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VOL. 1 NO. 280 REGD. NO. DA 781

KARTIK 17, 1398 BS,

DHAKA SATURDAY NOVEMBER 2, 1991

RABIUS SANI 24, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

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Dhaka Day by Day



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Qualifying round of Satellite Tennis starts today.
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NEWS BRIEFS

Sec 144 extended in Shahjadpur

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 1: The administration today extended section 144 on Shahjadpur upazila headquarters from 6.00 pm to 6.00 am tomorrow. Section 144 was imposed on the upazila headquarters on Thursday as two rival political parties continued picketing for holding meetings at Shahjadpur. Government College premises at 3 pm today. Jatiya Party leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury could not reach here as he returned from Nagarbari Ferry Ghat on request of his party-men, reports UNB.

Repatriation from Pakistan

Some 102 Bangladeshis now in Pakistan jail will be repatriated today. Foreign Ministry officials said Friday, reports BSS. They have been detained in Adiala Jail in Rawalpindi on charges of illegal immigration. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has managed to get their release after hectic diplomatic endeavour.

39000 families out of 43000 in Gangachara enrolled for relief

Lack of Govt-NGOs coordination affects relief operations

RANGPUR, Nov 1: Lack of coordination between the government agencies and the Non-Government Organisations (NGOs) is hampering proper distribution of relief among the affected people of the northern districts. Very few NGOs maintain contact with the local administration and most of them often choose area of work themselves ignoring advice of local bodies. It so happened that a government agency had skipped a particular area following assurance from an NGO which also did not operate there later. This brings overlapping of relief at places while the needy ones are deprived elsewhere.

During the visit of this correspondent to Rangpur, union parishad chairmen of different unions reported that the NGOs were not abiding by their advice about priority areas in distributing relief goods. As a result, it became difficult for them to manage the relief and satisfy all the needy people. In many places the NGOs were distributing relief only to the persons who were associated with their particular projects while the relief materials were brought in the name of flood affected people.

In Kolkunda union under Gangachara upazila ASORD (Assistant for Social Organisation and Rural Development) had listed 576 families for relief who were found involved with their functional Literacy Pro-

From Moinuddin Naser amme there. And many of those people were also enrolled earlier with the government agencies for VGD, special VGD and test relief. Chairman Mostafa Kamal Kolkunda union told this correspondent that there were about 4037 affected families in his union. Of them 2708 persons were enrolled for test relief, 1197 for general relief (GR) 275 were issued normal VGD cards for two years while 136 more were brought under special VGD programme.

The special VGD card holders get 31 kg wheat once a month under the given formula of the World Food Programme (WFP). Now the ASORD, working in the river belt area is also providing 31 kg wheat to their enrolled 576 families. The ASORD's field officer Rafiqul Islam when asked said that there might be overlapping of relief among some families. He said he had asked the union parishad chairman later to exclude the persons from the VGD list who received wheat from the ASORD camp. But the Kolkunda union parishad chairman said that by that time the VGD cards were already distributed throughout the union and it would be difficult to take back the cards from the distressed.

Besides, the fussiness among a section of NGOs is also creating problem for the local leaders to manage things properly. One foreign NGO which

came with an amount of Taka 30 lakh to distribute relief materials among the distressed people contacted the Gangachara upazila chairman. Gangachara upazila chairman Ali Mohammad Zafar requested the NGO to work in Barabil union. The NGO surveyed the area and assured the chairman of Barabil union that they would provide assistance to 4000 families there.

Meanwhile, after the assurance of the NGO, the upazila chairman asked the union parishad chairman not to distribute VGD cards among the poor because he expected that the help from the NGO would be more beneficial than that under the VGD programme. The NGO officials after surveying the area left and did not turn up again. Situation in the area worsened. VGD cards were not distributed in the union. As a result, most of the distressed people did not get succour in time.

Mosammatt Tussil Bawa who died on October 29 while waiting in a queue for relief at Barabil union parishad office was in the VGD list. The union parishad chairman Kazal Mohammad Nurunnabi told this correspondent that if he would not get assurance from the NGO he could distribute the VGD card much earlier and the hungry women would not have to come to collect relief that day.

Relief work of the government is being supervised by
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OVERLAPPING OF RELIEF WORK: Both the government agencies (top) and the NGOs (above) distributing relief in Kol Kunda union of Gangachara recently. A little bit of coordination would have helped the needy elsewhere in the region.
— Star photo by Shafiquddin Bitu

Occupied territories under curfew, Hizbollah base in Lebanon bombed

Madrid talks adjourned amid bitter polemics

MADRID, Nov 1: The Middle East peace conference exploded into bitter polemics today but Arabs and Israelis agreed to begin face-to-face talks in Madrid this weekend on ending 43 years of bloodshed, report Reuters and AFP. In dramatic outbursts, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir branded Syria a tyranny. Then Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al-Shara brandished

a "wanted" poster showing Shamir in 1947 as an underground leader sought on terrorist charges by British mandate authorities in Palestine. Shamir told reporters on return to Tel Aviv that direct negotiations between Israel and each of the Arab delegations would begin on Sunday. Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi confirmed the first meeting would be held in Madrid.

