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NEWS BRIEFS

Workshop on privatisation

By Staff Correspondent

A week-long workshop on Privatisation, Economic Liberalisation and its Impact on Women Workers in South Asia began in the city yesterday afternoon. Some 30 representatives from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh are taking part in the workshop being held at Bangladesh Management Development Centre (BMDC) auditorium. The workshop is being held under the aegis of a Hong Kong-based organisation, Committee for Asian Women (CAW), says a press release.

150 bottles of phensidyl seized

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 25: Kotwali police today recovered 150 bottles of contraband Indian Phensidyl syrup and arrested two persons from Barisal town area. The arrested are Mostafizur Rahman and Abu Salek alias Saheen. Barisal district police also arrested 26 persons on various charges from different areas of the district during last 24 hours.

Alleged terrorist arrested

Police have arrested one Mir Sadeque Alamgir on charges of toll collection and terrorism from Tushardhara residential area on Thursday night under Demra thana. Police sources said Alamgir has been absconding for a long as he had been charged with 12 different cases, reports BSS.

18 injured in minibus plunge

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 25: Eighteen people were injured, 11 seriously, when a speeding minibus plunged into the roadside ditch this noon at Shibpur Bazar, about 15 kilometers from the city. The injured were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. Driver and the conductor of the bus escaped.

Sixth turns first as RB announces revised merit list of HSC Science

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 25: The Rajshahi Education Board on Thursday night announced a revised combined merit list of Science Group in the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Examinations of 1996.

According to Board sources, the sessional 40 marks, out of the 200 in the engineering and drawing subject, of 31 students of Rajshahi Cadet College were 'dropped' from their total marks at the time of tabulation.

The revised merit list has been announced after amendment to the earlier list published on October 19.

As per the revised list, Sumon Shahriar of Rajshahi Cadet College stood first. He was placed in the sixth position in the previous list.

Hasibur Rahman of Rajshahi Government College,

who topped the earlier merit list, has now been placed in the second position.

Following is the revised merit list of Science Group:

1. Md. Sumon Shahriar of Rajshahi Cadet College, Roll-101847, total marks 924 with distinction in M. P. C. Ed; 2. Md. Hasibur Rahman of Rajshahi Government College, Roll 100223, total marks 913 with distinctions in M. P. C. St; 3. Md. Shahabul Alam of Rajshahi Cadet College, Roll 101870, total marks 909 with distinctions in M. P. C. Ed; 4. Pradipta Prometheus Mitra of Rajshahi Cadet College, Roll 100289, total marks 905 with distinctions in M. P. C. St. and Md. Ifekharul Hasan of Rajshahi Cadet College, Roll 101875, total marks, 905 with distinctions in M. P. C. Ed; 5. A M Anisur Rahman of Rajshahi Cadet

College, Roll 101862, total marks 904 with distinctions in M. P. C. Ed; 6. Kazi Abdullah-Al-Mamun of Rajshahi Cadet College, Roll 101848, total marks 900 with distinctions in M. P. C. Bio; 7. Md. Mahbubur Rahman (newly included in the list) of Rajshahi Cadet College, Roll-101853, total marks 892 with distinctions in M. P. C. Ed; 8. Md. Monirul Islam (Newly included in the list) of Rajshahi Cadet College, Roll 101864, total marks 891 with distinctions in M. P. C. Ed; 9. Monzila Chowdhury of Bogra Cantt. Public School & College, Roll 110287, total marks 888 with distinctions in P. C. Bio, St; Repon Kumer Shaha (former 4th) of Cantt Public School & College, Roll 110330, total marks 888 with distinctions in M. P. C. Bio; Kazi Rashed Ferdous (former 18th) of

