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## Government sends circular

# UNOs to perform chairmen's duties

By Staff Correspondent

The Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) have been asked to discharge the functions of the upazila chairmen after the dissolution of the upazila parishad.

The UNOs would discharge their functions in consultations with the Deputy Commissioners.

A circular issued by the Local Government Ministry was issued on November 24 to the UNOs outlining their responsibilities. The circular said the arrangement was temporary and would remain valid till further order.

A copy of the circular was available to The Daily Star.

The guidelines are as follows:

(a) The UNOs will take account of all the movable and immovable assets of the now defunct upazila parishads;

(b) All the officers and employees designated as per the scrapped upazila organogram would carry out their respective duties;

(c) Salary bills for the officers/employees now made accountable to the UNOs would be signed jointly by the UNOs and the finance officers.

(d) All the tender committees formed just prior to the

repeal of the 1982 Local Government Ordinance would remain operative and be able to give decisions;

(e) The UNOs would consult with the relevant Deputy Commissioners in discharging their responsibilities.

The government on November 23 issued the Local Government (upazila parishad and upazila Administration Reorganisation) (Repeal) Ordinance, 1991 repealing the upazila parishad. The upazila parishad was created through the 1982 Local Government Ordinance by the then Ershad regime.

## Violence marks shutdown in India

NEW DELHI, Nov 29: Sporadic violence erupted in Marxist strongholds today as millions joined a 24-hour industrial shutdown across India to protest the government's economic liberalisation, reports and labour leaders said, reports AFP.

Strikers lobbed bombs and attacked non-strikers with stones in West Bengal, as the

walkout sponsored by communists crippled industries and banks across the country, news reports here said.

The Press Trust of India (PTI) reported violent clashes in at least four places in Calcutta when strikers tried to prevent the loyalists from joining work. It was not clear whether anyone was injured in the violence.

In the southern state of Kerala, another leftist bastion, police fired in the air to disperse a violent mob of strikers near Trivandrum city, PTI said.

"It is a massive strike," trade union leader Homi Daji said here. "It exposes government claims that there is a consensus on the industrial policy. The working class has

repeal of the 1982 Local Government Ordinance would remain operative and be able to give decisions;

(e) The UNOs would consult with the relevant Deputy Commissioners in discharging their responsibilities.

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The body of former upazila chairman Hafez Mokhter Hossain was found in a car with bullet wounds. A revolver, a beer car and some belongings were recovered from the car.

## Murder or suicide?

By Staff Correspondent

A former upazila chairman was found dead in a car near Holy Cross College in Tajgaon in the city Thursday evening.

Hafez Mokhter Hossain, chairman of now defunct Narayanganj Sadar Upazila Parishad died from a bullet wound.

Tajgaon thana police said that a woman who claimed to be present during the incident told them that Mokhter Hossain (42) shot himself in the head with his own revolver.

Police declined to make any comment and said they were investigating.

The woman Mary Janet Shaymoli, 23, and her 6-year-old daughter, who were accompanying the chairman in the car, were taken into custody for interrogation.

Shaymoli, who admitted to police having extra-marital relationship with Mokhter Hossain, told police that the chairman committed suicide with his own revolver.

In her statement to police, she said that she had an appointment with Mokhter Hossain Friday morning. But she could not keep the appointment since she had to go outside Dhaka early morning with her office colleagues for a picnic.

Shaymoli was an employee of a restaurant located at Mottijheel. Mokhter earlier came to her Tajgaon residence.

## Bus owners issue 1215 appointment letters

The owners of buses plying on different routes from Fulbaria have issued 1215 appointment letters to the workers of their respective vehicles under Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity till November 29, reports BSS.

These appointment letters were issued to the workers under the leadership of Alhaj A K M Jainal Abedin and MA Kader, President and General Secretary respectively of Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity, Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samik Federation said in a press statement.

Wajuddin Khan, Manjural Hossain Khan and Abdur Rashid, President, Executive President, See Page 12 col 8

## Transport strike in northern districts

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 29: Trucks and buses remained off the roads in 16 districts of northern region as an indefinite transport strike called by the transport owners began today.

The North Bengal Road Transport Owners Association called the strike to press its ten-point demand which includes checking toll collection by 'mastans' in different routes and lowering prices of fuel and spares.

