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DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 6, 1998

MUHARRAM 9, 1419 HIJRI

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## Bandarban hill dist bill passed

By Staff Correspondent  
The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the Bandarban Hill District Local Government Council (Amendment) Bill, 1998 through voice vote and accepted the Chittagong Hill Tracts Regional Council Bill, 1998 for immediate consideration.

The bill on Bandarban hill district, the last in the series of three almost identical bills on the three hill districts, was passed at 9:15 last night with Jatiya Party voting against it. Earlier, two such bills on Rangamati and Khagrachhari hill districts were passed by the House on Sunday and Monday respectively.

After passage of the Bandarban hill district bill, the Jatiya Sangsad accepted the CHT Regional Council Bill for immediate consideration with the main Opposition party, BNP, remaining absent from the proceedings of the House.

BNP walked out of the par-

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## Half-day hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

The six-hour nationwide hartal called by the BNP-led 7-party alliance will begin at 6 am today.

The hartal was called to protest the Speaker's denial to give floor to the Opposition MPs to speak on the CHT bills in the Jatiya Sangsad.

BNP and its six right-wing allies held demonstrations and rallies and torch processions across the country during the last two days to drum up support for today's hartal.

City BNP brought out a torch procession from its office at Nawab Yusuf Market at Nayabazar yesterday evening.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan led the torch procession.

The procession concluded at the Kakrail Crossing at 7.30 pm after parading various city streets.

A press release of the BNP yesterday said ambulance service, hospital, drug shop, vehicles of police, BDR and other law-enforcing agencies, newspapers and news agencies, emergency electricity supply, WASA and Gas, and the garments factories will remain out of the purview of the half-day

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## Bomb attack on BNP procession in Ctg: 5 hurt

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 5: Five BNP activists were injured in bomb explosions when a torch procession, brought out by the party in support of tomorrow's hartal, reached New Market crossing this evening, party sources said.

The injured were rushed to private clinics, party sources informed.

President of the Chittagong chapter of BNP Mir Mohammad Nasir Uddin blamed the ruling Awami League for the bomb attack on the torch procession. Awami League denied the charge.

Nasir alleged that the procession led by him came under attack when it reached New Market crossing.

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## Rescheduling of Beximco loans 'advised' Central bank succumbs to political pressure?

Star Business Report

Strong political pressure may have worked on Bangladesh Bank which has "advised" a private commercial bank to "consider" proposals from Beximco Group for rescheduling its defaulted debts, calculated to be Tk 170 crore till December 1, last year.

Some of these loans have been rescheduled twice in the past, and some thrice.

Responding to a request from the Group, the central bank has told the Arab Bangladesh Bank that the issue be referred to the Board of Directors and that the decisions, according to rules, be made known to the regulators.

Highly-placed sources suggest the central bank move, violative of its own directives, may have been prompted by po-

litical high-ups who include several senior ministers and other power brokers.

The suggestion is corroborated by the sequence and the organisation of the whole affair -- the Beximco proposal, its reference to a senior minister, the quick response from the central bank and emergence of a new Beximco company allegedly registered after the central bank's advice had been secured.

The newly-created company called Beximco Property Development and Management Ltd has been proposed to provide collateral securities in the form of real estate against those rescheduled loans.

According to a deal executed barely a week ago, an acre of land at a similar Gazipur location cost less than Tk 23 lakh. That puts the value of the Beximco property at less than Tk 35 crore.

Even if the Beximco arithmetic was correct, the political pressure element comes out from beneath the carpet.

On February 17, Beximco Group Chairman A S F (Sohel)

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## BNP will go back to JS in time

## Everything done hurriedly & in violation of rules: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent



Leader of the Opposition and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said her party will definitely go back to the Jatiya Sangsad.

"We're very much in the parliament. We'll join the session in time. We've just walked out and the walkout was forced by the Speaker and the governing party", she told a questioner at a press conference at her Minto Road official residence in the city.

Begum Zia and other BNP lawmakers did not return to the House till yesterday since they staged a stormy walkout on Sunday after the Speaker and the ruling party ignored all of her party's suggestions in

sion on all the 4365 notices submitted on three CHT bills.

However, the Opposition leader did not mention any specific date for her party's return to the parliament.

