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Munajat being offered in the Jatiya Sangsad after an obituary reference was adopted on the first day of its winter session yesterday. — PID photo

## Hartal in city tomorrow

From Page 1  
leaders of the parties at the Minto Road official residence of Begum Khaleda Zia, BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad, yesterday evening.

Leaders of Jatiya Party (Z-M), Jamaat-e-Islami, Jagpa, Democratic League, Progressive Nationalist Party and National Democratic Alliance, attended the meeting.

Earlier, the BNP chief held separate talks with the leaders of the parties.

Briefing newsmen after the meeting, the leaders said they have not formed any political alliance but have been united on some common issues of national importance.

The BNP secretary general said, "We're being forced to the path of hartal as we can't speak for the people in the parliament and on the streets as well."

He also strongly condemned yesterday's police "atrocities" on a "peaceful" BNP procession and a diploma engineers' procession, closure of the Trust-owned newspapers and non-implementation of the National Pay Scale.

"Through today's action, the government has snatched our minimum democratic rights. That's why we seven parties

have been united."

The BNP leader hoped all nationalist and Islamic parties willing to take anti-government position would soon join them and launch a greater movement under Begum Zia's leadership.

"Our combined agitation is aimed at resisting an uneven treaty on the CHT (Chittagong Hill Tracts), ending government repression on the Opposition and making the parliament effective."

Kazi Zafar Ahmed of JP said the combined agitation programmes will bring a qualitative change in the anti-government movement.

Jamaat leader Motiur Rahman Nizami said they have started the simultaneous agitation on some important issues like the CHT and transit to India because the party in party did not talk about these issues before coming to power.

Democratic League leader Oli Ahad, Jagpa leader Shafiqul Alam Prodhan and BNP leader Anwar Zahid also took part in the briefing.

Earlier, the BNP Standing Committee sat for an emergency meeting at Begum Zia's official residence following police action on a party procession in the city.

## Political parties

From Page 1

nalists at his office yesterday. Chairman of Khagrachhari Local Government Council Samiran Dewan Chakma said certain quarters were trying to give misleading reports about peace in the CHT. But, he said, the peace-loving people were least bothered about these rumours.

"We have greater responsibility in the coming days. There are much bigger tasks ahead," Dewan said.

This correspondent visited different areas of Dighinala thana and met cross sections of people. Over 60 per cent of the Chakma refugees repatriated from Tripura, India, so far, were settled in Dighinala. Of the 6,703 refugees, 4,347 were rehabilitated in the thana.

Sixth-year old Shusen Chakma, one of the 43 families who returned to Bhairava Para in Dighinala, said 23 families in a group were yet to be given their promised land due to some disputes.

The Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO), Shafiquddowla, said there are 27 acres of land which are disputed. Resolution of the dispute and distribution of

land were in the process.

Some 1,25,000 settlers live in 88 cluster villages in Khagrachhari district. Jantoli village in Dighinala is one of those. Some of the villagers, exchanging views with this correspondent, expressed their fear of being 'evicted from the area' soon after the peace treaty was signed.

Ramzan Ali from Barisal who settled in the area about a decade ago, said, "We benefit from free ration given by the government. We will not mind leaving this place if the government allows us to settle in our own land given to us in the late 80s and there will be no need for ration anymore."

The TNO said, 635 non-tribal families were provided with funds for resettlement after the return of refugees back in April. "No body is feeling deprived here," he claimed.

Mc Abdul Hossain, President of Bangladesh Purnabashan Bastiyabayan Samity, however, said, "Bangalee people here do not wish to be displaced from one place to another. We want permanent settlement."

## PM: Opposition

From Page 1

not taking any effective step to resolve the CHT issue. "Some quarters are still trying to foil the peace process."

Turning to the coming UP election, she said the government would make all-out effort to make the election free and fair. She hoped that the MPs would play their role in this regard.

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam, Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Whip Mostafa Rashid Suja, Khan Tipu Sultan and Abdus Sattar also spoke in the ALPP meeting.

