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NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina, Khaleda
greet Adhikari

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina have felicitated the new Prime Minister of Nepal, Manmohan Adhikari, on his assumption of the office. In separate messages to the Nepalese Prime Minister, Begum Zia and Sheikh Hasina expressed the confidence that the excellent bilateral relations so happily existing between the two friendly countries would be further strengthened in the days to come, reports UNB.

Cases against 6
postal employees

CHITTAGONG, Nov 30: The Bureau of Anti-Corruption here today filed five separate cases against six employees of the Chittagong General Post Office on charges of misappropriation of about Tk 4.50 lakh, an official source said. One deputy post master general is among the accused persons. The amount was collected by the accused from owners of 168 vehicles. They allegedly showed fake entry in ledger and did not deposit the money, reports BSS.

Hartal observed
in Pabna

PABNA, Nov 30: A half-day hartal from 6:00 am to 12:00 noon was observed here today to protest closure of local Calico Cotton Mills (CCM). The hartal called by CCM Sangram Parishad was observed peacefully. All government and non-government offices and business establishments remained closed during hartal period, reports BSS.

Tk 5 lakh looted
from Krishi Bank

MANIKGANJ, Nov 30: Da-
coits looted Tk 5 lakh from the
Balis branch of the Bangla-
desh Krishi Bank in Dhamrai
thana on Tuesday night, police
said today. Bandits numbering
10 to 12 tied the bank's night
guard to the grille, broke open
its vault and decamped with
the money at midnight. UNB.

JS passes Bill to strengthen EC

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yes-
terday passed the Repre-
sentation of the People (Amend-
ment) Bill, 1994, empowering the
Election Commission to 'ensure a
foolproof electoral system in
the country.'

The amendments to the
original law, made in 1972,
was approved by the House,
with the Opposition benches
empty, amidst thunderous
cheers from the ruling
Bangladesh Nationalist Party
(BNP) legislators.

Law Minister Mirza Golam
Hafiz, who moved the Bill dur-
ing the last budget session,
told the House yesterday,
"With the passage of the Bill,

Under the new law, no bal-
lot paper will be issued to a
voter at any polling station until
and unless he produces an
identity card, issued by the EC,
before the polling officer con-
cerned.

Where the Commission
withdraws any officer or a per-
son

The new law has also pro-
vided the EC the authority to
stop polling at any station at
any stage if it is convinced that
elections could not be held
fairly due to malpractices, in-
cluding coercion, intimidation
and pressure upon the voters
by any quarter concerned.

The EC will now enjoy the
authority to withdraw any officer
including law enforcing
agency men performing elec-
tion duty, who obstructs or at-
tempts to obstruct or prevent
the holding of elections freely
and fairly.

Where the Commission
withdraws any officer or a per-
son

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Excerpts from the text of
the new piece of legislation
will be published in the inside
pages of tomorrow's issue.

Remittances go up but manpower export falls

By Sohel Manzur

Remittances from overseas
Bangladeshis increased by 18
per cent during the last two
years although manpower ex-
port declined sharply, accord-
ing to official sources.

Most of these countries have
reduced the job market for
foreign workers due to
problems in their own econ-
omies. They have also reduced
the wages of foreign workers

substantially which has dis-
couraged Bangladeshi workers
to look for jobs in these coun-
tries, the officials said, adding
some of the countries have

even restricted employment of
foreign nationals by under-
taking various regulatory mea-
sures.

The earning in remittances
rose to Tk 4356.83 crore in
1993-94 from Tk 3698.46
crore in 1992-93.

Officials at the Bureau of
Manpower Employment and
Training told The Daily Star
yesterday shrinking job oppor-
tunities in the Middle East

See Page 12 Col 7

Khaleda invited to attend OIC summit

Visiting special envoy of
King Hassan of Morocco, Dr
Mollay Driss Alaoui Al-M'Daghri
yesterday formally handed over
an invitation to Prime Minister
Begum Khaleda Zia to attend the
forthcoming OIC Summit in
Morocco, reports UNB.

The two-day Summit of the
Organisation of Islamic Confer-
ence is scheduled for Decem-
ber 13-14 in the Moroccan At-
lantic coast city of Casablanca.

Begum Zia accepted the
invitation and said she is looking
forward to meeting the leaders
of the Islamic Ummah.

During the meeting, the
Prime Minister stressed the
need for united and tangible
steps to mitigate different
problems faced by the Islamic
Ummah, particularly the Mus-
lims of Bosnia-Herzegovina.

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Troops in Bihac performing duties with courage: Mostafiz

Foreign Minister A S M
Mostafizur Rahman told the
Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that
Bangladesh was in constant
touch with the United Nations
for the safety of the Bangla-
deshi peacekeeping forces in
Bosnia.

