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NEWS BRIEFS

Transport strike postponed

FARIDPUR, Nov 27: A planned transport strike in 24 south and southwestern districts, scheduled for tomorrow has been postponed. The strike was postponed following an assurance that the Road Transport Authority (RTA) will hold a meeting with Dhakhin Banga Paribahan Malik Samity on November 30 to discuss the Samity's demands, the organisers said, reports UNB.

Indian goods seized

NETRAKONA, Nov 27: BDR personnel seized Indian goods worth about Tk 87,674 from Mechowa bazar and arrested five people in this connection Tuesday night. Among the arrested one is an employee and the others shopowners. The BDR personnel also seized a truck loaded with five bags of Indian onions, three bags of chili and two bags of garlic, reports UNB.

2 JCD leaders expelled

RAJSHAHI, Nov 27: The Rajshahi University unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal today expelled two of its leaders on charge of anti-organisational activity. RU unit Assistant General Secretary Khaled Ahsan Newton and Habibur Rahman Hall leader Shahidul Islam were purged from the ruling party's student wing, said a press release here today, reports UNB.

Pak arms sold to 40 states

ISLAMABAD, Nov 27: Pakistan sold weapons to 40 countries worth 750 million rupees (about 30 million U.S. dollars) during the last fiscal year, according to a local press report today. Local daily the News quoted Pakistan Ordnance Factories (POF) Board Chairman Lt. Gen. Saibeh Qamar Zaman as saying at a seminar at Radio Pakistan Tuesday that during the last three years, the arms exports by POF increased by 250 per cent, reports Xinhua.

Govt asked to show cause on upazila dissolution

A division bench of the High Court has asked the government to explain within seven days as to why the law abolishing the upazila system will not be declared ultra vires of the Constitution and void, reports UNB.

A rule nisi in this regard was issued Wednesday upon a writ petition filed by Ahsanullah, the former chairman of Gazipur sadar upazila, challenging the validity of the Local Government (Upazila Parishad and Upazila

Administration Reorganisation) (Repeal) Ordinance, 1991, promulgated on November 23.

The bench comprising Justice Muhammad Abdul Jalil and Justice Naimuddin Ahmed issued the rule through the Law Secretary and the LGRD Secretary.

Appearing for the petitioner, Barrister Amirul Islam submitted to the court that the ordinance is inconsistent with the relevant articles of the Constitution which guaranteed the people's sovereignty and their

participation at all tiers of administration through representatives.

He said the ordinance has snatched away people's constitutional rights to participate in the administration of the local bodies through their elected representatives.

But no law or executive order whatsoever can deny people's sovereignty over the administration, Barrister Islam contended. He referred to Articles 11, 59 and 60 of the

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Milon monument foundation laid

By Staff Correspondent

The first anniversary of death of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon was observed Wednesday with due solemnity.

Various political parties, socio-cultural organisations and professional groups held discussion meetings calling for united efforts for consolidation of democracy and ensuring peace and progress and also laid wreaths at the martyr's grave and at the monument site.

A large number of people from all walks of life visited

the grave at the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) compound.

Earlier Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia laid the foundation of Dr Milon monument near the TSC of Dhaka University and unveiled the plaque of Dr Milon Auditorium at the DMC in the morning.

She was followed by Awami League leaders including Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul

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Obhi places wreaths at Milon plaque

By DU Correspondent

Gulam Faruque Obhi laid wreaths at the monument site of Shaheed Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon on the Dhaka University campus in the small hours of Wednesday.

Campus sources said that Obhi had announced the decision to lay wreaths through his associates a week ago.

UNB adds: Obhi placed wreaths at the Dr Milon monument site behind the Dhaka University Central Library before anyone else turned up there.

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Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia offering munajat after placing wreaths at the mazar of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon yesterday.

Khaleda lays foundation of Dr Milon auditorium 450 unemployed doctors to get jobs : internes' allowance raised

Four hundred and fifty unemployed doctors will be provided with jobs and the allowance of internes will be raised to Tk 4,000 from Tk 2,500, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said on Wednesday, reports UNB.

Begum Zia was speaking on the occasion of foundation laying of Shaheed Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon auditorium at the Dhaka Medical College premises.

The internee doctors went on phased strike in all eight medical college and PG hospitals to press their six-point demand, including their allowance hike.

It's hard to solve all the problems overnight after inheriting a ruined economy from nine years of autocratic rule, Begum Zia said referring to the problems of medical teachers, students and doctors.

The Prime Minister reiterated her call for all irrespective of party affiliations to work hand in hand to rebuild the country for welfare of the commonman.

"Impetuosity and delusion will not solve the problems — we have to work together sinking all differences," she said.

Recalling the contribution of the martyrs of the anti-autocracy movement, including

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Samphan lynched in Phnom Penh



Khieu Samphan (L) is comforted by an aide as blood drips down his face after he was beaten by a frenzied mob Wednesday.

