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Pension for the aged: Cabinet okays guidelines

The Cabinet has approved the guidelines for the selection of candidates and disbursement of money as pension to the elderly people, reports UNB.

The approval was given at a meeting of the Cabinet held at the cabinet room of Bangabhaban last night with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

The Cabinet approved in principle the draft law formulated with a view to establishing the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University.

The meeting also approved the Admiralty Court Bill, 1997, said an official handout.

Ministers, State Ministers, Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries concerned were present.

Chinese Vice Prime Minister arrives today

Chinese Vice Prime Minister Wu Bangguo arrives in Dhaka today on a three-day visit to Bangladesh to bolster trade relations between the two countries, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will receive Wu Bangguo at Zia International Airport when he flies here in the afternoon leading a 40-

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President hosts dinner for cabinet members

President Shahabuddin Ahmed hosted a dinner for the Cabinet members at Bangabhaban last night, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, among others, attended the dinner.

Earlier, President Shahabuddin Ahmed welcomed the guests, exchanged pleasantries and enquired about their welfare.

The Daily Star
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In Quest of a Transparent Government
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Supplement

Two-page supplement on the 'Foundation Laying Ceremony of Saidabad Water Treatment Plant' Pages 8&9

Removal of Gen Nasim HC issues showcause on government

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday directed the government to show cause within four weeks as to why a series of four notifications retiring or dismissing Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim shall not be declared to have been issued without lawful authority and having no legal effect.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice Md Faziul Huq issued the rule nisi upon a writ petition filed by Lieutenant General Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim, Bir Bikram, PSC challenging the four notification retiring or dismissing him from the post of the Chief of Army Staff.

Barrister AR Yusuf assisted by Advocate Syed Mahmudul Ahsan moved for the petitioner.

Rules and Regulations dismissing him from his service.

The last notification was issued on January 9, 1997 giving him premature (compulsory) retirement under the Army Act, Rules and Regulations.

Barrister AR Yusuf submitted that Article 62 of the Constitution provided that the Parliament shall by law provide for regular, inter alia, the discipline and other matters relating to the defence service.

He argued that after reintroducing the Parliamentary Form of Government and subsequently after formation of the caretaker government the President had no authority to hold the Ministry of Defence.

"Upon fulfillment of the 10 fixed posts of Advisors of the

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EBL's case: Showcause on Beximco

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court, on a petition filed by the Chairman and Directors of the Eastern Bank Limited (EBL), passed an order on Sunday asking Beximco Limited to show cause why a complaint filed earlier by it against EBL officials of defamation for writing a letter in April 1997 to all banks in Dhaka shall not be quashed.

A Division Bench of the High Court comprising Justice Kazi Ebadul Haque and Justice Hamidul Huq in the same order also stayed all further proceedings in the said case, according to a press release issued by EBL counsel Barrister Rakanuddin Mahmud yesterday.

The EBL letter had said that huge sums of money was owed by Beximco Limited and its directors (as guarantors) which they failed to repay despite repeated reminders.

It was contended on behalf of the Chairman and Directors of EBL that the letter was a priv-

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Model PSC to be modified to allow gas export

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi and Sharier Khan

As talks with petroleum explorers are taking off today, the government is going to modify the model production sharing contract (PSC) under which foreign companies would be allowed to export surplus gas through pipeline, official sources said.

Tullow Oil Plc of England which had submitted proposals for exploration blocks 9, 6, 4 and 11 will be the first to sit with the government negotiators under the second round of bidding.

Negotiations are taking place in the backdrop of controversies borne out of a new policy announced by the government.

Last week, all of a sudden,

the government told bidders that it would go by "one company one block" formula to select companies, based on which it will negotiate with 20 international oil companies (IOCs).

The announcement, coming with invitations for negotiations, took participating IOCs by surprise as they had earlier been told that it would be a competitive bidding.

