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Honduran ship
impounded in
Ctg: Cigarettes
worth Tk 5 cr
seized, 10
Pakistanis held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 12: Bangladesh Navy personnel impounded a Honduran flag carrying ship and recovered smuggled cigarettes worth over Taka five crore from it at the outer anchorage of the Chittagong port last night.

The 11 crew of the ship, *Alsa*, were also arrested. They were handed over to the port police this afternoon. The crew included 10 Pakistani nationals and a Bangladeshi.

Police said cases have been filed against the crew and they would be produced before the court tomorrow.

Police said the ship came from Singapore.

The ten Pakistani crew were identified as Ahmed, Solaiman, Harun, Ibrahim, Osman, Jafor, Golam, Abdur Rashid, Haji Ali and Captain Jakaria.

The Bangladeshi crew was identified as Md Farid who hailed from Banskali in Chittagong.

The seized smuggled goods and the ship were handed over to the Chittagong customs, police and customs officials said.

JS session may
be prorogued
today

By Staff Correspondent

The current session of Jatiya Sangsad is likely to be prorogued today, sources in the Sangsad Business Advisory Committee told The Daily Star last night.

Before prorogation of the session, the JS would witness separate general discussions on the recently signed Ganges water-sharing treaty and the situation in the country's capital market, a member of the Advisory Committee said, adding that there would be a two-hour discussion on each subject.

This was decided at a meeting of the Sangsad Business Advisory Committee held last night at Sangsad Bhavan, committee sources said.

Chaired by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House Ziaur Rahman, Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Chief Whip of Parliament Abul Hasnat Abdullah and Rahmat Ali of the ruling party, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Khan-daker Delwar Hossain, Saifur Rahman and M K Anwar of the BNP.

Although not members of the advisory body, Suranjit Sengupta and Rafiqul Islam of the Awami League also attended the meeting.

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CHT settlers won't be relocated: PM

CHITTAGONG, Mar 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the Bangladeshi settlers would not be relocated from the hill districts and ordered investigation into a reported move by an organisation to create confusion among them, reports UNB.

"Take action against any provocative attempt", she told officials at a meeting, adding "We are not going to touch the Bangladeshi people who have settled there."

The Prime Minister made it clear that "a citizen can stay and move to any parts of this country at his will."

"We will neither force anyone to stay there nor ask anyone to leave any place," Hasina said and also directed the authorities concerned to take proper care and steps for the repatriation and rehabilitation of Chakma refugees, beginning March 28.

"Soon after formation of the government, we started efforts to resolve the decades old problem of the Chittagong Hill Tracts," she told the meeting and directed the officials of civil, military and police administrations to give special attention to the repatriation and rehabilitation of the refugees.

She was taking stock of the law-and-order situation of different districts of Chittagong division, specially of the districts of Chittagong Hill Tracts, at the division headquarters of Chittagong Cantonment.

"Don't neglect your responsibility... image of all, including the army and civil administrations, are related with the task," she said.

Return of all others who left their homeland depends on the proper rehabilitation of the 5,000 refugees coming on March 28, she cautioned.

Hasina noted that vested quarters, including a section of newspapers, were creating confusion and trying to mislead the people and called upon the authorities concerned to remain alert about it.

Her directives came at a time when the government is holding talks with the tribal leaders in the capital for a political solution of the CHT problem.

The law-and-order situation in Chittagong was not hopeful, Hasina noted and asked the civil and police administrations to take proper steps to improve the situation.

Referring to serious power crisis, Hasina directed the officials to motivate people. She appealed for austerity in this crisis period.

The Prime Minister reiterated that political stability in the country is a must for development. Investment and production dependent on political stability, she added.

"Economic condition of the

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CHT talks resume

By Special Correspondent

Crucial negotiations between a Government appointed National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) and top brass of the Parbatyia Chhattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS) began at a state guest house in the city yesterday in a renewed effort to forge a peace deal in the CHT.

