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Govt to phase out production of polybags

The government has decided to phase out production of polythene bags and ultimately ban its use for keeping the environment safe, reports UNB.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting yesterday which discussed ways and means to eliminate polythene bags which are used in large scale across the country.

Forest and Environment Minister Begum Sajeda Chowdhury presided over the meeting.

Officials said appropriate measures were suggested to create mass awareness against throwing of polythene bags indiscriminately and the adverse affect of its production, use and disposal on the environment.

The meeting stressed the need for taking immediate plan for banning production of polythene in phases and to find out and promote alternative to polythene bags.

Minister's car attacked at Khagrachhari

From Our Correspondent KHAGRACHHARI, Oct 8: At least 10 people were injured in a clash between police and supporters of PCJSS chief Shantu Larma at Panchhari this morning.

Police fired eight rounds of tear gas shells and used batons on the rock throwing supporters of Shantu Larma, who shunned a meeting with CHT Affairs Minister Kalparanjan Chakma on Tuesday. The meeting was aimed at breaking an impasse on the Regional Council for CHT.

The clash took place after demonstrators hurled rocks at the motorcade carrying Chakma on Panchhari.

The minister's vehicle had its back screen broken when a stone hit it, forcing him to get down and take shelter at Panchhari High School as police fought the demonstrators off, witnesses said.

Chakma was on his way to inaugurate the new building of Panchhari College which he did later and denounced the demonstrators and their unruly activities.

The demonstrators chanted slogans against the minister

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PM tells public meeting at Nawabganj Killers of Zia, Manzur, Taher will be tried

NAWABGANJ, Oct 8: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today declared that trial of all killings, including of former president Ziaur Rahman, Major General Manzur and Colonel Taher, will be held in the country, reports UNB.

"Killers, whoever they may be, will be tried and punished. No injustice will be given indulgence... trial of all killings will be held," she said at a huge gathering at Nawabganj Pilot High School ground here today.

She, however, charged the Leader of the Opposition for

hatching 'a conspiracy to save the killers.'

The prime minister addressed several gatherings while visiting flood-affected areas of Dhamrai, Nawabganj and Dohar thana of Dhaka district and distributed relief among the flood victims.

She said protection to the killers increases the killings and injustice. "We want to establish the rule of law, we want the law to take its own course."

Hasina said her government wants to see trial of all killings held and all mysteries unveiled

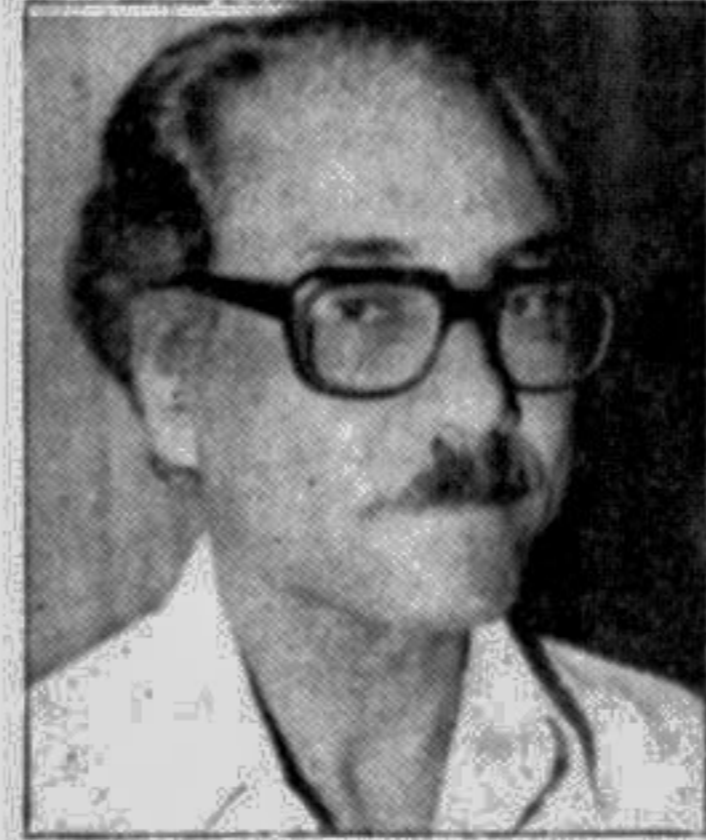
so that everyone gets justice.

The prime minister alleged that the opposition leader is cooking up conspiracy to block the trial of the killers and threatening movement for toppling the government to protect the killers.

