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#### EU team assures help in lifting ban on frozen food export

The visiting two-member technical team of EU Commission has assured the frozen food exporters of its cooperation in lifting the temporary ban on export from Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The assurance came at a meeting of the EU Commission's technical experts Dr Donald M Gibson and Oscar R de Porto with the members of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association at its office in the city yesterday, said a press release.

The exchange of views session was chaired by Association president Golam Mostafa.

The EU experts said they would provide necessary cooperation and advice to the departments concerned of the government and the exporters so that the ban is withdrawn on the basis of observance of the commission's rules and regula-

The team had also a brief discussion on the issue with the officials of the Fisheries Ministry on Friday.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, during his recent visit to Brussels, had sought cooperation from the EU Commission in improving the quality of country's frozen foods and lifting the ban.

#### Barricade

From Page 1

put up barricades at five strategic points — Jatrabari, Saved abad, Sadarghat, Mohakhali and Rampura, BNP's city unit convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP told newsmen at Begum Zia's Minto Road official residence yesterday evening.

Asked if they will halt traffic movement in other parts of the city, he said, "We'll confine our barricades to those five areas only and carry out the programme peacefully. Disturbances may break out and spread in other parts if police attack the demonstrators.'

Asked about future programmes, a central leader of the party said, "The next course of agitation will largely depend on how the government behaves with the Opposition tomorrow.

To drum up support for today's programmes, BNP units at different wards in the city brought out processions and held street rallies yesterday.

On the other hand, a truck procession was also brought out from Fulbaria bus terminal yesterday afternoon opposing the barricade programme.

An emergency meeting of the Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal, BNP's women front discussed their participation in today's programme.

#### Ershad

From Page 1

formances of Jatiya Party, BNP and Awami League governments.

Among others, JP leaders Naziur Rahman Manju, Sardar Amjad Hossain, Monirul Haq-Chowdhury, Fazle Rabbi and Azhar Uddin Sarkar addressed the meeting with convener of district JP Mojibur Rahman Sentu in the chair.

After the meeting Ershad left for the capital.

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#### Jamaat to observe CHT day Oct 13

By Staff Correspondent The Jamaat-e-Islami will observe 'Chittagong Hill Tracks Day' on October 13 through holding rallies in different parts of the country, a party press release said here last

The party will observe Demand Day on October 29 for introduction of Islamic education system in the country.

#### 2 held for raping garments worker

CHITTAGONG, Oct 4: Police have arrested two of the five persons accused of gangraping a teenaged garments worker Thursday night at Kapuriapara in the city's Doublemooring thana, reports UNB.

Mahfuzur Rahman Lahul, 26. and Liton, 25, were arrested from Badamtoli in Agrabad on Friday night after the victim. Fatema Begum, wife of Saidur Rahman, had filed a case with Doublemooring police.

#### Teachers

From Page 1

Manglapara Registered Nongovernment School, under Shadhollapur thana in Gaibandha district. He was talking to this correspondent at the Association's office at

Nawabpur in the city yesterday. On September 24, more than fifty thousand non-government teachers led a 'hunger procession' in the city and submitted a memorandum to the Prime Minister's office.

Education Minister ASHK Sadek could not be contacted for his comment as he is now in Vienna to attend an international conference.

#### DU exams From Page 1

Earlier, several hundred examinees of different departments came to the university yesterday to know about today's examinations but they could

They could not even contact the controller of examinations or the VC as both were not available in their or offices, residences, they said.

It was at 8 last night when the VC, contacted over telephone, told The Daily Star that the university authorities had decided to hold the examinations as per schedule.

Meanwhile, a DU press release last night said, the third year (Honours) course system examination, which was scheduled to begin at the Arts Faculty at 1:30 pm today, will now begin at 2:30 pm. The rest of the examination schedule will remain unchanged.

#### Nepali govt

From Page 1

ing to control a radical Maoist movement that started last

The defeated coalition controlled 105 lawmakers in 205member lower house of Parliament. Eleven lawmakers revolted and supported the opposition Nepali Congress' bid to oust the government.

The Nepali Congress controls 83 seats

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Venue: Computer Centre,

3 days/week

The rebel faction was led by the Surya Bahadur Thapa, the Nepalese Democratic Party

#### Sankose canal to help solve water problem at Farakka point'

CALCUTTA, Oct 4: Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury paid a courtesy call on West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu at his Writers Building office here today, reports BSS.

