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# The Daily Star

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**2 HC judges appointed**

By Staff Correspondent  
Additional Judges of the High Court Division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court Abu Sayed Ahmad and Md Fazul Karim have been appointed Judges of the same division. The President has appointed them after consultation with the Chief Justice, says a hand-out.

**Team to explore tea market abroad**

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Oct 26: A four-member delegation, headed by a joint Secretary of the Commerce Ministry, is expected to leave for abroad tomorrow on a 10-day visit to explore markets for Bangladesh tea. The delegation will visit Pakistan, Poland and the CIS countries.

**Strike at RU**

From RU Correspondent  
RAJSHAHI, Oct 26: A day long strike was observed in the university today at the call of the Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS), the student wing of the Jamaat-e-Islami. The ICS called the strike protesting the recent incident at Khulna City College in which two students were killed. No classes were held at the university. However, examinations were held as per schedule.

**3 of a family electrocuted**

SATKHIRA, Oct 26: Three people in the same family were electrocuted Tuesday night in Pingri beel area under sadar thana, police today said. The victims are: Giasuddin, 55, his son Saidul Islam, 35, and son-in-law Sahed Ali, 35. The accident occurred when the victims unknowingly stepped on a live wire of an illegally taken electric connection for running a shallow tubewell, reports UNB.

## Talks resume today

By Staff Correspondent

The dialogue between the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the parliamentary Opposition resumes this evening.

The Commonwealth-brokered talks, which began October 20, had broken down Tuesday night after five sessions when the Opposition delegates walked out in protest against the government's attitude.

An announcement regarding a resumption of the dialogue was made by Sir Ninian Stephen yesterday afternoon following his separate parleys with the government and the Opposition camps.

In a brief statement, the Commonwealth Secretary General's emissary said: "In the light of consultations which have taken place, the two deputy leaders will meet tomorrow, 27th October, in

furtherance of the dialogue process."

Earlier, Sir Ninian's spokesman Christopher Childs, in a separate statement yesterday morning said: "The Commonwealth-envoy would remain in Dhaka until the issues involved in the dialogue had been resolved."

A three-member ruling party delegation headed by

### Ninian's denial

By Staff Correspondent  
A spokesman for Sir Ninian Stephen, the envoy of the Commonwealth Secretary General, yesterday denied reports appearing in a section of the press Tuesday about Sir Ninian's intention to withdraw from his present assignment.

In a written statement issued to the press yesterday morning See Page 12 Col 5

Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury met Sir Ninian at the state guest house Meghna at 10:30 am yesterday. The other members were Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain and Communications Minister Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad, accompanied by SAMS Kibria,

### Editorial on page 4

political advisor to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, and the party's International Affairs Secretary Abul Hassan Chowdhury MP, called on the Commonwealth emissary at the same venue at 12:30 pm.

According to meeting sources, both delegations explained to Sir Ninian the reasons behind the 'failure' of the first phase of the dialogue

Tuesday night.

The BNP delegation reportedly told Sir Ninian that despite prior agreement and repeated requests from the BNP, the Opposition had refused to move on to the second phase of the negotiating process—by sitting at smaller forums—for narrowing down the gaps over the more contentious issues.

"Besides, the Opposition, in an almost dramatic move, was asserting that the government side must make a commitment on the caretaker administration issue right at Tuesday's meeting," the ruling party delegation complained.

A member of the government delegation which met Sir Ninian yesterday told The Daily Star that they had also made it clear to the Commonwealth envoy that the BNP See Page 12 Col 4

## PM tells meeting at Netrakona Opposition must show constructive intention

NETRAKONA, Oct 26: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today reiterated that any problem can be resolved through discussion and urged the Opposition to come forward with constructive intentions, reports UNB.

"The BNP does not like conflict and wants to solve problems through talks because it believes in peace and development," she said. But she made it clear that her party would never "bow to any injustice and always stand against injustice."

