

With Loan / Instalment facilities at different locations

PROPERTY HEIGHTS
12 RK MISSION ROAD, DHAKA
FAX: 880-2-868416 PHONE: 863117, 863128, 868412-3

THE NAME MOST TRUSTED
PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT LTD

The Daily Star

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE

WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA, BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESHWARI GREEN, MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE OF DIFFERENT TYPES.

NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA.
TEL: 805957, 807363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

VOL. VII NO. 290 REGD. NO. DA 781 KARTIK 29 1404 BS. DHAKA THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 1997 RAJAB 12 1418 HIJRI 12 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS: PRICE TAKA 9.00

Report on BNP's list of political cases to be ready today

By Staff Correspondent

The reports on the merit of 'political cases' against BNP lawmakers, leaders and workers will be ready today. Home Minister Rafiqul Islam told newsmen yesterday.

The reports reached the home ministry yesterday.

When contacted, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim told this correspondent last night that he would receive the report from the Home Minister today and contact BNP leaders for discussion.

BNP had sent the list of 'political cases' to Nasim on Sunday. Nasim handed it over to the Home Minister the following day for scrutiny.

The list includes cases against 19 BNP legislators, 52 other cases and 20 general diaries lodged with 13 thanas in the city against BNP leaders and workers since September 1.

JS condemns BNP for Ctg incident

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday adopted a resolution condemning the 'acts of terrorism, anarchy and indiscipline by the armed goons of BNP' centring the public meeting of the Leader of the Opposition in Chittagong on Tuesday.

The resolution, moved by Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim of the ruling Awami League, also blamed the major opposition party for 'attempting to achieve vested political interests through well-planned Chittagong incidents.'

Earlier, the Jatiya Sangsad witnessed a 75-minute stormy general discussion on Tuesday's incidents in Chittagong. Key leaders of the Treasury bench and two Jatiya Party lawmakers participated in it.

During the discussion, the speakers accused the BNP of unleashing terrorism in the port city in a 'pre-planned way and with an ill motive to create a new issue to disrupt peace.' They also alleged that the BNP was acting as the 'local agent' of Inter-Service Intelligence (ISI) of Pakistan and was 'conspiring to foil the government's move to restore peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) under a well-planned design.'

As demanded by the lawmakers including two ministers, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam told the House the government will take stern legal action against those responsible for the Chittagong incidents in which four persons including a policeman were killed. The government has decided to constitute a judicial commission to probe urgently, he announced.

Winding up the discussion, Deputy Leader of the House and LORD Minister Zillur Rahman urged the BNP to shun 'politics of conspiracy, destruction and anarchy' and return to the parliament to resolve 'everything including the CHT issue through consensus.'

Zillur also accused BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia of trying to make the present democratic government inoperative by creating a stalemate in the country and take the advantage of such a situation.

See Page 12 Col 1

Ctg incident BNP demands judicial probe within 48 hrs

CHITTAGONG, Nov 12: BNP city unit leaders today demanded judicial inquiry into yesterday's incident within next 48 hours, reports BSS.

Addressing a press conference at the Nizam Ehaban party office, BNP city convenor Meer Mohammad Nasiruddin blamed the police for the incident in which four people were killed.

BNP leaders Abdullah Al-Noman, Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury MP, Gasuddin Quader Chowdhury MP, Jafrul Islam Chowdhury MP and Dastagir Chowdhury elaborated the incident to the journalists.

They also demanded formation of another departmental committee of the police administration to probe the police action.

BNP leaders also announced a seven-day-long programme which includes holding of protest rallies and mourning processions.

Pre-UP polls violence 5 killed, 40 hurt in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Nov 12: At least five persons were killed and 40 others injured, three of them critically in an hour long pre-election violence at Ditiya Khanda Union under Shibchar thana here this morning, police and witnesses said, reports BSS.

The dead were identified as Abdur Rab, 40, Mohammad Thandu Sardar, 20, Mohammad Rashed, 25, Saidur Guhman, 20, and Humayun Talukder, 26.