They discussed matters of mutual interests with special reference to preservation and development of flora and fauna in the Sunderbans. They also underlined the need for further bilateral cooperation to conserve and develop the world's largest mangrove forest Sundarban covering both the coun-

While exchanging views on the Ganges water sharing treaty. Basu said that his government take proposed Sankose canal connecting Bhutan and West Bengal into consideration which is aimed at increasing the water flow at Farakka.

"Sankose project will play a significant role in solving the problem of paucity of water at Farakka point," Basu hoped. In this connection, he also mentioned that an expert team is studying the possibility of constructing the Sankose canal in such a way that little damage is caused to environment, forestry and animal sanctuary of the region. Basu told Bangladesh minister that he will be visiting Bhutan in near future.

Besides, Jyoti Basu underlined the need for opening of Dhaka-Calcutta bus service soon and added that the common people specially the young generations of both the countries would be benefited from it

#### Focus on CBA From Page 1

Rival unions of the Sonali Bank's CBA also made similar allegations. "They have made at least 1,600 transfers so far and it is quite natural they will try to stop the activities of the Task Force," said AKM Mazharu Huq. secretary general of SBEA Huq said, the Task Force should investigate the irregularities

done by CBA's in the banking But Jamaluddin, who has been involved in trade union activities for more than 20 years, felt that the formation of Task Force was not needed as the existing law was enough for brining discipline in union ac-

tivities. The Sonali Bank MD said that it was formed under an agreement between the government and the World Bank. He said five unions were active in his bank.

He said the Task Force is working to identify the areas where banking activities are being affected by the union activities. It will prepare a report suggesting the government for future actions. The Task Force report will be submitted to the government sometime in November.

Union leaders think that the Task Force was formed to give 'golden handshake' to at least 10 per cent of the total employees. But it was denied by Ibrahim. Jamaluddin, however, threatened to launch an agitation programme if there was any such move behind formation of the Task Force.



Preparations are going on for Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the Hindus. - Star photo

### Dhaka for close South Asian cooperation: FM

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said that Bangladesh was pursuing the policy of friendship to all and malice to none as enunciated by Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rah-

man, reports BSS. The government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was following a forward looking, positive and constructive foreign policy formulated by Father of the Nation after assuming office in 1972, Azad said while addressing a function at the Asia Society in New York on Thursday.

The Bangladesh Foreign Minister was the key speaker on "Bangladesh's relations with its neighbours", a message received in Dhaka yesterday said. Samad Azad said the government has been pursuing an active policy mainly to strengthen bilateral relations in resolving longstanding disputes with India.

#### 9 more fishermen rescued

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Oct 4: Nine more missing fishermen returned to their homes at Kalapara under Patuakhali district today after being rescued by some fishermen of Cox's Bazar.

They were floating in the Bay of Bengal with the help of plastic drums and bamboos of their fishing boats which capsized in the sea during the cyclonic storm of September 26. The rescued fishermen are Barek, Nasu Mia, Delwar, Jab-

bar, Rashid, Nuru Mia, Kader, Rahman and Jalil. Meanwhile, many people are

still searching for the bodies of their relatives along the bank of the river Meghna in different places of Daulatkhan thana, according to report reaching

Signing of the historic 30year Ganges water sharing treaty with India has paved the way for significant development on other issues between the two countries, he added.

Azad termed Bangladesh's relation with Bhutan, Nepal and Sri Lanka as "close and friendly" and added that we have been trying to further strengthen bilateral and subregional ties with these countries under SAARC. The process of forming a "growth quadrande" comprising Bangladesh. Bhutan, India and Nepal is under the framework of SAARC

The foreign minister said that the basic policy of Bangladesh with its neighbours was to build a close South-Asian cooperation for achieving a South Asian community free from poverty, illiteracy and conflict.

Earlier the foreign minister informed the gathering about the forthcoming visit of Pakistan Prime Minister Newaz Sharif and Indian Prime Minister IK Gujral to Bangladesh to attend a summit of the businessmen of the three countries.

#### SSC students in Rajshahi begin boycott of class

RAJSHAHI, Oct 4: The students of class nine and ten across the district began an indefinite class boycott yesterday protesting government move towards holding SSC examinations within one week from next year, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the students abstained from attending classes at the call of the SSC Examination Demand Realisation Committee.

#### **Hostess Trolley**

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### Move to reinvestigate Ratan Sen

murder case From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Oct 4: Preparations are being taken to reinvestigate the Comrade Ratan Sen murder case in which 11 people are accused, according to official sources.

