

JS winter session begins Nov 2

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad will go into its winter session at 4 pm on November 2.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed summoned the seventh session of the seventh parliament yesterday, according to a government handout.

See Page 12 Col 1

WB unhappy over defence spending

Star Business Report

The World Bank in its Public Expenditure Review has raised questions about expenses on various sectors including defence.

According to the Bank, the expenditure pattern runs contrary to government's emphasis on poverty reduction.

(Detailed story on Business Page)

5-hour traffic jam near Kanchpur Bridge

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 6: Hundreds of passengers of inter-city buses got stranded for hours as a group of transport workers barricaded the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Kanchpur Bridge yesterday.

Commuters experienced the worst traffic jam in recent weeks on the roads from Sayedabad to Simrail (better known as Chittagong Road), Demra and Narayanganj for about five hours from 1 pm.

Siddhirganj police said transport workers damaged a Chandpur-bound bus near Bhulgar on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at around noon. Earlier, a few days back, a group of transport owners delinked themselves from Dhaka-Chandpur Bus Owners' Association and formed a new body, said Felton.

See Page 12 Col 7

Bank holiday Saturday

Bangladesh Bank and all commercial banks will remain closed on Saturday on the occasion of Bijoya Dashami, said a Bangladesh Bank press release yesterday, reports UNB.

The Daily Star on the Internet

<http://www.dailystarnews.com>

Inside Today Article

The Talk Must Go on

Column: Between The Lines by Kuldip Nayar Page 4

Focus

A Vision for Higher Education; Universities—No More Ideal for Learning Page 5

New pay scale: Highest Tk 15000, lowest Tk 1500

The Cabinet yesterday approved the National Pay Scale fixing the basic salary for the top grade at Tk 15,000 and the lowest Tk 1,500, including tiffin allowance of Tk 100, reports UNB.

The new pay scale recommended by the secretary committee, which was formed to review the recommendations of the 5th National Pay Commission, will be implemented in phases with retrospective effect from July 1, 1997.

The scale containing 20

grades will be implemented in the next three years.

In the first year, 60 per cent of the enhanced salary under the new pay scale, will be given from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998.

In the second year, remaining 40 per cent of the enhanced salary will be given from July, 1998.

All allowances, including festival allowance/bonus (excluding tiffin allowance) as received on June 30, 1997 will be given during fiscal 1997-98

and 1998-99 (up to June 30, 1999).

From July 1, 1999, allowances and bonus under new scale will be given.

The cabinet, at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, also took the decision to give tiffin allowance of Tk 100 for the non-gazetted class III and IV employees from July 1, 1997.

With tiffin allowance, the lowest salary will be Tk 1,600. This will reduce the difference between the highest and lowest salary.

Under the new pay scale, the highest will be 9.37 times of the lowest salary (including tiffin allowance) as against 11.11 times of the 1991 pay scale.

The Cabinet observed that the 5th Pay Commission in its

report stated that no government in the past was able to increase the salary at rates exceeding the inflation.

Furthermore, the 5th Pay Commission expressed the opinion that the fixation of the lowest pay at Tk 1,126 would be enough to compensate for the inflation.

But considering the problems of the government employees, the Cabinet has decided to increase the salary at an enhanced rate compared with the inflation.

With the introduction of the new pay scale and its implementation in phases, the lowest pay (including tiffin allowance) will be increased 27 per cent more than the inflation in the current fiscal year. This increase will go up to about 42 per cent when the new pay scale will be implemented in full.

The cabinet further observed that no government in the past was able to completely implement the recommendations of the pay commission.

See Page 12 Col 1

Pay scale at a glance on back page

34 killed as bus plunges into pond in B'baria

From Our Correspondents

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 6: At least 34 people including 6 children and 4 women were killed and 10 injured when a bus fell into a deep roadside pond at Boyeshamura on Brahmanbaria-Sylhet highway 18 kilometres from here today.

Thirty-two people died on the spot and two died on way to hospital. One Dipali Biswas was admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

The Brahmanbaria-bound bus from Madhabpur was on high speed when it crumbled and rolled into the pond as the driver lost control, police and witnesses said.

