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**Women workers in South Asia
26-pt recommendation
to end discrimination**

By Staff Correspondent

A workshop on 'Privatisation, Economic Liberalisation and its Impact on Women Workers in South Asia' in the city yesterday adopted a 26-point recommendation putting special emphasis on elimination of discrimination against women in society. The recommendations were adopted at the concluding session of the workshop. The week-long workshop, with participation from South Asian countries — India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bangladesh — was organised by Karmojibi Nari, a local women's organisation, in conjunction with a Hong Kong-based organisation, Committee for Asian Women (CAW).

Flash flood in Netrakona

NETRAKONA, Oct 30: Moderate to heavy downpour for the last three days and avalanche from Garro hills in Maghlaya province of India triggered off flash flooding today in all the seven unions of Durgaputhana under the district. Local parliament member Jalaluddin Talukder after visiting the flood affected areas told BSS here today that the flash flood caused extensive damage to crops and other resources in the area.

Missing trawlers yet to be traced

BARISAL, Oct 30: Some fishermen reached Kuakata of Patuakhali and Patharghata of Barguna district today but they could not say anything about the missing fishing trawlers. Fish worth Tk 20 crore were lost during the cyclonic storm in the coastal region. The worst affected charlands are Kaila, Behala, Kachikhali which went under 5 to 7 feet water during the cyclone.

Police raid Mohsin Hall

By DU Correspondent
Detective Branch police yesterday raided the Mohsin Hall of Dhaka University again but could not recover any arms during the one and a half hours operation. Nobody was arrested. The raid followed Tuesday's meeting between the Vice-Chancellor of the university and some high officials of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police. Police had raided the hall earlier this week.

Bus strike in Barisal called off

From Staff Correspondent
BARISAL, Oct 30: A non-stop bus strike in interdistrict and local routes from Barisal was called off today. Services from Barisal to Dhaka, Khulna, Rajshahi, Pabna, Benapole, Faridpur and other places remained suspended for the last five days.

Teenager

From Page 1
victim to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead, police and hospital sources said. Son of Shafi Matbar of Mirbagh in Moghbazar area, Gopal was gossipping with three of his friends identified as Hira, Hossain and Arman, police said. At one stage, Gopal had an altercation with Hira, police said adding Hira left the scene at the time and returned later with a dagger. He then stabbed Gopal and all others fled away, police said. The motive behind the murder could not be known immediately. The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. Gopal's mother filed a case with Ramna thana accusing the three friends. None was arrested till last night.

Hasina: Talks in Dec

From Page 1
Responding to another question, the Prime Minister said those who termed the 25-year Indo-Bangla Friendship Treaty as a treaty of slavery called it friendship treaty in Parliament. Many points of the agreement, the Prime Minister said, found place in the SAARC and SAPTA charters. To another question, Hasina held terrorism, not the student politics, responsible for adverse academic atmosphere. She regretted lack of support from the main opposition in curbing campus terrorism. Turning to US-Bangladesh relationship, the Prime Minister hoped that it would further strengthen in the days ahead. Earlier, addressing the students and select guests on the topic 'To Lead Bangladesh in 21st Century', the Prime Minister said her government was trying to build, sustain and cherish an enabling environment for an all-out drive to create wealth and towards prosperity and security.

Japan threatens

From Page 1
he said. He said that Bangladesh government gave some commitments in this regard and that they would see whether and how those go ahead. Elaborating the Japanese policy on disbursement of grants, he said that his government provided assistance in three priority areas. The areas are: environment and flood control management, health and medical services and human resources development particularly, education health and administration management. Besides those areas Japan also gives assistance for population control, poverty alleviation and protection from AIDS. Of the total Japanese assistance to Bangladesh in 1995, 47 per cent was ODA, 46 per cent grant and 7 per cent technical assistance, he said. The Japanese delegation also met Finance Minister SAMS Kibria during the visit.

State Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan. The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam, SKOP leader and general secretary of Jatiyabadi Sramik Dal Nazrul Islam Khan, Dr Hamida Hussain of Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK), Shirin Akhter of Kormojibi Nari and representatives of the participating countries took part in the discussion at the concluding session held at the Bangladesh Management Development Centre (BMDC) with BMDC Director General Salma Khan in the chair. The recommendations include, full implementation of CEDAW, an UN charter on women, equal scope and wage for women in job market proper enforcement of law against repression on women and opening of a monitoring cell under the Labour Ministry to ensure rights of working women. Addressing the workshop, State Minister M A Mannan expressed the hope that problems faced by women in the society would be resolved gradually provided a democratic environment sustains. He noted that growth of garments industries and increased activities of Green Bank have proved potential of women. Mahfuz Anam observed that social backwardness and various problems in policy making process pushed working women in a disadvantageous position. He urged women to join journalism profession in great number to project women's issues in the mass media.

Border confce with India begins

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Oct 30: A border conference between Bangladesh and India began at the Habiganj Circuit House this morning. The two-day meeting is discussing border demarcation and reconstruction of the missing pillars across the border, smuggling and other trans-border problems. The 9-member Indian team is headed by Sushil Kumar, District Magistrate and Collector of Pashchim Tripura while the 8-member Bangladesh team is led by the Deputy Commissioner of Habiganj, Iftekhar-e-Alam.

Child workers

From Page 1
displaced underaged workers. Talking to The Daily Star, the ILO official said that of the total 10,547 child workers about 7,000 were recommended for schooling programme. At least 3,500 of them were currently enrolled at different schools and another 3,500 child workers have been waiting for enrollment in the schooling programme. Some of them left for their village homes and some joined other sectors as they were not satisfied with the schooling arrangements, said the ILO official. He said, the rest of the 3,500 child workers would be brought under the schooling programme by November this year. A UNICEF official said that 48 per cent of the identified 10,547 child workers would attain adolescence (14 years as per Bangladesh law) soon and therefore they might rejoin the BGMEA factories. According to an ILO government survey, the country has 6.3 million child workers and most of them were working in agricultural and other non formal sectors. BGMEA agreed to sign the MOU following growing international concern, specially in the United States, about the use of child labour by the garment manufacturers in Bangladesh. BGMEA along with ILO and the UNICEF signed the MOU that had two main purposes — removal of underaged children from BGMEA factories and their placement in appropriate education programmes. The parties raised a fund of 5.6 million US dollar for the education programme, according to the UNICEF official.

Wasim Akram

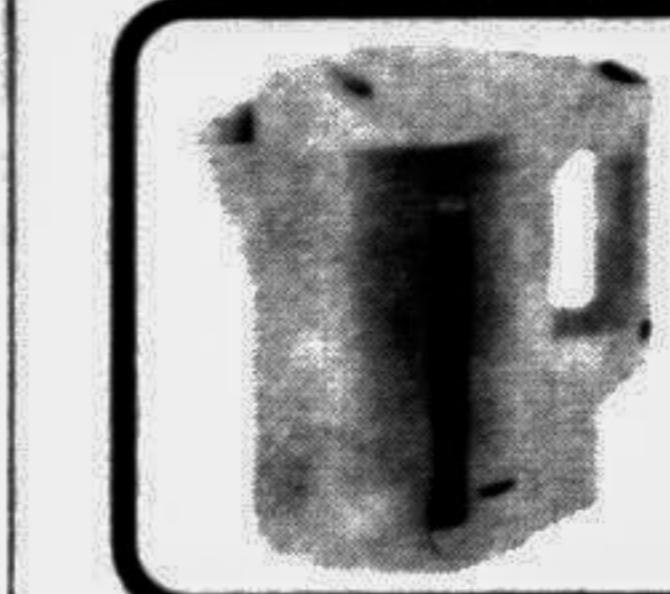
From Page 1
viable chapter of the record books where no one seems around to pose a threat. The thinking left-arm pacer had equalled legendary Indian seamer Kapil Dev's haul of 251 wickets in August, 1994 and then went on to take the reins to become the highest wicket-taker in the same year. Akram made his debut in the limited version of the game in Faisalabad against New Zealand on Nov 23, 1984. The best bowling performance of the prolific Pakistani is 5 for 15. He notched up four wickets in a match on sixteen occasions. In his 208 appearances he slammed down 10735 deliveries, conceded 6791 runs, averaged 22.64 to reach the 300 mark. Akram, the most effective bowler especially when the chips are down, also captured 311 scalps in Test cricket.