Rangpur Cadet College: Roll 113421, total marks 888 with distinctions in M. P. C. Ed; 10. Md. Ahsan Habib (former 19th) of Pabna Cadet College, Roll 106803, total marks 887 with distinctions in P. C. Ed; 11. Golam Md. Baten (former 5th) of Bogra Cantt. Public School & College, Roll 110327, total marks 886 with distinctions in M. P. C. Bio; 12. Muhammad Ishratul (former 7th) of Man (former 7th) of Rajshahi Cadet College, Roll 101841, total marks 882 with distinctions in M. P. C. Bio; 13. Subrata Kumar Kundu (former 8th) of Saidpur Cantt. Public School & College, Roll 116387, total marks 879 with distinctions in P. C. Bio, M; 14. Sabrina Anjun Tonu (former 9th) of Rajshahi College, Roll 100009 secured 877 marks with distinctions in

Dhaka signs CTBT

NEW YORK, Oct 25: Bangladesh on Thursday signed here the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty (CTBT), reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina signed the treaty at the United Nations after addressing the 51st session of the UN General Assembly.

Bangladesh became the 129th signatory to the CTBT which was adopted by the UN General Assembly two months ago.

Speaking on the occasion Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina

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Who inserted para on Ganges water in PM's speech?

Although Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina did not mention the sharing of the Ganges water in the UN General Assembly, a small paragraph about the issue was inserted in her printed speech released in Dhaka on Thursday night, reports UNB.

The PM's speech, broadcast live by Bangladesh Betar Thursday late night, did not contain anything about the Ganges problem with India. She didn't touch upon the new paragraph which was added to her

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Police taking out confiscated things from the residence of Col. Rashid yesterday.

—Star photo

Col Rashid's moveable property in city seized

By Staff Correspondent

Police yesterday seized moveable property from the house of Col (ret'd) Khandaker Abdur Rashid at Gulshan in the city.

Rashid is one of the fourteen accused in the case of killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

According to Gulshan thana police, the seized things include a Mercedes car, a microbus, sofas, chairs, tables, carpets, beds and other household articles.

A group of female police entered the house of Col (ret'd)

Aug 15 changeover

Entire army chain of command was involved, says Rashid's wife

The wife of retired army officer Khandaker Abdur Rashid yesterday claimed that the entire army chain of command was involved in the 15 August, 1975 changeover, reports UNB.

It was not a coup, it was an army action to free the country from the autocratic Sheikh

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Rashid at around 9 in the morning. They conducted the seizure operation for about three hours following an attachment order from the court. A large number of police personnel were posted outside the house during the operation.

Col (ret'd) Rashid is absconding.

Zobaida Rashid, wife of Rashid, claimed that property worth at least Tk 20 crore was seized by police yesterday.

A washing plant at Tongi, a composite textile mill at Chandiina and a garments factory at Gulshan have been confiscated," Zobaida said adding that the bank account of her husband has also been frozen.

Zobaida said that police produced the warrant of arrest against her husband and attachment order.

Official sources said that the court had also issued an order for attachment of the industrial units under the name of Col (ret'd) Rashid, with the Ministry of Commerce.

Zobaida Rashid, wife of Rashid claimed that property worth at least Tk 20 crore was seized by police yesterday.

Razzak leaves Monday to talk water sharing

By Staff Correspondent

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak is scheduled to leave for Delhi on Monday on a three-day visit for holding talks on the Ganges water sharing issue with his Indian counterpart Janeshwar Mishra.

The talks are aimed at preparing the ground for the signing of a permanent water sharing accord, sources concerned pointed out.

The minister will be accompanied by Water Resources Secretary, Shamsul Huda, Additional Foreign Secretary

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Yasmin murder case: Hearing resumes today

From Mozammel Haque

RAJSHAH, Oct 25: Hearing of the Yasmin murder case resumes at the Special Judge's court here tomorrow.

The first hearing of the case was held on September 21 last. The court will frame charges tomorrow against the accused persons and later fix dates to examine prosecution witnesses, number fifty-four.

There are nine accused in the case. Three of them are in jail hajat as their bail prayers were rejected where the six others are on bail.

Holiday demanded Prabarana Purnima today

CHITTAGONG, Oct 25: Prabarana Purnima will be celebrated tomorrow with solemn devotion and traditional enthusiasm, reports BSS.

