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Tomorrow

**In the fourth instalment
 in the series Invitation
 to a Dialogue, Prof Reh-
 man Sobhan writes about
 import liberalisation**

NEWS BRIEFS

**Mahila Sangstha
 team meets PM**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said yesterday that women uplift programme would be expanded throughout the country for integration of the unemployed women aimed at their self-reliance. This assurance came when a delegation of Jatiya Mahila Sangstha led by its Chairperson Selima Rahman MP called on the Prime Minister at her secretariat office in the morning, reports BSS.

**Hasina condoles
 Mollah's death**

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday condoled the death of Harun-ur-Rashid Mollah, MP of BNP. In a message, she prayed for peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy for members of the bereaved family, reports UNB.

**3 injured in Eden
 College clash**

At least three students were injured in a clash between two student groups at Eden Girls College yesterday afternoon. The injured were identified as Sabita Karmaker, Hoshney Ara Hashu and Khaleda Akhter. All the three students are the members of pro-Awami League Chhatra League, reports UNB.

932 more Rohingyas return home

By Staff Correspondent

A group of 932 refugees returned home on Wednesday in a major step towards the repatriation of quarter of a million Rohingyas Muslims, officials said hoping that more refugees will be sent home soon.

This was the fourth and largest group of people sent home since the delayed repatriation began on Sept 22.

The refugees from 226 families sailed through Naaf river to Myanmar's frontier town of Katingchong in Maungdwe.

They were greeted at Katingchong by Aung Maung, director general of Myanmar Immigration and Omar Faruk, Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong who concluded on Wednesday a three-day negotiations on the repatriation.

Faruk, who led an 11-member delegation to the talks at Myanmar resort town of Ngapli, was returning home when he met the returnees.

"More and more refugees are now willing to return home. We hope to send a large

number of refugees back home next week," said a smiling Faruk talking to reporters at Cox's Bazar.

In Dhaka United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees welcomed the repatriation.

"We are satisfied that the refugees returned voluntarily. This was a major step towards the repatriation," said Darioush Bayandor, head of UNHCR's Dhaka Mission.

Bayandor said the UNHCR See Page 12 Col 8



Police guarding BUET campus yesterday on eve to students union polls. —Star photo

Concern about fate of Rohingyas

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 25: An special investigator for human rights Tuesday reported hundreds of detentions, arbitrary executions, disappearances and cases of torture in Myanmar, reports AFP.

In a 30-page report, Yoza Yokota of Japan also raised concern about the fate of some 250,000 Muslims who fled the north to take refuge in Bangladesh at the start of the year.

Yokota, who said he plans to visit Myanmar next month, cited 914 reported arbitrary detentions in Myanmar.

Those reportedly detained include "members of parliament" See Page 12 Col 5

Promotion of Sub-judges Ainjibi Samity serves legal notice on Govt

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Ainjibi Samity served a legal notice on the government for not complying with the recommendations of the full court of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court relating to the promotion of subordinate judges.

The Demand of Justice Notice issued on November 22 also makes an issue of the fact that judges of the subordinate courts have been called to the Law Ministry on the pretext of discussing administrative matters without prior knowl-

edge or permission of the High Court Division.

It further takes into account that the ministry and the executive branch of the State "never consults" with the High Court Division of the Supreme Court about the posting, promoting and discipline of the magistrates.

"That all these have created an environment in which it is difficult for persons employed in the judicial service and magistrates performing judi- See Page 12 Col 1



SC upholds Munir's death sentence

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday rejected Munir Hossain's petition, seeking leave to appeal, upholding the verdict of the High Court Division passed on July 5 last which upheld the death sentence of Munir Hossain and acquitted Hosne Ara Khuku of the charges in the sensational Rima murder case.

The verdict was given in the morning by the full bench of the Appellate Division after See Page 12 Col 6

Nirmul body to discuss proposal to withdraw Dec 8 hartal

By Nazmul Ashraf
 The Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee leaders will meet soon to discuss a government proposal requesting withdrawal of its hartal planned for December 8, reliable sources said.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman in a telephonic conversation with a Samannaya Committee leader Abu Osman Choudhury November 15 requested withdrawal of the day-long countrywide hartal for the 8th holding of the Seventh SAARC summit scheduled for December 12-13.

In reply, Choudhury expressed his inability to make any comment and told the See Page 12 Col 6

Home Ministry says

TV cameras to be installed in Ershad's cell

The reports appearing in a section of the press about solitary confinement of former president Hussain Muhammad Ershad without any attendant are not at all correct according to a handout issued by the Home Ministry last night, reports BSS.

