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Ambassador of France in Bangladesh Renee Veyret called on Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina at her Secretariat chamber yesterday.

Witnesses and police said the

mishap occurred when a bus

plunged into a roadside ditch

after it was hit by a truck at

fied as Poltan Biswas. 52.

One of the dead was identi

Seriously injured Shahid.

Police seized the vehicles

In Sirajganj, a minor boy

and a woman were killed in

separate road mishaps on

Bogra-Nagarbari highway, po-

lice and hospital sources said.

was run over under the wheels

of a Bogra-bound truck at

Hatikumrul at about 2 pm while

one Mariam. 46, died on the

spot when a truck knocked her

down at Shalamail in the af-

Separate cases were filed

with Ullapara and Raigani

Sramik Dal chief

Iskander dead

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal

president and vice-chairman of

BNP Iskander Ali died early

yesterday. He was 58, reports

He was admitted to Rash

mono Clinic in the city on Fri-

day in a critical condition and

later shifted to Diabetic Hospi-

tal on Saturday. He had been

suffering from various diseases.

of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal and

had been leading workers'

Khaleda Zia has expressed deep

shock at the death of Iskander

said late Iskander was a selfless

and devoted labour leader who

struggled throughout his life to

realise the rights of the working

der Ali was held in front of the

BNP central office at Nayapal-

tan after Johr prayers. The cof-

fin of the late leader was

and workers of BNP and its

front organisations attended

buried at a graveyard adjacent

to the Martyred Intellectuals

Graveyard at Mirpur.

from yesterday.

and nepotism.

former speaker.

Azadur Rahman.

said the DAB source.

the janaza.

A large number of leaders

Later, Iskander Ali was

Meanwhile, BNP has an-

A milad mahfil will be held

nounced a four-day mourning

at the BNP central office on

Permission

From Page 1

former whip Ashraf Hossain

for alleged embezzlement of Tk

70 lakh, from the prime minis-

ter's relief fund, abuse of power

According to DAB sources, a

total of Tk 70 lakh was granted

from the PM's relief fund for

three constituencies (Khulna-2

3 and 6) during the rule of

Begum Khaleda Zia's govern-

The source said three cases

Government officials ac-

are to be recorded against the

cused in the cases are the then

DC of Khulna Kazi Reazul Huq

and Assistant Commissioner

leaders of women wing of BNP

Zakia Akhtar Hossain,

Advocate Taslima Khatoon

Chanda and Ataur Rahman,

The others wanted include

wrapped with the flag of BNP.

Namaz-e-janaza for Iskan-

movement since the 60's.

He was the founder president

BNP chairperson Begum

In a condolence message, she

Halim, a 10-year-old boy

22. Maleka, 70. Dhirendra

Nath, 28, Kamal, 23, and

Mustafa, 35, were admitted to

but the drivers fled the scene.

about 12 noon.

Sadar hospital.

ternoon.

UNB.

- PID photo

6 killed, 30 hurt in road accidents

Six people were killed and 30 others injured in separate road accidents in Dhaka, Narsingdi and Siraigani vesterday, reports UNB.

The people, including a woman, were killed as a speeding truck hit them at Fulbaria crossing in the city yesterday afternoon.

The woman aged about 40 died on the spot while the man of the same age succumbed to his wounds at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police said.

Another reports says: A road mishap at Kararchar in Shibpur thana on Dhaka-Sylhet highway left two people dead and 30 others injured, six seriously.

2 shot in city

By DMC Correspondent Two youths sustained bullet

injuries when a group of young men opened fire on their rivals on Razia Sultana road in the city's Mohammadpur area vesterday afternoon. The injured were identified

as Tofael Ahmed, 25, a cigarette stall owner, and Jewel. Tofael was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while Jewel was taken to a local clinic, police said. Sources said that a group of

armed youths came in a private car and opened fire on their rivals who were gossiping by the roadside at around 2pm.

A case has been filed with Mohammadpur thana However, none was arrested in this connection till last night. police said.

Hartal

From Page 1 production in mills and factories continued as usual

Police arrested JCD district president Wahiduzzaman Chanchal while he was leading a procession during the hartal. He was later released on bail in the afternoon. He was ar-

rested allegedly on charge of assaulting police on duty on October 24, police said.

Shahidul Huq

(Accounts)

From Page Bangladesh Red Crescent Society, and Mihir Kumar Das, former Director (Administration), and Ehtesham Ahmed, former Deputy Director

The Division Bench of the HC Comprising Justice Kazi Shafiuddin and Justice A K Badrul Haque yesterday granted the ad-interim bail for six months or till submission of the police-report whichever is earlier.

