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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Police adviser to UK govt due today**

Police adviser to the British government Rozar Niklin arrives in Dhaka this morning for a 10-day visit to Bangladesh. During his stay, Niklin will discuss improvement of police training with Inspector General of Police ASM Shahjahan and other high officials. He will visit Sardha Police Academy, reports UNB.

**Gun looted**

RANGPUR, Nov 23: Miscreants beat up two policemen and snatched away an SMG at Eakorchali under Taragonj thana of the district today (Monday). Police sources said a group of miscreants attacked patrol police ASI Kafiluddin and constable Basit shortly after midnight and beat them seriously before leaving with the SMG, reports UNB.

**8000 foreign sarees seized**

A joint taskforce of Customs, BDR and police yesterday seized 8,000 pieces of foreign sarees worth Taka 54 lakh from the city's Bangabazar Market. During the six-hour raid in the market, four persons have been arrested for providing false information and trying to create obstruction.

**9 hurt in fire at Sirajganj**

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 23: Nine people were injured and property worth about Tk 15 lakh was gutted in a devastating fire at Brammakola village in Sadar thana today.

## Promotion of Sub-judges

# 'Full Court' sticks to decision

The 'Full Court' of the High Court Division in a recent meeting reaffirmed its earlier decision relating to the promotion of Sub-judges after the initial decision was turned down by the government.

In a meeting on November 12, the 'Full Court', comprising all sitting High Court Judges and presided over by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, reviewed the situation arising out of the government move to promote only two of the four Sub-judges originally recommended for promotion.

According to an informed source, as the 'Full Court' could

not find any valid reason to change its earlier decision, it reaffirmed the initial decision recommending the promotion of all four Sub-judges.

Constitutional experts pointed out that the 'Full Court' decision reinforced the fact that the 'consultation' with the Supreme Court regarding promotions in the judicial service, referred to in the Constitution, actually means 'effective consultation.'

Article 116 of the Constitution states that 'the control (including the power of posting, promotion and grant of leave) and discipline

of persons employed in the judicial service and magistrates exercising judicial functions shall vest in the President and shall be exercised by him in consultation with the Supreme Court.

However, an authoritative source at the Ministry of Law and Justice noted that the Constitution did not say anything about consultations with the 'Full Court'.

"We do consult with the Supreme Court as per Article 116 of the Constitution, but we are not clear about what is meant by a 'Full Court', he said

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## SAARC summit to focus on economic issues



Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, the venue for the Seventh SAARC Summit is being given a face lift. — Star photo

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Economics will outshine all other disciplines, which the seven-year-old SAARC has so far mandated itself to deal with, in the summit deliberations as well as the Dhaka Declaration, according to diplomatic sources here.

The Dhaka Declaration, a draft of which has already been sent to the other six governments, is to be adopted December 13, the concluding day of the two-day seventh summit.

The summit is likely to endorse the launching of the proposed South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangements (SAPITA), the formation of the South Asian Development Fund (SADF), and a regional action plan for poverty alleviation, marking the main thrust of this year's event.

"They (the summiteers) will chiefly concentrate on the cooperation in core economic areas," one diplomat at the Foreign Ministry's SAARC desk said.

The seven-nation alliance, formed with the key objectives "to promote the welfare of the peoples of South Asia and to improve their quality of life," has, in its process of evolution, identified 13 areas of cooperation under what is called the Integrated Programme of Action (IPA).

The IPA was formally launched by the Foreign Ministers at their first meeting in New Delhi in August 1983 through the adoption of a declaration.

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## \$ 20000 a day for housing guests

By Nazmul Ashraf

Taka five crore to be met from its own resources, hotel management sources said.

The Foreign Ministry has booked the hotel for December 4-15 and its entire area will be declared a 'security zone'.

The ministry will have to pay an approximate amount of 20,000 US dollars a day for accommodating for the SAARC guests, said a hotel source.

Official of the Sheraton told The Daily Star that seven floors (from the 4th to the 10th of the hotel) would accommodate the SAARC VIPs.

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## Call to ensure sustainable use of river flow

Global 500 Forum of SAARC countries has urged the SAARC summit to be held in Dhaka to ensure sustainable use and controlled withdrawal of upstream flow for major riparian river systems in the common interests of co-basin communities, reports BSS.

In a number of recommendations adopted at a one-day regional workshop of the forum held in Dhaka it urged to ensure development programmes which did not cause environmental degradation in neighbouring areas and countries.

Organised with the cooperation of Coastal Area Resource Development and Management

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## 3 killed as Neo-Nazis attack foreigners

BERLIN, Nov 23: Two Turkish women and a 10-year-old girl died Monday in the firebombing of two apartment houses, the worst hate crime since a wave of xenophobic violence spread across the country, reports AP.

The attack in Moelln, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) east of Hamburg in western Germany, followed one of the worst weekends of the extreme-rightist violence that has plagued the country for months.

