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# The Daily Star

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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Hasina leaves for Brunei today

Awami League President and Opposition Leader in Parliament Sheikh Hasina is expected to leave for Brunei today (Monday). Party sources said the Awami League chief is going to Brunei to see her ailing brother-in-law Prof. Shafique Siddique who is a teacher at the Darul Salam University.

### Military hardware show up to Nov 29

The date of grand display of military hardware at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar has been further extended till November 29 under the directives of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

### AL executives' meet today

An emergency meeting of the Awami League central executive committee will be held today (Monday) at 10 am at 29, Minto Road, the official residence of Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina. All members of the working committee have been requested to attend it, reports UNB.

### RU degree exam results

RAJSHAH, Nov 24 : The results of BSc and BCom Pass examinations of 1990, held in May and June in 1991 under the University of Rajshahi, were published here today, reports UNB.

The percentage of success in the BSc and BCom are 22.85 and 24.42 per cent respectively. A total of 1,501 candidates came out successful of the total 6,568 in the BSc examination, while 2,097 came out successful in the BCom examination out of total 8,562 candidates.

## Govt warns against attempt to disrupt development efforts

The Government Sunday warned those elements who were out to disrupt various development activities being initiated by the government, reports BSS.

A press note issued in Dhaka said it has been observed that some quarters have been involved in hatching conspiracies to foil national development efforts at the time when the government was taking up welfare programmes like canal digging through peoples participation after the constitutional process was completed to establish democratic rule in the country.

Following is the text of the press note: "It has been ob-

served that some anti-national quarters have been involved in heinous designs to disrupt and foil the development activities of the government by creating a state of anarchy at a time when the government has taken up various development programmes including the canal digging through people's participation after the constitutional process was completed to establish democratic rule in the country.

"Those quarters were out to destroy peace and stability which were pre-conditions for development.

"The government wants to inform all concerned that the government which was elected

by people is pledge-bound to implement all its commitments given to people. The government will not tolerate any impediment to materialise the hopes and aspirations of people and will not succumb to any unjust pressure.

"Despite the severest cyclone of the century, frequent floods and other natural calamities, the government has fulfilled the demands of the working masses. Besides, the government has given assurances to meet other demands. Despite all these some self-seeking quarters were coming out with fresh and absurd demands.

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## FBCCI seeks stern action

By Staff Correspondent

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries Sunday expressed grave concern at what it called indiscipline and illegal activities by some vested quarters and urged the government to take stern action against them to save the country's economy.

Those who have plundered the nationalised industries now grumble at the government's decision to off-load those and are resorting to illegal activities to take hostage the country's economy, the FBCCI said in a statement.

"It's time to take stringent

measures so that the country's mills and factories, economy and law and order cannot be held hostage by a few looters and miscreants", said the statement.

The statement follows two day's discussion between Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and leaders of the industrial and business community and precedes a 48-hour road and rail barricade threatened by jute and textile workers from today for realising demands.

The nation has gone bankrupt due to 20 years of inefficiency, negligence of duties

and economic indiscipline in the state-owned industries, said FBCCI, the apex body of private sector entrepreneurs.

Nationalisation of big, medium and small industries after the liberation was done on some wrong decisions and without considering economic benefits, the statement said, adding some officials and labour leaders amassed personal wealth during the era of nationalisation.

Under such a grave situation, late President Ziaur Rahman had initiated the denationalisation move for creat-

See Page 12 col 8

## Sajeda defends Sheikh Hasina as political parties raise protest

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury Sunday justified her party chief's letters to foreign diplomats and donors' representatives in Dhaka that drew criticism from political parties and other organisations.

In the letter sent early this month, AL President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina alleged intimidation, physical attack and harassment of her party by the ruling party members.

These developments pose a serious threat to the future of democracy in the country, she

said and urged them to remind the government to avoid recurrence of such incidents.

In a statement issued Sunday evening, Sajeda Chowdhury said that exchange of views with the representatives of different countries on national and international issues is a recognised diplomatic norm.

"As the chief of the biggest political party of the country and as the Leader of Opposition in Parliament, Sheikh Hasina used to exchange views through letters with the representatives of different countries," she added. She mentioned that terror-

ism had taken such a dimension that a Chhatra League leader was killed in a hospital— which was a heinous act against human rights. Sheikh Hasina has always been vocal against such violation of human rights not only in Bangladesh but also elsewhere in the world.

