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One of the persons arrested during yesterday's police raid in three Dhaka University halls. — Star photo

JS condemns BNP

From Page 1 Criticising Begum Zia for joining hands with "anti-liberation forces", the minister alleged that the Opposition leader, failing to forget the "ch of defeat" in the last general elections, was out to foil the government's development efforts and its planned peace treaty on CHT. As part of her conspiracy, he alleged, Begum Zia had turned Chittagong into a hell on Tuesday by using her party's armed terrorists. He also requested the Home Minister to give the responsibility of probing the Chittagong incidents to CID police and take stern action against the culprits. Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim of AL opened the discussion while Prime Minister's Parliament Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta, Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Food and Agriculture Minister Matia Choudhury, ASM Feroz, Tajul Islam, Akhteruzzaman, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed and Shamim Osman of the Treasury Bench and Dr Rostam Ali Faraj and Noor Mohammad Mandol of the JP also took part in the discussion. The Home Minister said in the House that a BNP leader told him on Tuesday morning that the conflicting groups of the party in Chittagong had arms in their hands. "The BNP leader also requested me to remain alert so that the party chief's public rally in Chittagong is not foiled due to armed clashes between the warring groups," the Home Minister said. This proves that BNP's armed men were involved in Tuesday's incidents, he said. He also said that 70 policemen were injured, 20 of them seriously, in the incidents. Forty people have so far been arrested in connection with three cases filed in connection with attacks on policemen, hurling bombs, burning vehicles and destroying property, the Home Minister said. He accused "BNP terrorists" for creating a reign of terror in Chittagong and also in Dhaka in a pre-planned manner, threatening peace, national development and economic activities. "Those who have links with foreign forces don't want peace... They want unstable situation to half national development." In his speech, Suranjit Sengupta alleged that Begum Zia grouped with the "branded anti-liberation forces" to oppose the peace treaty as she did not want peace. "The CHT peace accord can't be foiled by any act of conspiracy," he said. Mohammad Nasim alleged that Begum Zia, being bribed by the ISI, was opposing the CHT peace accord to keep the crisis alive. Matia Choudhury blamed the Opposition leader and her allies for "waging a war against the peace move" and termed her "a puppet of ISI."

Bill passed in JS SEC to have 4 permanent members

Parliament last night passed a bill, allowing the government to raise the number of permanent members of the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), reports UNB. The Securities and Exchange Commission (2nd Amendment) Bill, 1997, piloted by Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, was passed by voice vote. The half-empty House took a very little time to pass the bill in amended form as recommended by the special committee for scrutinising the bills. Under the bill, the number of permanent members of the SEC would be raised to four from the current two. Jatiya Party lawmaker Abu Lais Mohammad Mubin Chowdhury proposed to send the bill for eliciting public opinion, saying that the government had failed to protect the interests of the investors and the capital market.

PM's directive to complete rural dev projects

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the authorities concerned for quick implementation of various development projects, particularly in the rural areas, to strengthen the rural economy, reports UNB. "The government wants to bring dynamism in the rural economy by increasing the purchasing capacity of rural people and income-generating activities in the rural areas," she said at the at the first-ever meeting on "vitalisation of rural economy" at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the city yesterday. The prime minister said government has taken all possible steps to revitalise the rural economy. The rural areas will be the centre point of overall development activities, for achieving the target, she added. Hasina said only setting up of industries could not bring about the desired result if the buying capacity of the rural people could not be increased.

Tullow, Shell

Meanwhile, the negotiation committee yesterday reviewed the progress made in the negotiations that began on October 22. Till now, the committee, bypassing the original evaluation report, has offered Tullow Block 9, a small US company, Pangaea, Block 8; Shell-Cairn, Block 10 and Dutch company Maerks Block 19. Negotiation with US company Enron is going on. Of these, no decision has been reached regarding Shell and Maerks. A number of large companies like Mobil, Chevron Texaco, Petronas and Total appear to be left out of the negotiations. Sources said that a small company which has been assured of a block has been trying to pursue some of the "left out" large companies to join it as a partner. The large companies have all rejected its proposal saying that they would not share the "unrealistic" work programme proposed to the government by the small company. The government announced deadline for completion of negotiations and signing PSCs for the 12 blocks expires on December 15.