BANGKOK, Nov 27: Khmer Rouge leader Khieu Samphan was evacuated to Bangkok by plane from the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh today after a crowd attacked and assaulted him after he had returned earlier in the day from 13 years in exile, a Thai Foreign Ministry source said, reports Reuter, AP and AFP.

The source said Khieu Samphan and Son Sann, a senior Khmer Rouge official who arrived in Phnom Penh 10 days ago, were flown out on a special Kampuchea Airlines plane to Bangkok. Khieu Samphan spent less than 12 hours in the city which his troops emptied at gunpoint at the start of a Khmer Rouge reign of terror in 1975.

Khieu Samphan was beaten to the ground and cut in the head when an angry crowd shouting "kill, kill, kill" stormed the house allocated to the Khmer Rouge, under whose 1975-79 rule more than one million Cambodians were killed. He was rescued after several hours by police and soldiers with riot shields and bundled into an armoured car.

It was his first time back in Phnom Penh since the Chinese-backed Khmer Rouge were ousted in January 1979, by invading Vietnamese troops.

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22 toll collectors held in city

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police have arrested 115 people from different city areas in a drive during the last 24 hours, a DMP Press release said, reports BSS.

Detective Branch of the DMP and all the police stations took part in the drive and the arrested include eight hijackers, 30 mastans, 22 so-called toll collectors, 37 wanted in different cases, 7 under warrant and another 11 for other crimes.

Many of the arrested persons have been taken into police custody and are being questioned for recovery of illegal arms.

The so-called toll collectors arrested in the drive include four from Banani on Tuesday, who sought Taka 20,000 from the Health Care.

These mastans used to threaten the centre for toll earlier and the police in plain clothes arrested them on Tuesday when they appeared on the scene for toll.

The arrested also include gay girls and their "dalals" and

notorious dacoits.

Acting on a tip-off, the Detective Branch of the Police arrested five persons from a room adjacent to the canteen of the International Hostel while they were preparing for committing crime.

Accused A Huq, Rajab Ali, Jagdish, Shahed Ali, and Babul were arrested with two hand bombs and the group is known to have committed a number of crimes in the Elephant Road and other areas. They used the room adjacent to the hall as a safe sanctuary.

Hearing of Writ on women seats in JS continues

The hearing of the Writ petition filed by Dr Ahmed Hussain challenging the legality of the 10th Amendment to the Constitution providing for election of the 30 women members by the 300-members of parliament continued Wednesday before a High Court Division Bench of the Supreme Court, reports BSS.

The Bench comprised Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil and Justice Naimuddin Ahmed.

In reply to the contention of the Additional Attorney General, the petitioner Dr Ahmed Hussain said that the amendment must be legal for him to comply with the Constitution, duties as a citizen and as an elector.

The effect of the amendment is that the government, not having overall majority in parliament, could gain majority in pursuance of the amendment. As such, it is a mischievous and an absurd amendment, liable to be declared ultra vires, he added.

He further said, the very fact that four women members have been elected in the general seats in the 5th parliament, now existing and functioning, including the lady

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Transport workers go on movement Dec 1

By Staff Correspondent

Transport workers will go on a greater movement from December 1 in demand of appointment letters.

The leaders of Bangladesh Sarak Sramik Federation at a meeting in front of the Jatiya Press Club Wednesday called on the transport workers not to give appointment letters to stop their vehicles from December 1 for an indefinite period.

Chaired by Wazruddin Khan, president of the Federation, the meeting was addressed by Federation leaders, executive president Manjurul Hassan Khan, vice-president Abdur Rob, vice-president Mohammad Ismail, general secretary Abdur Rashid, joint secretary Roy Romesh Chandra, treasurer Abdul Khalq and education secretary Abbas Uddin.

The speakers said that despite the provision, the transport workers were not given appointment letters by the owners.

They also urged the government to take action as per law against the owners who declined to issue appointment letters.

The Federation leaders asked the transport drivers not to hand over the keys of the vehicles to the owners as a part of the movement.

They declared that they would set up check posts at different points in assistance with the unions of transport workers to monitor appointment letters.

They warned that any conspiracy to foil the movement would be resisted.

Coach owners call off strike

FARIDPUR, Nov 27: South Bengal Coach Service Owners Association has called off their proposed strike tomorrow following assurance from Director, Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), that their three-point demand will be solved through discussion in a meeting to be held on November 30, reports BSS.

In a press release issued this evening the association further stated that in view of the inconveniences of passengers they have called off the proposed strike.

City shopowners demand list of contraband items

By Staff Correspondent

The central convening committee of Dhaka city markets Wednesday submitted a memorandum at the Prime Minister's secretariat demanding publication of the list of the items to be identified as contraband.

The shopowners also urged the authorities not to harass the honest shopowners in the name of anti-smuggling drive

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Help Bangladesh fight disaster: UN

The United Nations has pleaded for the support of the international community to help Bangladesh meet the challenge of meaningful disaster mitigation, reports BSS.

The total loss due to the catastrophic cyclone in April-May last has been estimated at US dollar 2.4 billion.

According to a recently released United Nations Trade and Development Report, 1991.

