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PHILIPS

DCC back on demolition drive

By Staff Correspondent In a renewed move, a Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) team of magistrates and officials, aided by police, moved in with a huge earth remover yesterday and demolished dozens of illegal shops, structures, some unau-thorised sign boards and booked site owners who encroached upon pavements with construction materials on the

city's Satmasjid Road.
The team however spared huge across-the-road signboards erected by schools, private universities, community centres, clinics and hospitals. DCC officials said that its Revenue Department did not pro-vide them with the list of those 'unauthorised boards'. They said they were not sure which

As the news of the demolition team spread in the area, many people were seen carrying their requiside shops and sheltering those into houses and lanes.

Dozens of shops encroaching upon pavements around the Abahani field were not touched. But the team instantly drew

Court at Nagar Bhaban where the magistrates would penalise them. "We have tried to impose on-the-spot fines but it did not work. Now they will appear before us and we will penalise them as per law," said a magistrate. The DCC drive will continue for an indefinite period.

run under pvt management

Communications Minister Anwar Hussain yesterday said that the present government had decided to allow operational management of a few

run under private management in Santahar-Lalmonirhat, Dhaka-Mymensingh and Dhaka-

Nakshikantha Express. Mahananda Express and Titas Exmanagement in Khulna-Goalanda Khulna-Chapainawabganj and Dhaka-Brahmanbaria routes respectively.

Tk 7246cr loss in agri sector

Hasina yesterday told the Jatiya Sangsad that the agriculture sector had suffered a loss worth Tk 7,245.58 crore due to the century's worst flood this year, reports BSS.

worth Tk 3,674.08 crore, she said while replying to a question from Jatiya Party law-

maker Dr Rustam Ali Farazi. caused a loss worth Tk 309.34 crore to livestock sector, Tk 357.75 crore to fisheries. Tk 110.27 crore to forest resources

and Tk 24.15 crore to food godowns government had taken shortterm, miudle-term and longterm rehabilitation programmes for overcoming the losses through providing soft

From Page 1

mained firm on the environmental claim.

Occidental officials from USA came to Dhaka and met the environment minister. They told the ai ister that Occidental needed a proper assessment.

fresh assessment of the environmental damages would be done jointly by both Occidental and the government.

The clearance from the prime minister followed agreement on all the unresolved

"As the extended PSC would be effective in retrospect from 11 January, 1997, Occidental was under tremendous pressure to get it done anyway," commented a source.

The company is also operating in block 14 under a separate

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Workers of jute, textile and yarn mills brought out a procession in the city yesterday in support of their demands. - Star photo

Intensify anti-govt

Detective dogs

Jute, textile workers observe strike

By Staff Correspondent

State-owned textile, jute and varn mill workers vesterday observed a 24-hour strike to press home their demands that include implementation of 60 per cent dearness allowance announced earlier in the wage commission.

The strike was jointly called by Jute Mill Workers-Employees Action Council, Bangladesh Yarn and Textile Mill Workers-Employees Federation and Bangladesh Textile Workers League.

Meanwhile, speakers at a rally in the city said a section of conspirators were responsible for destroying the traditional industry of textile and jute mills as per what they said "a prescription" of World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). They urged the government

not to be misled by those and sought for immediate implementation of their demands.

The demands include withdrawal of privatisation move in five state-owned jute mills, handing over of nine yarn mills to its workers, payment of dues against wage board and appointment in all vacant posts.

The leaders also announced their next programmes of action including 48-hour strike in state-owned textile, jute and yarn mills on December 8 and 9. workers' rally at different mills at Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Sirajgonj on December 4 and procession in every state-owned mills from December 1.