Hasina said when the whole nation is busy with saving the flood-affected people and rehabilitation works, the opposition leader is giving threats of movement.

"Why is she standing beside the killers instead of standing

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Shahabuddin steps into third year of presidency

President Shahabuddin Ahmed steps into the third year of his presidency today, reports UNB.

On this day in 1996, he was sworn in as the President.

He replaced President Abdur Rahman Biswas after BNP lost power in the last general elections.

Like his second year in the presidency, there will be no official or private functions to celebrate the day.

However, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia are likely to greet him on the occasion.

Zillur seeks Khaleda's help for trial of Zia killing

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 8: LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman has sought cooperation of Opposition Leader Begum Khaleda Zia and her party in holding the trial of the killing of Ziaur Rahman, reports UNB.

The trial of all political killings, including Zia, should be held for the sake of democracy and rule of law in the country," he said while addressing a public meeting in Sonargaon thana today.

Referring to the trial process of Bangabandhu murder and jail killing cases, he said the trial of all political killings will be held to end the politics of coup and conspiracy.

The minister said people have been demanding the trial

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Govt plans final talks for 5 blocks next month

By Sharier Khan

The government has decided to hold final negotiations sometime next month with the winners for five blocks under the second round bidding for oil and gas exploration.

Sources said it was decided that the winners for blocks 3, 5, 6, 7 and 8 would be invited next month. The negotiation schedule will be ready by next week, they said after a Petrobangla meeting yesterday.

The sources added that Irish company Tullow, the joint venture of US companies Chevron and Texaco and US-Malaysian joint venture of Mobil and Petronas would also

be invited for finalising their partnerships for blocks 9 and 11.

A separate meeting on these blocks was held with the Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister in the chair.

In mid-September, the government had postponed the process of negotiations due to floods.

In late July, Petrobangla announced the results of second round bidding and issued letters of intent (LOI) awarding five blocks to nine foreign companies for oil and gas exploration.

These LOIs were sent to Enron-Oakland (blocks 3 and 6),

Shell-Cairn (block 5) UNOCAL-Triton (block 7) and Pangaea-OMV (block 8).

OMV was not a bidder in the second round but included later by US company Pangaea following a government suggestion. However, in a recent development, OMV declined to participate in the bidding unless another block is awarded to it. This may lead to a deadlock in block-8 negotiations, sources said.

The government had also sent a letter to Tullow Oil asking the company to be ready for partnership negotiations with

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FACING THE MUSIC: A mugger being beaten up in the city's Kamalapur rail station yesterday and (right) two snatchers, caught at Wari, under police custody. —Star photo

BNP decides to take to streets as govt 'crosses all limits'

By Nazmul Ashraf

BNP has decided to withdraw its moratorium on anti-government political programmes because what it says the ruling party has stepped up acts of repression "crossing all limits".

The decision was taken last night at a meeting of its National Standing Committee (NSC), the highest policy-making body of the party, sources said.

Party chief and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia had earlier announced postponement of all sorts of political programmes to "allow party-men to stand by flood victims".

"But the government has compelled us to opt for street agitation by multiplying its tyranny on the opposition parties, especially the BNP," said a NSC member after the meeting.

"Now, we'll gradually proceed towards street protests," the BNP leader said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"We'll decide our course of fresh agitation in consultation with our partners in the seven-party alliance."

However, he explained, the BNP is unlikely to go for programmes like hartal "right at the moment as the nation is yet

to recover from the effects of flooding".

