# CHT truce extended till December 31

CHITTAGONG. Oct 25: Leaders of the government sub-committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) affairs and the Parbattya Chattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) an apex body of the Shantiba hani today unanimously agreed to extend the ongoing truce in CHT till December 31, reports BSS.

Representatives of the two sides met at a remote border hamlet of Dudukchhari thana under Khagrachhari hill district.

The government subcommittee was headed by Rashed Khan Menon, while PCJSS was represented by chairman of the PCJSS Jyotirindra Bodhi Priya alias Shantu Larma.

The sources said that the meeting which continued for about three hours was held in a cordial atmosphere.

The PCJSS leaders demanded at the meeting to release all their detained activists by the December. In reply, the government subcommittee leader said that so far fourteen insurgents had been enlarged on bail but none would escape the punishment according to the law of the land, the source said.

The PCJSS leaders further said that the Pahahri Chhatra Parishad was by no means is their front organsiation. But the Chhatra Parishad backed some of PCJSS demands.

Other members included in the government sub-committee were former MP Kalparanjan Chakma and Shahjahan Chowdhury MP. while PCJSS representatives were Rupayon Dewan, Goutom Dewan and Raktutpal Tripura.

# Malaria claims 447 since January

spread by mosquito and beadesh, infecting the country's nearly four lakh people in last few months.

"It is now posing a formidable threat to the public health," an official of the health department said.

told UNB that to date 447 people died of the disease since January this year. During the period some 37, 1929 people were infected by the disease.

Among the malaria endemic zones, 81,390 people were affected in Khagrachhari, 54,999 in Sunamgani,

### Iraqi dinar seized

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Oct 25: One thousand Iraqi dinar equivalent to Tk one lakh was recovered by Customs and Excise Department personnel from a Patuakhali-bound bus of Sugandha Paribahan here this evening.

The foreign currency notes packed in a polythene bag were hidden under the seat of the driver.

Malaria, a tropical disease 50,968 in Cox's Bazar, 42,321 in Bandarban, 25,932 lieved to have been eradi- in Rangamati, 12,494 in cated, has returned to Bangl- Moulvibazar, 11,612 in Mymensingh and 1,410 in

Kishoreganj. Officials said 1,278 people died of the disease against the affected 1,66,564 in 1994, 519 people out of 1,25,402 affected died in Officials of the department 1993, 447 out of 1,15,660 died in 1992 and 218 out of

> 63,578 in 1991. In Bangladesh, some eight kinds of mosquitoes out of 34 species have been identified as carriers of malaria germ. Malaria fever is produced when germs are injected into blood by certain mosquitoes through biting.

Malaria was brought under control through a government-sponsored Malaria Eradication Programme launched in 1961

> Gunfight From Page 1

and local sources said. The ten bullet-injured persons including 3 police personnel were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

The clash was a sequel to an earlier rivalry.

Police opened fire to disperse the clashing groups.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia had a meeting with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic at the UN headquarters in New York on Tuesday. - PID photo

### Youths brandishing arms centring tender at DU

By DU Correspondent

Tension mounted on the Dhaka University campus as some youths continued to brandish arms for the last two days centring a tender for construction of a Tk 4.54 crore building for the Business Administration Faculty.

Huge police forces have been deployed in the administrative building area, specially in front of the room of the Chief Engineer to avert any untoward incident.

Md. Amir Hossain, Executive Engineer of the University told The Daily Star yesterday that the tender was opened at about 12:30 pm but did not say when the name of the successful bidder would be announced. Four bidders had submitted schedules.

Mentionable, Jinna, student was murdered on November 1, 1994 following a disagreement among rival groups over a Tk 4 crore tender for construction of the multistoried Sir AF Rahman Hall.

The youths who fight over tenders on the DU campus are mostly activists of different political parties.

# Bosnian president lauds Bangladesh's stand

NEW YORK, Oct 25: Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic today expressed his sincere appreciation to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia for all that Bangladesh had done in support of Bosnian people, reports BSS.

The appreciation came during his half-an-hour meeting with Begum Zia at the UN headquarters this afternoon.

