

## BNP standing body

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cess of the on-going negotiations aimed at resolving the long-standing political stand-off.

Meanwhile, UNB reported late last night that Sir Ninian Stephen, the emissary of the Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeaka Anyanwu who is here to facilitate the government-opposition talks, had reportedly faxed a message seeking Chief Emeaka's advice following a certain development yesterday.

The private news agency, quoting "competent" sources, said that Sir Ninian had written to Emeaka either to withdraw him from his present assignment or come here himself to facilitate the dialogue.

### Dialogue held

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had taken place in a very cordial atmosphere. The talks began at 7 pm and were adjourned at 11:30. The discussion will resume at 6 this evening.

Three BNP leaders — Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum and Amir Khasru MP spoke yesterday. All of them maintained that the BNP sponsored Bill seeking strengthening of the Election Commission (EC) was a positive solution to any problems relating to holding of free and fair elections. They, however, urged their opposition counterparts to come forward with suggestions, if they have any, to improve the proposed legislation, sources in the ruling party said.

But the opposition leaders — Mohammad Nasim, AL general secretary Zillur Rahman and Anwar Hossain Monju — are learnt to have maintained that it was impossible to have fair elections with any political party in power.

According to some sources, at the beginning of the talks yesterday Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, reacting to the Prime Minister's speech in Rajshahi Sunday and published yesterday, said it seemed the ruling party would not accept the opposition demand for holding elections under a caretaker administration.

Samad Azad said such statements would destroy the spirit of the dialogue aimed at resolving the political crisis through a consensus.

The situation is learnt to have cooled down when the ruling party leaders argued that the BNP had the right to assert its original position until the leaders of both the camps reached an agreement on the contentious issues.

Referring to the recent speeches of Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina they said that she was also sticking to her original position on the issues.

The two sides then resumed the talks.

## Blast kills 57 in Lanka

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killed by a Sri Lankan woman whose head was blown off her body by the explosives strapped to her waist.

Last year, Sri Lankan President Ranasinghe Premadasa was murdered by a man on a bicycle who detonated explosives attached to his body.

A government delegation cancelled a flight to the rebel stronghold of Jaffna where a second round of peace talks was due to be held today, said government delegate Navin Gunaratne. No new date was set.

A hospital official said about 50 bodies had been brought to General Hospital in Colombo, but they were in such bad condition that an exact count was impossible. A Defence Ministry spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said more than 200 people were wounded, but he could not confirm the hospital's death toll.

The site of the carnage was strewn with slippers and ladies' umbrellas. A pair of wooden crutches lay on the bloodied ground.

Dissanayake concluded his speech with a lighthearted 'good morning' to the crowd just after midnight. 'Immediately I heard the sound of firecrackers, then an explosion and more firecrackers,' said Ranjith Hemachandra, who owns a nearby music store.

An emergency meeting of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga's Cabinet early today decided to postpone the Nov. 9 election, in which she was to stand as a candidate for the ruling alliance.

But Election Commissioner Chandananda De Silva said the voting could go ahead as scheduled if the law-and-order situation was under control.

Fearing riots, the government put the armed forces on

Ninian's reported move was prompted by the failure of Deputy Leader of the House and BNP chief negotiator AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury to keep a scheduled appointment with Sir Ninian yesterday afternoon at the state guest house Meghna.

The agency reported that though Opposition pointsman Abdus Samad Azad had met Sir Ninian as arranged, the BNP delegation did not turn up.

However, Works and Housing Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, awakened from sleep by this correspondent at 2:00 am, told The Daily Star that because of the Standing Committee meeting the BNP delegation comprising Badruddoza Chowdhury and party Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar could not make it to the Meghna for their meeting with Sir Ninian. He said Prof Chowdhury had called up the state guest house and rescheduled the meeting for later in the afternoon. But Rafiq said he did not know if Prof Chowdhury eventually went to the Meghna yesterday.

