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VOL. VIII NO. 301 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: http://www.dailystarnews.com AGRAHAYAN 10, 1405 BS DHAKA TUESDAY NOVEMBER 24, 1998 SHABAN 3, 1419 HIJRI 16 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

33 DSE members suspended

By M Shamsur Rahman
 The DSE authorities yesterday suspended 33 of its brokers for defaulting on depositing shares with the bourse clearing house.
 The members who submitted the shares and money to the clearing house yesterday were allowed to resume trading. The rest -- "around 20 to 25 members" -- continued to face suspension, sources said.
 Among the defaulters was DSE Chairman M Rakibur Rahman.
 The defaulting companies were also fined with Tk 1000 for each day of default. DSE officials said that the suspension would continue till shares are deposited with the clearing house.
 A Council member, speaking anonymously, said the usual practice has been that the shares are delivered by 10:00 am on T+4 though the DSE settlement system allows a maximum of T+3.
 Some members took the tough decision with a grain of salt.
 "It was a sudden decision of the DSE management," a leading member said. "This could have been averted if the DSE management had informed a day earlier."
 A DSE official however said "the so-called usual practice" was in violation of DSE settlement rules, which "we wanted to restore".

DSE detects manipulation

Star Business Report
 DSE surveillance officials have detected trading of a particular stock in huge volumes by a brokerage firm and manipulation of its prices.
 On November 3, 1998, according to the surveillance officials, Quasem Silk (QS) stocks accounted for 48 per cent of the total trading volume on the DSE, of which SPM Ltd, the brokerage firm, handled 72 per cent.
 Sources said the surveillance team made a preliminary investigation and compiled this in a 600-page report, a summary of which was submitted to the DSE Council.
 The Council, however, referred the matter to a committee for further inquiry.
 The DSE sources said the Council held several meetings but failed to come up with any solution.
 SEC officials said that they had asked the DSE to inform them of the "unusual" transactions involving the Quasem Silk stocks.
 "The DSE told us that the matter is under its investigation and also pledged to inform the SEC of any development," an SEC official said.
 The SEC officials were yet to receive a copy of the DSE preliminary findings.
 (See details on Business Page)

Farashuddin yet to take over as BB governor

Dr Mohammad Farashuddin, the new governor of Bangladesh Bank, is yet to officially take over the charge due to some procedural delays, reports APB.
 Although his appointment came into effect on Saturday with the retirement of Lutfor Rahman Sarkar, he failed to join as the necessary formalities were still to be completed.
 Sources in the central bank said Dr Farashuddin needed clearance from the Education Ministry whether he relinquished his responsibility as the Vice-Chancellor of East West University -- the office he was holding prior to his appointment as the central bank governor.
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Business

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 DSE, CSE price quotations
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Dhaka-Delhi deal to stop unilateral push-in

By Special Correspondent

Bangladesh and India have agreed there will be no unilateral "push-in" across the border.
 During two days of Home Secretary level talks that ended yesterday, the two sides also agreed to enhance co-operation and vigilance to curb cross-border crimes.
 "There will be no push-in. The problem will be solved mutually," Home Secretary Shafiqur Rahman told reporters after signing an agreed minutes with his Indian counterpart B.P. Singh.
 He said it is a bilateral mat-

ter. If a person is found to be illegal, his or her identity would be determined by authorities concerned and open reported through usual process, he said.
 Shafiqur Rahman said that two sides agreed to tighten vigilance along the border to prevent cross-border crimes, trafficking in women and children and smuggling including drug dealing.
 "All criminals, smugglers and touts would be dealt with sternly," added BP Singh.
 Answering a question, Singh said that the issue of United Liberation Front of Assam

leader Anup Chetia, sentenced to six years in jail for illegally entering Bangladesh, did not come up at the meeting.
 Individuals were not discussed, he added.
 But he said that the criminals hiding in each other's country would be handed over to the respective side.
 He described the meeting as very useful and positive. India and Bangladesh are two friendly nations, he said adding that he was happy with the outcome.
 Shafiqur Rahman said the border problems would be re-

solved through mutual understanding and that the issues of enclaves and border demarcation would be resolved soon.
 Work for demarcation of 6.5 km of border yet to be demarcated would be completed by May next year, he said.
 "Attention of the Indian side has been drawn to the ratification of Indo-Bangla border agreement under the ninth amendment of the Indian constitution," the Bangladesh home secretary said.
 Details of the agreed minutes were not immediately available.

