PLEASE CONTACT

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EXPRESS



no legal premises to treat this

formation of a Regional Council

would damage the 'unitary'

character of the state as envis-

opinion on the proposed bill

afternoon, the House disposed

of some amendments on the

Bandarban hill council, moved

by eight JP lawmakers and AL's

Law Minister responded to var-

ious amendments moved by the

lawmakers and assured that

not a single clause of the bill

went beyond the limit of the

Constitution. He asserted that

anyone could go to the court to

GM Kader, Dr Md Asadur Rah-

man, Fazle Rabbi, Abdul Rashid

Sarkar, Rustam Ali Farazi,

Rabeya Bhuiyan, NK Alam

Chowdhury and Abu Lais Md

Mobin Chowdhury spoke

briefly in favour of their respec-

government for not endorsing

an amendment regarding the

definition of "non-tribal per-

manent resident" in neither of

the Khagrachhari and Bandar-

ban hill council bills while ac-

cepting the amendment in case

of Rangamati hill council bill.

Referring to PCJSS leader

Shantu Larma's reaction to that

particular amendment in the

bill on Rangamati hill council,

they wanted to know from the

government why it refrained

from endorsing the same

amendment in cases of two

Trial of Tania

rape case

begins

the accused in the Tania rape

case, was produced before a spe-

cial tribunal court that began

the trial of the sensational case

lawyer filed two petitions, one

for his treatment and another

for retraction of his confes-

sional statement under Section

Central Jail authority to report

on Obaid's illness before May

case will resume on May 17.

of the CMM Court building.

The court ordered the Dhaka

The hearing of charge in the

On March 10, six-year-old

Tania was raped near a police

control room on the first floor

Old man beaten to

death in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

man was beaten to death at

thana of the district today.

Chalitabunia bazar in Uzirpur

Police and witnesses said Be

layet Hossain, 65, was taken to

the bazar from his house by a

group of this miscreants and

later they beat him mercilessly

leaving the old man uncon-

The miscreants left the place

He was rushed to the nearby

following a dispute over land.

scious.

BARISAL, May 5: An old

On the first day, Obaid's

yesterday, reports UNB.

164 of CrPC.

Obaid Matbor alias Mora,

other identical bills.

Some of them criticised the

tive amendment notices.

The Jatiya Party lawmakers

Before, passage of the bill

aged in the Constitution.

within one month.

Suranjit Sengupta.

seek redress.

Ershad also argued that

He proposed eliciting public

Earlier, resuming at 5 in the

Council as a local government.





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PHILIPS

Guarantee

Bandarban dist bill passed Referring to various articles

From Page 1 liament on Sunday and did not return till the House was adjourned last night for resumption at 3 pm today.

Mentionably, both BNP and JP earlier gave separate notes of dissent on the report on Regional Council Bill, which the JS Special Committee had placed before the parliament on April 29.

Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, who is also in charge of the Special Affairs Division in parliament, last night proposed that the House consider the Regional Council Bill in amended form.

Then, the Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury informed the House that the Parliament

Stevedores go on work stoppage at Mongla Port

KHULNA, May 5: Loading and uploading of goods from 25 ships anchored at the Mongla Port came to a halt as the stevedores' association stopped the gang booking this evening, reports UNB.

Port sources said the association went on the work stoppage for an indefinite period after the "extra cleaning" workers stopped working in the ships demanding employment of additional workers.

Meanwhile, a workers' rally, chaired by Khalilur Rahman, protested the decision of the 'stevedores' association and demanded that they return to work immediately.

Bangabandhu Hall provost resigns

Provost of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall of Dhaka University, Prof Abul Kalam Manzoor Morshed resigned yesterday.

Campus sources said he submitted his resignation letter to Vice-Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury at his office at 11.45 am. The VC said he did not yet accept his resignation. When contacted, Prof Mor-

shed told UNB that it became impossible for him to discharge his duty as the provost due to lack of congenial atmosphere in the Hall

Prof Azad told journalists that he had requested the provost to change his decision. "Prof Abul Kalam also worked with us at my office till 2 pm and I have a good communication with him," he added.

