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# The Daily Star

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VOL. VII NO. 107 REGD. NO. DA 781

BAISHAKH 28 1404 BS.

DHAKA SUNDAY, MAY 11, 1997

MUHARRAM 3 1418 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

## Share scam 3 more cases transferred to District Judge's court

By Court Correspondent  
 Three more share market scam cases have been transferred to the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, yesterday by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate.

Three accused in the cases appeared before the CMM's court with their lawyers. They are M G Azam Choudhury, Prof Mahub Ahmed of Securities and Consultants Ltd and M V Nurunnabi, MD of Rupon Oil and Feeds Ltd.

However, the CMM ordered execution of the warrant of arrest against Shahidullah, a director of Securities and Consultants Ltd, as he failed to appear before the court yesterday.

Prof Mahub Ahmed prayed for appearing through his lawyer. But the CMM rejected it. Meanwhile, prosecution counsel Dr M Zahir sought time when the hearing of revision petitions in three cases, stayed by the District and Sessions Judge last week, came up yesterday.

Salman F Rahman and Sohel F Rahman of BEXIMCO and Shine Pukur Holdings, Shamsuddoha of Doha Securities and others were present at the hearing.

## New judicial posts for proposed MCS

By Staff Correspondent  
 The Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs has proposed creation of some new judicial posts to enable the Metropolitan Court of Sessions (MCS) to start functioning at the earliest, official sources said.

The proposal has been sent to the Ministry of Establishment. According to an earlier government plan, the MCS is scheduled to start functioning in Dhaka and Chittagong Metropolitan areas from the next financial year.

The sources said that the Law Ministry has suggested creation of the posts of a sessions judge, two additional sessions judges and three assistant sessions judges.

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# Powerful quake jolts Iran: 1000 killed, 40000 hurt

TEHRAN, May 10: Almost 1,000 people were killed and 40,000 injured in a powerful earthquake that devastated eastern Iran today, state radio reported, says AFP.

The quake, measuring 7.1 degrees on the Richter scale, destroyed at least 80 villages in Khorasan province, near the border with Afghanistan, the official IRNA news agency added, quoting authorities in the region.

The quake hit villages around the towns of Birjand and Ghaen in Khorasan province at 12:29 pm (0759 GMT).

Solat Mrotazavi, governor of Birjand, told IRNA that "170 other villages were evacuated."

The head of Iran's Natural Disaster Organisation, Mehdi Siadati, told IRNA that the victims were from Darman district, east of Birjand and very close to the border.

More than 400 teams of rescuers from Iran's Red Crescent Society as well as police and the military have been dispatched to the area equipped with helicopters and light and heavy machinery, said Rasul Zargur, the deputy interior minister.

Iran's paramount leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, called on the country's most powerful religious organization, Imam Reza, to come to the aid of the quake victims, state television reported.

AP adds from Mashhad, State-run radio put the quake's preliminary magnitude at 7.1, but the US Geological Survey in Golden, Colorado said the magnitude was 7.3.

Helicopters ferried tents, food and fuel to the affected villages in Khorasan province since many of the narrow dirt roads around them collapsed or were blocked by landslides.

Tankers that could get past brought water from the provincial capital, Mashhad, since the earthquake cut water supplies to the area.

An official reached by telephone in Birjand said many people had been killed in surrounding villages.

"We have pulled out scores of people from under the rubble, and relief operations are still going on," said the government official in Birjand. He identified himself only with his last name, Maleki.

"Some were pulled out dead, and some died on the way to the hospital, but we still cannot say how many have died," he said.

Most of the damage was in villages and towns between Birjand and Qaen, which are about 100 kilometers (65 miles) apart, he added.

He said these were remote villages, and reaching them through the rocky mountains was difficult. The nearest hospital from some of the villages was about 150 kilometers (95 miles) away, Maleki said.

The earthquake also was felt in the neighboring provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman and Semnan, Tehran radio said.

Pat Jorgenson, spokesman for US Geological Survey based in Golden, Colorado, said the earthquake had a magnitude of 7.3.

Iran is prone to earthquakes and experiences scores of small tremors every year.

A devastating Feb 28 earthquake in northwestern Iran was said by officials at the time to have killed 965 people.

Fourth session of JS begins  
**BNP walks out protesting 'partisan attitude of Chair'**

By Staff Correspondent  
 The first sitting of the fourth session of Jatiya Sangsad yesterday was marked by a BNP walkout protesting what its chief and Leader of the Opposition said partisan attitude of the Chair in running the business of House.

"We are staging a walkout, with laden hearts, in protest against your partisan attitude in running the business of the House," Begum Khaleda Zia told Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, who was presiding over the sitting, immediately before leaving the House at 8:15 pm last night.

She also said that the government which had already proved itself a failure was now reluctant to allow the Opposition MPs to speak to hide its failures from the people.

Earlier, the House witnessed a near pandemonium situation as the BNP legislators were loudly protesting the Chair's refusal to allow a BNP lawmaker to read out a notice. According to the Chair, the BNP member was insisting on reading out a notice which he could not under certain provision of the JS Rules of Procedure.

Former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, however, asserted that the rule the Chair had been referring to was not applicable in the present case.

The trouble began when Prof Shahidul Islam, BNP MP from Kushtia, started reading out a notice on the 'extremely deteriorating' condition of the country.

House that a writ was filed with the Supreme Court challenging the fine ordered by the High Court. He claimed that the present government was respectful to law.

