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NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda, Hasina
shocked

Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia and Awami League
chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday
condolled the loss of valuable
lives and property in Southern
Egypt. In separate messages
sent to Egyptian President
Mohammed Hosni Mubarak, they
said, "We are deeply
shocked and grieved to learn
about the loss of valuable lives
and property caused by the
devastating blaze in Southern
Egypt," reports UNB.

Pvt pry teachers'
memo to PM

A delegation of the Bang-
ladesh Private Primary School
Teachers Association submitted
a memorandum to Prime
Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at
her office yesterday afternoon,
reports BSS.

Hasina goes to
Tungipara today

Awami League president
and Leader of the Opposition
in Parliament Sheikh Hasina
will leave Dhaka today to offer
safetah at her father's mazar in
Tungipara. She will return to
Dhaka tomorrow, reports UNB.

Italian envoy
hosts reception

Ambassador of Italy to Bang-
ladesh, Claudio Pacifico, held a
reception in Dhaka yesterday
evening in observance of the
National Day of Italy. The
reception was attended by mi-
nisters, political leaders, civil
and military officers, journal-
ists, diplomats and elite of the
city, reports BSS.

College student
held with heroin

BRAHMANBARIA, Nov 3: Police rounded up a student
from the Ashuganj Ferry Ghat
on Monday and seized 500
gram heroin worth Tk 60 lakh
from his possession. He was
identified as Joynal Abedin, a
resident of village Chander-
kandi in Raipura thana of
Narsingdi district and 3rd year
(honours) student of the Jagannath
Studies of the Jagannath
University College, reports UNB.

Opposition's 'no' to BNP formula

By Staff Correspondent

The Commonwealth-mediated
government-Opposition dialogue
yesterday faced a fresh
hurdle after the Opposition
officially rejected the ruling
BNP's compromise formula re-
garding a caretaker govern-
ment.

Government negotiators had
Saturday suggested an interim
administration ahead of the
next general elections to be
headed by the incumbent Prime
Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.
The plan, envisaging a nine-
member "mini-cabinet", also
provided for the inclusion of
Opposition members of the current
Parliament in power-sharing
arrangement.

According to sources in the
Opposition camp, Samad Azad

also handed over a copy of the
Opposition's own caretaker govern-
ment formula to Sir Ninian.

In it, the Opposition is learnt
to have made a departure from
its original plan — announced
on June 27 last — for constituting
a caretaker government without any representation from
the ruling party, the sources
said.

"But there has been no fundamental
change in the Opposition plan," an Awami League
leader told this correspondent.
He refused to elaborate.

Meanwhile, senior government
leaders yesterday rejected
any possibility of conceding to
the Opposition demand for a

See Page 12 Col 1

Opposition doesn't want to share power : Hasina

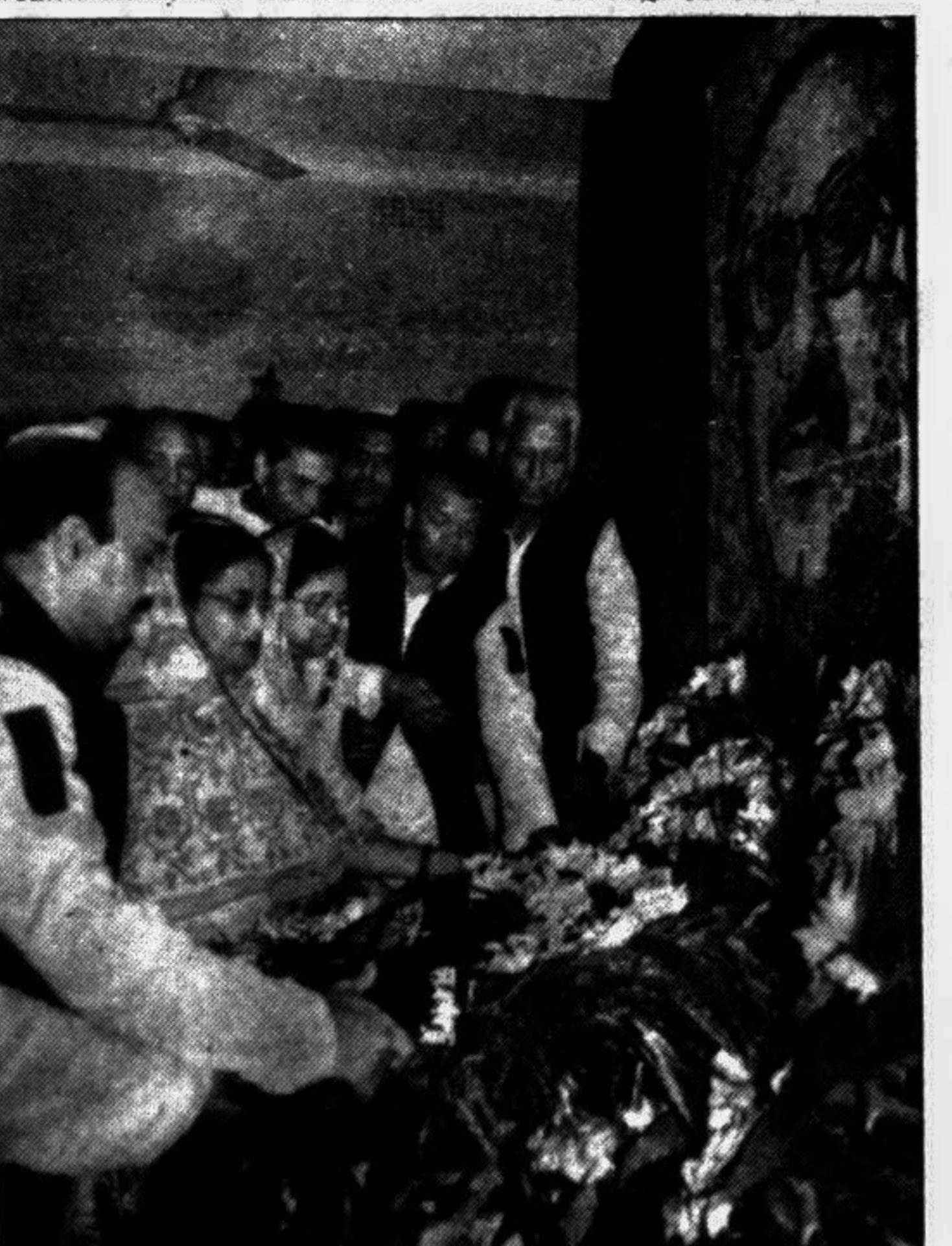
Sheikh Hasina yesterday
spurned the ruling party proposal
for a national government with
Opposition representation in it to conduct
Parliament elections, reports
UNB.

