



FedEx
Federal Express

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

CHITTAGONG

Hotel Hawaii Building
39, Agrabad C.A., Chittagong
Tel # 712127 Fax# 710106

CEPZ

Ctg. Export Processing Zone
Old Admin Building
Halishahar, Chittagong
Tel # 740108 Fax# 710106

KHULNA

K.D.A Building
Khan A. Sabur Road, Khulna
Tel # 725008 Fax# 731932



Ideal gift for any occasion.

Instalment facility available
only for purchases above Tk. 7,500

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets.
Dhaka: 815307-10 Ctg.: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215
Visit your nearest Philips Display Centre today

Backed by Guarantee

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

DSE Council may be dissolved today

By M Shamsur Rahman

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Council is expected to meet today to discuss dissolution of the policymaking body and meeting of the annual general meeting of the bourse.

DSE sources said that the Council had unanimously agreed to resign to pave the way for holding the AGM which has been barred by a court order after a councillor challenged the decision of its Election Council and Election Appeal Board to allow its Chairman Rakibur Rahman to continue despite losing his post in a lottery.

In December last year, the court had also ordered the DSE Council to maintain a status quo.

The election issue has once again come up for discussion after the DSE Council had decided to take action against the defaulting companies that fail to hold AGMs on schedule.

Sources said the DSE move drew flak from the general members of the bourse who questioned the right of DSE to take action against companies failing to hold AGMs regularly being itself a defaulting institution.

Following such criticism, the Council members had decided to step aside and hand over power to an interim council for holding the AGM. It had also agreed to amend the rules to elect its policymaking body through direct election instead of voluntary retirement or lottery.

Sources said even the DSE chief had agreed to the proposal which was scheduled to be placed before the Council today.

"But the matter has once again become uncertain as the DSE chairman is contemplating to head the interim council," according to one councillor requesting anonymity.

In October last year, the DSE chairman along with three other councillors -- Kazi Feroz Rashid, Asanul Islam and Dewan Sohail Afzal -- had retired after losing the lottery.

According to the new election rules adopted in late 1997, four of the councillors were supposed to retire every year. The vacant posts were to be filled out through direct election and there were provisions for a lottery if there no one resigned voluntarily.

However, despite losing his post, Rakibur Rahman was eager for a second term. He, along with some powerbrokers, had managed to convince another councillor to resign in favour of him.

The Election Council had changed its earlier lottery result reportedly in the face of pressure and had decided to allow Rakib to continue. The move prompted protest from other retired councillors. One of them later went to the court and secured a stay on the entire election process including holding of the AGM.

Probe body empowered

From page 1

scrap the polls which have already drawn flak, the CEC said: "There is no such legal provision to scrap the entire polls. Besides, the concept of the rule of law does not permit such actions before conducting investigation into specific allegations."

He, however, asserted that the EC has already taken 'certain significant measures' on specific allegations and reports.

Abu Hena ruled out media speculation that he is going to resign, especially after the controversial parliamentary by-elections in Tangail- 8 constituency.

"No, I do not find any obvious reason to resign after the Tangail by-elections," Abu Hena told The Daily Star yesterday evening. "It is not unusual that there would be some trouble during an election. But, there are legal ways for remedies. Resignation is not a solution to all these (problems)."

The CEC, however, said his statement "should not mean" that he would 'love to cling to office at any cost'.

"I am ready to resign for greater national cause. If the opposing political parties could reach a consensus that my resignation would put an end to

Oil tanker catches fire in Karnaphuli

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 17: A private-owned oil tanker caught fire in Karnaphuli river this evening, port sources said.

The tanker Sumit-1 caught fire while it remained anchored near Sadarghat at 6-30 pm.

The blaze was brought under control by the crew, sources added.

No major damage was reported.

Female degree examinees of Sherpur College go on rampage

SHERPUR, Nov 17: More than a hundred female degree examinees of Sherpur Government College went on the rampage on the campus and locked the class rooms today protesting shifting of their examination centre, reports UNB.

The examination centre for the female students has been shifted to Sherpur Government Women's College.

Witnesses said the angry female students pulled out the teachers, students from the class rooms and locked those in the morning. They also damaged more than 50 tables and benches.

They later held a rally on the campus and threatened to launch a movement if the decision is not reversed.

The male students ousted from the classes brought out a procession on the campus to protest the action of female students.

The degree examination, 1999, under the National University is scheduled to begin on November 28.

