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BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleeda Zia presiding over a meeting of the party's Parliamentary Party at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. — Star photo

BNP: AL will respect

join the Parliament session tomorrow. Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badruddoza Choudhury told newsmen after the meeting at 7.15 pm.

"I hope the government will go by the accord and make the JS effective," he added.

Earlier in the morning, BNP signed a four-point agreement with ruling Awami League after a three-hour dialogue, brokered by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.

Soon after the BNP meet was over, the party joined the meeting of the JS Business Advisory Committee.

BNP had been abstaining from attending the Parliament session since November 10 to press its 10-point demand including neutral role of the Speaker, impartial coverage of the proceedings of the House by BTV and release of the party leaders and workers.

BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleeda Zia presided over the BNP meet that began at 4 pm at the conference room of the Opposition in JS Bhaban. It continued till 7:15 pm with a 90-minute break for lunch.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandakar Delwar Hossain said, "We thank the Speaker and the ruling party for initiating the dialogue and accepting our demands... Of late, they've realised that the JS can be made effective without the participation of the Opposition. We now hope they will respect the accord and allow the Opposition play its due role."

"We're always for effective functioning of Parliament. We made our best efforts to that direction. But it is the government which turned the Parliament ineffective," he said. "The Speaker has assured of his 'positive neutrality'. The government has assured us of equal TV

coverage and investigation into the acts of repression on the BNP activists.

"We'll soon submit to the government a list of our workers facing repression". Khandakar Delwar told a questioner. "Even political activists, who fought against Ershad's autocratic rule, are also being harassed due to the ruling party's entente with Ershad," he added.

The BNP meet also discussed the political, economic, law and order situation in the country and the acts of repression on the party workers, Delwar said.

The meeting demanded withdrawal of the "conspiratorial cases" against Begum Zia and other party leaders and workers.

The meeting also protested the "conspiracy" to jeopardise the sovereignty of the country through the proposed sub-regional grouping and giving transit to India and signing of an "uneven" water-treaty with that country, politicisation of the administration and government's failure in maintaining law and order and check the price hike of essentials, he said.

15 RU teachers assaulted
From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Jan 14: At least 15 teachers were assaulted by some students on the university campus today.

A group of unruly students under the banner of Shadharan Chhatra Parishad (SCP) assaulted the teachers in front of Shahidullah Kalabhaban at about 11 am when they were visiting the departments to observe the prevailing situation on the campus. The SCP activists chased the teachers and pelted stones eye witnesses said.

JS: 4 ordinances

From Page 1

The meeting decided that the parliamentary sittings will start at 11 am and continue till 3:30 pm everyday with a break for the Zohr prayers.

Four ordinances promulgated by the President since the prorogation of the last session are likely to be placed before the House for approval today.

The government is scheduled to place the recently signed international treaty between the governments of Bangladesh and India on the sharing of Ganges water in the current session.

The Sangsad Rules of Procedure would also be amended during this session to give effect to an agreement reached between the Treasury and Opposition benches that the parliamentary standing committees on different ministries will be headed by non-minister MPs. Thirty-five standing bodies on ministries are likely to be constituted during the session following the amendment of the JS Rules of Procedure.

Besides, the Special Parliamentary Committee to scrutinise proposed bills would submit reports on six bills that were sent to the committee during the previous sessions. Chairman of the parliamentary body, Rahmat Ali, MP, told this correspondent last night.

The committee has already scrutinised four of the six bills that were sent to the Special Parliamentary Committee. The four bills include Judiciary Administration Training Institute (Amendment) Bill, 1996; Securities and Exchange (Amendment) Bill, 1996; Securities and Exchange Commission Bill, 1996 and the Bankruptcy Act (Amendment) Bill, 1996.

The two other bills relating to bank companies and commerce would be taken up by the committee for scrutiny very soon, he said.

Meanwhile, the BNP is expected to assert discussions various issues including the recent government decision on the formation of a sub-regional grouping with some member states of the SAARC, the Bangladesh-India treaty on sharing of Ganges water, law and order of the country and overall economic situation of the country, party sources said.

Replying to query, an influential member of the BNP parliamentary wing told this correspondent yesterday that they would accuse the government for pursuing a "pro-Indian" foreign policy.

Toll money
From Page 1

The BCL aimed cadre will now get 60 per cent of the 2.21 crore toll on the Tk 22 crore construction work, the sources said.