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4 Americans gunned down in Karachi

KARACHI, Nov 12: Gunmen sprayed bullets at a car carrying four Americans and a Pakistani driver through morning traffic on a downtown Karachi street today, killing all five people, police said, reports AP. The dead were US citizens Ephraim Egbu, Joel Enlow, Larry Jennings and Tracy Ritchie and the Pakistani driver was Anwar Mirza. All the Americans were in their 40s. The motive for the attack was unknown, but it came two days after a Pakistani, Mir Aimal Kasi, was convicted in a US court of killing two CIA employees outside Washington. US officials had warned about possible retaliation. "It is premature to say why they were killed but there is a strong possibility that it was linked to Kasi's conviction and sentencing," said Karachi Police Chief Malik Iqbal. The Americans were auditors for the US-based oil company Union Texas. The company's office in Karachi said it was trying to contact the victims' relatives in the United States, before releasing the names. Union Texas president Arnold Hoffman told reporters at a hotel, barely half a kilometre (quarter-mile) from where his workers were gunned down, that his company has decided not to evacuate its employees. Meanwhile, Pakistan's president and foreign minister also delivered condolence messages concerning the attack. The bodies of the four Americans will be flown by chartered aircraft to Houston Texas, where Union Texas is headquartered, on Thursday, said Hoffman. In today's attack, two gunmen in a red car roared up behind the Americans' car and opened fire. Iqbal said. They forced the car off the road and sprayed more than a dozen bullets into the front windshield. "Everyone in the car died on the spot," he said.

BNP places 13-pt proposal

From Page 1 unleashing terrorism, resorting to arrest under false cases, harassment and threat on the candidates contesting against the ruling party-backed nominees. The ministers, he said, are also making efforts to influence the administration, side by side carrying out campaigns in favour of the pro-government candidates. In the meantime, Bhuiyan said, the ruling party caused to occur many unwanted incidents on November 4, the day fixed for depositing money by the candidates. Quoting press reports, he said many neutral and opposition candidates could not deposit their money. Besides, nominations of many candidates were tactfully rejected. The BNP's proposals are: — Giving fresh opportunity to the candidates, who could not submit their nominations due to threat, terrorism and conspiracy of the government party. — Cancellation of the faulty nomination papers of the ruling partymen, declared valid due to administrative influence. — Holding of elections of all unions in each thana at the same date. — Restoration of the Election Rule-70 that was abolished in 1989. — Release of all the BNP supported candidates who have been arrested under false charges. — Deployment of one magistrate in each voting centre and adequate police force and more than one mobile police team with magistrate in every thana. — Announcement of results from respective polling centre. — Imposition of ban on the presence of outsiders 48 hours ahead of the election. — Not to appoint presiding officer or polling officer from anyone who resides in the same union, or even in the neighbouring union. — Approval of any election observer group after evaluating its neutrality, wit and efficiency. — Preparing a list of persons who will be allowed to enter into any polling centre during the voting and publicization of the list; and — Formation of monitoring committee with representation of the contesting candidates and verifying the neutrality of the election observer. Bhuiyan in his letter also demanded introduction of voter ID card and reorganisation of the Election Commission raising its manpower, quality and capacity. If it is not possible right now, these two would have to be implemented before any future election, he said.