Razzak

From Page 1
ter Inder Kumar Gujral who made a special gesture in meeting the Bangladesh Minister as Gujral is still recovering from illness. All the meetings were marked by expressions of friendship and cooperation from both sides, said the official release. It is learnt that talks between Bangladesh and India on the Ganges-water issue have been progressing well toward attaining a solution to the longstanding problem before the onset of next dry season from January, it said. On Tuesday, Abdur Razzak had fruitful discussion with his Indian counterpart, Janeswar Misra, and both sides reiterated their resolve to settle the matter in a spirit of friendship and cooperation.

Kibria holds meet with members of Bank Reform Body

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria held a meeting with members of the recently formed Bank Reform Committee and took stock of the present situation in nationalised banks which need overhauling, reports UNB. This was the first meeting with the finance minister of the six-member committee constituted on October 23 for reviewing the overall situation of the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs).



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Michael Jackson in India

BOMBAY, Oct 30: Popstar Michael Jackson arrived here today to be greeted by his new fan — a Hindu fundamentalist leader reports AFP. The US performer was driven to see Bal Thackeray following his arrival. Thackeray known for his hardline conservative views on religion and Indian culture, has surprised many of his supporters by backing Jackson's concert, due to be staged Friday. Thackeray's nephew placed a garland around Jackson on his arrival at Sahar International Airport to the delight of around 2,000 fans. Jackson, who arrived in his private jet from Kuala Lumpur and is visiting India for the first time, will perform at the 50,000 seat Andheri Sports Complex stadium in north Bombay.

BNPPP meet

From Page 1
power from her, the Awami League government's report plan to avoid observance of the 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day', deteriorating law and order, repression on and harassment of BNP leaders and workers and filing of 'false cases against former ministers and price-hike of essentials, party sources said. The meeting is likely to decide the party strategy to highlight these issues in the House. It may also discuss the Treasury Bench's plan to amend the JS Rules of Procedure and to introduce several bills including one seeking separation of the judiciary from the executive, the sources added. The issue of party nominees for various parliamentary committees, may also come up at the meeting, they said.

Indemnity Ord

From Page 1
the prosecution nor the accused will be prejudiced in any manner. The court also observed that against the non-acceptance of FIR — the petitioners had alternative remedy for filing complaint case in the Magistrate Court, but they failed to do that. If the 2nd petition is treated as FIR, it will not change anything with regard to the occurrence, observed the court. The court further opined that the petition is not in form, it was haphazardly drafted. No useful purpose will be served in issuing a rule on such an application for the aforesaid remedy, the court observed. Md. Taveed Uddin Khan, a student of LLB, Rajshahi Law College and Md. Mohsinul Haq, a student of LL M, Rajshahi University, jointly filed and moved the writ petition in person. Attorney General K S Nabil with Additional Attorney General Abdur Wadud Bhuiyan appeared for the government.

Rao chargesheeted

From Page 1
from a bullet proof car of an annex at New Delhi's Vigyan Bhawan conference hall complex for his first appearance in the 1989 case. In the courtroom, Rao was flanked by two plainclothes paramilitary commandos and given a front seat away from three other people accused in the case, including a former minister and a religious Hindu Guru close to the ex-prime minister. Rao sat expressionless in a court that had allowed only 12 reporters and a few members of his Congress Party to be present for the hearing. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI), India's federal police, on September 26 charged Rao and the three others with involvement in a alleged attempt in 1989 to defame V P Singh, an opposition leader who later became prime minister. They are alleged to have forged documents which aimed to show that Singh's son held 21 million dollar in a bank account on the Caribbean island of St Kitts. Rao has not commented publicly on the case.

