

BBA admission results published

By DU Correspondent.
The results of the test for admission into first year BBA (honours) classes of Dhaka University for the session 2000-2001 were published yesterday.

According to the order of merit, 640 students have been selected for the final viva voce to be held from November 11 to 14.

Results on Page 8

The selected students have been asked to appear for the viva according to merit positions at the Dean's office of Business Studies Faculty.

Out of 11,355 admission seekers who collected admission forms, 10,789 appeared in the test held on Friday. A total of 8,347 secured more than 40 marks in the test, said a press release.

The results of the first year BBA admission test are available on page eight.

Planning Commission unhappy with slow ADP implementation

Planning Commission officials are worried by poor performance of some ministries and departments in implementing the ADP projects, although average implementation rate in terms of spending was a 10-year high last fiscal year, reports UNB.

An official monitoring report shows that quite a number of ministries performed poorly in implementing projects under the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for 1999-2000 while the allocated money for many projects remained unutilised.

About 94 per cent of project money were spent last fiscal year. The money utilisation could be even higher than what had been achieved if some ministries and departments were more active, planning officials said.

Delay in approving projects and signing agreements, problems in land acquisition, lengthy procurement process and squeezed or deferred disbursement of project aid are the main reasons that hampered progress of many projects.

Out of the total 1,379 projects included in the revised ADP for 1999-2000 fiscal year, 151 did not get any allocation either for failure to take any pragmatic step, delay in preparation of project concept papers or in procurement of external aid.

Similar reasons attributed to land acquisition and poor disbursement of project aid stalled progress of 69 projects that got allocation.

Those 69 projects or 5 per cent of the total projects under ADP could not make any use of Tk 665.4 million although funds were made available.

On the other hand, a number of agencies, including Rajuk, PDB and R&H, were found exceeding their respective allocations, which official monitors termed 'contrary to financial discipline and planning policy.'

The allocation for the last fiscal year's revised ADP was Tk 165 billion, while total expenditure totalled Tk 154.71 billion, showing a record 94 per cent utilisation.

An analysis of financial performance of ministries/divisions reveals that 6 ministries/divisions could utilise 100 per cent of the allocation and 19 ministries/divisions between 94 per cent and 100 per cent.

Performance of 17 departments and ministries in terms of using project money was over 85 per cent but below the national average of 94 per cent, while performance of 13 others was less than 85 per cent, revealed the report furnished by IMED early last month.

The Land Ministry topped the list of 13 badly performing ministries/departments, utilising below 85 per cent of funds allocated. These ministries/departments spent Tk 162.6 million out of Tk 217.7 million allocated.

The Ministry could spend only 3 per cent of the allocated money, as the European Commission did not release project aid due to delay in appointing a co-director.

Of the Tk 447.5 million earmarked for the ministry, only Tk 15.5 million was spent.

The Commerce Ministry could utilise only 28 per cent of the project money as matching grant facility (MGF), a component of IDA-financed Export Diversification Project, failed to generate enough enthusiasm. Tk 512.6 million was allocated for the project in the revised ADP.

Delay in procurement of equipment and differences of opinion with a foreign bank resulted in poor implementation of two projects under the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry, which used only 51 per cent of its project fund.

Under the revised ADP for fiscal 1999-2000, about Tk 1.35 billion was allotted for the ministry, but only Tk 690.8 million was spent.

Only 50 per cent of Tk 626.3 million, allocated for

Chittagong Airport Development Project, could be spent as procurement schedule for project equipment was deferred.

The entire Tk 40 million, earmarked for a French-aided project to procure two ILs for Chittagong and Sylhet airports, remained idle due to differences with Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

Election Commission Secretariat could use Tk 59.2 million out of Tk 100 million project money due to delay in appointing consultant for setting up data base at central and district offices, and failure in finalising the need assessment of the programme.

Low disbursement of project aid from donor agencies and delay in signing agreement slowed down project implementation under the CHT Affairs Ministry that could use only 65 per cent of its allocation.

Ministries of Water Resources, Social Welfare, Environment and Forest, and CHT Affairs, Jamuna Bridge division, Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives, Economic Relations and Statistics were also bracketed in the low-performing group.

Sakhipur upgraded to pourasava

The government has upgraded Sakhipur of Tangail district to the country's 214th pourasava, reports UNB.

