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NEWS BRIEFS

Yves Montand dead

PARIS, Nov 9: French actor-singer Yves Montand died today of a heart attack in hospital at Senlis in northern France aged 70, an authoritative source said. Born October 13, 1921, in Monsumano, Italy, his real name was Ivo Livi, reports AFP.

Transport strike

RANGPUR, Nov 9: Motor Malik Samity here today began an indefinite strike protesting the alleged attack on some of its members. All sorts of vehicular traffic to and from the town stopped plying responding to the strike call, reports UNB.

Hijacked Soviet plane in Ankara

ANKARA, Nov 9: A hijacked Soviet Tupolev-154 aircraft with 171 passengers aboard landed in Ankara Airport today, airport officials said. They said the plane came from Moscow and landed at 1607 local time (0607 pm BST), reports Reuter.

President assents to four bills

The President has given his assent to four bills passed in the recently concluded third session of the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament). These are: The Bangladesh Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation Act 1991, The Member of the Bangladesh Public Service Commission (Terms and Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Act 1991, The Comptroller and Auditor General (Remuneration and Privilege) (Amendment) Act 1991, and the International Financial Organisations (Amendment) Act 1991, reports UNB.

Panicky people flee Angarpota, Dahagram

Indians threaten to turn enclaves into graveyards

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Nov 9: Panicky people are fleeing Dahagram and Angarpota under cover of night in the face of threat and confinement by anti-Tinbigha transfer activists, led by the BJP and backed by the BSF.

Some people, while coming to the mainland through the corridor for relief during day time were arrested by the BSF (Indian Border Security Force) while West Bengal Chief

Minister Jyoti Basu is scheduled to visit the corridor on November 12.

Jyoti Basu's visit, announced earlier, follows Thursday's finalisation of details of the transfer at talks between the central and West Bengal government officials at Calcutta.

Agitations have intensified following reported presence of BJP leader L K Advani at Indian Mekliganj to whip up support against the transfer while West Bengal Chief

Minister Jyoti Basu is scheduled to visit the corridor on November 12.

Abdul Kader, leader of

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The postponed SAARC summit-1

What happened in Colombo

by Amanullah Kabir back from Colombo

as an injection of fresh blood into the SAARC body.

Inflated by the last-minute stance by India, Sri Lanka could have struck the death blow to the SAARC by withdrawing its membership. The Sri Lankan government, which took all preparations including security measures to hold the Summit on November 7 could not understand, as said by a top member of the Bangladesh delegation, that the scheduled summit was going to be postponed because of the diplomatic offensive launched by India.

A clear picture emerged from the meeting of the Foreign Ministers on November 6 when India represented by its State Minister for Foreign Affairs took the stand that the personal presence of all heads of state or government was necessary to hold the Summit.

On November 1, the King of Bhutan informed the Sri Lankan government that it would not be possible for him to attend the summit due to

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Sharif blames India for postponement of SAARC summit

ISLAMABAD, Nov 9: Pakistani Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif has blamed India for the postponement of the sixth SAARC summit in Colombo, reports PTI.

Sharif told Pakistani journalists accompanying him that India accepted the offer of representation of the King of Bhutan by his envoy the summit would not have been called off. Except India, all the other SAARC members had agreed to accept the offer of the Bhutanese King, he claimed.

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Rao's denial

NEW DELHI, Nov 9: India is prepared to take part in a South Asian regional conference in neighbouring Sri Lanka "even if it is for a day," Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao was quoted as saying today, reports AFP.

"There is no question of India not attending. To say that India sabotaged it is totally false," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Rao as saying in the southern city of Panaji during a brief transit halt.

The Prime Minister was referring to persistent reports

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Rescue workers recovered 28 bodies from the ill-fated bus that plunged into the river Titas at Shahbazpur ferry ghat in Brahmanbaria Friday afternoon.

Firemen salvaged the bus from the river at 5 am Saturday and found 27 bodies inside it while another body was recovered from the riverbed.

The victims include seven children, nine women and 12 men. Twenty-four victims were identified and their bodies were handed over to their relatives.

The overloaded bus from Brahmanbaria on way to Madhabpur fell into the river at around 2 pm while boarding the ferry and sank. About 50 people were feared killed in the tragic accident.

The bus was salvaged by a crane sent from Dhaka and another from the Ashuganj Fertiliser Factory. A 19-member special squad of the Fire Service was despatched from Dhaka to salvage the bus.

Divers and rescue workers searched about 200 yards around the accident spot, but no more bodies were found.



Wailing Abul Kashem Pathan of Sarail in Brahmanbaria lost five of his family when their bus plunged into the river Titas on Friday.

—Star photo

Ill-fated bus salvaged from Titas

28 bodies recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Rescue workers recovered 28 bodies from the ill-fated bus that plunged into the river Titas at Shahbazpur ferry ghat in Brahmanbaria Friday afternoon.

A heart-rending scene was created at the accident site when the bus was salvaged and the bodies were recovered. Hundreds of people, particularly near and dear ones of the victims, anxiously waited at the ferry ghat throughout the night.

