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## Sangsad tidbits

From Page 1  
the Speaker said, "This morning, my wife said she bought onion at Tk 27 per kg and one kg of salt at Tk 12."  
A bewildered Tofael hastily said: "I've meantime said that onion sold below Tk 30 per kg."  
Amidst applause by the BNP legislators, the Speaker repeated: "I've mentioned the rates as confirmed by my spouse."

When Food and Agriculture Minister Matiya Choudhury took three minutes of extra time while discussing on a resolution, the Speaker increased the allocation of time by three minutes for two BNP lawmakers, although no such demand was raised by the Opposition party.

Besides, he refused to give **Hasina**

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ment structure.  
Besides, she added, the government is specially considering a proposal to make permanent the members of 34 battalions of Ansars who are in temporary service for last 15 to 17 years.

The Prime Minister said the government is going to take a decision to involve only the members of Ansars-VDP in the Tk 17 crore project of BCSIR to make improved ovens for the food and cyclone affected areas.

Earlier, the Prime Minister took salute from the march past and inspected the guard of honour presented by the Ansars-VDP members, and handed over the coveted national standard to the force.  
She also handed over various awards to the members of the force for their contributions in serving the nation and in the great Liberation War.

**Khaleda**

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"That's why they don't allow the opposition to speak in parliament... mikes are switched off and the opposition's statements are not properly carried by the state-run radio and television."

The BNP Chairperson said no foreign investment has taken place during last 20 months and the investors became frustrated due to 'corruption of the ruling party.'

She accused the government of deliberately destroying the domestic industries to hand over the local market to India.

Urging government officials and employees to work neutrally overcoming the hurdles and assuring them of future evaluation, she warned those "extra enthusiastic" officials and employees of dire consequences for their repression on opposition leaders and workers.

the floor to Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, PM's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta and Chief Whip of the House Abul Hasnat Abdullah when they wanted to speak on points of order after the Chair closed the chapter.  
Furthermore, several ruling party MPs were heard shouting when the Speaker was entertaining requests for the floor by the BNP members in larger numbers during the question-answer session.

**Ganges Barrage**

From Page 1  
cio-economic problems already created in the south-west region of the country could be avoided, IDB's Division Chief of Operations, Farook-uz-Zaman said. "Ganges Barrage project has been included in the recently concluded IDB's three-year-plan of Country Assistance Strategy for Bangladesh."

Nepalese Water Resources Secretary, Dwarika Nath Dhungel said, "We feel that the project (Ganges Barrage) should proceed if it is socially, environmentally and technically conceivable."

A senior World Bank official while making his statement in support of construction of the barrage said, "We reconfirm our commitment for the project and feel immediate studies should be initiated for the action plan."

The representative of Japan's Global Infrastructure Fund said, "We would support such effort for regional cooperation. We also feel that political commitment for the barrage is very important."

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak also addressed the concluding session.

**2 murdered**

From Page 1  
spot, the gang fired several shots and left the spot creating a panic in the locality.  
Tahmid, is the son of one Nurul Islam. Uzzal is the son of one Humam Kabir.

The eight arrested persons were named in the murder case lodged with Demra thana by Mamun's father in the early hours of yesterday. They were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court yesterday.

The body of Tahmid was sent to Mitford Hospital morgue and that of Uzzal to DMCH morgue yesterday for autopsy.

UNB adds: In another incident, some unidentified miscreants beat one Alamgir to death by iron rods at Baaanibagh in Pallabi, Mirpur, at about 2 pm yesterday.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

## 2 shot, 2 stabbed in city incidents

By DMC Correspondent

Two persons sustained bullet wounds while another two received stab injuries in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Two persons were injured when a gang of five extortionists opened fire and exploded crackers at East Kazipara in the city yesterday morning.  
The victims identified as Murad Hossain, 35, and Mahbubur Rahman Ripon, 27, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

Ripon, owner of a hotel at East Kazipara, alleged that the toll collectors demanded money from him and opened gunfire when he refused to pay.  
Murad was shot by the gang while he tried to save Ripon, his relatives said.

In another incident, an activist of Jubo League was seriously injured when his rival group stabbed him severely near his residence at Takerhat, Nawabpur in the city at about 5 pm yesterday.

The victim Hayder Ali, 25, was admitted to the DMCH. Besides, a 24-year-old Gias Uddin was seriously injured when a group of miscreants stabbed him at Dalkanagar in the city yesterday afternoon.  
He was admitted to the DMCH in a critical condition.

## DC offices

From Page 1  
lowed to submit the memorandum to the DC office.

Addressing the demonstrators at the crossing, City BNP leaders demanded resignation of the government for failing to keep the prices of essentials within commonman's buying capacity.

Otherwise, they warned the anti-people government would be ousted through a mass movement.

City BNP convener Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP, Barrister Najmul Huda MP, Amanullah Aman MP, Mirza Abbas, Khairul Kabir Khokon, Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny and Imran Saleh Prince spoke on the occasion.

The memorandum said a silent famine is stalking the country due to incompetence, failure and negligence of the government to overcome the food crisis.

It said millions of people are passing their days without food. "People are even preferring suicide or selling their children to starving," the memorandum added.

The memorandum said another "dreadful 74" is knocking at the door creating panic among the people of both rural and urban areas.

## President asks police officials Exercise power neutrally to win people's confidence

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday called for a responsible, cautious and effective role of the police force to help ensure social peace and security, reports BSS.

"The police should be on the vigil so that no peace-loving person is harassed or oppressed. And they should exercise their power neutrally, and do their duties rising above any fear or favour or personal greed," the President said while addressing high police officials at Bangabhaban on the occasion of the Police Week.