The driver, Abul Khayer managed to escape, police said. The tragic accident took

place at about 11:30 am.

Fifteen of the dead were identified as Bishnaw Das, 40, of Shatbargo village, Abul Husien, 20, of Anand village, Amina Begum, 4, and Ayesa Begum, 3, of Badura village, Idris Chowdhury and Narmuz Khan of Jalalpur village, Shahinur Rahman of Shabazpur village, Hafez Md Alamgir, 35, of Alakpur village, Arzuda Begum, 40, of Horipur village and her two children, Razab Ali, 65, of Madhabpur village, health assistant Junu Mia, 40, of Sarail Thana Health Complex, Nurul Islam, 35, and Tuheen, 17. The rest could not be identified till writing of this report in the evening.

It was a heartrending scene when the bus was salvaged in

the afternoon. Thousands of worried people flocked there, relatives of the victims wailing. Sylhet-Dhaka and Brahmanbaria-Sylhet road links remained suspended till about 4 pm. Deputy Commissioner A K M Wahedul Islam visited the spot and supervised the salvage operation.

UNB adds: Witnesses said only 8-10 people managed to get out of the bus which completely sank in the pond.

Hearing a hue and cry, the panic-stricken villagers nearby rushed to the scene to help rescue the victims.

The salvage operation was conducted with a crane from Titas Gas Company.

Four unidentified bodies

See Page 12 Col 8

Hartal called today BNP activist gunned down at Bogra

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Oct 6: Authorities deployed extra forces in the district today after a BNP activist was gunned down inside the district party office this evening in the wake of clashes during a day-long hartal in which two BNP MPs were wounded.

The BNP has called another hartal for 12-hours tomorrow to protest the killing of Anwar Hossain and what they said at attack on their processions by rival Awami League supporters.

Pourasava Chairman Advoca-

cate Jahurul Islam, MP and Advocate Hafizur Rahman, MP, were wounded in the attack.

But who killed Anwar Hossain was not known immediately.

Today's dawn-to-dusk hartal was called by the BNP to press for release of district BNP Joint-Secretary Ali Asgar Hena, detained ahead of its Sunday's countrywide barricade programme on charges of damaging the portrait of Bangladesh

See Page 12 Col 8

Khaleda blames 'AL terrorists' for Bogra killing

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia has strongly condemned the killing of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist Anwar Hossain during a hartal in Bogra yesterday and blamed the "pro-Awami League terrorists" for the murder.

In a statement issued last night, the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad also condemned "all other acts of terrorism by AL and police" and demanded trial of those responsible for the "heinous attacks".

Police fired shots, lobbed tear gas shells and charged baton on BNP processionists and at the party office and AL "ter-

See Page 12 Col 6

No plan to hold SSC exams in Feb: Handout

The government in a hand-

out yesterday categorically said there is no plan to hold the SSC examination in the month of February, according to UNB.

It said the education boards have not decided to hold the examination in February and the date of the next SSC examinations will be announced in due course.

The government urged all concerned, including the students and their guardians, not to head to any rumour and also remain alert about the rumour-mongers.

Police fired shots, lobbed tear gas shells and charged baton on BNP processionists and at the party office and AL "ter-

See Page 12 Col 6

SSC students go on rampage: 45 held

By Staff Correspondent

At Least 45 students were arrested as hundreds of high school students went on rampage on different city roads yesterday in protest against a reported move regarding the schedule of the next SSC examinations.

The students damaged about 30 motor vehicles at different places including Shahbagh crossing, Shegun Bagicha, Press Club, Nawabpur Road and Victoria Park, witnesses and police said.

The demonstrators, mainly students of class nine and ten of various schools in the metropolis, staged the sporadic agitations for about three hours

from 12 pm.

It has been reported that the authorities are planning to complete the SSC examinations in the shortest possible time, roughly a week, when it begins.

For this, examinations of two papers may be held on a single day, the reports said.

Sources concerned said the authorities were planning this to remove session jam.