UNB quoting sources in Chittagong adds: The strike beginning at 6 am was observed in eight mills, out of 10 in the re-

The sources said some 40,000 workers of R R Jute Mills, R R Textiles Mills, M M Jute Mills, Haifa Jute Mills, Gull Ahmed Jute Mills, Dhaka-Baghdad Carpet Mills, Amin Jute Mills and Amin Textiles Mills abstained from work. However, Karnaphuli Jute

Mills and Forat Karnaphuli Carpet Mills at Rangunia operated as usual. A huge rally in Amin Jute Mills premises in the afternoon demanded immediate imple-

mentation of the agreement signed between the government and Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parisad (SKOP). A Khulna report quoting sources said production in People's, Platinum, Eastern,

Daulatpur and Atra mills in Khalishpur was disrupted due to

Spl drive against outlawed extremists ordered

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam yesterday instructed the police to launch a special drive immediately for arresting the outlawed extremists and terrorists in south and south-western districts of the country, reports

The instruction came at a high-level meeting held in the conference room of the Home Ministry with Home Minister Rafigul Islam in the chair.

Home Secretary Safiur Rahman, Inspector General of Police (IGP) AYBI Siddiqui and high officials of the ministry attended the meeting. The Home Minister in-

structed the IGP for launching a

President visits ailing Sharfuddin

President Shahabuddin Ahmed visited the ailing educationist Dr Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin at BIRDEM hospital yesterday, reports UNB.

The President talked to the attending doctors and members of Dr Sharfuddin's family about his treatment, said an official handout.

combing operation in different districts of Barisal and Khulna divisions immediately for arresting the terrorists.

An official of the ministry told the news agency that the law and order situation in the south and south-western districts has deteriorated recently.

The official said special police force will be mobilised in Barisal and Khulna from other ranges of the country for the op-

Police will conduct the operation in Barisal, Jhalakathi, Pirojpur, Bhola, Bagerhat, Khulna, Satkhira, Jessore, Narail, Jhenidah, Magura, Kushtia, Bheramara, Meherpur and Chuadanga districts, the official said.

City BNP's protest march today

By Staff Correspondent Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Dhaka city unit will bring out a procession from its Nawab Yusuf Market office today at 3:00 pm protesting price hike of essentials gas and electricity.

to stay at a Tk 1.5cr kennel By Staff Correspondent

Training of 40 the policemen

who will utilise the recently imported detective dogs began vesterday Eight trainers from abroad

are training the policemen, led by one ASP, at Baridhara in the city, Additional Inspector General of Police Fazlul Haq told a press conference at the Police Headquarters. Recently, five dogs and 20

puppies were brought from London for building up a dog squad. AIG Haq said that the five dogs, already trained up for "special assignments", would also have "lessons in local context"

procure the dogs and the puppies. Taka 80 lakh more would be spent in three months for maintainance. Besides, Tk 1.5 Crore have

kennel for the dogs and to provide those with breeding, medicare and other facilities, he Asked about the huge expen

diture for the project, Haq said. "It is a bit higher at the primary stage but it will fulfill the need of the police department. Both dogs and bitches have been procured for breeding and next time we will not need to buy dogs from aboard." Service of each dog will cost

Tk 7,000 per month, he said. AIG Syed Bazlul Karim was also present at the press conference.

Death of 6 not caused by saline infection, JS told

The death of six people at the Rangpur Medical College Hospital was not caused by saline infection, Health Minister Salah Uddin Yousuf told Parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

"All of them died of various diseases, not for saline infection, on November 20 and 21, he said quoting the report of the three-member enquiry committee which made a quick investigation.

Making a statement under Rule 300, the Health Minister said saline of the same batch was supplied to five more hospitals, including the Bangabandhu Medical University (PG) Hospital. So far, no report of infection from those saline came from anywhere.

He also refuted the reports of injecting date-expired saline, saying there is no scope of storing any date-expired saline when the production capacity of Institute of Public Health is already inadequate to cater to the

a bill seeking enhancement of MPs' remuneration is likely to

Tk.56 lakh were spend to

been estimated for setting up a

\$200m fund: PM Prime Minister Sheikh

from Gazi Mohammad Shajahan (BNP) during PM's question hour, she said the government is considering a proposal to constitute a company of nonbanking institution to operate the proposed fund.

Rice price

ing costs up, the traders added.

hammadpur Krishi Market told The Daily Star yesterday that new aman rice was pouring into markets till last week despite shortfall in production triggered by prolonged deluge. "But recent cyclone played

havoc on paddy fields in the southern part of the country while some big millers are hoarding rice in the North."