Workers stage demonstration at Ctg Port

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 17: Some workers of Chittagong Port led by their CBA leaders staged a demonstration on port office premises today protesting what they said manipulation in selection of security guards, port sources said.

During demonstration at around noon some cocktails were exploded in front of the post office, sources added.

Police at one stage chased the demonstrators and brought the situation under control.

Police picked up four people during the trouble and brought them to port thana. They were released after interrogation.

Summit date

From page 1

length at the meeting.

He said though all the members of the party's highest decision making body observed that the current movement was yet to reach a level from where a summit of four top leaders was required, yet they felt that such a meeting would be needed in course of time.

The leader said that the modality of the proposed summit was also yet to be worked out. There were opinions for and against holding of the meeting right at this moment, he added.

Replying to a question, he said: "I will not rule out the possibility of holding the summit soon. It may take place at any time."

Another member said the Standing Committee had underscored the need for more active participation of the component parties to reinvigorate the opposition agitation on the streets.



Police obstructed a procession of the Prokrichi-BCS Coordination Council near Farmgate as it tried to march towards the Prime Minister's Office to submit a memo yesterday.

Prokrichi submits memo to PM

By Staff Correspondent

Police stopped a procession of the central committee of the Prokrichi-BCS central Coordination Council yesterday as it marched towards the Prime Minister's office to submit its eight demands.

The Prokichi-BCS, consisting of engineers, agriculturalists and doctors demanded the government fulfil their demands, which include the cancellation of its order to upgrade 321 posts of the BCS (admin) cadre and the upgrade of the sixth grade post from the seventh grade.

The procession started marching towards the Prime Minister's office at about 12 noon from the agriculture institute at Farm Gate.

However, when they arrived at the Farm Gate police box, police stopped them, allowing only the leaders to proceed in a vehicle in order to submit the memorandum to the Prime Minister's office.

The rally before the march was addressed by president of the organisation, Dr. Rashid-e-Mahboob, Eng. ANH Akther Hossain, General Secretary, and secretaries Khalekuzzaman, Abdul Mannan.

Speakers appealed to the government to fulfil their demands in the best interest of the country. The leaders claimed their goal was to stabilise the people's authority in the administration.

Dr. Rashid-e-Mahboob, the organisation's president, urged its members to continue their movement in a systematic and organised manner.

Shafi murder case adjourned till Jan 13

By Court Correspondent

The Fifth Additional Metropolitan Sessions' Judge's Court yesterday adjourned the Jalal Ahmed Shafi murder trial until January 13, next year as a key witness failed to appear.

The decomposed body of Shafi, a police informer, was found inside the rooftop water tank at the DB office in the city on March 25.

Inspector Ziaul Ahsan, who was released on bail for 14 weeks, appeared in court yesterday along with other accused Havildar Bilal Hossain, Abdur Rauf and Anwar Hossain.

Pak SC refuses petition against military coup

ISLAMABAD, Nov 17: Pakistan's Supreme Court had refused to register a petition challenging last month's military coup, court officials said today, reports AFP.

"The Supreme Court has not entertained the petition because of legal lacuna (missing parts) and asked the petitioner to follow the Supreme Court rules," the official Associated Press of Pakistan said.

The petition, filed on Monday, was the first legal challenge to General Pervez Musharraf who seized power on October 12.

It was filed by Syed Zafar Ali Shah, a lawyer and member of the Pakistan Muslim League party, led by ousted premier Nawaz Sharif.

"We have sent the petitioner a letter on Tuesday asking him to fulfil the legal requirements," the news agency quoted a court official as saying.

It said the petitioner had not affixed the court fee and also did not submit some documents required under the rules.

He also did not give notices to respondents before filing the petition, the agency said.

PM tells expatriates in Riyadh

Opposition has rejected my offer for talks

RIYADH, Nov 17: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the opposition has become desperate to create unrest and disturb development process by calling unnecessary hartals in the country.

"They have no genuine issue, no genuine demand for the welfare of the people. They're agitating only to protect the killers," she told a meeting of Bangladesh expatriates at the Riyadh Conference Palace Tuesday Night.

Referring to her offer for talks, the Prime Minister said discussion in the only means to resolve any problem in democracy. Since the opposition has no faith in democracy, they have rejected her offer, she said.

She said even the opposition could come to parliament and discuss their genuine demands, if any. "But they don't know what they want. Once they seek resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner, at another time they want government's resignation."

Hasina said people have not responded to the opposition's demand. Everything functions normally during their so-called hartal.