The two leaders, attending the UN super summit, discussed in details the latest development in Bosnia.

Izetbegovic lauded Bangladesh's position on Bosnia and for the stand taken by it in support of lifting the UN arms embargo on his country. Begum Zia said that

Bangladesh was the first country to lend full support for an independent Bosnia. She recalled that she herself had presided over the

OIC summit meeting at Casablanca in Morocco when Bosnia was admitted as an observer. She said the valiant strug-

gle of the Bosnian people was well known and strongly supported by the people of Bangladesh.

Later addressing a recep-

tion accorded to her by the BNP USA unit at Astoria she said Bangladesh would soon become a self-reliant state at all levels if the present trend of development continued.

Begum Zia also underlined the need for maintaining congenial atmosphere for smooth development of the country. Criticising the Opposi

tion's agitational programmes she said these were designed to slow development and disrupt democracy.

She said Opposition-cre ated problem could be solved through discussion and added her government would act constitutionally to overcome the situation.

### PM becomes grandma

By Staff Correspondent Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia has become grandmother.

Begum Zia's eldest son Tareg Rahman had his first issue - a daughter - last night at the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in the city.

### newspaper on September 15, with the objective of cleaning the city every Friday between 9 and 11 am. Transport owners

By Staff Correspondent

firm to go on

non-stop strike

Save Dhaka,

Clean Dhaka

programme

tomorrow

By Staff Reporter

and Bangladesh Scouts will

jointly organise a "tree plan-

tation-nursing and cleanli-

ness programme" at the Ro-

tary Cancer Detection Center,

Mohakhali at 10:30 am to-

morrow as part of the "Save

Dhaka Clean Dhaka" cam-

Siddique, Director General

(DG). Ministry of Health, will

be chief guest, while Manzu-

rul Karim, Chief National

Commissioner of Scouts.

Bangladesh and Dr Monwar

Binte Rahim, the former DG

Health, will be the special

guests on the occasion.

Prof Dr AKM Shamsuddin

paign.

The Rotary Club of Dhaka

The Dhaka Sarak Paribahan Samity and its affiliated associations of 54 routes at a joint meeting in the city yesterday expressed their firm determination to go ahead with the non-stop transport strike programme from October 29 if the government did not meet their 12-point demand.

The meeting, held with Harun-ur-Rashid Bhuiyan in the chair, resented the government's "indifferent attitude" towards their demands even after a 48-hour transport strike on September 29-30 last.

The Sarak Paribahan Samity, one of the two associations of transport owners, is led by ruling party MP Mirza Abbas. Its demands include lowering the prices of spares and fuel, withdrawing enhanced ferry fare and bridge toll and protection from illegal toll collection.

### Aricha Ghat

From Page 1

fering on thousands of passengers.

The situation further deteriorated as the large-sized ferries Keramat Ali, Ketaki and Kameni went out of

for Shipping Shajahan Siraj, Deputy Minister ABM Jahidul Hoque and Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain visited the Aricha ghat in the afternoon.

trucks - to avert traffic congestion at the terminal.

deployed at the terminal to ease congestion and restore normalcy.

But the hot and humid climate is getting dry and

Deputy Director of the Storm Warning Centre of the Meteorological Department explained: "As there is too much moisture in the atmosphere, we feel cool at night and dew drops are formed."

that comes to Bangladesh in the winter originates from the polar-continental wind that comes from Central Asia and Siberia.

nental wind is slowly aptowards Bangladesh. It is now intensified over the ionosphere of Kabul and the western regions of Pakistan.

The polar-continental wind loses much of its intensity when it comes to Bangladesh as it gets during the long journey through the tropical region, he said.

The country's lowest ever temperature was recorded at 2.8 degree Celsius at Srimongal on February 4 in 1968. Bangladesh experienced a bone-shivering cold in last winter also when mercury fell to 4 degree Celsius at Ishurdi and Srimongal. The lowest ever temperature in Dhaka city was 4.5 degree Celsius recorded on February 18 in 1953.