Image problem in Malaysia 47 Bangladeshi experts can't join their jobs

By Reaz Ahmad

Unscrupulous manpower agents here have done one great damage to Bangladeshis in general. Legal or illegal, they are not trusted in Malaysia, especially in the wake of its recent drive against illegal immigrants.
 The mistrust has had its wrong application in one case -- recruitment of Bangladeshi skilled human resources for a large ammonia-urea fertiliser factory in Malaysia.
 For the first time, Bang-

ladeshi technical experts have been hired for a project in a country of Malaysia's standing. But the team of Bangladeshi engineers, chemists and technicians faces uncertainty over their joining the project even several months after their expertise was sought for the project.
 A total of 47 senior BCIC staff were to join the high-profile fertiliser project by October after the project's general contractor Mitsubishi Heavy In-

dustries (MHI) Ltd of Japan offered to hire Bangladeshi expertise for the Petronas venture. But officials in Kuala Lumpur want to be sure that they would return home after their tenure.
 The Petronas project is similar in size and capacity to Bangladesh's Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory and Jamuna Fertiliser Factory. MHI had built the Jamuna Factory in Jamalpur.
 The Malaysian project being
 See Page 12 Col 1

182 alleged Bangladeshi illegals held in Mumbai

MUMBAI, Nov 23 - Less than ten hours after Bangladesh and India agreed to enforce a 1991 pact to check illegal immigration, Mumbai Police intensified its drive against alleged illegal Bangladeshi immigrants in this city and its suburbs, reports India Abroad News Agency.
 In a surprise raid on Sunday, police arrested about 182 people suspected to be illegal immigrants from Bangladesh. The raid was conducted in the suburbs of Vasai and Virar, north of the city. Deputy Superintendent of Police Ravindra Sena-gonkar said the details of the arrested people had been sent to Dhaka for verification. "I am sure they are illegal immigrants," he said.

The 182 arrested, 67 were men, 55 women and 60 children, all booked under various sections of the immigration law, the police said.
 According to eyewitnesses, the police bundled up all the men and sent them to the Thane district jail while the women were sent to a home run by a non-governmental organisation. The children were separated from their parents and sent off to a juvenile remand home.
 Police said the combing operation had started on Thursday, but the arrests were made only on Sunday.
 India and Bangladesh had hours earlier agreed to enforce the 1991 pact which stipulated

that any person declared to be a Bangladeshi national by the courts and found to be illegally staying in India would be taken back by Dhaka. The pact also empowered Dhaka to send illegal immigrants from India back to this country. The decision to enforce the pact was arrived at following two-day official talks between the two countries.
 The deportation of Bangladeshi immigrants from Mumbai had stirred tremendous controversy earlier this year with the Maharashtra government being accused of pursuing a communal agenda by allegedly sending out Bengali-

speaking Muslims even though they were not Bangladeshis. Dhaka maintains there are no illegal Bangladeshi immigrants staying in India. Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Wajed has publicly stated this more than once.
 The Mumbai police too faced severe criticism as it was allegedly deporting people without giving them enough opportunity to prove their nationality. The deportation issue had acquired a political colour when the Shiv Sena and the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Hindu nationalist parties which rule Maharashtra in alliance, raised the issue in their election manifestos.
 In August this year, the Calcutta High Court, acting on a petition filed by the West Bengal government, stayed deportation of Bengali-speaking Muslims from Maharashtra. The Maharashtra government in turn threatened to take the matter to the Supreme Court. The issue led to a face-off between the two state governments.
 Earlier, workers of the leftist Forward Bloc party attacked a Mumbai police team accompanying 34 deportees on a train to put them across the Indo-Bangla border in West Bengal. The party workers stopped the Kuria-Howrah express near Kharagpur and forced the release of all 34 deportees. Two police constables were injured in the incident.