BSS adds: The Treasury Bench members congratulated the Prime Minister for her successful visit to UK and her participation in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in Edinburgh.

The Prime Minister also referred to the election of Bangladesh as the chairman of the governing council of IFAD and chairman of the fifth committee of the United Nations. She said the success should be utilised for the welfare of the people.

## 18 shops gutted at Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Nov 2: A fire broke out in Notun Bazar area in Narsingdi town at about 8 am today, reports BSS.

The fire gutted 18 tin-shed shops including a rice mill. Fire-fighters rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after an hour.

## Ctg customs

From Page 1

Japanese vehicles carry production serial code and year of manufacture, stenciled on their chassis before they roll out of assembly lines.

But the 'coordination council' in its representation to the authorities to rescind the order claimed that the "Chassis Book only indicates the year of manufacture of the Chassis but the car may not be assembled on that year. A completely Built Car and a Chassis is not the same thing."

They also questioned the order to tally the Chassis Book and Registration cancellation papers, observing that the allegations against them are subject to proofs.

They also sent a veiled threat to disrupt collection of revenue and urged the authorities to withdraw the order.

The strange logic tried to create a smokescreen and paint a totally wrong picture of car manufacturing in Japan who rolls out cars in millions annually, having little scope to store the chassis and auto frames for years.

## Ferry service

From Page 1

proceeded towards Balashi after changing its course. As a result passengers had to suffer for 12 hours.

On the other hand, in protest against shifting Teestamukh ghat from Fulchali to Balashi local people of Bonarpura area created rail blockade yesterday at Bonarpura station.

## Aid Group

From Page 1

ment now needs to take forward vigorously the banking sector reforms and loan recovery efforts. Much more remains to be done to prevent system loss in the power, water and telecommunication sectors.

He also said the law and order situation has to be improved, rule of law established and corruption dealt with.

"We discourage Aid Group meeting to be seen as a commitment — making session, rather it is to exchange views on the government's policies, plans and their implementation," said Mills. "It is not reasonable to expect every donor to come down here to declare its commitment in the Aid Group meeting. Donors have their annual consultation meeting to discuss about commitments."

# Join JS session, keep democratic system running

Speaker urges MPs

As parliament sat yesterday with most opposition seats empty, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury urged all members to join the Sangsad session in greater national interest to keep the democratic system running, reports UNB.

"In expecting every moment that all elected members will make their individual contribution to the advancement of democracy by joining the session," he said in a written statement to the parliament.

As the Speaker read out his statement at the start of the session, main opposition BNP members remained off the House that resumed after nearly two months' recess.

BNP lawmakers staged a walkout just after the last session began on August 30 alleging that they were not allowed to speak in the House and continued their boycott.

Chowdhury said a culture of dialogue and discussion should be nurtured by the government and the opposition to resolve all crises in a democratic system.

It is desirable that they should be prepared to seize all appropriate opportunities of such discussion, he said, adding "many feel that any refusal of discussion in a democratic system tantamounts to disrespect for democracy."

Referring to his own initiative for meeting between the ruling party and the opposition on November 1, the Speaker said he himself has certain responsibility of keeping the parliament working. And from that sense of responsibility, he had created an opportunity for the government and opposition leaders for discussion.

The Speaker said those who are aware of the history of Bangladesh admit that the establishment of democratic rights and parliamentary de-

mocracy were the main inspiration for the Liberation War.

The decision for switchover to parliamentary democracy in 1991 through the 12th Amendment was the reflection of people's aspiration.

"So I feel that it is the sacred duty of each elected MP irrespective of party affiliations to make parliament lively, effective and dynamic and realise the dreams of the people," the Speaker told the House.

## Jail Killing Day

From Page 1

holding of trial of the killing of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

President Shuhabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gave separate messages on the eve of the Jail Killing Day, paying homage to the four leaders.

To mark the day, ruling Awami League and its front organisations have drawn up various programmes.

