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## NEWS BRIEFS

### German food aid for Rohingyas

Germany will provide emergency food aid worth 1,258,266 US dollars for the Rohingyas refugees in Bangladesh. The aid will consist of 500 metric tons of vegetable oil, 723 metric tons of pulse, 119 metric tons of salt and 150 metric tons of dried fish. The goods will be distributed through the World Food Programme (WFP). With the latest supply of food aid, total German assistance for the Rohingyas refugees stands at 1.76 million US dollars, reports UNB.

### Two hurt in road mishap

Two women were injured when their baby taxi was hit by a private car from behind near the Bijoynagar Square last evening, police said. Motijheel police told BSS over telephone that Dr Jahan Afroz suffered leg-bone fracture while the other victim Dolly got minor injuries. A case has been filed with Motijheel thana in this connection.

### 104 more held on various charges

Police rounded up 104 people from different parts of the city on various charges, a DMP press release (Monday) said. The arrested included four wanted criminals. They also got hold of five others on charges of terrorism. Ten people were arrested for stealing, one for hijacking, two for burglary and one for possessing explosives, reports UNB.

### Storm hits Egypt

CAIRO, Nov 2 : A sand storm, accompanied by thunder and lightning, struck the Aswan province in southern Egypt last night, leading to the closure of the Aswan Airport. All the flights to Cairo from Aswan Airport were postponed, according to the Middle East News Agency (MENA). The storm, followed by heavy downpour, triggered a power failure in the province's capital city Aswan, 904 kilometres south of Cairo, reports Xinhua.

## US poll today

SHORT HILLS, New Jersey, Nov 2 : President George Bush, running out of time as his chances of re-election look like fading, was campaigning in five crucial states today before going home to Texas to await the voters' verdict, reports Reuter.

In potentially the last campaign swing of his long political career, Bush arranged to kick off his sprint to the finish with a breakfast-time rally in this predominantly Republican town outside New York.

He then planned to travel to

Pennsylvania, Ohio, Kentucky and Louisiana to make one last pitch to the others before Tuesday's ballot.

A welcome-home rally in Bush's adopted hometown of Houston was scheduled for Monday evening.

It will be a last hurrah for the embattled President. Even if he wins the Tuesday election, Bush, 68, will never again campaign on his own behalf since he would be barred from seeking a third term as President.

While publicly upbeat about

his bid for re-election and determined to embarrass what he calls "TV know-it-alls" who are forecasting victory for Democratic rival Bill Clinton, Bush's prospects of winning seemed slim.

A CNN/USA Today opinion poll of likely voters, made public on Sunday night, gave Clinton 49 per cent of the vote, Bush 37 per cent, and independent candidate Ross Perot, 14 per cent.

The survey, conducted by the Gallup Organisation, pro-



George Bush



Ross Perot



Bill Clinton



Police resorted to lathi charge on school students protesting new SSC examination system in city yesterday. —Star photo

## School students turn more violent

By Staff Correspondent

School students demonstration on the third consecutive day yesterday against the new marking system in the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations turned more violent in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and elsewhere in the country.

During demonstration, Dhaka-Chittagong, Dhaka-Aricha, Dhaka-Natore and Natore-Bogra highways were closed to traffic for several hours yesterday.

Some 150 students were injured and 43 others taken into custody when students and police clashed in the different parts in the country. Unruly students hurling stones damaged over 170 vehicles.

The students continued their demonstration against the Government decision that each SSC examinee would have to obtain pass marks separately

## Decision to retain objective type question bank

By Staff Correspondent

The government, in the wake of student agitation, has decided to retain the bank of 500 objective questions in the next SSC Examination, reports UNB.

There will be no question out of the objective-type question bank in SSC Examination 1993," said a Press Note issued yesterday by the Education Ministry.

It said the government had taken cognizance of the agitation by the SSC examinees following an Education Ministry circular regarding the new examination system.

"After considering all sides, the government has decided that objective-type questions will be prepared out of the 500-question bank on different subjects."

The government hoped that the decision would defuse all tension among the examinees and the students would pay attention to studies.

## Emergency in two Russian regions

MOSCOW, Nov 2: President Boris Yeltsin declared a state of emergency in two southern Russian regions where dozens of people were reported killed in weekend fighting, reports Reuter.

A presidential spokesman said Yeltsin signed a decree introducing the emergency from 2 pm (1100 GMT) today for a period of one month in North Ossetia and Ingushetia.

He named deputy prime minister Georgy Khizha as head of a special temporary administration in the two areas, scene of the worst ethnic unrest to hit Russia since the break-up of the Soviet Union last year.

Khizha, who chaired peace talks between Ossetians and Ingushis at the weekend, was quoted by Itar-Tass news agency as saying order had been restored.

