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NEWS BRIEFS

Ban on food import from India goes

The government has withdrawn restrictions on import of fruits, vegetables and food grains from India which was imposed following outbreak of plague epidemic in that country, according to an official an-nouncement in Dhaka last night, reports BSS.

NSC lottery draw today

The draw of the 5th Sports Development Fund lottery conducted by the National Sports Council (NSC) will be held at its auditorium at 10 am today. Housing and Public Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia will be the chief guest at the function, reports UNB.

Snatcher arrested

Police arrested a snatcher and recovered a foreign pistol from his possession at Khilgaon area in the city yesterday. Sources said three snatchers were chased by patrol police near Goran Bazar and arrested one of them. Mohammad Hossain alias Jahangir, 23 from roof top of a house at Khilgaon, reports UNB.

City AL bodies' meet today

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka City Awami League leaders, presidents and general secretaries of thana and wards and commissioners be-longing to the party will hold a joint meeting today at the resi-dence of the Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at Mint Road at 4 pm. Hasina will be the chief guest on the occasion.

Dacoity in Fatulla

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ: Nov 5: A group of six muggers entered the house of one Raisul Huq Sohel in Fatulla in the early hours of today and took away at gun point Tk 33,000 in cash and gold ornaments worth over Tk 2 lakh.

Huda sacked

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday sacked her information minister Barrister Nazmul Huda for going against the party line on the caretaker government issue in a recent newspaper interview.

Begum Zia Friday night asked Huda to resign, a PM's Office source said.

Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam has been given the additional charge of the Information Ministry.

Article 58 (2) of the Constitution empowers the Prime Minister to ask any minister to quit at any time. Should a minister refuse to comply, the PM may then advise the President to dismiss the recalcitrant minister.

A brief official handout said Nazmul Huda tendered his resignation to the Prime Mi-



Nazmul Huda

nister as per Article 58 (2) of the Constitution.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas instantly accepted the resignation.

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Huda's interview, originally given to the Daily Ittefaq but subsequently withdrawn late Wednesday night, was published in the Inquilab Friday.

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Huda defends his position

By Staff Correspondent

Barrister Nazmul Huda, dropped from the cabinet yesterday, said he still believes his formula for an interim government can resolve the present political impasse and save the country from impending 'chaos and bloodshed.'

"I think this is the best formula to avoid a civil war in the country," Huda told The Daily Star yesterday evening at his Dharmundi residence.

When pressed by this correspondent to explain what he exactly meant by 'civil war', Huda avoided a clearcut answer, saying only that the Opposition was increasingly adopting a confrontational course.

"I apprehended such consequences. That's why my opinion appears to that of my

party," the controversial former information minister said.

In an interview published in a Bengali daily Friday, Huda suggested that an interim government be formed once the tenure of the present Parliament expires, with the chief justice as prime minister and four judges of the Appellate Division as ministers to conduct the next general elections and at least two subsequent ones.

"It would have been better if I could discuss the formula with the Prime Minister but I could not do so," he said. "That was my mistake," he sighed, regretfully.

Claiming himself to be one of the nine 'founding members' of the BNP, Huda said he is still a follower of late President Ziaur.

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Huda embarrassed party : Talukder

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP Secretary General, Abdus Salam Talukder, yesterday said that the action against former information minister Barrister Nazmul Huda was taken because he violated the party discipline.

The Prime Minister asked Huda to resign as he spoke against the party policy.

Talukder said adding "his so-called interview embarrassed the party."

Until the other day, Barrister Huda had repeatedly said that the idea of a caretaker government was unconstitutional but suddenly he made a proposal in line with the opposition, Talukder pointed out.

"Now he is saying he did it for the greater interest of the nation. Is his party BNP not working for the nation," he asked.

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