The party will organise a public meeting at Osmani Udyan at 2 pm today. Party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will address the meeting.

National and party flags will be hoisted half-mast and black flags will fly atop Bangabandhu Bhawan and party offices across the country.

Party leaders and workers will gather at Bangabandhu Bhawan at 8 am and place wreaths at the portraits of the leaders.

They will also place wreaths and offer fatcha at the graves of the martyrs of 15th August and the national leaders at Banani at 8:30 am. A milad mahfil will also be held there.

## Bangabandhu murder

From Page 1

He said he came to know the names from his subordinate NCOs and spies.

The officers are: Major Rashid, Major Farooq, Major Bazul Huda, Major Rashid Chowdhury, Major Dalim, Major Muhiuddin (Artillery), Major Noor, Major Shahriyar, Major Aziz Pasha, Major Mohiuddin (Lancer), Major Shafiqur Rahman, Rasidul Moslemuddin, Captain Kismet, Lt Nazmul Ansar, Capt Majed, Capt Jahangir, Capt Mostafa, Capt Jobayer Siddiqui and Lt Hasan.

Among them, the PW, after his lengthy deposition, identified Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Farooq Rahman and Lt Col (LPR) Muhiuddin in the dock.

Judge Kazi Golam Rasul repeatedly wanted to be clear from the witness about the name of Major Shafiqur Rahman as no such name was charge-sheeted or mentioned in police investigation. It will be Major Sharful Hasan.

The witness also said he came to know from armory and ammunition guard that Major Rashid, Capt Jahangir and some others had taken away bullets and shells after opening the ammunition dump.

He was indicted before the court by Chief Special PP Advocate Serajul Haq and Senior Special PP Advocate Ramjan Ali Khan. Later, the witness was cross-examined by one state defence.

Present among the other prosecution lawyers were Syed Rezaur Rahman, Mosharrar Hossain Kajar, Nurul Islam Suja, Sahara Khatun, Kamrul Islam, Jahangir Hossain Selim and M Towhidul Islam Bahar.

Earlier, the cross-examination of PW-34 Subedar Jaiul

Abedin was completed when the court resumed at its special slyash at Nazimuddin Road after the weekend.

At the beginning of the one-hour deposition, Subedar Major (ret'd) Anisul Haq Chowdhury gave a description of the 2 Field Artillery that was under 46 Brigade at Dhaka Cantonment at that time.

## BCL workers dies

From Page 1

the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

The death of the student fuelled tension on the campus and the group to which Ananda belonged, brought out a procession on the campus demanding punishment to those who were involved in the October 12 violence.

A case was filed with Savar thana in connection with the death, BCL 13 people including BCL JU unit general secretary, Shamud Touhid Kakor. Police said a tense situation was prevailing on the campus. A huge contingent of police was deployed on the campus.

The JU authorities said yesterday Masters and Honours examinations were cancelled. Other examinations will however be held as per schedule.

A three member committee was formed earlier to investigate the October 18 incident. "I asked the law enforcing agents to keep the campus calm and expect to get cooperation from all," said Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury, Vice-Chancellor of JU while talking to this correspondent.

# JS session begins

From Page 1

told the House that it was unfortunate that the BNP was not returning to the House, although the major demands of the party had already been met, while the ruling party was ready to sort out rest of the problems through dialogue.

But it is unfortunate that the BNP is refusing to respond to our call to resolve problems, if there is any, through dialogue."

Nasim also accused the BNP of tagging some outside the parliament political issue with its contention relating to the affairs of parliament. "Why should the BNP put forward its contention about the ban on holding rallies in the streets or signing agreement with the Parbatia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity as a pre-condition for returning to House?"

Of the four-point agreements we reached a couple of months ago, we have already informed the BNP that the Treasury Bench is now ready to accommodate all its 113 legislators into the parliamentary standing bodies on various ministries," Nasim said.

"Complying with another BNP demand, the government has been broadcasting entire parliament proceedings live on the radio, while Chief Whip of Jatiya Sangsad and Opposition Chief Whip were free to sort out any problem relating to broadcasting of the proceedings on the BTV."

