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NEWS BRIEFS

BCL (B-K) council postponed

By Staff Correspondent
The central council of the Bangladesh Chhatra League (B-K) scheduled to be held on November 17-18, has been postponed indefinitely. The decision was taken in a meeting of the central committee yesterday at the central office with party president Ruhul Kuddus Babu in the chair.

8 hurt in clash at Sunamganj

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Nov 11: Armed clash over land dispute left at least eight persons injured at village Muktarpur of Dolarbazar union under Chhatra thana of Sunamganj district yesterday. Of them, Soab Ali 35, Jamal Uddin 18, Wahab Ali 38, and Mostafa Ali 28, had been admitted to the Chhatra thana health complex. Both the groups used lethal weapons during the clash.

70 killed in Assam road accident

NEW DELHI, Nov 11: At least 70 passengers died when an over-crowded bus skidded off the road and fell into a small lake in northeastern India today, the United News of India said. The news agency quoted officials as saying the bodies of 56 people, including 17 women and four children, had been fished out of the lake at Rajbari in the state of Assam. Five passengers survived to safety, it said, reports Reuter.

Blast kills 21 in Mozambique

MAPUTO, Mozambique, Nov 11: A land mine explosion in central Zambezia province killed 21 people and injured seven, state radio reported today. It said the blast occurred on Wednesday when a truck carrying Mozambique police and others hit the land mine near Nampamavira, an area controlled by Mozambique National Resistance rebels. The truck reportedly was carrying bazookas, machine guns, rifles and mortar rounds seized from a weapons cache in the region, according to Radio Mozambique reported AP.

As news of the killing spread, numerous sniper attacks were reported through out central and eastern

US withdraws arms ban on Bosnia unilaterally

1200 Bangladeshi troops trapped in Bihać

SARAJEVO, Nov 11: The UN protection force here is sending some 180 Dutch soldiers to the western Muslim-held Bihać enclave to reinforce 1,200 Bangladeshi soldiers, cut off by ongoing fighting and unable to call in air support, report AFP.

UNPROFOR has been unable to get supplies in to the region for at least 10 days because of ongoing fighting between Muslim-led government and Serb forces and a Serb blockade of the enclave.

The UN has not even sought to fly in supplies because of fear Serb forces, both in Bosnia

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WASHINGTON, Nov 11: The US government will stop enforcing the arms embargo against the Bosnian Muslims beginning tomorrow. US officials said today, reports AP.

The decision could widen a rift between Washington and its European allies on the war in the former Yugoslavia, leaving the burden of enforcing the ban to the Europeans.

Pentagon officials planned to explain the move later in the day.

Congress voted last summer to cut off all funds for enforcing the arms embargo by Nov 15, if the Bosnian Serbs did not agree to a settlement by the deadline.

Even while falling back from the most successful Muslim onslaught in the two and a half year war, the Serbs continue to reject a five-nation plan that would require them to relinquish about one-third of the territory they have captured.

At the White House, an administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity said the United States would stop diverting ships carrying arms to Bosnia or Croatia beginning at midnight Saturday.

Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said Clinton's action was consistent with the congressional

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JS goes into 17th session today

By Staff Correspondent

The fifth Jatiya Sangsads (JS) of the country goes into its 17th session this evening with the entire parliamentary Opposition still boycotting proceedings.

The Opposition, comprising 153 legislators in the 330-member House, has been boycotting Parliament sessions since March 1 last to press home its demand for holding general elections under a non-partisan caretaker government.

The boycott began with an

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Opposition calls 'hartals today, tomorrow'

By Staff Correspondent

The major opposition parties — the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — agitating for a caretaker government, have called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the capital today and countrywide tomorrow. However, rickshaws will be permitted to ply on the city streets on both days after 1 pm, an Opposition statement Wednesday said.

Meanwhile, Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday appealed to the people to observe hartal in Dhaka today and nationwide tomorrow to

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Ninian to meet PM, Hasina today

By Staff Correspondent

Commonwealth emissary Sir Ninian Stephen is expected to meet Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina separately today, according to sources.

Competent sources said

there was no particular agenda

but the Commonwealth facilitator will urge upon both leaders to come to a mutually agreeable settlement to resolve the current political deadlock over the caretaker government issue.

Sir Ninian Stephen was

learned to be rather disturbed at

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72-hr transport strike in 21 dists from today

FARIDPUR, Nov 11: The Bangladesh Road Transport Workers' Federation has called for a 72-hour transport strike in 21 south and south-western districts from 6 am tomorrow to press home its 10-point demand, reports UNB.

The demands include construction of a bridge over the river Padma connecting Khulna with the capital, security of transport workers, stoppage of illegal toll collection and end of repression on transport workers.

