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2 Bangladeshis shot dead in Karachi

KARACHI, Oct 4: Two Bangladesh nationals employed in the Pakistani fishing industry were shot dead overnight in a coastal area here, police said today, reports AFP.

Some guards of the owner of a private fishing business were allegedly involved in the shooting, but the reason was not immediately known, the police said.

Three suspects have been taken into custody in connection with the incident, which took place in the city's eastern district of Landhi, they said.

The dead were identified as only Rashid and Chand, both in their early 30s.

Thousand of Bangladesh and Myanmar immigrants work in the local fishing industry in the port city.

Prime Group shuts its units indefinitely

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 4: The management of Prime Group has shut down its industrial units at Nandalalpur under Fatullah thana, for an indefinite period this morning.

The decision was taken under the provisions of the labour employment law of 1965 and announced the mills' closure until further order, a company official said.

The decision was taken following a trouble at three industrial units of Prime Group at Nandalalpur in which an armed gang attacked its premises leaving at least 20 people injured on Thursday. The units employ about 4,000

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Cricket team leaves for Nairobi today

Sports Reporter

A 17-member Bangladesh cricket team leaves for Nairobi today to take part in a three-nation invitational tournament scheduled to begin in the Kenyan capital on the 10th of this month.

The meet, which will be recognised as a one-day tourney in the ICC record book, will also feature Zimbabwe apart from the hosts.

The national team which is scheduled to reach Nairobi tomorrow, will enjoy a couple of days rest before renewing their rivalry with Kenya, who would be looking to avenge their de-

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DSE operates on Saturday

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) operated on Saturday for the first time since the government declared a two-day weekend in last May and the market apparently responded favourably with a slight gain, reports UNB.

The DSE authorities recently decided to operate the bourse on Saturdays following the footsteps of the commercial banks, after weeks of bearish trend marked with very low turnover in both value and volume.

The Daily Star
on the Internet
http://www.dailystarnews.com

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Khaleda announces at BATEXPO closing ceremony

BNP exempts all export-oriented industries from half-day hartals

BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia visiting a stall at the BATEXPO-97 at a city hotel yesterday. — Star Photo

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday announced exemption of the country's export-oriented industries including garments units from all half-day hartals at the call of her party with immediate effect.

The Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad also said that her party, in consultation with the other opposition parties, would 'actively' consider keeping the export-oriented industries out of any political agitation like hartal.

The announcement was made at the closing ceremony of BATEXPO, '97 following an appeal from the leaders of Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to the former prime minister to exempt the garments sector from hartals and barricades.

The audience that included parliament members, representatives of buyers and owners of garments units burst into applause as Begum Zia made the announcement. Envoys of dif-

See Page 12 Col 7

Tough action against anti-social acts, warns Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked her party leaders and workers to work for establishing people's right to food ignoring opposition's negative politics of destruction, terrorism and anarchy, reports UNB.

She warned the government would take tough action against any anti-social activities and said law-enforcing agencies had been asked to work neutrally to stop such acts.

The Prime Minister was addressing Awami League leaders and workers at party office yesterday afternoon. She said her government is working to ensure people's right to food through alleviating poverty.

Hasina said ruling Awami League does not believe in politics of vengeance, the only target of the government is the welfare of the people.

"We won't take any revenge on the opposition party which was rejected by the people for its vote dacoity, corruption and misrule."

The Prime Minister said Leader of the Opposition who spoke against hartal for 936 times during her rule was now calling hartals against the will of the people.

She said the government created a good scope for the opposition to raise all the issues in Parliament, even the issues like hartal to talk about.

"But instead of discussion inside the House, they are calling hartal without any issue. Who was dead against hartal is now calling hartals without issues," she said.

The Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina said there is every scope for the opposition to talk any issue in the House. "Even I myself answer to questions for half an hour every week in the Parliament."

She said during the rule of BNP, her party was bound to go for movement to establish the voting rights of the people as it was snatched.

"Now a system has been established — the ruling party will hand over power to a caretaker government after its tenure and go to polls under the caretaker government. So now there is no need for movement," she added.

Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman, senior city Awami League leaders, including Mohammad Reazuddin, Fazlul Huq BSc, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya MP and others were present in the meeting.

BNP, allies to stage 8-hr rail-road barricade today

By Staff Correspondent

A BNP-called eight-hour rail-road barricade across the country is scheduled to begin at 6 am today.