Despite confessional statement before the CMM's court by two of the accused involving nine others in the murder, the then district judge. Taha Mollah, pronounced the verdict on September 12, 1993 acquitting all the accused named in the

Later, a move was taken by the central leaders of CPB seeking reinvestigation of the case and accordingly the then DC of Khulna sent the case docket to the concerned authorities.

But the move was stalled as the entire case docket allegedly disappeared mysteriously, the sources added.

Comrade Ratan Sen was brutally stabbed to death on the morning of July 31, 1992 near the office of the police super.

The case was first investi gated by the DB of KMP, but later was transferred to CID. Meanwhile, police failed to

arrested the BNP leader who was the alleged mastermind of the murder, named in the FIR. in a pre-dawn swoop on his Khulna unit of CPB held

rally today hailing the decision of government to reinvestigate the murder case.

#### Gaffar acting DCC mayor By Staff Correspondent

The Commissioner of Ward- MD Abdul Gaffar will act as the city mayor during the absence of Mayor Mohammad Hanif who flew to Riyadh for treatment on October 3, said press release of the city corporation.

#### Prime group From Page 1

workers. Meanwhile, a senior Prime

Group official claimed that Palash, the main accused in the case which they filed with Fatullah thana following Thursday's incident, entered one of the industry premises today The official told this correspondent that Palash assured the workers claiming that the industry was in their grip and all the workers' demands would

Criticising the police role, the official also claimed that police were not arresting Palash. Two cases — one by the workers and another by the owners - were lodged with Fatullah thana in connection with Thursday's violence.

Meanwhile, police forces are guarding the industries to avert further violence.

## **Export-oriented units**

From Page 1 ferent countries were also pre-

sent at the ceremony. "I also urge the government to play a positive role in this regard and help the industries to grow," she said.

The BNP chief said "We shall continue to cooperate in the efforts for industrial growth of the country because we, as opposition leaders, believe in politics of development and production. We want an uninterrupted development process so that the unemployed get employment and the country can equip itself properly to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Begum Zia went on "We do not call hartals without proper reasons. The government is intolerant of criticisms and has launched attack on us. We were compelled to call hartals to protect the sovereignty and independence of the country."

She said "We do not want to increase hardship of the people. But we will not tolerate those activities of the government

which will impede peace and happiness of the people. The former prime minister recalled "During the non-stop hartals in '96, the BGMEA leaders had urged the then Opposition leader to withdraw hartal. But she had told them to ask me

blackmail you like that!" Begum Zia asserted that BNF had a soft corner for the garments sector, the biggest foreign exchange earner, as it was "President Ziaur Rahman's farsight in the late seventies which had shaped up the direction for the country's garments sector."

to resign." She added "I will not

#### Found dead

From Page 1

strangulated and sent the body to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Police quoting the hotel register said Aslam and Rintu came to the hotel from Debidhar in Comilla

Manager of the hotel Parimal Chandra filed a murder case with Demra thana in this regard. None was arrested till last night.

#### Cricket team

From Page 1

feats at the hand of Bangladesh in the ICC Trophy final. For Bangladesh, the eventual winner in that cliff-hanger in Malaysia early this year. this is going to be third African safari since their infamous Nairobi ICC Trophy mission way back in 1994.

But in a changed circumstance with Bangladesh, the ICC Trophy champions, winning the ODI status alongwith Kenya, the triangular tourney will be a testing time for the na-tional team, which will be led by skipper Akram Khan.

She said the level of duty and surcharge on the garments factories was destructive. "I want to know in whose interest has the government increased the duty and surcharge," she said.

Quoting a BGMEA study, the BNP Chairperson said, "In '95-'96, garments factories remained closed for 170 days due to hartals enforced by the then Opposition. Due to this reason, every factory incurred, on an average, a debt of Tk 42.5 lakh. The government should address

She pointed out that the non-stop hartals in '95-96 had caused loss of Tk 4978 crore to the country.

The function was also addressed by, among others, former commerce minister Shamsul Islam MP and BGMEA President Mostafa Golam Qud-

Quddus said, "All we can see now is a dark cloud ahead. In this ominous hour, only you can save us. Opposition party is a government-in-waiting. We appeal to you to do something so that this sector lives."