Members of the Buddhist community celebrate the purnima marking the end of three-month seclusion of the Buddhist monks and beginning of one-month-long yellow-robing ceremony to the monks by the devotees.

Meanwhile, the leaders of Bangladesh Bouddha Kishiti Prachar Sangha today urged the government to declare the Prabarana festival as a government holiday.

Addressing a press conference at the Chittagong Press Club, president of the national committee of the 'yellow robing celebration' 96 Dr Bkiri Prashad Barua said there is no government holiday of the Buddhists excepting the Buddha Purnima.

Dr Barua also placed an eleven-point charter of demands on the eve of the Prabarana Purnima.

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Demonstration at Kailashtila Gas Field

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 25: The all party action committee today staged demonstration at Kailashtila Gas Field as part of its 3-day agitation programme that ended today.

The action committee would announce the next course of action at a public meeting scheduled to be held at the premises of Golapganj Thana Muktiyoddha Sangsad office tomorrow afternoon.

The action committee also held rally and brought out a procession at Golapganj thana headquarters today to press its six-point demand. The demands include employment of local people at the gas field.

Chaired by Osman Harun Chowdhury, President Golapganj thana Unit of the Jatiya Party, the meeting was addressed, among others, by Thana BNP Secretary Mahus Sunnah Chowdhury and Totia Mia, Commander of thana Muktiyoddha Sangsad.

Door-to-door 'Clean Dhaka' campaign ends

By Staff Correspondent

The Save Dhaka Clean Dhaka campaign ended yesterday with hundreds of boy and girl scouts voluntarily giving up their weekends this month to motivate the citizens to keep their neighbourhoods clean by disposing of garbage in dustbins between 6 pm and 9 pm every day.

'Do not litter' was the message the children carried during their door-to-door campaign which also included removal of garbage in their respective areas.

The campaign jointly organised by The Daily Star, Bangladesh Scouts and Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology took place on the weekends, beginning on October 4.

It was a re-run of the previous years programme to help the city cope with its mounting heaps of garbage, scattered all around, as domestic hands leave their kitchen waste on the streets, instead of the municipal bins and depositories during the fixed hours.

The boys and girls in their community work, included even the handicapped scouts.

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Major's 'tiger trap' for his opponents

Neville Stack writes from London

Little did the queen realise it, but behind the mock medieval flummery of the state opening of parliament lurked a subtle and complex political tactic.

The queen, dead-pan as always, read a speech prepared for her by the government, detailing the legislation they will bring forth in the last session before the general election in May.

But prime minister John Major, that wily tactician, had prepared a tiger trap for his opponents. Labour leader Tony Blair (the odds-on favourite to succeed him) and the Liberal Democrat's Paddy Ashdown.

It was clear that the run-up to the election will be no-holds-barred. The trap was to table a series of bills that were unashamedly populist, which would appeal to the voters in search of a simplistic solution to some of the country's problems. Major's ploy would tempt the opposition parties to oppose them in detail — and thus lay themselves wide open to a counter-

punch.

In the Crime Bill, there is a commitment to mandatory minimum sentences, for certain categories of persistent offenders, including life for repeat-rapists. While not disagreeing with the principle, the opposition parties will back the judges in their demand to be given the discretion to determine appropriate sentences. But this criticism will be represented by the hard-line socialist home secretary as 'soft on crime'.

In the Firearms Bill, the government will ban all handguns except .22 calibre target pistols kept securely at gun clubs. The opposition will demand a total ban, but this may seem to the voters as marking an excessive fuss over a small detail.

The Police Bill, providing for a national crime squad and increased powers of phone-tapping and surveillance. This will not be strongly opposed by the opposition leadership, but 'Old Labour' left wingers will raise a

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'Don't throw your rubbish on the street, keep it tidy,' scouts urge a hairdresser at Dhakeswari market yesterday as part of the Save Dhaka Clean Dhaka campaign, jointly organised by The Daily Star, Bangladesh Scouts and the University of Engineering and Technology.

—Star photo