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# The Daily Star

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## All 113 BNP MPs to be in JS standing bodies, says Tofael

Star Report

All the 113 MPs belonging to the major opposition party BNP will be accommodated in parliamentary standing committees.

This was said by Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed while talking to newsmen at Awami League central office yesterday evening.

"We will accommodate three to four BNP lawmakers in each 10-member committee. I hope BNP will come and join the coming session of parliament," the AL stalwart said.

The Jatiya Sangsad is scheduled to go into winter session on November 2. The previous session was prorogued on September 4, with BNP continuing its abstention from attending it.

About BNP's current agitation, See Page 12 Col 8

## Kenya beat Bangladesh

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh swallowed a huge 150-run defeat to hosts Kenya in the inaugural match of the three-nation President's Cup at the Gymkhana Club in Nairobi yesterday.

Chasing a mammoth Kenyan total of 347 in 50 overs, Bangladesh could reach 197 for nine in 43.3 overs. An injury restricted number eleven Saiful Islam from batting.

Opener Athar Ali, the talented all-rounder, stood tall among the ruins by batting quite sensibly to score 61 before being caught and bowled by off-spinner Asif Karim. Besides vice-captain Aminul Islam scored 37 and lower order Hasibul Hossain collected 21.

Karim, the Kenya captain and the man behind Bangladesh's debacle, captured five wickets for 33 runs in his 10 over spell while Steve Tikolo took two wickets conceding 31 runs in six overs.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Extortionists beat up engineer in city

By Staff Correspondent

Extortionists, being refused toll, seriously beat up an engineer in presence of about 20 people at a construction site in the city and left the place firing shots.

The incident took place at Zeal Orchid, the site of an apartment project of Zeal Associates Ltd at Bara Moghbazar on Thursday afternoon, police said yesterday.

An FIR filed by Zeal Associates with Ramna thana alleged that the extortionists had earlier demanded five lakh taka toll.

At about 5 pm on Thursday, nine armed youngsters came in three auto-rickshaws, demanded the money from engineer Fani Bhushan, and being refused, hit him on the head with a pistol. They threatened to kill him if construction work continued without payment of the toll money, the FIR said. Later Bhushan was taken to a clinic for treatment, police said.

Three persons were named in the FIR. They are Utpal, Faisal and Tanvir. Police suspected that the attackers were youngsters of Ramna thana area.

However, none was arrested in this connection till last night.

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# 11 killed in Jessore train accident

By Staff Correspondent

At least eleven people were killed and over fifty injured when an express train, allegedly ignoring signals, rammed a stone-laden freight train at Singair Station, twelve miles off Jessore town yesterday morning.

Police recovered mangled bodies from a twisted carriage of the Rocket Express train which derailed with the engine in the accident, our correspondent reported from Jessore.

The train was on its way to Parbatipur from Khulna. The injured were rushed to hospitals in Jessore and Khulna, where at least 22 were admitted with serious wounds.

Witnesses said, the Rocket crashed on the engine of the sta-

tionary freight train loaded with boulders for cement factories in Khulna region at 10-40 am, reportedly ignoring red flags, reported to warn against danger as some wagons of the goods train had derailed on the same track earlier.

The driver of the Rocket fled the scene immediately after the accident. The district administration organised the initial rescue operation which was beefed up by the arrival of a relief train at 1-45 pm from Khulna. Rescuers initially retrieved eight bodies and later pried open the carriage and recovered three bodies, including that of a child.

The bodies were sent to Jessore General Hospital for au-

topsy. So far, only three bodies were identified. Those are of Billal Hossain, 25, Habib, 22, and Jahar Ara, 35 of Noapara under Abhyayanagar thana in Jessore.

Of the injured admitted to Jessore General Hospital, identities of 18 were available. They are Abdus Sattar, 38, Akmal Hossain, 40, Fazar Ali, 37, Ramjan, 40, Altaf Hossain, 20, Khokan, 22, Abul, 18, Zulfiqar, 40, Chanchal, 20, Abul Hossain, 22, Halder, 38, Habibullah, 35, Kamla, 34, Ukil Gazi, 45, Abul Kashem, 50, Hasnat, 37, Taleb, 40 and Shahjahan, 25, according to hospital sources.

The accident disrupted rail communication between Jessore and Khulna for about 12 hours.

