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Chinese Vice Premier Wu Bangguo called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday.

— PID photo

Wu Bangguo calls on President, PM

JSD factions to unite

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The activists of the Rab-led group believe that their counterparts in the Inu-led faction would eventually opt for continuing with the government of Sheikh Hasina, while the activists of the Inu-led faction maintain that Rab would eventually leave the government.

Meanwhile, the JSD's partners in the LDF are waiting for an official announcement about the unity for making a decision about the party's status in the front.

The JSD faction led by Hasanul Huq Inu is yet to officially inform the LDF that it was going to reunite with the JSD faction led by Shipping Minister ASM Rab, said Khalequzzaman, leader of BSD which is a component of the Left Democratic Front. "The components of the LDF will take a decision about the fate of JSD in the front after the party officially informs us about its next course of action. What we can say now is that the LDF is critical about the government of

Police-BNP clash

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lice to start lobbing tear gas shells. Police fired scores of tear gas canisters at the stone-pelting BNP workers in front of the four-story building housing the BNP office and also inside the party office.

During the clashes, police also used batons to scatter several small processions including one by some female workers of BNP and at one stage police entered the BNP office and beat up the inmates. Several vehicles also came under attack by the agitated activists at that time. At the fag end of the clashes, at about 7.15 pm, plainclothes policemen entered the BNP office and picked up Taqdir Hossain Mohammad Jamil along with some party workers.

Earlier, police, in full riot gear cordoned off the inner Circular Road in front of the BNP office from Fakirpore to Bijoynagar. Two water cannons and a riot van were seen shuttling between Fakirpore and Bijoynagar crossings during the clashes.

A DMP press release claimed last night that the BNP workers obstructed traffic on the road in front of their party office and later pelted stones at police. It also alleged that the BNP activists hurled crackers and bombs at the on-duty policemen, injuring a police constable.

The BNP workers also damaged two buses and an autorickshaw at the Bijoynagar crossing and attacked on-duty police. Eleven persons were arrested, the DMP press release said. Situation in other parts of the city remained normal.

Khaleda

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relentless efforts to further develop and strengthen the existing bond of relations between the two friendly peoples.

China, he assured, would play its due role for the economic and infrastructural development of Bangladesh.

PM leaves

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Turning to the prevailing situation of the country, Begum Zia informed the Chinese Vice Premier about the issues of regional grouping, transit and Chittagong Hill Tracts.

She said the subregional grouping and transit for India, proposed by the present government, is not congenial and conducive to the country's independence and sovereignty.

The PM's entourage includes Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister Shah Aman Kibria, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, Principal Secretary to the PM Dr SA Samad and Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman.

In Edinburgh, the Prime Minister is expected to seize an opportunity to hold bilateral parleys with heads of government of friendly countries.

She is expected to meet British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Commonwealth Secretary General Tony Blair on the sidelines of the summit.

The Prime Minister will attend a reception to be hosted in her honour by Scotland Awami League. She will also attend a dinner to be thrown by Edinburgh labour and business forum.

Hasina will fly to London on October 28 where she will have luncheon meeting with Asia House, the Asian community.

English

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million speakers, up from the 59.8 million now.

Arabic is set to shoot into third place, up from 39.5 million to 72.7 million. But English is expected to hold on to fourth place, with 65 million speakers in 2050. A sharp rise on the 51.7 million in 1995.

The number of Spanish speakers is expected to stagnate, rising from 58 million to 62.8 million but falling from third to fifth place.

But French, the linguistic rival of English for centuries, will drop from 9.7 million to 8.9 million. The number of young German speakers will drop from 12.2 million to 9.1 million, the survey showed.

The British Council said there was no imminent danger to the global popularity of English.

The number of people speaking English as a second language is even expected to exceed the number of native speakers in the next decade.

But the council said the dominance of English may start to be challenged by other languages.

"To put it in economic terms, the size of the global market for the English language may increase in absolute terms, but its market share will probably fall," it said.

Federation president Asha-lata Baidya placed a charter of demands of the cooperatives at the meeting, which was also addressed by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, and LGRD secretary Syed Mosharraf.

Cooperatives leaders across the country attended the meeting.

PM: Cooperatives law

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The Prime Minister also appreciated the initiative of National Rural Development Cooperatives Federation which has helped form one lakh 21 thousand Bittohini (assetless) Samities with 2.5 crore members.

She said the government will implement its development programmes related to farmers, women, landless people through the cooperative societies under Rural Development Board.

Hasina said her government will not compromise on the question of integrated rural development in the interest of agriculture and farmers. The government has taken a plan for the development of rural communication and electrification, she added.

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The Daily Star

Federal govt withdraws decision to sack Uttar Pradesh Assembly

NEW DELHI, Oct 22: India's crisis-hit government backed down today deciding not to sack a key state assembly in the north of the country following a marathon cabinet meeting, the Press Trust of India said, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's cabinet announced after five hours of talks that the Hindu nationalist Uttar Pradesh Assembly would not be dismissed.

The decision is expected to be endorsed by Indian President K R Narayanan, who asked the cabinet to reconsider its earlier decision to take over the running of the state following a mass brawl between politicians there on Tuesday.