The JCD cadre agreed to take the remaining 40 per cent of the collected extortion money, they added.

The university authorities earlier invited a tender through the national dailies for the construction of the third and fourth floors of the hall. On Monday last, tension gripped the campus with the possibility of an armed clash between the two rival groups over collection of the extortion money.

Leaders of the two armed cadres reached the understanding in a secret meeting at the campus Monday night, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the DU authorities in a press release yesterday refuted the news report of tension over the opening of the tender. It said that four tender boxes were kept at four different places, therefore, it was not possible for any terrorist groups to bar bidders from submitting their proposals. Six schedules were submitted till Monday, it added.

The tender boxes were opened yesterday at the office of the Registrar in front of the concerned officials, the DU authorities said.

15 RU teachers assaulted

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Faruque Alamgir

From Page 1

formation as OSD

Sources in the BTV said Alamgir received the letter making him OSD just when he reached his office at 2 pm after attending a meeting with the State Minister for Information yesterday.

They said the DG of Television and DDG Alamgir held a meeting with the minister and discussed various issues concerning television. The meeting ended at about 1:30 pm.

BNP leaders meet Hasina

Senior BNP parliamentarians led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the PM's chamber in Sangsad Bhaban after attending the Business Advisory Committee meeting yesterday afternoon, reports BSS.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition was accompanied by Saifur Rahman MP, Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandakar Delwar Hossain MP and M K Anwar MP.

Kerb marketmen force suspension of CSE trading

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: Agitating kerb market traders today locked the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) building confining its officials and authorised representatives for about two hours from 12:30 pm and forced suspension of floor trading.

CSE officials said the kerb market traders angered by the sharp fall in share prices, staged a sit-in in front of stock exchange building from the morning and at 12:30 pm they entered the floor to force suspension of trading that began from 10:30 am.

At one stage, the demonstrators locked the gate of CSE building and pelted brick-bats at the office, the officials said.

During the agitation the traders also chanted slogans against "market manipulators", witnesses said.

However, the gate of the CSE was unlocked after 2 pm when the agitators were assured of holding a meeting with their leaders to sort out the problem, CSE sources said.

Public Prosecutor (PP) Altaf Hossain said 540a is not applicable in this case for the accused did not come to the court. Besides, he said this is applicable only when circumstances arise. The PP also pointed out that no explanation for Ershad's absence from the court yesterday was made.

After hearing both sides, the judge ordered that Ershad must appear in the next date of the hearing on February 18.

Former minister Mostafa Jamal Haider and former works secretary M A Rouf co-accused in this case were present.

Raqibul Huda

From Page 1

a public meeting in 1988, police said.

The CMM's Court of Chittagong issued the warrant of arrest Sunday last against Huda in connection with the killing at Lalidighi Maidan on January 24, 1988. Huda was the commissioner of Chittagong metropolitan police at that time. The killing took place when police and BDR opened fire to disperse an Awami League meeting addressed by party chief Sheikh Hasina.

The warrant of arrest for Raqibul Huda reached Gulshan thana yesterday morning.

A police team from the thana picked him up from his Gulshan residence at around 3:00 pm. He was sent to Chittagong late last night under police escort provided by the Range Reserve Force, police said.

Judicial council

From Page 1

Chairman of the Public Service Commission.

Although there is no provision for Judicial Council in the Constitution such councils for making recommendations on appointment of Supreme Court Judges exist in a number of countries including some in the sub-continent, the sources said.

The Committee, headed by Law Secretary Aminullah was formed on September 7. It finalised its report on Sunday after holding nine meetings, the sources said.

New coal mine

From Page 1

uated at the depth of 495 feet from the earth surface.

This type of high quality bituminous coal is available only in South Africa, India, Bangladesh, Australia, Brazil and Argentina, the official announcement pointed out.

Geological activities to ascertain the extent of the field and its reserve are going on over an area of 99,194 hectares.

Considering the thickness of coal seams, the experts are optimistic about a large reserve in the new-found coalmine, the announcement added.

'Proposed sub-regional grouping detrimental to SAARC spirit'

Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday said the planned sub-regional grouping comprising four South Asian states is detrimental to the SAARC spirit, reports UNB.

They also termed the Indo-Bangla water sharing treaty a hoax and said it has deprived Bangladesh of its legitimate share of the Ganges water and given full authority to India to control the flow of the international river.

