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NEWS BRIEFS

PM opens hospital today

By Staff Correspondent
 Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the National Heart Foundation Hospital at Mirpur in the capital today (Tuesday). The inaugural ceremony, beginning at 11 in the morning, will also be attended by the Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad, Health Minister and the Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs.

AL Presidium meets today

A meeting of the Awami League Presidium will be held at the party central office this morning. It will discuss the functions of different sub-committees, holding of subjective seminars and socio-political situation of the country, said a press release. Awami League President Sheikh Hasina will preside over the meeting, reports UNB.

Hunger Project chief due today

Global Executive Director of The Hunger Project (THP) Ms Joan Holems arrives in Dhaka today on a six-day visit to begin groundwork of "Strategic Planning in Action" (SPIA). SPIA is an innovative approach to human development for sustainable end of hunger by the year 2000, reports UNB.

Indian sarees recovered

Police recovered smuggled Indian sarees from a corporation car and arrested two people in Mirpur area on Sunday, reports UNB.

Anti-terrorism Ordinance worse than SPA: Opposition JS rejects disapproval move by division vote 153-94

By Staff Correspondent

The House Monday rejected an opposition resolution seeking disapproval of the anti-terrorism ordinance by a division vote of 153 to 94.

Opposition members of the Jatiya Sangsad blasted the government for promulgating the "Ordinance for Suppression of Terroristic Offences 1992" by-passing parliament when a similar bill was pending before the House.

Nothing that the urgency to curb terrorism did not crop

up suddenly, they said that even if the government did see the need to pass the ordinance, immediately Parliament could have been called into an emergency session.

Terming the ordinance as a "black law worse than the Special Powers Act", the opposition MPs said that it violated the Constitution, went against the fundamental rights of the people and the United Nations Human Rights Charter.

The opposition members, pointed out that the ordinance also infringed upon the jurisdiction of the High Court and the Supreme Court.

Saying that promulgation of the ordinance by a presidential order was "totally unparliamentary behaviour and against all accepted parliamentary norms", they noted that the ordinance would also damage the country's image abroad.

The laws promulgated under the ordinance would be

abused by corrupt law enforcement officials, the opposition members warned, and the ruling party members might also become its victims when they would not be in power.

According to Article 93 (2) of the Constitution read with Rule 144 of the Rules of Procedure, the resolution was moved by Awami League member Colonel (ret'd) Shaukat Ali on behalf of the Opposition with Speaker Shaikh Razaque

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Hundreds feared killed in Tajik fighting

DUSHANBE (Tajikistan), Oct 26: Sporadic gunfire continued Monday in the Tajik capital, but government troops retook control of the city center after a bloody, two-day uprising by supporters of ousted leader Rakhmon Nabiyev, reports AP.

It remained unclear if acting President Akbarshah Iskandarov would honor a reported pledge to hear rebel demands at an emergency parliament session. The session could be held Monday or Tuesday, the ITAR-Tass news

agency reported. The number of casualties from the fighting in Tajikistan after Saturday's rebel takeover remained unknown.

AFP said, two days of clashes between pro and anti-government forces in the Tajik capital Dushanbe have left hundreds of people dead, the Russian news agency Interfax reported Sunday.

The news agency quoted its correspondent in the Tajik capital as saying that 150 bodies were taken to one hospital

See Page 12 Col 4

Cabinet okays foreign exchange budget

The cabinet yesterday approved the foreign exchange budget for 1992-93 and proposals for keeping the foreign exchange reserve at satisfactory level through augmenting the foreign exchange earnings in export and other sources and reduction of unnecessary expenditures in this account.

The approval was given at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The foreign exchange earnings for 1992-93 have been estimated at 6,112 million

See Page 12 Col 8

OEFC team tells Saifur Tokyo studying request for project assistance

Japan will expand its lending programme and is actively considering the new project assistance scheme requested by the Bangladesh government, reports UNB.

This was stated by visiting Managing Director of Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OEFC) of Japan Atsuo Nishihara when he called on Finance Minister Saifur Rahman at his office here yesterday.

He was accompanied by Vice President of the Japanese International Cooperation Agency (JICA) M Youshida.

Discussing the relationship between Bangladesh and Japan, the Finance Minister appreciated the role played by

OEFC and JICA in bringing about desired changes towards Bangladesh's progress and prosperity.

The country, presently in a democratic milieu, is poised to take off with massive economic activities, Rahman said.

"Bangladesh has a very constructive parliament" and the present government has undertaken necessary pragmatic reforms and policy measures for the best utilisation of man, soil and water as well as financial and technical cooperation of the friendly countries and agencies like Japan.