He said the sub-committee formed to look into the BNP allegation of false cases against Opposition activists was also

there," but the BNP members on the committee refused to attend the meeting.

The Telecommunications Minister renewed his government's position and requested the BNP members to return to Parliament to raise and discuss any national issues.

"We are still ready to sit at any place at any time to discuss with BNP and resolve the problem," he said and urged the BNP leadership to give up their intransigent attitude and solve problems through discussion.

At this point, Jamaat MP Delwar Hossain Sayeedi took the floor to protest against what he said the government's failure to uphold a prior commitment that the parliament would be the centre for all national activities. He then staged a walkout.

Before the walkout, he said: "The Prime Minister herself had announced that all national issues would be discussed in parliament, but it had signed the Ganges water treaty with India without consulting the Jatiya Sangsad. Same is the case with the proposed agreement with the PCJSS, the government is signing agreement on CHT without consulting with the Sangsad."

Sayeedi was also very critical about the "extremely deteriorating law and order" and the government decision of imposing Section 144 around the Baitul Mukarram mosque for an indefinite period.

Terming the absence of BNP in the House to be unfortunate,

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## Sylhet Alia Madrassah closed sine die

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 2: The Sylhet Government Alia Madrassah has been closed sine die after clashes between activists of Islami Chhatra Majlish and Islami Chhatra Sibir yesterday. Resident students left hostels today as directed by the Madrassah authorities yesterday.

Three activists of the Majlish were injured in the clashes, Majlish claimed.

Yesterday's clashes were sequel to an attack on a Majlish activist allegedly by Sibir on the campus on October 28, sources said.

## DCC drive

From Page 1

pleted the operation. "We need to get back because in our first outings we missed out several spots," he said.

DCC officials had earlier said they would raise the issue of coordination among the various departments, to make the demolition drive a success. "If those departments give us authorisation we can knock down the structures situated on their lands but now our operation is restricted to our own lands," said a DCC official, adding no development was made so far to solve the problem.

Another official said those departments, especially PWD, had its own resources to carry on their own drive.

Among the 71 dismantled structures, 49 belonged to Awami League (AL), 20 to BNP and two to Jatiya Party. Besides, the magistrate-led DCC team also brought down several illegal structures belonging to clubs and local organisations.

## Diploma engr

From Page 1

engineering staff college. The agitated demonstrators pelted bricks at police and passing vehicles creating panic around the area.

Police arrested three persons from the spot and were preparing to lodge a case with Ramna thana in this regard.

Later they submitted memorandums to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Leader of Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia, and Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury.

## PLA leader

From Page 1

defence cooperation between the two countries and said the People's Liberation Army's assistance in providing training to bur armed forces personnel is laudable.

General Jingsong thanked the President for receiving him and the members of his delegation.

General Jingsong also made a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office in the morning.

General Jingsong, Commander, Lanzhou Military Region, discussed with the Prime Minister matters relating to further strengthening of cooperation in defence and other sectors.

Chief of Army Staff Lt. General Mahbubur Rahman and Principal Staff Officer (PSO) to the Armed Forces Division Major General Mostafizur Rahman were present.

## Bidding for 12 blocks

From Page 1

low's proposal for this block is considered "too ambitious" and "unrealistic" by hydrocarbon experts and the proposals were not backed by proper bank guarantee.

These decisions have triggered severe criticism from the participant companies and energy experts. Sources said that, six other companies or joint ventures including oil giants Shell, Chevron-Texaco, Mobil and Total having more credible background and guaranteed proposals were brushed aside on the ground that their proposals did not cover maximum number of wells.

Defending the government position in this regard, a Negotiation Committee member told this correspondent that Tullow was offered Block-9 on the basis of its offer to drill 10 wells at a cost of 50 million US dollars.

"Tullow was evaluated number one in the Evaluation Committee report because of its highest offer," the member said. "It's a small company — but we think it is committed."

