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List of political cases: AL plans to contact BNP today

By Staff Correspondent
 Ruling Awami League plans to make contact with the main opposition BNP today after the preparation of a report on the list of 'political cases,' which was under process of scrutiny by the Home Ministry till yesterday.

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, who received the list from BNP on Sunday last and handed it over to Home Minister the following day, told reporters yesterday, "I am expecting a report on the merit of the cases from Home Minister tomorrow (Wednesday) and will talk to them (BNP leaders)."

Talking to newsmen at the parliament lobby, Nasim, however, See Page 15

3 killed as BNP supporters, police clash at Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 11: At least three persons including a police personnel were killed and over 100 injured during sporadic clashes that broke out between police and opposition activists centring today's grand rally of the Sammlito Birodhi Dal at the Outer Stadium, police and witnesses said.

The grand rally was held to protest the proposed peace treaty on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

The dead were police Naik Abdul Mannan, one Abdul Latif, claimed by BNP to be its activist, and an unidentified person aged about 30.

Hospital sources said the death toll may rise.

Among the injured, 30 people were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and of them, six were in critical condition as most of them were bullet-hit.

At least 12 police personnel were also injured during the sporadic incidents of violence that began at 5-30 pm today, police officials said. They were admitted into police hospital.

Police sources and witnesses said the trouble began at the flag end of BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia's speech while police were locked in a clash with a group of people at Kazir Dewri, the north eastern corner of

Outer Stadium.

Police claimed that the trouble spread as some people pelted brick-bats, blasted cocktails and opened fire.

Police lobbed tear gas shells, used batons and opened fire during the clashes, witnesses said.

When the clashes were on around the Outer Stadium, party activists from the podium made announcements blaming the Awami League activists and police for attacking the grand rally. But AL later denied it.

Thousands of people who gathered at the rally were seen running for safety while many were injured in stampede, witnesses said.

Immediately, the trouble spread to different areas of the city including Jubilee Road, New Market crossing, Station Road, Enayet Bazar and Dewan Hat where hundreds of passing vehicles were damaged by some agitating processionists returning from the rally, police said.

They had pitched battles with police at those places. A BRTC bus, a garbage truck of the City Corporation and a police van was torched, fire brigade sources said. But the fire was put out by fire fighting vehicles escorted by police.

However, at around 9 pm See Page 15

Pay scale revised with minimum 12 pc monetary benefit

By Special Correspondent

The Cabinet yesterday decided that in case of fixation of salary under the new pay scale the government officials and employees will get a minimum 12 per cent monetary benefit over the salary drawn on June 30 this year.

An official handout said last night that the Cabinet in a meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the cabinet room of the Jatiya Sangsad, partially modified its earlier decision and decided that the government employees and officials will be paid in cash instead of savings certificates their arrears salaries and

tuftin allowance.

Other conditions of the new National Pay Scale will, however, remain unchanged.

The cabinet reviewed the structural problems in the health and family welfare sector and constituted a six-member ministerial committee to make appropriate recommendations regarding organisation and management.

Earlier, leaders of the Sechibalaya Karmachari Sanjukta Parishad called on Finance Minister S A M S Kibria yesterday afternoon. They explained their various demands. See Page 15

Jute, textile workers threaten another strike on Dec 8, 9

Jute and textile workers yesterday threatened to enforce another 48-hour industrial strike and road-rail barricade on December 8-9 if the government does not meet their demands within 20 days, reports UNB.

They will also stage sit-in demonstration in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna and submit memorandum to the administration on November 26. Before that, they will hold a national convention of workers on November 22-23 in the capital.

The programme was announced by four jute and textile workers' associations at a press conference here yesterday at the end of their 48-hour industrial strike. See Page 15

President for prompt steps to complete 2 projects

Star Report
 President Shahabuddin Ahmed expressed concern at the 'negligence' of the authorities in implementing the Barapukuria coal mine and power plant project and the Maddyapara hard rock mining project and asked the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and the secretaries of Finance and Energy ministries to take prompt steps to complete the projects.

In an official letter sent from the President's office to the three secretaries on November 11, See Page 15

Hartal on the day of signing CHT treaty: Khaleda

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, Nov 11: BNP Chairperson and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia called for observing a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the country on November 16 if any treaty is signed on that day between the government and PCJSS on Hill Tract issue.

"If the treaty is not signed on November 16 the day-long hartal will be enforced across the country on the day it is signed", she said.

"Besides, some stern programmes will be announced later if any treaty signed ignoring the interests of non-tribals in CHT," Begum Zia warned while addressing a grand rally organised by the Sammlito Birodhal, an alliance formed with BNP, Jamaat, JP (Zafar), Jagta and others, at the Outer Stadium this afternoon.

The BNP chief alleged that the government was trying to hand over CHT to India in the name of signing the proposed treaty.

"If the treaty is signed with PCJSS the Bengalees would not be able to live in CHT peacefully," Begum Zia said adding. See Page 15.



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a press conference in the city yesterday. —Star photo

BNP, other parties call hartal in Ctg today

By Staff Correspondent
 Bangladesh Nationalist Party and some other parties called a half-day hartal in Chittagong today protesting what they said the attack by ruling party goons on their public meeting in the port city which left 3 persons killed.

The parties will also hold demonstrations in divisional headquarters on the day.

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia who is also the Leader of Opposition in Parliament, announced the programme at a press conference at her Minto Road official residence in the city last night after her return from Chittagong.

Apprehending that the casualty from the incident might increase, she blamed the 'Awami League terrorists' for the attack on the rally held at the Chittagong outer stadium.