Former BNP Ministers Tariqul Islam and L K Siddiki, former Vice-Chancellor Prof Maniruzzaman Mian, Prof Abul Kalam and Prof Atiquluddin Ahmed of Dhaka University and President of Jatiya Press Club Rezauddin Ahmed took part in the discussion.

Janamat, a study group, organised the discussion meeting at the Press Club with its President Prof Nurul Alam in the chair.

On December 12, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart H D Deve Gowda signed the Indo Bangla treaty on distribution of the Ganges water in New Delhi.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad formally moved a proposal for a sub-regional co-operation at a meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers in the Indian capital last month.

BCL activists snatch arrested worker from police in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: Unruly activists of the Chhatra League blocked the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, swooped on police and snatched their arrested colleague today, reports UNB.

Mirsharai thana Police Sub-Inspector Kartik Chandra Dey and three constables were injured and their pick-up van was damaged in the attack, police said.

They said a group of activists of Chhatra League, the ruling party's student wing, swooped on the police squad when BCL activist Shahadat Hossain Titu was being sent to district court by a pick-up van at about 2 pm.

Mirsharai police arrested Titu with 200 feet of tear timber from the thana headquarters at about 4 am while allegedly blackmailing the timber.

Police said Titu was injured seriously as a speeding truck hit him after he jumped from the police van.

Hearing about the incident, angry BCL men rushed the scene and took away Titu.

The Chhatra League activists also put a barricade on the highway disrupting traffic movement for two hours. They also damaged two trucks, police said.

Share investor robbed in city

From Staff Correspondent

A share investor at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) was mugged of cash and share certificates worth about Tk 1.87 lakh from Dilkusha Commercial area in the city yesterday afternoon, police said.

Anwar Hossain, 25, was intercepted by three unidentified persons when he was going to an wage earners' branch of Sonali Bank in Dilkusha after selling some shares at the DSE in Motijheel at about 2 pm.

The gang snatched away the hand bag from Anwar in which he kept Tk 92,000 in cash and some share certificates worth about Tk 95,000.

Indemnity Ordinance

From Page 1

change or to indemnify acts of assassination, he argued.

He said, "the basic structure of the Constitution provides for supremacy of the constitution, rule of law, constitutional protection of the right to life and independent judiciary to protect those rights, but the 1975 Ordinance in effect deprives the judiciary of the right to discharge its constitutional responsibility in respect of particular crimes by certain criminals", he said.

Dr Kamal Hossain finally said, "Para 3A/18 of the Fourth Schedule does not transform the ordinance into a part of the Constitution and Clause 7 of Para 3A expressly provides that any law protected by Clause 3A(1) may be repealed or amended by a competent authority."

Both Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq and Senior Advocate M Nurullah observed that the ordinance was an ordinary law which could be repealed by a simple majority in Parliament.

Barrister Rafique-ul-Huq also said that the ordinance was a black law and ultra- vires to the constitution which was also against human rights and contrary to rule of law.

He said, "The ordinance was against the very spirit of our Constitution and also cannot get any constitutional protection."

AL-BNP accord

From Page 1

the agreement says, chief whips of the ruling party and the Opposition will keep constant contact with each other regarding functioning of the Jatiya Sangsad and they will also apprise the Speaker of the developments in that regard.

Mohammed Nasim said that yesterday's dialogue was held in a cordial atmosphere and that the Speaker reiterated his commitment to maintain a "positive neutrality" in running the affairs of the House, abiding by the Constitution as well as the JS Rules of Procedure. The Speaker also sought full cooperation from both the parties, said Nasim.

Nasim termed the agreement an "agreement of cooperation among friends."

When approached for comment, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said, "I am very glad today that the dialogue has been successful and positive decisions have been taken. Now, I am looking forward to see that all the parties participate in Parliament sessions as well as other parliamentary activities."

"A crisis is over. Today's outcome is a milestone in giving the country's parliamentary democracy an institutional shape," he said.

Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Suranjit Sengupta, Mohammed Nasim, Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah, Md Rahmat Ali, MP, and Whip Mizanur Rahman Manu represented ruling party in the talks while BNP was represented by Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Saifur Rahman, MP, BNP Secretary General Abul Mannan Bhuiyan, Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain and MK Anwar, MP.

Mentionably, 113 lawmakers belonging to the largest opposition party of the country, BNP, abstained from attending the JS session since November 10 after submitting a 10-point demand to the Speaker.

