

## Home Ministry report on 'political cases' sent to BNP

By Staff Correspondent  
Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday sent BNP a copy of the Home Ministry report on the merit of alleged political cases against the lawmakers, leaders and workers of the main opposition party.

"I sent a copy of the report to BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan by a special messenger after receiving it from the Home Minister," Nasim told The Daily Star late last night.

"We've also told them we'll have nothing to do if the cases concerned charges of murder, use of illegal arms and corruption."

See Page 12 Col 1

## Hajj likely on Apr 6

The holy hajj will be observed on April 6, 1998 subject to sighting of moon, reports UNB.

This was informed at an inter-ministerial meeting on hajj management held yesterday at the Religious Ministry with State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam in the chair.

The meeting decided that the quota of hajj pilgrims for 1998 might be raised to 45,000, including the government and private management. The quota was fixed at 35,000 when hajj agreement was signed with Saudi government last year.

It was agreed in the meeting that overall hajj expenditure for each hajj pilgrim may come up to Tk 79,255, if Biman agrees to carry the pilgrims at the fare fixed at Tk 36,000 last year.

## Fire at oil tank terminal in Ctg kills one

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Nov 13: A fire broke out at a tank terminal of Padma Oil Company at Gup-takali today leaving one person killed on the spot and injuring five others, police and Fire Brigade sources said.

The dead was identified as Abdul Mannan, an assistant of a tank lorry, while the injured were admitted to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Three of the injured were in critical condition, hospital sources said.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire originated at about 2 pm today and it was brought under control at around 3:30 pm. Nine

See Page 12 Col 3

## Armed gang opens fire on police: 2 hurt, 4 held

By Staff Correspondent

A police official and a member of an armed gang were bullet injured as the gang opened fire during a police raid in the city's Dhalpur area under Demra thana yesterday.

Four people including a woman were arrested from there and a huge quantity of arms and ammunition was recovered from their possession.

Acting on a tip off, Demra police cordoned off a building at Dhalpur at about 11:30 am. The gang opened fire which left a sub-inspector of police and a gang member injured.

The arrested were identified as Razia Mia, 34, Abdul Malek, 27, Saiful, 25 and Marjan, 22.

Police recovered four firearms, 51 bullets, three cartridges, a toy pistol, three large knives, 122 crackers of different

