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NEWS BRIEFS

Three killed in road mishaps

Three people were killed and three others injured in two road accidents in and around the city yesterday. Police said a tempo, hit by a truck near Mollarpur in Keraniganj thana on Dhaka-Mawa highway at 5pm, fell into a roadside ditch leaving two people killed and three others injured.

In another accident, Rasheda Begum, 10, a pedestrian, was run over by a microbus at Shaymoli on Ring Road at 11 am, reports UNB.

Call for hartal at Rajbari today

RAJBARI, Nov 25: A faction of the BNP has called for dawn-to-dusk hartal here tomorrow demanding resignation of State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahan Ara Begum as minister and district BNP president. The faction led by district BNP General Secretary Rokonuddin Chowdhury, brought charges of corruption and nepotism against Jahan Ara and alleged that she had amassed wealth through her NGO 'Nari Adhikar Bastabayan Sangstha' here, reports UNB.

Tremors jolt Maharashtra

BOMBAY, Nov 25: Mild tremors today were reported in three towns in the western Indian state of Maharashtra, which was ravaged by a killer tremor last year, but here were no casualties, police said here. People ran out of their homes in panic in the towns of Koyna, Kasni and Dhebewadi, they said, but there were no reports of damage, reports AFP.

Hospital packed with casualties

Bosnian govt troops flee Bihac en masse

SARAJEVO, Nov 25: Out-gunned Bosnian government troops retreated en masse from the northwest Bosnian town of Bihac today as Serb forces poured into the UN-declared 'safe area' and set up position to take Bihac town itself, reports AFP.

Bihac hung in limbo early today after government troops defending its streets fled into the countryside and enemy Serbs camped at its gate, holding fire, a UN official said from the scene.

Invading Serb forces on the edge of the town held their fire after the Bosnian army withdrew and made a desperate bid to regroup its defences in the north of the enclave.

A UN military source in Zagreb said that around 1,000 Bosnian Serb troops were within the UN-protected 'safe area', but outside the town.

The Serb advance through

the Security Zone 'appeared' to have halted, the source said, with both sides seeming to camp down in present positions.

UN Protection Force spokesman Major Koos Sol said in

BRUSSELS, Nov 25: NATO aircraft today launched an air strike in Bosnia, NATO sources said. There were no details immediately available of the nature or location of the target, reports Reuter.

Dhaka in constant touch with troops

Bangladesh is in constant touch with the United Nations and the Bangladesh contingent commander in Bihac over the safety and other matters related to the contingent, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman said today.

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Sarajevo mid-afternoon that at the time of the Bosnian Serb advance only 400 Bosnian troops had remained in the town out of a force earlier estimated at between 10,000 and 15,000.

More than 1,100 Bangladeshi UN troops are also trapped in the enclave.

But there was no sign of an exodus of the town's 48,000-strong population.

Reuter adds: Fear gripped thousands of people surrounded in Bihac today as no more than 300 Muslim-led defenders tried desperately to prevent Serb forces from over-running the 'safe area,' UN sources said.

The hospital was packed with casualties, markets and food shops were completely bare and some of the people cowering in their homes wept openly, said a UN aid worker.

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Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at the Faridpur High School ground yesterday. — AL sources

Opposition surprised at Emeka's statement

The Opposition yesterday expressed its surprise at the Commonwealth Secretary General's reported remark that his envoy had not been partisan in mediating an end to the political crisis in Bangladesh.

Moudud contradicts Emeka's statement

A top-leader of the Jatiya Party yesterday contradicted Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeka Anyaoku's statement that his envoy Sir Ninian Stephen had been non-partisan in mediating an end to the political crisis in Bangladesh.

The statement of the Commonwealth Secretary General is

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Caretaker govt now demand of the masses, says Hasina

FARIDPUR, Nov 25: Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina today asked the ruling BNP either to accept the demand for a neutral non-party caretaker government or quit, reports UNB.

"It is clear like daylight that a fair election is not possible under the BNP... Only a non-party caretaker government could ensure a fair election," she told a big public meeting at the Faridpur High School premises.

Hasina said, her party is fighting for the people's voting right trampled after the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975. "The demand for a caretaker government was not a demand of only the Awami League but of the masses."