Quoting Salam Talukdar, whom he rang up after receiving the call from The Daily Star, Rafiq Miah said Prof Chowdhury is now scheduled to meet the Commonwealth emissary at ten this morning.

Rafiq also denied any knowledge about Sir Ninian's reported fax message to Chief Emeaka.

### Prokrichi's 2-day 'mass leave'

By Staff Correspondent

Members of the 26 Prokrichi-BCS non-administrative cadres will go on a two-day 'mass leave' from tomorrow to press home their 17-point demand.

### Isha murder

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After that judicial statement, Amjad was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail. Two of his associates — Zahidul Islam Prince and Habibur Rahman Habib were sent to the jail earlier.

Two more of the five teenagers charged with murdering Isha, a Class Ten student of Motijheel Central Government High School Zakir Hossain alias Biplob and Shafiqul Islam Babu, are still on police remand in the city's Detective Branch (DB) at Minto Road.

All four accused, excepting Prince, were taken on police remand for five days on Saturday.

Amjad, in his judicial statement under Section 164 of the Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) said, when four of his associates went upstairs at Isha's flat, he waited alone on the street outside. The four later came down with the loot and gave it to him for sale, and he did that accordingly, he added.



Poet Shamsur Rahman, a classmate of S M Ali, the founder-editor of The Daily Star, reminiscing about his days with the late editor at a memorial meeting on his first death anniversary, organised by the journalists and staff of the daily at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. The editor of the daily Mahfuz Anam and Nancy Ali are seen seated. — Star photo

## Tributes paid to S M Ali

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at the Dhaka University, said the late editor, during his stay abroad, had cherished the desire to bring out a quality newspaper in Bangladesh.

Ali's newspaper, The Daily Star, restored the relevance of English language journalism in the country with its high standard of professionalism.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, another school mate, recalled that S M Ali's boyhood dream was to become a journalist and he carved his life out of his professionalism.

"Not many people in journalism can achieve such success," he added.

Not many people are privileged to leave behind their epitaphs during their life time, as S M Ali did with The Daily Star, recalled eminent economist Prof Rahman Sobhan.

Ali's life and works could be a model to portray to what heights a professional could reach, he said.

Prof Sobhan requested The Daily Star management to compile and publish all the works of S M Ali for the benefit of the new generation journalists.

A long-time associate of the late journalist and temporary editor of The Daily Sangbad K G Mustafa, said S M Ali viewed journalism as a profession which cut across all frontiers and his humanism was reflected in all his works.

The Chief Editor of the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha

(BSS) D P Barua, paying glowing tribute to the memory of the late journalist, said S M Ali was a phenomenon.

He said, at 65, the journalist died a premature death because his creativity as a brilliant editor was growing with age.

He also lauded S M Ali's social liberalism and compassion which was reflected in all his works throughout his life.

The late editor was the lone talent of this soil who volunteered to return home to serve his country through his profession, said Wahidul Huq, Joint Editor of The Daily Star.

S M Ali was an exceptional editor in this country who believed the running of a newspaper was a total team work, Huq said.

"Barring S M Ali very few people have ever tried to restore the faith of the society in our journalism," he added.

Former governor of the Bangladesh Bank S B Choudhuri said S M Ali was a thoroughly transparent personality and he expected transparency from everyone else.

He was simple in nature but he was as firm as steel inside, Choudhuri added.

Eminent playwright and critic Syeed Ahmed said, Ali was a stylist and his style was reflected in his life and his works.

"S M Ali radiated a charming warmth of basic human integrity," commented Azimur Rahman, Chairman of Mediaworld Limited, the holding company of The Daily Star.

## Corruption case filed against Kazi Zafar

The Bureau of Anti-corruption has filed a case with the Senior Special Judge's court of Khulna against former prime minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed and two of his associates for deriving benefit out of government funds by abusing power and resorting to corruption, reports BSS.

Kazi Zafar Ahmed has been charged with causing a financial loss to the tune of Taka 9,68,565 to the exchequer, according to an official hand-out issued in Dhaka yesterday.