Meanwhile, the Energy Ministry's plan to allow export of surplus gas under the PSCs has added a new element to the whole scenario. The already-designed PSCs with Cairn, Occidental, UMIC and Rexwood-Oakland do not have provisions for surplus gas export. The Petroleum Policy only grants

gas export in the form of LPG, which had driven some major investors away.

Now that prospects of striking huge reserves have emerged, the government foresees a situation when gas production would far exceed the expected domestic consumption level.

Official estimates put the current level of proven, recoverable gas reserves at more than 11 trillion cubic feet (TCF). Some experts predict a near-future discovery to the tune of 30 TCF. The minister for energy, however, is more optimistic than others, who speaks of 80 TCF quoting unidentified sources.

One, perhaps the only, big

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Power supply in 21 south-western dists disrupted

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 20: Power supply in 21 south-western districts of the country was disrupted as the 110-megawatt Goalpara plant in Khulna stopped power generation today due to technical faults.

According to sources in the PDB and the Barisal grid sub station, only 165 megawatt power was supplied till this evening against a demand for 340 megawatt. Only 12 megawatt power was supplied in 16 feeders during the evening peak hours against the demand for 38 megawatt in 6 districts under Barisal division. As a result, power supply in nine feeders remained snapped at least for 3 hours under a rationing system.

2 arrested for selling forged okalatnamas at court premises

By Court Correspondent

Two persons were arrested on charges of selling forged okalatnama at the Dhaka district court premises yesterday afternoon.

The two, identified as Abu Taher and Lokman Hossain, were caught with 66 fake okalatnamas by a group of lawyers including Md Nuruz-Zaman, General Secretary of Dhaka Bar Association.

Court sources said the two were employees of vendor Ali Hossain's shop in front of the treasury building.

A lawyer had earlier bought an okalatnama from the shop and suspected it to be fake. He took it to the bar association office and the lawyers present there confirmed that it carried forged serial number and signature.

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Govt to request US to withdraw quota restrictions on garments

By Staff Correspondent

The government will request the United States to withdraw the existing quota restrictions on import of readymade garments from Bangladesh, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said here yesterday.

The request would be made during President Bill Clinton's expected visit to Bangladesh shortly. Tofael said at a reception accorded to him by the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) at a city hotel. The reception was given for successful handling of the GSP issue.

He said the US is the largest

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PW-25 tells court Ammunition were distributed without any written issuance

Hours before the August 15, 1975 killing of Bangabandhu and his family, huge ammunition was piled up in front of Lancer store and distributed among the soldiers without any written document, reports UNB.

This was stated by Naik M Yasin, the 25th prosecution witness in Bangabandhu murder case, during cross-examination at Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court yesterday.

"I have never before seen such a dreadful situation," said Yasin, a then Artillery sepoy, who had taken 20 bullets under the order of senior officers and returned all of them later.

After making deposition Sunday to the court of Judge

Kazi Golam Rasul, he was cross-examined by state-appointed counsels for the fugitives and also the lawyers counselling the accused in the dock.

The witness said he didn't know who was in charge of the ammunition of the Lancer unit and the soldiers did not have to sign while receiving the bullets.

"The Commanding Officer of Lancer, Major Syed Farooqur Rahman, ordered us to take ammunition from his unit and he knows each and everything," he told the court.

The PW said: "The situation was different that day. Ammunition was distributed among the soldiers without any written issuance. But I didn't know what was going on."

He also said all of the 2nd Field Artillery did not go to Lancer unit. "Half of them were taken away from the night parade at New Airport while half were brought to Lancer unit."

He said later the soldiers returned the unused ammunition to their respective batteries and units. "I don't know whether anyone could make a tally of the ammunition," he said denying a suggestion.

The witnesses along with troops of Artillery and Lancer was brought to the official residence of the then minister Abdur Rab Serniabat and later taken to the Radio Station

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16 labourers killed in Gazipur road accident

GAZIPUR, Oct 20: Sixteen day-labourers were killed and 17 others injured in a road accident on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway in the district early today, reports UNB.