The barricade is part of a series of agitation programmes BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia had announced on September 15 to protest "government repression on the Opposition, its undemocratic and anti-people acts and subservient foreign policy."

Some other opposition parties — Jatiya Party (Z-M), Democratic League, Jagpa and PNP—earlier extended support to today's rail-road barricade programme.

In the capital, the BNP will

See Page 12 Col 1

AL won't obstruct BNP's barricade programme

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Awami League will not obstruct opposition BNP's rail-road barricade programme today, party general secretary Zillur Rahman said last night.

"We shall not obstruct the opposition party from enforcing its barricade programme tomorrow," Zillur Rahman who is also the LGRD minister told The Daily Star over telephone.

He replied in the negative when asked whether his party would bring out any procession in the city during the 8-hour barricade.

However, some AL sponsored processions, chanting anti-barricade slogans, paraded the city streets yesterday evening.

5000 policemen deployed in city

By Staff Correspondent

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken additional preparations to face BNP's rail-road barricade programme in the capital today.

According to DMP sources, some 5,000 policemen will be deployed in the city during the 6 am-2 pm barricade, which will also be enforced in other parts of the country.

Heavy contingents of police will be posted at the three inter-district bus terminals at Sayedabad, Mohakhali and Gabtoli and near the Kanchpur bridge, Jatrabari crossing, Buriganga bridge, Sadarghat launch terminal, Kamalapur rail station and Tongi bridge, all the level crossings in the city and the Fulbaria city bus terminal. Police will also be posted near the Jatiya Press Club, Secretariat and Tejgaon industrial area. Police will also remain on petrol duty, the sources said.

Besides, para-military BDR will be kept on standby. Top police officials further said they have been instructed to restrain and help check terrorist activities and maintain law and order during the Opposition programme.

DU exams to go ahead

By DU Correspondent

All examinations at the Dhaka University will be held today as per schedule despite the countrywide rail-road barricade, programme of the BNP, Vice Chancellor AK Azad Chowdhury said last night.

Asked about the examinees who come to the university from outside the city, the VC said, "They should come to the city and spend the night (Saturday) here to attend tomorrow's (Sunday) examinations."

No notice has, however, been issued asking the examinees to do so.

See Page 12 Col 2

Focus on CBA in Sonali Bank

Alleged move to make Task Force on TUs ineffective

By Govinda Shil and Rafiq Hasan

The Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) leaders of Sonali Bank, the largest nationalised commercial bank, are desperately trying to convince the Awami League government leaders that the Task Force, formed to look into the activities of the trade unions in the banking sector, would not bring any benefit to the present government.

According to sources in the bank, the Awami League-backed CBA of the bank is maintaining liaison with senior ruling party leaders and trying to create pressure on the management to foil the activities of the Task Force.

The CBA leaders are learnt to be lobbying top appointed officials of the bank and senior AL leaders to stall the activities of the Task Force. On September 21, the CBA staged demonstrations against the formation of the Task Force defying the provisions of the Banking Company Act.

The formation of the Task Force was also resented by the union leaders of other NCBs including Agrani and Janata banks. They are holding regular meetings to discuss the possible impact of the government move.

After the 5-member Task Force was formed on August 18, Sonali Banks CBA leader Jamaluddin Ahmed went to the Bank's Managing Director Khandaker Ibrahim Khaled, who also heads the Task Force, and reported to have said that if the Task Force was formed to curtail the activities of trade union the CBA would vehemently protest it.

Jamaluddin, however, spoke favour of bringing discipline in the trade union activities within the existing law.

Talking to these correspondents, he said the terms of reference of the Task Force should be amended. But leaders of BNP-backed Sonali Bank Employees Association (SBEA) alleged that Jamaluddin was against the formation of the Task Force.

The main allegation against the CBAs in the banking sector was establishment of a parallel management. The union leaders play a vital role in sanctioning loans and in the transfer and promotion of officials and employees. They are also allegedly involved in plundering money out of various banking activities in collaboration with a section of official which Ibrahim Khaled also admitted. "Yes, I admit that there are some people in the managerial level who offer a helping hand in various dirty roles played by the CBA leaders."