Agency at Krishi Market sees no immediate redress to the rising rice price unless the government goes for OMS. His fellow salesman from another shop believes only a good boro prospect could bring down the However, another trader

the city's Kantasur area who went to buy an 85 kg -sack of 1580 last month.

variety at Tk 620 instead of Tk 580, fine pajam at Tk 680 which was Tk 650, ratna (Indian imported variety) at Tk 580 from Tk 540 and Mompalish (Indian variety) at Tk 620 from the previous price of Tk590.

Hasina informed parliament yesterday Dhaka has categorically asked New Delhi not to make any unilateral bid to push anyone into Bangladesh, reports UNB.

"Any move to deport anyone on the plea of being Bangla-deshi national will be unacceptable until one's identity is said in reply to a question from Zeenat Hossain of Jatiya Party.

to the just-concluded Home Secretary-level meeting between the two countries in Dhaka and said the 'push-in' issue was dis-cussed in detail, besides other border problems.

lateral moves," she said. Hasina, however, said if a citizen is convicted of trespassing by a court in either country, then he or she would be deported to his or her native land only after determination of the

Detailing the unconventional deportation of Bengalispeaking people by the neighbouring country, the prime minister reminded that India launched the push-in operation in 1992. There had been no push-in from across the border

tary Affairs Minister Abdul

in 1996-97. However, there had been a few attempts during August this year.

On August 25, the Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka was summoned to the Foreign Office and a request was made to stop such bids. It was also informed that such incidents are not desirable in the interest of existing friendly relations between the two next-door neighbours.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, during his visit to Durban in connection with the NAM summit, also raised the matter with the Indian prime minister and sought his personal intervention in the contentious issue.

Besides, the matter was also discussed in the BDR-BSF talks held in Dhaka last month. The Indian side was then told that such incidents escalated tensions along the border.

geared up BDR patrol along the frontier as special alert against Indian push-in bids. She also said that public

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said in Parliament yesterday that the decision to enhance gas price was taken by

reports UNB. "The BNP government had committed to donors, the World Bank and the IMF to increase the gas price and they took the decision on it. After assuming power, we were compelled to implement that decision," she said replying to Ruhul Quddus

Talukdar Dulu (BNP-Natore) during the PM's question time. Hasina, however, said the domestic - gas price would not vary with rise or fall in prices in the international market since Bangladesh does not im-

port gas.

In reply to Kazi Shah Mofaz-Comilla), the Prime Minister said the government has no plan at the moment to set up export-oriented petrochemical

She, however, said the government would give all cooperation to private investment in different sectors, including sugar and fertiliser.

Bill placed

From Page 1 Speaker Abdul Hamid Advocate, who was presiding the House sent the proposal to the

Huq Zia (BNP-Lakkhipur).

The House was adjourned till 4 pm today.

Cyclone

From Page 1

Samad Howlader and Nazmul Sardar of Koira thana handed over two bodies of deer to forest officials on Monday noon. They found two more! bodies being swept away by current on Kobadak river after the

waiting for full reports from his officers in the forests who are

But the storm has uprooted thousands of trees and blown away more than 2,000 huts of fishermen rendering thousands of them homeless, the DFO said. He said the storm also de-

Sundarbans, Debhata, Kaliganj. Ashashuni and Shyamnagar have been left homeless and standing crops at 30,000 acres of land damaged. Officials said that huge amounts of aman rice and winter vegetables were also damaged at Koira thana by the tidal surge.