## UN pays \$3.3m more to Bangladeshi peacekeepers

Bangladesh has been paid a further amount of 3.3 million US dollar for the services rendered by its troops to the United Nations Iraq-Kuwait Observer Mission (UNIKOM) and the UN Observer Mission in Angola (MONUA), reports UNB.

This has come about because of regular and persistent efforts made by Bangladesh at the United Nations, according to a message received in Dhaka from New York.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, during a meeting last week reminded UN secretary general Kofi Annan about the special request made in October last year by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to the then secretary-general for urgent payment of UN dues to Bangladesh.

See Page 12 Col 7

## Bangladesh-Myanmar border Jt demarcation work postponed fearing mine explosion

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 10: The joint demarcation work along Bangladesh-Myanmar border has been postponed fearing possible mine explosion in the area, official sources said today.

The joint border survey was postponed by Bangladesh border security force on Tuesday last, six days after it was started, the sources said.

Of the 208 kilometre land border between the two countries, a stretch of 20 kilometres from Rejupara point to Lem-buchhari are risky as mines remained planted there.

In the past many incidents of mine explosion took place there that left some people killed and some others injured. Another mine exploded near Lembuchhari last night at 8 pm. No casualty was however reported, the sources said.

BDR authorities have communicated to NASAKA, the border security force of Myanmar, to take measures for clearing the mines under a joint operation. Otherwise, it will not be possible to carry on the border demarcation work.

NASAKA was requested earlier. See Page 12 Col 3

## CJ for quick disposal of cases

Chief Justice ATM Afzal yesterday reiterated his call to the sub ordinate judiciary for quick dispensation of cases with qualitative justice, reports UNB.

"Quick disposal of cases is a must to ensure rule of law," he said addressing the concluding session of the 4th judicial administration training course at the Old High Court.

The Chief Justice emphasised the proper training for qualitative improvement of judges for quick dispensation and better judgement.

Judicial Administration Training Institute (JATI) organised the 21-day training participated by 37 subordinate and assistant judges from across the country.

The concluding function was addressed, among others, by Dr Ershadul Bari, Law Commission Member Justice Naimuddin Ahmed, Justice AKM Sadek and JATI Director Ikeder Ahmed with its Director General Justice M Badruzzaman in the chair.

Addressing the function, a participant said 50 per cent of the recruitment of judges to the Supreme Court should come from the sub-ordinate judiciary. See Page 12 Col 1

## Saifur protests inclusion of his name in PB managing council

Former Finance Minister and BNP lawmaker Saifur Rahman yesterday expressed surprise over the inclusion of his name in the Managing Council of Privatisation Board as reported in various newspapers, reports UNB.

In a protest note, he said no one had contacted him or taken permission from him before including his name in the managing council of the Board.

"Not even the Bangladesh Nationalist Party was contacted or permission taken from it," said Rahman, a member of the party's Standing Committee.

He observed that using his name without contacting him or his party is nothing but misleading the people.

## BIT students clash with shopowners in Khulna: 7 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 10: A clash between a group of Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT) shopowners and Phulbari near the BIT campus today left eleven persons injured, police said.

At least four shops were looted during the clash.

Police lobbed twenty rounds of tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

The injured persons include six policemen, three BIT students and two shopowners. They were injured with splinters of hand bombs, police said.

Police said after the clash took place there an altercation between a shopowner and some students over playing of carom and viewing TV programme on Thursday night.

Meanwhile, students of BIT have been asked not to leave the campus without prior permission.

## 'News on recovery of explosives from Bogra BNP office motivated'

All the seven BNP MPs from Bogra and party's district leaders have protested the news on the so-called recovery of explosives from district BNP office and termed it false, fabricated and motivated, reports UNB.

In a joint statement yesterday, they alleged that 'Awami terrorists' with the help of police had put some explosives in a room adjacent to BNP office to destroy the image of the party.

They said not a single BNP man was present when police raided the office.

The statement was issued by Bogra district BNP president Advocate AKM Habibur Rahman, party MPs Advocate Zahurul Islam, Abdul Majid Talukder, Dr Habibur Rahman, Advocate Hafizur Rahman, Gollam Mohammad Siraj, Helaluzzaman Talukder, Labu, Dr Ziaul Haq Mollah and former minister Mamdudur Rahman, and leaders of front organisations.