The accident occurred when a rice-laden truck skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch at Joimbazar in Reepsur thana at about 1:30 am.

Police said the labourers hailed from Razibpur and Rowmari thanas of northern Kurigram district. They were coming to Dhaka by the truck in search of livelihood.

The workers, who boarded the truck in Sherpur district, were sleeping on rice bags when the accident occurred. All the victims died on the spot.

Fourteen of the dead were identified as Sadar Ali, 28, Os-

man Gani, 32, Aamat Ali, 30, Abdul Latif, 27, Hazrat Ali, 25, Motuuddin, 27, Habibur Rahman, 28, Khairat Ali, 25, Amir Hamza, 29, Zainal, 28, M Halim, 25, Mohar Ali, 29, Nazibar Hossain, 30, and Hairat Ali.

With the permission of additional district magistrate, 15 of the dead were sent by a truck to their village homes. One body was found later in the ditch.

The injured were admitted to different hospitals and clinics in Mymensingh district.

Our Bogra Correspondent adds: Two persons were killed in separate road accidents here today.

Ambia Khatoon, 7, daughter of Abul Hasem of Sajapur under Sadar thana was crushed under

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300 children languish in jails

About 300 children are now in different jails across the country allegedly due to indifference of various government agencies and lack of facilities for juvenile confinement prescribed by the laws.

Most of the thana and district level social welfare officials responsible for dealing with juvenile delinquents are not interested enough to look after the children in custody, said a senior official of the Directorate of Social Welfare.

Besides, police often do not bother to follow the procedure defined by law regarding juvenile delinquents as in most cases they did not have a clear idea about it.

Although some NGOs including - Bangladesh Retired Police Officers Welfare Association (BRPOWA), were active in this field, government agencies

were not taking steps to shift the children from jails to re-mand homes.

The association which is also running a project called the Assistance Plan for Juvenile Delinquents has recently taken about 25 children from Dhaka Central Jail to the juvenile correctional institution at Tongi, said BRPOWA officials.

Jail sources said about 50 children, aged between nine and 15, were now staying at Dhaka Central Jail. They were arrested from different places in the city on various charges including theft, snatching and murder.

Besides, some were also charged under the Arms and Explosives Act and the Women and Children Repression Act, 1995.

Section 50 of the Children Act, 1974, says, "Immediately after the arrest of a child, it shall be the duty of the police



A sequence of a dance drama at Shilpakala Academy auditorium in the city yesterday, the sixth day of a week-long festival.

PM asks admn to be strictly neutral in local body polls

SYLHET, Oct 20: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said about transparency would be maintained in the forthcoming local body elections, report agencies.

"Those who enjoy people's love, respect and confidence would be elected as public representatives," Sheikh Hasina said while addressing a coordination committee meeting on divisional law and order and development at DC office here.

While asking the administration to be strictly neutral in local body polls, the Prime Minister pointed out that the previous governments introduced a trend and culture to utilise local government machinery to bring election results in their favour.

The Prime Minister categorically said that after taking office, she had made it clear that she did not need any support or

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Two shot dead in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 20: Two persons were shot dead when local people chased some thieves in front of Ruby Gate area at Nasirabad early morning today, police said.

The dead were identified as Asgar, 25, and Aktar Ali, 30.

Police said unidentified gunmen opened fire when the thieves were being chased after they tried to steal some sanitary pipes from a factory.

A case was filed with Panchalaha thana in this connection.

Young man stabbed to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

An unidentified gang stabbed a young man to death at Mirpur in the city yesterday evening.

Police said the dead was identified as Amirul Islam alias Bacchu, 25, son of Marfat Ali.

A gang of about 15 youths stabbed Bacchu indiscriminately behind the Poura Corporation building at Mirpur Section No. 2 at about 7:30 pm, police added.

Bacchu died on the spot. The motive behind the murder could not be known immediately. Mirpur police said Bacchu was an accused in two murder cases.

None was arrested till last night in connection with the murder. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

A case was filed with Mirpur thana in this regard.