Hydrocarbon

From Page 1
companies began negotiations in 1993. The first round of negotiations concluded in July last year. The decision on-going for the second round remained pending till June last because of the absence of political decision. A government move to hold two roundtables on hydrocarbon exploration in UK and USA failed last month for reasons beyond its control, sources concerned pointed out. The roundtables were expected to result in the signing of memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with various oil companies, they added. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had meeting with over a dozen of oil company representatives during her current visit to the US. Representatives of a big hydrocarbon exploration company visited Dhaka recently and those of two others are now in the city to collect information on different blocks for solicited negotiation from January. A four-member delegation of Dutch oil giant Shell Oil led by its Vice President visited Dhaka two weeks ago and met the Prime Minister. Sources said that Shell showed interest in exploration in blocks 9, 10 and 11. Representatives of US companies Mobil and Exxon Esso are now in the city gathering data from the Petrobangla. In addition to 'block negotiations', Mobil is interested in lubricant marketing and setting up LPG bottling plant.

Share price

From Page 1
The market capitalisation of the DSE surged to Tk 19,971 crore, which is equivalent to 471 billion US Dollars. The figure is Tk 1344 crore higher than that of previous days record of Tk 18,626 crore. Out of a total of 116 traded issues, prices of 101 companies' shares gained, only 12 companies' issues suffered loss while 3 remained unchanged. Although the price index and market capitalisation jumped heavily, the turnover both in volume and value declined slightly compared to the previous day's market. As many as 8 lakh shares and debentures valued at more than Tk 37.34 crore exchanged hands yesterday against the transaction of 11.40 lakh shares and debentures worth of Tk 48.57 crore previous day. Since the beginning of the week, the All Share Price Index of the DSE rose by 559.77 points while its market capitalisation surged by Tk 3,949.07 crore.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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**HIV/AIDS & STD related issues
Draft national policy presented**

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf yesterday said the government is committed to take urgent actions against sexually transmitted diseases (STD) including AIDS, reports BSS. The actions against HIV/AIDS and STD should be based on respect for human rights and the principles of ethics and humanity is required at the individual, community, national and international levels to combat the further spread of HIV, the minister said. Yusuf was speaking at the presentation ceremony of the draft national policy on HIV/AIDS and STD related issues as chief guest at a local hotel. A task force appointed by the director general of health services in collaboration with National AIDS Committee drafted the national policy on HIV/AIDS and STD related issues. With Director General of Health Services Prof A K Shamsuddin Siddiqui in the chair, the presentation ceremony was addressed, among others, by Health and Family Welfare Secretary Muhammad Ali, Resident Representative of UNDP David Lockwood, chairman of the task force and technical committee of the National AIDS Committee Maj Gen. (Retd) M R Chowdhury and director of STD prevention and control project Dr Hasan Mahmud.

2 teenaged girls kidnapped

CHITTAGONG, Oct 30: Two teenaged girls were kidnapped from Idlipur village in Sitakunda thana of the district and Kalabagan in Chandraghona Bazar of Rangamati by miscreants today, reports UNB. Quoting family sources police said a group of youngmen abducted Shirin Akter, a class IX student of a local madrasah, from her residence at Idlipur in Sitakunda thana at about 9 am. Shirin's father, Jebol Hossain, filed a case with Sitakunda thana against four including one Didarul Alam, for kidnapping his daughter. In Rangamati hill district, armed miscreants took away Sofia Begum, 17, at gunpoint while collecting drinking water from a tubewell beside her home at Kalabagan in Kaptai thana at about 10 am.

ESCAP confce

From Page 1
from the conference. AIDA has been designed to provide a forum for open dialogue between the public and private sectors, both at country and regional levels, so that a qualitative and quantitative improvement in the rate of development and implementation of infrastructure projects could be achieved. The conference reorganised the need for streamlining of administrative procedures related to infrastructure, thereby increasing efficiency of delivery of infrastructure facilities and services and facilitating private sector investment. The conference urged ESCAP to produce guidelines for member countries to assist them in developing procedures and creating an appropriate legal framework which would facilitate the establishment of public and private sector partnerships in developing infrastructure. The conference emphasised that the development of infrastructure was vital for human development and poverty alleviation, and urged ESCAP to promote an integrated approach to rural development, with infrastructure as an entry point. The conference strongly supported the integrated Asian Land Transport Infrastructure Development (ALTID) project comprising the Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway projects, and land transport facilitation measures as a priority project for the New Delhi Action Plan for Infrastructure Development in Asia and the Pacific.

