

BNP renews talks offer to AL

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP yesterday renewed its offer of dialogue to the main opposition Awami League to resolve various problems concerning national issues and the Jatiya Sangsad.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan made the formal offer to Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdul Hamid at a discussion programme in the city.

"We want to reach a consensus with your party on national issues. I

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Gas-starved city kitchens to get supply today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Many homes in several city areas, including the prime minister's residence, went without gas yesterday as supply was temporarily suspended for maintenance works

ahead of winter.

In Cantonment area the supply was accidentally snapped for two to three hours and as a result the prime minister's residence remained without gas till the authorities restored it from an

alternative source, sources said.

Gas supply will not be restored before 10:00am today in the other areas.

Supply of gas was suspended from 12 noon yesterday in Mirpur.

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PM orders 4,000 teachers for govt colleges thru' spl BCS exams

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has directed the authorities to appoint 4,000 teachers to government colleges by June 30 next through special BCS examinations under the Public Service Commission.

She also directed the officials concerned to fill the vacant posts in all government offices, including those at the field level, to create employment opportunities for the educated youths.

The prime minister gave the directive while presiding over a meeting to review the progress of

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Banshkhali carnage a grisly expression of barbarity: Hasina

SHAHIDUL ISLAM, back from Banshkhali

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina yesterday condemned the incineration of 11 of a Hindu family on the Banshkhali coast as a grisly expression of bestiality that defies every code of humanity after she visited the bereaved.

Pushpa Shil, who lost her three young daughters on the dreadful night of November 18, burst into tears as Hasina tried to console the elderly woman during the visit to the scene of bloodbath in Shilpara village, about 80 kilometres south of Chittagong city.

A large number of people,

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including women, came out of their homes to see Hasina who stayed about an hour in the village, spending time with the survivors and addressing a gathering of other villagers still in a state of shock.

Later in the day, she addressed a public rally in the Kalipur Ezharul Haq High School ground and said: "This is one of the most heinous acts of barbarity mankind has ever seen."

"The carnage scene is too eerie to look at -- the burnt-out mud house is a cruel reminder of terror. Those who perpetrated this crime cannot be called humans. They are simply beasts," said Hasina, moved a t

Kuril arms haul

No crucial leads on gunrunners

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detective Branch (DB) of police yesterday interrogated Mehedi Hasan Manik, owner of Tulir Parash, the signboard shop in Kuril Badda where police found a huge arms cache on Sunday.

But police were unable to obtain any significant information from

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Prayer Timings		
December 3		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-40
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-15	5-21
Esha	7-00	7-30
Source: Islamic Foundation		



Prime Minister Khaleda Zia presides over a review meeting on the progress of different ministries at the International Conference Centre yesterday.

US scraps foreigners' registration rule

REUTERS, Washington

The US government said on Monday it was scrapping a controversial control on foreign visitors, mainly men from the Middle East, introduced after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, saying resources could be better used in the war on terrorism.

The Department of Homeland Security said with immediate effect, men from 25 nations, who will still be photographed and fingerprinted on arrival, will no longer have to re-register after 30 days and then one year after entering America.

Asa Hutchinson, Homeland Security's undersecretary for border and transportation security, said the move freed up resources to target more effectively potential terrorists based on indi-

vidual and not geographic factors.

"It was a significant resource commitment to handle these re-registrations," Hutchinson told reporters. "The resources can be better used in individual targeting."

Re-registration had only minimal benefits in terms of national security, Hutchinson said, adding officials never received any national security "leads" from re-registration.

Critics accused the government of unfairly targeting thousands of people on grounds of nationality. The registration program, like other measures implemented in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, was also attacked for being intrusive.

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