BNP, smaller parties discuss political situation

A joint meeting of BNP, Jatiya Party (Z-M), Democratic League, JAGPA and PNP was held at 29 Minto Road, the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Presided over by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, the meeting was attended, among others, by Oli Ahad, Anwar Zahid, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Rehena Pradhan, Sheikh Shawkat Hossain Nilu, Shamim Al Mamun and Mynuddin Bhuiyan.

They discussed the present political and law and order situation.

Ex-armyman

From Page 1

PTV's programme director Murni Alam, chief accounts officer Akmal Khan, administrative officer MA Siddiq and assistant photographer Feroz Qayum.

No bail prayer was moved for the arrested accused at the court yesterday.

BNP programmes

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upto November 1.

BNP's demands include to put an end to conspiracy against Chittagong Hill Tracts, not to give corridor to India in the name of transit, make the parliament effective, immediate implementation of the pay-commission and solution to the persisting water-gas-power crisis, introduction of voter identity card and reorganisation of the Election Commission.

Its demands also included steps against terrorism and toll collection, immediate installation of the pontoon bridge at the Crescent lake, withdrawal of false cases filed against BNP men, stopping politicisation and women repression, cancellation of the 'undemocratic' Gram Parishad, and improvement of law and order situation.

On November 2, BNP will observe 'Save the country and Save the Economy Day' nationwide, demanding fixation of jute price at Tk 500 per maund, fair price of jute, potato, sugarcane and reduction of prices of fuel, electricity and agri-inputs and protesting the slide in share market, stagnation in business and banking sector.

The main opposition will observe the National Revolution and Solidarity Day on November 7 as 'Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) Day' to register its protest against the 'conspiracy' over CHT.

Meanwhile, the leaders of the main opposition party BNP yesterday dubbed government offer for dialogue an eyewash and charged it with making the situation volatile intention-

ally.

Instead of creating atmosphere for dialogue, the government made the situation further volatile through intensified 'repression' on the opposition, they told newsmen.

Addressing a hurriedly called press briefing at party's central office last night, they said when BNP was demanding creation of an atmosphere before the government-proposed dialogue, the government yesterday foiled the scheduled programme through 'unprecedented' police action.

"If police action is an example of creating atmosphere, then how there will be dialogue," he questioned.

Talukder said though there is no ban on procession, the government foiled BNP's scheduled programme by resorting to indiscriminate lathi-charge, firing tear gas shells and spraying hot water that lasted about four hours in front of party office.

But, the ex-BNP secretary general said, the leaders and activists did not leave the street despite 'unprecedented torture'. Even MPs fell victim of police action, he added.

Salam Talukder said though BNP was avoiding clash with the ruling party, the government intentionally provoking the opposition.

Kibria: Economic regress

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have been facing the globalisation process.

Kibria expressed serious concern at the sluggish growth in flows of foreign direct investment to most of the developing countries while the official development assistance (ODA) is declining steadily.

He said that increasing conditionalities are further reducing the actual disbursement of committed aid.

The finance minister said that globalisation has culminated in the widening and deepening of the flows of goods and services across national borders but globalisation is not an unmixed blessing.

He said that if offered a new frontier of dazzling opportunities for many and unknown perils and immediate threats for others.

Kibria said one of the main attraction of globalisation is that it directs the foreign private investment to areas with competitive edge. However, he pointed out that recent growth of foreign direct and portfolio investment flows has been restricted to a very small group of nations, with 50 per cent of FDI going to North America, Europe, Japan and China.

The finance minister regretted that rest of the world with 70 per cent of population gets less than 10 per cent of FDI.

Referring to the steady decline in the ODA to the developing countries, he said that until 1992, the share of overall ODA in the GNP of the highly developed countries was 0.33 per cent against the UN target of 0.7 per cent.

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Earlier a Hindu nationalist administration in India's most populous state of Uttar Pradesh was sacked by the federal government following a major political crisis.

New Delhi also clamped its strict rule over the northern state of 140 million people, hours after the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) won a crucial confidence vote amid bedlam.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's cabinet announced after five hours of talks that the Hindu nationalist Uttar Pradesh Assembly would not be dismissed.

The decision is expected to be endorsed by Indian President K R Narayanan, who asked the cabinet to reconsider its earlier decision to take over the running of the state following a mass brawl between politicians there on Tuesday.

The decision was taken following two marathon rounds of meetings of the federal cabinet lasting seven hours, during which Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral cancelled his planned trips to Germany and France.

A government official said the cabinet discussed the violence which accompanied the confidence vote in the Uttar Pradesh Assembly in the state capital Lucknow on Tuesday.

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BNPPP meet Oct 30

A parliamentary committee meeting of the BNP will be held at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban at 11 am on October 30, reports UNB.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting.

Ctg clash

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adding that the other miscreants ran away opening fire indiscriminately.

The indiscriminate firing left 10 people injured, police said.

The injured were admitted into hospital and private clinics.

Tension spread in the Madarbari area after the incident. Police said the miscreants also looted Tk 35,000 and 14 tolas of gold ornaments from the doctor's house.

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