7-party's mass hunger strike now on Dec 2

The BNP-led Seven Party Alliance has now decided to stage the mass hunger strike on December 2, reports UNB.
 Sources said the decision was taken in an emergency meeting of the alliance at 29 Minto Road yesterday with BNP leader M Shamsul Islam MP in the chair.
 Their day-long fast was scheduled for yesterday in the Paltan Maidan but was postponed in view of the inclement weather.
 Expressing concern over unabated price hike of essentials including rice, pulses, onion and chilly, the meeting alleged that the government failed to solve the problems created by itself.
 "Besides creating trouble in public life raising prices of gas and essentials, the government has imposed a taxload of Tk 300 crore in the form of surcharge on the people few days ago," the alliance said in a statement.
 It observed the people were in a fix due to price spirals ahead of the month of Ramadan and deterioration of law and order.
 Alliance leaders Kamaruz-zaman and A T M Azharul Islam of Jamaat, Mafnuddin Bhuiyan and Shah Shaid Sarwar of Jatiya Party (Z-M), Dr A K M Abdul Aziz and Shah-jahan Sardar of JAGPA, Sheikh Sawkat Hossain Nilu and A T M Golam Molla Chowdhury of PNP, Adv M A Latif Majumder and Abu Bakr Siddique of NDA and Saifuddin Ahmed Moti of DL were present in the meeting.

President assents to 5 bills

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday assented to five bills adopted in the current session of the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.
 The bills are: The Supreme Court Judges Remuneration and Privileges (Amendment) Bill, 1998, The University Grants Commission of Bangladesh (Amendment) Bill, 1998, The International Financial Organizations (Amendment) Bill, 1998, Post-Flood Rehabilitation (Accumulation of Domestic Resources) Bill, 1998, and the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (Amendment) Bill, 1998.



OUT IN THE COLD: Anwara Begum has no home. Sheltered near the entrance to the Supreme Court premises, she reels under the injustice the sudden rains in the city have inflicted on her. The plastic sheet, often the only roof in such conditions of homelessness in Bangladesh, provides her the cover from the cold.
 —Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Cyclone plays havoc with crops

By Staff Correspondent
 The country's two seaports returned to business as Sunday's cyclone spared the nation the feared ferocity but still left a trail of devastation along the coasts.
 No human casualties were reported, however.
 In Dhaka and other areas, rains and drizzles marked the post-cyclone 24 hours disrupting normal life.
 Reports from the coastal districts spoke of loss of standing crops and, in some rural areas, damage to homes of the poor.
 In Chittagong, UNB says, port operations resumed yesterday morning after a 40-hour break forced by the cyclone that hit the country Sunday evening, leaving a trail of damage.
 Customs House officials said the government lost Tk 15 crore in revenue following the disruption of activities of Chittagong Port, the country's commercial lifeline.
 The port authority had brought back 22 cargo-laden ships into the seaport's inner anchorage by Sunday night. The vessels were sent to outer-
 See Page 12 Col 3

Banning 'pooled' players from local cricket: Will it work?

The sudden announcement to bar the "World Cup pool" cricketers from the local league has surprised many corners of the cricket arena when they came to know of the decision yesterday through press reports.
 Although cricket chief Saber Hossain Chowdhury told the government news agency on Sunday that the decision was designed to help Bangladesh's preparation for the 1999 World Cup, it has raised a big question as to how far the preparation will go without the players being in competitive cricket for such a long time.
 A few were prompt in giving their own view about the BCB decision, calling it a design by a few leading local clubs, who have miserably failed to hold on to the star cricketers for the upcoming season.
 "I don't understand how can the Board think like this when the best possible means of keeping the players fit is to make them play competitive cricket?" said a former national player.