The handout said attention of the Home Ministry has been drawn to the reports of a press conference published in a section of the press about the installation of a close circuit camera in the prison cell of convicted former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad and his last unto death.

Clarifying the situation, the handout said a prisoner with a division has been staying in the next room of former president Ershad and in another room an ordinary prisoner has been put as an attendant. A prisoner has been engaged for his (Ershad) service, besides, another prisoner has been engaged as sweeper for cleaning the prison room and its adjoining See Page 12 Col 4

Retrial in Milon murder case demanded

By Staff Correspondent
 Shaheed Dr Milon Sangsod yesterday demanded that the government declare November 27 as "Mass Uprising: Milon Day" to mark the martyrdom of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan alias Milon during the 1990 mass uprising.

The demand was raised at a Press Conference at the Jatiya Press Club on the eve of Milon's second death anniversary tomorrow.

Addressing the conference Sangsod's General Secretary Dr Mahbubur Rahman Chowdhury also demanded retrial in the Milon murder case on the basis of fresh investigation into the case and called upon the concerned quarters to refrain from "sheltering the murderer" See Page 12 Col 7

SAARC body suggests 10-year poverty alleviation scheme

By Nazme Sabina

The South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation has suggested a 10-year action programme based on the region's socio-political-economic realities and the existing intra-state problems.

Pursuant to the Colombo Summit Declaration on poverty alleviation last year, the 15-member "independent" Commission, headed by a former Nepalese Prime Minister, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, has prepared a report the recommendations of which are awaiting approval at the Seventh SAARC Summit and incorporation in the Dhaka Declaration.

"Because of the urgency of

the problem (of poverty), there is a need to specify the target date of 2002 when the objective of poverty alleviation should be achieved", the draft of the report says.

The Commission has termed its proposals "A Plan for the Poor".

The Commission held five plenary meetings in Colombo (March 31-April 3, 1992), New Delhi (May 27-29), Dhaka (July 9-13), Islamabad (September 1-5), Colombo (October 26-November 1) before finalising its report.

It studied three cases—one each from Sri Lanka, India and Bangladesh—to "draw

lessons from the experiences on the ground", by holding working sessions and several others on the basis of written papers presented to the meetings.

The Commission members, during and in-between the meetings, held discussions directly with the seven heads of state and governments, apart from the region's scholars, NGO leaders, UN and donor agencies.

President Ranasinghe Premadasa of Sri Lanka, during his visits to the other six capitals in his capacity as the SAARC Chairman, discussed See Page 12 Col 3

EUCSU polls today

By BUET Correspondent

The elections to the Engineering University Central Students Union (EUCSU) will be held today (Thursday).

Polling will begin from 8 am to 1 pm at the polling centres of the eight halls. Results of the polls will be announced by the Chief Returning Officer after counting of votes beginning at 2:30 pm.

As many as 50 candidates from different student organisations will compete for the 7 posts in central election and 432 candidates will contest in the hall elections for 96 posts.

No student organisation will compete under a united panel. Although the student front of JSD (Inu) was interested in a united panel with the Awami League backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL). As some See Page 12 Col 8

100 newsmen may come to cover SAARC summit

Star Report

Some 100 foreign journalists, about 40 alone from India, will be in Dhaka to cover the SAARC Summit.

The guest journalists will be staying in Sonargaon and Sundarban hotels. A media sub-committee headed by the Information Secretary has been formed to coordinate the activities related to the press coverage. The Information Minister heads the Information and Media committee.

Pressmen will be allowed to witness only the proceedings of the inaugural and the concluding sessions of the summit to be held at the ICC.

The other sessions of the Summit, the Council of See Page 12 Col 8

Anarchy, chaos will be dealt with: PM

FARIDGANJ (Chandpur), Nov 25: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today warned against anarchy, chaos and indiscipline that hampered development works and increased the sufferings of the commonman, reports UNB.

"Those who indulge in anarchy, damage motor vehicles on the streets, create chaos, disrupt public life, hijack in broad daylight and create obstacles in dropping tenders will be dealt with", Begum Zia told a huge public meeting here this afternoon.

She also advised the administration to see that none is harassed in the name of anti-terrorism law.

Begum Zia noted with regret that a certain political

party is trying to create chaos and thus hinder the process of development. This party, she added, has no plan for the good of the people, bluffed the nation in the past and was responsible for famine during its rule.