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed a case with Ramna thana on November 21 under section 409/420/201/109 of the Penal Code read with Section 5(2) of the Prevention of Corruption

Act against the accused-peti-It was alleged in the FIR that the accuseds in connivance with each other and measuring their official power as public servant dishonestly misappropriated a sum of Tk 1,60,00,000 in the name of commission to the brokers at the rate of 20 per cent per head out of the allocated fee for health check-up of the persons migrated to

Malaysia with employment visa through government. Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Syed Istiaque Ahmed, Dr M Zahir and Barrister Amir-ul Islam moved for the petitioners. while Barrister Nikhilesh Dutta, Deputy Attorney General on behalf of the state opposed to the bail petition.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Improving campus situation

BNP has assured all cooperation: DU VC

By DU Correspondent

The Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University yesterday said that BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia has assured him cooperation to root out terrorism from the campus.

"I had talks with the Leader of the Opposition in parliament and she has assured me of all out cooperation on her part for curbing terrorism from the campus," said A K Azad Chowdhury at a joint meeting of the university authorities and leaders of different student bod-

The Vice Chancellor sought cooperation of all student or ganisations to improve the campus situation further.

The VC was holding a meet ing with the leaders of different student fronts in the Senate room of the DU. Pro-VC Prof Shahiduddin Ahmed, Proctor Dr Nur Un-Nabt and the provosts of the residential halls attended.

The Vice Chancellor expressed his satisfaction over the prevailing peaceful situation on the campus 'Maintaining the present situation we have to improve it further," the

VC said The VC added that the Prime Minister instructed him to take any step necessary to root out terrorism from the campus Terrorists and outsiders irrespective of their party affiliation would not be allowed to

stay on the campus." The leaders of the BNP backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) said though the situation had improved a bit but some of the JCD leaders and activists were yet to be able to stay in the BCL-dominated Zahurul Haq. Mohsin and Salimullah

halfs of the university. The JCD leaders said that JCD was ready to participate in the DUCSU election but before that a suitable atmosphere for the election should be ensured.

Leaders of the ruling party backed Chhatra League (BCL) said that they were not informed about the fact that the JCD leaders could not stay in the dormitories. They said as per the peace

agreement the aggrieved party would inform the university administration and also the president and secretary of the opposition student front about their grievances If any specific allegation is

received them action is taken against those responsible for the incident, the BCL leaders said, adding they would welcome any decision of the VC for maintaining peace on the cam

The BCL leaders said they were ready to participate in the DUCSU election at any time fixed by the university authori-

Satinelle Removes hair by the root

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things better. **PHILIPS**

Let's make



Queen Sophia of Spain visiting the Ahsan Manzil Museum in the city yesterday. Grameen Bank Managing Director Dr Muhammad Yunus is seen on her right

- PID photo

Singaporean trade team to visit Dhaka soon

A Singaporean delegation comprising businessmen inter ested to invest in Bangladesh will soon visit Dhaka to finalise their prospective investment, reports UNB Trade Development Board

(TDB) of Singapore is organising the visit as a follow-up action for investment flow from Singapore to Bangladesh and to improve Bangladesh's image in Singapore. This was stated by Sohchee

Wee, the Acting Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore, when he called on Commerce and Industry Minister Tofael Ahmed at his hotel suite in Singapore on Saturday, according to a message received here yesterday. Welcoming the TDB initia-

tives, the Commerce Minister said the government of Bangladesh had created "a window of opportunities" for foreign investment in the country.

He said a new industrial policy is being formulated to attract both foreign and local investment as well as to increase productivity and product quality, improve trade performance and create employment.

The minister went to Singapore to deliver the keynote speech at a one-day seminar on "Trade and

Investment Opportunities in Bangladesh" held on Friday in Singapore where Singaporean business interested to invest in Bangladesh participated.

Tofael returned home Saturday night

Bus strike in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET. Nov 24: Plying of bus, minibus and microbus remained suspended on Sylhet-Sunamgani, Sylhet Chhatak and Sylhet-Derai routes today as the Transport Owners' Association began a strike for indefinite period from today to protest the damaging of vehicles and manhandling of some transport workers following the death of two pedestrians on the Sylhet-Sunamgani road

vesterday. The transport owners at a meeting tonight called upon the authorities to take effective measures to ensure security of transport workers.

It may be stated here that. two persons were killed in two road accidents on Sylhet-Sunamgani road yesterday. As many as ten vehicles were damaged by the agitated villagers.

Queen Sophia From Page 1

through providing credit but also wants to "generate a sense of self-confidence in him. "It's not a mechanical thing... it's much more than

that," he said Prof Yunus said that within next nine years Grameen Bank would expand its activities among 20 million families

from the present eight million.