The new municipality comprises eight mouzas of Gozaria, Boheratal and Kalla unions of Sakhipur upazila, said an official handout yesterday.

The mouzas are Garh Gobindapur, Sakhipur Sadar, Protimabongkec, Gozaria-Kionkhola, Boheratal, Boga, Kharata and Kochua.

Meanwhile, Local Government Minister Zillur Rahman, in a statement, congratulated local people on behalf of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

With this, the government has fulfilled one more election pledge of Awami League and implemented the long-awaited demand of the locality, he said.

Remain alert against opposition plot: AL

The policymaking body of ruling Awami League has called upon the people to remain alert to any plot of subversive acts by the "unholy opposition alliance," reports UNB.

In a resolution the Awami League Central Working Committee alleged that the alliance of the evil forces became desperate failing to remove the government through movement.

"The evil forces have chosen the path of destructive politics sensing that it is not possible to defeat the government at the next election," said the ruling party.

It said the anti-liberation Jamaat-Shibir axis, fallen autocrat and BNP have united on the same platform to pursue their policies of coup, killing, conspiracy and destruction.

"The evil forces are hatching conspiracy to create an unstable and anarchic situation in the country with their destructive politics," the ALCWC said in its resolution, making a call for the pro-liberation forces to unitedly face the conspiracy.

The resolution adopted at the meeting of Awami League Central Working Committee held at Ganobhaban on Monday evening with Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina in the chair also demanded the execution of the verdict of Bangabandhu murder case.

The resolution said united resistance need to be built to face the conspiracy of Jamaat-Shibir and fallen autocrat and BNP which is designed to save the killers of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The meeting of the ALCWC discussed in detail the latest political and economic situation of the country and hailed the Prime Minister for her successful visits to USA and Kuwait.

Though the visit of the Prime Minister to USA the bilateral relations got a new dimension and attained the stage of partnership from the old donor-recipient relationship," said the ALCWC.

The resolution said Bangladesh reached understanding with the USA on various bilateral issues upholding national interests.

During the visit Hasina held talks with US President Bill Clinton at White House where issues like natural gas, garments, GSP facility, extradition of Bangabandhu's killers and regularisation of undocumented

Bangladeshis nationals in the US came up.

