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## WB preparing assistance strategy for Bangladesh

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

A new Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for Bangladesh, which will guide the World Bank's operations in the country through the year 2000, is being prepared, with poverty reduction and private sector development at the top of the agenda.

Coming usually once in three years, the last one done in 1995 and then updated in 1996, the CAS dictates the Bank's lending programme. The new strategy will take effect next year.

Bank officials here said they had just finished their work on the strategy which will be finalised in Washington next month. This time, they met members of the civil society, which included the top chamber leaders, NGO activists and labour leaders, apart from the usual encounters with government functionaries.

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## Khaleda stranded at CMCH for three hours JCD-BCL gunfight at Ctg leaves 2 killed, 40 hurt



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

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 27: At least two persons were killed and 40 injured in a gunfight at Chittagong Medical College Hospital premises and incidents of violence in different areas of the city today, police and hospital sources said.

The two killed in firing were identified as Mahfuzur Rahman (22) and Md Yakub (25).

Mahfuz, son of a medical college staff, died on the spot while Yakub succumbed to his bullet wounds at the CMCH in the evening.

Of the injured, most were bullet-hit, hospital sources said.

The trouble started at the CMCH after BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia entered the hospital to see those injured in the recent earthquake here.

Begum Zia came to the hospital at 11 am after visiting quake-hit Hamzarbagh and Amin Colony, devastated by a fire recently.

While she was inside the CMCH at around 11.30 am a group of students demonstrated on the campus and immediately a clash broke out. Gunshots, explosion of cocktails and brick-battling created panic in the area.

Witnesses said the trouble started when BCL activists were demonstrating against the visit of Begum Zia.

The activists of JCD and BCL were locked in an hour long clash. Later, police brought the situation under control and escorted the BNP chief out of the hospital at 2.30 pm.

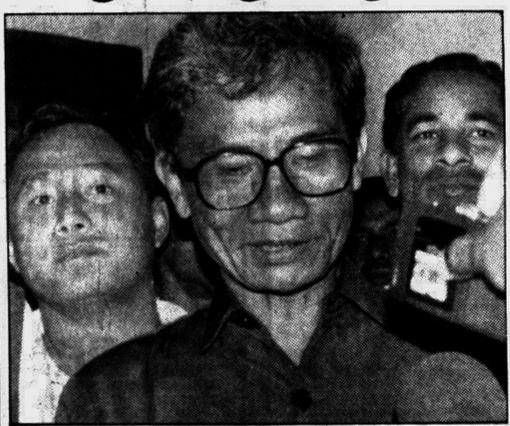
The Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad then came to the residence of party leader Morshed Khan under heavy police escort.

Traffic movement became thin in the city as panic spread while sporadic incidents of violence took place in many of the city areas, police and witnesses said.

Scores of vehicles were damaged, barricades were put up with blazing tyres amid blasts of cocktails at New Market crossing, Agrabad, Badamtoli, Kadamtoli, Alanker Cinema

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## Draft CHT accord at final stage, signing soon: Larma



PCJSS chief Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma talking to newsmen at state guest house 'Padma' after the talks yesterday. — Star photo

By Special Correspondent

Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma, Chairman of the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), yesterday reported progress towards an agreement for a lasting peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

"The draft agreement is at its final stage. Soon (we are) going to sign an agreement," he told newsmen yesterday evening.

The well-tailored safari-clad Larma, his face lit with a rare smile, indicated progress after two days of talks with the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT).

He appeared briefly at 7:29 pm on the porch of state guest house Padma after a gruelling negotiation with NCCHT Convenor and Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah.

Abdullah, sporting a matching grin, nodded in approval of what Larma said but both

See Page 12 Col 1

## 32 hurt in pre-polls violence

By Staff Correspondent

At least 32 persons were injured in pre-election clashes in Jhalakati and Sirajganj yesterday and the day before.

Fifteen of them were injured in Jhalakati clash while 17 others in Sirajganj.

Our Staff Correspondent from Barisal reports: At least 15 persons were injured, six of them seriously, in a pre-polls violence at Nabagram union under sadar thana of Jhalakati district yesterday.

According to police and eye witnesses, supporters of two chairman candidates of Nabagram Union locked in clash during campaigning at about 11 am that left at least 15 persons injured. Many crackers were exploded and acid was allegedly thrown during the clash.