The statement was issued by Bogra district BNP president Advocate AKM Habibur Rahman, party MPs Advocate Zahurul Islam, Abdul Majid Talukder, Dr Habibur Rahman, Advocate Hafizur Rahman, Gollam Mohammad Siraj, Helaluzzaman Talukder, Labu, Dr Ziaul Haq Mollah and former minister Mamdudur Rahman, and leaders of front organisations.

They were first rushed to Manikganj Sadar hospital and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## Acid thrown on woman, child

A young woman and her child sustained serious burn injuries as some unidentified people threw acid on them while they were sleeping, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

The miscreants threw acid on Farida Begum 30 and her 7-year-old son Mithun at their village home at Chargaon of Sadar thana in Manikganj district about 4 am.

They were first rushed to Manikganj Sadar hospital and then shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.



Shanties have been raised along the railway tracks at Kawran Bazar in the city.

— Star photo

## Govt considering clampdown on unruly trade unionists

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

The government is considering a clampdown on unruly trade unionists in the wake of a series of embarrassing incidents, which have shut down industrial units and caused an erosion of entrepreneurs' confidence.

Invoking "economic interests", the authorities are also talking of a ban on strikes and lock-outs, where possible. Civil servants say the nature of the problems goes beyond the government's labour disputes settlement mechanism, calling it "purely political".

Several recent incidents that have hit headlines have highlighted involvement of the ruling party-backed trade union leaders, and in some cases, party stalwarts.

The business community has reacted sharply, and warned that the events will not only retard industrial growth but also scare potential foreign investors away when Bangladesh is rolling out red carpet for

them.

Their anger and anguish found expression when some leading businessmen met Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed and Home Minister Rafiqul Islam last week.

"They (the ministers) are very upset, tremendously embarrassed," one leading businessman who met them said. The commerce minister also made government intentions clear to his party men when he spoke to them at the party office yesterday.

The alarm bell was rung by Prime Textiles incidents, no matter who was at fault despite the fact that there have been conflicting claims.

Here the main accused is an Awami League activist, the president of the local chapter of the party's labour front to be precise.

In Tongi, two top Awami League leaders were allegedly involved in the violent inci-

dents in Ashraf Textiles during CBA elections last month, which led to the closure of the factory.

Ahsanullah Master, MP, the general secretary of the Jatiya Samik League, and municipal chairman Azmatullah, his fellow partyman but local rival, backed the two feuding factions. For no fault of its own, the management paid the price.

The problem with the Tongi episode was that it went beyond the bound of labour laws.

"This has nothing to do with unfair trade practices on part of either the management or the trade union, in which cases we have a role to play," a labour department official says. It was, therefore a matter of the criminal law enforcers.

In Sonali Bank, reports have it, powerful CBA officials enjoy blessings of a top Awami League leader. They showed, their might by almost removing the maverick managing director.

See Page 12 Col 4

## FBCCI hails govt's steps to restore law & order at Fatullah

The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) yesterday congratulated the government for taking firm measures to restore law and order at Fatullah in Narayanganj to help mills and factories there resume normal production, reports BSS.

"It is an immediate necessity to bring back normalcy in the area and ensure safety and security of the employees of mills and factories there, especially the trouble spots, to help them resume normal production," an FBCCI press release said.

It further said that the government action would not only re-assure Prime Textile Mills Ltd and Prime Composite Mills Ltd but would provide a message to all investors at home and abroad about the government's determination to maintain conducive investment climate in Bangladesh at any cost.

"It equally provides message to the local hoodlums who often see Page 12 Col 3

## Govt will be given some more time: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia said yesterday she would give "some more time to the government to correct itself."

"Stop repression on the Opposition, don't let loose the terrorists on the streets and refrain from undemocratic, anti-people and anti-state activities," she asked the government, blaming it for doing nothing good for the people during its 16 months in power.

"Time will come when we won't be able to stop the people (from taking to the streets) even if we sit idle," the BNP chairperson told a discussion meeting at the auditorium of the Engineers' Institution in the city, marking the seventh death anniversary of Naziruddin Zehad, a martyr in the anti-Ershad movement.

The discussion, organised by the Zehad Smriti Parishad, was attended by a large number of activists of the BNP and its front organisations.

In an oblique reference to the Awami League's forming the government with the 'help of Ershad's Jatiya Party', Begum Zia warned that the AL government would also face the same consequence that happened to JP in the face of people's movement. "Time is not far away when this government won't get any time to flee unless it gives up autocratic practices."

She also blamed the AL for sharing power and 'allying secretly' with the alien autocrats before and after coming to power.