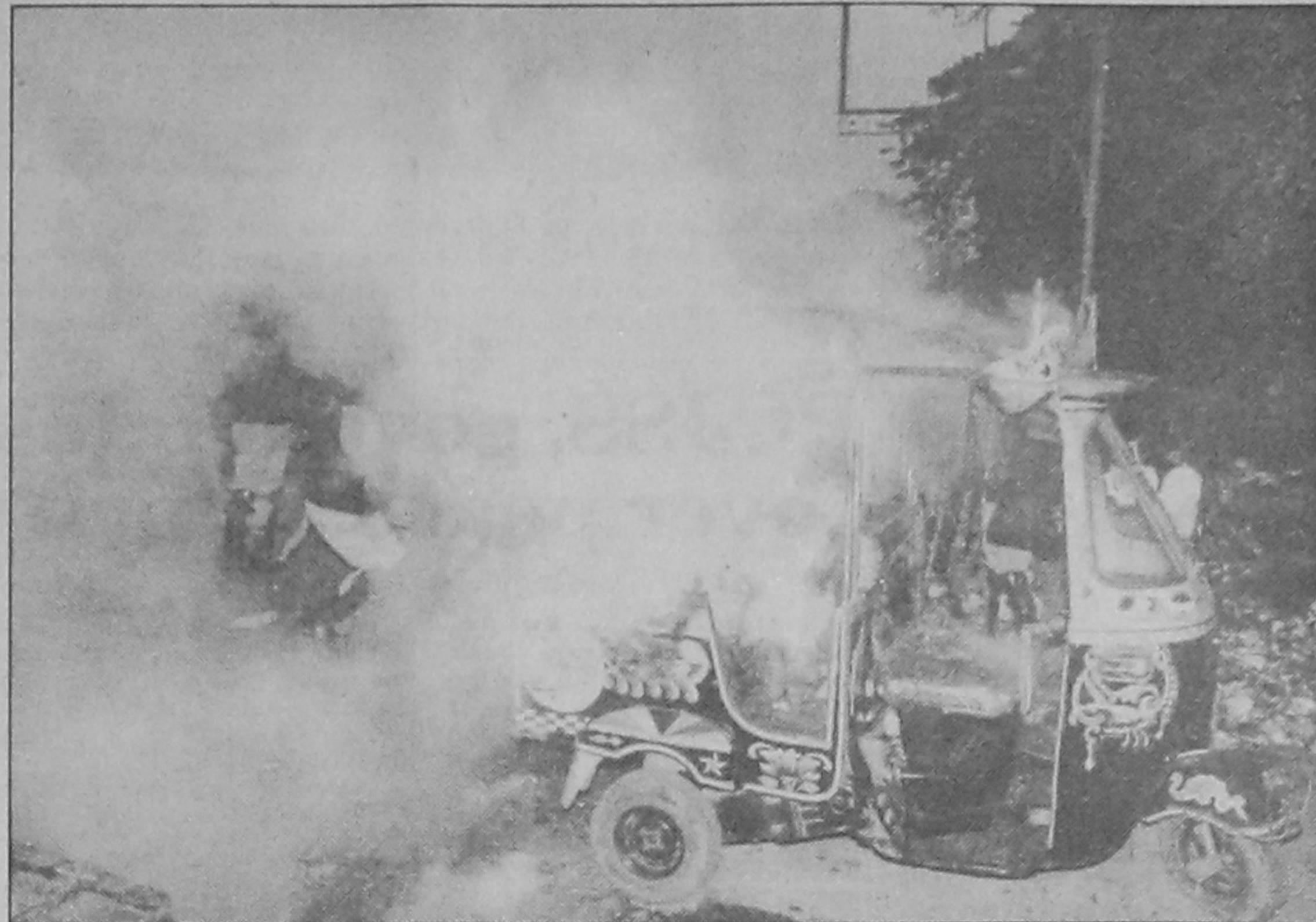
"Bangladesh reached an understanding on the issues ensuring national interests belying opposition's false propaganda," the resolution said about the landmark trip of the Prime Minister to the States at the invitation of the US President.

The visit brought about a qualitative change in Dhaka-Washington relations elevating Bangladesh to the status of a development partner and opening new avenues of multi-faceted cooperation between the two countries. USA expressed confidence in Bangladesh's democratic system and optimism in its economic prospect.

About the outcome of her 3-day Kuwait visit, the resolution said both Bangladesh and Kuwait had agreed to diversify bilateral cooperation for mutual benefit.

Export of manpower from Bangladesh to the Gulf state resumed following the signing of a technical cooperation agreement on exchange of labour.

Besides, the resolution said, Kuwait would send a team to study feasibility of setting up another oil refinery and dredging rivers as proposed by the Prime Minister.



Supporters of the Four-party opposition alliance vent their anger by setting a baby-taxi on fire yesterday after police fired tear gas shells on their procession brought out to mark November 7. The incident took place in front of the BNP office at Naya Paltan.

-- Star photo

Water projects

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taken up two alternative projects, namely Re-digging of Noakhali Canal, and Drainage and Rehabilitation of the Greater Noakhali, in a bid to partly meet the requirements of the original project.

"The government is looking for international consultants to conduct a feasibility study for the main project which was approved by the authorities concerned last year," said an official of the ministry.

Fifty-one of 167 pledges made by Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak until the 18th session of the current seventh parliament are yet to be implemented. Only 29 commitments made by the minister have been fulfilled while 82 are still being implemented. Five other pledges were partially implemented.

As response from international donor agencies are not always positive, the officials pointed out, the projects could not be implemented on time, especially as per the pledges made by the government. The ministry is trying hard to make the projects successful, they claimed.

The meeting also discussed the government steps so far taken for rehabilitation of the flood victims in the country's southwestern areas. In line with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's directives, the meeting emphasised the need for removing stagnant water at various places in the flood-hit districts.

Presided over by Committee Chairman Rezaul Karim Hira, the meeting was also attended by Mosarraf Hossain Mongu and other officials.

Ganguly's men

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India feeling at home?