He hoped that Japan would further extend and expand cooperation and assistance

See Page 12 Col 7

'Sher-e-Bangla fought for social justice'

The 119th birth anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazlul Haque was observed in the country yesterday with due solemnity, reports UNB.

Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad, Bangladesh Jatiya Baktitta Gobeswana Kendro and Bangladesh Manabdhikar Sangstha jointly organised a discussion at the mazar of the late leader near Doyel Crossing

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Nirmul committee 'Sangsad March' today

By Staff Correspondent

The Co-ordination Committee for Elimination of Killers and Collaborators of 1971 will organise a march towards the mazar of the late leader to press home its demand for execution of people's court verdict on Golam Azam.

The committee will hold a rally in front of the Engineers Institution before the march starts in the afternoon, committee sources said adding that the preparation for the march was completed.

Several hundred people

See Page 12 Col 5

Make Nirmul Body march a success: Hasina

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all to make a success today's march towards parliament to press for trial of Golam Azam, reports UNB.

The Ghatok-Dalal Nirmul Committee will organise the Sangsad march to press its

See Page 12 Col 6

Anti-terrorism ordn BNP asks all its MPs to be in JS

The parliamentary party of BNP yesterday asked all its members to remain present in the House for smooth sailing of the much-talked-about Anti-terrorism Bill to be introduced soon, reports UNB.

The directives came at the BNPP meeting held in the conference room of Jatiya Sangsad with Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

Meeting sources said it discussed in detail the party strategy to get through the anti-terrorism ordinance, expected to be introduced in the House shortly in the form of a bill.

The anti-terrorism ordi-

nance, promulgated in the wake of rising incidence of terrorist activities across the country aiming to curb violence-related offences, was laid before the House on the opening day of the current session of parliament on October 11 amidst tumultuous protests from the Opposition.

Other political issues also came up for discussion in the meeting, sources said without elaborating.

Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain and State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman were among others who spoke.

Anti-terrorism bill likely to be placed today

The controversial anti-terrorism bill which is expected to be placed before the parliament today is likely to come under fire from the opposition, reports UNB.

Sources in the ruling party and the opposition said they are working out strategies to face each other in dealing with the bill.

Parliamentary Party of BNP was learnt to have discussed the strategy for a smooth sailing of the proposed bill.

Opposition parties and groups continued parleys to map up an identical strategy in ventilating their protest against the bill. They were also planning to stage a walkout in protest, sources said.

Leaders of the opposition parties and groups will meet at Sangsad Bhavan today afternoon to finalise their strategy.

Govt takes steps to allot 45 plots in Dhaka EPZ

The government has taken steps to make 45 plots, each measuring 2,000 sq metres with all facilities for setting up industries at the proposed Dhaka Export Processing Zone, Communication Minister Oli Ahmed informed the parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Replying to a question from Md. Niamatullah (Dhaka-12), he said applications from entrepreneurs are yet to be invited as construction of infrastructures of the proposed EPZ remained to be completed.

The Minister said that the plots will be allotted among the entrepreneurs after examining their applications by the Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority.

The plots will be cancelled if the entrepreneurs fail to start construction of the industries within six months of allotment, he said.

Govt orders probe into Sonali Bank irregularities

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that he had ordered an enquiry on the basis of a newspaper report regarding financial irregularities with the Sonali Bank, reports BSS.

The Finance Minister was replying to Awami League member Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim who, on a point of order, drew the attention of the Chair to a newspaper report that BNP members Sakhawat Hossain Bakul while he was a member of the board of directors of Sonali Bank, had taken a loan of over Taka six crore in his own name and those of his relations.

The witnesses said more than 400 people, who had spent the night at a barbed-wire barricade blocking the road about eight km (five miles) from the border, were dispersed by police and paramilitary forces firing tear

See Page 12 Col 6

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See Page 12 Col 7

Deadliest Israeli attack on South Lebanon

NABATIYEH (Lebanon), Oct 26: Israel hammered south Lebanon with artillery, tanks, warplanes and helicopters today to avenge a guerrilla bomb ambush that killed five of its soldiers, reports Reuter.

A 75-year-old woman was killed and at least 11 other civilians, one of them a seven-year-old boy, were wounded in what security sources called the heaviest Israeli shelling since a Hizbollah-Israeli war in February.

The pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God) hit back by firing Katyusha rockets into Israeli-held territory and, along with the Lebanese army, opened up with artillery against the buffer strip.