#### Mannan Bhuiyan From Page 1

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had pushed the economy and industries on the brink of ruination and endangered democracy and independence. The ruling party had also failed to implement its election pledges. Mannan Bhuiyan alleged.

Terming the current state of law and order as the worst ever since independence, he said people experienced similar situation during '72-'75 period while AL was in power."

Accusing the ruling party terrorists' for extortion of tolls from industrialists, the BNP leader alleged they once attacked Monno Ceramic Industry and three industrial units of Prime Group on Thursday as the owners refused to pay tolls.

"Businessmen are now in doubt if they will be able to continue their business", he said. Referring to his party's ongoing movement against the government, Mannan Bhuiyan said, "We're agitating to protect the country's independence, its

economy, rights of the people

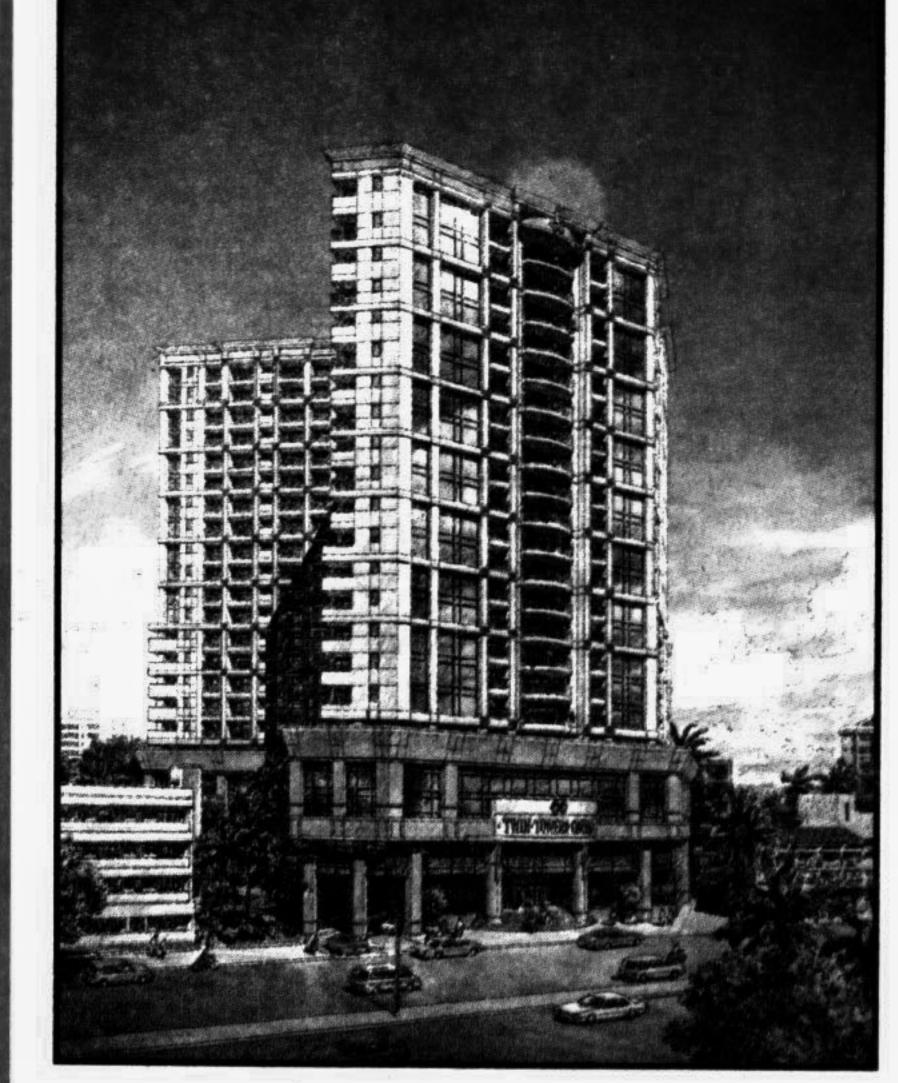
and to protest government con-

spiracies on the Chittagong Hill

Tracts." He urged all 'patriotic and nationalist forces' to rally round BNP and carry forward the agitation under the leadership of BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

Earlier, Jatiya Chhatra League General Secretary Suranjan Ghosh along with a group of activists joined the

The joining ceremony was also addressed by, among others, BNP leaders Sadek Hossain Khoka MP, Amanullah Aman MP, Maj. (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed MP, Najimuddin Alam MP and Sirajul Hossain Khan.



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