According to Met statistics, average mean tempera-

## The Midnight Fife Britain won't give asylum

to nationals of 3 states LONDON, Oct 25: Refugees from countries including Algeria, Nigeria and Sri Lanka will automatically be refused political asylum in Britain, as part of measures to cut

# Bangla-Iran JEC meet from Nov 11

welfare costs, the Guardian reported Wednesday, reports

Dhaka and Tehran are in a process to expand cooperation in different fields under the seven MOUs the two countries signed in the second week of this month, Foreign Office sources said yesterday, reports UNB.

Bangladesh and Iran The "Save Dhaka Clean signed the Memoranda of Dhaka" campaign was launched by the Bangladesh Understanding on bolstering Scouts, BUET, DCC, Youth Smugglers' leader Ministry and The Daily Star held in Ctg From Staff Correspondent

out at Halishahar.

CHITTAGONG, Oct 25: The alleged ring leader of smugglers in Patenga area. Hashem Mollah, was arrested by Chittagong Metropolitan

Police today from his hide-

Detective branch of the CMP said Hashem was given detention after arrest.

Hashem is the leader of all the smugglers at Patenga zone and he was wanted in six smuggling cases, the DB

# Sher-e-Bangla

From Page 1

The programmes include placing of wreaths, offering fateha and milad-mahfil at the mazar of the late leader. It will also hold a discus-

sion on "election under a neutral caretaker government in the present political perspective and Sher-e-Bangla" at the mazar premises at 8:30 am. Presidium member of the

Awami League Abdus Samad Azad will attend as chief guest. Awami League leaders Abdul Mannan, Mahiuddin Ahmed, Salahuddin Yusuf, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, former Secretary Kazi Azhar Ali, former minister A K Faizul Haq, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, K M Jahangir and Prof Khaleda Salahuddin will take part in the discussion. Sher-e-Bangla National

Smriti Sangsad and Bangladesh National Personality Research Centre have jointly organised a discussion on contribution of Sher-e-Bangla in establishing democracy at 4 pm. Justice A K M Nurul Islam.

former Vice President, will attend the function as chief guest while former minister M Matiur Rahman, M A Haq and Barrister Amirul Islam will be present at special guests which will preside over by Smriti Sangsad president Justice Ruhul Islam.

### Four of G-5 From Page 1

the four eminent citizens

met the CEC to know the Election Commission's polls preparation that would help the group broker a solution to the crisis. The CEC explained the

Commission's powers and its present activities including finalisation of voters' list and preparation of voters identity cards and informed the group that it was working to prepare a flawless voters list enrolling all eligible voters.

The CEC was assisted by Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil, Secretary Ershadul Huq and Additional Secretary S M Zakaria during the meeting.

cultural, trade and other fields during the visit to Dhaka of Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani October 11-13. A three-day meeting of

Bangladesh-Iran Joint Economic Commission will begin in Tehran from November 11 to consider the follow-up action of the visit and also to find ways of implementation of the agreement.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will lead the Bangladesh team to the meeting, the second after the Commission was set up in

Iranian Cultural Minister Mohammad Reza Hashem Goalpayagani will pay a threeday visit to Bangladesh from November 7, official sources said yesterday

Iranian Minister for Road and Transport Ali Akbar Torkan is also expected to visit Bangladesh shortly.

### Pranab From Page 1

sharing issue could also be settled amicably. Officials of both countries had several rounds of dialogue in this connection, Mukherjee said. He was reacting to Bangladesh Prime Minister, Begum Khaleda Zia's speech on Farakka issue at the United Nations yesterday.

Begum Khaleda Zia told the UN on Tuesday that over 40 million people of her country were facing poverty and destruction due to unilateral withdrawal of Ganges water by India.

### BB directive

From Page 1 chief executives of banks said they have already formed special cells empowered to contact the top 20 defaulters through the branches con-

cerned. "The cell is expected to submit its detailed report soon and then we will go for actions," said the Managing Director of a private bank on condition of apponymity.

Meanwhile, the central bank has expressed its concern at the upward trend of overdue loans and observed that the steps taken by the banks concerned are not adequate to realise the dues.