Police and witnesses said the clash began at 10 am when two pre-election processions — one led by present chairman Rezaul Haq Talukder and the other by chairman candidate Abdul Malek Fakir — came face to face. Both the groups attacked each other by *lathis*, hockey sticks, *ram dao* and other sharp weapons during the clash which continued for an hour. Both sides also exploded bombs and cocktails during the clash.

Critically injured Awlad Hossain and Sikim Khan were shifted to Dhaka, while Salam Talukder was shifted to Faridpur General Hospital. The rest of the injured were admitted to Shibchar Thana Health Complex.

On receiving information from local people, a huge contingent of police from Shibchar thana and Madaripur District Police Lines rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. A platoon of police from Dhaka range was also deployed in the area to maintain law and order, district police control room said.

Huda's extradition Petition being heard in Thai court

By Staff Correspondent

A court in Thailand is continuing hearing of a petition by Bangladesh Police, seeking extradition of Major (ret'd) Bazul Huda, sought for trial in the Bangabandhu murder case, according to reports received from Bangkok yesterday.

Bangladesh officials attending the hearing told The Daily Star over telephone that the court was proceeding with the case in Bangkok. Huda was arrested earlier in the Thai capital on charges of theft sentenced.

Huda, one of the 14 absconding accused in the case, fled Bangladesh following Awami League's return to power in 1996.

Abdul Kahar Akand, the investigating officer of the case, has already reached Bangkok to depose before the court for extradition.

See Page 12 Col 6

Indo-Bangla water transit protocol renewed

NEW DELHI, Nov 12: Bangladesh and India renewed the protocol on inland water transit and trade between the two countries here last night, following a three-day meeting, reports BSS.

The renewed protocol to be effective for two years until 1999 envisages opening of two new ports of call on reciprocal basis. The new ports of call will

See Page 12 Col 6

10346 Bangladeshis return home from S Arabia

State Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan yesterday told the House that about 10,346 Bangladeshis have returned home from Saudi Arabia as the Saudi government recently expelled foreign nationals illegally working in that country, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from BNP member Sarwar Zaman Nizam (Chittagong), the State Minister said from 1976 to 1997 a total of 9,21,271 Bangladeshi workers went to Saudi Arabia and 2,51,359 went to the United Arab Emirates.



BNP brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting 'police action' on its supporters in Chittagong. — Star photo

BNP places 13-pt proposal to EC for fair UP polls

Main opposition BNP yesterday placed a 13-point proposal to the Election Commission for ensuring free, fair and neutral union parishad elections, reports UNB.

The proposals were conveyed in a letter signed by BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

The letter was handed over to Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena by Abdul Mannan MP yesterday.

Bhuiyan in his letter said the issues on which both sides reached consensus in principle at a meeting between the EC and the BNP delegation on October 26 are yet to be resolved.

The election rules and regulations were being continuously violated by the government as well as the ruling party, he alleged.

The BNP leader, in his letter, also accused the government of

See Page 12 Col 4

NCCHT-PCJSS meet on Sunday CHT accord likely to be signed

By Special Correspondent

The National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) is likely to meet in a couple of days in the city to finalise preparations for Sunday's meeting with the Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) aimed at ending decades of insurgency in the CHT.

The meeting, seventh in the current series of negotiations since the NCCHT was reconstituted last year and 26th since negotiations began with the PCJSS in October, 1985, is expected to clinch an agreement, sources concerned said.

The NCCHT is preparing for signing the agreement unless there is any last minute discord. The trends are there for an accord although the final draft agreement was not sent to the

PCJSS by October 31 as demanded by them, they said.

The NCCHT wants them to iron out whatever differences are there across the table. The authorities are preparing for a lengthy meeting, at least for a week, the sources said.

The PCJSS had sought certain amendments to the draft accord for more power and authority of the proposed regional councils, including authority over the administration and land management.

A number of other issues are to be addressed, including rehabilitation of PCJSS cadres along with their families who would be coming back with the high command from their camps in Tripura.

See Page 12 Col 1

2 young men stabbed to death in Keraniganj

By Staff Correspondent

Two young men were stabbed to death by a gang of assailants at Choral under Keraniganj thana yesterday.