The two associates of Kazi Zafar Ahmed involved in the case are Mohiuddin Mallick, former upazila chairman of Digholia, and Gazi Mohammad Siraj, former union parishad chairman of Senliati under Digholia thana.

It was mentioned in the charge-sheet that the former prime minister had declared at a public meeting in the financial year 1989-90 that he would donate 100 bighas of land from his parental property for the establishment of a cancer hospital at Chandanmahal under Digholia thana of Khulna district.

## Huge market in India

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centives for the foreign investors, he noted.

The FBCCI President, however, stressed the need for a level-playing field for enabling the local investors to compete with the foreign investors efficiently.

He said there is no reason for keeping the country's market closed at this moment when all the countries are opening their markets in the context of the changed global economic scenario. But to what extent Bangladesh will open its market, will have to be decided considering the openness of the markets of other countries, he added.

Expressing his confidence in the potential of the country's business community, Salman said it is evident from the success of some of the business houses that our entrepreneurs can also succeed in maintaining international standards in their performance, if an enabling atmosphere is ensured.

He, however, said the FBCCI is being properly equipped soon to enable it to bargain effectively with the government

for protecting the interest of the businessmen and the economy as a whole.

BSS adds: Salman Rahman took over as the president of the FBCCI at the annual general meeting for 1993, held at the Federation Bhawan.

In his acceptance speech Rahman reiterated his firm conviction that the business community could change the destiny of the country. He reaffirmed that the election was held on totally non-political basis. The extensive participation and cordiality was a testimony of the confidence of the business community in their apex body, FBCCI, he added.

Mahbubur Rahman, the outgoing president, spoke about the contributions of the FBCCI in the growth and development of the private sector over the last two and a half years.

He stressed the need for a congenial social environment for the promotion of trade, commerce and industry. He also laid emphasis on poverty alleviation programmes, infrastructure development, human resource development, and encouragement to capital formation.

## Dhaka ready to help strengthen UN: Mostafiz

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday reaffirmed Bangladesh's readiness to further strengthen the role of the United Nations, reports BSS.

"We will contribute generously towards any positive evolution of the UN to further strengthen cohesion of mankind by rediscovering the idea of fairness and justice, developments and progress, brotherhood and cooperation," he told a seminar in the city marking the founding of the United Nations.

Organised by the United Nations Association of Bangladesh (UNAB) and the United Nations System in Bangladesh, the seminar was presided over by UNAB president Professor M Innas Ali.

### Shantibahinimen release tea garden official

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 24: A tea garden official who was kidnapped by armed Shantibahinimen from his bungalow under Fatukchhari thana, was released on October 22, five days after abduction.

According to police sources the Shantibahini freed Akhtaruzzaman, assistant manager of a tea garden near Gumara, after realising a large ransom.

A group of armed Shantibahinimen on the night of October 17 stormed into the house of the manager and kidnapped him at gun point.

### Abahani's

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ers-up slot.

For the rejoicing and assured Abahani fans at the jam-packed Dhaka Stadium yesterday's match had all its significances narrowed to just one issue — ensuring the doubly delightful icing of confirming a stainless crown their dear team had snatched from Mohammedans, who completed one of the most, wretched years in the recent times. The black-and-whites failed to lay hands on a single title this soccer season.

Abahani topped the two-phase Premier league of ten teams with 28 points, having drawn eight matches.

Mohammedans, who had the mortification of seeing Abahani even on their record of nine league titles, managed 25 points from the quorum of 18 matches, suffering some ignominious defeats in the process.

Mukitjoddha, whose only solace for rather heavy spending on all those stars is the curtain raising Federation Cup, finished runners-up by virtue of a better goal-scoring record. They, too, garnered 25 points.