Both Abdul Mannan and Khandaker Mosharrar told the House that they were picked up from their houses in the early morning of March 20 without any warrant and without the presence of magistrate. They said, hundreds of policemen had 'gheraoed' their residences. They were taken to the DB office and then to the Central Jail before they were shown arrest orders. The arrest orders were shown after 14 hours of arrest, they said.

Abdul Mannan also said that government could not prove any charge against them. Khandaker Mosharrar said that

objections from architects, engineers and others concerned. A top architect said under the Town Planners Act, 1953, authorities had the right to re-zone areas, but to do so they had to change the Masterplan and give gazette notification. "This re-zoning must be done according to experts' opinions and studies. We cannot understand how the Masterplan can be ignored less than two years after it was prepared at great expense," he said.

He pointed out that there was a huge demand for industrial land in the garment manufacturing sector. Garment manufacturers were often forced to conduct their businesses under extremely trying conditions.

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## BSF kidnaps 4 Bangladeshis

From Staff Correspondent  
 SYLHET, May 10: The Indian Border Security Force (BSF) kidnapped two more Bangladeshi nationals from near the zero line of the Sonarhat border of Gowainghat thana this afternoon.

With this, the number of Bangladeshis kidnapped from the Bangladesh border during the last two days rose to four.

An official here said, two Bangladeshi farmers were returning home after working near the Sonarhat border. See Page 12 Col 1

## Doctors enforce strike in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, May 10: Doctors enforced a wildcat strike in all health complexes and private clinics of the district today demanding bail of three doctors arrested after the death of a government employee in a clinic here on Friday night, reports UNB.

The strike created a deadlock in medicare services in all hospitals as interne doctors, nurses and hospital employees expressed solidarity with the doctors' strike called by district

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## We want economic development of CHT people : PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government wants to develop the hill tracts by utilising its natural resources and hoped an early solution of the CHT issue for peace in the region, reports UNB.

"We want economic development of the people of the region," she said addressing a meeting arranged at Bangabandhu Avenue to welcome some newcomers to the party from Manikganj district.

Former Dhaka City Mayor, Jatiya Party Presidium Member and City Unit President Col (Retd) Abdul Malek along with over 5,000 leaders and workers of the JP and its front organisations of the district joined the

See Page 12 Col 1

## BNPPP meet held Sub-regional grouping, Ganges water issues to be raised in JS

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will put up strong protest in and outside Parliament against the government's various 'misdeeds, repression and terrorism' across the country, reports UNB.

The main opposition also decided to raise all issues of national interest strongly in the House.

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## SAARC FM meet begins in Maldives Discussion on sub-regional grouping shelved

BANDOS, May 10: Ministers from seven South Asian countries opened talks in this Maldivian resort island today to prepare an agenda for Monday's summit, officials said, reports AFP.

The talks of the council of ministers will be on till Sunday when they will announce the agenda for the summit of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). Foreign secretaries on Fri-

day decided to shelve the issue of India's "sub-regional grouping" to sidestep a volatile political crisis ahead of the summit, diplomats said.

All member countries of SAARC were represented by their respective foreign ministers except India, which is fielding its State Minister for Commerce B P Ramiah as the foreign portfolio is held by Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.

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## JCD calls strike at DU today

By DU Correspondent  
 Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, has called a day-long student strike at the Dhaka University today protesting Friday's violence on the campus and demanding resignation of the proctor of the university.

The are also demanding arrest of those involved in the incident and "terrorists" of Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL).

The JCD earlier alleged that the proctor was responsible for Friday's incident.

On Friday, activists of JCD

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## DUCSU election after restoration of normalcy on campus: VC

The election of Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) will be held with the restoration of normalcy on the campus, reports UNB.

DU Vice-Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury said this at a meeting with JCD leaders yesterday amidst widespread speculation that DUCSU and hall union elections are likely to be held in July or September this year. The VC also held a separate meeting with the leaders of BCL yesterday.

The VC called the meeting also to discuss today's student strike, called by the JCD, and review the latest campus situation.

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## PM leaves for Male today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina leaves for Male this afternoon to attend the ninth SAARC summit beginning tomorrow in the Maldivian capital, reports UNB.

A special flight of Bangladesh Biman will carry the Prime Minister and her 25-member entourage to Male on the four-day trip.

The entourage includes six top government officials, four personal officers, one translator, a six-member security team, seven-member press and media team, one personal staff

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## CHT talks resume in city today

Star Report  
 The fifth round of peace talks between the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) and the Parbatya Chhattagram Janasanghati Samity (PCJSS), the political wing of the Shantibahini, begins here today.

A military helicopter will fly the PCJSS delegation from Dudukchhara in the CHT to the city for the talks to be held at a state guest house.

The talks have entered a crucial phase in the wake of the last two rounds in the city when the negotiators, headed by Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad and Jyotindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma (Shan-

tu Larma) leading the PCJSS, failed to agree on some vital issues like expulsion of the settlers, withdrawal of military from the CHT, land rights for tribes people and 'regional assembly'.

Besides, the nagging issue of hill district councils, whose tenure has been extended several times since 1989 elections, have dogged the talks. The authorities want to nominate the council leaders as their tenure runs out next month. The PCJSS has been opposing extension of the tenure of the councils.

Meanwhile, a settler-dominated

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## Confusion About In-coming Call Charge ?

Let GrameenPhone Explain ...

GrameenPhone authority has the honour to inform the nation that the news-item published in the Daily Ittefaq on 10 May '97 regarding Charge for In-coming Calls to GrameenPhone has no relation with truth, nor any basis of facts.

GrameenPhone makes it clear once again that they will not Charge any In-coming Call regardless of whether it is sent through the T&T network or any other mobile operator.

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