"We don't want to share
power," said the Leader of the
Opposition, in an apparent refer-
ence to the offer handed to her
political adviser in writing on
Tuesday by Christopher
Childs, an aide of Commonwealth
envoy Sir Ninian Ste-

phen mediating the govern-
ment-Opposition dialogue.

The compromise formula of
the BNP on the Opposition
demand for a caretaker govern-
ment outlined the national
government as a mini-cabinet
under Prime Minister Begum
Khaleda Zia with members
drawn from among the MPs of
the outgoing Parliament.

Hasina categorically said the
BNP had totally lost its credi-
bility with the people and
See Page 12 Col 1



Opposition Leader and Awami League president Sheikh Hasina, along with other party leaders, placing wreaths at the portrait of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman at the Bangabandhu Bhaban in Dhanmondi in the city yesterday to mark the Jail Killing Day.

— Star photo

Two Bosnians hijack SAS airliner with 128 aboard

OSLO, Nov 3: An SAS air-
liner hijacked today in northern
Norway landed at around

1630 GMT at Gardemoen air-
port, north of here, and air-
port police said the two hij-
ackers were Bosnian national-
als, reports AFP.

There were passengers
aboard the plane when it was
commandeered on a domestic
flight from Bardufoss to Oslo.

Gardemoen airport, located
some 50 kilometers outside
the capital, cancelled all
flights, according to the airport
manager.

The aircraft was directed to
the combined military-civilian

runway at one end of the air-
port, he said.

He could not reveal further
operational details.

Police said they did not
know the demands of the hij-
ackers.

SAS in Stockholm also said
that the hijackers were not
Scandinavian.

The plane originally had
123 passengers and six crew
members on board, according to
Ranum, although SAS main-
tains that there were 122 pass-
engers.

Some 45 passengers on
board the McDonnell Douglas
82 were released by the hij-
ackers.

jackers after re-fuelling the air-
craft, Bodoe police said.

"All the released passengers
are currently being questioned
by police," Police Chief Super-
intendent Mertha Ranum said.

She did not know why the
passengers were selected to
leave, although one child was
among those let go.

There have been contacts with
the hijackers, she said, but
would not provide details.

The hijackers had re-
quested a technician on board
and more fuel before lifting off
from Bodoe. It is not yet known
whether those demands were met.

Politicians in S Asia abuse strikes, says Asiaweek

Strikes and work stoppages
are being used by the politi-
cians of Bangladesh and other
South Asian countries for their
own causes at the expense of
the workers as well as the na-
tion.

"Such misguided work stop-
pages do little for South
Asia's image abroad," said an
editorial of the Asiaweek, a
prominent Hong Kong based
weekly, in its November 2 is-
sue, reports UNB.

The strikes in Bangladesh
and other neighbours shut

down stock exchanges and
foreign currency markets, not
to mention thousands of vari-
ous businesses, it said.

Quoting official figures, the
weekly said that each day
workers' failure to show up
costs Bangladesh at least 50
million US dollars (ap-
proximately Tk 200 million) in
lost production.