He said 52 projects in 20 countries are now run by Grameen Bank support either in the form of financial aid or in the form of technical assis-Later Queen Sophia yester

day went on a river cruise in the Sitalakhya the Meghna and the Buriganga to enjoy the riverine Bangladesh's panoramic beauty

The 58-year-old queen was accompanied by her sister Princess Irine During the cruise, the queen

held talks with Prof Yunus, on Grameen Bank's programmes and activities for promoting socio-economic condition of poor rural women. On return the queen also

visited Alisan Manzil, the palace of the Nawabs of Dhaka.

Tigers From Page 1

Zoo officials and employees have been asked to report at the Detective Branch office at Minto Road today. When contacted, ADC Nuruz-

zaman expressed his firm optimism to detect the racket involved in the recent killings of tigers at the Dhaka Zoo.

Four Royal Bengal tigers died in mysterious circumstances at the Dhaka Zoo from November 9 to 13. Autopsy reports and an investigation committee later said the tigers were killed by poison.

Queen to visit Marjina of Sirajganj

Marjina's dream to come true when Queen Sophia meets her at a remote village in Sirajganj district tomorrow reports UNB.

Mosammat Marjina Khatun. a middle-aged rural woman. had a chance of seeing the Spanish Queen at a fashion show of the Grameen Bank in Paris last February. The queen went to the show to see the products of Grameen Bank.

The queen was puzzled when Marjina greeted her with hugging and kiss at the show, but she had got a lasting impression in her mind about Marjina's outburst of love.

Grameen Bank's Managing Director Dr Mohammad Yunus said Queen Sophia had expressed her desire to see Marjina. The queen will go to Sirajganj tomorrow and one of her main programmes is to meet Marjina.

Marjina and her husband have five looms at their village home which manufacture 'Grameencheck.'

Class IV govt employees observe work abstention By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Class IV Government Employees Association (BCFGEA) yesterday observed a country-wide work abstention programme for three hours to press home its 14point charter of demands. The demands include 25 per

cent dearness allowance and inclusion of the Association's representative in the National Pay Commission.

The employees held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the morning. Association president Md Dudu Mia presided.

Meanwhile, president of Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Samnnay Parishad Abdul Mannan expressed solidarity with the BCFGEA. At the rally, he announced holding of a grand rally of the employees on December 11 in front of the Jatiya Press Club.

Show cause on govt

yesterday issued a rule nisi upon the government to show

Justice Mozammel Huq and Justice M A Matin issued the rule upon seven people, including the Home Secretary and Inspector General of Police. upon a petition filed by the PS, Zakir Hossain. BNP sources

and Barrister Aminul Hug were seized by police at the entrance of Sangsad Bhaban on

Robbery case against Zardari

registered a case against former prime minister Benazir Bhutto's detained husband, Asii Ali Zardari, his friends and some police officials for their alleged involvement in a robbery case, officials said today. reports AFP.

Zardari's hometown of Nawabshah, some 220 kilome ters (130 miles) northeast of

Ershad's bail From Page

filed implicating former President Ershad as abettor in

Division Bench yesterday issued rule upon the government to show cause within 10 days as to why the accused H M Ershad shall not be granted bail in the Radar Purchase Case, now pending in the Special Judge Court and Sixth Additional Sessions Court, Dhaka.

Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Hassan Amin fixed the date of hearing of the bail application on December 9.

Status of AG

eral are placed at 16th and 19th

respectively In his report the Attorney-General pointed out that the po-

and those of the Chiefs of Staff were 19th in the Warrant of Precedence of 1974. Those were upgraded to 9th and 13th respectively in the Warrant of Precedence of 1986 but that of the Attorney General remained in the same 16th position, the report said

Meanwhile, an 11-member delegation of the Bangladesh Bar Council, headed by its president Attorney-General Barrister K S Nabi called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday to apprise him of the heavy back-

status of the Attorney-General and other law officers.

Talking to The Daily Star Attorney General Barrister K S Nabi said he has appealed to the government to place the Attorney-General's position at 6th equivalent to that of a cabinet member and the position of the Additional Attorneys General of 10th, equivalent to Judges of

was recently given a room in the Sangsad Bhaban. During a recent visit to the High Court complex, this correspondent found that law officers of the rank of Deputy and Assistant Attorneys General were sharing congested office rooms.