The press conference was organised on the CHT accord and tabling of four bills in the parliament to implement the accord. Three of the bills have already been passed by the House.

The Opposition leader regretted that the Speaker did not allow them to speak on the notices they moved on the CHT bills. She alleged the Speaker and the ruling party ignored all of her party's suggestions in

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BNP and its six right-wing allies held demonstrations and rallies and torch processions across the country during the last two days to drum up support for today's hartal.

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## Shazneen murder 3 more held, Shahid taken to Chittagong

By Staff Correspondent

CID police arrested three more persons early yesterday in connection with the Shazneen murder case and produced them in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrates Court in the afternoon.

The court placed them on two days' remand for interrogation, sources in the CID said.

The three arrested persons are Hasan, a construction contractor, his supervisor, Badal and Shoni Ram, a carpenter. CID police picked them up on Monday night and later arrested them early yesterday. They were involved in renovation work at the Gulshan residence of Latifur Rahman, Shazneen's father for some time, the sources said.

The three persons were arrested for investigation to determine whether there was more than one person in the murder of the 15-year-old school girl at her bedroom, CID officials said.

2. CID team will also visit the spots where Shahid, according to his statements, passed two nights and a day in Chittagong railway station. Besides, they will also try to trace the people with whom Shahid had interactions.

3. Why Shahid planned to go to Chittagong. Earlier, Shahid told investigators that he had gone to Chittagong once.

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With these three, nine people including Shahid are now under CID remand.

While producing the three before the CMM's court yesterday, the CID in its report said the activities of the accused persons were "strongly suspicious". Besides, they were getting information from the three accused, CID officials said.

They however said last night that they did not get any clue from the statements of Shahid or the eight other remanded persons that may help the investigators confirm whether there was any abettor to Shahid in the killing.

In Chittagong, the CID team will be investigating the following points, sources concerned said.

1. Verification of Shahid's first statement to the Kotwali thana after surrender at about 9 am on April 27.

2. CID team will also visit the spots where Shahid, according to his statements, passed two nights and a day in Chittagong railway station. Besides, they will also try to trace the people with whom Shahid had interactions.

3. Why Shahid planned to go to Chittagong. Earlier, Shahid told investigators that he had gone to Chittagong once.

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## Amendments to be made if 'legal lapses' found in CHT bills

By Staff Correspondent

Necessary amendments would be made in the Rangamati Hill District Local Government (Amendment) Bill, 1998, passed by parliament this week, if any legal lapses are found in it, said Suranjan Sen Gupta, Parliamentary Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister, yesterday.

"If there is any inclusion or deletion beyond the purview of the peace accord in the already passed bill, we'll examine and fit that accordingly like in the bills on Khagrachhari and Bandarban hill district councils", said Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, Minister of State for Planning, who played a key role in drafting the Chittagong Hill Tracts peace accord signed between National Committee on CHT (NCCHT) and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCSS) in December last year.

They however said last night that they did not get any clue from the statements of Shahid or the eight other remanded persons that may help the investigators confirm whether there was any abettor to Shahid in the killing.

Addressing a press briefing in the city yesterday, both Sen Gupta and Mohiuddin avoided a direct reply to a question if the correction to the 'legal lapses' would require a fresh amendment to the bill which the Jatiya Sangsad passed on Sunday last.

"I was asked by Dr Malek why the resignation letter of the 13 teachers of the Architecture Department was accepted and that the decision of the Syndicate should be reversed," he said.

"I tried to explain that acceptance of the resignation by

## BUET deadlock continues

Crisis in BUET deepened yesterday as the teachers and officials of the university abstained from their duties, reports UNB.

The deadlock was created following en masse resignation of Vice Chancellor along with 70 senior teachers including deans and heads of the Departments on Monday.

They alleged government interference in running the university.

Meanwhile, a group of students staged demonstration on the campus yesterday demanding reinstatement of Dr. Iqbal Mahmud as the VC despite opposition from BCL.

A procession brought out from the campus ended in front of the Jatiya Press Club. The students also held a rally there.

The students at the rally announced that they would continue agitation until the government assured them of reinstating Dr. Iqbal.

Earlier, 13 teachers of the faculty of Architecture resigned on April 27 following a dispute over the admission procedure.