Authorities said the fires were set shortly after midnight in two buildings about 1,500 feet apart. Nine other people were injured in the attack.

The apartment houses have for years housed Turks, who make up Germany's largest immigrant group. The girl who died was of Turkish descent, but was born in Germany, local prosecutor Guenter Moeller said.

Hours after the attack, Germany's chief federal prosecutor announced he was taking over the murder investigation from local authorities because of its severity and suspected links to terrorism.

Chief federal prosecutor Alexander von Stahl said that

in two claims of responsibility, anonymous telephone callers had yelled the Nazi salute, "Heil Hitler."

That, von Stahl said, indicated that "the unidentified criminals wanted to use their crime to help restore a Nazi dictatorship in Germany."

A spate of extremist violence wracked 10 cities over the weekend, including Berlin, where a 27-year-old leftist was stabbed to death in a subway station and two other people were injured.

Neo-Nazi attacks on foreigners have risen since 1990, the year Germany reunited. But there has been a recent in-

## Dinajpur newsmen meet PM

Leaders of Dinajpur Press Club and Dinajpur Union of Journalists yesterday met the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office, reports BSS.

The leaders sought cooperation of the Prime Minister for the development of the Dinajpur Press Club.

The Prime Minister assured them of extending all possible help for its development.

The journalist leaders also apprised Begum Zia of different problems of Dinajpur district. The Prime Minister gave them a patient hearing.

The leaders were: Golam Nabi Duail, President Dinajpur Union of Journalists; Idris Ali, General Secretary of Dinajpur Union of Journalists; Chitta Gosh, General Secretary of Dinajpur Press Club; Khairul Alam, Editor, Dainik Protidin; Prof. Mohammad Mohsin, Editor, Dainik Uttara; and Mizanur Rahman Lulu, Editor, Dainik Tista.

## Govt plans to set TV camera in Ershad's cell, says Moudud

By Staff Correspondent

Deposed President Hussain Mohammad Ershad threatened to start an indefinite hunger strike if his privacy is hampered by installing any device in his jail room, the Jatiya Party leaders quoting his lawyers said Monday.

The authorities are planning to install a TV camera in his room to monitor his movement, Moudud Ahmed, MP, Acting Parliamentary Party Chief told a press conference at his Motijheel chamber.

Two of Ershad's lawyers Khondker Mahbub Hossain and Yousuf Hossain Hossain, who met Ershad on Saturday, were

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## Prayer challenging revival of murder case against Auranga rejected

The petition of an Awami League MP, Hemayet Ullah alias Auranga challenging the revival of the murder case against him yesterday has been rejected by a High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman, reports BSS.

While on a separate bail petition filed by Auranga, the same High Court Division Bench yesterday issued rule upon the government to show cause within two weeks as to why the accused Auranga should not be enlarged on bail.

Earlier, Auranga's bail prayer had been rejected by the Additional Sessions Judge

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## 3 BCL activists stabbed in Tongi College

From Our Correspondent

GAZIPUR, Nov 23: Three Awami League-backed BCL activists of Tongi College were stabbed today during a clash with JCD activists over taking front-row seats of the classroom. Two other students were also injured during the incident.

College authorities suspended all classes of the first year till November 30 following the incident.

The three BCL activists admitted to Tongi hospital with stab injuries are Nazrul Islam, Jahangir Alam and Kaisar Alam.

## Gunshots: Bomb blasts: Stabbings

# Gunmen swoop on shops, loot cash

By Staff Correspondent

Gunmen swooped on some shops, ransacked them and looted Taka 10,000 from the cash of a stationery shop unleashing a reign of terror near the 'Chhapra' Mosque at Azampur Monday afternoon.

While gunmen fired shots, exploded crackers and stabbed shopkeepers, at least 10 people were injured, one of them seriously, witnesses said.

Refused by a shopowner, a band of armed extortionists attacked the stationery shop at 44/6 Azampur and later violence spread to its surrounding areas as some people tried to resist them at around 1:30 pm Monday.

During the incident panic gripped the area and the frightened people including shopkeepers ran for life. All the shops in the area were shuttered down and remained so until last night.

Around six gunshots and 15 blasts were heard during the half-hour long violence, according to witnesses.

A grocery shop owner Khoshed Alam in a complaint with Lalbagh police alleged that the armed terrorists damaged valuables worth about Taka 20,000 during their attack on his shop, said police.

One of the victims, Fazul Haque, who was chopped with a meat-cleaver, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) reports our

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## Industrialisation policy

# Traders-govt talks fail to take off

By Inam Ahmed

Country's top business leaders and industrialists are expected to hold talks soon with the relevant ministries of the government on the country's industrialisation environment.

The move was taken against the backdrop of non-implementation of the industrial policy, 1991, sources said.

The talk scheduled to be held on Monday, could not be held due to unknown reasons. However, fresh dates will be fixed soon, sources said.

