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Non-MP leaders in BNP oppose dialogue: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has accused non-MP leaders in BNP of obstructing a negotiated settlement of the current political stand-off, saying these leaders have now emerged as deciding factors in the main opposition party.

Many in BNP are willing to sit for dialogue to resolve the disputes with the government. But the non-MP leaders with least interest in effective functioning of the Parliament are opposed to the process of negotiation, she said.

The prime minister gave an exclusive interview to the Bangla daily Prothom Alo to be published today and tomorrow.

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Bombs explode during BNP's demonstration in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 11: Some bombs exploded at Kazir Dewri crossing near BNP office this evening during a chase and counter chase between police and supporters of BNP and Jubo Dal, police and witnesses said.

The trouble began at 7 pm when the supporters of BNP and Jubo Dal staged demonstration protesting the killing of Md Selim, a leader of Jubo Dal. Selim was shot dead by his rivals this morning, police and witnesses said.

The BNP activists also damaged some passing vehicles in the area, witnesses said.

Security has been tightened in and around Kazir Dewri area.

Inside Today

Article

The Present Political Impasse: The Way Out

by Enam A Chaudhury Page 4

Sehri, Iftar timings

Ramadan	Dec	Sehri	Iftar
3	12	—	5-16
4	13	5-08	5-17
5	14	5-08	5-17

Prayer Timings

December 12		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-6	5-12
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-42	4-00
Maghrib	5-16	5-22
Tarabi	7-00	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

25 drown, 100 missing as launch sinks near Bhola

Star Report

At least 25 people drowned and about 100 were missing as a launch with over 300 passengers sank in the Meghna near Bhola yesterday morning.

The Bhola district administration told The Daily Star last night that bodies of 25 people including five children and seven women were recovered till the evening, when high tide forced postponement of rescue operation.

Our Barisal Correspondent Aroop Talukdar reported that 11 of the 25 bodies were identified till the filing of this report. They are Safura Bibi, 60, Sha-hanur Begum, 30, Sumon, 5, Sidu Mian, 31, Aklima, 5, Bibi Fatema, 20, Azimunnisa, 40, Salahuddin, 20, and Rafiq, 28. The bodies were kept at Daulatkhan thana.

The launch, ML Falguni,

sank in the mid-stream at Majherchar as it reportedly hit a hidden shoal while negotiating high waves raised by a passing oil tanker.

The launch which left Char Alexander in Laxmipur for Daulatkhan in Bhola at about 7 am, was carrying passengers double its capacity, the district administration said.

Nearly 200 passengers swam ashore. Some were rescued by fishermen and another passenger launch which was crossing the area when ML Falguni was sinking.

S T Barnali, a rescue ship of police, also took part in the day-long rescue operation. Magistrate Gullal Singha said over telephone from a control room opened at Bhola DC's office after the disaster. The 25 bodies were recovered by local people

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CCC election to be resisted at any cost: Khaleda

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Khaleda Zia yesterday hinted at tough action programme after the holy month of Ramadan, reports UNB.

"We had given soft mild programme during the month of Ramadan but the government forced us to call hartal by sudden announcement of election schedule for the Chittagong City Corporation."

She declared that the CCC election scheduled for January 3 would be resisted at any cost.

Opening the primary member collection drive of JCD at her official residence yesterday evening Khaleda endorsed induction of Al Asad Mahmudul Islam who secured 6th position and Mohammad Shamsuddin Masum who obtained 16th position in the combined merit list of HSC results from Dhaka College.

JCD will continue its drive during the month of Ramadan across the country.

She asked JCD leaders and workers to gear up the on-going movement.

BNP secretary general Abdul Manan Bhuiyan, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Abus Salam, Habib-un-Nabi Sohel, Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and ABM Mosharraf were present on the occasion.

Mosquitoes live longer as DCC makes the blunder

By Morshed Ali Khan

Eight spray machines purchased by the Dhaka City Corporation at a cost of about Tk one crore for killing mosquitoes have been gathering dust for about two years now because those were procured without checking their efficacy. The modern US-made ULV (ultra low volume) spray machines were bought early last year. But the insecticide re-

quired for those is still unregistered with the Plant Protection Wing of the Department of Agriculture.

PPW officials said the insecticide of this category is available in the market but can be used only for agricultural purposes, not for public health programmes.

The machines require a highly concentrated form of in-

secticide which is usually used for aerial spray (not recommended in the WHO standard).

Mounted on vehicles, the machines are highly efficient for mosquito control as those jet the liquid in the air in ultra microscopic form over an area of about half a kilometre radius, sources said.

The PPW has not yet received

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A mosquito breeding ground in the city's Ahmedbagh area.

— Star photo



Martyred Intellectuals' Memorial at Mirpur being cleaned as the nation prepares to pay homage to the martyrs on Tuesday.