Businessmen call 10-hour strike at Sirajganj today

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 24: Local businessmen, demanding legal action against the terrorists, have called a 10-hour strike in the town tomorrow, reports

The businessmen will en-

force the strike protesting the

damage of several shops in the

town during today's and Saturday's clashes between the activists of ruling Awami League and opposition BNP. Different associations of the businessmen will hold a protest

rally in front of Asad Guest House in the town at 5 pm. They will announce their next programmes from the rally.

Couple arrested

From Page 1

It was alleged that Siddique sexually harassed Maksuda fast week. She then informed his wife about the incident. At this, Sultana severely beat Maksuda and burnt her hands with hot iron, police said.

Later, the accused got Maksuda admitted to a private clinic at Shajahanpur under Motifheel thana. She was then shifted to the house of one Abul in Demra thana, police added. On information, Sutrapur

police with the help of Demra police rescued the Maksuda and arrested Sultana and Siddique.

The maid was under treatment at the DMCH under police custody, hospital sources said.

BNP programme From Page 1

grassroot level, all the district

and thana units have been instructed to hold their conventions and form "fresh" committees by December, another source said. The local units of the party

have also been asked to carry

out various programmes "on regular basis" highlighting the "repression" on their activists. Central leaders of the BNP, who are now visiting different parts of the country, will attend such programmes. Thirty teams, each headed

by a central leader of the party, are now on a mass-contact programme. Besides, party lawmakers are also staying at their respective constituencies to carry out similar programmes.

Reactivating the party activities at the grassroots level is also aims at mobilising public support ahead of the local government elections, likely to be held in March next year, the leader said.

The 225-member committee of the party for the Silver Jubilee celebrations of the Victory Day holds its first meeting today. The meeting will discuss programmes including holding of a grand rally in the capital, party sources said.

Eviction From Page 1

name in 1966 and that it was in his possession since 1950 when the then owners had left the country. The property was taken over by the then government and later requisitioned in his name, he claimed Salahuddin is a former driver at the office of the deputy commissioner. Dhaka.

"A case in this connection is pending with the district court, Dhaka since 1995", Salahuddin

"Police came and forcibly took my signature on a piece of paper and threw my belongings

"There is no bar from the court against the eviction at the moment." The property was handed over to those who owned it, he added. Shamsul Alam Khan Ripon

acknowledged that the property was handed over to him on behalf of his brother-in-law, Afsaruddin Khan. However, the state minister was not available for comment.

DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

Book, cassette on Andre Malraux

Hasina was yesterday presented

Andre, who took part in Spain War and World War II. formed an international volunteers group intending to join the Liberation War of Bangladesh in 1971, saying "it will be my last war for an ideology and will be named 'Freedom'

French Ambassador in Dhaka Renee Veyret called on the Prime Minister at her office and handed her the presents.

Bangladesh in 1973 During the meeting, the Am-

French Ambassador that Bangladesh wants to strengthen its existing relationship with France which got stronger after the visit of the late Andre Mal-

in Dhaka today (WHO) begins in Dhaka today.

Minister for Health and Family Weltare Salahuddin Yusuf will inaugurate the 4-day meeting at 11:30 am at Hotel Sheraton. According to a WHO press

ment experts from ten tending the meeting. of national programmes for combating AIDS and sexually-

fect millions in this region. Country papers detailing existing situation and initiatives undertaken to contain the AIDS epidemic will be presented at the meeting by national programme managers of the participating states. Prof Nazrul Islam, Department of Virology at the IPGMR, will present the

grammes of UN agencies.

with a book and a cassette on late Andre Malraux, a French war veteran and great friend of Bangladesh who raised a volunteer corps to fight for the country's liberation, reports UNB.

He, however, could not join the war as it ended after nine

The book contains the pho-

bassador discussed with the Prime Minister bilateral and other matters of mutual interests of the two countries.

Regional meet on AIDS begins

The 12th annual meeting of national AIDS programme managers organised by the Southeast Asian region office of the World Health Organisation

release, health and develop-

Southeast Asian nations are at-The meeting is expected to make a series of recommendations for further strengthening transmitted diseases that have killed nearly six million people around the world since the

early 1980, and threaten to af-

country paper. The meeting will also review the activities undertaken by UNAIDS, a body set up last year to coordinate AIDS-related pro-

presented to PM Prime Minister Sheikh

tographs and speeches of Andre Malraux during his visit to

Sheikh Hasina told the

Asthma treatment

and issued warnings to a com-Doctors at different hospitals pointed out that thousands of patients with these respira-

tory problems in the rural areas did not get any treatment. At the CDIH's asthma centre. more than 100 men, women and children sat in the hall waiting for their turn to come. All had some sort of respiratory problem, attending nurses said. Akkas Ali, an acute asthma patient, came all the way from pirojpur, accompanied by his 10-year old grandson, Tumi, Akkas said that although he had been suffering from respiratory problem for over 10 years, this was for the first time that he came to a specialised centre. He pointed out that Tumi, who lived in the capital.

