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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, Al-Atsa, were also arrested. They were handed over to the port thana 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, Jafar, Golam, Abdur Rashid, Haji Ali and Captain Jakaria.

The Bangladeshi crew was identified as Md Farid who hailed from Banshali 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 Bhaban, committee sources said.

Chaired by Speaker Hasmukh Rashid Chowdhury, the meeting was attended by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Deputy leader of the House Zillur Rahman, Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Chief Whip of Parliament Abul Hasnat Abdullah and Rahmat Ali of the ruling party, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Badruddoza Chowdhury, Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandaiker 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, reported 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.

Hasina noted that vested quarters, including a section of

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 three 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.

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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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.

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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 Parbatty Chittagong Jana Sanghati 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.

Mosharraf Hossain, MP, a member of the NCCHT, escorted the PCJSS delegation, led by its chief Jyotindra 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.

More than four hours after the talks began, Mashirul 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.

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'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 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

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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 claim 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

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Khaleda was under arrest during liberation war'

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia was under arrest during the country's liberation war in 1971, a top BNP leader yesterday said in Parliament. reports UNB.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan disclosed it in response to certain remarks about Begum Zia by Treasury Bench members.

While participating in the discussion on the President's address, Bhuiyan narrated briefly how Begum Zia was arrested in 1971 and kept detained till independence.

He said on June 3, 1971 Begum Zia was taken to the residence of Mujibur Rahman Khan and then to the residence of Abdulla of Petrobangla.

The time when she was

thinking of going to her husband Ziaur Rahman after receiving his letter, she was arrested.

About democratic process, he said free and fair election is

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7-pt suggestion for an 'independent' HRC

By Staff Correspondent

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 Hossein, Abul Hasib Khan, Fazlul Haq and Nazmul Huq Nasim represented the organisations.

Referring to the fact that Bangladesh is a signatory to the

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 govern-



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

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 Abdul 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 Chankharpur 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

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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 Bangladesh 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 Mujib, 30, injured seriously when a group of BNP workers attacked them at Baje Khanpur of Chowgacha 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 worth Tk 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.

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 1