The PCJSS leaders were flown in the city in a military helicopter from Dudukchhara, a tiny frontier hamlet close to the north-eastern Indian state of Tripura, where they emerged from their hideout on Tuesday.

Mosharaf Hossain, MP, a member of the NCCHT, escorted the PCJSS delegation, led by its chief Jyotindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, from Dudukchhara in Panchari thana of Khagrachari district.

On arrival at the BAF base Bashar, the PCJSS delegation was received by Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and leader of the NCCHT.

This is the second trip of the PCJSS leaders to the capital to pick up the threads of negotiations which broke down on key issues of expulsion of settlers and land rights to the tribespeople in the three districts of CHT, home to 13 tribal groups and settlers. The settlers are almost half of the population of about a million in the CHT.

The talks, which continued into the night, reportedly got bogged down on the unresolved issues including a Regional Council contained in the five-point charter, tabled earlier by the PCJSS leaders during their first round of talks in the capital on January 25.

More than four hours after the talks began, Mashur Rahman, a director of the Special Affairs Division emerged at 7 pm from the tightly guarded state guest house Meghna.

"Sorry, we are in the midst of the talks. There cannot be any briefing now," he told newsmen.

'Inshallah, I will succeed'

By Staff Correspondent

Mayor Mohammad Hanif yesterday said that although he had failed in eradicating mosquitoes from the city, he still had two more years in office to prove his worth.

"Not everything is lost yet. I have probably failed with two of my pledges. I still have two more years to go and *Inshallah* I will succeed," the Mayor said at a crowded press conference at the Dhaka City Corporation office, marking completion of his three years in office. The press conference, however, ended midway amid a chaotic situation when the Mayor was exposed to some 'irrelevant remarks'.

Narrating his experiences of the last three years, Hanif cited his failures as regards mosquito eradication and improving law and order. He blamed the nature for failure in mosquito eradication. Every year during the Bangla month of Falgun you find some rain or storm but this year it has been absent."

The Mayor, however, admitted mismanagement in handling the mosquito eradication issue and said, "never before in the history of the Corporation, never before fourteen officials were removed at a time."

Moreover, during the month of Ramadan the spraymen could not spray insecticide in the evening because there were so many foodshops around.

"I must say that it is the duty of the Ministry of Health to eradicate mosquitoes. Even the 350 spraymen belong to that Ministry. I have taken up the programme purely on humanitarian grounds," Mayor Hanif added that the spraymen did not do their duty and when he asked the Ministry of Health to take action against them, nothing was done.

Asked whether he would try for aerial spray for mosquito

3600 already arrested under SPA: Mannan

Opposition lawmaker Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has accused the government of creating a law and order situation in the country by disrupting normal activities of the law enforcing agencies through a massive politicisation, reports UNB.

Taking part in the discussion on the President's speech in parliament yesterday, the BNP Secretary General also blamed the government for jeopardising democracy and destroying economy through misrule and inefficiency.

"The country cannot go forward without improving the law and order, nobody will be able to remain in a secure position without ensuring law and order," he said.

But the reason behind deteriorating law and order is that the government is not allowing the law enforcing agencies to work neutrally, he added.

Bhuiyan said some 1700 people were killed in last seven months. 350 women were raped in five months while terrorism and extortion spread all over the country.

Debunking the government's commitment for ensuring rule of law, he said a large number of BNP workers were killed and innumerable others injured during seven months of Awami League rule.

He said the government was very much vocal against the Special Powers Act while in opposition, but coming to power it is now saying that "there is no question of scrapping the Special Powers Act." It had already arrested 3,600 people under this Act, he added.

About democratic process, he said free and fair election is

7-pt suggestion for an 'independent' HRC

By Staff Correspondent

1993 Vienna Declaration on Human Rights, the organisations recalled that the declaration upheld the need for formation of HRCs for protection and promotion of internationally recognised human rights.

"We appreciate the government for taking initiative to set up a human rights commission in the light of the Vienna Declaration," representative of an organisation said.