Reopening of IU uncertain

From Our Correspondent
JHENIDAH, Oct 30: The reopening of Islamic University has become again uncertain after a reconciliation meeting on the campus ended inconclusively today. Tomorrow's scheduled meeting among the district administrations of Kushtia, Jhenidah and an eight-member 'understanding committee' of the university has also been postponed amid a tense situation on the campus. The Chairman of the Dawah Department and head of the 'Understanding Committee' Abul Kalam Patwari told newsmen that the situation at the university was not congenial for holding the meeting. Earlier, it was widely expected that the university would reopen on November 1.

Couple held on charge of kidnapping girl

By Staff Correspondent
Police on Tuesday arrested two persons from Demra thana area for their alleged involvement in the kidnapping of a young girl who was later allegedly raped and killed in Comilla on October 13, police said. The arrested were identified as Aslam and his wife Shumi. Sheuli Akhter, 14, was missing after she had gone out of her house at Golapbagh in Demra thana in the city on October 8. She was supposed to go to a tailoring shop in Sutrapur. But, police said, a gang lured Sheuli and took her to Durgapur village under Kotwali thana in Comilla district. There she was raped and later killed by the gang on October 13. Kotwali police in Comilla recovered the body, police said. Demra police were interrogating the arrested husband and wife, police said.

3 killed in Daudkandi road mishap

COMILLA, Oct 30: Three people were killed and another was critically injured when a speeding bus rammmed their rickshaw on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Gauripur in Daudkandi thana today. The dead were identified as Asia Khatun, 60, of Motopi village in Daudkandi thana, and Roni, 17, and his eight-year-old sister, Nusrat, of Dhoopkhola in Sutrapur thana in Dhaka. Although the price index and market capitalisation jumped heavily, the turnover both in volume and value declined slightly compared to the previous day's market. As many as 8 lakh shares and debentures valued at more than Tk 37.34 crore exchanged hands yesterday against the transaction of 11.40 lakh shares and debentures worth of Tk 48.57 crore previous day. Since the beginning of the week, the All Share Price Index of the DSE rose by 559.77 points while its market capitalisation surged by Tk 3,949.07 crore.

Power: ADB offers aid

From Page 1
stands below 2,200 MW. Although the present generation capacity shown in paper is 2,308 MW, the actual generation is much lower as a number of power plants are quite old and lack proper maintenance. According to the Energy Ministry, the power demand will go up to 3,000 MW by the year 2000 and to 4,600 MW by the year 2005. Meanwhile, about a dozen foreign firms have proposed to set up power plants in Bangladesh and the government has started negotiation with some of them. Earlier, another ADB Mission visited Dhaka from September 21 to 30 to assess the availability of infrastructure projects that may be suitable for private sector financing. The power projects which are in advanced stage of formulation are: 150-300 MW Haripur/Meghna Ghat combined cycle project at a cost of US dollar 150-300 million, 300 MW combined cycle project to be set up at Baghabari at a cost of US dollar 300 million and 300 MW gas-based plant to be developed together with the newly found gas field in Bhola at a cost of US dollar 350 million.

Govt out to make country a vassal state BNP

BNP leader Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the government was out to make Bangladesh a vassal state giving corridor to India in the name of transit or Asian Highway, reports UNB. Importing power from India and permitting that country to use Chittagong Port are also steps to that direction, the BNP Secretary General alleged. Bhuiyan charged the government with pursuing subservient foreign policy which he said is harming Bangladesh's interest. "This is a subservient government," he said while exchanging views with the leaders of Zia Forum at the BNP central office.

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Secretary