"We want to set the country's banking sector on a firm footing," a senior Finance Ministry official told The Daily Star, "A prerequisite to that is to stop the defaulting culture," he noted. The banks are already un-

der pressum for 'provisioning the bad debts, he said, adding, if the non-performing loans were realised it would improve the health of the banks. The amount due from the

top 20 defaulters of each of the banks has not been calculated till now. But earlier the Bangladesh Bank had prepared a report on the top 10 defaulters of each of the

According to that report, the top 10 defaulters owe Taka 3,206 crore to 18 banks and financial institutions. The defaulters include both sector corporations and private enterprises.



### AND EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION BTMC BHABAN 7-9 KAWRAN BAZAR, DHAKA.

that the Government have taken the following measures to ease the congestion in Chittagong Port and Benapole Land Port on priority basis:

a. Operations in Chittagong Port and Benapole Land Port will henceforth go on round the clock.

All member units of BGMEA are requested to avail of the above facilities.

**Editor**: Mahfuz Anam

### rally at UN Plaza NEW YORK, Oct 25: Hun- committee), Dr Gulam Farid dreds of expatriate Akhter, joint convenor of the South Asian Society for Envi-

Farakka Body stages

Bangladeshis from different areas of the United States and Canada yesterday demon- ington, DC (SASEP) Dr Shastrated at the United Nations jahan Mahmoud (Boston Plaza in support of their demand for fair share of the Ganges water, reports BSS. Organised by the Interna-

tional Farakka Committee, the demonstrators who gathered here from 3 pm raised various slogans included "we want proper share — Ganges water Ganges water". The demonstration lasted for three hours. Addressing the gathering

later, Atiqur Rahman Khan Eusufzai, senior vice-president of the committee, said that India's unilateral withdrawal of water from the Ganges, an international river which flows from the Himalayas through Nepal, India and Bangladesh, affected 40 million people of the five south-western districts of Bangladesh.

Presided over by Khan. the gathering was addressed among others by Prof Abid Bahar (Canada chapter of the

the Finance Ministry officials

ferent aspects of the EC pro-

that such a legislation would

in no way be inconsistent

with the spirit of the coun-

A section of the business

community has been claiming

that enactment of a law de-

barring the defaulters would

be ultra vires of the Constitu-

Asaduzzaman Al-Farruque.

who chaired Wednesday's

meeting, told The Daily Star

last night that the meeting

had started scrutinizing the

proposed law. "We are now

basically examining the defi-

mition of the term default-

posed legislation.

try's Constitution.

ers," he said, adding that he From Page 1 would convene the second identified as a loan-defaulter.

discuss the issue. cerned are now examining the definition of the 'defaulters' used in the proposed law. They are expected to finalise the draft within a A high-level meeting of the Election Commission

(EC), the Law Ministry and within a week." on Wednesday examined dif-The meeting observed

In international banking practices, if a person fails to repay loan instalment within the first stipulated date, he or she is treated as a de-

review in detail a verdict of the Indian Supreme Court which had dwelt on the defi-Law Secretary Mirza nition of loan defaulters, the Law Secretary told The Daily Earlier, the EC had sent

ronmental Protection, Washchapter of the committee). Dr Abdur Razzak, Sheikh Selim, Dr Iffat Hossain (New Jersey chapter of the committee), Shahidul Islam Talukder, Dr A Wadud Bhuiyan and Mohammad Hossain Khan.

Later, the leaders of the committee handed over a memorandum to the Indian consulate here for Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao. who is here to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the

United Nations. They called upon the Indian Prime Minister to resolve the issue on a mutually agreeable basis immediately and permanently. They also expressed concern in the memorandum at a news that India is going to build two other major barrages, one on the same Ganges river at Kanpur, and another on the upper reaches of the river Brahmaputra.

# Loan defaulters

meeting very soon to further Top-ranking officials con-

> Secretary of the Banking Division Dr. ATM Shamsul Huda, who also attended the meeting, told this correspondent yesterday, "We shall prepare the final draft for the approval of the cabinet

The definition of loan defaulters in the Banking Company Act is not 'very clear' said an official who attended the meeting.

faulter. The next meeting would

the draft of the proposed law to the Prime Minister's Secretariat and Begum Khaleda Zia approved the draft on October 16.