Witnesses said students from different city schools brought out separate processions and gathered near the Shaikhha Bhawan at around 11 am. A few hundred protesters from Tejgaon area also brought a truck

See Page 12 Col 6

Hasina unveils plans for the homeless

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina yesterday unveiled government plans to provide homes to the homeless living inhuman life and for urban housing prioritising the needs of commonman, reports UNB.

"We want to build beautiful cities for our future generation as well as for the homeless people. We want to build safe and hygienic abode for all," she said

spelling out a series of plans while inaugurating the programmes of World Habitat Day '97 at the Osmani Memorial Hall.

The Prime Minister viewed

that housing problem became acute due to unplanned urbanisation in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and other divisional cities.

"We have to take step at once to make the cities liveable by the year 2000," she said and asked the authorities concerned to take and implement specific plans to that end.

Sheikh Hasina said the contrast between the growing luxury buildings and the unplanned and unliveable slums without light and air in the cities would have to be removed

See Page 12 Col 4

Durga Puja begins today

By Staff Correspondent

Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the country's Hindu community, begins today.

The five-day festival begins with 'Sasthi' Adhivas today while the 'Mahasaptami' will be celebrated tomorrow.

Mahanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee has taken up elaborate programmes to celebrate the festival with due religious fervour in the city. Historic 'Bijoya' procession will be brought out from Dhakeswari Mandir on the day of 'Mahadashami' on October 11.

BNP programmes suspended till Oct 10 for puja

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has suspended its agitation programmes until October 10 to enable smooth celebration of the Durga Puja, the biggest religious festival of the country's Hindu community.

According to the rescheduled programme, during October 11-14 the party will organise rallies, processions and mass contact programmes at the huts and bazaars across the country to press for demands including fixation of jute price at Tk 500 per maund, just prices for agri products, reduction of agri input prices, scrapping of the Gram Parishad Bill and containing terrorism and extortion, said a press release.

The union level agitation was due to start from yesterday. Other parts of the 17-day agitation programme, announced on Sunday, will remain unchanged.

BCL factions in Sylhet clash over formation of dist unit

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 6: Rival groups of Bangladesh Chhatra League clashed in the town today.

Amid cracker blasts, chase and counter-chase took place between activists of the rival groups—Zindabazar and Chouhatta areas of the town.

Additional police force was deployed in the busy areas of the town to avert armed clash, an official said.

The incident took place after the central committee of pro-AL student organisation announced the new committee of Sylhet District Unit yesterday with Shafiqul Alam Nadel and

See Page 12 Col 7

Arrested BNP leaders on 3-day remand

By Court Correspondent

Three BNP leaders arrested on Sunday—Ilhas Ali, Kamruzzaman Ratan and Syed Arif Rafiqul Islam—were placed on a three-day police remand by Metropolitan Magistrate FMA Monayem yesterday.

Police had prayed for a 20-day remand. None of them was produced in the court.

The three were arrested allegedly with firearms from Mahakhali area in the city. Two cases have been lodged against them for possessing arms and explosives.

At around 3:30 pm yesterday

See Page 12 Col 2

Bangabandhu Murder Case 'Dalim brought Shafiullah to radio station at gun-point'

The then Army Chief, Major General Shafiullah, was brought out of his office at gun-point by Major Dalim and taken to radio station after the August 15, 1975 killings.

This was stated by Dafadar (dismissed) Shahidur Rahman, the 19th prosecution witness in Bangabandhu murder case, in his deposition yesterday in the court of District Sessions Judge, Dhaka, reports UNB.

He said General Shafiullah was being followed by Deputy Army Chief Major General Ziaur Rahman and other senior officers while Major Dalim with a stengun led him to the radio station.

Getting down the jeep with

the stengun Major Dalim hurriedly entered the Army Headquarters before taking Major Shafiullah, the witness informed.

He also said Major Dalim led army troops towards the Minto Road residence of Abdur Rab Serniabat and posted them on various points around the house early August 15, 1975.

Rahman, who had been driving the jeep with Major Dalim since they left cantonment at 4 am that day, said they heard firing from the house of Serniabat some time after the troops were posted.

According to deposition of the PW-19, Major Dalim boarded his jeep with a stengun

and was carrying the firearms for all the time till Rahman last saw him taking Shafiullah.