The organisations — Ain-o-Shalish Kendra, Odhikar, Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust and Jatiya Ainjibi Parishad — expressed these views at a press conference held at National Press Club yesterday afternoon. Dr Hamida Hossain, Abul Hasib Khan, Fazlul Haq and Nizamul Huq Nasim represented the organisations.

Referring to the fact that Bangladesh is a signatory to the



Father handing over his son to police yesterday for throwing acid on a girl. — Star photo

Trial of Bangabandhu murder case begins

Charges to be framed Mar 24

By Staff Correspondent

Earlier, the records of the case was transferred to the district court from the CMM's court on March 1. After receipt of the case records, the District and Sessions Judge's court fixed its first date for producing the accused yesterday.

During the days proceedings yesterday, the judge also made his observation about the certified copies of the confessional statements made by the accused under section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPc). Besides, the judge also inquired about each of the accused individually.

About the confessional statements made under Section 164 of the CrPc, the judge said that the defence counsels would be allowed to go through those statements and take necessary notes, in presence of court officials and police, but the copies would not be provided.

He, however, observed that the moment the accused denied any statement recorded under Section 164, it would stand retracted.

The court also announced that from the next date of the trial the accused would be allowed to sit in chairs and if security allowed they would be kept at the dock without handcuffs during the proceedings of the day.

Besides, the court also said that the arrangements would be made for appointing lawyers on behalf of the state for the accused absconders.

While replying to the queries of the judge, one of the accused, Taheruddin Thakur, expressed his sufferings inside the jail, in an emotional tone.

Referring to a comment of

Agreed minutes signed: Next JEC meet in Dhaka

Experts to set modalities for Indo-Bangla border trade

NEW DELHI, Mar 12: The three-day Bangladesh-India Joint Economic Commission (JEC) meeting which ended here today resolved to further the scope and pace of cooperation to the mutual benefit of the two countries, reports BSS.

The meeting, fifth in the series and held after a gap of three years, discussed ways and means to enhance mutual cooperation in the fields of economy and finance, trade and commerce, transportation, agriculture and science and technology, according to the agreed minutes issued at the end of the meeting.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad and his Indian counterpart I K Gujral signed the agreed minutes at the Hyderabad House.

ERD Secretary Dr Mashur Rahman, Bangladesh High Commissioner in New Delhi C M Shahi Sami, Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider and Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Deb Mukherjee were, among others, present on the occasion.

The two sides reviewed the status of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries and noted that the second round of SAPTA negotiations had resulted in a very meaningful exchange of concessions and that the relevant notifications to give effect to these concessions had been issued.

Both sides agreed to cooperate in making the third round of SAPTA negotiations more meaningful.

Appreciating the Indian

BNP itself jeopardised sovereignty: Ershad

Former President H M Ershad yesterday blamed Begum Khaleda Zia for what he said, jeopardising national sovereignty by relinquishing Bangladesh's authority over Dahagram-Angorpota enclaves signing a treaty with India in 1992, reports UNB.

"This party (BNP) always clamoured about the country's independence and sovereignty in the name of the Ganges treaty, transit, electricity or bypass, but the sovereignty has already been jeopardised by the past (BNP) government," he said in Parliament.

Speaking on the President's address, Ershad read out relevant portions of the two separate agreements with India — one signed during his time on October 7, 1982 and another during former prime minister Begum Zia's time on March 26, 1992 — regarding the two enclaves.

Ershad said Bangladesh's sovereignty over Dahagram-Angorpota enclaves was ensured in the 1982 agreement through a provision of lease in perpetuity and unfettered movement of Bangladesh citizens through the enclaves.

Under the 1992 agreement, he said, Indian flags remain hoisted at the four corners of the two enclaves and movements of the enclave dwellers and traffic are being controlled by the Indian authority.

Dwelling on the background of his taking over power after the killing of Ziaur Rahman in 1982, Ershad said it would be wise for BNP not to question much and provoke him about that episode.