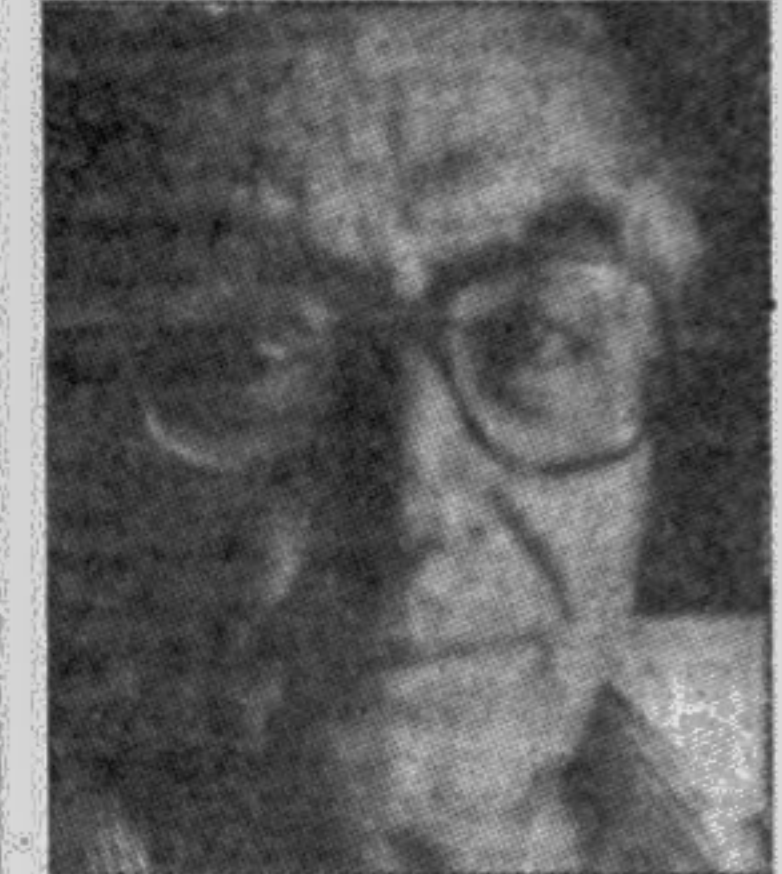
"We'll definitely take into consideration some other factors like the annual examinations in the schools and the upcoming month of Ramzan. We're just going to resume our political programmes as the government repression in terms of arrests and false cases against our top leaders has crossed all limits."

Asked if the meet discussed any probable programmes of anti-government agitation, the NSC member, also a former minister, replied in the negative. "The nature of fresh programme will be taken up after elaborate discussions in the rank and file of the party and consulting other opposition parties as well."

"In fact, the on-going programme of street rallies and mass contacts will be strengthened," he hastened to add when pointed out that the party was already on the streets and held demonstrations in the city Wednesday.

Another standing committee member also confirmed BNP's changed stance. He cited gov-

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Jose Saramago wins Nobel Literature Prize

STOCKHOLM, Oct 8: Portuguese novelist Jose Saramago on Thursday was named the winner of the 1998 Nobel Literature Prize, reports AP.

In its citation, the Swedish Academy said it gave the award to Saramago for work that "with parables sustained by imagination, compassion and irony continually enables us to apprehend an illusory reality."

Saramago, 75, wrote his breakthrough novel in 1982, "Blindness" and "Baltasar and Blimunda." Perhaps his best-known work is "The Stone Raft," in which the Iberian Peninsula breaks off from Europe for supernatural reasons and floats off into the Atlantic.

That device allows him to comment ironically "about the authorities and politicians, perhaps especially about the major players in power politics."

Saramago is the fourth consecutive European to win the prestigious prize.

Inside Today Article

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Business

Dhaka calls for overhauling world economy to handle crises

Asean members strike deal on liberalising investment

DSE, CSE price quotations

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Voters list controversy may stall FBCCI polls

By M Shamsur Rahman

With less than a week to go, the charges of FBCCI voters list manipulation may go to court, which could lead to a postponement of polling scheduled for October 15.

Sources said a strong lobby was once again active to postpone hearing of an appeal by the FBCCI Election Arbitration Tribunal till the polling day.

At the heart of the controversy is Bangladesh DressMakers Association, an issue the Tribunal has failed to resolve so far.

Two persons - Farukul Islam Shova and Neyamatullah Sabu - are claiming to be president of the association and each submitted his own list of voters.

The Election Board in its preliminary voters list recognised Shova as president of the

association. Later it accepted Sabu after a hearing.

Shova later appealed to the Tribunal, challenging the list of Sabu, a candidate for FBCCI executive committee member from the panel backed by Salman F Rahman.

The Tribunal in its second hearing yesterday failed to give a verdict on the issue.

Of the five members on the arbitration committee, only one was present yesterday who failed to resolve the dispute. The date for final hearing has been shifted to October 11.

Earlier, when the Election Board accepted Shova as the president and rejected the list from Sabu, the latter did not object to it, sources said. The Board published the list on August 20.

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Another low Sultry weather to persist

By Special Correspondent

The country is experiencing a spell of sultry weather for the past few days because of two lows - one over the Bay and another over the Andaman sea, meteorologists said.

The average maximum temperature in the country was between 35 and 36 degree Celsius.

