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NEWS BRIEFS

Road link restored

From Our Correspondent
 GAIBANDHA, Oct 13: Road link between Gaibandha and eight other northern districts was restored today with the reconstruction of a collapsed baily bridge at Talola in Gaibandha district. The original bridge on the highway collapsed in the current flood 14 days ago. The road link was restored with a baily bridge Monday last but it had also collapsed Tuesday.

BAF team leaves for Kuwait

The second batch of the Bangladesh Air Force flying contingent comprising 12 BAF personnel along with a Bell-212 helicopter to provide air transport services to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (Unikom) left for Kuwait by a special UN aircraft yesterday. According to an ISPR press release, the first batch of the contingent left for Kuwait on September 22, reports BSS.

Arafat, Peres meet tomorrow

GAZA, Oct 13: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres will try at a meeting on Sunday to solve what a PLO spokesman called "a crisis" over their West Bank deal. Spokesman Nabil Abu Raddah on Thursday said Peres called to set the meeting and Arafat accepted. PLO officials said the time and place had yet to be determined, reports Reuter.

Dhaka-Tehran call to lift arms ban on Bosnia

Bangladesh and Iran yesterday called for lifting of the UN Security Council arms embargo on Bosnia to enable the people of Bosnia to exercise their inherent right of self-defence, reports BSS.

The two sides at the official talks between Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, expressed their "deep concern" over the deteriorating situation facing Bosnia-Herzegovina, a joint communique issued to mark the conclusion of a four-day state visit by the Iranian leader said.

The two countries emphasised the strengthening of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) efforts to alleviate the suffering of the

Bosnian brethren and protect and preserve the sovereignty, political independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Bosnia in the troubled Balkans.

President Rafsanjani welcomed the initiative of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for holding an emergency OIC summit on Bosnia.

The two countries also called for non-discriminatory and universal measures for complete and general disarmament so that international peace and security could be preserved undisturbed from fear of weapons of mass destruction.

The two countries underlined their obligations to the objectives of complete and general disarmament, par-

ticularly in connection with weapons of mass destruction.

At the official talks the delegations of the two sides also had wide-ranging discussions on bilateral, regional and international issues, the communique said.

It said that the two sides exchanged views on upcoming UN reforms, specially restructuring the Security Council and called for an expansion of the UN functioning to make it "truly representative" of the UN membership and for the representation of the developing countries of Asia in the new structure in compliance with this policy and by respecting the principle of geographical distribution.

The communique said that

the two sides discussed at length the need for mutual consultations and cooperation on regional, Islamic and global issues in all international forums including the United Nations, the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), the Non-aligned Movement and the Group of 77.

While reviewing the regional situation the two sides emphasised the importance of preserving peace and tranquility in the region and called upon all countries in it to cooperate constructively for its peace, prosperity and progress on the basis of respect for sovereign equality and territorial integrity of all the states and non-interference.

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Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday made a courtesy call on Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani at state guest house Karotia. — Star photo

Hasina calls on Rafsanjani

By Staff Correspondent
 Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday called on Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani at the state guest house Karotia.

The AL leader conveyed her good wishes to the Iranian President on behalf of her party and the people of Bangladesh. Sheikh Hasina also expressed the hope that the relationship between the two countries would be strengthened further.

The two leaders exchanged views on the prevailing socio-economic condition and political situations in Bangladesh and some international issues including the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

According to party sources, during the meeting the Iranian President enquired about the political situation in Bangladesh.

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Joint Commission to meet in Tehran Nov 11-13

Bangladesh and Iran will hold a meeting of their joint commission in Tehran from November 11 to 13, as part of the continuing efforts of the two countries, to enhance mutually beneficial cooperation in different fields, reports BSS.

A joint communique issued to mark the just concluded visit to Bangladesh by Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani said the joint commission could increase the potential for cooperation.

Officials said that the second meeting of the joint commission would follow up the decisions agreed between the two countries during President Rafsanjani's visit.