Indian captain Saurav Ganguly apparently considers Bangladesh a second home. When a local journalist asked if he and his team were looking to put an end to their dismal record of not winning Tests away from home during yesterday's media conference, the captain from West Bengal, whose ancestors hail from Barisal, remarked, "Bangladesh is not abroad."

Whether his charges feel the same way however remains a mystery.

Yuvraj kept waiting

New Indian batting sensation Yuvraj Singh could not make it to Dhaka with his team following complications regarding his passport at Bombay airport. The young left hander, who shot into limelight with a scintillating knock against Australia on debut in the ICC Knockout tournament, is expected to join his mates today.

Sorry ticket sales

Kets for the inaugural Test match went on sale from different branches of Al-Baraka Bank yesterday. But there were not many people around to buy them. It was another harsh reminder that fans in this country are not prepared to embrace the 'real' cricket, at least not yet.

Biman : Privatisation

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ing all information related to the restructuring. They have identified 20 probable SPs from among the top airlines of the world, barring those from South Asia. Bidding from South Asian airlines will not be accepted, Biman sources said.

Biman will release the Request for Proposal (RFP) from prospective SPs by November 14 in national newspapers. The RFP will also be available on the Biman web site, the sources said.

Among the foreign media, the RFP will be published in The Economist of London and The Flight International.

The RFP will also be available from the Citibank and its consultants from the Salomon, Smith Barney, and Smith Hallison and Eshner.

The RFP will contain all related information about the national carrier, its prospects, the evaluation made by Citibank consultants and the process of selection

Block 9

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favour of Chevron, making it 47.5 per cent stakeholder in Block 9.

The draft JVA also said that Tullow oil would be the operator in the block during seismic survey. Chevron would take over operatorship when gas is found (or during the development period).

Chevron had been hammering hard for signing of the PSC since December 1997 and is now pursuing the issue through the US authorities. The PSC for Block 9, said to be the most prospective block in the country, was initiated with Chevron-Texaco-Tullow and BAPEX in March this year. But due to repeated disagreements between Chevron and Tullow, the PSC was not signed.

Road accidents

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Police said the accident took place at about 3 pm when a Chittagong bound truck collided with an autorickshaw coming from the opposite direction.

The victims were the passengers of the autorickshaw. Their identity could not be known immediately.

One of the injured was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital while the rest to local health complex.

Obituary

Begum Tahmina Ansari, wife of late Sultan Ahmed Ansari of Faridpur died of old-age ailments on Monday. She was 75, says a press release.

She left behind five sons, four daughters, relatives and admirers to mourn her death.

Qulikhani of Tahmina will be held on Friday after Asr prayers at the residence of her youngest son at Jhenuk Apartment at House No 8, Road No 13, Dhanmondi in the city.

of the SP.

Meanwhile, Biman has sent to the Law Ministry certain parts of the IM relating to legal sides of the draft agreement that it will sign with the selected SP.

The Board of Directors of Biman meets on November 15 to approve the draft agreement after it is cleared by the Law Ministry.

The entire process is expected to be completed by the first quarter of next year, the sources added.

Gas Commission

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power and promoting competitive market.

The commission would also ensure development of an efficient and economic system of transmission, distribution and supply of gas, protection of environment, safe operation of gas-based industry and interests of consumers.

Energy Secretary M Akmal Hossain, speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of a two-day workshop in the city yesterday, stressed the need for expediting reforms in the energy sector to encourage private investment.

The two-day workshop on the 'Role of Regulatory Agencies in the Management of a Nation's Mineral Resources' was jointly organised by the Hydrocarbon Unit of Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry and Petrobangla.

The energy secretary said, "It is very difficult to make a proper judgement by a company which controls production, distribution and pricing."

All subsidiaries of Petrobangla have their own boards which enjoy certain administrative power. As these are not functioning properly, ensuring transparency and accountability has become very difficult, he pointed out.

An independent commission for gas sector is going to be formed, Hossain mentioned, and sought suggestions in this regard.

Petrobangla Chairman Md Mosharraf Hossain said the regulator body would have a significant role with increasing involvement of private companies in energy sector.

Over a dozen hurt in police action

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rorism and lawlessness.

Bhuiyan said the 4-party alliance under the dynamic leadership of Khaleda Zia will continue the on-going movement till fall of the government. "A united government comprising alliance partners will be formed then," he said.