Thousands of passengers became stranded due to the strike in the northern region. The state-owned Bangladesh

Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) and the railway faces heavy rush of passengers. Tickets of BRTC buses and trains were sold at high prices in the blackmarket in different places, it was alleged.

Secretary, Rajshahi Road Transport Owners Association, Anwar Hossain Anu in a statement on Friday said the owners who would defy the strike call would be fined Taka one thousand each.

Meanwhile, President of North Bengal Road Transport Workers Federation, Abdus See Page 12 col 8

## India's sovereignty over Tinbigha must be ensured, Left Front leader

CALCUTTA, Nov 29: The chairman of the ruling Left Front in West Bengal, Sailen Dasgupta has called for taking a definite decision of Tinbigha, considering all aspects, reports PTI.

In a statement here on Thursday, Dasgupta said that some problems had cropped up on the implementation of the international agreement on Tinbigha between India and Bangladesh.

He said, "We feel the agreement should be implemented, but in the case of Tinbigha some conditions have been imposed. We have to

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## Campus peace or no classes, says DUTA

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Teachers Association (DUTA) on Friday said the teachers strike would continue and urged the government to take effective steps to help restore campus peace.

Addressing a press conference at the Dhaka University Club, DUTA President Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury said, "We are eager to take classes. But who will take the responsibility for any fresh violence?"

The cause of campus terrorism was deep rooted and vested quarters were responsible for the present state of affairs on the campus, he said.

Campus terrorism could easily be removed if the government, the political parties and the university parties sincerely wished, he said.

"Our strike is aimed at creating public opinion against campus violence," he said adding the next course of action would be decided at the association's December 2 meeting.

Justifying their decision of abstaining from work since November 8, Prof Chowdhury, said though such a decision was not consistent with their professional principles, the

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## SAARC summit likely on Dec 21

COLOMBO, Nov 29: Leaders of the seven-nation South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) are likely to meet here on December 21 for a one-day summit, diplomatic sources said, reports PTI.

The Maldivian Foreign Minister Fathulla Jameel recently completed consultations with India, Nepal and Bhutan and has been reported to have said that the aborted sixth summit may be held sometime during the last ten days of December for a brief businesslike session under the chairmanship of Sri Lanka.

Parliament session in Sri Lanka, which is keen to have the summit before the year-end, would end by that time. The current session of the Indian parliament would also end on December 20.



Members of the Palestine steering committee, Hanan Ashrawi (c) and Sari Nusseibeh board a bus in Jerusalem on Friday to attend the second round of the Middle East peace talks in Washington.

## Cop stabbed while nabbing muggers

By Staff Correspondent

A police constable was stabbed and seriously injured Thursday night at Mirpur when he, along with other police personnel were engaged in a scuffle to apprehend a group of armed miscreants.

The five miscreants were however arrested and the mugged ornaments and briefcase were recovered. Five hand bombs, three daggers and a Chinese axe were also recovered from their possession.

Constable Strajul Haque and three other police personnel of Mirpur police station were chasing a group of five muggers who were moving with a baby taxi. Earlier, the miscreants mugged gold ornaments from rickshaw passengers in the area.

After locating the baby taxi at Mirpur, Section One, the

See Page 12 Col. 5

## SAARC has generated new hopes: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said on Friday SAARC has generated new hopes and aspirations among one billion people of South Asia, reports BSS.

She said the association has stimulated a new awareness among the countries of the region and the bond of mutual cooperation is gradually growing stronger and areas of collaboration are expanding.

Addressing the inaugural session of the 6th South Asian Federation of Accountants (SAFA) at a hotel in Dhaka, the Prime Minister said common aim of development and welfare of the people of this region was being reflected in new and diverse areas of cooperation because of SAARC.

Commerce Minister M K Anwar, SAFA President Habibur Rahman, SAFA Vice

President K M Agarwal and Chairman of the 6th SAFA conference committee Jamaluddin Ahmed also spoke on the occasion.

The main theme of the conference this year is "economic development and accountability."

The Prime Minister said democracy and accountability are the pre-requisites for economic development. "Without active participation of the people and without proven arrangement for accountability at every step, meaningful, welfare oriented and pro-people development is no way possible," she said.

She termed the present decade as the decade of democracy and accountability and of irresistible stride towards progress and prosperity.

