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16 PAGES PLUS MAGAZINE : PRICE TAKA 9.00

President cancels meeting with JU teachers

By Staff Correspondent

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday cancelled his meeting with the Vice Chancellor, Pro Vice Chancellor and some teachers of Jahangirnagar University, officials of the university said.

The President had earlier invited them to meet him at 10:30 am on Saturday.

Prof Alauddin Ahmed, Vice Chancellor of JU when contacted last night said, "Private secretary to the President informed us today over telephone regarding cancellation of the programme."

No fresh date for the meeting was communicated, he said without explaining the reason behind the cancellation of the meeting.

Earlier, it was reported in The Daily Star quoting the VC that the meeting of the President might centre on the situation arising out of the rape incidents on the campus.

Mini WC Steps to ensure uninterrupted power supply

The government has taken steps to keep the country's power supply uninterrupted during the first ever knockout World Cup, reports UNB.

PDB workers have been working hard to ensure uninterrupted power supply to the Bangabandhu Stadium and throughout the country during the tournament.

This was informed at a high level review meeting on power supply situation yesterday with state minister for power, energy and mineral resources Prof Rafiqul Islam in the chair.

Rafiqul Islam hoped that the efforts to ensure uninterrupted power supply will be successful and said that the country's image is closely related with the tournament as cricket fans of about 200 countries are expected to watch it.

He directed all concerned to

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Jubo Dal leader stabbed to death in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 22: One Jubo Dal leader was stabbed to death allegedly by his rivals in Aturadept area under Panchalish thana last night, party sources said.

Azam Khan received serious injuries when his rivals stabbed in his throat at 8 pm last night. He later died at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital, police said.

Police said Azam was attacked by his rivals at one stage of altercation over an amount of advance money that he paid to buy some garments wastage clothes.

But BNP and Jubo Dal blamed the activists of BCL for killing Azam, joint secretary of Jubo Dal of Panchalish unit.

BNP and Jubo Dal supporters held rallies and processions today to protest the killing.

First consignment of Indian rice arrives

The first consignment of 1,925 metric tons of rice donated by India for the country's flood victims arrived at Darshana by train today, reports UNB.

Khulna Divisional Commissioner received the consignment from the Joint Secretary of Indian Food Ministry.

The Indian government committed to donate 20,000 mt of rice for the flood affected people of Bangladesh.

Regrets

Entertainment page could not be published today for unavoidable circumstances. It will be published tomorrow

Inside Today Article

'Allow Me to Think, Humanity's Glory Is also Mine'

Column: Do I Dare!
by AZM Obaidullah Khan
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Alternatives

Ungendered post-flood rehabilitation; Silent voices speak out; and Prioritizing the environment: A civic response from abroad
Pages 6 & 7



VICTIMS OF DISGRACEFUL POLITICS: An unidentified boy, in an unconscious state, is being dragged by police near Nawab Yusuf Market in the city's Nayabazar during yesterday's hartal. Later, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital, where he died after midnight, doctors said the boy was about 15. (Right) In the same area, another unidentified boy tries to escape police wrath.

Hasina blasts BNP, allies for 'backing the killers'

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said yesterday that the opposition agitation aimed to "protect" the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the four national leaders.

"They're said to have been conspiring to unseat our government before the judgment in the Bangabandhu murder case on November 8 and install the killers in power," the prime minister told a conference of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), student wing of ruling Awami League, in the city yesterday.

She said Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia began issuing such threats three months after the Awami League had taken over the reins of the government and asked her to shun the "path of conspiracy".

The prime minister described the opposition agitation as destructive activities and said they were indulging in those out of frustration of losing power.

"They're now out to save the self-confessed killers and creating issues for so-called agitation," she told the BCL conference at Institution of Engineers, soon after yesterday's countrywide hartal was over.

Blasting the BNP and its allies for enforcing two hartals in four days, an angry prime minister said they called the first hartal on the birthday of Sheikh Russell, her slain brother, "to stand by the killers" who were now facing trial.

Criticising the cause of that hartal -- authorities' refusal to let them use the Paltan Maidan for a hunger strike -- Hasina said the venue could not be allowed as preparations were on there for the Wills Cup Cricket Tournament. "They were offered the Osmani Uddyan, a better place where the fasting could be observed more comfortably under shade of trees."

The PM was also critical of the cause of yesterday's hartal. She said a heroine-addict was killed in mob beating when caught in an incident of snatching at Fakirpool during Sunday's hartal in the city. She called the death of the person (Akkas Ali) unfortunate but

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Dhaka district admin in shambles

By M Shamsur Rahman

Licensing and magisterial work of the Dhaka district administration have virtually come to a halt as 20 officers have been posted out to City Corporation (DCC) to deal with flood victims.

More than 1500 cases are pending with the General Certificate Officer alone.

District officials attributed the crisis to government's delay in assigning magistrates under the district administration.

On September 21, the 20 officers of the district administration were withdrawn and placed under the DCC to help it monitor and supervise flood relief distribution. The establishment ministry decision came to enhance the DCC manpower.

These officials are occupying the positions in their respective departments and "enjoying every facility although they are not working there currently."

Due to their absence, district administration sources said, thousands of people were being deprived of their fundamental rights. "Around 1500 cases are pending with the General Certificate Office for hearing," one source said.

Even the record room, which keeps information about land survey and other related matters, could not function. "Everyday, almost 700 to 800 people on an average come to get various court documents that could not be taken care of," said another source.

The arms section, responsible for renewal and issuance of licences, is also waiting for its officer to join. There are some 70,000 licensees in the Dhaka district, many of whom come for renewal. Fresh applications are also piling up.