The BNP chief once again announced that her party was unwilling to go for hartals and street agitations and asked the government not to force her to adopt such options.

Begum Zia made it clear that banning street rallies or removing the bridge leading to Zia's mazar were not the issues for her party to go for agitation.

"Our movement is against the conspiracy on the CHT, move to See Page 12 Col 4

## ICBL & its activist win Nobel Peace Prize



File photo: Britain's Princess Diana, an active campaigner for banning the use of landmines, talking to amputees Jan. 14, 1997, at the Neves Bendinha Orthopedic Workshop on the outskirts of Luanda, Angola.

OSLO, Oct 10: The US-based International Campaign to Ban Landmines and its coordinator Jody Williams won the Nobel Peace Prize today for their work in pushing for a worldwide ban of the weapons that kill or maim some 26,000 people a year, reports AP.

The choice is certain to increase public pressure on the United States to sign a mine-banning treaty that the ICBL was instrumental in pushing through.

"It is clear that the committee with this award wishes, as it

100 million mines buried around the world!

UNDATED, Oct 10: An estimated 100 million anti-personnel mines are buried around the world, and the International Red Cross says they kill or wound 26,000 people each year, 87 per cent of them civilians, reports AP.

According to the United Nations, these are the 10 countries with the most land mines still in place: Afghanistan-9 million; Iraq-5 million; Angola-9 million; Kuwait-5 million; Cambodia-4 million; 7 million; Western Sahara-1 million; 2 million; Mozambique-1 million; 2 million; Bosnia-Herzegovina-1 million; and Croatia-1 million.

says in the citation, to have this convention gain even broader support," said Francis Sejersted, chairman of the Norwegian Nobel Committee that chooses the winner of the prestigious prize.

The committee cited Williams and the ICBL for starting a "process which in the space of a few years changed a ban on anti-personnel mines from a vision to a feasible reality."

The prize, worth 7.5 million Swedish kronor (one million dollar) is to be divided equally between Williams and the organisation.

After six years of quietly working toward a ban on anti-personnel mines, the campaign burst into the public consciousness with the August 31 death of Princess Diana, the cause's most visible supporter.

"We have noted that Princess Diana was one of those who were engaged in the cause. But there were very many people involved," Sejersted said.

The visibility of the campaign grew even more in September, when more than 90 countries drafted a treaty that would totally ban anti-personnel mines. However, the United States said it would not sign the treaty, and Russia and China did not take part in the treaty talks.

"We're thrilled that the international Campaign to Ban Landmines has received the recognition for its work over See Page 12 Col 3

## 218 rape, 44 acid-throwing incidents in 3 months

By Staff Correspondent

There were 218 incidents of rape, 44 of acid-throwing and 39 dowry-related deaths in the country during the July-September period of this year, the Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh (CCHRB) has said.

Women and children are victims of human rights violation, it said and recommended strict enforcement of laws and, if necessary, amendments to some of those for giving exemplary punishment to criminals.

The CCHRB, in its quarterly survey based on newspaper reports, said 583 people were murdered, 4,166 arrested by police on various charges and seven died in police firing during the period. There were 238 cases of theft and dacoity. The survey report was released here yesterday.

It recorded 1,209 deaths in road, rail and waterway accidents, 126 incidents of kidnapping and 228 of suicide. It recorded 45 hartals, fire countrywide, in the three months.

Noting that the rates of crime and human rights violation in rural and suburban areas were comparatively high, the CCHRB strongly suggested that the authorities concentrate their "full attention" on those areas and that the judicial system be decentralised.

"Police, BDR, Ansar, VDP personnel usually work in the grassroots level. Their moral standard, family background and upbringing should be closely scrutinized before recruitment," the CCHRB report said.

It also appealed to the government, political leaders and others concerned to analyze the report and take immediate appropriate measures to solve these burning problems.

The dock workers had gone on strike on Tuesday demanding booking for casual workers.

## Dock workers call off strike at Mongla Port

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 10: Dock workers of Mongla port called off their strike Thursday midnight following talks between their leaders and port officials at the office of the DC of Bagerhat.

It was decided in the meeting that proper medical treatment will be given to the workers injured in the clash on Wednesday.

When contacted, the DC of Bagerhat said that a thorough inquiry would be made by a first class magistrate into the cause of the clash.

The dock workers had gone on strike on Tuesday demanding booking for casual workers.