60 BNP MPs condemn Suranjit's remarks

By Staff Correspondent Sixty MPs belonging to the opposition BNP in a joint statement on Tuesday condemned what they termed, contemptuous utterances by Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta MP, against Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury. They noted that Sengupta made remarks misinterpreting Chowdhury's speech on November 7. The BNP lawmakers urged Sengupta to withdraw his remarks and seek unconditional apology. Those who issued the statement include, M Saifur Rahman, Oli Ahmed, Khandakar Delwar Hossain, Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, K M Obaidur Rahman and Sheikh Razzak Ali.

2 killed

From Page 1 But just before fleeing, they were gheraoed by about 150 villagers, who had gathered there hearing hue and cry of the inmates of the house. The dacoits fired 30-40 rounds of shots, killing Jafar Ahmed, 35, son of Abdul Malik of village Dakkhin Silimpur. They also blasted 15-20 bombs creating panic in the area. Another villager, Sultanul Alam, 40, son of Iman Mistry, died on way to Chittagong Medical College Hospital (CMCH). Of the injured, 15 people were admitted to CMCH while six rushed to Sitakunda Health Complex. The rest were released after first aid. A case was filed with Sitakunda police.

BCI Bank

From Page 1 minister said. Kibria said the administrative measures to reopen the bank have already been finalised. "I can assure the investors that the bank will start functioning very soon."

Bangabandhu murder

From Page 1 At that time, he said, Major Dalim along with another officer came to their unit. "Dalim saheb wanted uniforms from us and we did so." The PW-39 said they started with the tanks for an unknown destination after his commander, Risaldar Kashem returned from the CO at about 4 am. Besides the commander and Monsur Ahmed, there were a gunner and an operator on the tank that at first went to the ammunition store at Balurghat. The store was open, but no ammunition was found," he said. "Following later they along with the empty tank went to cantonment 3rd gate after crossing 46 Brigade, Banani and Mohakhali. The witness said he came to know about their destination — Bangabandhu — from the tank commander after they reached in front of the 3rd gate of Dhaka Cantonment.

Garments workers call day-long strike Nov 30

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Garments Shramic Oikya Parishad has called a day-long general strike in all garment factories of the country on November 30 demanding implementation of their 5-point demand. Addressing a press conference yesterday, the leaders of the Parishad demanded immediate implementation of their demands. They said that leaders of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) had agreed in principle to implement their 5-point demand. But they were yet to take any initiative to implement the demands.

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Contempt charges Pak SC summons Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD, Nov 12 The Supreme Court on Wednesday ordered Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to appear in court to answer contempt charges, reports AP. He will have to appear next Monday. Sharif is accused of ridiculing the Supreme Court and its Chief Justice, Sajjad Ali Shah, in comments he made to reporters last month outside the National Assembly or powerful lawmaking Lower House of Parliament. The charge stems from a confrontation with the Supreme Court over the right to appoint judges. A serious dispute that threatened to destabilize Sharif's government was settled two weeks ago when he bowed to the chief justice and appointed five new judges to the Supreme Court increasing the bench to 17 from 12.

Credit cards

From Page 1 Hotel. The credit cards issued in USA and Canada were allegedly used by some local people with the help of the cashiers during September and October. Police said the owners of the cards did not visit Bangladesh in recent times. They added that police were yet to trace out how the local gang got the cards. The Officer-in-Charge of Tejgaon thana said the accused cashiers were absent from their duties yesterday. But it could not be confirmed from the Sonargaon Hotel. An official of the hotel said that the management was investigating the incident.

Thai court

From Page 1 tradition of Huda. Anisul Huq, Special Public Prosecutor of the case, is also scheduled to go to the Thai capital shortly in this connection. Hearing of the Bangabandhu murder case in continuing in the court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka.

Water transit

From Page 1 be at Mongla industrial belt and at Khulna while on the Indian side, Haldia and Panchar in Calcutta were earmarked, said a Bangladesh official today. He said the two sides agreed to share the transportation of the transit and trade cargo on equal basis. Bangladesh Secretary of the Ministry of Shipping and Inland Water Transport A H Muzaffar Karim and his Indian counterpart Yogendra Narayan signed the document on behalf of their respective countries last night. The original protocol was signed in 1972 and it was being renewed every two years. The last renewal was made in 1995.