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PHILIPS

6 killed, 9 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Six persons were killed and nine injured in road accidents in Gaibandha, Netrakona and Dhaka yesterday.

Our Gaibandha Correspondent reports: Three persons, including a girl died and six others sustained serious injuries in a road accident at Bhagabanpur under Gobindaganj Thana on the Rangpur-Bogra highway.

The accident happened when a Nilphamari-bound night coach collided with a truck.

The girls was identified as Afroza Begum, 12. The two other deceased could not be identified.

The critically injured persons are Jaharun 35, Arjuna 10, of Pabna, Jahangir Alam, 25, of Panchagarh, Noorjahan Begum 30, of Nilphamari, Khokon of Pirganj, and Najibullah, 27, of Dumer. They were taken to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital. A case was filed with Gobindaganj Thana.

According to BSS, two persons were killed and three others injured when a Netrakona-bound truck coming from the capital rammed a roadside house apparently by mistake due to fog in the early hours of Tuesday at Chhalisha Bazar, about five km from Netrakona.

According to police, the driver of the potato-laden truck mistook the house as part of the road in a thick foggy weather. On receiving the information, fire brigade sources said.

Fire brigade estimated the loss of property at around Taka 30 lakhs. The origin of fire is yet to be ascertained. The fire broke out at 5 am and fire brigade personnel brought it under control at around 6:10 am.

The victim was identified as Tanvir Hasan, 22, as security guard of Omega Fashion, at 29, Mirpur Road.

Hospital sources said a truck knocked Tanvir down in front of a primary school at Mirpur section while he was returning to the factory in a bicycle after taking Sehri.

His body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

40 shops gutted in front of CEPZ

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 14: At least 40 shops were gutted when a fire broke out in front of the Chittagong Export Processing Zone in early morning today, fire brigade sources said.

Fire brigade estimated the loss of property at around Taka 30 lakhs. The origin of fire is yet to be ascertained. The fire broke out at 5 am and fire brigade personnel brought it under control at around 6:10 am.

Arrested Naga youths remanded

From Staff Correspondent

Two Naga youths arrested from the city's Moghbazar area Monday morning were placed on a two-day remand yesterday.

Police suspected that the young men from Nagaland in India entered into Bangladesh illegally crossing the border in Sylhet to sell firearms in Dhaka. Ramna police said that they recovered two pistols from the arrested persons identified as Sang Yu Jamir, 20, and Sony, 21.

The arrested persons were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) court yesterday morning. The court granted two days' remand for further interrogation.

Police said that the pistols which were recovered from the possession of the arrested persons were foreign made. The two crossed the border a couple of days ago and came to Dhaka from Sylhet by inter-city bus Monday.

A police officer said that they were facing some difficulties in the interrogation process as the Naga youths could not speak or understand much English.

বাংলাদেশ শিল্প ঋণ সংস্থা

বিসাইডব্লিউটিএ ভবন (৫ম, ৬ষ্ঠ ও ৭ম), ১৪১-১৪৩, মতিঝিল বা/এ, ঢাকা-১০০০

প্রথম বিএসআরএস মিউচুয়াল ফান্ড এর সার্টিফিকেট বরাদ্দপত্র/রিফান্ড ওয়ারেন্ট শেষবারের মত হাতে হাতে বিতরণ

প্রথম বিএসআরএস মিউচুয়াল ফান্ড এর সার্টিফিকেট বরাদ্দপত্র/রিফান্ড ওয়ারেন্ট যে সকল সম্মানিত আবেদনকারীগণ নির্ধারিত দিনে সংগ্রহ করতে সমর্থ হন নি তাইদের অসুবিধার কথা বিবেচনা করে পুনরায় ১৬-০১-৯৭ই তারিখ রোজ বৃহস্পতিবার সকাল ৯টা থেকে বিকাল ৪টা পর্যন্ত শীফ ম্যানশন নিচ তলা, ৫৬-৫৭, মতিঝিল বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা (আমিন কোর্ট এর বিপরীতে), ঢাকা থেকে সার্টিফিকেট বরাদ্দপত্র/রিফান্ড ওয়ারেন্ট বিতরণ করা হবে। এ দিনে ডেলিভারী নিতে বার্থ হলে পরবর্তীতে তাইদের নিজস্ব ঋণিকতে বেক্তিষ্ঠার্ত ডাকযোগে পাঠানো হবে।

মোঃ মোশাররফ হোসেন
সহকারী মহাব্যবস্থাপক

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