Addressing the rally, Jatiya Party Secretary General Nazim Rahman Manjur said the government made a serious mistake by

not allowing the opposition to hold its rally at Paltan Maidan.

The AL will have to face a similar situation if the opposition parties are voted to power, he warned.

Jamaat Secretary General Matlur Rahman Nizami said the government will not succeed in destroying the spirit of November 7 by canceling the public holiday on that day or by not allowing the opposition to hold rally.

He said the AL government will be thrown out of power for good in the next general election, to be participated by the opposition unitedly.

Earlier, hundreds of leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations visited Ziaur Rahman's mazar at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city, placed wreaths and offered lateha in observance of the National Revolution and Solidarity Day. A milad mahfil was also held there.

The huge procession paraded

Biman suspends

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agencies keep an eye on the luggage security officer and a supervisor, police said.

Other sources however said that some people broke open Jarina's briefcase at the cabin luggage area in the aircraft where it was kept. They did it following indication from 'scanner operator' and took away the money. Then they closed the briefcase using adhesive. There are many more allegations of similar incidents, they pointed out.

Biman also asked Oman Airlines to take necessary action against the personnel who ordered Jarina to send her briefcase to the aircraft's cabin luggage area. She had kept it with herself till the stopover at Mascot.

The poor widow from Muradnagar in Comilla was on her way back home from Abu Dhabi after working there for one and half years. She was carrying over 5000 dirhams in the briefcase. Biman is the ground handling agency at ZIA.

Biman security service and Cantonment police are jointly investigating the incident.

Biman officials said they are in touch with Oman Airlines to ensure compensation for Jarina.

This correspondent went to Oman Airlines office at ZIA yesterday and found it closed.

Police said they have got 'inconsistent information' about an official of Oman Airlines. Biman said that one Nadim was present in the luggage area when the luggage reached there.

But Oman Airlines said that no such official was present there during the incident on Saturday.

A customs official was present in the luggage area. As per rules, a CAAB official is supposed to stay there but there was no such official at that time, sources said.

Unocal

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which will earn 3.5 billion US dollars for the company.

To export gas, Unocal will invest 950 million dollars to build a pipeline from Bangladesh up to Delhi and spend 17 million dollars annually for its operation and maintenance.

Court's verdict on Rao, Buta Singh stayed

NEW DELHI, Nov 7: The Delhi High Court today ordered suspension of a trial court's verdict that awarded three years of rigorous imprisonment to former prime minister Narasimha Rao and former union minister Buta Singh in the Jharkhand Mukti Morcha (JMM) bribery case, reports BSS.

The court comprising Justice RS Sodhi stayed the October 13 verdict of special CBI Judge Ajit Bhattacharya and extended their bail on one surety and a bond of rupees 10,000 each. The sentences have been suspended till pendency of their appeals in the High Court.

Earlier, both the counsels of Rao and Singh argued that both convictions were based on the statement of the person who should not have been accepted as approver under Article 105 of the Constitution.

JS session

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Four new bills and 10 other pending bills are likely to be considered by the House in the coming session. The new bills are: The Supreme Court Judges (Leave, Pension and Privileges) (Amendment) Act 2000, The Public Demand Recovery (Amendment) Act 2000, and the Registration of Private Schools (Amendment) Bill 2000 and the Bangladesh Institute of Parliamentary Studies Bill 2000.

The crucial Vested Property Hand-over Act 2000 may also be placed in the coming session to resolve the long-standing problems of the Hindu minority, said an official.

Report on another crucial bill (The Constitution Fourteenth Amendment Bill 2000), which was placed in the budget session, would also be placed in the House with suggestions from the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the law ministry.

Scrutiny reports on several pending bills would be submitted in the House as the standing committees concerned have finalised their reports, an official said.

Other than bills, the coming session will also deal with several hundred notices, deposited mainly by the treasury bench members, he said.

New telecom act

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"The National Telecommunication Act, 2000 has been sent to the cabinet secretariat and is waiting to be placed before the cabinet," a highly placed source in the ministry said.

The act would open up the telecommunications sector to competition and help improve quality of service, the source said.

It will also put an end to the supervisory authority of MOPT and the monopoly of state-run Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTB) by empowering the Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (TRC), a separate autonomous regulatory commission in character, to work independently.