The Prime Minister identified smuggling as one of the biggest problems facing the nation. "Smuggling poses a big problem, it must be checked", she said with all the emphasis in her command.

"If we can unitedly check it, domestic products will be sold, industries will function and unemployment will be reduce", she added.

Begum Zia said her government attaches importance See Page 12 Col 4

Govt abusing SPA, detains 27000: Hasina

Sheikh Hasina yesterday charged the government with abusing the Special Powers Act detaining some 27,000 opposition activists since BNP returned to power, reports UNB.

"Such abuse of law, indiscriminate arrest and lodging false cases against opposition leaders and workers are unprecedented," said the Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition.

Hasina, in a statement, strongly resented repressive measures by the ruling party and its "terrorists" against members of Awami League, its wings and other opposition parties.

"This inefficient and autocratic regime deemed that it is

gradually losing the ground under its feet and took recourse to torture by framing new black laws to silence the people at a time when different trade unions, professionals and common people are planning anti-governments agitation in support of their respective demands."

The opposition leader said of the 27,000 detained political workers, about 5,000 belonged to Awami League and its front organisations. In Chittagong alone, about a dozen of her party workers were killed and more than 500 were arrested during the rule of BNP, she claimed.

Hasina cited a series of at- See Page 12 Col 6

Loadshedding will continue until Mar

Star Report

The severe loadshedding being experienced throughout the country from the beginning of this month will continue at least until March next year.

According to Power Development Board (PDB) sources, the loadshedding is due to shortage in power generation caused by the fall in the water level of the Kaptai Lake and the closure of two units of Ghorashal and Bheramara power stations.

The continued loadshedding, which stands at over 100 megawatts (MW) on an average a day, has severely affected the



Arms haul: Pak national held

By Staff Correspondent
 Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested a Pakistani national Tuesday midnight and brought two local citizens for interrogation in connection See Page 12 Col 2

Eliadah, others formally charged

By Staff Correspondent

Charges against five accused persons, four of them foreign nationals, in the sensational drug case were formally charged in the Court of the Second Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka, Wednesday.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Abdur Razzaq read out the charges against the five accused, two of whom are still at large.

The three accused foreign nationals including a teenaged American girl Eliadah McCord, produced in the court yesterday heard the charges against them and pleaded to See Page 12 Col 4

50 hurt as rival students clash in Islamic Varsity

KUSHTIA, Nov 25: Islamic University was today closed for a week after rival groups of students clashed on the campus leaving at least 50 injured, reports UNB.

Residents of the halls were asked to vacate the dormitories by 6 pm today (Wednesday).

Amjad and Aktaruzzaman, both students of the university were sent to capital Dhaka with grievous injury in their eyes while an outsider Nurur Hossain (25) was admitted to the sadar hospital, hospital sources said.

Hospital in a critical condition. The tendons of their legs were cut.

The clash ensued when Shibir activists allegedly tried to show up its strength on the campus and Awami League Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikkyo (GCO) went for resistance, campus sources said.

Riot police was called in to ward off the trouble. The police fired 7 tear gas shells to disperse the students who were in a state of confrontation.

Later, 4 university buses carrying students to Jhenidah came under severe attack on See Page 12 Col 7

Dateline Nabagram—1 Jotdars make landless farmers' lives miserable

Masud Hasan Khan back from Noakhali

Thousands of landless people living along the seaside farming areas in Noakhali district are being harassed and repressed continuously by big land owners (jotdars) because of legal loopholes and widespread corruption.

The landless farmers are being beaten up, sometimes killed, their houses being burned down, wives and daughters molested and crops snatched away.

After a three-day visit to a distant char area under Sudharam Thana, this correspondence understood:

There is a serious conflict of interest between the land grabbers and the landless farmers organised under different landless farmers' associations and cooperatives.

- Law is being enforced irregularly.
- The government's land settlement laws are erratic, and sometimes, contradictory.
- There is widespread forgery and other malpractices, and above all
- There is a general lawlessness creating a complicated situation in the rich alluvial plains near the Bay of

Bengal where the landless people have been settled to begin a new life.

With the beginning of winter harvesting in November, the char-dwellers fear that the sea bound rivers would wash down more dead bodies, more injured would land in hospitals, and others would have to start all over again.

The burned out houses of Jebal Huq, Yusuf Ali, Noor Muhammad and five other landless farmers in Nabagram Mouja have become just black spots amid a vast embrodered See Page 12 Col 1



Rezia Begum and her children sit amid the charred remains of what was once their home. —Photo: Masud Hasan Khan