The business leaders now view that the country's legal, political and fiscal environment for investment and industrialisation is not congenial.

Besides the business leaders, the meeting will be attended by the officials of the Bangladesh Bank, Industry Ministry, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Planning Division, Commerce Ministry and other concerned bodies.

The business leaders will ask the government to take specific stand on the Sramik Karmachari Otkyo Parishad's (SKOP) demand and its legal existence. They feel that the government must take a bold stand against SKOP and should minimize its role as a secondary force for political parties.

The talks will also include streamlining of the formation of combined bargaining agents (CBA) through changes in law.

The business community will also express its views on the SAARC Preferential Trade Agreement. Under this agreement, different items can be imported from the SAARC countries at a lower rate of tariff. The community views that such import should be done with the consultation of local industrialists for protection of local units.

Another outstanding issue which may come up in the discussion is the representation of chambers in different parliamentary standing committees concerning trade and industry.

The business community view that this would help take effective decisions for industrial development.

The business community now feel that the provision for inclusion of dismissed employees in the CBA is contaminating the industrial environment.

The discussions will also centre on the 100 per cent tax relief for exporters as mentioned in the export policy. At present, only 50 per cent tax relief is given which the business community view as not enough. Along with this, rationalisation of tariff value will also come into discussions.

The business quarter will also ask for concessional tax rates on the import of raw materials for the thrust sector. Their view is that to inspire export lead industrial growth, the thrust sector should be given all kinds of facilities.

## 4 more brands being tested

# Show cause issued on Famadol producer

By Nurul Kabir

The Bangladesh Drug Administration (BDA) has served the producers of the controversial Famadol Paracetamol Syrup with a show cause Sunday on why legal action should not be taken against them for violating the terms and conditions of drug production mentioned in the licence issued by the government.

The BDA has accused the owners of the Adflame Pharmaceuticals Limited, producer of the syrup, of mixing diethylene glycol, instead of propylene one, as the diluent of the paracetamol syrup.

The BDA has also picked up four samples of the syrup produced by four other companies for laboratory tests.

The diethylene glycol, according to Goodman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics, is used in lacquer, cosmetics, anti-freeze and lubricants and as a softening agent.

Its toxicity was a major problem only when the compound was used in the 1930s

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Five fighters rescuing trapped inmates. — Star TV photo

## BNP govt selling out country's interests to India: Hasina

CHITTAGONG, Nov 23: Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina today criticised the government's policy in dealing with issues with neighbours, alleging that Bangladesh has become the market of India during the BNP's rule, reports UNB.

In the name of opposing India, the BNP government virtually sold out the country's interests to India and failed to resolve bilateral issues including the sharing of the Ganges water.

The government also failed to settle the "push-in" operation by India and the problem of Rohingya refugees because of its "meek foreign policy."

"While in power, Awami League did never compromise on the country's interest. BNP not only tarnished the national image but also jeopardised the independence and sovereignty of the country," she said.

The Awami League President was addressing a workers' meeting at Muslim Hall this afternoon. Presided over by MA Mannan, President of Chittagong City AL, the meeting was also addressed by

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## 'Hasina getting security as per rules'

Full-time security personnel have been assigned for personal security of Awami League chief and leader of the opposition Sheikh Hasina at her official residence, during her movement in the city and when she attends any function in the metropolitan area, the Home Ministry said in a clarification to a news item published in some newspapers yesterday, reports BSS.

The clarification said under the existing law, the security arrangements being made for the ministers are also applicable in the case of leader of the opposition.

The security of any minister during his visit outside Dhaka metropolitan area is the responsibility of the concerned district and metropolitan police. So as per rules, the Chittagong Police Commissioner has been instructed to make arrangements for personal security of leader of the opposition during her current schedule of visits to Chittagong.

## Bank official falls from 6th floor, dies

By DMCH Correspondent

A senior bank officer, Bipul Chandra Shaha, died mysteriously falling from the sixth floor of the head office of Uttara Bank at Motijheel Monday night. He was 43.

The fatally wounded banker was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at 6:30 pm and succumbed to his injuries after two and a half hours of admission.

Some people who brought Shaha to the DMCH said that the banker fell on a balcony of the second floor from the sixth floor of the 20-storied building. He was working on the sixth floor, they added.

When contacted Motijheel police said that they were not informed of the incident and no case was registered with them.

Bipul Chandra Shaha who resided at a residence at Mitford Road in the city left behind his wife, one son and one daughter.

## Drug case

# Eliadah, others face trial today

By Staff Correspondent

Trial in the sensational drug-case in which four foreign nationals including a teenaged American girl were accused will begin today (Tuesday).

Of the total five accused Eliadah McCord, an American girl, Robert Blankson, a South African national and a Nigerian Goddy Oehendu who were earlier arrested in connection with an attempt to trafficking 3.27 kg of heroin to Zurich

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