## The Midnight File

### Rockets kill 35 in Kabul

KABUL, Oct 24: Rockets rained over the Afghan capital Kabul today, killing at least 35 people and wounding 98 on the eve of planned talks between a UN peace envoy and a key factional leader, hospital sources said. President Burhanuddin Rabbani's administration blamed the barrage from the south and southwest of the war-shattered city on his opponents, led by Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and northern warlord General Abdul Rashid Dostum, reports Reuters.

### British Defence Secy in Kuwait

KUWAIT CITY, Oct 24: British Defence Secretary Malcolm Rifkind arrived here today to hold talks with Kuwaiti leaders and visit British troops sent after Iraq massed forces along the border with Kuwait. Rifkind will meet the Emir, Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah, and other officials including Kuwait's Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmed al-Homoud, reports AFP.

## Agitation: Hasina

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gives up its obstinacy."

"But if the government fails to understand the people's demand — then you can understand what can be the outcome of the dialogue," Hasina said.

She said her party wanted to establish a normal and healthy electoral system by removing rigging and all other fraudulent practices. "If a fair polling system is not established, democratic process will be meaningless and the people will not get anything from democracy."

Asked about the possibility of any compromise on the question of a caretaker government, Hasina said, "Is there anything to compromise on this question? We know the polls under a party government will be rigged. There will be no security of the people and violence will continue."

Replying to a question on the prospect of a national government, she said such a government, made up of different political parties, would not be good. "Each will try to protect their own interest and finally things will end up in a chaos."

"They will not impose anything... they will only perform the duty of a catalyst, nothing else," Hasina said when she was asked whether the

### Worker manhandled

### JU buses stop plying from today

By JU Correspondent

Buses of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will not ply between the campus and the capital from today in protest against the alleged manhandling of a transport worker by students.

Some students roughed up Shamsul Alam, a transport worker of JU buses when they found that two buses scheduled to leave at 2 pm were not available at the campus bus terminal.

Commonwealth mediators will eventually put forward any compromise formula.

Asked if she will continue the agitation without the 'autocrats and Rajakars' she said, "We will continue our agitation, they will follow their strategy. We are also campaigning against autocracy and Rajakars, but all the opposition parties are now fighting to replace a just demand."

"Commonwealth will not come every time to help us in holding election... If outsiders have to come every time the country's image will be undermined," she said.

### Clash in N'ganj over control of red light district

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 24: Fierce fighting between two groups over control of the town's Tanbazar red light district caused widespread panic here tonight.

According to police and witnesses, two gangs known as the Joseph group and Hassan group, clashed at Mondolpara in the town around 8:00 pm. A series of crackers were exploded.

Later, around 9, the trouble spread to the Tanbazar area with the rival gangsters using sticks, rods and other lethal weapons. Cocktails were exploded and a few gunshots were also heard.

The prostitutes, who ply their trade from the notorious area, even came out on the streets brandishing sticks and knives, witnesses said.

The clash centred the two groups bid for control of the red light area, witnesses said.

There were, however, no reports of any injuries or damage to property till the writing of this report at midnight.

Contingents of police were guarding the area to avert deterioration of the situation.

হাউস বিল্ডিং ফাইনান্স কর্পোরেশন

ঋণ সুবিধাদি ও অন্যান্য বিষয়

নিজস্ব জমি না থাকলেও কর্পোরেশন এখন গ্র্যাপার্টমেন্ট কেনার জন্য ঋণ দিচ্ছে। টাকা ও চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটান শহরে এলাকাভেদে সর্বোচ্চ ১৩০০, ১৫০০ ও ১৮০০ বর্গফুট আয়তনের ফ্ল্যাট কেনার জন্য যথাক্রমে ৭.৮০ লক্ষ, ৯.০০ লক্ষ ও ১২.৯৬ লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত ঋণ পাওয়া যাবে। ফ্ল্যাট কেনার জন্য সাময়িক আবেদনপত্র কর্পোরেশন ভবনে অবস্থিত জনতা ব্যাংক শাখা হতে কেনা যাবে।