According to UNB report, 24 of the dead were identified as follows: Asia Khatun (18), wife of Bazlu Miah of Marichpur in Mahadevpur upazila, Fahima Khatun (4), daughter of Bazlu Miah of village Sonatala, Selina Khatun (18), wife of Shahabuddin of Sutnagar in the same upazila, Parul (4), daughter of Majed Ali of Kuttapara, Hassan Ali (40), of Kuttapara, Anjuara Begum (45), wife of Abdul Ahad of village Akhittara and Abdul Kashem (24) of Naogaon in Sarail upazila, Sukumar Sarkar (65) of Burishar in Nasirnagar upazila, Sona Miah (60) of Birpash in sadar upazila of the district and Harunur

Rashid (22) of Boalia in Kishoreganj district.

Ruhin Rishi Das of village Nathghar in Brahmanbaria sadar upazila lost his wife Arati Rani Rishi (30) and daughter Champa Rishi Das (12).

Two minor daughters — Taslima Begum (3) and Tahmina Begum (8) — of Abdul Ahad of village Akhittara in Sarail upazila of the district were killed in the accident.

Abul Kashem Pathan of Pathanpara in Sarail upazila lost his wife Arbeen Pathan (35), daughter Shibli Kanak Pathan (7) and son Saban Pathan (5). The wife and a son of Abdul Hossain Pathan of the same village were killed in the accident. They were named Dipali Pathan (35) and Salifuddin Pathan respectively.

Other dead are Motaleb Miah (20), Kajal Miah (30) and his younger brother Mukesh Miah (22), Mukles Miah (25) and Talek Miah (40) of village Belhati in Kendua upazila of Mymensingh district.

Khaleda shocked

Meanwhile, BSS says : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda

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Zia's policy for Muslim unity to continue: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka on Saturday Bangladesh would continue with Shahid President Ziaur Rahman's policy of forging unity among Muslim Ummah for the all-round socio-economic progress of Islamic countries, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was talking to Monchehr Mottaki, Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs of Iran and the special envoy of Iranian President who called on her at her office.

During the meeting the special envoy lauded Bangladesh's initiatives as a Third World and Islamic country for the social and economic progress of the Islamic Ummah.

Mottaki handed over a message to the Prime Minister relating to the OIC conference to be held in Senegal next month. He told the Prime Minister that Iran could not take very

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Saifur admits stagnation in economy

Star Economic Report

Finance Minister, M Saifur Rahman on Saturday said more credits would be provided to the agro-based industries.

He said that the fund would be available from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for setting up more poultry farms and other activities. He stated that extensive services would be provided for proper care of the poultry population.

Speaking at the third founding anniversary of "Banker", a new magazine on economics at hotel Sheraton,

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November 10 programmes

By Staff Correspondent

Different political parties chalked out elaborate programmes to observe November 10, the day which fuelled anti-autocracy agitation country-wide.

The day's programme include public rally, discussion meeting, procession, special prayer for the martyrs and placing of floral wreath on the graves.

Noor Hossain and three

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DU reopens while teachers on strike

By DU Correspondent

Dhaka University reopened Saturday after twelve-days unscheduled closure following gunbattle between the supporters of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League (S-A) on the campus on October 27.

No classes were however held, as the teachers continued their strike protesting failure of the government in ensuring security on the campus and taking effective measures to root out terrorism.

Few resident students returned to their halls because the teachers are on strike.

The fierce October 27 gunbattle that left three students and an unidentified street urchin dead, caused severe deterioration of the campus situation and the authorities announced suspension of classes and examinations till November 7.

The Dhaka University

New phase of movement soon, says Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on Saturday said her party will soon start the next phase of movement to bury the remnants of 'autocracy' and to ensure economic emancipation of the masses, reports UNB.

"Autocratic junta was ousted by the mass movement but autocracy still exists. Our struggle will continue until autocracy is dismantled and economic emancipation of the masses is guaranteed," she told a rally at Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka on Saturday afternoon.

The rally was organised by the city unit of Awami Juba League marking the fourth death anniversary of Juba League workers Nur Hossain and Babul who were killed in police firing in Dhaka on historic November 10, 1987.

Narrating the incident how Nur Hossain was gunned down in front of her at Bangabandhu Avenue on November 10,

Hasina posed the question if democracy earned at the cost of bloods of Nur Hossain is free after all.

She said that a democratic atmosphere prevailed only for a few months immediately after the fall of the autocratic Ershad. "But today people are questioning if that democracy exists at all."

The Awami League chief claimed that about 9,000 people died recently of starvation and disease in the northern districts but, she said, the government remained mum about it.

Criticising the "autocratic" attitude of the ruling party, she said BNP should learn to nurture democracy and behave democratically.

The opposition leader was highly critical of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for what she called squandering public money during her recent visit to Colombo and

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US joins EC sanctions against Yugoslavia

THE HAGUE, Nov 9: President George Bush said today the United States will apply sanctions against Yugoslavia and will co-sponsor a United Nations resolution calling for an oil embargo against the country, reports Reuters.

The Soviet Union expressed cautious support on Friday for European Community steps to put pressure on Yugoslavia.

A Foreign Ministry statement, issued by Tass news agency, criticised both sides in the Yugoslav conflict for breaking their agreements and called on them to stop fighting and cooperate with EC peace-making efforts.

The Serbian controlled Yugoslav presidency called to

day on the United Nations to dispatch a peace-keeping force to the breakaway republic of Croatia.

The call was made in a letter addressed to UN Security Council President Dragos Munteanu and signed by Yugoslav Vice President Franko Kostic.

Serbia and its ally Montenegro, along with the representatives of the Serbia-controlled provinces of Kosovo and Vojvodina took control of the federal presidency in September.

He will apply sanctions on Yugoslavia comparable to those of the EC, Bush told a news conference.