See Page 12 Col 2

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

### Inside Today

#### Article

That which is Creative Creates Itself

Column: Do I Dare by A Z M Obaidullah

Khan

Page 4

#### Focus

Reducing distance in cost-effective ways

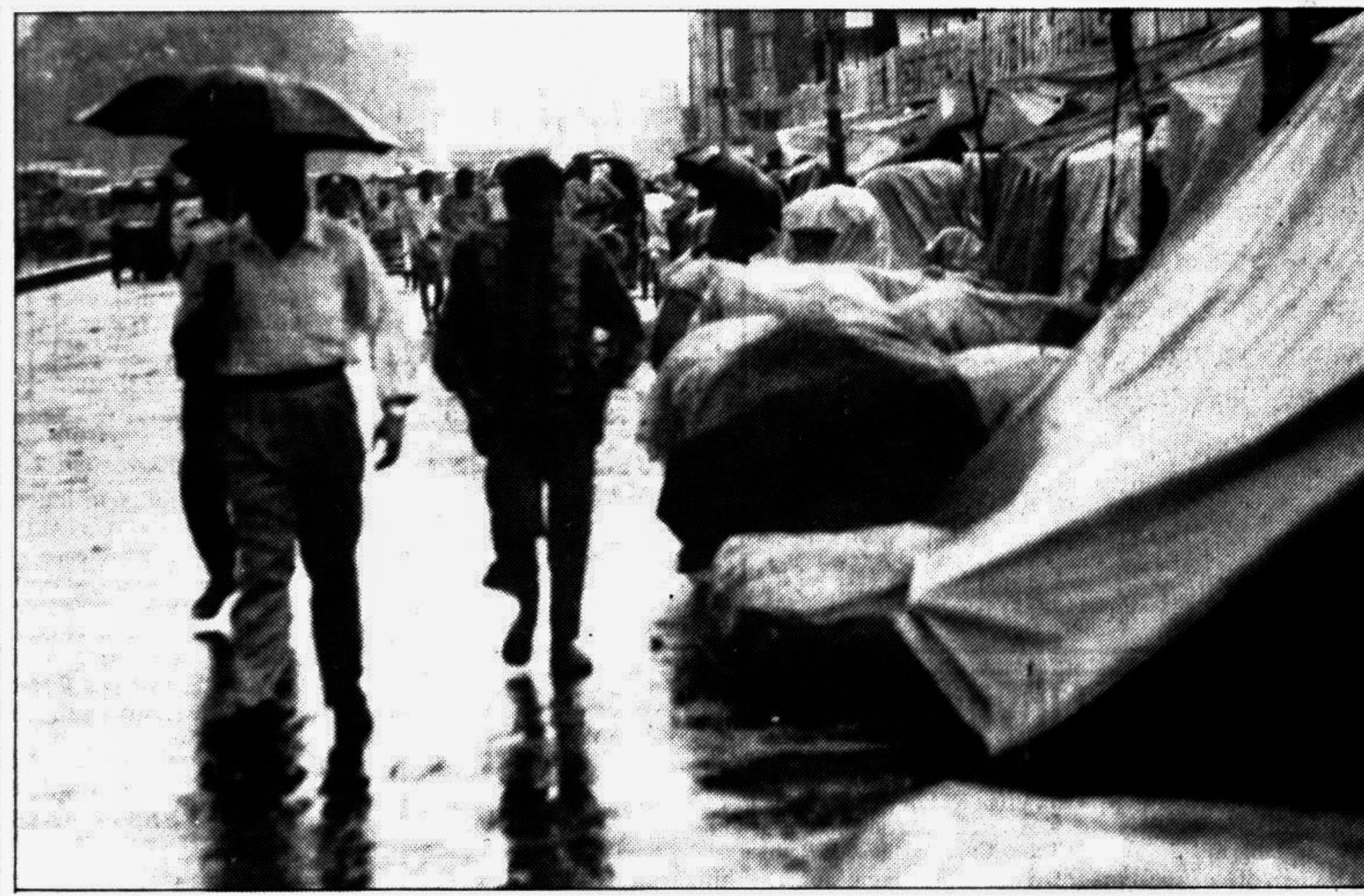
Page 5

#### Business

14 Asian countries draft transit framework deal next week

DSE index rises

Pages 6, 7



— Star photo

The city experienced drizzles yesterday.

## Create atmosphere for dialogue : BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party yesterday has accused the ruling Awami League of using parliament just to tarnish its image, creating further impediments to a congenial atmosphere for a dialogue to resolve the current political crisis.

The allegation was made by BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at a press briefing at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday evening.

The Awami League has been using parliament just to tarnish the image of the BNP and its leaders. This would only contribute to further polluting the environment for a dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition to resolve the current political stalemate.

Asked to substantiate the allegation, the BNP leader said that in the name of holding a general discussion in the House on Wednesday, the Treasury

Bench blamed the BNP for loss of lives in Chittagong, while it was the AL goons that had attacked the BNP rally leaving its supporters killed.

"Why should the BNP make any attempt to foil a rally organised by the party itself?" Bhuiyan asked.

The BNP secretary general demanded formation of a judicial committee to probe into the Chittagong incident, an exemplary punishment to those responsible for the killing.

Replies to a query, he said BNP was always ready to return to the House. "But what is the use of going back to the House, if we are not allowed to speak about things for which we are voted for?" Bhuiyan posed the question, adding that they did not know under which rules the cabinet members were making statements in parliament everyday.

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Asked about an official dialogue with the ruling party, Bhuiyan said the government has to create a congenial atmosphere for the talks. "We will consider the environment to be congenial, if the government withdraws all the cases lodged against the BNP leaders and activists, particularly those which were filed since the mayoral order imposing ban on rallies in the city streets. Besides, all false cases filed against the BNP legislators must be withdrawn."

Bhuiyan told the press that his party had recently handed over to Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim a list of 17 MPs against whom false charges have been filed by the government. "The number would increase as the government is increasingly filing cases against our MPs."

See Page 12 Col 4

*I'll quit JS, give up politics, if govt can prove it'*

By Staff Correspondent

Salequddin Quader Chowdhury, a legislator belonging to Bangladesh Nationalist Party, yesterday said he would give up politics, if the government could prove its claim that he had instructed the party activists to resist police during incident in Chittagong that left five persons killed.

Referring to the previous BNP government, the deputy leader in parliament also said they had gone to India to hold talks with the Shantibabu, but were unable to achieve any success.

He blamed BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and her party activists for letting loose a reign of terror in the port city after her meeting on Tuesday.

"Her (Begum Zia's) party members launched attacks on the law enforcers," the LGRD minister said, alleging that every place visited by Begum Zia witnessed a violence. In this regard, he mentioned Begum Zia's

Chowdhury hoped that the

See Page 12 Col 8

Concerned

He further said, "I will not only resign from the Jatiya Sangsad, I will rather give up politics, if the government can prove the allegation that I instructed the BNP activists to what they called resist the members of the police that day."

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See Page 12 Col 8

## AL leaders blame BNP for creating 'anarchy'

Hundreds of Awami League activists came out on the street here yesterday protesting the "opposition violence" in Chittagong and "conspiracy" against the peace process in Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports UNB.

They paraded the city streets after holding a brief rally, where the ruling party leaders blasted the "deliberate anarchy unleashed by BNP along with the anti-liberation forces."

Three ministers — Zillur Rahman, Sajeda Chowdhury and Abu Sayeed — addressed the rally at Paltan Maidan with the city mayor and city AL president Mohammad Hanif on Wednesday.

Organised by the city Awami League, the rally was also addressed by Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury, Maya MP and Nurul Fazal Bulbul.

Criticising the main opposition, the AL general secretary and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman said

"They are out to create confusion about the peace process in Chittagong Hill Tracts," he said describing the planned peace agreement a great success of the Sheikh Hasina's government.

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