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

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## BNP calls half-day hartal Sunday

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has announced a three-day agitation programme including a half-day hartal in the capital and four divisional headquarters on Sunday in protest against yesterday's firing by "pro-government terrorists" in Chittagong that left at least one person dead.

The programme was announced at a hurriedly-called press briefing at BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia's Minto Road official residence soon after she returned to the city in the evening.

Addressing the briefing, Begum Khaleda Zia said:

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## Sporadic violence in city: 15 injured

By Staff Correspondent

The incident in Chittagong yesterday sparked off sporadic violence in the capital leaving about 15 people injured.

Police picked up 20 people from the trouble spots while the protesters belonging to the BNP burnt three vehicles and damaged at least 15 others in different areas of the city.

Two persons were killed in the Chittagong gunfight between the members of the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League and the pro-BNP JCD.

The BNP workers clashed with police in the city surrounding the BNP central office at Naya Paltan and also at Hatirpool and Kamalapur areas. The JCD activists at Dhaka University also clashed with police.

They were protesting the alleged "attempt on BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia's life" and the killings in Chittagong.

According to police and witnesses, a militant procession of the BNP was locked in clashes with police at Bhojyagar after the processionists damaged at least five vehicles there.

The clash later spread to Naya Paltan, Purana Paltan and Kakrail areas where the protesters hurled crackers and brickbat at the police who lathicharged the opposition activists and lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control. Police picked up 10 people from the spot.

The BNP protesters also burnt one private car at Hatirpool Bazar, another at Elephant

See Page 12 Col 7

## None is safe in the hands of this govt, says Khaleda

CHITTAGONG, Nov 27: Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia, who was stranded in the CMCH during a 4-hour gunfight here today, blasted the government for what she called its inability to protect public life, reports UNB.

"The incident here proved that none is safe in the hands of the present government," Begum Zia said after she was rescued by a police contingent from the hospital and escorted to a party leader's residence at Chatterwari road.

Speaking briefly to reporters there, the BNP chairperson said she went to the CMCH to see the victims of last week's earthquake which left many injured in the port city.

"You have witnessed who did this," she said.

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## Peshawar SC upholds suspension of CJ

ISLAMABAD, Nov 27: Pakistan's embattled Chief Justice Iftikhar Muhammad Chaudhry was suspended from office by the Supreme Court today, reports AP.

Relentless bickering between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and the chief justice has paralysed the country, split the judiciary and threatened the survival of the 10-month old government.

It also has cast the powerful Army Chief Jhangeer Karamat in the role of mediator, an unusual one for Pakistan's military, which historically has thrown out elected governments.

Editorials warned that the political stalemate was threatening the very foundations of democracy.

But a scrappy chief justice said he was staying on the job.

"I am the chief justice and will continue to uphold the rule of law," Chief Justice Sajjad Ali Shah told a rowdy courtroom filled with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's supporters, who hooted and hollered at him.

Two Supreme Court judges, Saeeuduzaman Sadiqi and Sadal Fazle Elahi Khan, of Peshawar today upheld the decision handed down a day earlier by their two colleagues on the Supreme Court from southwestern Baluchistan.

That order called for the suspension of Shah until he answered accusations that he was promoted out of turn. The chief justice, citing procedural errors, overturned that order.

The Supreme Court ruled that Wednesday's decision by a

See Page 12 Col 8

## Gujral-Kesri another round of talks today

NEW DELHI, Nov 27: Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and Congress (I) leader Sitaram Kesri, the man threatening to topple him, will meet tomorrow to try to end an eight-day political crisis, an official said today, reports AFP.

An official government spokesman said the meeting would also include the Speaker of the lower house of parliament.

The Press Trust of India reported that Gujral and Kesri also met today, for the first time since the deadlock erupted last Thursday as both men attempted to find a face-saving compromise.

Gujral said he was always hopeful of a solution while Kesri said he wanted to avoid new election.

## Govt handout BNP terrorists kill 1 in Ctg

The government yesterday issued a handout on the incidents of Chittagong centring the visit of Leader of the Opposition and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia, reports BSS.

The handout said, "Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia today in an unscheduled programme went to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital to see an ailing worker after visiting the terror-affected areas of Chittagong."