Sajeda Chowdhury reminded that the hard-earned parliamentary democracy and the economic development in a democratic atmosphere should not be jeopardised by terrorist activities or undemocratic steps.

"In this regard, we should

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## Govt-jute workers talks fail

By Staff Correspondent

A country-wide road and rail barricade by jute and textile workers begins at 6 am today as talks between the government and the union leaders over the workers' demands have failed.

Two days of talks until late last night failed to produce any agreement on the separate but almost identical demands of the jute and textile workers.

The Patkal Srantik Karmachari Sangram Parishad and the Sutakal Srantik Karmachari Sangram Parishad called the barricade to realise the demands which included call for a halt to government's denationalisation programme and pay hike for workers.

The government termed the demands unjustified and

the barricade programme unlawful and anarchic and warned that such attempts by "vested quarters" to create lawlessness and destruction of public property would not be tolerated.

"Halt in the denationalisation programme was the only point on which we failed to reach any agreement," Sirajul Islam, a leader of the Latif Bawani Jute Mill Srantik Union who attended the meeting told The Daily Star.

Jute and textile workers have been agitating for fulfilment of their 8-point and 6-point demands respectively.

The government recently announced 100 per cent withdrawal of capital from jute and textile sector.

The authorities held separate meetings with the leaders of jute and textile workers and of Srantik Karmachari Okkya Parishad (SKOP). SKOP extended its support to the barricade programme.

Jute Minister Brig (Rtd) Hannan Shah held a meeting with the leaders of the jute workers at the Matijheel offices of BJMC which began at 9 am.

The meeting which continued till 7 pm was attended among others by high officials of BJMC and labour leaders Abul Bashir, Siddique Sardar, Rehanuddin Rehan, Motahar Hossain, Shahidullah Chowdhury, Lutfur Rahman, Hazara Sultana and Sirajul Islam.

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## Yugoslav leaders agree to another truce accord

ZAGREB, Yugoslavia, Nov 24 : A new cease-fire agreed to by Yugoslavia's rival leaders was to take effect on Sunday, but fighting continued in eastern Croatia, reports AP.

The 14th truce of the 5-month-old war was signed Saturday in Geneva by leaders of rival Serbia and Croatia and the federal defense minister, Gen Veljko Kadijevic.

Thirteen previous cease-fire agreements brokered by the European Community have failed. The United Nations has said it will not send peace

keepers until a cease-fire holds.

The time for the truce to begin was not yet set. Sporadic fighting continued, mostly around Osijek, capital of the eastern Slavonia region.

Attacks on the city intensified after last week's fall of the Danube river town of Vukovar, 32 kilometers (20 miles) away. Osijek is nearly encircled by Serb-led forces and has been shelled almost daily for several months.

Local defense officials said the city was under sporadic at-

tack from mortars and multi-barreled rocket launchers. They also reported heavy artillery attacks on the nearby villages of Valpovo and Belisce.

The local hospital said nine people were killed and 46 wounded over the previous 24 hours; and hundreds of refugees were reported to be fleeing the city.

Report from Rome adds : UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said Sunday he was hopeful a UN-brokered truce would hold in Yugoslavia, and officials indicated a possi-



An exhibition of Bangladesh products being held simultaneously with the four-day seminar jointly organised by the FBCCI and the German Asia-Pacific Business Association at the Chamber Building in the city. Story on Business page

— Star photo

### Seeking foreign intervention undemocratic, B. Chowdhury

Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury has termed the sending of letters to heads of different foreign missions and donor agencies by an opposition leader as "undemocratic and opposed to the country's independence and sovereignty," reports BSS.

Addressing a discussion meeting on the occasion of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day at the Jatiya Grantha Kendra Sunday, Prof Chowdhury was obliquely referring to a letter reported to have been written by the Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina to heads of foreign missions and donor agencies "informing them of some serious developments in political arena," the letter was published in a section of the press Sunday.

Prof Chowdhury said seeking intervention of foreign powers in the internal affairs of the country cannot be called a democratic attitude.

He said all political parties, professional groups and the intellectuals of the country should register their protest against such undemocratic behaviour.

Organised by Zia Parishad, Motijheel Eastern branch, the meeting was addressed, among others by Mahbubul Alam Tara, Shamsuzzaman Bhutyan presided over the meeting.

