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NEWS BRIEFS

Come to aid of blinds: Hasina

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the people of all walks of life to come forward for welfare of the blind in the society. In a message on the eye of World Whitecane Safety Day today, Hasina urged rich people of the society to render services to improve their nutritional status, create awareness about nutrition, child care and welfare of the blind, reports UNB.

Hartal in Natore

From Our Correspondent
 NATORE, Oct 14: A complete dawn to dusk hartal called by the TV Station Punoruddher Committee was observed here Tuesday. The committee called the hartal to press its demand for setting up of the proposed television station at Natore.

AL Advisory body meets today

A meeting of the Advisory Council of Bangladesh Awami League will be held today at 10 am at the Minto Road residence of the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, reports BSS.

Hartal at Bogra called off

BOGRA, Oct 14: Sammilita Sanskritik Jote has called off their 72-hour hartal programme upon a government announcement of setting up 2 new TV centres at Bogra and Rajshahi. Government in a press note on Tuesday said it has decided to set up TV stations at Bogra and Rajshahi. The 72-hour hartal was scheduled to begin from tomorrow, reports UNB.

PM visits WFP HQs in Rome Dhaka to fight poverty, hunger by all means



FAO Director General Edouard Saouma receiving Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at Fiumicino Airport in Rome, Italy yesterday. — PID photo

ROME, Oct 14: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today pledged to fight poverty and banish hunger with all the human and material resources, reports BSS.

Making a statement on her visit to the World Food Programme (WFP) Headquarters here Begum Zia said, Bangladesh and WFP would work together to devise innovative ways of helping the poor.

The Prime Minister who had words of praise for WFP for its role in poverty alleviation said, our delegation at the UN pledging conference will seek resource support from the world community for WFP.

She assured Bangladesh's cooperation to WFP in achieving its target for the next biennium in every possible way.

Describing the achievements of WFP as remarkable Prime Minister Begum Zia said it was a unique agency of the UN system dedicated to the poorest of the poor "using a

Tale of 49 victims of Indian 'push back'

From Our Correspondent
 SATKHIRA, Oct 14: Eight days have passed since 49 Bengali speaking men, women and children have been stranded at the 'no-man's land' along Taluigasa border of Satkhira due to India's 'Push back' programme.

From the very first day they are languishing under the open sky as rain, hunger and the



Some of India's push back victims in the no-man's land along the Satkhira border yesterday. — Star photo

By-election to Mymensingh-3 today

The by-election to the Mymensingh-3 constituency will be held today, according to Election Commission sources in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The by-election is being held following the death of Awami League MP Nazrul Islam on August 8.

Four candidates are contesting in the by-election. They are: Md Nazmul Huda (BNP), Raushan Ara Begum (AL), Nurul Amin Khan Pathan (JP) and Md Abul Haseeb (JSD-Rab).

Polling will take place from 7 am to 3 pm without break.

Nobel prizes for physics, chemistry

STOCKHOLM, Oct 14: Georges Charpak of France won the 1992 Nobel Physics Prize, the Swedish Academy of Sciences announced today, reports Reuter.

Charpak, 68, was awarded the 6.5 million crown (1.2 million dollars) prize for his invention and development of detectors in high-energy physics.

Charpak, born in Poland and a French citizen, works at

Nirmul body calls hartal Nov 8, Dec 8 Govt won't last long if it fails to try Golam Azam: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent
 Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina said Tuesday that the present government would not last long if it failed to take steps to try Golam Azam and ban Jamaat-Shibir-Freedom Party.

"The people will no longer tolerate government's silence on Golam Azam and Jamaat but reinvigorate the movement to realise their demand," Hasina

government was pushing the country into a danger by providing continued support to fundamentalist Jamaat forces.

Her speech was punctuated by slogans from thousands of people who chanted "Try Golam Azam, Hang Golam Azam," "Execute People's Court Verdict."

The rally stretched from the Shishu Park (Children's



Jahanara Imam addressing the grand rally of Nirmul Committee near the Engineer's Institution in city yesterday. — Star photo

Naziur Rahman jailed for four years

Former Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation Naziur Rahman was sentenced yesterday to 4 years simple imprisonment for misappropriating more than Tk 1.25 crore, reports UNB.

Divisional Special Judge Mohammad Ali Khan also fined the convict to pay Tk 10 lakh or suffer another 6 months in jail in default.

Rahman, who has been hiding since the fall of Ershad regime in a mass-upsurge in late 1990, was tried in absentia.

The court acquitted 9 co-

Nirmul body encouraging 'push back': Jamaat

By Staff Correspondent
 Jamaat-e-Islami Acting Chief Abbas Ali Khan yesterday commented that the Ekatturer Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee's action in the country encouraged India to start its 'Operation Push Back.'

".....The common goal of both the actions is to eliminate the Muslims," the Jamaat leader told a public meeting at the North Gate of Baitul Mokarram in the capital yesterday afternoon.