According to a decision at the Bangladesh-Iran official talks on Wednesday the commission had been entrusted with the responsibility to identify more areas for bilateral cooperation.

Bangladesh, Iran and Turkmenistan yesterday agreed to negotiate and conclude a full-fledged agreement or regional cooperation in transport and transit in the near future.

The ministers of the three countries, at a tripartite meeting have expressed their willingness in this regard.

The communique said that the three ministers also signed a tripartite memorandum of understanding (MOU) on international road and rail transport and transit among the governments of the three countries.

The tripartite MOU gives Bangladesh access to Central Asian republics through Iranian transit to buy as well as sell goods.

The two sides expressed happiness at yesterday's signing of seven memoranda of understanding on cooperation in energy, reciprocal promotion of and protection of investment and technical, scientific and cultural, change programme for the years 1995-97, environmental preservation and forestry, agriculture, post and telecommunications, and prevention of illicit narcotic drug trafficking.

The communique said that the two sides welcomed the signing of a number of MOUs on cooperation between Iranian and Bangladeshi compa-

nies and firms, both in the public and private sectors, in the fields of power equipment, oil refinery, brick machinery, cement, clinker, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), bitumen, rolling mill, utensils, marine construction, pipeline construction, jute industry and products, steel frame, commodities and foodstuffs.

The two sides, the communique said, agreed that their respective national airlines would take necessary measures for establishing air-links between the two countries.

They expressed keenness to exchange visits of leaders, officials and experts between the two countries to promote cooperation in economic, cultural and technical fields.

The two sides, it said, agreed to cooperate in the field of employment and self-employment projects and also in the area of industrial safety.

The communique said that the Iranian side agreed to consider, with a positive attitude, a Bangladesh proposal to provide Iran with required

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Unity among 2 Muslim sects stressed

The visiting President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hojjatul Islam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, yesterday called for unity among the Muslims world over to establish the dignity of Islam, reports BSS.

Addressing the Juma congregation at the Baitul Mokarram national mosque here the Iranian President said unity among the Sunnis and Shi'ites, two sects of the Muslims, could help establish the message of the Holy Quran.

Expressing satisfaction over the unity among Muslims in Bangladesh, Rafsanjani said, in Iran, the Sunnis and Shi'ites are united under the flag of Islam and the Quran.

"With this unity, we have crushed the conspiracies of the anti-Islamic forces including the United States of America. We have kept them (USA) away from Iran," the Iranian President said.

Rafsanjani stressed the need for following the dictates of the Holy Quran for achieving success and said, "We have understood this truth in letter and spirit."

He said if the Muslims are

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WE WANT PEACE: People from different professions brought out a procession from Manik Mia Avenue in the city yesterday to register their concern over the persisting political crisis and seek an immediate solution. The procession paraded through Mirpur Road, Elephant Road and Shabbagh and ended at the Central Shaheed Minar. — Star photo

Group of 5 meets Hasina today AL firm to go ahead with 96-hr hartal

By Staff Correspondent
 Awami League yesterday expressed its firm determination to make the 96-hour countrywide hartal from Monday a total success.

A joint meeting of the party Presidium and Secretariat, held with party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair, urged the people to observe the hartal.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami have called the four-day hartal to press their demands for dissolution of Parliament and general elections under a caretaker government.

The AL meeting also took "some important decisions" for the success of the hartal, said a party press release

without giving details.

It also discussed the latest political situation and socio-economic condition.

Group of 5
 Meanwhile, the group of five eminent citizens is likely to meet Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today as part of its move to arrange a dialogue between her and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to end the persisting political impasse.

The group — comprising former chief justice Kemaluddin Hossain, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Fakhruddin Ahmed and Faiz Ahmed —

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Hartal: BGMEA call to exempt garments sector

By Staff Correspondent
 Chairman of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Redwan Ahmed has appealed to the opposition political parties to exempt garments industries from the purview of the four-day hartal called by the parties from October 16.

In a statement yesterday he said Bangladesh has to export all garments under the American quota within the next two months as the quota year ends one month ahead of the normal schedule.