Star Report
 He also predicted that the absence of the pool cricketers would certainly be ruining the attraction of the Premier League.
 The decision is also a poor commentary on the row over the Bangabandhu National Stadium between football and cricket.
 "If they don't want the national cricketers to play at the Dhaka Stadium during the cricket season, why is the BCB interested to keep the stadium at its disposal?" asked a cricket commentator.
 Clubs are also angry.
 A club official termed the decision absolutely one-sided. "This should have been announced before we started to organise our teams. We have almost finalised deals with the cricketers and now they are asking us to play the league without them. How is that possible?" he asked.
 Some BCB officials were also caught by surprise.
 BCB joint-secretary Mahmud Ul Haque Manu, also the Senior Division League secre-

tary of the Cricket Committee of Dhaka Metropolitan CCMD, gave a blank look when asked about the matter yesterday.
 "I was not at all aware of this. This was never discussed with the clubs and even among the board members. We (CCMD) will sit tonight in an emergency meeting and let us see what we can do," said Manu.
 However, CCMD chairman and BCB vice-president Tanveer Haider welcomed the Board president's decision.
 "This is a very good decision in order to prepare the boys for the World Cup. But the announcement came a bit late. This decision should have been made 15 to 20 days earlier so that the clubs could have organised their teams accordingly. The president should remain strict about his decision and it should not be changed," said Haider.
 Meanwhile, speculations had it yesterday that most of the clubs who have already roped in many top cricketers before the big ones could act.
 See Page 12 Col 6



Yeltsin again hospitalised

MOSCOW, Nov 23: Boris Yeltsin was rushed to hospital with pneumonia and a high temperature, officials said today, the third health crisis for the Russian president in recent weeks, reports AP.
 The 67-year-old president has rarely been seen in public recently, raising new concerns about his ability to handle his responsibilities at a time when the Russian economy is in crisis.

The Kremlin said Yeltsin was hospitalised in the government's Central Clinical Hospital on Sunday with a temperature of 102 F. Yeltsin was being treated with antibiotics.
 Presidential spokesman Dmitry Yakushkin said Yeltsin's temperature was normal today after treatment. He wouldn't say how long Yeltsin would stay in the hospital, but added that treatment for pneumonia usually takes 8-10 days, Russian news reports said.

Bill raising President's remuneration passed

By Staff Correspondent
 The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously passed a bill seeking enhancement of the President's monthly remuneration to Tk 23,000 from Tk 15,000.
 The bill provides that the President will get the refixed salary with retrospective effect from July 1, 1997. The President's salary is free of income tax.
 "With the increase in cost of living, it is necessary to enhance the president's remuneration," said Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed who moved the bill in the House. "Besides, the President is supposed to get the highest salary in accordance with the state's Warrant of Precedence."
 While supporting the government move, the Opposition members said the remuneration should be more than what the Treasury Bench has proposed, especially when President Shahabuddin Ahmed is known to be an honest man.
 "It is all right that the government has made effort to enhance the President's salary. But what will happen to the

millions now being crushed by the soaring prices of essentials under the Awami League government?" asked BNP legislator Shamsul Alam Pramanik.
 He also thanked the minister for "eventually admitting that the prices of consumer goods have gone high". He demanded that salaries of all the government officials and employees be further increased.
 Some 40 legislators belonging to BNP and Jatiya Party echoed Pramanik, while most of them referred to the price hike of essentials, specially onion and chilly.
 Tofail Ahmed, however, claimed: "We have kept the prices of most of the commodities, barring a few, stable. It is very difficult to control the prices of imported items."
 The minister, however, blamed the Opposition for "substantially contributing to the price hike by frequently making exaggerated statements" in this regard. "When the Opposition members give inflated figures on the prices of various commodities, traders
 See Page 12 Col 6

Opinion poll

'Corrupt' traffic police main cause of road accidents
 By Staff Correspondent
 About 85 per cent of the city dwellers believe that "corrupt" traffic police are mainly responsible for road accidents, an opinion poll said.
 At least 80 per cent of those interviewed said negligence of drivers, violation of traffic rules and unawareness of pedestrians are responsible for road mishaps.
 The survey, conducted by IMPACT, an NGO, said 92 per cent people suggest withdrawal of rickshaws from the city as a measure to avoid road accident. About 83 per cent favoured reduction of vehicles while 64 per cent said the government should take initiative to reduce road accidents.
 About 71 per cent city dwellers pointed out that the tendency of people to violate law was the main cause of traffic jam. Large number of vehicles specially rickshaws, narrow roads, unawareness and over population are also responsible for traffic jam, they said.
 Eviction of hawkers from roadsides and footpaths would greatly ease the traffic jam, 96 per cent of those polled said.
 Classification of traffic and fixing different roads for different types of vehicles, strict enforcement of traffic rules and creating awareness among the people would also help ease traffic jam, the poll said.