Bangladesh alone, or countries of the region cannot face the disaster preparedness and prevention efforts, the report viewed.

Bangladesh would be able to overcome the cyclonic losses in about three years provided there is additional and sustained aid flows of about 30 per cent above real current levels, it predicted.

The commitment of donors

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Israel rejects Mid-East peace talks in Washington

JERUSALEM, Nov 27: Israel today rejected a US plan to resume Middle East peace talks next week in Washington and again called for negotiations in the region, reports Reuter.

The US wants the session to start on December 4, a follow-up to the ceremonial launch in Madrid last month.

Instead, a spokesman for Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Israel was willing to attend Washington talks from December 9, when the Jewish festival of Hanukka ends, but

they must be moved quickly to the Middle East.

"Israel is ready to hold a meeting or two in Washington so that later negotiations will take place in the region or near it," Ehud Gol said in a statement read over Army Radio.

"We have repeatedly explained at all levels that for the negotiations to be effective they must be in the region," the government spokesman said in a statement following a meeting of the inner cabinet.

The decision also came under a hail of criticism from left-wing leaders.

Yossi Sarid of the Citizens' Rights Movement called it "pathetic and infantile". Fellow legislator Shulamit Aloni said it "strengthened the impression that the government has no desire to advance peace." Arabs also denounced the decision.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat called it a "classic example of blackmail of Shamir trying to get the results of the negotiations before they be-

gin." Jordan and Lebanon are the only countries that have so far formally accepted the invitation. The US State Department said on Tuesday that Syria and the Palestinians have shown "a readiness to respond positively, with some questions."

The United States voiced impatience at the failure of Israel, Syria and Palestinians to agree to attend the talks.

State Department spokeswoman M. Tutwiler made it clear the United

States wanted 'Yes' or 'No' answers. She also said Washington would entertain no conditions and give no promises to anybody in exchange for taking part.

In the case of the Palestinians, who form a joint delegation with Jordan, that meant that Secretary of State James Baker would turn down the request to issue entry visas for PLO members to act as advisers to the negotiators.

"Our proposal is out there," Tutwiler said. "We are not ac-

cepting conditions."

The United States does not want to become embroiled in a new procedural wrangle over the talks. It took Baker eight months and eight Middle East missions to coax the parties.

The Arabs want progress first on their demand for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab lands.

The State Department said it was offering Washington because the two sides had failed to agree on a venue in the three weeks since Madrid.

Five-hour countrywide loadshedding Friday

By Staff Correspondent

The entire country will experience a massive five-hour loadshedding from 5 pm to 10 pm Friday.

Explaining the reason for the loadshedding, PDB sources said that power generation at the Ashuganj and the Ghorashal Power Stations will have to be reduced substantially on Friday due to a short supply of gas to these plants. Gas supply from four wells will remain stopped on the day for some repairs and maintenance of gas transmission line at the Titas Gas Field location number 3.

According to PDB sources, there will be loadshedding of over 400 megawatt Friday evening which will be the highest since 1988.

The peak hour demand of power is 1650 MW, but on closed days like Friday, the demand comes down to 1300 MW.

AL women front demands resignation of Home Minister

Awami League's women front has demanded resignation of Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury for his "shameless and irresponsible" remarks about women failing to check smuggling, reports UNB.

In a joint statement (Wednesday), Mahila Awami League President Ivy Rahman and General Secretary Advocate Sahara Khatun said that smuggled goods, including Indian saris, Pakistani Katan and Shawl, French Chiffon, American Georgette and foreign tie, suit pieces and shoes, have flooded the country's markets.

Even Indian cattle and eggs are being smuggled into the country, they added.

"We also want smuggling to stop," the Mahila Awami League leaders said, but the Home Minister remarked that "women found wearing Indian saris will be caught".

This reckless comment would encourage anti-social elements to assault women, they feared.

"We are hurt by the shameless and irresponsible remarks of the Home Minister."

The Mahila Awami League leaders also urged the people to raise their voice against the Home Minister's alleged remarks.

Partial strike in Ctg educational institutions

CHITTAGONG, Nov 27: Strike was observed today in some educational institutions of the port city at the call of Islami Chhatra Shibir demanding that some of their fellow students should be allowed to sit for examinations of Polytechnic Institute, reports UNB.

The Shibir also gave a fresh call of a day-long strike in the port city on November 30 to press for their demand.

They alleged that some of their supporters were not allowed to fill up examination forms due to obstructions caused by some Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists.

The examinations are scheduled to begin on December 1.

The strike was particularly observed at Chittagong Medical College, Mohsin College and Chittagong College which are known as Shibir strongholds.

Shevardnadze warns of another coup

TOKYO, Nov 27: Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze has warned about the possibility of a new coup in the Soviet Union in an interview with the Japanese agency Kyodo released here today, reports AFP.

"Many reactionary forces intent on reviving a totalitarian regime have survived the failed coup and another coup d'etat and riot may strike the union," Shevardnadze told Kyodo and a delegation of 35 Japanese

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