BCL groups

From Page 1 Hall got one of his legs fractured when he jumped from the first floor of the hall. Other injured persons could not be identified immediately. On-duty police raided the halls to quell the violence and arrested five persons from Zahurul Haq Hall. The arrested persons are Ali Hossain, Obaid Ripon, Abdul Latif, Saiful Islam and Kamrul Ahasan. The clashes ensued when activists of a faction, ousted from the three halls on November 3, made a swoop to regain control. The activists, divided into three groups and allegedly led by Babul Palukdar, Amirul Islam Ratan and Shawkat Hossain Nannu attacked the Zahurul Haq Hall, A F Rahman Hall and Mohsin Hall simultaneously at about 8 am. They were ousted earlier by activists of the faction led by Shamim Ahmed. The activists belonging to Shamim faction fled from the halls following the attack. Witnesses said that the armed men while leaving Zahurul Haq Hall fired five shots. Some activists who could not flee were beaten. But the "invaders" could retain their control of the halls till about 11 am when police raided the halls. Police arrested five persons from Zahurul Haq Hall while others managed to escape. Following the police raid, some activists belonging to Shamim group, who are students of the university, returned to the halls showing their identity cards to police. They again took control of the halls, witnesses said. Talking to The Daily Star, some BCL leaders at the university alleged that top leaders of the organisation were responsible for the factional fight. BCL president Enamul Haq Shamim, when contacted said that the "terrorists" who were creating disturbances at the DU dormitories did not belong to BCL. "BCL do not believe in the politics of hall capture," he said. But the sources claimed that some members of the BCL Central Committee were seen taking "active part" in recent incidents involving capture of halls at Dhaka University.

Ctg incident

From Page 1 venue in front of the Apollo shopping complex while the BNP Chairperson, at the flag end of her speech was announcing the hartal programme on the day of signing of the planned peace treaty on Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). Some of the newsmen sitting beside the podium were rising from their chairs and looking at the black smokes while some of the leaders on the stage were pointing at the Apollo shopping complex and observing the melee. Begum Zia had started her speech at 4:45 pm. The trouble began at 5:10 pm and she concluded her speech at 5:12 pm when sounds of cocktail blasts and gunshots were heard and thousands of panic-stricken people were hurrying to leave the field in stampedes. Before the Begum Zia's speech, one BNP leader shouted from the stage, asking police to stay away, pointing to the northern side of the meeting venue. Another BNP leader during his speech, pointed at the Apollo shopping complex (north eastern side where the trouble initiated) and asked the people there to raise hands. However, the trouble took a serious turn after Begum Zia's speech when announcements were made from the podium blaming the "Awami terrorists" and police for "attack" on the

Hartal in Ctg

From Page 1 witnesses said. In Chittagong port, cargo handling was hampered due to thin attendance. Delivery of goods to and from the port remained suspended due to non-plying of trucks during the hartal, port sources said. Barring some stray incidents the hartal passed off almost peacefully, police said. There was a chase and counter-chase between pickets and police when pickets attacked some shops at Laidighi area as those were open during the hartal. Pickets put up barricades on the city roads with burning tyres. Truck loads of police were seen deployed at all important points in the city during the hartal. BNP activists and supporters held rallies and processions during the hartal while in the afternoon, Awami League brought out processions and held a rally to mourn the deaths in yesterday's violence.

Fire at DEPZ

From Page 1 area. The fire was brought under control at around 4 pm. Swanson workers and others had different versions about the cause of the fire. The factory had a total of 12 quilting machines, three Cotton machines and two fabric rollers. Workers had brought out most of the furniture from office blocs and dozens of large padding rolls before the fire spread. The design of the DEPZ also prevented the fire from spreading to other factories in the area, firemen said.

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