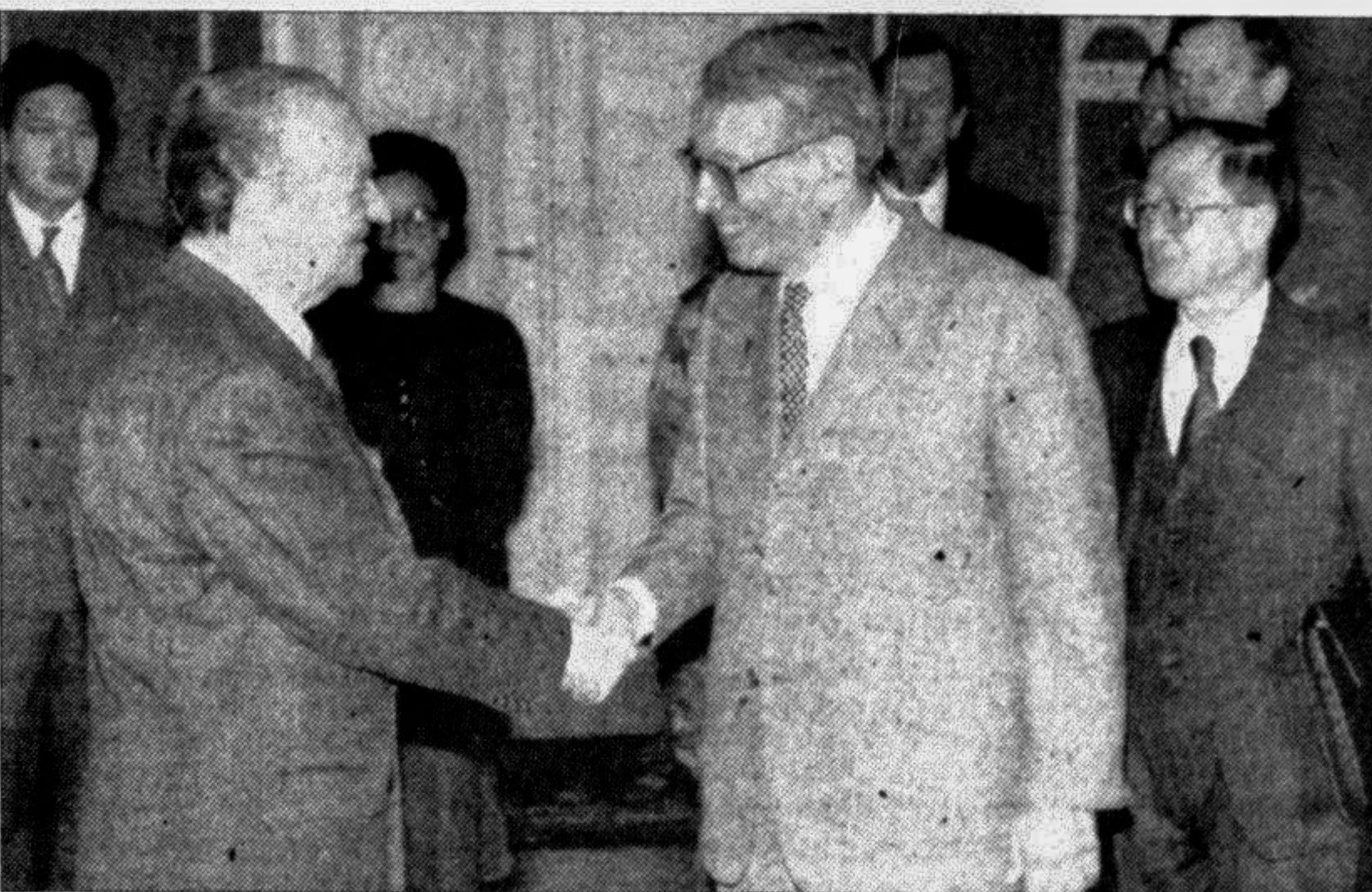
Replying to a call attention
notice raised by BNP member
Abdur Rouf Chowdhury (Ku-
shita-2), the foreign minister
quoting UN sources said, "The
world body will play its role to
ensure the safety of
Bosnian Serbs.

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quoting UN sources said, "The
world body will play its role to
ensure the safety of
Bosnian Serbs.

President Alija Izetbegovic
told UN Secretary-General Boutros-
Ghali that Bosnia would
negotiate only when
Serbs accepted a plan that
they repeatedly have rejected.

He also told Boutros-Ghali
that he was trying to arrange a
cease-fire and to save the
hard-pressed UN peacekeep-
ing mission in Bosnia, that his
republic was ready for a tem-
porary cease-fire on its own
terms.

See Page 12 Col 8



Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic (L) welcomes UN Secretary General Boutros-Ghali (C) upon his arrival in Sarajevo yesterday as Yasushi Akashi (R), UN envoy to the former Yugoslavia, looks on.

