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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.

Leaders of Jatiya Party (Z-M), Jamaat-e-Islami, Japga, 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

Political parties

From Page 1
nals 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 Dinhinali thana and met cross sections of people. Over 60 per cent of the Chakma refugees repatriated from Tripura, India, so far, were settled in Dinhinali. 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 Bhaurova Para in Dinhinali, said 23 families in a group were yet to be given their promised land due to some disputes.

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

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The Daily Star

Speaker urges MPs

Join JS session, keep democratic system running

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

"I'm 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 a 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-

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.

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.

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 Abu Hasnat Abdullah, Whip Mostafa Rashedi Suja, Khan Tipu Sultan and Abduddin Sattar also spoke in the ALPP meeting.

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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 Fulchari to Balashi local people of Bonapara area created rail blockade yesterday at Bonapara 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."

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 issues 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 Parbatty Chattogram Jana Sanghati Samiti 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

Speaker urges MPs

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system running

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.

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partments, 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.

Police arrested three persons from the spot and were preparing to lodge a case with Ramma

thana in this regard.

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

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

Water cannon was used to disperse mobs at Fakirpool 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.

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

PLA leader

From Page 1

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

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the Jamaat MP said: "The Treasury bench does not allow the party to speak freely in the House, while it uses the police to repress the BNP leaders and activists in the streets."

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed took the floor to blast the BNP and the Jamaat. "BNP is demanding things which it did not deliver itself. When in power, the party had never placed any international treaty in the House, while we produced the Ganges water treaty in parliament."

The Minister said that after signing of the 'peace agreement' on CHT, it would also be placed in the House for discussion. He also told the House that the BNP was now accusing the government of signing a secret deal on the CHT while its members on the National Committee on CHT refused to discharge their responsibilities in this regard.

Referring to Jamaat MP's allegation of increased rate of repression on the women, Tofael recollects that it was the Jamaat which had even tried to justify rape of women by the Pakistani occupation forces during the country's War of Liberation in 1971.

Earlier, Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party said both ruling party and the opposition BNP are to be blamed for BNP's staying away from the House. He called for formation of different committees and added that this cannot wait because of BNP's absence. "We have experienced members and they are being deprived from rendering services," he said.

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:

Member Secretary

Public Administration Reform Commission

Building No. 1, Room No. 21