

## Cabinet okays 4-tier local govt structure

The proposal relating to the formation of four-tier local government structure was approved in a cabinet meeting at the Prime Minister's secretariat yesterday, reports UNB.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting which was attended by the cabinet members, cabinet secretary, principal secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries concerned.

As per proposal, the Gram Parishad, Union Parishad, Upazila Parishad and Zila Parishad will be formed gradually in phases, said a PID handout.

## 70 businessmen from Pakistan, India may join Business Summit

By Staff Correspondent

Some 70 businessmen and 35 journalists from India and Pakistan are expected to arrive in Dhaka in connection with the Three-Nation Business Summit on November 23.

The business delegation from India will be led by K K Modi, President of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI). It is likely to comprise 35 leading businessmen from different trade bodies.

The Pakistani business delegation led by President of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FPCCI) Senator Bilal is also expected to comprise 35.

## Ctg Port stevedores stop gang-booking of dock workers from today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 18: Bangladesh Master Stevedores Association (BMSA) has decided to stop gang-booking of dock workers from 8 pm tomorrow at Chittagong port in protest against the go-around programme followed by the workers for the past eight days.

The decision was taken at a meeting of BMSA held in its office yesterday.

## Hosting of WC cricket

# Dhaka's prospect bright, Dalmiya satisfied



International Cricket Council president Jagmohan Dalmiya talking to newsmen at a city hotel yesterday. BCB president Saber Hossain, MP, is on his left. —Star photo

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh has the ability to host a major cricketing event, but a decision in this regard will be taken in the next executive committee meeting of the International Cricket Council, said ICC President Jagmohan Dalmiya at a press conference yesterday.

"I have visited Dhaka Stadium, had very cordial meetings with President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, BNP secretary general Mannan Bhuiyan and leaving the country as a satisfied man", said the ICC chief prior to his departure after a two-day visit to Bangladesh.

"But I can not assure you anything at this moment. I'm one of the member of the 16-man executive board. But I will advocate for the total commitment of your country when we meet in Calcutta on December 8 and 9 to finalise the venue for the proposed World Cup", said Dalmiya.

The ICC has decided to or-

## Nasir Bahinimen open fire on police, torch their truck

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 18: Police raided the hideout of 'Nasir Bahini', backed by Islami Chhatra Shibir, near the Parade Ground at Chandanpura today and recovered one cut-rifle and one debarrelled gun and arrested three activists.

Police started the raid at 11.30 am but activists of Nasir Bahini opened fire and chased them. Police returned the fire. The activists torched a police truck and damaged a pickup van and a jeep. At one stage, the police retreated as the activists opened fire from sophisticated weapons, witnesses said.

Police was then reinforced with seven platoons, the entire locality at Chandanpura was cordoned off and a search operation was carried out till 5 pm. Traffic movement in the area was disrupted for several hours during the operation, witnesses said.

## Extortionists gun down truck driver in city

By DMC Correspondent

Armed extortionists gunned down a truck driver and severely beat another person as they allegedly refused to pay a toll of Tk 500 at Kauran Bazaar in the city late Monday night.

Police and hospital sources said Zakir Hossain, 35, was shot in the head from a point blank range and he died on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The beaten up person, Ripon, reportedly a driver, was admitted to the DMCH.

A gang of five local extortionists demanded the toll when Zakir came to Kauran Bazaar for unloading potato at the kitchen market there shortly after midnight.

But Zakir, supported by some other truck drivers and helpers present there, refused to pay any money. The gang members were then locked in a fist fight with Zakir and Ripon. At one stage, one of them fired on Zakir's head.

Zakir is the son of one Khor-

# Albright's visit to Dhaka cancelled

By Staff Correspondent

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's scheduled visit to Bangladesh was cancelled yesterday morning.

Albright made a telephone call to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from Islamabad yesterday morning and conveyed her inability to visit Bangladesh on November 19 and 20 due to rescheduling of her tour programme in Pakistan and India because of developments in the Middle East.

US Ambassador John C. Holzman also called on Foreign Secretary Mostafizur Rahman yesterday afternoon at the Foreign Ministry to convey the regrets of the Secretary of State and the inconvenience caused due to the cancellation of the visit.

Albright's four-day programme in Pakistan was scaled down to one day due to tension in the Gulf. She will, however, come to India and then proceed to Canada.

Meanwhile, an advance security team that arrived in Dhaka in connection with Albright's visit left the city last night.

Officials in the foreign ministry expressed their unhappi-

ness at Albright's cancellation of the Bangladesh programme.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, addressing a press conference on Monday, had expressed his optimism that the US Secretary of State will visit Bangladesh, "even if it is only for a few hours".

According to the original programme, Albright was to arrive in Dhaka today at 9 pm and leave tomorrow at 1.30 pm.

The government had earlier booked Sonargaon Hotel to accommodate the Secretary of State's entourage. A wing of the hotel was also reserved for Bangladesh officials to facilitate interaction at a single venue. Official talks between Albright and Samad Azad were due to be held at Sonargaon Hotel.

The ballroom of the hotel was also booked by the US Embassy for an address by the Secretary of State. The embassy, however, did not send some 800 invitation cards to the members of parliament, leading academics, businessmen and journalists after receiving a message from the State Department "to wait and see".

## Report on Nat'l Edn Policy submitted to PM

The Committee for Formulation of National Education Policy submitted its report to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday, reports UNB.

Prof Shamsul Haque, Chairman of the 56-member Committee, called on the Prime Minister at her office and handed over to her a copy of the report.