But a spokesman for Russian interior forces said localised clashes were continuing, despite a ceasefire agreed on Sunday and the presence of several thousand crack troops flown in by Moscow.

## CPB, NAP in the process Move to form new party with Kamal as chief

By Chapal Bashar

Discussion among some political leaders have been initiated for floating a new party based on liberal democratic line described as a possible 'third force'.

According to informed sources, Dr Kamal Hossain is likely to head this new political party.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), the National Awami League (NAL) and a faction of Awami League led by Dr Kamal will be the major components of the party, the sources say.

Some other parties like Ganotantri Party may also join. As part of this process, CPB President Saifuddin Ahmed Manik and NAP General Secretary Pankaj Bhattacharya met Kamal Hossain at his residence last week and had a long discussion with him on the possibility of forming the new party.

Details about Kamal's meeting with these two leaders were not disclosed. However, sources close to them con-

firmed that the formation of a new party was mainly discussed.

Dr Kamal has also been exchanging views with some senior leaders of the Awami League on his future course of political activities. The issue of floating a new party is also coming up in these deliberations.

Reliable sources said that Dr Kamal was not considering the idea of splitting the Awami League, rather he was seriously considering the possibility of a broad-based party which could act as an alternative to BNP and AL and become an effective 'third force'.

Meanwhile, the formation of a new party was also discussed at the CPB's Central Committee meeting held October 30-31. According to the party sources, majority of the CPB's Central Committee members expressed opinion in favour of changing the party's name and constitution. The proposals were, however, op-

## 7 killed in West Bengal police firing

NEW DELHI, Nov 2: At least seven people were killed in Indian's West Bengal state when police fired on a mob today, the United News of India (UNI) said, reports Reuters.

The news agency quoted official sources as saying that 20 policemen were injured in the incident in Murshidabad.

The Communist Party of India-Marxist, ruling the eastern Indian state for 14 years, is opposed to a nationwide strike called on Tuesday by the rightwing Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

The CMP also opposes a BJP campaign to deport illegal immigrants from neighbouring Bangladesh.

Bangladesh denies there is illegal border-crossing by its citizens.

## Opposition to continue parliament boycott

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition parties in parliament will keep on boycotting the proceedings of the House to press for repealing the anti-terrorism bill passed Sunday.

At a press briefing last evening the leaders of the Awami League (AL), Jatiya Party, the Ganotantri Party and Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Siraj) told the newsmen that they would not take part in the proceedings of current session of parliament in protest against passage of the controversial bill unilaterally by the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP).

The opposition leaders observed that the anti-terrorism bill 'passed by parliament' with no opposition member in the

House was virtually a law made by the parliamentary wing of the BNP.

"We are neither a party to the black law nor have we any obligation to abide by it," the leaders said adding "We shall take to the streets to compel the government to repeal the anti-people law."

The opposition leaders, however, advised the BNP to make the law ineffective by means of requesting the President not to assent to it.

Under a provision of the country's Constitution, any bill passed in the House requires assent of the head of the state before it goes into application. The President enjoys the constitutional right to send

## India to send Chakmas back home

RANGAMATI, Nov 2 : India has taken step to send the tribal refugees back home in the Chittagong Hill Tracts from its northeastern state of Tripura, reports UNB.

According to information reaching here, the central government of India has directed the Tripura state authorities to take necessary steps to send the refugees back to their homeland in Bangladesh by the year-end.

The Shuva Shankalpa, a weekly newspaper published from Tripura, ran a story on October 17 in this regard, quoting officials.

Headlined "Chakmader Swadesh Ferat (return of the Chakmas to their homeland), the weekly reported that the Chakma refugees would be returned by December 31.

"No fund for ration and relief would be allocated for the

## Revoke anti-terrorism bill, demands SKOP

Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP) yesterday demanded that the Anti-terrorism Bill, passed in parliament Monday, be revoked immediately, reports UNB.

Expressing concern in a rally over the passage of the bill, SKOP asked the government to scrap the new law and strictly enforce the existing laws to stop terrorism.

The broadbased trade union alliance staged the rally in front of Jatiya Press Club to protest the unilateral passage of the bill without the Opposition in parliament.

SKOP leader Pratapuddin read out declaration of the rally containing the demand. Among others, Abul Bashar, Shahjahan Khan, MP, Salam Khan, Tipu Biswas, Abdullah Sarkar, Dr Wazedul Islam, Mokhlisar Rahman, S M Rumi, Nasim Ali were present.

Terming the law as 'anti-

people and terrorist', the SKOP declaration warned that the alliance would build a united movement if the government didn't scrap the law.

"The democratically elected government passed a worse anti-people law when the people were raising voice against the Special Powers Act."

The rally asserted that terrorism could effectively be controlled with correct application of the existing laws. If necessary, "logical changes and amendments could be brought in the existing laws, it said.