Khan said that India's operation was part of its long-term plan to establish 'Ram Rajya' (state dedicated to the Hindu

Briton, Canadian share Booker Prize

LONDON, Oct 14: Britain's most prestigious literary prize was awarded jointly on Tuesday night to Briton Barry Unsworth for his novel 'Sacred Hunger' and Canadian Michael Ondaatje for 'The English Patient,' reports Reuter.

The two were joint favourites for the 1992 Booker Prize award, which guarantees instant recognition and a boost in book sales. They will each receive 10,000 pounds (17,000) in prize money.

The Booker Prize has only been shared once before in 1974 by writers Nadine Gordimer and Stanley Middleton.

Inquilab report nasty: B Chy

By Staff Correspondent
 Deputy Leader of the House A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday strongly refuted a report attributed to him and published in a national Bengali daily.

Taking the floor on a point of privilege, Chowdhury noted that the report, which appeared in Wednesday's issue of The Daily Inquilab, quoted him as saying "some political parties are encouraging India over its push back drive".

Terming the report as "nasty, falsehood and in bad taste", the Deputy Leader said "I strongly condemn this report as I did not make any

Ten killed, 120 hurt in bus accidents

By Staff Correspondent
 At least ten persons were killed and 120 injured in four road accidents Wednesday at Manikganj, Comilla and Mymensingh.

Among the victims, three were killed in Manikganj, four in Comilla and three in Mymensingh.

Our Manikganj Correspondent reports: Three persons were killed and 40 others injured yesterday as a Dhaka-bound night coach plunged into a roadside ditch at Uchita, about one kilometer from Manikganj town.

The bus helper Abdur

1 killed, 25 injured as pro-BNP CBA factions clash

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 14: One worker was killed and 25 others injured, eight of them seriously, when an armed group today attacked the Sonali Paper and Board Mills at Ruppang in the district, reports UNB.

Aroj Ali (35), was seriously beaten up by the miscreants who allegedly pushed an iron rod into his anus leaving him dead on the spot.

Seriously injured eight workers were admitted to Narayanganj Hospital and Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They are Abdul Matin (30), Mahub Kalu (28), Zakir Hossain (26),

System loss cut fetches Tk 100 crore

Reduction of system loss in power distribution fetched the public exchequer an additional earning of about Tk 100 crore in the last one year till August, the Energy Minister told parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Responding to a call-attention notice of treasury bench member Neyamat Ullah Sabu, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain said system loss was slashed by 3.65 per cent to 38.84 per cent in August this year.

Dr Hossain informed the House that outstanding electricity bill amounted to about

Bush uses State Deptt to search Clinton files

WASHINGTON, Oct 14: An assistant secretary of state instructed US embassies in Britain and Norway to search their files for any information on Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton's years as a graduate student in England, administration officials confirmed Wednesday.

"They found nothing," an official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press.

But Sen Al Gore, the Democratic vice presidential nominee, said it was "very disturbing, even outrageous, for [President] George Bush to use the State Department to rummage through the personal files of an American citizen for political purposes."

Gore, leaving an Atlanta hotel this morning, said, "This goes way beyond a freedom of information request. The White House is politically using the State Department in a blatant attempt to politicize the entire bureaucracy in a failed effort to try to discredit Bill Clinton."

Clinton, out for a jog in

South Asia may face Somalia-like famine in 5 decades

BANGKOK, Oct 14: Scenes of famine like those from Somalia could be commonplace in parts of Asia in the next five decades unless breakthroughs can make harvests keep pace with population growth, agronomists say, reports IPS.

Asia's population is growing faster than the production of its staple crop, rice. More than half the planet's 5.2 billion people live in Asia, and this number is expected to double in 35 years.

The Malthusian prospect of mass hunger seems most likely in South Asia, where according to a UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) report released in September, two out of every three children are underweight because they do not get enough to eat.

The percentage of children who are malnourished in South Asia is already twice as high as that in Africa. The FAO report says 300 million people in India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Pakistan today are chronically hungry.

The last time mass starvation threatened Asia 20 years ago, expert came up with a miracle rice that staved off famine in South Asia and made populous food-importing countries like Indonesia and Philippines self-sufficient.

This time round, technological fixes to boost grain production seem to be at best ten years away.

The Philippine-based International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), which pioneered the "Green Revolution" of the 1970's estimates that more than half the world's eight billion people in 30 years will be rice eaters.

To meet their needs, IRRI says annual rice production must double from the present 500 million tonnes just to maintain current inadequate nutrition levels. "The race to stay ahead of famine in Asia has not yet been won," says Klaus Lampe, IRRI's Director General.

Scientists have been trying to undo the negative environmental side-effects of the green revolution by promoting nature-friendly pest control,

The Daily Star
OFFICE SHIFTED

The Daily Star announces the shifting of its editorial, news and commercial offices to Road 3, House 11, Dhanmandi Residential Area, Dhaka with effect from Saturday, October 10, 1992.

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