Police said the dead were identified as Mizanur Rahman alias Mizan, a resident of Golambazar and Jumon, 18, a resident of East Aganagar.

The motive behind the double murder could not be known immediately.

Police, quoting the FIR, said a gang of eight local youths called Mizan and Jumon from Golambazar area and brought them to Maddhya Choral at about 2 pm. They stabbed both of them indiscriminately. Mizan died on the spot and Jumon was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead.

The body of Mizan was sent to Mitford Hospital morgue and that of Jumon to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. None was, however, arrested till the filing of this report last night.

Mizan's father lodged a case with Keraniganj thana in this regard.

Death toll rises to 5 Peaceful hartal observed in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 12: Two more persons succumbed to their injuries in Chittagong Medical College Hospital today raising the death toll from yesterday's clashes between police and Opposition political activists to five. They were identified as Abdur Rashid and Ali Ahmed.

Police and hospital sources said Abdur Rashid died early in the morning and Ali Ahmed in the afternoon. Both were bullet-hit.

Three persons including a policeman were killed in the clashes that broke out at the grand rally of the Sammlito Birodhi Dal at the Outer Stadium yesterday.

Meanwhile, normal life was disrupted in the port city during the half-day hartal today. The hartal was called by the BNP-led opposition alliance to protest yesterday's incidents of violence.

All types of vehicles excepting a few rickshaws stayed off the roads and most of the shops and offices remained closed during hartal hours, police and

See Page 12 Col 7

Khaleda addresses public meet at Kushtia today

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia begins a four-day mass contact tour of four northern districts from today, reports UNB.

On the first day of the tour, Begum Zia will address a public meeting at Kushtia today. Later, she will address meetings at Natore tomorrow, Joypurhat on November 15 and Dinajpur on November 16.

Central leaders, including Col (Ret'd) Akbar Hossain MP, Farida Hasan and Shahjahan Siraj, will accompany the BNP chairperson.

Second round bidding Tullow, Shell invited to negotiate for fresh blocks

Star Report

The negotiation committee on second round block bidding has invited Tullow and Shell Oil to negotiate for fresh blocks next week, sources said.

Tullow and Shell Oil are among 20 foreign companies participating in the second round bidding for 12 oil and gas exploration blocks in the country.

Tullow, a small Irish company, has already been offered, on a 'selection basis', the most sought after Block 9 and it has submitted a draft Production Sharing Contract (PSC).

Shell-Cairn was similarly offered Block 10 on a 'selection basis'. But Shell has not yet accepted the offer saying that it wanted to negotiate on the basis of original evaluation by the government's evaluation committee headed by US consultant company Arthur Andersen. Shell has so far argued that it was qualified in at least four blocks out of six it had been competing for.

Sources said it is likely that both Tullow and Shell would be offered a second block each. This, however, could not be officially confirmed.

Shell is scheduled to talk with the negotiation committee on Monday and Tullow some time later.

See Page 12 Col 3

2 killed as dacoits open fire on villagers in Sitakunda

CHITTAGONG, Nov 12: Two people were killed and more than 30 injured in firing and bomb blast by dacoits at a village Dakkhin Sillampur in Sitakunda thana early today, reports UNB.

Locals said some 30-40 armed dacoits broke open the door of Haji Abdul Gani's house, adjacent to the house of local MP of ruling party A B M Abul Kashem Master, in Iman Nagar area at Dakkhin Sillampur village at 1 am, beat up the inmates and snatched cash and goods worth more than Tk 10 lakh.

See Page 12 Col 5



TOMORROW

Chandpur is among five of the most severely affected districts in the country where preliminary surveys showed that 83 per cent of the tubewell water had concentration of arsenic above the permissible level of 0.05 mg/L. Read SWM for an indepth report about arsenic concentration in ground water, a major source of drinking water in Bangladesh, and the trauma of arsenicosis victims.

Tanks did not have shells during Aug '75 operation

Major Syed Farooqur Rahman had threatened with death his tank troops posted at Bangabhaban after the August 15 tragedy for any negligence in discharging their duty, says a junior commissioned officer, reports UNB.