"When she was at the fourth floor of the hospital, two groups of students locked in a clash. At one stage of the clash, a son of an employee of the medical college, Mujib, was killed in gun shots fired by the terrorists of BNP. Five Chhatra League workers also sustained serious injuries."

Later, Begum Zia went to the residence of Morshed Khan MP under police escort. After having her lunch, she visited the *daraga* of Hazrat Amanat Shah and returned to Dhaka at 4.56 pm by a Biman flight safely along with her bodyguard," the handout said.

It added: "It is very regrettable that a certain quarter is creating anarchy and instability at different places by carrying out such activities."

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## Be accountable, respectful to democracy PM urges admin officials

By DU Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the administration officials to discharge their duties with transparency and accountability being respectful to the democratic system.

The Prime Minister was addressing the fifth convocation ceremony of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) in the city.

"We are all more or less aware of the procedural bottlenecks in the administrative mechanism which is considered as a major impediment to development," the PM said.

"The government could only remove the procedural complexities, but the executives should change their mentality themselves," the PM said adding

"We will be able to reach the fruits of development to the people only if the executives devote themselves to the cause of country and the people sacrificing their petty interests."

Former Chief Adviser to caretaker government Muhammad Habibur Rahman delivered the convocation speech while the Education Minister ASHK Sadek spoke as the special guest. The Vice Chancellor of the BUET Prof Iqbal Mahmud also addressed the convocation ceremony.

About the engineers, the PM said that the engineers are responsible for implementation of most of the development projects. She urged them to work with honesty and sincerity.

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## Joseph, 4 accomplices arrested in N'ganj

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested Joseph, one of the most wanted criminals in the city, and four of his accomplices from Narayanangaj yesterday afternoon.

A DB team of the metropolitan police also seized two firearms, 40 different types of bullets and two mobile phone sets from Tofael Ahmed alias Joseph, aged about 28.

Police said Ahsan Habib Ripon, 24, one of the arrested accomplices of Joseph, sustained bullet injuries when they confronted the DB team during its raid at a house in North Chashara early in the morning. Joseph was later arrested

from another house in Chashara under Narayanangaj sadar thana at about 4:30 pm.

The DB team conducted about an 18-hour operation from midnight Wednesday to nab Joseph, a resident of city's Mohammadpur area.

The Home Ministry had earlier announced a reward of Tk 25,000 for information leading to the arrest of Joseph. He is wanted in several cases including murder.

Our Narayanangaj correspondent reports, Joseph was arrested from a house at Balur Matha area in Chashara.

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## Tk 36 lakh foreign currencies seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Customs officials seized foreign currencies totalling about Tk 36 lakh from a Biman flight at Zia International Airport (ZIA) Wednesday night.

The seized currencies included 2.20 lakh Saudi riyal, 17,000 Brunei ringgit, 12,000 Singapore dollar, and 10,000 Malaysian ringgit, customs sources said.

The currencies were found abandoned in three packets in a cupboard where the cabin crew keep their jackets. Customs authorities were yet to trace the owner of the packets.

They are also investigating how the packets containing the currencies were taken inside the aircraft without valid documents.

Customs sources said the chief purser of Biman revealed

See Page 12 Col 5

## Mismanagement in hospital equipment supply alleged

By Naimul Haq

Gross mismanagement has been alleged in the supply of medical equipment to government hospitals.

Fourteen sets of 'highly sophisticated' devices (fibre optic paediatric laryngoscope) worth Tk 31.14,000, used in investigating voice box and posterior part of nose, are being supplied from the Central Medical Store Depot (CMSD) to 14 hospitals and thana health complexes (THC) in the country under the project — "further development of medical college hospitals and THC's, sources concerned said.

Many city hospitals serving thousands of patients including referral cases from far-flung areas every month are yet to have the devices despite prior request for those.

Most of the hospitals getting the devices do not have ENT (ear, nose and throat) specialists capable of operating those, the sources pointed out.

"Without logical justification, the authorities have decided to supply the devices to hospitals," said Dr. Abdullah Haroon, head of ENT department of DMCH. Over 100 patients come to the department everyday to seek treatment.

"We have been asking for supply of similar devices to the country's biggest and busiest hospital but the authorities ignored this. Instead they are supplying the devices to hospitals where these will be of no use unless doctors who can operate those are posted there," Dr Haroon added.