"The American quota year ends on 31 December 1995, instead of 31 January 1996. So the rest of the days of October, and the next two months are very crucial for the owners of garments industries," he said, Bangladesh

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Nobel Peace Prize goes to Joseph Rotblat

OSLO, Oct 13: The 1995 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded today to veteran anti-nuclear campaigner Joseph Rotblat and the Pugwash Organisations he chairs, reports Reuter.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee that awards the annual prize said it was a specific protest against French nuclear tests.

"The specific message to the French is a protest against the nuclear tests, as it is a protest against nuclear tests in general and nuclear armaments in general," Committee Chairman Francis Sejersted told Reuters television.

Rotblat said he hoped the committee's decision would encourage both France and China to halt their nuclear weapons testing programmes.

A France government statement congratulated Rotblat, while ignoring the criticism from Oslo.

Norway's Nobel Prize Committee said the one million dollars award would be shared equally between Rotblat and the Pugwash Conference "for their efforts to diminish the part played by nuclear arms in international

politics and in the longer run to eliminate such arms."

It said in a statement: "It is the committee's hope that the award of the Nobel Peace Prize for 1995 to Rotblat and to Pugwash will encourage



Joseph Rotblat world leaders to intensify their efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons."

The 86-year-old Polish-born physicist, now a British citizen, told Reuters in London: "I am glad that our work has received official recognition and I hope that it will help other scientists recognise their social responsibility."

JN College teachers meet PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for turning the country's population into human resources for eliminating poverty, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister was addressing the teachers of the Jagannath University College yesterday evening at 30 Hare Road.

Mentioning that her government has been attaching paramount importance on education since an educated nation can turn a country into

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Operations at ENT dept of PG Hospital resume

By Staff Correspondent
 The Ear, Nose and Throat (ENT) department of the PG Hospital resumed surgical operations on Thursday, 22 days after all operations were suspended following theft of 40 vital equipment sets.

A senior doctor at the department said that they started performing operations as soon as some sets were provided by the authorities.

"The hospital bought whatever was available at the local markets and we have somehow started to perform the major operations," said the doctor, requesting anonymity.

All operations at the ENT

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RU relaxes ban on political activities

From RU Correspondent
 RAJSHAHI, Oct 13: The ban on the political and cultural activities at the Rajshahi University will be relaxed from tomorrow after a span of more than two years, says a press release issued by the Acting Registrar.

The 12-point code of conduct issued today by the university authorities made it mandatory for all student organisations to take prior permission of the university administration one day ahead of the programme.

The organisations will now be allowed to hold meetings

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Consumer Protection Act '95 finalised Jail upto 3 years proposed for food adulteration

By Mizan Ali
 The final draft of the Consumer Protection Act, 1995 has proposed a maximum punishment of three-year imprisonment or a fine of Tk 10,000 or both for adulteration of food.

The proposed Act is awaiting government approval, according to official sources here yesterday.

The minimum punishment proposed is 'not less than one month's prison term and five thousand taka fine or both.'

The Act also suggests formation of a National Consumer Protection Commission with units at districts.

The National Commission will be headed by a judge of the Supreme Court or High

Court to be nominated by the government and include Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), Director General of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institution, President of the Consumers Association of Bangladesh, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), a member of Parliament and representatives of the ministries of industry, commerce, health and family welfare, home affairs, law and parliamentary affairs, energy and mineral resources and forest and environment as members. Some distinguished citizens other than government officials will also be members of the Commission.

At district level, the Commission will be headed by the district judge and the members will include the mayor of the city corporation or the chairman of the municipality, the president of the district Chamber of Commerce and Industries, representative from consumer organisation nominated and some distinguished non-official persons nominated by the government.

The functions of the National Commission will be to enquire into unfair trade practices and award punishment, inspect quality of consumer goods and investigate death or illness from intake of adulterated food.



Members of the Chhayanaut celebrated Autumn festival at the Fine Arts Institution of the Dhaka University yesterday. — Star photo