— AFP photo

No ceasefire in sight

Bosnia rejects any compromise

UN spokesman Thant My-
int-U said earlier that Boutros-
Ghali would be pressing for a
cease-fire and an end to ha-
rassment of UN peacekeepers
in his one-day trip to Sarajevo.
If that failed to happen, he
said, Boutros-Ghali could
suggest 'termination of the UN
mission.'

Bosnian Serbs were sig-
nalling that they would bargain
hard. Doubts emerged about
whether Boutros-Ghali even
would be able to meet Bosnian
Serb leader Radovan Karadzic,
as planned.

Sources said Karadzic did
not want to travel to the Sar-
ajevo airport to meet Boutros-
Ghali, and that the secretary
general was struggling to establish
people's right to 'vote.'

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Opposition meets
today to finalise
next course
of action

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties in
Parliament will meet today to
finalise their next course of
action including resignation
from the House to press home
their demand for a caretaker
government for holding gen-
eral elections. Opposition
sources said.

The meeting scheduled for
5 pm at the Sangsad Bhaban
is to be chaired by Awami League
chief and Leader of the
Opposition in Parliament
Sheikh Hasina, the sources
said.

One source, who is an AL
leader, said that the next
course of action may be an
announced on December 6.

The major opposition par-
ties — the AL, the Jatiya Party
and the Jamaat-e-Islami will
See Page 12 Col 7

Gear up struggle
for caretaker
govt: Hasina

Awami League President
and Leader of the Opposition
Sheikh Hasina yesterday called
upon the people to gear up the
struggle for neutral caretaker
government into a successful
finalise. UNB.

She urged them to express
no-confidence in the 'vote
dacoit, terrorist and corrupt BNP
government' by observing a
total hartal on December 7 and 8.

She was addressing a func-
tional residence on the occasion of
joining of some 10,000 work-
ers to Awami League from
Fatullah, Godhnal and Sid-
hingan areas of Narayanganj
district. Alhaj Abdul Awal, an
industrialist, led the team.

Hasina said Awami League
was struggling to establish
people's right to 'vote.'

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FBCCI invites AL,
BNP leaders to
discuss situation

The Federation of Bangla-
desh Chambers of Commerce
and Industry (FBCCI) has
invited top leaders of the
ruling BNP and the main Op-
position Awami League to a
meeting to discuss the coun-
try's economic situation.

"We want to apprise them of
the impact on the economy of
the prevailing crisis," arising
from the Opposition's contin-
ued boycott of Parliament de-
manding elections under a
caretaker government, FBCCI
President Salman F Rahman told
told UNB last night.

The court asked the direc-
tor of the hospital to constitute
a body for conducting the
autopsy and also asked the
Additional Chief Metropolitan
Magistrate, Dhaka, Kamal
Uddin, to carry out a judicial
inquiry into the circumstances
of Sanaullah's death.

Although no date has been
fixed, sources said, the meet-
ing is expected before the Op-
position's 48-hour hartal De-
cember 7-8 to press for a non-
party caretaker government to
conduct elections, a demand
termed "unconstitutional" by
the ruling party.

On Monday, the federation
requested Prime Minister Be-

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BMA polls today

By Staff Correspondent

The 25th elections of the
Bangladesh Medical Associa-
tion (BMA) will be held today
at 67 polling centres across
the country from 8 am to 5
pm.

About 12 thousand mem-
bers of the association are
likely to cast votes for candi-
dates for a total of 187 posts
which include that of the
president and secretary gen-
eral of the organisation. The
number of central executive
committee posts is 32.

Election campaigns by five
different panels continued till
last night. In the city, sup-
porters of different panels were
found busy visiting members of
the BMA in different hospitals

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Sheikh Lutfar Rahman dead

Country's noted singer and
composer of popular gitaro-
geet (patriotic songs) Sheikh
Lutfar Rahman died at his
Siddeswar residence in Dhaka
yesterday after a prolonged
illness. He was 74, reports
BSS.

The head of the Nazrulgeet
department of the Music Col-
lege till his death. Sheikh Lut-
far Rahman will be ever re-
membered by the countrymen
for his popular songs which in

See Page 12 Col 1

Competition of irresponsible statements

By Mahfuz Anam

that the PM has decided that
no peaceful solution to the
present political crisis can be
found, and therefore the oppo-
sition's street threat has to be
met in the streets. Even if the
opposition is guilty of the most
extreme provocation, the
highest officer of law and
order, the holder of the office
that exemplifies everything leg-
al, constitutional, moral and
ethical cannot even hint,

leave alone publicly pronounce,
a policy that leads to street
level confrontation, causing a
law and order situation. Imag-
ine now that her JCD boys go
on a BCL and AL bashing ram-
page, leading to one single
death. Can the PM then, evade
public responsibility of having
instigated a situation that led