The Israeli pounding followed a vow by the Jewish state that Hizbollah guerrillas, fighting to drive Israel out of the south, would pay dearly for

bombing an Israeli supply convoy on Sunday.

The Israeli military command said Air Force planes and helicopters struck "terrorist targets and homes of people who helped the terrorists." It said that among the targets hit were command centers and other buildings that served Hezbollah. The statement also confirmed that Israeli tanks and artillery were shelling suspected guerrilla targets.

Police said scores of villagers in the province were seen loading their cars with clothes and mattresses and fleeing.

Earlier, two Cobra gunships rocketed the southern village of Kfar Tibnit and the outskirts. Jibsheet near the market town of Nabatiyah. The helicopters fired 12 rockets on three houses used by Hezbollah.

SAARC invitation Mostafiz goes to Colombo Nov 5

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman will leave for Colombo on November 5 on the first leg of his rescheduled trip to South Asian capitals as Prime Minister's special emissary, reports UNB.

Officials said yesterday that from Sri Lanka, the Foreign Minister will fly to Maldives.

Mostafiz will stay in Colombo on November 6 and in Male on November 7 to extend invitation from Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka and

See Page 12 Col 8

Shibir-called hartal partially observed in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Oct 26: Normal life was partially disrupted today in the port city following a half-day hartal called by Islami Chhatra Shibir, Chittagong unit here.

Shibir called the hartal in protest against the killing of its activist Saiful Islam.

Saiful was allegedly kidnapped and later murdered allegedly by the activists of Chhatra League at Hathazari.

See Page 12 Col 5

Sit-in near Kashmir border: 100 held Hold plebiscite in Kashmir, Pak NA asks Delhi

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistan, Oct 26: Pakistan's National Assembly asked India today to hold plebiscite in Kashmir and urged the UN to send a fact-finding mission to the disputed Himalayan region, reports Reuter.

The resolution was adopted by Pakistan's Lower House to mark the 45th anniversary on October 27 of the entry of India's army into Kashmir to fight Pakistani troops moving across the east of the region.

It came a day after a student

was killed and several people were injured in a clash between marchers in Pakistan-ruled Azad (free) Kashmir, and legislative assembly member Sardar Khalid Ibrahim to stop them approaching the border.

The witnesses said more than 400 people, who had spent the night at a barbed-wire barricade blocking the road about eight km (five miles) from the border, were dispersed by police and paramilitary forces firing tear

See Page 12 Col 6

at dawn to arrest Mohammad Hayat Khan, former President of Pakistan-ruled Azad (free) Kashmir, and legislative assembly member Sardar Khalid Ibrahim to stop them approaching the border.

The witnesses said more than 400 people, who had spent the night at a barbed-wire barricade blocking the road about eight km (five miles) from the border, were dispersed by police and paramilitary forces firing tear

See Page 12 Col 6

Perot gaining at Clinton's expense

WINSTON-SALEM, NC, Oct 26: Democrat Bill Clinton, seeing his lead dwindling in the polls, said Monday he and not independent candidate Ross Perot represents the only "practical alternative" to President Bush, reports AP.

Clinton, appearing on a live "town meeting" on the CBS TV network, said Perot "hopes the anti-Bush vote will be divided and he can sneak up through the middle."

He made the comments as he and running mate Sen. Al Gore began a bus tour of North Carolina.

In the CBS appearance, the Arkansas governor, who retains about a 10 point lead over Bush in the latest polls despite a narrowing gap, sought to shrug off Perot, a Texas billionaire, as a serious candidate.

If voters "want to replace George Bush, they have only one practical alternative," Clinton said.

"And I've got a good plan," Clinton said, referring to his own economic proposals. He noted that the principal author of Perot's plan to cut the federal deficit with sharp spending cuts and tax increases,

John White, had endorsed the Clinton ticket.

People sat on chairs in a children's playground in the Winston-Salem YMCA for the live broadcast, with Clinton and Gore perched on stools.


Asked what he thought of Perot's allegation that Republican dirty tricksters had sought to disrupt his daughter's wedding, Clinton said rather than having candidates accusing one another of investigating each other's children "I think we'd be a lot better shape if we spent the rest of the campaign worrying about

the problems of the rest of the children."

In the presidential race, both sides on Monday noted the narrowing margin. Bush campaign senior adviser Charles Black told the NBC TV that "Gov. Clinton is dropping like a rock" while Clinton strategists Paul Begala said "the race is definitely tightening... We're just going to fight like hell. We're not going to take this thing for granted."

Clinton and Gore, after their TV appearance, left on their bus trip across North

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