—Star photo

Halls and other bldgs of Shahjalal Varsity yet to be unlocked

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 11: Though the main gate of the Shahjalal University of Science & Technology was unlocked yesterday, but other buildings and halls still remained under lock and key.

The All-Party Action Committee (Opposition) has also not yet withdrawn its demonstration programme.

The Students Action Committee also continued strike at the varsity for the fifth-day today.

However, a police contingent has been deployed on the campus after tripartite meeting held at the Deputy Commissioner's office yesterday. After the meeting, the main gate of the varsity was unlocked by the police and district administration officials.

The university authorities have denied giving any assurance about holding of an emergency meeting of the Syndicate as stated in the Press Release issued by the district administration last night.

When contacted, the ADC (General) who is also in charge of DC said, "We have the Proctor that if needed we are ready to help the varsity authorities in unlocking the buildings and halls."

An official of the Varsity said, it is not possible for us to give any assurance about holding a meeting of the syndicate.

Second phase of agitation Doctors at CMCH, General Hospital stop working

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 11: Doctors stopped medical services at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and Chittagong General Hospital at noon today as a part of the second phase of their movement to protest the attack on CMC teacher Dr. Nilkanta Bhattacharya by a group of armed terrorists.

Earlier, these two hospitals were kept out of the purview of the strike.

Only emergency service will be run by emergency squads in these two hospitals, Dr LA Kaderi, President of Chittagong chapter of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) said at a

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Jubo Dal leader shot dead in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 11: A Jubo Dal leader was gunned down at Master Lane of Pahartoli area this morning, police and party sources said.

The victim was identified as Md Selim, 38, Vice-President of Lalkhan Bazar Ward Jaty-atyabadi Jubo Dal.

The assailants attacked Selim at 8:30 am today at a house of his friend, party sources said. Jubo Dal leaders blamed the Bangladesh Chhatra League activists for the killing. But BCL denied the charge.

Meanwhile, Jubo Dal, and BNP supporters put up barricade on Kulsini Road for two hours from 10 am protesting the killing.

Police later removed the barricade to restore traffic movement.

UNB adds: Mohsen Ara Begum, who rented one of her rooms to Selim, also sustained bullet injuries. The gunmen fired on her when she came out of her room hearing the gunshot.

Condition of Mohsen Ara is stated to be critical.

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Students of JU School & College go on rampage

SAVAR, Dec 11: A group of students of Jahangirnagar University School and College today confined the principal in his room to press their demand, reports UNB.

The agitated students, who have failed in the HSC test examination locked the main gate of the school building for one hour as the college authorities refused to allow 40 students for final examinations.

The agitated students exploded homemade bombs when Chairman of College Managing Committee Sharif Enamul Kabir freed the principal from confinement.

Savar police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control.

A general diary was lodged with Savar police against four students — Zahidul Islam, Harunur Rashid, Rafiqul Hasan and Hasan Chowdhury.

Brigadier's death: PR outfit muddies water

Star Report

Brigadier Shabab Ashfaq's unnatural end on December 8 at the Chittagong Cantonment has sparked widespread speculations in different quarters. It took the Inter Services Public Relations (ISPR), the military's PR outfit, three long days just to come out with the first official announcement acknowledging the death of such a high-ranking officer.

The ISPR Press release, on hindsight, seems meant not as an announcement but more as an admonition to the press for publishing "speculative stories."

The ISPR itself can be blamed for leaving scope for speculation. It failed to make an immediate announcement following the death of such a

senior officer on active duty, which had led the press to print stories using their own "sources".

The ISPR categorically stated that the element of sabotage or assassination "is almost negligible", which by itself is speculative and to some extent conclusive. This is highly unprofessional of ISPR, which is the mouthpiece of the three defence services, when a Court of Inquiry is in place. The ISPR has not said what led it to speculate or conclude to this extent. In fact, the same ISPR statement says that a Court of Inquiry has been ordered to investigate the death.

The questions would automatically agitate the public mind. The tax-payers have a

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Shikdar's arch rival Sharif Hannan held

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 11: Sharif Abdul Hannan, Labour Secretary of city Awami League and main rival of top terrorist Ershad Shikdar, was arrested from his residence early this morning on four criminal charges.

Police said he created a reign of terror in the Skid Ghat area for collecting toll and raising unauthorised fund in the name of his party.