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## OIC summit in Dakar Dec 9

The 7th summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference begins in Dakar on December 9. It will be preceded by a two-day meeting of Foreign Ministers, reports UNB.

Begum Zia will lead the Bangladesh delegation to the 4-day conference.

The summit agenda includes the Middle East problems and the Palestinian, Kashmir and Afghanistan issues as well as security of Muslims in the non-Muslim states.

The Prime Minister's entourage will include Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, two Parliament members, Additional Foreign Secretary Faruq Sobhani and Director General International Organisations) at the Foreign Office Ruhul Ameen.

## NEWS BRIEFS

**BNP meeting today**

An emergency meeting of BNP will be held today at 4 pm at its central office in Dhaka. The Secretary General of the party has requested central presidents and general secretaries of all front organisations of the BNP, presidents or convenors and general secretaries of Dhaka city, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Munshiganj, Manikganj and Gazipur districts to attend the meeting. He has also requested ministers and parliament members of Dhaka, Narayanganj, Narsingdi, Munshiganj, Manikganj and Gazipur to attend the meeting, reports BSS.

**Koirala to visit India**

KATHMANDU, Nov 29: Prime Minister Grijya Prasad Koirala will visit India beginning Thursday, his first trip abroad after assuming office, the Foreign Ministry said. This is Koirala's first visit abroad since he became Prime Minister last May after his Nepali Congress Party swept the general elections held after 30 years of autocratic monarchial rule, reports AP.

**Smuggler held with gold**

JHENIDAH, Nov 29: A smuggler was arrested by the BDR while crossing the Benapole border with 10 tola gold biscuits Thursday evening. Majid confessed that he smuggled these type of gold more than 15 times earlier and got Taka 300 per trip, and that he came here from Dhaka, but declined to give any details, reports UNB.

## Israel yet to back down on talks date

JERUSALEM, Nov 29: Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Friday he was open to compromise on an opening date for Mideast peace talks, but saw no reason yet to back down, reports AP.

"Israel is not interested in disturbing the peace process. The decision taken by the government of Israel... exists and stands. At this point, I don't see any reason to change this decision," Shamir told an annual gathering of Israeli newspaper editors. He later answered reporters' questions.

Israel wants the talks — which began October 30 in Madrid — to resume five days after the US-proposed starting date of December 4. The Palestinians, Jordan, Lebanon and Syria have accepted the American offer.

Shamir said Friday that the conflict over timing was being discussed with the Americans.

A Foreign Ministry advance team left for Washington on Thursday to prepare for the negotiations. Israeli Ambassador Zalman Shoval was to meet Friday with US officials.

Faisal Hussein, a top adviser to the Palestinian negotiating team, on Friday urged the Israelis to go to Washington on December 4.

The Palestinian negotiating team left for Amman to consult with their Jordanian counterparts before travelling to Washington. The Palestinians and Jordanians form a joint delegation.

"We hope that Shamir will decide it is in the interest of Israel to attend the bilateral negotiations," Hussein told reporters before the departure of the 12-member team that was accompanied by 18 advisers and officials.

"We hope to push the peace talks forward, to start immediately talking about substance... we are talking for example about transferring authority (from the military government to the Palestinians)," Hussein said.

On Thursday, Hussein told reporters that the Palestinians would demand in Washington that Israel freeze construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

Israel has refused to halt settlement construction, saying such a freeze would give the false impression that Israel was ready to concede occupied land for peace.

Hussein told journalists at his home in East Jerusalem "I'm not going to Washington because I have an important task to carry out here consisting of surveying the activity of the political committees in the occupied territories. Ashrawi, the spokeswoman

for the Palestinian team, told the press conference that the Americans had made two separate rooms available for the Palestinians and Jordanians' discussions with Israel, although formally they are members of a joint delegation.

The Secretary General of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) today called for international protection of Palestinians in the Israeli-occupied territories.

Hamid Al-Gabid urged the international community "to intensify its efforts to make Israel accept that the Palestinian people be assured of international protection."

In a statement marking the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian people, Al-Gabid also called for international pressure for "an immediate halt to [Israeli] settlements in the occupied territories."

মিল্লাত টিউব লাইট চোক ব্যবহার করুন নির্ভাবনায় থাকুন

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- আমদানিকৃত সিলিকন টীপ শীট যন্ত্র তৈরী
- স্বাস্থ্যকর টীপ
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