Prof Chowdhury described the perspective of the War of Liberation and the November 7 Revolution and Solidarity Day and lauded the contributions of shaheed president Ziaur Rahman to these events.

### Deputation of docs to UZ goes next year

## Four medical colleges soon : Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has said here that four new medical colleges would be set up in phases in Dinajpur, Bogra, Khulna and Faridpur, reports BSS.

The preparations to set up the medical colleges would start shortly, she said while addressing the installation ceremony of the executive committee of Doctors Association of Bangladesh (DAB) at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium Sunday.

Begum Zia also announced that the deputation system of the doctors in upazila will be abolished from January 1 next. The doctors will be placed under district civil surgeons

with the implementation of the order, she said.

The Prime Minister said the government has decided to give government jobs to 250 doctors on primary basis.

Begum Zia said drug licenses would be given to 1000 doctors, at least to two in each upazila for ensuring the availability of medicines in the rural areas.

The Prime Minister said the government would set up shaheed Milan auditorium in Dhaka Medical College premises as a mark of respect to shaheed Dr Milan whose supreme sacrifice had given momentum to the anti-auto-

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## Abolition of Upazila Parishad slated

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has termed the decision to abolish the upazila parishad system as "an act beyond democratic norms."

In a statement issued Sunday, she said that the ruling party had once again revealed its "anti-people character" by scrapping the upazila system, by passing Parliament. The move sparked off strong reaction among the people, she said.

Hasina said that the present government paid the least heed to constructive suggestions made by the Opposition

because it did not want to exercise democratic practices. The opposition leader called upon the government to follow democratic rules in order to put democracy on a firm footing.

Leaders of Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Chairman Association has demanded withdrawal of the Ordinance that repealed the 1982 Local Government (Upazila Parishad and Upazila Administration Reorganisation) Ordinance, Saturday.

At an emergency meeting of the Association Sunday, they termed the new ordinance

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## Khaleda visits India early next year

From Rahman Jahangir

NEW DELHI, Nov 24 : Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will pay a state visit to India early next year, highly-placed South Block officials told a group of visiting Bangladeshi newsmen here yesterday.

During her visit, the officials hoped, the two countries will be able to settle all bilateral issues still eluding a lasting solution.

Talking informally here, the officials said victory of democracy in Bangladesh during the last February parliamentary elections and installation of a democratic government headed by Khaleda Zia have marked "a watershed" in Indo-Bangladesh relations.

"We've extended our firm support to the present democratic government and will continue to back growth of democracy in Bangladesh," they said adding : "therefore, we now approach all our bilateral problems with due sympathy and hopefully, the relations will scale newer heights in the not-too-distant future."

The South Block officials said Prime Minister Narasimha Rao has specifically given the go-ahead for an early transfer of the Tinbigha corridor as per the 1982 Dhaka-Delhi agreement. "The transfer will take place much earlier than expected," they disclosed and urged all quarters including political groups not to raise any fresh controversies on the issue.

Saying that the transfer is now a decided issue, they

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## Myanmar to take back all refugees: Mostafiz

Myanmar has agreed to take back all Burmese Muslims who crossed into Bangladesh in the last few months, said Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman Sunday, reports UNB.

"Now modalities of the repatriation of the refugees will have to worked out," he told newsmen at his office on return from a three-day official visit to Myanmar (Burma).

An estimated 30,000 Rohingyas, a slang for the Burmese Muslims, are said to have fled their homeland in the state of Arakan of Myanmar and taken shelter in the bordering district of Cox's Bazar.

Describing his talks with the Myanmar authorities as fruitful, Mostafiz said "the ob-

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## Internee docs strike work : Patients suffer

By Staff Correspondent

Internee doctors in the country's eight medical colleges and the PG Hospital struck work Sunday.

The strike was called to press home their six-point charter of demands.

Some 1,200 internee doctors went on strike demanding reintroduction of the inservice training system, suspended by the Ershad government in 1986, and raising of their allowances in accordance with the newly announced pay scale.

Only an emergency medical squad comprising eight doctors worked round the clock during the strike that ended at 6 am today.

In the Dhaka Medical

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## Bangabandhu Bhaban being converted into museum

By Staff Correspondent

The reconstruction and renovation works of the 'Bangabandhu Bhaban' at 32, Dhanmondi have started to convert it into a museum.

A press release issued by the Awami League on Sunday asked the visitors not to enter the house until the renovation works were completed.

It also requested those who have any articles or documents

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