And no one can put a price tag
on the loss of life that
inevitably occurs during such
nationwide disorders, the
Asiaweek remarked about

strike hit Bangladesh.

It described nationwide
strikes as a self-imposed han-
dicap and commented that in
a world where capitalism is

king, competition for invest-
ment has become the name of
the game.

The strikes, it said, heighten
international perceptions of
political instability and eco-
nomic risk, and deflect capital
to rival economies.

They also siphon govern-
ment attention and resources
away from real problems, such

Prime Minister indisposed

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Kha-
leda Zia has been suffering
from high fever with cold during
the past two days, forcing her
to reschedule appoint-
ments, a PM's Office source said.

"She could not attend office
of any scheduled programme
yesterday and today because of
a high fever," one source said.

One senior cabinet minister
confirmed her indisposition
and said the Prime Minister
was feeling unwell since Tues-
day when she inaugurated the
Meghna-Gumti bridge.

Her personal physician has
advised complete rest for a
couple of days.

Prisoner killed in foiled jailbreak at Narsingdi

See Page 12 Col 1

NARSINGDI, Nov 3: A fierce
clash Wednesday night be-
tween prisoners and guards of
the Narsingdi jail left one person
dead and eight others injured, police
and hospital sources here said, reports UNB.

The clash occurred after
nine prisoners had tried to
escape from the jail by cutting
the iron bars of their prison
cells with hack-saw blades at
about 11:30 pm.

Jail guards resorted to baton
charge to thwart the fleeing
prisoners, who retaliated by
attacking with iron rods, chains
and sticks. Seven prisoners
and two guards were injured in
the melee.

Of the injured prisoners,
Dilu, 45, succumbed to his in-
juries. See Page 12 Col 8



THE TALL AND THE SHORT: The tallest entrant of the Miss World contest, Maste Helbeger of Germany, 1.85m, and the shortest, Chalorna Freitas of Guam, 1.55m, pose for photographers Wednesday at Sun City before the pageant, set for November 19. — AFP photo

Shantibahini agrees to extend truce until Dec 31

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Nov 3: The
Shantibahini leaders have
reportedly agreed to extend the
ceasefire in CHT districts until
December 31 as proposed by the
government.

The ceasefire now in force
there will expire on November
30.

Besides, the next round of
peace-talks which was sched-
uled to be resumed by the first
week of this month, may be
shifted to the first-half of
December.

According to sources, the
delay in holding the next
round of dialogue is due to
preoccupation of government
leaders with the current political
crisis. The Shantibahini leaders
also are reportedly locked in
internal feud.

The internecine rivalry in
Shantibahini leadership has
already led to the house-arrest
See Page 12 Col 8

IMF denies Hasina's claim

By Staff Correspondent

The International Monetary
Fund (IMF) has contradicted
Awami League chief Sheikh
Hasina's allegations of budgetary
misappropriation against the
government made at a recent
public meeting.

In a letter faxed to The
Daily Star, the IMF resident
representative said, "With refer-
ence to the article in The
Daily Star of November 2: Hasina
threatens at public meeting: Accept demand or
MPs will resign en masse, the
IMF would like to state that it
has made no report which al-
leges or implies budgetary
misappropriations."

The copies of the letter
signed by Shaheddin Khenissi
and addressed to The Daily
Star editor, were also sent to
the Managing Directors of the
BSS and UNB news agencies.

At a rally at Manik Mia
Avenue on Tuesday, Sheikh
Hasina threatened to resign
See Page 12 Col 6

Ashish Kumar Lohu dead

Noted film, television, radio
and stage artiste Ashish Kumar
Lohu died of cancer in the
pancreas at a city clinic last
night, family sources said. He
was 57, reports UNB.

Ashish Kumar Lohu, who
entered the filmdom in 1960,
had acted in more than 300
films.

Lohu, who became popular
as comedian Hira after his role
in TV series 'Hira Chuni Panna'
of the late 60s, wrote over 100
film scripts and numerous plays.

The late artiste who hailed
from Mymensingh left behind
his wife, two sons and a host of
friends and relations to mourn
his death.

The body of Lohu will re-
main at his Green Road resi-
dence till 11 am today before
cremation.

Employment Opportunity

A leading English daily newspaper is looking for:

ADVERTISEMENT MANAGER (1): Will be responsible for running of the Advertisement Section and for implementing policies to acquire/promote business, marketing in new and diverse areas. Applicants should be able marketing persons with creative ideas. Must be a "go-getter" with strong communication skills. Minimum qualification: Graduate in Marketing / MBA.

BUSINESS REPRESENTATIVES/SENIOR EXECUTIVE (2): Responsible for securing/promoting business and marketing of the newspaper. Must be able to identify and explore new areas of business with marketing strategies. Minimum qualification: Graduate in Marketing/MBAs.

COLLECTION REPRESENTATIVES (2): For collection of