"They are killing rickshaw-pullers, setting fire to autorickshaws and cars to create an artificial situation," she told the meeting attended by leaders and workers of Awami League, Jubo

League, freedom fighters, educationists and businessmen.

About corruption during the BNP rule, she said the Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed many cases against "corrupt" BNP ministers and leaders, and many are under inquiry. She, however, said the process of trial appears slow since many are getting bail.

Hasina said since forming the government, she has been trying sincerely to attain economic self-reliance for the people. She mentioned poverty-alleviation programme, micro-credit and housing schemes for the low-income group and the poor.

She said economic condition of the rural people has started improving following the policies of her government.

Amidst clapping, Hasina said the food stock in the country now stands at 15 lakh metric tons. The stock may go up to 18-19 lakh tons with the harvesting of Aman paddy.

Besides, she said foreign investment of 9.9 billion US dollars have been registered while steps are underway to set up export processing zone (EPZ) and industrial parks at Syedpur, Ishurdi and Pabna.

The Prime Minister said the past BNP regime turned Bangladesh into an Indian market by allowing duty-free access of Indian goods. After coming to

Mosharraf murder: Prime suspects still at large

By Staff Correspondent

The three prime suspects in Dr. Mosharraf murder case, Anis, Ibrahim and Mukul, are still at large despite the police hunt in Comilla, Tangail and Dhaka, police sources said.

Mohammadpur thana police told The Daily Star last night that they raided in vain more than ten places in the city yesterday.

Dr Mosharraf was shot dead on Sunday morning while he was taking his eight-year old daughter to school. Police are now 'sure' that the doctor was killed by a gang that had robbed him of Tk 16,000 more than four months ago. Following the robbery, Mosharraf caught one of the robbers and frantically tried to recover his money. When Mosharraf learnt about the whereabouts of the culprits, he began to press for the money.

Mohammadpur police said all the three suspects were quite familiar throughout the country as they were members of an organised gang, which usually robbed innocent bus passengers.

Workers of 2 jute mills withdraw road barricade

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 17: Workers of two jute mills withdrew their road barricade programme at Sitakunda tonight.

The programme was withdrawn after a fruitful discussion between owners of the mills and leaders of the trade unions in presence of Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan and State Minister for Jute A K Faezul Haq at the Circuit House in the city.

An agreement was reached on payment of arrears wages of the workers of Makbulur Rahman Jute Mills and Anowara Jute Mills.

The owner of the two mills also agreed to reopen their units immediately after payment of arrears.

Remarks about Khaleda PM has lost moral right to stay in power: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP yesterday said the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has lost the moral right to stay in the office as she has dishonoured both the Jatiya Sangsad and the prime ministerial post by making "untrue and indecent" remarks about the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

At an emergency meeting of the Standing Committee at 29 Minto Road with party chief Khaleda Zia in the chair, it strongly protested the remarks of the prime minister and the home minister. It said their remarks proved that the government was vengeful and its political culture has hit the lowest level.

The meeting also said Sheikh Hasina's remark was anything but decent.

The meeting that began at 7:35pm was continuing till filing of the report at 9:45pm. BNP's assistant office secretary Emran Saleh briefed newsmen while the meeting was going on.

On Tangail by-elections, the Standing Committee, the highest decision making body of BNP, strongly criticised "rigging, terrorism and capturing of polling centres by the ruling Awami League" and said this election has once again proved that free and fair election cannot be held under the Awami League government and the Chief Election Commissioner.

This 'by-election has reinforced the significance of the ongoing one-point' movement, the meeting said and added now there is no alternative to resignation of the AL government.

Prof. AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, M Saifur Rahman, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Chowdhury Tanveer Ahmed Siddique, Moudud Ahmed, Dr RA Gani, Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain attended the meeting.

Feb 21 declared Int'l Mother Language Day

Giving world recognition to the Bengalees' sacrifice of blood for the mother tongue, UNESCO proclaimed February 21 as International Mother Language Day, reports UNB.

The government announced in Dhaka that the plenary of the UNESCO General Conference yesterday unanimously adopted a draft resolution tabled by Bangladesh for proclamation of 'International Mother Language' day, to be observed on February 21.

In its resolution, the UNESCO session said: "21 February be proclaimed International Mother Language Day throughout the world to commemorate the martyrs who sacrificed their lives on this very date in 1952."

"It's a great achievement for the Bengali nation only who sacrificed their lives for language," said Education Minister ASHK Sadique at a press conference held at his office in the afternoon.