The strike call was given at a meeting of the South and South Western Zone unit of the federation at Faridpur Bus Station this afternoon.

Rickshaws and private cars will be exempted from the strike.

Sarbaharamen

kill two in Magura

MAGURA, Nov 11: An armed group of the outlawed Sarbaharamen Party swooped on a 'Jatra' function at Badamtoli, Bazar in Jhenidah Sadar thana early today and gunned down two people — an innocent spectator and an activist of a rival outlawed party, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Wahiduzzaman, 45, a spectator, and Amanat Ali, 40, of village Noapara in Magura Sadar, an activist of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (Hajig group).

Another spectator, Kajal, 18, received serious leg injury in the early morning shooting, police said.

They said about 50-60 armed activists of the outlawed Sarbaharamen Party raided the Jatra pandal at 3 am.

Seriously injured Kajal was admitted to the Jhenidah Sadar hospital.

Blasts kill 3 in Chandpur

CHANDPUR, Nov 11: Three people were killed and another was seriously injured when bombs exploded at a house in the Puranbazar refugee colony in the town today, reports UNB.

Police said Ravi Das, 35, and Mokhles, 25, of Puranbazar area died on the spot and Dewar Hossain, 25, at Sadar hospital. Seriously injured Shahin was admitted to the hospital.

The bomb exploded at the colony at around 12 noon. The explosion completely destroyed the 'kutcha' house.

Police said they were the victims of bombs they were making at the house.



Awami League activists brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday evening in support of today's dawn-to-dusk hartal.

— Star photo

Dialogue should not fail: British MP

arrival at the Dhaka airport in the afternoon.

The dialogue should not break down, added Baldwin. Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the British Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The Conservative Party MP, however, dismissed any suggestion that he was in Bangladesh to aid the Commonwealth Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The dialogue is a common-

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Property worth Tk 1 cr gutted in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 11: Property worth over Tk one crore was gutted in a devastating fire at Purba Bazar of Kanaihat thana early today and gunned down two people — an innocent spectator and an activist of a rival outlawed party, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Wahiduzzaman, 45, a spectator, and Amanat Ali, 40, of village Noapara in Magura Sadar, an activist of the outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (Hajig group).

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MQM leader, 16 others killed in Karachi gun battles

Karachi, stronghold of the MQM.

Police said 13 people were killed Thursday evening and four more died in attacks Friday morning. Most of the victims were killed by snipers or in drive-by shootings. Both methods of attack have become common in Karachi, where automatic weapons are readily available.

A policeman was among those killed. More than 70 officers have been gunned down in the city so far this year, many of them in recent weeks as the violence has surged.

More than 150 people have died in shootings over the past five weeks, and many fear that the violence is spiraling out of control.

The MQM, which represents Mohajirs, or Muslims who migrated from India, is

the dominant political force in Karachi.

However, it is split into two factions that often battle each other when they are not fighting the security forces. The MQM is bitterly opposed to Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government, saying that she discriminates against the Mohajirs.

The government, meanwhile, describes the MQM as a terrorist group that uses violence to advance its political aims.

Thousands of army troops have been assisting police in Karachi for the past two years, but it has not slowed the violence. The turmoil has hampered economic growth in Pakistan's largest city and scared away many potential foreign investors.

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With winter only weeks away the early morning fog is getting thicker in the city suburbs. This picture was taken near Mirpur yesterday.

— Star photo by Enamul Haq

An alternative formula for caretaker govt

By Asiuzzaman

ters would be inducted from the ruling party and the Opposition parties each.

The prime minister of the interim government will only be a figurehead and her cabinet would just supervise routine functions of running the State. It would not make any decision on major national issues.

The portfolios of Home, Cabinet Division, Establishment and the Information ministry would be placed under a neutral person acceptable to both camps while four minis-

ting to elections.

The Election Commission may also be empowered to sack officials proved guilty of manipulating the elections.

Officials terminated for such offences would not be reinstated by any future government.

Political sources said the formula is a slightly modified version of the original formula placed by the ruling BNP at the Commonwealth-brokered talks.

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Party serves notices on Huda, 2 others

lished in a Bengali newspaper last week.

Two other erring MPs — Major (Retd) Akhteruzzaman and Nurul Islam Moni — were not present before the standing committee. They were both served with the identical notices signed by party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder.

Huda, in his controversial interview published last Friday, proposed that an interim government be formed with the Chief Justice as prime minister and four Appellate Division judges as ministers, to supervise the next general elections.

Huda's proposal was almost similar to the demand of the combined opposition parties who have been boycotting Parliament sessions since March

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Police, villagers clash in N'ganj: One killed

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 11: At least one person was killed and some 200 others injured in a bloody clash between police and villagers at Yusufganj under Rupganj thana, this afternoon.