Receiving it, Hasina said, "Our Constitution preserves the right to education for all the citizens of the country."

Awami League in its election manifesto had pledged that it would formulate an education policy acceptable to all, she said. "Accordingly, we consti-

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## Half-day hartal observed at Daulatpur

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 18: A half-day hartal was observed at Daulatpur town today at the call of the local unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League protesting the killing of a BL College BCL leader Mamunur Rashid yesterday evening.

There was no untoward incident during the hartal hours but all shops and business establishments remained closed and all types of vehicles were off the roads.

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## 50 hurt as BCL, Shibir clash at Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Nov 18: At least 50 students were injured in clashes between the activists of AL-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League and Pro-Jamaat Chhatra Shibir at Government Shateed Bulbul College yesterday and today.

The clash erupted yesterday over campaigning for the forthcoming college students union election scheduled to be held on November 26.

The clash again started at 11 am today when BCL workers chased the Shibir activists on

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## Boy tore apart by tiger at Dhaka Zoo

By Staff Correspondent

A Royal Bengal Tiger snatched a 10-year-old boy inside its cage and tore him apart at Dhaka Zoo yesterday.

The victim, identified as Zakir Hossain, met his tragic end when he crossed the safety barrier of the 'tiger run' and stood within the reach of the five-year old feline at about 10:30 am. Mirpur police and Zoo officials said.

The tiger grabbed the boy and pulled him inside the cage so fiercely that his head was severed from the neck as it struck the narrow grill.

Zakir's headless body was

lying inside the cage while the head was outside it when zoo officials ran to the spot. One of the two caretakers of the cage had gone to fetch food for other animals while the other was cleaning a nearby tiger run at the moment. Yesterday was a 'meatless day'.

A zoo official last night said it was the first ever incident at the Zoo where someone was killed by a tiger. He said despite written and verbal warnings not to taunt animals, many visitors "defied those" and crossed the safety barriers fre-

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# They will be tried once they are out of power: Khaleda

MUNSHIGANJ, Nov 18: BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia today lambasted the Awami League government for 'conspiring' to rupture the national sovereignty by planning a CHT peace treaty without taking into confidence the parliament and the people at large, reports UNB.

"The government is going ahead with peace overtures on the Chittagong Hill Tracts without any discussion... we will resist any agreement beyond the constitution," she told a public meeting at Muktarpur BSCIC ground here this afternoon.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AQM

Badruddoza Chowdhury, BNP MPs M Shamsul Islam, Mizanur Rahman Sinha and Fazlur Rahman and local leaders also addressed the meeting. District BNP president Abdul Hye MP presided.

Begum Zia said in today's Bangladesh, there is a government which is playing with the fate of the country and its people. "It's a regime subservient to India."

The opposition leader accused the government of secretly planning to hand over the country's sovereignty to India on the pretext of signing a peace treaty on CHT.

India for long has a design

on the Chittagong region, Begum Zia alleged, and "that's why, she (India) had abetted to bring this puppet regime back into power through vote rigging."

"We and the people will see what agreement (on CHT) they sign," she said and warned of tougher agitation programmes in case of any accord against the country's interest.

In this regard, the BNP chairperson reiterated her call for a united movement by the democratic-nationalist, Islamic and other patriotic forces.

This government is busy



BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Muktarpur BSCIC ground in Munshiganj yesterday. —Star photo

## NA amends contempt act to save Sharif

ISLAMABAD, Nov 18: The Pakistan National Assembly today amended the country's Contempt of Court Act. In a move that could ward off the possible conviction of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, officials said, report agencies.

In a sitting in the early hours of today, legislation was adopted with a majority vote giving a right of appeal to a person convicted by the Supreme Court.

There are mounting official fears that Sharif could be convicted of ridiculing the Supreme Court, sparking the collapse of

his nine-month old government.

The new law which changes the 1976 Contempt of Court Act, will have retrospective application from November 1, officials said.

The bill still needs approval from the Senate and President Farooq Leghari before it comes into force.

Opposition leader Benazir Bhutto said the bill was being rushed through to protect Sharif and 11 other members of parliament who face similar charges.

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## PW-41 tells trial court No mutiny took place on Aug 14, 15 of '75

Brigadier Shahjahan, 41st prosecution witness in the Bangladesh Murder Case, told the trial court yesterday that no mutiny took place on August 14/15 of 1975, reports UNB.

"In a simple word, no," Shahjahan replied emphatically when asked during cross-examination as to whether any mutiny took place in the army on August 14/15.

He said no discussion was held on mutiny in the August 17 conference at the 46 Brigade HQ, where Col Shafat Jamil verbally narrated the August 15

incident and said that 2 Field Artillery and 1st Bengal Lancer were involved in the incident.

The witness said Lt Anwar, a company commander in his unit, and a few other officers were killed by some unruly soldiers between November 3 and 7, 1975.

Speaking of the events that occurred from November 3-7, 1975, he said those were also not a mutiny. That can be called unruliness," he said adding that those unruly soldiers later faced trial.

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## সশস্ত্র বাহিনীর সমরাস্ত্র প্রদর্শনী

২২ নভেম্বর '৯৭ থেকে ২৫ নভেম্বর '৯৭

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(বেগম রোকেয়া স্মরণী প্রাস্ত)

২২ নভেম্বর : দুপুর ২টা থেকে বিকাল ৫টা

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আপনারা সপরিবারে আমন্ত্রিত

প্রধানমন্ত্রীর কার্যালয়, সশস্ত্র বাহিনী বিভাগ