Malaysia summons US envoy Gore's remarks spark row

KUALA LUMPUR, Nov 23: Malaysia summoned the US ambassador to Kuala Lumpur last week, saluted the "brave people" supporting Anwar's reformasi movement which demands an end to prime minister Mahathir Mohamad's 17-year rule.
 Gore's remarks sparked a bitter row with Kuala Lumpur.
 Anwar, whose trial on corruption and sex charges was adjourned for 10 days because of the APEC Summit, was back in the legal spotlight again today when hearings resumed.
 Mahathir dismissed Anwar from his cabinet on September 2, a day after imposing currency controls at odds with Anwar's free-trade stance.
 Anwar was arrested 18 days later after leading 30,000 demonstrators through the capital calling on Mahathir to quit.
 Anwar was later indicted on five counts each of corruption and sodomy, which he has de-

nied. Initially the court is hearing four of the corruption charges, each of which carries a maximum penalty of 14 years in jail and a 5,000 dollar fine.
 High Court judge Augustine Paul today withheld until December 4 a decision on whether to allow the prosecution to call a top criminal lawyer representing Anwar as a witness.
 The judge said the prosecution lacked an affidavit or written argument to state why Karpal Singh was required as a witness.
 Karpal acts for Anwar in a suit filed this month against Mahathir alleging he sacked Anwar without the assent of the King.
 The prosecution said today that Karpal had told parliament he had met two witnesses before they were arrested by police -- Umml Hafida Ali, the sister of Anwar's private secretary, and Anwar's former driver, Azizan Abu Bakar.

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Khaleda begins 5-day tour of N-dists today

Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia begins a five-day tour of four northern districts today, reports UNB.
 The BNP Chairperson will address a public meeting at Sreedpur High School ground at 3 pm tomorrow while at Lalmonirhat Railway Maidan the next day.
 She will address a rally at Kurigram College ground on Friday.
 Begum Zia is expected to return to the capital after addressing a rally at Rangpur Zila School ground on Saturday.

এপেক্স ট্যানারী লিমিটেড
 রেজিঃ অফিস : ৬৫-৬৬ মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০।
২২তম বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভার তারিখ পরিবর্তনের বিজ্ঞপ্তি
 কোম্পানীর সম্মানিত শেয়ারহোল্ডারগণের অবগতির জন্যে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, অভ্যাপ্তদের স্থান সংকুলান না হওয়ার কারণে আমাদের বার্ষিক সাধারণ সভা কোন পাঁচতারা হোটেলের সন্ধ্যা নয় বলে অন্যত্র পাতেল করে সভা করা হয়। এবার এ উদ্দেশ্যে গুলশান ইয়ুথ ক্লাব মাঠে ২৬শে নভেম্বর বেলা ৩ ঘটিকায় সভার স্থান ও সময় নির্ধারিত ছিল।
 প্রাকৃতিক দুর্ভাগ্যের কারণে এবং আবহাওয়া বিজ্ঞপ্তি অনুযায়ী আরও বর্ষণ হওয়ার সম্ভাবনা আছে। এ কারণে গুলশান ইয়ুথ ক্লাব মাঠ উক্ত সময়ে সভা করার উপযুক্ত নয় বলে আমাদের কাছে প্রতীয়মান হয়েছে। এ জন্য সভার দিন পরিবর্তনের সিদ্ধান্ত হয়েছে।
 সে অনুযায়ী আগামী ১৫ই ডিসেম্বর মঙ্গলবার ১৯৯৮ তারিখে সভার দিন স্থির করা হচ্ছে। সময় এবং স্থান অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে। সাময়িক এ অসুবিধার জন্য আমরা দুঃখিত।
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