Referring to the dialogue between the government and the Opposition for resolving the current political stalemate, Begum Zia said her party is very much sincere for fruitful discussion and was ready to continue the dialogue in the greater interest of the country and the people.

"Solution is possible only through discussions. But well-meaning intentions are necessary for solving problems," she said, adding: "All efforts must fall apart if there is no sincere intention."

The Prime Minister was addressing a mammoth public meeting at the Mukhtarpara ground in the Netrakona town this afternoon. She told the huge gathering that the people had earned democracy after nine years of struggle and her government came to power through a free and neutral general election.

"Because we are a people's government, we think problems can be resolved through talks," Begum Zia said and added that all should refrain from anti-

## Netrakona gets gas supply

NETRAKONA, Oct 26: Netrakona was brought under natural gas distribution network in fulfillment of the long-felt expectations of the people of this area when Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally opened the supply system here today, reports BSS.

Witnessed by a number of ministers, MPs and people from all sections of the district headquarters, the Prime Minister ignited the torch at Shishu Sadhan maidan here giving connection of gas supply to an orphanage marking the inauguration of natural gas supply to this district town.

Speaking at the function organised on this occasion the Prime Minister said the supply of natural gas would create favourable condition for industrialisation in Netrakona and increase employment opportunities.

Extending greetings to the See Page 12 Col 4

## Interview with Sheikh Hasina

### 'BNP pushing country towards disaster'

A Star Special  
"The government of Begum Khaleda Zia is pushing the country towards an uncertain future, not only in politics but in every sphere of social, cultural and economic life. We are moving towards disaster."

Details of the interview on Page 4

The views were expressed by the Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star at her official residence yesterday.

Speaking on the reasons for the breakdown of the government-Opposition talks Tuesday, she said it was caused by

## 'BNP never refused to discuss interim govt'

By Staff Correspondent  
Bangladesh Nationalist Party leaders said yesterday that the Opposition had finally accepted the ruling party's proposal placed Tuesday night to continue the dialogue.

"We had suggested that we should sit in smaller groups to find out ways out of the impasse within the context of the existing constitutional provisions," BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder told The Daily Star.

"But they insisted on a firm commitment from us about the caretaker government issue. Then, all of a sudden, the Opposition Chief Whip briefed the press that the dialogue had failed."

The "Local Government" and Rural Development Minister, a negotiator at the talks from the ruling party, said he is still



US President Bill Clinton (C) witnesses Israeli Premier Yitzhak Rabin (L) and his Jordanian counterpart Abdel Salam Majali signing the historic Israeli-Jordanian peace accord during a ceremony held at the Arava border yesterday. Standing (L to R) are: US Secretary of State Warren Christopher, an unidentified member of the US delegation, Israeli President Eizer Weizman, Jordan's King Hussein and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozirev. —AFP photo

## Samad Azad demands special JS session

By Staff Correspondent  
Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abdus Samad Azad has demanded immediate convening of a special session of the House and introduction of a bill 'agreed to by all the political parties' over the issue of elections under a caretaker government.

"Only such an agreed bill can resolve the current political impasse", he told a press briefing at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday evening.

He said that the first phase of the Commonwealth-brokered dialogue had failed to yield any result.

The opposition leader informed the newsmen that he had been invited by Sir Ninian Stephen to have a meeting with Deputy Leader of the

## Foreign diplomats still optimistic

By M Anwarul Haq  
Despite Tuesday night's setback, envoys of most Western and Commonwealth countries based in Dhaka are still optimistic about a positive outcome of the dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition.

Hectic parleys were held between most diplomats yesterday after news spread that the dialogue had apparently broken down Tuesday night. For the rest of the day, diplomats were busy trying to keep themselves abreast of developments. They were learnt to be generally satisfied after hearing of Sir Ninian Stephen's announcement yesterday afternoon that the dialogue would again resume today.

"I have not lost hope," Sir Ninian is quoted to have said when one ambassador asked him about the prospects of the dialogue.