Polls in 4 Indian states today degree of chill has crept into ernment as Congress would not Chief Minister Bhairon Singh

From Page 1 ties between BJP and some of its the Vajpayee government alallies in recent months on a ready troubled by strain in relations between BJP and its al-

in the sharing of dais by Sonia

state, appeared to have moved back closer to its old allies constituents of United Front after indicating willingness to reach out to the BJP. Madhya Pradesh. On the other hand, a certain

But Prime Minister Vajpayee seemed unruffled by the opinion polls saying they are "old" and maintained his party has "improved tremendously" in Rajasthan and "recovered" in Delhi. He also told reporters yesterday that in the event of

worst possible results for the

BJP in the assembly polls there

would be no threat to his gov-

be able to muster the required number to form an alternative Barring the killing of a can-

didate of Samata Party, an ally of BJP in Delhi, the electioneering for the assembly polls has A splash of tinsel town

glamour was given to the electioneering by both Congress and BJP with actors and actresses like Rajesh Khanna, Sunil Dutt, Shatrughan Sinha, Vinod Khanna, Mahima Chaudhury, Pooja Bhatt and Aditya Pancholi taking part. In Madhya Pradesh, where

choose representatives to 320 member assembly, it is a do-ordie battle for Congress Chief Minister Digvijay Singh — who has declared that he would not seek any public office for next ten years if Congress his party lost at the hustings.

Shekhawat faces a tougher challenge from his party's rebel nominee, in fray as an independent, than rival Congress candidate in his home constituency. In Delhi, where an estimated

be fought between BJP Chief Minister Sushma Swaraj and

In Mizoram, where BJP is a very minor player, 221 candidates are in fray for 40 seats in formed recently.

PM informs Jatiya Sangsad

Delhi asked to refrain from unilateral push-in

Prime Minister Sheikh

proved as Bangladeshi," she The prime minister referred

"We have told the Indian side to refrain from taking any uni-

nationality under the existing

The prime minister told the house that the authorities had

awareness in the frontier areas had been built up and special measures taken involving locals, their representatives, Ansar-VDP and the administration against push-in.

discharge as an elected repre-

getting the logistic support pro-

tance to many of them - not to

mention the donations for local

schools, madrassahs and so

An MP now gets a discre-

The BNP lawmaker also ob-

tionary fund of Tk 75,000 every

served that the chairmen of the

Parliamentary Standing

Committees should be given the

status of ministers and logistic

support needed to ensure ac-

countability of different de-

the demands made by the Oppo-

sition MP were 'reasonable' and

"The Government and the

that the government was aware

UNDP have already signed a

project agreement involving

over Tk 50 crore to provide each

the minister said adding: "The

funds will also help develop the

JS Library and create research

already thought about the idea

of providing each Chairman of

Parliamentary Standing

Committee with office facility,

one personal secretary, one per-

sonal assistant and one peon,

the minister said. "Such a pro-

posal is now béing scrutinised

sidering another proposal for

providing each MP with an of-

fice and a private secretary in

his constituency, the minister

Fazle Rabbi, however, found

most of the assurances "very

vague". He demanded a state-

ment from the Prime Minister.

present in the House at that

PM: No-hartal

From Page 1

back their franchise. Is there

any justification of calling har-

tal without any issue?" Hasina

Bangladesh used to be dis-

missed as a country of natural

disaster, flood, drought and cy-

clone. But after assuming power

her government made frantic

efforts to redeem the country's

offered attractive incentives for

Foreign investors have been

The Prime Minister advised

She said the opposition

Tuesday. "But, unfortunately,

opposition leaders usually re-

main absent from the House,"

she added.

positive image abroad.

The Prime Minister said

Jatiya Party MP Advocate

The prime minister was not

The government is also con-

by the Cabinet Division."

told the House.

questioned.

Besides, the government has

MP with an office in Dhaka,

In reply, Khashru said that

partments concerned.

of the situation.

facilities.

vided to the secretaries.