Bangabandhu Hall, a stronghold of JCD, was captured by ruling Awami Leaguebacked Chhatra League on April 23, following a fierce clash between the two organisations

that left a BCL leader killed. Hall sources alleged that BCL leaders of the hall mounted pressure on the Provost in the morning to issue identity cards for 15-20 boys who are not uni-

versity students. Meanwhile, BCL brought out a procession from the Hall and submitted an application to the VC at about 2 pm bringing certain charges against the Provost and demanding his resignation.

Hartal today

From Page 1 hartal. BNP Chairperson Begum

Khaleda Zia at a press conference at her official residence yesterday called upon the people of all walks of life to make the hartal an allout success to protect the country's integrity and sovereignty.

Shazneen murder

From Page 1 4. Whether there was anyone to prompt Shahid in spinning the cooked up story

Following surrender to CM-P's Kotwali police, Shahid had said that he was kidnapped by a gang in a white ___ robus from in front of Rahman's Gulshan

residence. Shahid had said that he was picked up by the gang when he went out of the house to buy betel leaf for or of the maids at Rahman's residence. Shahid said the gang took him to Chittagong blind-fold in the microbus and confined him in a house there. Later he somehow mai... ed to escape from a redbrick building and surrendered to police, Shahid told the Kot-

wali thana. But during CID interrogation, Shahid retracted his statement to CMP and said that he had fled to Chittagong by train via Tongi, Mymensingh and Bhoirab. CID has already visited Bhoirab and confirmed that Shahid had taken a job in a hotel near Bhoirab railway station.

Meanwhile, the CID investigators were also examining the marks of injury which were found on Shazneen's body.

Secretariat had received a total of 2,189 amendment notices on the Regional Council Bill, 78 suggesting eliciting public opin-ion on the bill and 63 for sending the bill to the Select Com-

He said that following the precedence set by his predecessor, the Chair would allow 10 lawmakers to speak in favour of notices regarding eliciting public opinion and sending the bill to the select committee. As per a Jatiya Party decision, the Chair then gave the floor to H M Ershad to speak on behalf of all the notices submitted by his party lawmakers.

In his 20-minute deliberation on the Regional Council Bill. Ershad said that the bill, if passed without amending Article 59 of the Constitution. would be violation of the con-

Bangladeshis among 65 held in Turkey

ANKARA, May 5: Turkish Gendarme soldiers on Monday captured 65 illegal immigrants who crossed into Turkey in the hope of fleeing to Europe, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported, reports Xin-

The news agency said that the Turkish soldiers had taken into custody the illegal immigrants from northern Iraq. Bangladesh and Iran, who were travelling in a truck near Sazlikoy village in Aydin Province in western Turkey.

The illegal immigrants, who hired the truck, included five women and three children They were planning to go to the neighbouring Greece, according to the agency.

Girl gangraped in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, May 5: A young girl was gangraped allegedly by three persons in the classroom of Chuknagar High School in Dumuria thana on Monday

According to FIR, Hajira Banu, 22, was gangraped while she was returning home from one of her relative's house.

Gulshan Lake

From Page 1

nothing to do with it. Rajuk Chairman Azizul Haque said that since 1996, Rajuk had not allotted 'a single plot' in the lake area. Those who were earth-filling it had been given allotment earlier. "At any cost, we will protect the Gulshan Lake," he said.

Meanwhile, residents of Gulshan and Baridhara, in a petition to the Rajuk Chairman, have demanded immediate action to save Gulshan Lake, parks and low-lying areas.

Edn Minister

From Page 1 "It is expected that in any

case, they will continue their work till there is an amicable solution or their resignations are accepted.

The education minister accused the VC and teachers of "breaching and understanding with the Chancellor by reviving the issue of resignation of 13 teachers of Architecture department of BUET and going for an en masse resignation.

Thirteen teachers of the Architecture Department resigned in March protesting new admission rules for the depart-

Replying to another question he said that members of the BUET Teachers' Association were invited to discuss the matter but they did not respond till

noon vesterday. The minister said he was "surprised that the teachers acted without logic"

"They could have done this before the admission tests were taken on March 28. But they did it after everything went in their favour," he said.