developed problem a week ago and struggled for breath at night. Some specialists said that in the capital even leading hospitals lacked proper facilities for

treatment of patients with acute respiratory problems. The only asthma centre in the country having specialist physicians and staff was set up a year ago at the CDIH. Doctors at the centre said that there were around 180 physicians in the country with diploma in chest-related diseases. Only two doctors with specialisation in this field were engaged in pritors preferred to work in the cities and towns ignoring thou sands of patients in the rural areas, they pointed out. At different pharmacies in the city Becotide inhaler — price

lem was that most of the doc

fixed at Tk 405 — was being sold between Tk 550 and 600. Ventolin solution, a vital drug for treating patients having acute respiratory problem by using a "Nebuliser (an electrical device) was being sold between Tk 700 and 800 while its price was fixed at Tk 173. A source in the company

that imports it said, "We have

just started importing the solu-

tion but still there is an acute

shortage in the market."

the country.

A doctor at the Holy Family Hospital said. "Across the border, the solution costs about Tk 50. Many of these medicines were regularly smuggled into

Several companies were

marketing the Nebuliser at prices ranging from Tk 5.000 to 16.000. Arrange of different types of inhalers was available in the city's pharmacies. Druggists said that those inhalers were mostly brought in by 'briefcase' businessmen and sold without receipts. "We do not know how these medicines reach the market, but there is a demand for it and we hardly ask any question

to the seller," said a druggist at

vate practice. The biggest prob-New Market in the city. PM's bold move: Now for the next

and the Radio. The present government is pledge bound to do so. And as a mark of its goodwill it has, soon after taking power, set up a commission to see how best these two bodies could be set free from the stifling clutches of government

While the commission is do-

ing its work, nothing prevents

the government from granting

functional autonomy pending

the commission's recommenda-

What is happening at present is that everyday people are seeing that nothing has changed from the time of BNP. as far as the content and functioning of the news programmes of the state owned mass media are concerned. This is greatly eroding its credibility and is making the government look very much like the previous one. Every time anyone opens the TV or the radio, he or she finds that nothing has changed, and a comparison is quickly, and may be unfairly, made with the previous gov-

ernment leading to the conclu-

sion that it is all the same — the same old game with only some new actors. Perhaps Sheikh Hasina's government does not deserve this image, but it is getting it nevertheless. We therefore suggest that

given the repeated commitment of this government, and the fact that a commission set up by it is already working to give autonomy to Radio and TV, there is no reason why the government should not declare, of its own volition — in the same spirit of the PM asking the President to constitute an independent probe — that with immediate effect, BTV and Radio will run according to their own professional judgment till things are given a final form following the findings of the commission.

More specifically the gov-

ernment should declare that

Sangsad proceedings will be

covered in full. There will, of

course be technical problems of

time and facility. Here our sug-

gestion is that full recorded

version should be shown on the

following morning, say from 10

a.m. onwards for as long as it

takes. If some selected portion

is shown the same evening — as is done now - then it should be strictly on 50-50 basis, meaning that both Treasury and the Opposition benches should get equal time. The Treasury Bench may find it disproportionate. but should agree to it as a gesture to the opposition. Guidelines should also be made that if leaders and deputy leaders of either side speak then it should be covered in full the same evening, regardless of the time it takes.

racy and of the parliamentary system. A Prime Minister who can be so bold as to ask the President for an independent probe, should find the above suggested steps very much in line with her own thinking. If we are right in this assumption then she should take the next bold move — set Radio and BTV free. We urge Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to do so. Opening of TV and Radio will only enhance her strength and popularity, and not reduce it as some, far less insightful than her, may be telling her.

These are small steps to take

for the strengthening of democ-

to return revolver of PS to Leader of Opposition A High Court Division bench

cause within six weeks why authorised revolver of private secretary to the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament would not be returned, reports The HC bench comprising

Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar among those who moved the petition on behalf of Hossain whose licensed revolver was

November 1.

KARACHI, Nov 24: Police

The case was registered in

plementary charge sheet was

the gold smuggling case. Show cause on govt BSS adds: A High Court

The bench comprising

From Page 1

sition of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) was 16th

log of cases awaiting disposal by the High Court. They suggested appointment of judges on ad hoc basis from among the senior members of the bar and upgradation of the

High Court Division.

K S Nabi also said that he

out," he said. When contacted over phone yesterday evening, the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka said.