Bill to raise pay likely MPs to get adequate

logistic support By Staff Correspondent take and responsibilities they Law, Justice and Parliamen-

Matin Khashru yesterday assentative of people in a poor sured the MPs of adequate logiscountry. tic support including office fa-Referring to the state's Warrant of Precedence, the BNP Amid thumping of tables by lawmaker said: The status of an most of the members present, MP is higher than that of a Seche also informed the House that retary, but the MPs are not even

Amid supports from the be moved in parliament in the members of both the Treasury next session. and Opposition benches. Zia The minister's assurance came following BNP legislator also argued for an increase in the discretionary funds of the Ziaul Huq Zia's call attention MPs. He said 85 per cent people notice demanding adequate logistic support for the parliaof all parliamentary conment members. stituencies are poor. "An MP has to provide monetary assis-

Zia said that parliament members have to work hard for the welfare of their electorate. "But the facilities they are provided with are too inadequate, compared to the workload they

Bonds to be sold to Bangladeshi expatriates for

Hasina told parliament yesterday that the government had taken an initiative to mobilise a 200 million US dollar fund by selling bonds in foreign currency to expatriate Bangladeshis for investment in the industrial sector, reports

Responding to a question

From Page 1 limit of rice for trucks on the pretext of dilapidated road condition, thus pushing carry-

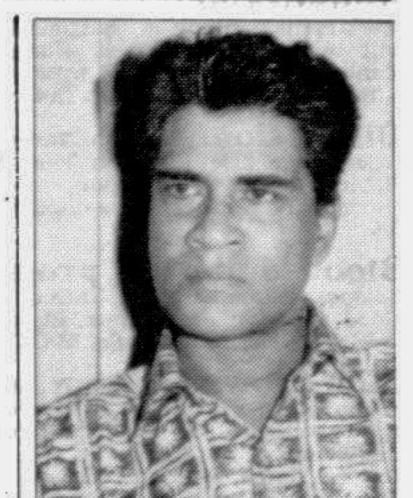
Many wholesalers at Mo-

said a trader at Krishi Market. Raju of Thakurgaon Rice

feared that weather might play foul with an otherwise bright prospect for boro as well as other rabi crops including Dalia Islam, a resident in

minicat variety rice at Krishi Market yesterday, said: It cost me Tk 1635 today whereas for the same quantity I had paid Tk According to yesterday's price index, coarse aman was selling at Tk 570 per maund, some Tk 20 up from its previous rate two weeks back; Swarna

investing in Bangladesh, she said, adding all should work towards maintaining a conducive atmosphere for investment and industrialisation. the opposition to renounce politics of hartal and raise their demands, if any, in parliament for a solution. could put any question to her in Parliament, particularly during PM's question time every



Footballer Nannu seriously ill

Sports Reporter Former ace national footballer Monowar Hossain, popu-

larly known as Nannu, is suffering from cancer. The elegant defender of the 70s and early 80s will be flown to the Indian city of Madras on November 27 for an operation.

One of the finest footballers of the country, Nannu started his career in 1968 and since then he never looked behind. His luminous career spanned over a decade, Nannu, first donned the national jersey in 1973. He was a pivotal figure during the meteoric rise of Abahani Krira Chakra in the 70s. For his outstanding contribution to soccer, Nannu was honoured with the national Sports Award in 1997.

We have only implemented BNP govt's decision

the previous BNP government,

The present hike of gas price was due to various reasons, she said but did not elaborate. zal Hossain (Kaikobad) (JP-

industry in Comilla.

standing committee for Rules of Procedure of Parliament.

The House earlier disposed of three call attention notices on setting up of an agriculture college at Jhenidah by Mashiur Rahman (BNP), a new railway track from Bhuapur to Tarakandi on the easternside of the Bangabandhu Bridge by Tahura Ali (AL) and seeking provision of office and necessary personal staff for members of parliament in their respective constituencies by Ziaul

that they found two more bodies of deer being swept by the strong current of the river Pasur.

Divisional Forest Officer (DFO) Atiqul Azam said he was

assessing the damage.

stroyed all the temporary lodging of fishermen at Dublarchar and six barracks at four places in the forests. Ten country boats and a trawler were also swept away by strong tides. At least 20,000 people of the

Meanwhile, normal activities at Mongla port, suspended on Saturday morning, resumed on Tuesday morning. Power

supply was restored on Monday afternoon after it was snapped in the storm. The suspension of work at the port caused huge financial damage, a port official

ones were unauthorised.