The TRC may consist of a Chairman and a number of members to be appointed by the government.

To maintain its impartiality, no serving employees or directors of any telecommunication company will be made member of the TRC. Part-time members may be appointed as and when deemed necessary.

The TRC will be transparent in all its activities to the operators and also to parties involved in telecommunications sector.

Its role would be to ensure equity and fair play by providing a level playing field for all operators.

The strategic vision of the government is to facilitate Universal Telephone Service through the country, and where there is a demand, all those value-added services.

The TRC will be able to adapt to the fast-changing environment in the burgeoning telecommunica-

tions sector and supervise the telecommunication services to ensure that the interest of the users is protected.

The government acknowledges the private sector's increasing resolve and ability to meet the growing demands of the country as well as the fact that the private sector will become a much stronger force in the development of telecommunications in the coming years.

After enactment of the policy, the government will provide all assistance to make the private sector more vibrant and robust in keeping with their anticipated role in the coming years.

3 of a family found dead in Gazipur

GAZIPUR, Nov 7: A father and two of his daughters met their tragic end of life at their village home in Pubal union here last night, reports BSS.

Police said they found the bodies of Rafiq Uddin, 35, his daughters Rakhia, 3 and Khadija, 1 lying on the floor of their house at Kodabo village under Sadar police station this morning.

Police suspected that miscreants might have murdered them or Rafiq committed suicide after killing his two daughters.

The bodies were sent to the morgue of Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

A case was registered with Sadar Police Station in this connection.

SC orders Ershad

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Ershad's sentence by two years by the High Court Division will also be heard on the same date along with Ershad's petition.

Barrister Rafiqul Huq with senior advocate Khandaker Mahub Hossain, Barrister Moudud Ahmed and Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan along with a good number of lawyers appeared for Ershad before the Appellate Division yesterday.

Additional Attorney General Mahabubul Alam along with Deputy Attorney General M Farooq opposed Ershad's prayer for exempting him from surrendering before the lower court.

The Addl AG submitted that there is no provision in the Appellate Division rules to accept any application for a person, who has not surrendered as required by

law.

Ershad appeared in person at the Appellate Division along with JP secretary general Nazim Rahman Manjur, Kazi Feroz Rashid and other party leaders at the time of hearing of the petition. Barrister Rafiqul Huq submitted before the court that his client, Ershad, has appeared before the Appellate Division and as such, he might be exempted from surrendering to the lower court.

As the Chief Justice ordered Ershad to 'surrender before the court below' rejecting his prayer for exemption of surrender before the trial court, Huq instantly filed another application praying for time for surrender.

Accordingly, the court ordered Ershad to surrender by November 21.

First vote goes to Bush

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Only one vote was cast for Green Party candidate Ralph Nader, a hotel spokeswoman said.

Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan got zero votes, she added.

Dixville Notch is the first locality in the nation to file its election results, since a state law allows any locality to close its polls once all its registered voters have cast their ballots.

Seventeen local residents left their homes and walked under steady drizzle to vote at the hotel, which is closed for the season. Ten other residents sent their ballots in by mail.

According to village tradition, 101-year-old Thomas Tillotson was first in line to cast his ballot.

When all the votes were in, the results were written by hand on a poster board.

In Hart, another New Hampshire village that holds its elections very early, Bush also came out ahead with 17 votes to Gore's 13. The remaining vote went to local candidate Geoffrey Peters.

Despite Bush's landslide in this tiny, picturesque community, the result does not reflect the race for president at the national level, where the Texas governor has a slight lead over the vice president in the latest opinion polls, but not big enough to overcome the margins of error.

In a statistical dead heat, Bush and Gore ended a fever-pitched last day of campaigning in Texas and Florida respectively.

Is draw a possibility?

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than 30 states and lose the election.

If Gore or Bush wins the electoral vote without clearly leading in the popular vote, or if there is an electoral vote tie, December 18 becomes a crucial date. That is when electors meet in each state, cast their ballots for president and vice president and forward the results to Congress, which officially records them in a special session on January 6.

For the Republicans, a Bush victory matched with success in holding onto both houses of Congress, would give them control of both the executive and legislative branches of government for the first time since 1954.

Although foreign affairs barely took centre stage in the cam-

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