Referring to the 'Alarming' press reports on the country's law and order, Shahabuddin said, "You know better whether follow-up actions are being taken on the basis of these reports."

Referring to the irresponsibility of a section of the police, he said there are press reports that people are being harassed when they come to thanas to lodge complaints and thana hajat inmates are manhandled by outsiders.

Though small, these things bear clear sign of irresponsibility, the President said, adding that the whole force is blamed for the negligence of one or two of its members. He urged the officials to be more careful about this by not ignoring any small incident.

Pointing to newspaper stories on deaths of the accused in

## Dighinala

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marchers were stopped near the local PDB office, the militants hurled rocks at policemen which prompted police to charge batons.

Police lodged a case in this connection.  
In other parts of Khagrachhari, the militants of PCP observed the day. A discussion meeting was held at Roang-Boee-obaa with Rikton Chakma in the chair.  
Meanwhile, the villagers of Bhuyachhari caught three persons with arms, who were allegedly collecting 'tolls'. They were handed over to police. They are Aiok Chakma, Kiran Bikash Chakma and Smrity Bikash Chakma.

**Rape**  
From Page 1  
Fazal and his daughter used to do odd jobs like sweeping the court premises and carry food for police in the barrack. The father and daughter who hail from Matlab, Chandpur, used to sleep in the verandah of the court building.

## ADB to give \$70m loan for rural infrastructure dev project

Bangladesh will receive a concessional loan of 70 million US dollars from ADB for the country's third rural infrastructure development project, reports UNB.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the government of Bangladesh and the Asian Development Bank at Manila yesterday, according to a message received in the city.

ADB president Mitsuo Sato and Bangladesh Ambassador in Manila Reazul Hossain signed the agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

The government has undertaken the project to develop 1250 km feeder roads, construct 4900 metres of bridges and 40 ghats and develop more than 170 rural markets in 13 districts in north and northwest regions of the country.

## 7-party

From Page 1  
and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

BNP lawmaker M Shamsul Islam, Mohammad Quamaruz-zaman, Abdul Kader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam of Jamaat-e-Islami, Mynuddin Bhuiyan, Shamim Al Mamun and Shah Shahid Sarwar of the Jatiya Party (Z-M), Democratic League's Saifuddin Ahmed Moni, Dr A K M Aziz of Jappa, Shaikh Shauqat Hossain Nilu of PNP and Nurul Haq Majumdar of NDA were among others who attended the meeting.

## Rival groups

From Page 1  
Witnesses said Mannan Bhuiyan who was sitting on the podium failed in his repeated attempts to pacify the rival groups. At least seven activists of JCD were injured in clash.

One group was led by incumbent BNP District Convener Advocate Muzaffar Ahmed and Joint Convener Shamsul Alam Talukdar while the other group by former District President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and Secretary Akram Hossain Taleb.

The trouble began when local leader Rafiqul Islam Khokon was named to conduct the meeting. His opponents raised slogans dubbing him.

Advocate Mozaffar Hossain who was presiding, declared the meeting over as soon as Mannan Bhuiyan finished his speech. Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Tayabur Rahman, former MP Syeda Nargis Ali and other leaders quickly left the venue without addressing the meeting.

After the meeting, Mannan Bhuiyan hurriedly left Bagerhat for Khulna.

## BNP stages walkout

From Page 1  
organisations were dropped from the AL-sponsored resolution.

Before putting the resolution to vote, Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury told The Deputy Leader of the Opposition that he received no amendments to the original resolution as per rules and therefore the Chair can not do anything about it.

At this point, Prof Chowdhury told the Chair that BNP could not participate in the vote unless names of its activists were dropped from the resolution and walked out of the House. The party came back two minutes after the resolution was passed. The Speaker said, the resolution was passed "unanimously by the members present in the House."

Some Jatiya Party legislators were present in the House at that time and they voted for the resolution.

However, during the debate, the AL lawmakers blamed the BNP directly for desecration of the Shaheed Minar and claimed that the BNP actions were consistent with the party's political thoughts and cultural outlook.

On the other hand, the BNP members claimed that the Treasury Bench had raised the issue to divert peoples' attention from the government's failure in the areas of law and order and price rise of essential commodities.

Earlier, taking part in the discussion, Prof Chowdhury demanded that the Shaheed Minar incident be probed by a parliamentary committee and that all footings of television related to the incident from 11 am to 12 noon be taken into consideration.

Prof Chowdhury said, instead of holding discussion on an "imaginary allegation," there were other priority issues like price hike of essentials and declining trend in the share market to be discussed. "The political history of Awami League between 1972 and 1975 was marked by terrorism and harassment of girls and women at the Shaheed Minar," he said.

Another BNP legislator, Hafizuddin Ahmed, said that BNP was implicated in the Shaheed Minar incident intentionally just to shift peoples' attention from a 'silent famine' now in the country.

Rustam Ali Farazi, a Jatiya Party lawmaker, proposed formation of a parliamentary committee to investigate into the incident. He said, "Otherwise, there is no use of such discussion, where one party blames the other." He also recalled that this year's incident was not the first. Such incidents also took place back in 1973 and 10 more times since then.

Earlier, reading out his proposal for general discussion on the incident, Treasury Bench lawmaker Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim claimed that it was pre-planned and that the government would not be able to protect itself even through continued campaign against BNP and Begum Khaleda Zia.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed held the Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal responsible for the Shaheed Minar incident. He said, "As the VP and GS of the DUCSU were not invited to offer wreath, they desecrated the Shaheed Minar in a pre-planned manner".  
Refuting BNP's allegation of price hike, Tofael blamed the BNP for creating artificial cri-



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