Quoting from the Ordinance,

the minister said that the Chancellor could take any decision to meet any emergency situation under Section 10(6) of the Ordinance.

The Chancellor did not issue orders as per the Ordinance.

Rather, she always wanted a solution on the basis of consensus, he said.

Responding to a question if a new VC would be appointed, Sadique said, "The government will not allow the BUET to become inoperative. The University is run with taxpayers' money. We shall expect an amicable solution and hope that the VC would withdraw his resignation. Otherwise, for restoring normalcy, we may have to appoint a new Vice-Chancellor."

"We shall watch the situation for some time and then go ahead making changes."

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## Education Minister tells press BUET to have new VC if resignation not withdrawn

By Staff Correspondent

Education Minister ASHK Sadique yesterday expressed the hope that the Vice-Chancellor and teachers of BUET who resigned from their administrative posts would withdraw their resignation and help restore normalcy on the campus.

Otherwise, the government may have to appoint a new VC, he told a press conference at the Education Ministry.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Iqbal Mahmud and 71 teachers resigned from their administrative posts on Monday amid reports of government interference in the affairs of the BUET.

But the education minister refuted the allegation and said Chancellor of the university Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina "did not even exercise her powers conferred on her by the BUET Ordinance of 1961."

Quoting from the Ordinance,

the minister said that the Chancellor could take any decision to meet any emergency situation under Section 10(6) of the Ordinance.

The Chancellor did not issue orders as per the Ordinance.

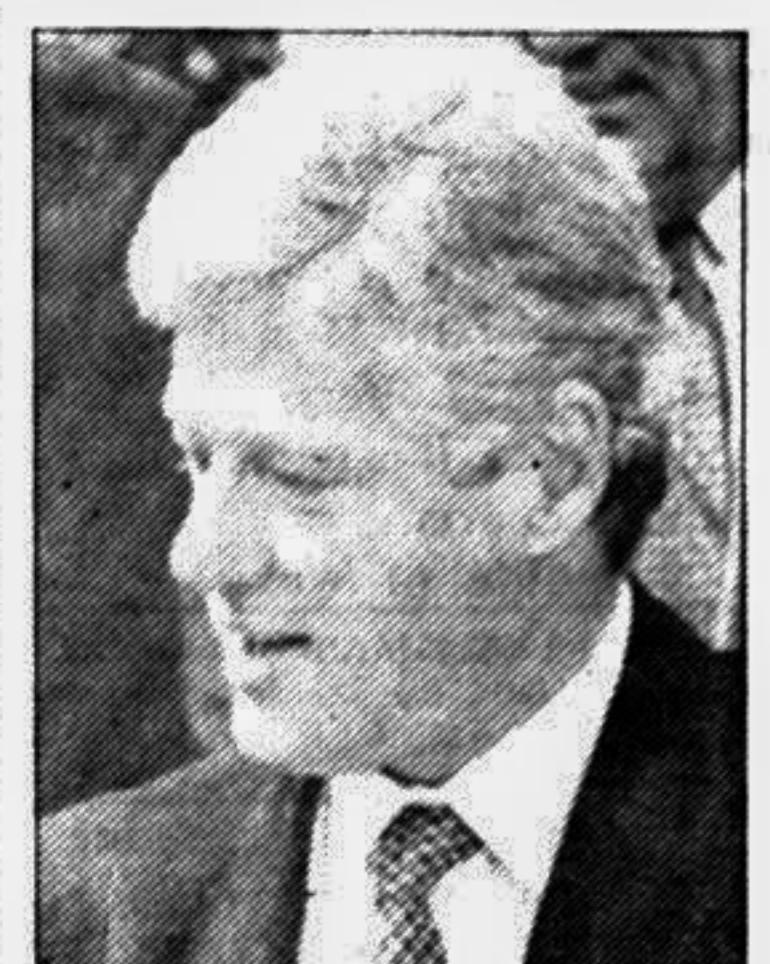
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"We shall watch the situation for some time and then go ahead making changes."

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Clinton to visit Bangladesh in Nov: US envoy

RAJSHAHI, May 5: US Ambassador to Bangladesh John C. Holzman said here today that President Bill Clinton would visit Bangladesh in November this year, reports BSS.

The US ambassador said the relations between Bangladesh and the United States are growing fast.