When his attention was drawn to the statement of the BUET Teachers' Association that it would not accept anyone from inside or outside the university as the VC other than Prof Iqbal Mahmood, the minister replied. "I know there are many teachers who are eager to be the VC of BUET.

Many of the teachers expressed their willingness and lobbied for becoming the Vice Chancellor of BUET before Iqbal Mahmood was appointed, Sadek claimed.

"To ease the pressure from the lobbyists, we decided to appoint Iqbal Mahmood, the senior most teachers, as the Vice-Chancellor, he said.

Asked if he thought there was any political motive behind the en masse resignation, he said, "It is not unlikely".

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Khaleda concerned at resignation of BUET teachers

of the Constitution, Ershad argued. "Administrative unit BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has condemned the means a district or other areas as designated by law for the government for its 'illegal inpurposes of Article 59." He said, terference' in the BUET adminthe proposed Regional Council, istration and demanded immecovering three hill districts. diate solution to the crisis, redoes not come under the ports UNB. purview of Article 59 as there is

In a statement yesterday, she expressed concern over the en masse resignation of the BUET VC. Deans, Head of departments, provosts and teachers.

Begum Zia alleged that the "naked interference" of the government in the autonomy of the Engineering University has compelled the teachers to resign en masse. "This is unfortunate for the nation." She also accused the gov-

ernment of violating service

rule in appointing, promoting

and transferring government

employees which created unrest

among various quarters. "An anarchic situation has been created in the administration due to violation of service rule by the government," Begum

Suspension of DSE member withdrawn

By Staff Correspondent The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday has withdrawn the temporary suspension on Dhaka Stock Exchange member Hemayet Uddin Ahmed, imposed four months earlier.

In a press release yesterday. the SEC said that the suspension had been withdrawn "with a strong warning to him to the effect that the Commission will be constrained to take appropriate measures against him in case any complaint is found against him in future."

The Commission said that the suspension was made upon receipt of a complaint from Hemayet's client, who before lodging the complaint with the Commission "failed to get redressal from the said DSE member and the Dhaka Stock Exchange as well. After it was taken up by the SEC, the DSE member had settled the matter with the complainant."

Hartal in Ctg passes off peacefully

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 5: The dawn-to-dusk hartal called by Islami Chhatra Shibir in greater Chittagong today passed off peacefully.

Shibir called the hartal protesting last week's violence at Chittagong University and demanding expulsion of what it said 'outsiders' from the residential halls. Barring sporadic blasts of

violence was reported. Police arrested 10 persons from the city on charge of pick-

cocktails, no major incident of

UNB adds: Shibir today announced fresh programmes, including a rail-road blockade in Chittagong on May 11. The programmes were an-

nounced from a post-hartal rally held in front of Ali Khan Mosque at Chakbazar.

D-8 summit in last week of Nov

Four countries have confirmed their participation in the second D-8 (Developing Eight) Summit scheduled to be held in Dhaka in November, report agencies.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday told newsmen that the date for the two-day meeting will be finalised once confirmation from all member countries is received.

Earlier the Foreign Minister presided over a preparatory meeting for organising the summit.

The D-8 was launched in July last year in Ankara at the summit of eight Muslim countries. The group comprises Bangladesh, Indonesia, Iran, Egypt, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey.

The meeting was told that the Council of Ministers and Commissioners' meetings will also be held in the city ahead of the summit.

PM intervened in BUET affairs

From Page 1 teachers after their resignation or even after removal from service were allowed to rejoin with full service benefits upon their

application," he pointed out. "Six members of the Syndicate who are not BUET teachers, prior to our regular Syndicate meeting on May 3, met the education minister where they were advised to bring the issue of the resignation by those 13 teachers in view of their new letter." The minister had called them to his office an hour before the scheduled meeting, he

The said letter by the 13 teachers was sent to the education minister even before it was received by the VC, he noted. "I received the letter when the Syndicate meeting was about to

Some of the Syndicate members who had earlier met the education minister insisted on discussing the new letter, although it was not on the agenda. The BUET teachers in the Syndicate, however, protested against the move.