About BNP leader Col (Retd) Begum Zia's time on March 26,

Notice for Architectural Design Competition for Construction of "Independence Monument" at Suhrawardy Uddyan, Dhaka

In view of the call for struggle for independence by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on March 7, 1971, a nine-month long struggle for liberation followed resulting in achievement of victory through surrender of occupation pakistani forces on December 16 the same year. To keep this glorious event in the life of the nation ever bright & ever shining an initiative has been taken by the government to erect an 'Independence Monument' at Suhrawardy Uddyan, Dhaka.

The architectural design for the project will be selected through an open design competition arranged among the architects as per the rules followed by the Institute of Architects, Bangladesh. Any architect/architectural consultancy firm in Bangladesh can participate in this competition. For the designs selected by the Board of Judges as securing first, second & third places, Tk 1,00,000/- (one lakh), Tk 60,000/- (sixty thousand) & Tk 40,000/- (forty thousand) will be awarded as prizes, respectively. Papers containing detailed information in this regard can be collected from the office of the undersigned on non-refundable cash payment of Tk 200/- (two hundred) only from 10 March '97 to 18 March '97 within 1:00 PM.

Last date of submitting the proposed design is 18 May '97 up to 1:30 PM.

SAK Masud Ahmed
Chief Architect
Phone: 9569098

DFP-5548-9/3
G-706

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Acid-throwing Father hands over son to police

By Staff Correspondent

None but the father handed over his young son to Kotwali police yesterday for throwing acid on a teenage girl in the city last Saturday.

"He is an enemy of the country. Punish him..." said Abul Hashem, 55, when he took his son Chan Miah, 21, to the Kotwali thana at about 5 pm.

A retired peon of a primary school of Bangshal in the old part of the city, Hashem and his eldest son Kamrul Hossain burst into tears while handing over Chan Miah to the Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Kotwali thana.

Chan Miah, a primary school drop-out and an unemployed youth, fled his Chankharful house, after throwing acid at Sonia, 13, in her house on Abul Hasnat Road Saturday night, said the brother of Chan Miah.

Daughter of one Md Firoz, Sonia was under treatment at

70 Bangladeshis jailed in Quetta on hunger strike

QUETTA, Mar 12: About 70 Bangladeshi nationals imprisoned in Pakistan for illegal entry have gone on a hunger strike in jail demanding to be repatriated, official sources said today, reports AFP.

Most of the prisoners, serving time in the main jail in southwestern Baluchistan Province, have completed terms handed down by the courts, they said.

A provincial Home Department official said the government is in contact with the Bangladeshi Embassy in Islamabad to arrange deportation of the prisoners.

The Bangladeshis began their hunger strike on Monday in the Mach Prison, about 88 kilometers east of Quetta, capital city of Baluchistan.

AL activist killed in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, Mar 12: An Awami League activist, Karim Mollik, 65, was killed and his son Mujibor, 30, injured seriously when a group of BNP workers attacked them at Baje Khanpur of Chowgacha thana last night.

The injured was admitted to local thana Hospital in a critical condition. The body of Mollik was sent to the Jessore General Hospital for autopsy.

According to witnesses, the attack came when Mollik was returning home with his son. He died on the spot.

Khulna shipyard fire: Tk 50 lakh property gutted

KHULNA, Mar 12: A railway-ferry was caught in a fire which damaged property worth about Taka 50 lakh at Khulna Shipyard today, reports UNB.

Three cabins — first class, second class and master — of the ferry, MV Sonargaon, were badly damaged in the fire that occurred during welding works at the shipyard at 3:20 pm today (Wednesday). The ferry was brought here from Sirajganj for repairing.

The two sides agreed to hold trade review talks on a regular basis — twice a year in the respective commerce ministries.

The commission also decided to hold its next meeting in Dhaka within the first quarter of next year.

The two sides discussed the feasibility of providing additional land routes for facilitating trade between the two countries.

The meeting discussed the question of trade in local produce between areas of India and