Asked about this, the Director of Hospitals in the Health Directorate said, "We are now designing plans for uniform distribution of medical services. It comes under upgradation programme for the country's hospital services. We must make the equipment available to the hospitals for better healthcare facilities."

He, however, said "We can initiate proposals for supply of similar devices to DMCH after talks with the higher authorities."

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## 18 children rescued: 2 traffickers arrested

From Our Correspondent

CHAPAINAWABGANJ, Nov 27: Two alleged child traffickers were arrested and 18 children were rescued by police this morning.

Police said, an alleged child trafficker, Mesbahul of Arambag area of the town, along with 19 people were detained by the people of Dariapur, a few kilometres away from Nawabganj town. Then Mesbahul was handed over to the police. Police later arrested another alleged trafficker, Salamot Ali, from his residence at Arambag.

Of the rescued 18 children, seven were identified as: Salam (15), Wali (15), Badsha (14), Ekramul (15), Shariful (16), and

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## Sundarbans to become world heritage site

By Staff Correspondent

UNESCO will soon declare the mangrove forest in the Sundarbans as a world heritage site, said Dr Federico Mayor, Director General of the UN body, yesterday.

Addressing a press conference at the conference room of the Ministry of Education prior to his departure yesterday evening, Dr Mayor also indicated that UNESCO may provide assistance to build up ecotourism in the Sundarbans.

Education Minister ASHK Sadek and other high officials were also present at the press conference.

Lauding the performance of the country in various human resource development areas Dr Mayor said "Bangladesh is doing well... it has made substantial increase in population investment and marked remarkable improvement in the school dropout rates."

Proposing further assistance for the country's education sector, he said UNESCO would contribute 200,000 US dollar for secondary female education, 100,000 dollar for youth development and 70,000 dollar for conducting a study on secondary education, in addition to its earlier promised assistance of 300,000 dollar for primary education.

Explaining the growing demand of renewable energy, Dr Mayor said he would send concrete proposals for setting up at least two solar-powered schools in Bangladesh with UNESCO assistance.

"A UNESCO chair for a Bangladesh university will be declared soon," he said.

In the centenary birthday of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam in 1999, UNESCO plans to declare him poet of the year for that year, Dr Mayor said, asking Bangladesh to take necessary preparation in that regard.



Dr Federico Mayor

**ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ**  
**DHAKA ELECTRIC SUPPLY AUTHORITY**

**জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সম্মতি বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, উৎপাদন স্বরূপে বৃহত্তর ঢাকা এলাকায় সোডেশিভ মাধ্যমে বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবস্থা চালু রাখা হইতেছে এবং বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড হইতে প্রাপ্ত তথ্য মতে ০৮ ডিসেম্বর '৯৭ পর্যন্ত সাপ্তাহিকালীন সন্ধ্যা সোডেশিভিং-এর পরিমাণ ২০০ মেগাওয়াট। ইহার ফলে ডেসার বিভিন্ন এলাকায় নিম্নলিখিত পরিমাণ সোডেশিভিং করিতে হইতে পারে।

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পরিচালন ও সত্রেক্ষণ বিভাগ, পোতাশালা	১৫	২৪৯৭৮৯
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উপরোক্ত সোডেশিভিং বিভিন্ন এলাকায় নির্ধারিত সময় (ফিক্সড টাইম) ভিত্তিক হইবে, যাহা সপ্তাহে বিভাগীয় নিয়ন্ত্রণ কক্ষ হইতে জানা যাইবে। সাধারণভাবে কোন এলাকায় পর্যায়ক্রমে এলাকাভিত্তিক কমবেশি এক ঘণ্টা সোডেশিভিং কলকং থাকিবে। তবে বিশেষকর্তব্য/সেবান পাঠের আধিক্য হইয়াছে এমন এলাকায় এক নাগাড়ে দুই ঘণ্টা সোডেশিভিং হইতে পারে এবং বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন অবস্থা উন্নতি হইলে সোডেশিভিং-এর মাত্রা কমিয়া যাইবে।

সম্মতি গ্রাহকদের এই অববিধার জন্য ডেসার আন্তরিকভাবে ধন্যবাদ।

জিডি-৩৭৪

**ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ**