to a message received here. Other countries also elected to the FAO council from the Asia and Pacific region for the same term are: Japan, China, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Indonesia. Bangladesh got elected to the council by securing 89 votes against Malaysia's tally of 31, reports BSS.

## Jute and textile workers uproot Railway tracks, clash with police : 100 injured

# Communications disrupted as 48-hr barricade begins

By Staff Correspondent  
 Jute and textile workers, in a desperate attempt to force the government to accept their demands, uprooted railway tracks to begin a 48-hour rail and road barricade Monday, disrupting communications across the country.  
 At least 100 people, including 19 law enforcement personnel, were injured in sporadic clashes with police.  
 Police hurled at least 30 tear-gas shells during clashes near the Dhaka Cotton Mill at Postagola.  
 Rail tracks were uprooted at Tongi and Kishoreganj. Clashes between the workers



Top: Agitating jute and textile workers are blocking movement of a train by raising a human barricade at Tongi Monday. Bottom: Another group of workers is removing rail lines disrupting communication.

## Workers' action vandalism: Chambers

Country's business community Monday called upon the government to take strong measures against "anarchy and vandalism" by a section of workers, reports UNB.  
 Leaders of different chambers in a statement expressed their concern at the blocking highways and rail tracks which has disrupted normal activities in the country.  
 "We understand that the issue for this programme is the non-acceptance of the privatisation programme of the government by a section of workers," the statement said.  
 The federation leaders said the accumulated losses in the nationalised jute sector is about Tk 1500 crore and in the textile about 250 crore. Attempts for denationalisation of jute and textile sectors have systematically been opposed by certain quarters and the nation has already paid a very heavy price for this, they observed.  
 "We strongly feel that the government must denationalise the jute and textile sectors fully keeping in view the detrimental effect the present situation has on the economy", the statement maintained.  
 It observed that under the banners of Patkal and Sutakal Sramik Sangram Parishad a section of workers through their programme had put a tremendous pressure on the economy.  
 Termining the programme "unlawful" the statement further said, "nobody has the right to resort to blocking of highways and railways to press for their demand of industrial dispute.  
 Nation would pay a heavy price for such activities which had repercussions in all sectors of economy and the business, it added.  
 The statement was signed by M Akram Hossain, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Syed Manzur Elahi, President, Metropolitan Chamber, Dhaka, AKM Rahmatullah, Chairman, Finished Leather Exporters  
 See Page 12 Col. 8

## Barricade aims at destroying economy, says Press Note

The government has said that the so called blockage call given by the workers of public sector jute and textile mills was politically motivated and aimed at destroying the country's economy, reports BSS.  
 A press note issued Monday night said that there was no provision of blockage under the trade union laws and as such the authorities would not tolerate such a situation.  
 The government expressed the hope that good sense would prevail among the all concerned quarters and the path of anarchy, indiscipline and sabotage would be shunned.  
 The press note said the government would be compelled to take action against persons found responsible for creating indiscipline under the prevalent laws of mills and factories and the trade unions.  
 The press note said "It has been noticed that a section of jute and textile mills workers abstained from their work and tried to create indiscipline at certain places despite being the fact that they were adequately informed of the importance of keeping production uninterrupted through maintaining peace and discipline in all spheres of life in the greater interest of the country and the nation. They had created hindrance to the normal flow of traffic and engaged themselves in creating terror and anarchy in public life. This had resulted into affecting in normal production in mills and factories and disrupting security of public life.  
 "It is to be mentioned here that the government, after being informed of the so called blockage of the jute and textile mills workers, had held several rounds of talks with them and gave the assurance of forming a wage commission, sanctioning interim allowances  
 See Page 12 Col. 6

## Deep-rooted conspiracy behind campus terrorism : PM

KHULNA, Nov 25 : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today sought unstinted cooperation of all parties and quarters to eliminate terrorism from the campuses saying that making the educational institutions free from this scourge was not the responsibility of the government alone, reports BSS.  
 She said, "On our part we are firmly determined to establish a proper and congenial atmosphere in the educational arena."  
 The Prime Minister was addressing the opening ceremony of academic activities of the newly-founded Khulna University.  
 Begum Zia said a parliamentary committee was formed to make in-depth review of terrorism in the campuses and recommend ways and means to curb it. As soon as the report is received, the government would take steps to realise the recommendations of the committee.  
 The Prime Minister said, "I believe there is a deep-rooted and planned conspiracy behind terrorism on the campuses. The conspiracy had been hatched to paralyse the education system of the country and hinder the national development."  
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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating the academic session of Khulna University by unveiling a plaque Monday. — PID photo

## Ordinance for adequate security of PM soon

By Moinuddin Naser  
 The government is contemplating promulgating an ordinance to provide adequate security to the Prime Minister, it is reliably learnt.  
 A cabinet committee is now working on the ordinance which will be promulgated with due approval of the Council of Minister, said a highly placed source.  
 Under this ordinance the Prime Minister, entitled only normal security under the existing provision, will be provided a military secretary. The military secretary will look after the security of the head of the government and other related matters.  
 The ordinance has become necessary with the change of the presidential system of government to a parliamentary democracy with the Prime Minister of the country as head of government and the President as the titular head of state.  
 However it is learnt that the President of the country, also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces will also get a military secretary as per existing laws.  
 There is no provision for a military secretary and an army security force for the Prime Minister under existing laws. But the incumbent Prime Minister under existing laws  
 See Page 12 Col. 7

## Split judgement over President Poll Act

Supreme Court Correspondent  
 A Division Bench of the Supreme Court, High Court Division comprising Justice F H M Habibur Rahman and Justice Abdul Hasib gave a split decision on Monday in the writ petitions filed by Abdus Samad Azad (AL), Deputy Leader of the Opposition and six others and Moudud Ahmed (JP) challenging the Presidential Election Act of 1991.  
 Justice F H M Habibur Rahman found no merit and by his order rejected the petitions summarily while Justice Abdul Hasib issued a Rule Nisi calling upon the respondents to show cause as to why Section 10 of the Act under challenge should not be declared to be void and inconsistent with the provisions of the Presidential Election Act of 1991.  
 See Page 12 Col. 6

## ULFA, Shantibahini operate jointly?

By Rahman Jahangir back from Calcutta  
 The on-going Indian crackdown on the guerrillas of the United Liberation Front of Assam will help Bangladesh, as political sources in Calcutta have found a well-knit connection of ULFA with the outlawed Shantibahini in Chittagong Hill Tracts.  
 The sources told this correspondent on Saturday that it was highly likely the ULFA guerrillas operated jointly with the Chittagong tribal insurgents in the inaccessible jungles along the Indo-Bangladesh border.  
 "We believe, with the swoop on the ULFA cletking, the Shantibahini will be weakened to a great extent as the Bangladesh tribal insurgents used to receive arms and training from its Assamese counterparts," one source disclosed.  
 On Saturday, the Assam police in cooperation with the Calcutta Detective Department detected a secret bank account of an ULFA accomplice Raj Barua, who kept 50,000 Singaporean dollars in a bank locker in Calcutta. Raj Barua was arrested on Friday last.  
 According to sources, the ULFA used to buy arms and ammunition from Singapore to carry out its clandestine operations. "Some of the arms might have been given to the Shantibahini, the sources said.  
 Golap Barua, the ULFA general secretary, was also arrested in Calcutta when he  
 See Page 12 Col. 2

## Bangladesh not sheltering ULFA men : Hasina

CALCUTTA, Nov 25 : Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina tonight denied the allegation by Assam Chief Minister Hiteswar Saikia that the ULFA was receiving shelter and support from Bangladesh, reports PTI.  
 "I have no information. I don't believe it", she told newsmen after arriving at Calcutta airport from Dhaka.  
 The Bangladesh opposition leader also denied that the ULFA had bank accounts in her  
 See Page 12 Col. 2