# Five cultural

establishments to be set up The government has decided to set up five cultural

tional level, reports BSS. They are national theatre, national art gallery, national music centre, national archives building and a cultural complex at Cox's Bazar, an official handout said yes-

establishments at the na-

terday. The proposed models of these establishments and a report thereon were presented at a high level meeting yesterday at the conference room of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs

### FEMA concerned at govt attitude

The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance (FEMA), a coalition of some 130 national and local organisations, yesterday expressed concern over the government's "indifferent attitude" in approving its proposal for mon-

By Staff Correspondent

itoring the general elections. FEMA sources said, its application in this regard has been pending with the government for clearance for almost five months. The proposal however, has been cleared by the Election Commission, sources added.

This delay in approving the proposal is hampering the work to organise and trained thousands of volunteers it plans to mobilise for election monitoring FEMA leged. said.

### — Star photo AL sees no alternative

From Page 1 to dissolve the Jessore and Pirojpur district units of the party and to form two ad-hoc committee under the supervision of the party chief. There have been inter conflicts in the two district

committees for sometime.

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing the party's central working

committee meeting at the Bangabandhu Foundation at Dhanmondi in the city yesterday.

The meeting unanimously decided to enforce the November 6 road, rail and waterways barricade "very effectively". A member of the ALWC who attended yesterday's meeting told this correspondent last night: "We shall, in fact, paralyse the capital on November 6. We shall do it to make Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia understand that the AL would not allow her to ignore its demand for a caretaker gov-

ernment." The meeting decided to deploy party activists at some 100 spots around the city to make sure that all the entry and exit points were barricaded, the AL leader said, adding: "The party will eventually allow no vehicles, except the rickshaws, inside the city." The adjoining districts of Dhaka would also witness the same experience, he said.

Meanwhile, a party press release issues last evening said, the meeting resolved that the Opposition parties were forced to go for hartals as the government ignored "people's demand for election under a non-party caretaker government." The only aim of the government is to hang on to power for misappropriating funds by indulging in corruption, it al-

### The resolution said that the PM's "obstinacy" and "disregard" for people's de-

mand for a non-party caretaker government had forced the opposition to resort to repeated programmes of har-It also said, "There is no

party caretaker government for establishing freedom of voters and ensuring their rights to food.' Because of unbridled corruption, prices of essentials including rice, pulses, oil and salt, went beyond the pur-

monman, the resolution said. The meeting also expressed concern over deterioration of law and order repression on women, politicization and misappropriation of relief materials in the flood-hit districts.

chasing capacity of the com-

### Hartal observed at Feni for release of Hajar

dusk hartal for the release of an Awami League leader was enforced in the town today amidst massive violence that left 10 people injured, reports UNB. The district Awami League

including the car of a

enforced the hartal demanding release of former MP Joinal Hajari and also removal of the Deputy Commissioner. Witnesses said pickets damaged some 40 vehicles.

# FENI, Oct 25: A dawn-to-

Japanese tourist, and set fire to two rickshaws near Feni bypass. (October-November).

Padma-Jamuna inflicting suf-

order four days back. Meanwhile, State Minister

The State Minister asked the authorities concerned to maintain two queue - one for bus and another for

Police and ansar have been

### Winter From Page 1

Md Sazedur Rahman

The cold northerly wind alternative to a neutral non-

> He said that polar-contiproaching

ture during the winter (December-February) is 19.9 degree Celsius. The mean temperatures during the three other seasons are -27 degree in summer (March-May), 28.3 degree in rainy seasons (June-September) and 25.5 degree in autumn

# BOMEA

BANGLADESH GARMENT **MANUFACTURERS** 

For Attention of all Members of BGMEA This is for information of all members of BGMEA

b. All the offices of Customs Department, Banks and other related agencies would remain open until 10:00 P.M. every day. All these offices will remain open also on Friday next.

Secretary **BGMEA** 

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