applause from onlookers when a huge unauthorised shed of a building was knocked down by the earth remover. The officials said they had warned the owner in writing several times. At construction sites, the magistrates issued summons to the owners. A magistrate said the owner would have to appear before the City Corporation

agitation: Khaleda

Chairperson Begum Khaleda

Zia today asked her partymen

to inspire the people with the

ideology of nationalist politics,

meeting at the old bus stand in

the town this evening on her

way to Rangpur, she urged the

BNP workers to reactivate the

organisational activities and

intensify the current anti-gov-

this afternoon on a five-day or-

ganisational tour of northern

districts. BNP leaders Farida

Hasan, Ahmed Nazir and

Gaveswar Chandra Roy are ac-

reception at Tongi, Kaliakair

and Shafipur. She reached Bo-

gra at 9 pm and had a 45-minute

Begum Zla will address

public meeting at Sayedpur

Railway Maidan at 3 pm tomor-

Gas cylinder

blast kills 2

at Kurigram

month-old baby and her

teenage sister were killed in a

fire touched off by a gas cylin-

der blast in the town's Hossain

two victims, was admitted to

Rangpur Medical College Hospi-

occurred when Manju, wife of

one Dudu Mia, a locksmith who

also deals in cylinder gas, was

filling a cylinder which sud-

denly exploded, setting fire to

sleeping and Dulali, a student of

class VIII, was also at home at

The girls were burnt to deat

before fire brigade could reach

Three killed in

Manikganj

bus plunge

people were killed and 46 others

injured in a road accident on

Dhaka-Aricha highway in Sat-

uria thana today, reports UNB.

fied as Muhammad Suruj Ali

21, helper of a bus driver, and

Abdul Karim, 65, of Madaripur

district. The third victim, aged

about 50, could not be identi-

curred when a Madaripur-

bound bus fell into a ditch near

Golora bus stand this noon.

Police said the accident oc-

Two of the dead were identi-

MANIKGANJ, Nov 24: Three

the scene, witnesses said.

Dolna, the little girl, was

the house.

the time

tal with severe burn injury.

Manju, 35, the mother of the

Witnesses said the incident

Khan area today, reports APB.

KURIGRAM, Nov 24: A five-

halt at the circuit house.

The BNP chief was accorded

Begum Zia left the capital

Speaking at a wayside

reports UNB.

ernment agitation.

companying her.

TANGAIL , Nov 24: BNP

3 more trains to

trains under private sector, reports BSS. Replying to a question from Mohammad Fazlul Azim (BNP), the minister said Padma Express, Balaka Express and Karnaphully Express are now being

Chittagong routes respectively. The minister also said press are now under process to be allowed to run under private

due to flood Prime Minister Sheikh

The loss of crops alone was She said the flood had

The prime minister said the loans, and agricultural inputs and other facilities to the farm-

PSC Earlier this month, senior

would compensate for the environmental damages but it It was then decided that a

Signs of realignment are already there with warming up of relations between the Congress and the left parties as reflected Gandhi and veteran CPI(M) leader Jyoti Basu two weeks Besides, the DMK party ruling the southern Tamil Nadu

from the past including imposition of emergency by Indira Gandhi in 1975 and Bofors gun deal controversy during Rajiv Gandhi's Prime Ministership. Most opinion polls have predicted a defeat for the BJP in Delhi and Rajasthan and put Congress holding an edge in

raking up a number of issues

assembly polls.

host of issues, including price government. rise and inability to work out seat-sharing in the tomorrow's The BJP, at the receiving end been peaceful. of an opposition onslaught sought to deflect attention by

four and half crore voters will

More than two crore voters will caste ballots to elect the 200-member assembly in Rajasthan where BJP leader and

83 lakh voters are likely to vote, an interesting battle will

Delhi University teacher Kiran Walia in Hauz Khas constituency. Sheika Dixit, tipped to become Chief Minister if Congress emerges victorious, will face former India test cricketer and sitting BJP MLA Kirti Azad in Gole Market constituency.

the state assembly. The battle is mainly between Congress led by Chief Minister Lalthannawla and main opposition Mizo National Front and fledgling United People's Party, a conglomerate of ethnic parties