Rahman made his deposition after the cross examination of PW-18 Havildar (retd) Abu Taher was completed.

The 19th witness will be cross-examined by state defence counsels and lawyers of arrested accused when the court of Judge Kazi Golam Rasul resumes at 10 am today.

Beginning his deposition Shahidur Rahman, hailing from Dhunat thana in Bogra district, said he joined Armour Corp of the then Pakistan Army in 1969 and took part in country's Liberation War.

See Page 12 Col 3

Queen Elizabeth starts Indo-Pak tour today

LONDON, Oct 6: Queen Elizabeth II tomorrow begins a 12-day state visit to Pakistan and India, to mark the 50th anniversary of the two countries independence, which officials hope will not be marred when she visits the Indian city of Amritsar, reports AFP.

Intense security will surround the visit by the Queen and Prince Philip to Amritsar on October 14, with an estimated

See Page 12 Col 7

Thapa new Nepalese prime minister

KATHMANDU, Oct 6: King Birendra of Nepal today appointed rightist National Democratic Party (NDP) president Surya Bahadur Thapa as the new prime minister, state-run radio announced, reports AFP.

He replaces former premier Lokendra Bahadur Chand who lost a no-confidence vote Saturday forcing him and his coalition government to step aside.

The announcement came after Thapa had earlier registered a letter at the Royal Palace claiming his right to form a government.

His letter, signed by 107 lawmakers of the lower house

See Page 12 Col 2



Surya Bahadur Thapa

CU to reopen Oct 18

CHITTAGONG, Oct 6: The Chittagong University authorities, as per earlier decision of the Syndicate meeting, today issued some directives for the students as the classes will reopen on October 18, reports BSS.

The dormitories on campus will open for the resident students.

See Page 12 Col 6

Terrorist Ilias of Ctg held

CHITTAGONG, Oct 6: Kotwali police arrested a notorious terrorist Ilias, chief of Ilias Bahini of Fatikchhari from in front of Almas Cinema Hall here this evening, reports BSS.

The arrested was wanted in connection with several criminal cases including alleged murder and abduction, police said.

BASIC remains open on Saturday...

All our 21 Branches are open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (except public holidays).

Our Head Office also remains open on Saturdays to facilitate Branch Operation.



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Fair Fair Fair

Trade Fair '97 Invitation to Participate

Attractive agricultural, recreational & educative trade fair will be arranged in 6 district towns of the north-eastern region of the country (Sunamganj, Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Kishoreganj & Netrakona) at the initiative of North-East Miniature Irrigation Project under the Ministry of Agriculture during the coming winter season (10 November-6 December, 1997).

In view of popularising use of miniature irrigation machines among the farmers towards cultivating more lands with irrigation, the farmers will be motivated through exhibition of various irrigation machines & agri implements and demonstration of their effectiveness in the fair.

Who can participate

- Agri & irrigation machinery importers/local trading firms & related individuals.
- Agri/irrigation/pisciculture/animal resources/handicrafts activities related govt/semi-govt/autonomous/NGO/private ownership firms & individuals.
- Fertiliser/seeds/insecticide importers, local trading firms & related individuals.

Prescribed application form for allotment of stall/pavilion at the Fair & other information can be collected free of cost from the office of the undersigned & the undermentioned offices at district level during office hours latest up to 15 October 97.

Address	Date of holding Fair
A. Sunamganj office	District council building 10.11.97 to 19.11.97
B. Sylhet office	House No. 35, Block-A, Satellite Town 10.11.97 to 19.11.97
C. Moulvibazar office	Old Jalalabad Gas Office 10.11.97 to 19.11.97
D. Habiganj office	Old Munseffii Quarters 27.11.97 to 06.12.97
E. Kishoreganj office	Salma Nibas, Station Road 27.11.97 to 06.12.97
F. Netrakona office	Mukteerpara 27.11.97 to 06.12.97

Last date of depositing application form is 26 October, 1997

A S M Rezaul Karim
Coordinating Director
North East Miniature Irrigation Project
Ministry of Agriculture
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
714, West Nakhalpara, Dhaka-1215
Telephone - 810109

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