A senior Janata Bank official said sometimes CBA interference makes their job difficult. "They have long hands and their power is deep-rooted," he said requesting anonymity. He added that many transfer orders had to be canceled because of interference by the CBA leaders. He further said there are 11 registered and unregistered unions in his bank.

See Page 12 Col 3

'Govt pushing the country towards a situation of confrontation'

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has blamed the government for pushing the country towards a situation of confrontation by snatching people's democratic right for street agitation.

"With a view to re-establishing one-party rule in the country, the ruling Awami League is taking all steps to ban public meetings and processions throughout the country", he told a group of newcomers to BNP at the Minto Road official residence of Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Criticising the ban on street rallies in the capital, Mannan Bhuiyan alleged the government had identified public meetings on the streets as the lone reason for traffic jam in the city to cover up its failure in resolving any of the problems facing the city dwellers.

"We see traffic jam even when there is no street rally. In fact, they've banned street agitations with the motive of suppressing the Opposition on the streets," he said.

The "fascist" government of

See Page 12 Col 7

BNP barricade itself undemocratic: Ershad

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Oct 4: Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad today castigated the BNP for its "destructive agitation programmes one after another" and said his party would not go for "anarchic activities" rather build a constructive movement to protect people's interests.

"The BNP has called tomorrow's barricade protesting undemocratic and anti-people activities of the government.... The way BNP is following in the name of agitation is itself destructive, anti-people and undemocratic," the former president told a public meeting at NS government College field in the town.

"Who is BNP to dethrone the government which came to power through people's verdict only 16 months back?"

The former president also criticised the Awami League government for what he called its anti-people acts and subservient policies.

"The Awami League is following the footsteps of the previous BNP government, restoring to anti-people activities .... There is no scope to support this government any more," he said.

The country's economy has come to a fragile state under the government and "The Finance Minister should quit immediately", he said.

About the draft CHT peace accord, he said the government has lost its transparency and feared the region will no longer exists as part of the country after withdrawal of army from there.

"There is no alternative to his party to run the administration," he said and called upon the people to evaluate the per-

See Page 12 Col 1

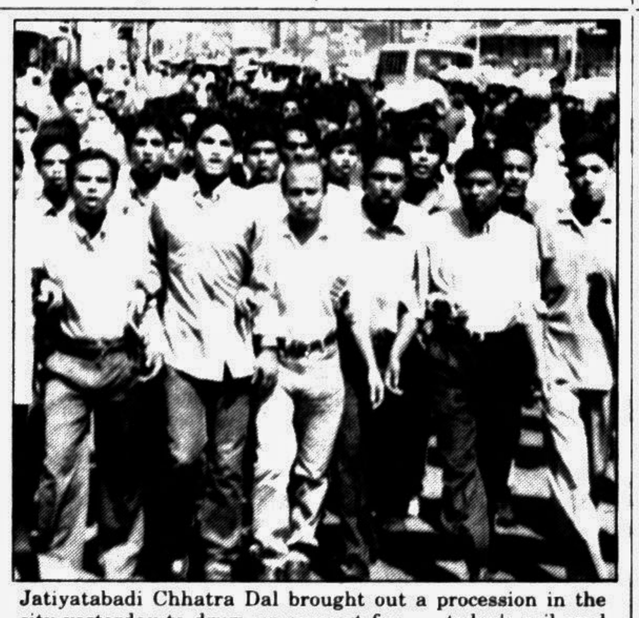
RU students' memo to VC

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 4: The general students of Rajshahi University jointly submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor of the university to meet their eight point demands.

The demands include construction of teacher-student centre, extension of time to enter the dormitories of the female students, renovation of university bus terminal, modernisation of library and enhancement of donation to all departments for excursion.

Transport workers demonstrated in the city yesterday opposing today's rail-road barricade programme. — Star photo



Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's rail-road barricade programme. — Star photo

Non-govt teachers on strike

Lakhs of primary students deprived of schooling

By Staff Correspondent

Lakhs of students of non-government primary schools are now deprived of schooling as 92 thousand teachers are on strike from October 1 demanding nationalisation of those schools.

Their strike is scheduled to continue till October 20.

There are over 28,000 non-government primary schools in the country. Out of this figure, 23,000 are registered with the government. The registration qualifies the schools to get a meager government grant to pay the teachers.