According to the JCO, Risaldar Moslemuddin, an absconding accused, has also threatened the Lancer force that their legs would be cut off and kept on tanks for any sloth in their duty.

'None can unleash such threat in army,' said Risaldar

Monsur Ahmed, the 39th prosecution witness in Bangabandhu Murder Case, during the trial proceedings yesterday.

He also said that their Acting CO Major Farooq brought the troops out of the cantonment for 'a special assignment for emergency need of the state.'

But, the witness said, they had moved with empty tanks as no shell was found at the ammunition store of 1st Bengal Lancer at Balurghat on early August 15, 1975. They received tank ammunition on August 22

See Page 12 Col 4

Gunfight between N' ganj BCL factions: 10 hurt

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Nov 12: At least ten people were injured in a gunfight between two factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) at Fatullah today.

The clash erupted at about 11:30 am in front of the Dapa Pilot High School after Moktar, leader of a faction, beat a supporter of another faction led by Mobarak.

Both the groups traded gunfire and exploded cocktails during the half-an-hour clash in which ten activists sustained bullet wounds.

Four critically injured persons were identified as Kabir, 22, Masum, 18, Subol, 24, and Muslim, 30.

Police arrested three persons in connection with the incident. However, no case was lodged till filing of this report.

BCL groups clash for control of DU halls

By DU Correspondent

At least ten people were injured when two groups of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) clashed for gaining control of the Zahurul Haq Hall, Mohsin Hall and A F Rahman Hall of Dhaka University yesterday morning, witnesses said.

Five shots were heard during the clashes. The rival groups used *chappati* and other lethal weapons during the clashes. Twelve rooms were also damaged in the three dormitories.

Seven of the injured persons were identified as Milan, Kazal, Kader, Manik, Tofael, Masud, Raihan, most of them struck with *chappati*, witnesses said.

Kader, a BCL activist of Mohsin Hall, was injured.

See Page 12 Col 6

None held for alleged embezzlement of Tk 7.20 lakh using credit cards

By Staff Correspondent

None was arrested in connection with the alleged embezzlement of Tk 7.20 lakh using five credit cards of the American Express Bank belonging to four foreign nationals.

Police said yesterday that a security consultant of the bank lodged a case in this regard Monday alleging involvement of three cashiers of Sonargaon.

See Page 12 Col 6

The Daily Star
on the internet
<http://www.dailystarnews.com>

Inside Today Article

Power by Hook or Crook
Column: Between the Lines
by Kuldip Nayyar
Page 4

Focus

Treaty on climate change and Bangladesh's stake
Page 5

Business

Country's trade gap with India narrows by Tk 458cr in '96-97 fiscal, minister tells JS
DSE index registers 6-point fall
Pages 6, 7



A devastating fire broke out at a factory at DEPZ in Savar yesterday. — Photo: Courtesy Bill Foudy

Fire damages factory at DEPZ

By Staff Correspondent

The Korean-owned padding and quilting factory — Swanlon Co Ltd — at the Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) at Savar was severely damaged in a fire yesterday.

Two persons suffered minor injuries while most of the around 150 workers of the factory escaped unhurt. The injured were given first aid at the DEPZ medical centre.

The cause of the fire and the loss caused by it were yet to be ascertained.

According to witnesses, the fire broke out at about 1:15 pm. When fire fighters from Tongi and Mohammadpur arrived at the spot, at around 2:30 pm, columns of thick black smoke rising upto about 300 metres were visible from miles away.

As the fire broke out, other factories in the DEPZ asked their thousands of workers, mostly female, to leave the

See Page 12 Col 8

EBL Eastern Bank Limited
Head Office: Jiban Bima Bhaban
10, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka.

CHANGE OF VENUE
5TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF EASTERN BANK LIMITED

It is notified for information to all Shareholders that due to unavoidable circumstances the 5th Annual General Meeting of the Eastern Bank Limited will now be held at **Hotel Sonargaon, Ball Room, Dhaka at 4:00 P.M. on the same day notified earlier i.e. November 20, 1997 instead of Hotel Purbani International, Dhaka.**

By Order of the Board

Arham Masudul Huq
Arham Masudul Huq
Company Secretary