Asked, a senior establishment ministry official said the DCC needed the magistrates for the post flood relief distribution programmes. The ministry then asked the divisional commissioner, who in return asked the deputy commissioner of Dhaka to depute the officers.

The DC's office then gave the list of people available. "They should have kept their own problems in mind before agreeing to send these people

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MISSION ANEW: Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga and his deputy, Aravinda de Silva (back) get off a bus after the world champions arrived in the city yesterday to take part in the Wills International Cup starting tomorrow.

Bangladesh play England in exhibition match today

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will play their second exhibition match against England at the BKSP in Savar today.

Weather permitting, the limited over match will begin at 9 am.

Aminul Islam will lead the Bangladesh team against Adam Hoolioke's England, who are now in the city to take part in the Wills International Cup. This will be the second warm-up match for England after their first meeting with Zimbabwe on Wednesday.

Bangladesh played their first match, an unscheduled affair, against New Zealand at the BKSP where the Kiwis won by eight wickets yesterday.

SA team, Tony Greig arrive

A 14-member South African cricket squad, arrived in the city last night to take part in the Wills International Cup cricket tournament beginning at the Bangabandhu National Stadium tomorrow, reports BSS.

The members of the squad are: Hansie Cronje (captain), Gary Kirsten, Daryll Cullinan, Jacques Kallis, Jonty Rhodes, Dale Benkenstein, Shaun Pollock, Mark Boucher, Derek Crookes, Nicky Boje, Pat Symcox, Allan Dawson, Steve El-

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Two killed, 200 hurt in hartal violence

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were killed and around 200 including 10 policemen injured during the eight-hour countrywide hartal yesterday at the call of the BNP-led Seven Party Alliance.

Inter-city buses remained off the roads. Rail communication across the country was disrupted.

The situation in the capital was more tense than in other parts of the country.

The deaths aside, the city saw a brutal police torture of a teenage boy, who was now fighting for life at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police version

Pro-hartal activists and pickets yesterday created panic in the public minds and attempted to disrupt the normal movement of traffic in Dhaka metropolitan area and other parts of the country during the half-day hartal across the country called by the BNP-led Seven Party Alliance, a press release issued by police headquarters said yesterday, reports BSS.

The hartal supporters attacked the members of the police engaged in the maintenance

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Pause for mini WC, fresh agitation from Nov 4

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led Seven-Party Alliance yesterday announced fresh programmes including rallies and demonstrations with a break in its anti-government agitation for the sake of Wills International Cup cricket tournament beginning in the city tomorrow.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan declared the programmes at a post-hartal press briefing at the party central office in the city last night.

The programmes include demonstrations across the country on November 4, a grand rally at the city's Paltan Maidan and rallies at places in the country on November 7.

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will address the grand rally.

The programmes were finalised earlier at an emergency meeting of the Alliance at the official residence of Begum Zia,

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New FBCCI committee takes over

The newly elected officers of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) took over yesterday, reports UNB.

Outgoing president of the FBCCI Yussuf Abdullah Harun handed over the charge to his successor Abdul Awal Mintoo at the federation's annual general meeting in the afternoon.

Earlier, chairman of the FBCCI election board Prof Ali Ashraf MP announced the names of the newly elected office-bearers.

M A Mumin took over as the new vice-president, replacing Kazi Shaiful Islam.

Former presidents and founding members of the FBCCI were present at the AGM at its auditorium. M A Rouf Chowdhury, who contested the October 15 election for the post of president, was also present.

Taking over the charge, Abdul Awal Mintoo sought cooperation from the business community to strengthen

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Ershad held secret meeting with killers: Tofail

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday slammed the "beneficiaries" of the killings on August 15 and November 3, saying they are united to destabilise the situation, reports UNB.

"All beneficiaries of the killings are today united to foil the trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and four national leaders by calling hartal and fanning up anarchy," he told newsmen at his office yesterday afternoon.

Tofail said the moment Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina vowed to try all political killings including of President Zia, General Muzur, Col Taher and industrialist Obaidul Huq Babul, the killers and their associates got scared and started giving imbalance statements.

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Team leaves tomorrow Sonali Bank's fate to be discussed with BOE

By Inam Ahmed

As the time for restructuring the UK operations of Sonali Bank is passing by, a high level three-member team will leave for London Saturday to sit with Bank of England (BOE) to discuss different options.

A top-level meeting yesterday decided to transform the bank's operation into subsidiary offices and to send the team to London. The team will also sit with local Bangladesh leaders in Britain who have allegedly been obstructing restructuring of the bank and will try to persuade them to cooperate.

Meanwhile, the Financial Services Authority (FSA) of BOE has extended the time limit of restructuring the bank's UK operation by another three months.

According to an earlier plan, the Sonali Bank operations in the UK were supposed to be transformed into a representative office from January 1, 1999, under the restructuring formula signed with the BOE.

Now, the FSA has allowed the bank the extra time till end-March to execute the plan.

In a notice sent to SB, the FSA has said the bank's UK offices cannot take any new deposits or give loans from now on. It also asked the bank to inform all the account holders that it will cease to operate as a bank from March 31, 1999.

The UK operation will be re-

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Post-flood rehabilitation Second ADP review soon to divert funds

Star Report

The Planning Commission will soon sit for another review of annual development plan (ADP) projects to channel funds from different low-priority projects to rehabilitation of flood damaged infrastructure, according to sources.

The second review has become necessary after flood damages went beyond previous calculations. In mid-September, the first review could save only Tk 419 crore for rehabilitation purposes.

This time, the aim is to reallocate about some Tk 1000 crore, according to one source. But the planning minister said the aim was to save "as much as possible".

The government is now cash strapped for a number of reasons.

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