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16 buses for 10 thousand DU non-resident students



Dhaka University students clinging precariously on to the door handles of an over-crowded students' bus in the city

By Masud Arif

A large number of students of Dhaka University living in different areas of the city are facing acute transport problem.

For some 10 thousand non-resident students of the DU, there are only 16 buses. As a result, many students cling to the door handles, window frames front and rear bumpers of the buses or jostle inside for space on their way to and from the campus and many others are simply left behind.

Those who somehow manage to cling that way get drenched in shower during the monsoon and get scorched under a blazing sun during the summer.

"There is no end to it," said Mizanur Rahman, a Master's final year student. "You have to suffer day in and day out."

The officials concerned of the transport section of the university said six buses for the students were out of order for

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A colourful anti-AIDS rally was brought out by AIDS awareness committee in the city yesterday. —Star photo

PM's Maldives visit successful: Mostafiz

The two-day visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the Maldives went off 'very well' and this will bring the two South Asian nations more closer both in bilateral and the SAARC context, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman said in Dhaka yesterday.

"It is a very successful visit," he told BSS and added that the Prime Minister's talks with Maldivian President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom focussed on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern.

The Prime Minister returned Thursday night from the two-day trip.

On the bilateral plane, the foreign minister said several decisions were taken to promote cooperation including concrete steps that the pri-

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Nepali CP poised to form minority govt

KATHMANDU, Nov 25: The Communist Party won a chance to form a minority government today when the former ruling party, the Nepali Congress, failed to enlist a coalition partner, reports AP.

Though the party's Marxism has been softened, Nepal would have the world's first communist-led government under a monarch.

The way was cleared for the communists when the small National Democratic Party, which held the balance of power after a deadlocked election, spurned a coalition offer from the Nepali Congress.

"The party decided to sit in the opposition," said Democratic Party leader Surya Bahadur Thapa, after a five-hour meeting.

The communists must win a vote of confidence in parliament within 30 days of being appointed by the king to lead the government.

On Thursday, the Congress and the communists submitted competing bids for the government to King Birendra, whose family had ruled a feudal

'Wrong diagnosis has crippled me'

By Staff Correspondent

"While I was not carrying any HIV, a reputed pathological laboratory diagnosed that I was an AIDS patient, crippling me both mentally and socially," the victim told a press conference in the city yesterday.

Twenty six-year old Habibur Rahman, a resident of 90, Dinanath Sen Road, Gandaria said that on November 10, a national daily reported him to be an AIDS patient on the basis of pathological tests by a diagnostic centre at Elephant Road in the city.

He demanded compensation from those concerned.

Habibur Rahman further said at the press conference that blood tests by the National AIDS Committee and the Infectious Disease Hospital afterwards clearly showed that he was not carrying any HIV. He also produced before the newsmen photocopies of the test results.

Managing Director of the diagnostic centre concerned was quoted in the report published on November 10 as saying "Habibur Rahman's blood

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Hartal observed at Bogra protesting Azam's meeting

BOGRA, Nov 25: A dawn-to-dusk hartal to protest Jamaat leader Golam Azam's public meeting here disrupted normal life in the town, reports UNB.

Jamaat chief Golam Azam, however, addressed the party's scheduled rally at a changed venue, Betagi, six kilometres from here, amid tight security.

The meeting venue was shifted from the town following agitation by political opponents.

Witnesses said the hartal called by the Anti-Communal Student Unity passed off peacefully except a few sporadic clashes between activists of the Unity and Jamaat-Shibir.

Police baton-charged pedestrians after some home-made bombs had gone off in front of Awami League office at

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Delhi wants to import more newsprint from Bangladesh

NEW DELHI, Nov 25: Indian Commerce Minister Pranab Mukherjee said here yesterday that his country wanted to increase import of urea and newsprint from Bangladesh, reports BSS.

During talks with the visiting Bangladesh Industries Minister, A M Zahiruddin Khan, Mukherjee also said that India was willing to enter into long-term agreement with Bangladesh for import of newsprint. He also proposed the setting up of urea plants under joint venture of the two countries.

Earlier, Zahiruddin attended a luncheon meeting hosted for him by the Confederation of Indian Industries.

Speaking on the occasion, he mentioned the favourable investment climate in Bangladesh and called upon Indian investors to set up joint venture industries, including paper and pulp mills, based on green jute, in which Bangladesh has achieved a break

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