"As the chairman I did allow the Syndicate meeting to discuss the letter. There was nothing new in the contents of that joint letter. It had only reiterated their earlier decision," he

The Syndicate unanimously decided that the new letter could not be considered as an application for review of the Syndicate's earlier decision taken on April 26, he added. "The syndicate also decided to inform each of them individually that they would have no apply personally mentioning their prayer specifically for a review of the Syndicate's decision."

This particular act of the education minister trying to influence the non-teacher BUET Syndicate members just before the scheduled Syndicate meeting was the last straw on camels back, Prof Igbal Mahmud said.

"Then again on May 4, at about 7:45 am Dr Malek, political advisor to the PM, called me over the telephone at my residence. He asked whether the case of those 13 teachers were reviewed in our last nights Syndicate meeting. I said that the application did not ask for a review," he said.

Expressing his surprise, Dr Malek said that he was under the impression that they had requested for a review of the Syndicate decision taken on April 27, Prof Mahmud added. "I then decided to resign. I

felt I could not stand it any longer. On arrival at my office l discussed it with my senior colleagues and decided to send my resignation letter, though against their will. I then faxed my resignation letter at about noon the same day. Soon after receipt of the letter, the secretary to the chancellor rang me and expressed his surprise at my decision. I expressed my inability to continue on personal grounds," he said.

"On March 23, when we met with those 13 teachers at the Prime Minister's office, the Minister for Education reminded them that as they did not comply with the March 10 agreement, disciplinary actions may be restarted against them.

Those teachers then pointed out in front of the PM and the education minister that they were not afraid of any disciplinary action because they had already tendered their resignation, Prof Mahmud noted.

"The issue whether their resignation would be accepted or not was not discussed at all in that meeting. Besides, the question of any disciplinary action against them also was not among the three issues specifically addressed by the Prime Minister.

The Syndicate in its meeting held on March 16, decided to ask the 15 resigning teachers individually, whether their decision to resign was final.

According to the decision. each of the 15 teachers were to send their individual opinion by March 25. Two of the teachers did follow the procedure for withdrawal of their joint resignation and the Syndicate accepted their application and allowed them to rejoin. But the other 13 in a five

page letter on March 25 brought a number of allegations against the VC, his colleagues and other teachers. In the last paragraph of the joint letter, the 13 teachers did mention they were jointly withdrawing their earlier resignation, Prof Mahmud recalled.

"I waited for one month hop-

ing against hope that they would rethink and follow the procedure laid down by the Syndicate. Then on April 26, after waiting one full month the Syndicate had to make distinction between the two who had complied with the Syndicate instruction and those who did not. Thus the resignation was

accepted," he said. "On April 28, I received a phone call from the Prime Minister asking that the Syndicate should reverse its decision regarding the resignation of the 13 teachers of the Architecture Department," he added.

"I called an emergency meeting of the Syndicate the same day and placed before them the view of the higher authorities. The Syndicate in its meeting on April 28, unanimously decided that an appointment should be sought with the PM to explain the Syndicate's position."

No appointment was given so the meeting was not held, he

"On April 29 the education minister called me to see him. went to see the education minister on the same day. The education secretary was also present at the meeting. Expressing his annoyance over the Syndicate's decision, the minister said "you are being vindictive and unjust and behaving like a club rather than a university," Prof Mahmud recalled.

"Defending our actions, l clearly mentioned to the minister that those 13 teachers were trying to defy all the authorities of the university because of their easy access to the higher authorities. I also mentioned that if they did not enjoy such free access we could have handled the situation ourselves as per university rules and regulations," he said.

The education minister then asked whether the chancellor had the authority to intervene according to the status, he noted.

"I said, according to the 1962 Act which was introduced by the then President Ayub Khan, the chancellor did have power to intervene. Then on May 1 the PM's Secretariate asked me to send a copy of the Act and advised me to see the Prime Minister at 7:00 pm the same day. The appointment, however, was cancelled later."