On an average, a government primary school teacher gets Tk 1,050 per month as basic salary and other benefits. A teachers of a non-government primary school receives an amount equivalent to only 71 per cent of the basic salary of a government school teacher and no other benefit. The percentage comes down to 61 if his school is below five years old and 51 per cent if it is below three years old, according to sources in the Non-government Primary School Teachers Association. The government in 1990 also set a maximum ceiling of four teachers for each non-government school who would get this salary. The only other government help a registered non-government primary school gets per month is Tk 30 for contingency such as chalk and duster.

"This is outright discrimination. We are doing the same job with same time table, syllabus and surroundings but our pay is so much different," said Badiuzzaman Akand, a non-government primary school teacher of

See Page 12 Col 2

Nepali coalition govt falls as Chand loses confidence vote

Lokendra Bahadur Chand

KATMANDU, Oct 4: The six-month-old Nepalese coalition government resigned today after Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand lost a vote of confidence in Parliament, reports AP.

Chand's defeat was brought about by a revolt by his party lawmakers. He was the third prime minister to be ousted in Nepal in the last three years.

A no-confidence motion, filed by the main opposition, was carried by 107-94 votes in 205-seat lower house. Communists and Chand's pro-palace National Democratic Party were the main coalition partners in the government.

Politics in Nepal have been instable since King Birendra restored democracy in 1991. A Communist government that came to power in 1994 was toppled in a confidence vote 18 months later. A Nepali Congress-led coalition took over, but it lasted barely seven months.

The opposition Nepali Congress and the rebel faction of Chand's party are expected to try to form a new government.

'Since the motion was approved by a constitutional process, I am tendering my resignation,' Chand said before leaving for the royal palace to meet King Birendra.

Thapa is expected to be appointed Prime Minister late Sunday and the oath-taking ceremony is expected to be held Monday along with the new cabinet ministers comprising NC and NDP MPs, says AFP.

The opposition Nepali Congress accused the government of failing to bring law and order to the Himalayan constitutional monarchy, and of fail-

See Page 12 Col 2

Young man found dead in hotel room

By Staff Correspondent

A young man was found dead with injuries in his neck in a hotel room at Sayedabad under Demra thana in the city yesterday.

Police said they could not identify the man but confirmed he was murdered. The victim was one of the two — Aslam, 18, and Rintu, 22 — who rented a room at Hotel Akbar at about 9 am on Friday.

Some hotel staff broke open the door of the second-floor room at about 10 am yesterday and found the body.

They decided to break open the door as they saw, through window, that a young man was lying on the bed but did not respond to repeated knocking on the door. Besides, the room was locked from outside but the key was not found at the reception.

On information, Demra police rushed to the hotel. They suspected that the man was

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গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর আওতাভুক্ত সকল এলাকার খেলাপি আবাসিক গ্রাহকদের গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান ৫ই অক্টোবর '৯৭ইং হইতে পুনরায় শুরু হয়েছে। সেই সাথে অবৈধ গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন কার্যক্রম যথারীতি চলবে।

গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ দলের সদস্যগণের নিকট কোম্পনীর পরিচয়পত্র ও সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ আদেশ থাকবে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকদের অবিলম্বে বকেয়া গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকারী দলকে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের স্থান বকেয়া পরিশোধের রশিদ প্রদর্শন করার অনুরোধ জানানো হল। সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত কোন গ্রাহক সকাল ৯.০০ হইতে ৫.০০টার মধ্যে কোম্পানীর সংশ্লিষ্ট জোন/অফিসে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের পূর্বে পরিশোধিত বিলের রশিদ দেখাতে পারলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে পুনঃ সংযোগ প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

সংযোগ বিচ্যুতির ৩ (তিন) মাসের মধ্যে পুনঃ সংযোগ না নিলে গ্যাস সংযোগ স্থায়ীভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ সহ গ্যাস সরবরাহ চুক্তি বাতিল করা হবে।

বকেয়া আদায় এবং গ্যাসের অবৈধ ব্যবহার বা অপচয় রোধ কল্পে সকলের সহযোগিতা একান্ত কাম্য।

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রানমিসন এন্ড ডিষ্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
ফোন ঃ ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭, ৯৫৬৩৬৬৮, ৮১৯৩৭৯ (দিবা-রাত্র)
পিএবি এক্স ঃ ৮১২১৩৫-৪২

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-২৮/৯৭-৯৮
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