ছোট আয়তনের ফ্ল্যাটবাড়ি নির্মাণের জন্য সিলিং বাড়ানো হয়েছে। সর্বোচ্চ ১০০০ বর্গফুটের ৪টি ইউনিট নির্মাণের জন্য জমির অবস্থান ও বিনিয়োগের উপর রিটার্নের ভিত্তিতে ১৪.৬৫ লক্ষ টাকা ঋণ মঞ্জুর করা হবে। যৌথ মালিকানাধীন প্রটেও গ্রুপ ভিত্তিতে একাধিক ঋণ দেয়া হচ্ছে এবং ঋণের সিলিংও বৃদ্ধি করা হয়েছে।

সেমিপাকা বাড়ি নির্মাণের জন্যও ঋণ দেয়া হচ্ছে।

সুদের হার কমানো হয়েছেঃ জুলাই '৯৪ হতে সুদের হার কমিয়ে ঢাকা ও চট্টগ্রাম মেট্রোপলিটান এলাকার জন্য ১২% (ব্যাংক ঋণের ৯.০৬% সমতুল্য) ও অন্যান্য এলাকার জন্য ১০% (ব্যাংক ঋণের ৭.৮৭% সমতুল্য) হারে সুদ ধার্য করা হয়েছে। নিয়মিত পরিশোধকারীদের ইনসেন্টিভ দিওন করা হয়েছে তবে কোন খেলাপি গ্রাহীতা হাসকৃত সুদের সুবিধা পাবেন না।

হাসকৃত হারে প্রায় অর্ধলক্ষ ঋণ কেসের কিস্তি পুনঃ নির্ধারণের কাজ চলছে। নভেম্বর '৯৪ হতে উপদেশপত্র ইস্যু শুরু হয়ে যাবে। উপদেশপত্র পাওয়া পর্যন্ত পূর্বকার কিস্তি জমা দিতে থাকুন যা পরে নতুন কিস্তির সাথে সমন্বয় করা যাবে। আপনার ঠিকানা পরিবর্তন হয়ে থাকলে অবিলম্বে সর্গশ্রু জেনকে অবহিত করুন।

খেলাপি গ্রাহীতাগণকে আবারও স্মরণ করিয়ে দেয়া হচ্ছে যে, মাত্র ৪টি অরিজিনাল কিস্তির সমপরিমাণ অর্থ জমা করে সমাপ্তি পর দাখিল করলে তাদেরকেও রিসিডিউলিং (কিস্তি পুনঃনির্ধারণ) সুবিধা প্রদান করা হবে। খেলাপি গ্রাহীতাদের তালিকা প্রতিকায় প্রকাশিত হচ্ছে। আইনগত ব্যবস্থা এড়াতে হলে এখনই উদ্যোগ নিন।

১৯৯৩-৯৪ অর্থ বছরের হিসাব বিবরণীঃ বিগত বছরের কম্পিউটারাইজড হিসাব বিবরণী বিলির জন্য প্রস্তুত রয়েছে এবং তা সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। কতিপয় হিসাব বিবরণীতে কিছু ভুল চিহ্নিত করা হয়েছে এবং তা সংশোধনের ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হয়েছে। জুলাই-ডিসেম্বর '৯৪ সময়ের অর্থ বার্ষিক হিসাব বিবরণীতে সংশোধন প্রতিকলিত হবে। জেন পুনর্গঠনকালীন সময়ে সংঘটিত এই অনিচ্ছাকৃত ভুলের জন্য কর্পোরেশন দুঃখ প্রকাশ করছে।

কর্পোরেশন সরকার নির্ধারিত পদ্ধতিতে সল্ল সুদ চার্জ করে। মূল ঋণের ওপর সুদ এবং মূল ঋণ (প্রিন্সিপাল) ব্যাংকের ন্যায় একত্রিত করা হয় না।

সময়মত কিস্তি পরিশোধ করে নিজে লাভবান হোন ও অপরকে ঋণ পাবার সুযোগ দিন

ডিএফপি-৮১৭৪-২০/১০

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