The anti-terrorism law not only violates human, fundamental, democratic and constitutional rights but will also hinder trade union activities, the declaration said, adding trade union leaders and workers would also be subject to harassment and repression

## Cabinet okays proposal to ease vehicle import policy

The cabinet in a meeting yesterday approved a proposal of the Commerce Ministry for relaxing the existing provisions in the Import Policy Order 1991-93 for import of vehicles, reports UNB.

Old or reconditioned four-wheeler jeeps of not more than six years of age after manufacture may now be imported under the existing conditions of the import of old and reconditioned vehicles.

The cabinet also approved a proposal of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs for amending the Bangladesh Shilpakala Act 1989.

Officials said the proposed amendments were aimed at removing certain inconsistencies in the existing law and thereby bringing improvement in the administration of the academy.

The approvals came at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

Minister and State Minister-in-charge of different ministries and divisions attended the meeting.

## AL observes jail killing day today

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League will observe the 'Jail Killing Day' today commemorating the brutal murders of four national leaders.

On this day in 1975, four close associates of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali and Quamruzzaman — were killed in the Dhaka Central Jail which they had been sentenced since the political change-over of August 15 that year.

In observance of the day, the AL has chalked out elaborate programmes. In the capital, the party will hoist black flags atop its central office and the Bangabandhu Bhavan where the national flag and the party flag will remain halfmast from dawn.

Party leaders and workers

## One of two lows may turn into cyclone in Nov

A Couple of depressions are likely to be formed in the southern Bay during the current month, one of which may turn into cyclone and cross Bangladesh, reports UNB.

According to the monthly forecast by the Met office, the cyclone may also hit the adjoining coastal areas.

About rainfall, the long-range forecast said that Chittagong and Khulna divisions may experience 40-50 mm rainfall, the Dhaka division 20-30 mm and the Rajshahi division 10-20 mm during the period.

Analysing last month's (October) rainfall, the Met experts said that the amount of rainfall in Khulna and Chittagong divisions were consistent with the forecast but there was 30 per cent less rainfall than the forecast in Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions.

Southern parts of the country experienced less rainfall in the last month as the south western monsoon wind moved continuously to the south, experts added.

## Two hurt in AJM clash

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 2: A tea-boy sustained bullet wounds and another teenaged boy was hurt in bomb explosion when the rival workers of Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) fought a brief battle at Karim Market and Natun Bazar areas this morning. Five others also sustained minor injuries.

The pro-BNP Kashem group and the Awami League-backed Rehan group of AJM workers exchanged over dozen of gunshots and blasted at least 30 crackers during the skirmish that lasted for 15 minutes, witnesses said.

Dukhu Mia, 13 and the tea-boy whose identity could not be known, were hospitalised. Rehan group claimed the injured boys were their supporters.

## Hundreds killed as fierce fighting erupts in Luanda

LISBON, Nov 2: Heavy fighting broke out between the ruling MPLA and the former rebel movement UNITA in the Angolan capital Luanda today, hours after a UN brokered ceasefire was due to take effect, reports Reuter.

Eyewitnesses and journalists in the city said many soldiers and civilians had been reported killed.

A correspondent for Portugal's TSF radio said two senior UNITA leaders had been killed and gunfire was echoing constantly round Luanda.

He quoted Angolan state radio as saying hundreds of bodies were littering one of Luanda's main hospitals and urging medical staff to report to work immediately.

The correspondent quoted police sources as saying UNITA's vice president

Jeremias Chitunda and the former rebel movement's top military representative in Luanda, Elias Salupeto Pena, had been killed during an attempt to escape from the city.

TSF reported that Abel Chivukuvuku, the head of UNITA's foreign affairs department, had been seriously wounded and was in a Luanda hospital.

The radio earlier reported that Chivukuvuku and General Arlindo Chenda Pena "Ben Ben", UNITA's military Chief of Staff, had apparently escaped from Luanda.

UNITA radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation said Chenda Pena, Chivukuvuku and Salupeto Pena were "exercising their party duties normally". It made no mention of Chitunda.

In Johannesburg, South African Broadcasting

Corporation radio quoted Pretoria's military attache in Luanda as saying Angolan government troops had attacked UNITA positions in the city around 5 am (0400 GMT).

The attache, Johan Smith, was quoted as saying many soldiers and civilians had been reported killed.

Smith said UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi's house in Luanda had been attacked by tanks.

Candida Pinto, a correspondent for Portugal's SIC television, said a telecommunications centre near her hotel in Luanda was being attacked by artillery and everyone in the hotel had taken refuge in the cellar.

But TSF and the Portuguese news agency LUSA both reported continuing heavy gunfire in central Luanda after the deadline.



Renewed fighting in Luanda leaves a trail of devastation in the Angolan capital. —Star TV photo