US Secretary of State James Baker, who fashioned the conference through eight months of patient diplomacy, lectured delegates on their responsibilities. "If you do not seize this historic opportunity, no one else can, no one else will and no one will blame anyone outside your region... the world still looks to each of you to make the choice for peace," he said.
See Page 12 Col. 7

24 arrested in Dhaka city Agitators at Ctg lathicharged

At least 50 people were injured and 24 arrested as demonstrators clashed with police in the capital and in Chittagong Friday protesting renewed incidents over the Babri Mosque at Ayodhya in India. Police fired tear gas and used batons to disperse about 200 protesters near Dhak-cswari Mandir in the capital. Some 24 people were arrested from the scene, police said. Activists of Islami Chhatra Majlish brought out a procession from the Baitul Mokarram premises, protesting the incident. About three hundred pro-

cessionists from the south gate of Baitul Mokarram mosque paraded Bangabandhu Avenue, Golap Shah major, zero point and the Topkhana road areas raising slogans against the attack on Babri Mosque. Prior to the procession they held a rally which was addressed by Abdul Kadir Saleh, AKM Haider Ali, Sultan Muhammad Shamsuzzaman, and Ayub Ali Talukder. The speakers accused the Indian government of giving indulgence to communal sentiment from the Andarkilla Central Mosque a short distance from the mosque premises. The processionists chanted slogans against Hindu revivalist
See Page 12 Col. 2

problems of India. In Chittagong, at least 50 people were injured when police lathi-charged and fired blank shots to disperse a procession of Muslim devotees against the Babri Mosque incidents. The injured were admitted to different clinics and hospitals of the city. Witnesses said the clash erupted when police stopped the after-Juma'a procession from the Andarkilla Central Mosque a short distance from the mosque premises. The processionists chanted slogans against Hindu revivalist
See Page 12 Col. 2

Asian art exhibition opens

President Abdur Rahman Biswas Friday inaugurated the fifth biennial Asian art exhibition with a call to create a congenial atmosphere for the free growth of art and culture as well as for the establishment of the freedom of artists, reports BSS. The culture of a nation, he said, was influenced by the state of its economy as an artist had to work under the existing economic reality of that particular nation. Memorial Hall

Khaleda's call to end exploitation of youths

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Friday called upon the people and all political parties to work unitedly to put an end to exploitation of youth force by the vested interest groups, reports BSS. "Let us work together to consolidate democracy sinking our differences of opinion for the interest of our present and future generations," she said. Addressing the inaugural ceremony of the National Youth Day the Prime Minister said people of this country irrespective of party affiliation, caste and creed fought the war of independence in 1971 with the single objective of liberat-

ing the country from bondage, exploitation and oppression. All of us now will have to work with the same spirit to build up a brighter future for us, she added. The Prime Minister also underscored the need for training up the youths in such way that they could create employment themselves. She said self-employment was imperative to solve the massive unemployment problem which could not be removed only by providing regular jobs. The function was also addressed by Energy and Mineral Resource Minister Khondoker
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BNP has failed to run govt, says Hasina

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina Friday said her party was determined to restore a congenial democratic atmosphere by bringing an end to the politics of terrorism and killing. Inaugurating the city AL's month-long membership renewal and new membership drive at the Bangabandhu Bhaban, she alleged deep-rooted conspiracies against democracy. "We will not tolerate any such conspiracy," she warned. The AL chief blasted the ruling party by saying that it was unleashing terrorism to cling to power despite its fail-

ure to run the government. Due to inefficiency of the government the entire country has plunged into a crisis, she said and alleged that the people were dying from starvation, the educational system had been ruined by the terrorist acts of the ruling party student activists and the economy had collapsed. About campus terrorism, Sheikh Hasina said that she had suspended her student wing's activities in the Dhaka University. But, she regretted, the ruling party did not respond positively to the move. The government can stop terrorism
See Page 12 Col. 3