Contradicting his statements, sources concerned said that Tullow was not evaluated as the number one bidder in the original evaluation report which was done under the supervision of renowned international consultant Arthur Andersen. The original evaluation put Chevron-Texaco at the top

## Police-BNP clash

From Page 1

bus windshields. Processionists were also stopped in Fakirerpool, Segunbagicha, Kakrail and Bijoynagar areas, leading to clashes. This also caused widespread rush hour traffic jams.

Police had earlier put barbed wire barricades on the VIP road from Fakirerpool crossing to the Bijoynagar crossing. As the crowd swelled in front of the BNP office at 4 pm, police blocked all traffic and entry of whoever they suspected to be BNP supporters.

Volleys of tear gas shells fired by police were matched by loud bangs of home-made bombs and molotov cocktails exploded by activists. Forays by police into the BNP office were less than on other occasions.

Police chased everyone who walked or stood on the pavements and on the road medians. Tear gas smoke clouded the area.

Water cannon was used to disperse mobs at Fakirerpool who had torched a white jeep.

In a press release later, police put the blame on BNP activists 'who brought out stray processions in different parts of the city for hurling cocktails and bombs on vehicles without provocations and when prevented, directed those on police. Thus they continued their 'destructive activities' until evening and disrupted traffic and public life, police said.

and Shell in the second position.

"On August 15, just when Arthur Andersen had finalised its report, the government changed the evaluation criterion," said a source. "Under that criterion the number of proposed wells would be given maximum weightage instead of capabilities of the companies, their commitments and credibility. At this point, Arthur Andersen declined to be a party to the evaluation process."

Tullow got the top position in the second evaluation, he added.

"If this criterion was given before the bidding, any company would have had proposed to drill more wells than they had proposed originally," said the source.

These "unpredictable" moves by the government to offer blocks to lesser known companies have already generated adverse reaction among the bigger companies and the foreign missions, competent sources said. However, they are so far maintaining a "wait-and-see" policy.

Besides, rumours of "massive underhand deals" and involvement of very high level political lobbies have become widespread in the hydrocarbon sector. Sources said, to get a block one company was offering as much as 10 million US dollars to a certain political lobby. Energy Ministry sources, however, refuted such rumours and said that some quarter was trying to foil the negotiation process for petty political interest.

A total of 20 foreign companies and BAPEX are participating in the bidding for hydrocarbon exploration in 12 blocks. The government began negotiations on October 22. The participants submitted 36 proposals on July 15.

## JS panel of chairmen

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury yesterday nominated a five-member panel of chairmen for the seventh session of the Jatiya Sangsad, reports BSS.

The panel members are: Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim (AL-Gopalganj), Barrister Rabeya Bhuiyan (JP-women), Barrister Aminul Huq (BNP-Rajshahi), Begum Razia Matin Chowdhury (AL-women) and Kalpa Ranjan Chakma (AL-Khagrachhari).

## Diana

From Page 1

"disappeared" since giving information to police, and the investigators were working on the theory that the car was being electronically tracked.

Finally, the paper asked its readers to call in with theories to explain the "murder mystery."

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Public Administration Reform Commission

Memo No. PARC (A&T, Meeting)/Admin-50/97/334 Dated: 19-10-97

## NOTICE

The Government has constituted "Public Administration Reform Commission" for specific & practical recommendation towards over all reform & improvement at all spheres & all levels of public administration.

For this, the commission invites opinions, suggestions & proposals on the undermentioned matters applicable in case of all Govt, semi-govt & autonomous offices, institutions or organisations established in order to serve the public in any way or related to the public interest in any way.

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- Related, legal, regulatory & systemic change and, if necessary, abolition of & making easy various forms & systems.
- Checking tendency of corruption & harassment of the public.
- Ensuring expenditure awareness and quality & quantity of public service at par with the expenditure, and
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It is requested to send your well-thought-out recommendations, personal or on behalf of representative organisations, by December 31, 1997 to the following address:

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