Siddique

From page 1

the constituency could not exercise their franchise and that many of his polling agents were not allowed to remain inside the polling centres during the voting hours.

He also criticised the DC of Tangail, who was the Returning Officer for the by-poll, for not forwarding his letter to the Election Commission (EC). "I submitted a letter to the Returning Officer on the election day, rejecting the election. But he did not forward it to the Election Commission".

Siddique, however, hoped that the EC would take a 'right decision' on the 'rigged' by-polls. "I have talked with the Chief Election Commissioner".

The Returning Officer violated electoral rules by insisting on my providing the names of my polling agents in advance. As a result, forty per cent of my polling agents were sold out to Awami League".

When one newsman asked why he did not protest alleged rigging in Laksmipur by-election held under this government, Siddique said, "I was then blind being an Awami Leaguer, but now I can see from outside the party that Hasina is a vote-thief".

Siddique promised that he would not call any hartal or any other big programme in the name of protesting 'rigging' in Tangail by-polls. "This will add to the miseries of the commonman."

He alleged that the earlier DC of Tangail was transferred only after about one month of posting so that the election result goes in favour of the ruling party.

Shajahan

From page 1

is an independent body and it functions independently. We have no comment about the EC inquiry," Tofail said in reply to a question about the EC body formed to probe Siddique's allegations of irregularities.

The minister commented that AL supporters in Shakhipur-Bashal area did not like Siddique's threat to pull down Sheikh Hasina with ganchna, while claiming himself a follower of her father, Bangabandhu.

Dr Malek, who coordinated the election campaign for the AL candidate, said press reports showed smooth polling in all but four centres.

He also mentioned a Bhorer Kagoi report saying that Siddique visited two of the four centres where polling was cancelled.

Abul Hasan Choudhury said AL took the by-polls very seriously. "Had we any negative intention regarding the by-polls, we would not have worked so hard for our candidate."

Siddique fielded 20 candidates in the by-polls so that their agents could rig votes for him, he alleged.

Shajahan said that he informed the Electoral Enquiry Committee the 'malpractice' done by Siddique. He claimed that he did not find any polls official biased. He also termed press reports on irregularities as untrue.

Jail Killing Case

SC dismisses applications of Obaid, Manjur

Supreme Court yesterday dismissed the applications of KM Obaidur Rahman and Nurul Islam Manjur seeking appeal against a High Court verdict in which their bail prayer was rejected last year in Jail Killing Case, reports BSS.

Chief Justice Mustafa Kamal pronounced the judgement yesterday. The other judges of the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court were Justice Bimalendu Bikash Roy Chowdhury and Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury.

As the accused in the Jail Killing Case, former ministers K M Obaidur Rahman, Mohammad Nurul Islam Manjur and Shah Moazzem Hossain, failed to obtain bail from Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka, they went to High Court for bail.

The HC Bench on December 8, last year, after hearing the petitioners and the state, rejected their bail petitions. The petitioners then filed applications seeking appeal against High Court judgement before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court and the court, after hearing, dismissed the applications.

Senior Advocate Khandker Mahbubuddin Ahmed and Senior Advocate Abdul Malek appeared for the applicants.

Attorney General Mahmudul Islam and Deputy Attorney General Mohammad Faruque appeared for the state.

Newly elected commissioners enforce hartal at Feni

From Our Correspondent FENI, Nov 17: The newly elected chairman and commissioners of Feni Poursava enforced a half-day hartal in the town today.

The hartal was called demanding official recognition of the chairman and commissioners through gazette notification and repolling in two centres.

All shops remained closed and vehicles were off the roads during the hartal.

The supporters of the chairman and commissioners also put up a barricade on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, disrupting traffic for several hours.

Addressing a rally in the town, the newly elected chairman and commissioners threatened another hartal unless their demands were met within seven days.

Casual workers resume duties at Mongla Port

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Nov 17: Casual staff of Mongla Bandar Shipping Karmachari Sangha resumed their duties from the night shift on Tuesday soon after government declared their strike illegal and deployed army to help and supervise loading and unloading work at the port.

The casual staff who went on strike to press home their 15-point have been asked to go to Labour Court to settle their issue.

A total of 42 gangs were booked for 20 shifts from the night shift on Tuesday to begin loading and unloading work breaking the weeklong deadlock in the port. Till 6 pm today at least 30 per cent of import and export goods were handled till 6 pm today, said a source in MPA. Army personnel are patrolling the entire port area.

Meanwhile, port users have requested the government to declare cargo handling work as essential service.