Serbian leader agrees to European Community peace plan

BELGRADE, Nov 1: Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic, trying to stave off threatened EC sanctions, has agreed to an EC peace plan but only if it guarantees the rights of Croatia's Serbs, newspapers reported Friday, reports AP. The state news agency Tanjug reported that it was quiet on all fronts in Croatia on Friday, as fighters appeared to observe peace on All Saints' Day. But Croatian officials said the eastern stronghold of Osijek came under mortar fire late Friday morning, fol-

lowing limited fighting overnight in the eastern towns of Vukovar and Osijek as well as in villages near Karlovac, southwest of Zagreb. The 12-nation European Community has set a Nov 5 deadline for Serbia to accept a plan to turn Yugoslavia into an association of sovereign republics with present borders intact, or face economic and diplomatic sanctions. The EC conference on Yugoslavia resumes next Tuesday in the Hague. Milosevic, in a meeting Thursday in Belgrade with EC

special envoy Henri Wijnants, rejected the ultimatum but appeared to drop his opposition to the EC peace plan if it includes additional guarantees for Serbs living in Croatia. Belgrade's daily Politika, reporting on the talks, that Milosevic felt "progress can be made on the special status" of Croatia's Serbs if the EC plan guarantees their freedom and security. This means their own legislation, independent judiciary, police forces, independent educational system and so forth,

the newspaper added. Croatia proclaimed its independence from Yugoslavia on June 25. Milosevic and leaders of Croatia's 600,000 Serbs have so far rejected that declaration, fearing the new state would endanger Serbs living there. Croatian officials say some 5,000 people have been killed and 350,000 left homeless in the undeclared war. "We all want a peaceful, but also a just settlement," Milosevic told Wijnants according to Tanjug. He said it

can be achieved if founded on "truth and rights, and not on force and pressures." A change in Serbia's policy was indicated in statements made by Serb minority leaders talking to reporters in Belgrade on Thursday. Milan Babic and Goran Hadzic, self-proclaimed premiers of two regions in Croatia with predominantly Serbian populations, complained about pressures "from the highest Serbian authorities to accept the status offered by the European Community."

Under persistent questioning, they refused to say who was pressuring them. Reports from Dubrovnik says: A flotilla bringing badly needed food and medicine sailed through a federal navy blockade into this historic port Thursday, as Serbian federal forces attacked elsewhere in Croatia. Thousands of people jammed Dubrovnik's dock to greet the Slavija ferry and 28 other boats carrying 850 people, including Croatian leaders, delayed by gunfire and a search by federal authorities.

Weather may have more vagaries in store

By Mostafa Kamal Majumder. With diarrhoea, induced by late monsoon floods, claiming another 2200 human lives, the year 1991 is going to be marked by more uncertainties of weather and vagaries of nature in Bangladesh, say experts. The year had begun with over 1500 diarrhoeal deaths due to scarcity of safe drinking water caused by a mild drought. Between January and April thousands of hand tubewells had gone dry as the ground water level had fallen due to less than normal rainfall and withdrawal of water through deep tubewells for irrigation. Then there was the April 29 cyclone, the worst since 1970 in terms of casualties.
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Biman pilots refrain from extra work

By Staff Correspondent. The pilots of Bangladesh Biman have stopped extra work from Friday to press home their demand for a new agreement on refixation of pay and other facilities. The stoppage of extra work is the first phase of pilot's action programme. The national airlines is running short of required number of pilots for which the pilots have to do extra work beyond their normal duties for maintaining the flight schedules. The leaders of Bangladesh Airlines Pilots Association (BAPA) said that their two-year agreement with Biman management ended on June 30 last. BAPA has been trying for renewal of the agreement.
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BCL twins ending terrorism to scrapping Indemnity Ordinance

Awami League-backed Chhatra League (A-A) Friday called upon the student community to boycott Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) socially for its "involvement in campus terrorism," reports UNB. Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club in the morning, BCL President Shahe Alam also urged the democracy-loving people to "spread strong hatred against Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, the chief patron of terrorism on the campuses." In a written statement, he described the October 27 gun-battle on the Dhaka University.
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DU VC hails Hasina's decision

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof M Maniruzzaman Miah Friday met with Awami League President Sheikh Hasina and hailed her decision suspending all activities of the Chhatra League at the Dhaka University campus, reports UNB. Awami League sources said the Vice-Chancellor called the announcement "a positive step" for stopping terrorism in the campus during his meeting with the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament at her official residence. "I congratulate you for making the announcement. Someone was to take the initiative to bring back peaceful academic atmosphere on the campus."
See Page 12 Col. 3

BAU reopens today

From Our Correspondent MYMENSINGH, Nov 1: Classes of Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) will resume tomorrow after 22 days closure. The decision was taken on October 10 at a Syndicate meeting with Vice-Chancellor Prof Asadur Rahman in the chair. All residential halls opened last Friday. Proctor Dr Ataur Rahman said students have started coming in. The university was closed on October 11 following a clash between Chhatra League (S-A) and JCD activists.