The humidity ranging between 75 and 80 per cent in the morning and evening, made life difficult.

"And no rain is in sight in the next few days to wash the simmering heat, which is likely to remain unchanged unless there is a change in the movement of the lows," a weather expert said.

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House approves impeachment inquiry

WASHINGTON, Oct 8: The House of Representatives today approved launching a formal impeachment inquiry against President Bill Clinton, only the third such investigation in US history, reports Reuter.

"All of us are pulled in many directions... but mostly we're moved by our consciences," said Judiciary Committee Chairman Henry Hyde, opening two hours of historic debate.

Democratic leaders were nervous, knowing that conservatives in their party and those with tough election races only a month away were defecting to support the open-ended inquiry demanded by Republicans.

Major changes in police admin

The government yesterday elevated 12 senior officers and transferred five others as part of a reshuffle in the police administration, reports APB.

Meanwhile, the government is learnt to have decided to send into retirement eight more senior police officers who have completed 25 years of service.

Yesterday's appointment and postings included three Additional Inspectors-General, three DIGs, one AIG and five Superintendents of Police, official sources said.

They said DIG of the Special branch Abdur Rahim was promoted to Additional IGP (Administration), DIG head-

quarters Fazlul Haque appointed Additional IGP (Finance) and DIG of Dhaka range Nurul Alam posted as Additional IGP of the Special Branch.

Additional DIG Matur Rahman was elevated to DIG of Dhaka Range and Principal of the SB Training School Additional DIG Dewan Habibullah appointed as DIG Headquarters while Additional DIG Toffazul Hossain transferred to Sylhet as DIG.

Deputy Commissioner of the Detective Branch Bazul Karim has been transferred as Staff Officer to the IGP's office with

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Businessman shot dead in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Oct 8: A young businessman was shot dead by unidentified assailant last night in Moghultuli area under Doublenmorning thana of the city, reports UNB.

Police said Abdul Quader 35, owner of a Chinese restaurant, was shot in his chest and leg by three assailants at about 12:45 pm near his house.

The armed men stopped the rickshaw in which Quader was traveling and opened three rounds of gunshots. They left

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2 more top Pak generals resign

ISLAMABAD, Oct 8: Two top generals in Pakistan's powerful military resigned today, according to army sources, reports AP.

Gen Ali Quli Khan, the general next in line to be Pakistan's army chief of staff resigned after he was passed over for promotion. Gen Khalid Nawaz, another senior general, also submitted his resignation, they said.

There was no official reason given for either resignations, which followed Wednesday's surprise resignation of Army Chief of Staff Gen Jehangir Karamat and the appointment of Gen Pervaz Mushraf as his successor.

School teacher killed by dacoits in Khulna

Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Oct 8: A school teacher was killed and his wife injured allegedly by a group of armed dacoits at their residence at Gaikur under Daulatpur thana at midnight Wednesday night.

Police quoting FIR filed with Daulatpur thana today said that the dacoits entered the residence by breaking open the door and hit Shagar Kumar Biswas 32, with lethal weapons.

He, however, succumbed to severe head injuries few minutes after his admission into Khulna Medical College Hospital.

See Page 12 Col 4

With rain, seemingly harmless things turn your life upside down. We're talking about water here. Because in such times, water turns out to be the biggest breeding ground for deadly disease-causing bacteria. Exactly why you need to be extra careful.

Personal Hygiene — The Best Step
A clean safe person always stands the best chance of avoiding diseases. After all, it's always better to be safe now than sorry later.

What Really Happens
Almost as a rule, bacteria thrive in water that has been stagnant for a long period of time. Be that in small corners, broken pots in your house or in small water bodies like lakes and pools. Which is also the reason why killer diseases like Malaria, Dengue, Diarrhoea, Gastroenteritis, Cholera, jaundice and Typhoid spread more easily in such times.

Home Hygiene — The First Step
In Addition to keeping your home dry, keeping it clean is of paramount importance. Regular wiping of floors with disinfectants is one way of doing it. Boiling water before drinking, as a rule, is another. Simple to do, both are effective ways of keeping bacteria at bay.

The Biggest Serial Killer of All Time

Prevention is any day better than cure. To stop infection and germs dead in your tracks, here are a couple of musts. Dip your clothes in an effective antiseptic after washing. Wash your hands with an antiseptic soap. And always keep a bottle of antiseptic liquid within your reach. Because finally, its hygiene that'll decide what the rains have in store for you. A happy ending, or a sad one.

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