Rehabilitation CHT bills: Amendments From Page 1

From Page Treasury Bench in the parliament were also present at the

ban cafeteria. Sengupta explained that the Rangamati local government bill was yet to be signed into an act by the President. He, however, could not confirm whether the legal lapses in the bill, if there are any, would be corrected before the President gives

his assent to it or afterwards. Mentionably, an Amendment was made to Article 4 of the Rangamati local government bill with the replacement of the word 'and' by 'or' in subclause '(AA)' when it was passed by the House. In the amended form a 'non-tribal permanent resident' is defined as one who is not a tribal and possesses legal property in the hill district or generally resides at a partic-

ular address. On Monday the Jatiya Sangsad passed an identical bill — Khagrachhari Hill District Local Government Council (Amendment) Bill. 1998 without making a similar amendment and kept the word 'and' as it is in the sub-clause '(AA)' under Article 4 of the bill. The amendment to the

action from PCJSS Chairman Jyotirindriyo Bodhipriyo Larma, a signatory to the CHT briefing held at Sangsad Bha- peace accord. He said that the amendment would infringe on the land rights of the tribal people. "Already our land rights have been curbed, it would threaten our existence". Larma told BBC on Monday

Another PCJSS leader: Rupayan Dewan, said, "Replacing the word 'and' with 'or' in the definition of non-tribal in the bill has made a word of change. This has violated the spirit of the peace accord."

Addressing the press briefing vesterday. Suranjit Sengupta said that if the BNP lawmakers did not walk out of the House, they could speak five to six hours on the bill on Sunday. "Instead, they marched down to Bangabhaban," he said while terming BNP's meeting with the President over the CHT bills as unconstitutional.

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat said that despite repeated requests, the BNP representatives in the NCCHT did not participate in the process of negotiations with PCJSS. "I don't know why the Jatiya Party is now opposing the bills, although its representative participated in the nego-

ter checking of their identity

The provosts of the concerned halls and the hall administration will conduct the rehabilitation process. Central leaders of all student

organisations, Proctor and As-

sistant Proctor of the university and the members of law enforcing agencies will be present at the time. Meanwhile, the JCD submitted a list of their displaced activists of those four halls. The

JCD's list contained names of 332 JCD activists. The decision of the rehabilitation and the timetable was fixed after consulting the lead-

ers of both and JCD. AM College

From Page 1 Chhatra League. Makul was arrested on Monday in connection with his involvement in a land dispute at

Mymensingh town. At Noon today, a group of BCL workers gheraoed the DC when he was coming to his office by his car, and demanded release of Rumi. When police intervened to

rescue the DC, the BCL activists

pelted brickbats at them. Police charged baton and lofted tear gas shell to disperse the BCL ac-Later, the BCL activists damaged vehicles in front of

Zilla Parishad office and put up barricade on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway disrupting traffic for about two hours. They also put up barricade

on rail line near the college. Police also arrested four BCL activists in connection with today's clash.

Khaleda: Rules violated

From Page 1 dealing with the "crucial " bills. Everything was done hurriedly and in violation of the rules." she alleged.

Criticising the JS Special Committee's role in scrutinising the CHT bills, the Opposition leader regretted that her party's note of dissent was not incorporated in the scrutiny report on the hill district council

Asked if her party would challenge the CHT bills in the court since BNP was calling those unconstitutional, Begum Zia said, "We'll discuss the issue in the meeting of party lawmakers and decide later.

In this regard, she spoke of the already announced hartal and other programmes for agitation against the government "move to disintegrate" onetenth of the country's territory in the CHT through implementing the "black" accord. The next course of action will be decided in consultation with all concerned, she said. "We've already planned for a token hunger strike by the party MPs", she said without announcing the

date for the programme. Asked if her party will involve Ershad's Jatiya Party in the movement against the accord, she smilingly said she will welcome all sections of people opposing the agreement. They (Ershad's Jatiya Party) are also included in the people although they are "opposition within the government", he

added. Referring to her Monday's meeting with the President, Begum Zia said she requested the President not to assent to the

"I appeal to President Shahabuddin Ahmed. I hope you'll refrain from assenting to the (CHT) bills, opposed to national interest and being made hoodwinking the people, with the spirit you, as the then Chief Justice, showed in the case of eighth amendment to the Constitution", she said.

At the press conference the BNP chief read a nine-page written statement covering the CHT crisis from its origin to the ongoing process of passing the CHT bills in parliament. In her lengthy statement,

she reiterated that the so-called peace accord and the bills aimed at giving it a legal cover were unconstitutional and will lead to sacrificing the national sovereignty over the CHT. Since signing of the accord on December 2 last year, be-

tween 60,000 and one lakh In-

dian nationals have already in-

truded into CHT region, she al-

leged. She blamed the post-independence Awami League government for creating the CHT crisis. She said her party, while in power also, tried for a constitutional solution to the decades-old problem. But her government's efforts did not succeed due to a "destabilised political situation created by the then opposition party", the

former Prime Minister said. She also mentioned different articles and clauses of the Constitution to back up her allegation that the CHT accord and the subsequent bills contradicted many constitutional provisions.

আমার খোঁজে পোস্টার! আমি এইহানেই আছি ... বুজতাছি শাহাদত চৌধুরী আর রনবী তাগো বাহিনী নিয়া আবার আইতাছে... পত্রিকা বাইর করবো টোকাই'কে খুঁজে দিন

hospital where the doctors de-Rangamati bill drew sharp reclared him dead. tiations," he said. BB succumbs to pressure?

From Page 1 Rahman wrote to the Bangladesh Bank Governor seeking the reschedulment. He referred to "our several discussions with Honourable Finance Minister and your good self".

"We are prepared to offer col-

lateral and take over the loans of the clients of AB and IFIC Banks where we have provided guarantees against those loans," Sohel Rahman said in his letter. The Beximco chief also made a request "to allow us the same

reschedulment terms as has been allowed to Islam Group for similar loans". The central bank acted promptly by sending out an advice to the AB Bank chief executive on February 26, only in

nine days. And, according to the request from Beximco chairman, the Bangladesh Bank also attached its previous letters of "advice" to IFIC and Uttara Bank on reschedulment of Islam Group loans. The formal proposal accom-

panied by the repayment schedule came later, on March 10, from the new company. According to some sources, the company was allegedly incorporated only for this purpose. The sources also point to the recent past events in which Bex-

imco failed to honour reschedulment deals. Eight days before Sohel Rahman wrote to the Governor, he himself had received a notice from the AB Bank which said he would lose his seat on the bank's board if Beximco failed to pay an installment due to it. A similar notice went to his younger brother Salman Rahman, Beximco deputy chairman and an IFIC vice chairman. These notices were served in

accordance with an "advice" from the Bangladesh Bank. installment of Tk 12.76 crore due by December 30, a deadline later extended by a month. The Group failed again, which made

the entire Tk 169.64 crore owed

to the bank to fall in the default

category. Of the amount, four major Beximco companies have defaulted on loans worth Tk 120.64 crore; the rest Tk 49 crore is against as many as 36 accounts, allegedly with fictitious names and addresses but later owned up and guaranteed

by the Beximco Group. The issue was then taken to court which gave a stay order on the bank's notice and asked the Bangladesh Bank to explain the matter in two months. Later, the court extended the stay order by another six months.

The court order was followed closely by the Beximco proposal for rescheduling the loans, offering for the first time some kind of collateral against the loans. The sources say the latest

Beximco-proposed rescheduling

terms also go beyond the normal banking practices. According to the Group proposal channeled through the

newly-created company, the principal amount of loans will be paid in monthly installments by December, 2002. And the interests, accumulated since 1993, will be paid in 24 monthly installments from Beximco could not repay an January 1, 2003. But the proposal for a simple interest rate does not conform to existing All these loans had been

> rescheduled before. The four major Beximco companies had the loans rearranged twice and the other 36 accounts at least thrice. If the latest proposal is entertained by the concerned commercial banks on the ad-

vice of the central bank, it will

flout a standing order of its

According to a Bangladesh Bank circular, loans must not be rescheduled more than twice. Even if it is done for the third time to facilitate recovery, a senior central banker said referring to the circular, the loans will still be treated as classified.

All this reminds one of Mallick Exports, which did not exist at all, or almost non-existent Baghkhali Fisheries -companies that gave birth to the story of issuing cheques worth 24.5 crore against a Tk 10,000 account.