## Writ challenging UZ Parishad repeal ordn

A writ petition was filed in High Court division of the Supreme Court Monday challenging validity of the ordinance that abolished the Upazila system, reports UNB.  
 The petition was filed on behalf of Ahsanullah, chairman of now defunct Gaspur Sadar Upazila Parishad, in the High Court division bench comprising Justice Abdul Jalil and Justice Naimuddin Ahmed.  
 The hearing of the writ will begin today (Tuesday).  
 Barrister Amirul Islam moved the petition. He was assisted by a group of lawyers, including Suranjit Sengupta, Mesbahuddin, Khalilur-Rahman, Nurul Huda and M.K. Rahim.

## Syria accepts talks in Washington with conditions

DAMASCUS, Nov 25: Syria has conditionally agreed to attend the next round of Middle East peace talks in Washington next week, a member of the PLO's executive committee said today, reports AFP and Reuters.  
 "We understand, after a meeting with Syrian officials, that Syria accepts in principle the choice of Washington, but with conditions," the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Yasser Amro said in a telephone interview with AFP. He did not specify Syria's conditions.  
 There was no confirmation from officials here.  
 Last week, US secretary of State James Baker sent invitations to Israel, the Palestinians, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon to attend the next round of the Middle East peace conference in Washington beginning December 4 and asked for a response by today. The round is to be made up of bilateral negotiations between Israel and the Arab parties.  
 Jordan and the Palestinians have agreed to participate while Israel has complained that it was not consulted on the venue before the invitations went out.  
 Israel inched today towards accepting a US proposal to resume Middle East peace talks in Washington but sought to downgrade their importance.  
 "To launch the talks in Washington in order to conclude a few procedural matters appears possible to me," said Transport Minister Moshe Katzav, who is close to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.  
 "But it must be clear that when the real substantive, intensive and continuing bilateral talks begin... It is better to conduct them here in the region and that is what must be done," he told Israel Radio.  
 Katzav's remarks were more conciliatory than those by ministers who complained on Sunday that the United States, Israel's closest ally and supplier of more than three billion dollars in annual aid was putting unjust pressure on Israel.  
 Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Zalman Shoval, told Army Radio today it was a "theoretical possibility" Israel would agree to Washington so long as talks soon moved to the region.  
 Israel was still awaiting clarifications from the Bush Administration, which, despite scheduling the meeting in Washington, had agreed in principle the talks should take place in the Middle East, he added.  
 A decision could be left to Israel's policy-making inner cabinet, which usually meets on Wednesdays, he added.  
 An opinion poll published today in Yedioth Ahronoth, Israel's biggest newspaper, showed the public overwhelmingly wanted Shamir to accept the Washington invitation.  
 The survey, by the Dahaf Institute, showed 78 per cent of the 619 Israelis it contacted by telephone on Sunday believed Israel should say Yes.  
 Critics accused Shamir of stalling because he fears US and Arab pressure to give up occupied Arab land, which he asserts is essential to Israeli security. The hardline rightist leader denies he is procrastinating.  
 The Bush Administration suggested Washington after Arab states rejected Shamir's proposal to meet in the Middle East, including Israel, or in nearby Cyprus.  
 Shamir insists on holding talks in or near the region to underline its acceptance by Arabs at war with its for 43 years. The Arabs demand progress first on their demand that Israel withdraw from occupied lands.

## Union Parishad nomination paper filing on Dec 7

Nomination papers for election to the union parishads have to be filed with the returning officers concerned on December 7 according to the detailed schedule already announced by the Election Commission, reports BSS.  
 The chairman and nine members (three members from each ward) from the three wards of each union parishad will be elected on the basis of direct adult franchise of the people of concerned union parishads.  
 A person will be disqualified for election as a chairman or a member of a union parishad under Section 7 (2) of the  
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