BNP to join agitation against conspiracy on CHT: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday announced that her party would join the current agitation by the people of Chittagong Hill Tracts against the "government conspiracy" on the CHT and called for a united movement to "safeguard" the country's sovereignty over the area.

"We're very much with the CHT people who are agitating against the government conspiracy. If needed, we'll go and demonstrate there to safeguard the CHT lands and ensure security to the people there," Begum Zia, also leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad, told a group of newcomers to her party at her Minto Road official residence in the city.

She also urged all "patriotic and Islamic forces" to come up with programmes to launch agitation unitedly.

Without mentioning Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent statement that the army

would not be withdrawn from the CHT, the Opposition leader said. "They're tactfully speaking on the planned military withdrawal. In fact, they mean keeping the cantonment but plan to remove all temporary and permanent military camps."

Reiterating her demand for retaining all the camps there, Begum Zia said, "They are showing lame excuse like mosquito bite for withdrawing the military personnel."

"Won't mosquito bite the people living there?", she asked and strongly demanded that the army units continue their duties for protecting integrity of the CHT.

"May be, one day, they will be speaking for withdrawal of BDR from the borders on ground of mosquito-bite. They may also speak for abolition of the army in their course of handing over the country to

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BNP demonstration in cities, dist hqs tomorrow

Main opposition BNP will demonstrate in cities and district headquarters of the country tomorrow to press its various demands, reports UNB.

As part of the programme, Dhaka City BNP will bring out protest procession from its central office at 4 pm.

Rallies and protest processions will also be organised in metropolitan cities and district

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Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha
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General Notice

It is notified for information of all concerned that, according to clause 3(1) of EBBC Act 1952 (subsequent amendment 1987) it is essential to obtain prior permission of Authorised Officer, Dhaka for all types of construction work (pucca, semi-pucca, tinshed or tiled covered) in Dhaka Master Plan area. But it is observed that many an unapproved construction or construction contravening the approved drawing is coming up in areas under Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha jurisdiction in violation of the said clause of BC Act.

Therefore the owners/tenants/occupants of unapproved constructions or constructions contravening the approved drawing are instructed to demolish/remove the unapproved construction/portion contravening the approved drawing at own cost within 30th November. On failing, RAJUK will take legal steps, by authority conferred in the relevant clause of BC Act, to demolish/remove the unapproved constructions/constructions contravening the approved drawing. All costs of such demolition will be realised from the owners or occupants of the constructions.

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- IBC Bank Ltd., Federation Branch, Dhaka, Sharifnagar Branch, Dhaka, Elephant Road Branch, Dhaka, Dharmadam Branch, Dhaka, Gulshan Branch, Dhaka, Naya Palan Branch, Dhaka, Agrabad Branch, Chittagong, Khulnagang Branch, Chittagong, Mirpur Branch, Dhaka
- ICB Bank Ltd., Local Office, Dhaka, Foreign Exchange Corporate Branch, Dhaka, Farmgate Corporate Branch, Dhaka, Mipur Branch, Dhaka
- Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd., Principal Branch, BCIC Bhaban, Dhaka, Kalera Branch, Dhaka, New Elephant Road Branch, Dhaka, Mochuba Branch, Sylhet, Agrabad Branch, Chittagong, National Credit and Commerce Bank Ltd., Moulvibazar Branch, Dhaka, Moulvibazar Branch, Dhaka, Moulvibazar Branch, Dhaka, Agrabad Branch, Chittagong, Khulnagang Branch, Chittagong, Mirpur Branch, Dhaka
- The City Bank Limited, Principal Branch, Dhaka, B. B. Avenue Branch, Dhaka, Johnson Road Branch, Dhaka, Kawan Bazar Branch, Dhaka, New Market Branch, Dhaka, Gulshan Branch, Dhaka, Agrabad Branch, Chittagong, Khulnagang Branch, Chittagong, Jessore Branch, Jessore, Khulna Branch, Khulna
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