"Two persons were killed and over hundred people were injured" in the attack on the meeting convened under the auspices of All-Party Alliance on Chittagong Hill Tracts (APACHT), she claimed.

"The public meeting came under attack by the Awami League goons while I was delivering my speech," Begum Zia See Page 15

BAC to sue all corrupt persons, PM tells JS

By Staff Correspondent
 Corruption has been reduced to a large extent during the rule of the present government which took the initiatives to make the Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) more dynamic and effective, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

"The BAC has filed 630 corruption cases after investigating into 3532 allegations of corrupt practices in the last one year, against 241 such cases in the previous year," she said during the question-answer session.

"Corruption cases have been filed against many former ministers and MPs and charges of corruption against many others are now under investigation," Sheikh Hasina said adding she would be able to produce a list of all those persons in the House later, if a fresh notice was submitted on the issue.

Sheikh Hasina was replying to a question by Dr Rustom Ali Farazi of Jatiya Party and supplementary queries from others.

To a query on action against alleged corruption by the family members of former Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, the Leader of the House said, "All the allegations of corruption against the head of the past BNP government, its minister, MPs and their relatives are being investigated. Meantime, cases have been filed against some of them... the BAC will sue all corrupt persons. Law will take its own course and it will be applicable to all, irrespective of their time. See Page 15

34 symbols for UP polls announced

The Election Commission yesterday announced 34 symbols for the Union Parishad election, scheduled for next month, reports UNB.

Fourteen of the symbols are for the member candidates in general seats, 10 for the female member candidates in reserved seats and the rest 10 for the chairman candidates.

The symbols will be allocated immediately after withdrawal of the candidates. See Page 15

Kuldeep Nayar calls on President

The visiting renowned journalist of India and a Member of Rajya Sabha, Kuldeep Nayar, called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Welcoming him, President Shahabuddin appreciated his long journalistic career and said that Nayar's contributions in flourishing democratic values in the sub-continent is laudable.

Nayar thanked the President for receiving him. He said that he will remember the warm hospitality of the people of Bangladesh and for awarding him the Abdus Salam Award for Journalism for the first time. See Page 15

PM calls on President

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday and apprised him of the outcome of her visit to Edinburgh, reports UNB.

Hasina went to Edinburgh to attend the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting. See Page 15

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Street girls, urchins 'dumped' at Mirpur vagrant centre

By Masud Arif
 Agargaon area.

The policemen did not want to know anything from Liton as his father went to a nearby toilet asking him to wait with the vegetables they brought from their Char Jakhalia village under Kottadi thana.

Three months have passed. Salam told this correspondent that he procured recommendations from a Minister, thana Awami League leader, the local Union Parishad Chairman and even from police for release of his son. But the authorities of the vagrant centre refused to release Liton, a primary school student. It was simply because the magistrate in-charge went to Australia about three months back. The post is now vacant and there is none to discharge the responsibility for Liton's release.

Like Liton, many children and young women are confined at the Mirpur centre, infested with overwhelming problems, mainly related to food and hygiene. See Page 15

Ratio of girl/boy sex workers in city 3:2

By Staff Correspondent
 The number of young boys as sex workers is not negligible in the city as a recent study found a girl/boy ratio of 3:2 among the child prostitutes.

Sponsored by Red Barnet, the Danish Save the Children, the study revealed that the boys aged around 13 were mainly working as the street-side commercial MSMs (male having sex with male) although their presence was not so prominent. Besides, the average age of entry in the sex market has been found around 13 years for girls and 12 for boys.

Incidin, a private research organisation, conducted the study titled, 'Misplaced Childhood: A Short Study on the Street Child Prostitutes in Dhaka City.' The study was carried on 296 street child prostitutes in 11 areas of the city.

The Red Barnet commissioned Incidin to carry out the study as it felt that the extent of child prostitution was quite alarming which represented the main features of child prostitution in the country.

During a dissemination session held in the city yesterday, the three-member research team disclosed the objectives of the study that included problems of sexually abused children, sexual behaviour and attitude, and evaluation of the awareness level of the child prostitutes about STDs and AIDS as well as the concept of safe sex.

According to the study, nearly 70 per cent of the children presently engaged in selling sex in the city streets migrated from different districts of the country.

It viewed the problem of See Page 15

MOU signed China to help control flood in Bangladesh

BEIJING, Nov 11: Bangladesh and China today signed a memorandum of understanding at the Diaoyutai state guest house here on cooperation for flood control and water resources development in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The MOU was signed by Bangladesh Minister for Water Resources Abdur Razzak and Chinese Minister of Water Resources Niu Maosheng on behalf of their respective governments.

According to MOU, the Chinese government will share its experience and transfer of technology and know-how in the fields of flood control, river training and water management and provide training to Bangladeshi water experts.

Razzak who is in China on a week long visit at the invitation See Page 15

Model National Law on Refugees proposed

By Staff Correspondent
 consultation with the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court as Chairperson and two independent members conversant with refugee matters.

The conference was a follow-up of similar programmes held in previous years in Geneva, Colombo and New Delhi under the aegis of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). The Dhaka conference brought together distinguished former government officials, judges, academics, NGO directors and journalists to discuss large scale human displacement in the region and the sufferings it causes to the people concerned.

The Model Law was drafted by a five-member team headed by a former chief justice of India, P N Bhagwati. Adopting the Model Law, the Dhaka conference expressed the hope that the model would serve to guide and assist lawmakers and be attuned, as necessary, to take account See Page 15

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