The envoys of the European Union countries met over lunch at the residence of the Danish Charge d' Affaires yesterday. The diplomats in detail the subject of the Commonwealth-brokered dialogue.

French Ambassador Jean-Michel Lacombe, asked about the luncheon meeting, said: "We had a thorough review of the situation. We are hoping that this dialogue would succeed."

It was learnt that Dr Kamal Hossain was present at the See Page 12 Col 1

## Jordan, Israel end 46 yrs of hostility

ARAVA, Israeli-Jordanian border, Oct 26: Israel and Jordan, ended 46 years of hostility today, signing a peace treaty witnessed by US President Clinton at the Arava desert border crossing south of the Dead Sea, report Reuter, AP.

The prime ministers of both countries signed the historic document to the applause of nearly 5,000 guests at a hastily-erected arena in searing 36 Celsius heat.

Soldier-turned-politician Yitzhak Rabin signed for Israel while King Hussein looked on as his Prime Minister Abdus Salam Al-Majali signed for Jordan.

President Clinton applauded the signing of the treaty

## Highlights of treaty

JERUSALEM, Oct 26: Following are the main points of the peace treaty signed by Israel and Jordan today, reports Reuter.

—Israel will hand back most of the territory claimed by Jordan and Amman will accept alternative land to that already farmed by Israelis.

—Israel will lease, small areas from Jordan. Israel will return over 300 sq km to Jordan. Jordan accept 30 sq km in exchange and immediately leases back to two Israeli farming communities nearly 300 hectares for 25 years with an option to renew.

—Israel will yield 40 million cubic metres of Yarmuk river water to Jordan annually and See Page 12 Col 7



With winter approaching these quilt-makers are out on the streets in search of work. —Star photo

## Isha murder: Babu confesses crime

By Staff Correspondent  
Shafiqul Islam Babu, one of the five teenagers charged with the murder of a school boy, Ishtiaq Ahmed Isha, yesterday gave his judicial statement to a Metropolitan magistrate confessing his involvement in the crime.

Isha, a student of Class Ten of the Motijheel Central Government High School, was murdered on October 19 at the Elyseum Government Rest House when he was alone there.

Later the police arrested five youngsters on the charge of killing the young school boy for committing a robbery in See Page 12 Col 6

## Split in the Shantibahini leadership

From Nurul Alam  
CHITTAGONG, Oct 26: A reported split in the leadership of the Shantibahini has created uncertainty about the success of the on-going peace talks aimed at solving the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) problem.

The split is said to have occurred early this month when a dispute arose at a meeting of top leaders of the Parbatiya Chattagram Janak Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) on October 2 at Rainsabari of Tripura, over the next course of action and position of the Shantibahini, the armed cadre of the PCJSS, regarding the peace talks with the government of Bangladesh, said reports from across the border.

The schism reportedly triggered, a clash between the supporters of the two groups that left several persons injured at the meeting venue.

According to reports, one group was led by president of the PCJSS Shantu Larma and the other by its political secretary Rupayan Dewan, who is also a top leader of the Shantibahini and a member of the Shantibahini team which had attended the peace talks

After the clash, Rupayan Dewan had been kept under house arrest by the Indian authorities, as desired by Shantu Larma, the reports said.

The cause of the split was the 'soft-line' taken by Shantu Larma and the 'hard-line' by Rupayan Dewan, the reports from across the border said.

The soft-liners reportedly want an agreeable solution to the CHT problem through the on-going dialogue while the hard-liners want a protracted war to achieve their target.

Sources say, if the internal feud continued, the process of resolving the issue through dialogue might be jeopardised.

Earlier, in 1983, another dissident faction of the Shantibahini led by Priti Kumar Chakma killed the founder president of the PCJSS, Manabendra Narayan Larma, following such an internecine feud. Priti is now living in Tripura state of India.

Since the present BNP government came to power in 1991, seven rounds of talks have been held between the PCJSS and the government in addition to three rounds of sub-committee level talks.

**Gratitude**

Shukur Alhamdu Lillah

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