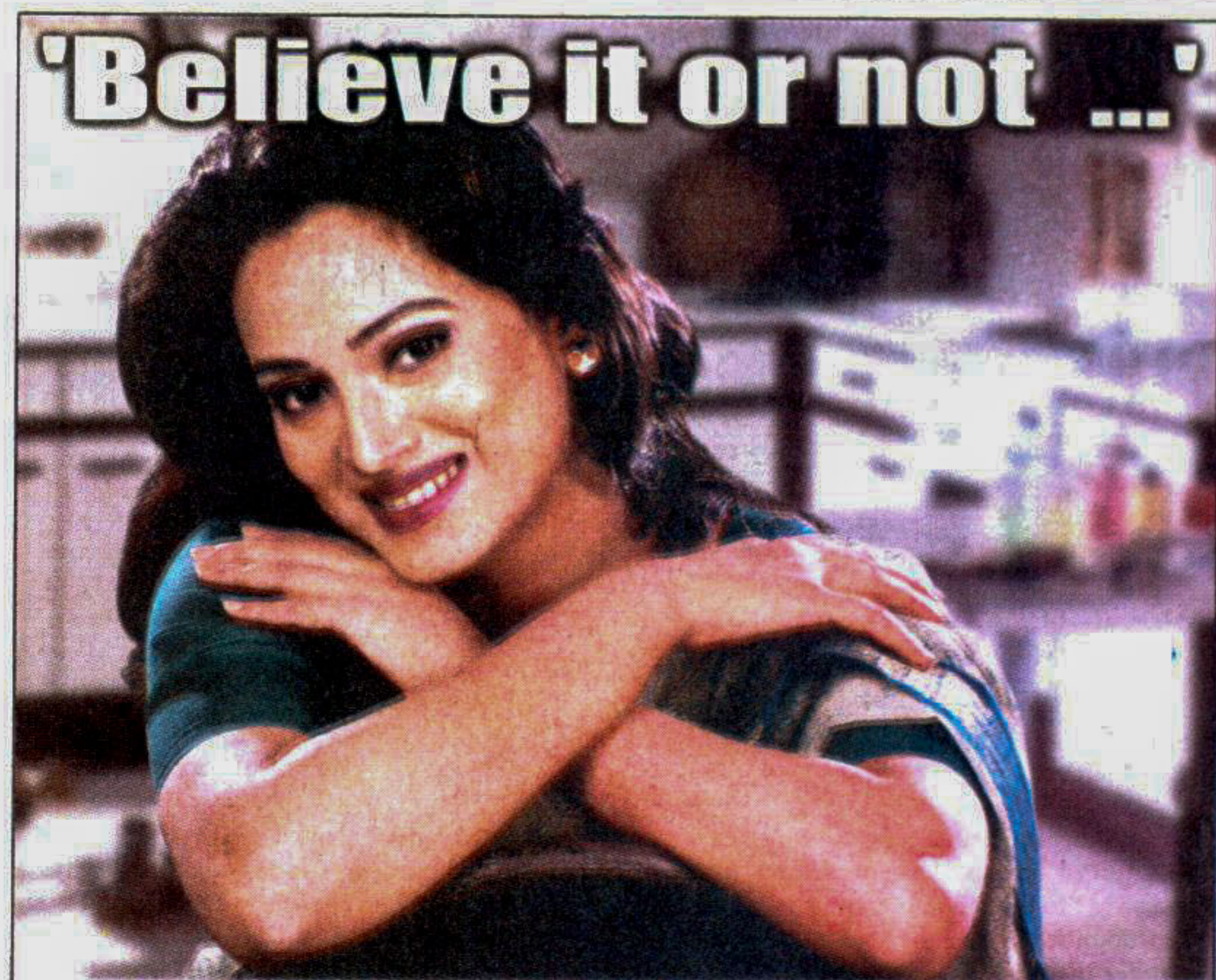
He is an FIR-named accused in four criminal cases said a high level source in the KMP. Police said, Sharif Hannan and his associates belonging to "Manzurul Imam" group of Awami League was trying to re-

habilitate the absconding accomplices of Ershad Shikdar at the Skid Ghat.

Sharif Hannan played a key role in the 'deep-rooted conspiracy' for removing the incumbent Police Commissioner who is against any sort of illegal activities' at the Skid Ghat after arrest of Ershad Shikdar. Police said Hannan encouraged drug trading, smuggling and extortion in Khulna Bazar and railway colony areas.

Few days ago Hannan organised an attack on patrol police for protesting sale of phenacyl and extortion at the Skid Ghat.

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This prospectus has been prepared, seen and approved by us and we collectively and individually accept full responsibility for the authenticity and accuracy of the statement, information given in the prospectus, documents, financial statements exhibits, annexures, papers submitted to the Commission in support thereof; and confirm, after making all reasonable inquiries, that all conditions and requirements concerning this public issue and prospectus have been met, and that there are no other information or documents the omission of which makes any information or statements therein misleading, for which the Commission may take any civil, criminal or administrative action against us as it may deem fit.

We also confirm that full and fair disclosure has been made in this prospectus to enable the investors to make an informed decision for investment.

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MANAGER TO THE ISSUE: VANIK Bangladesh Limited 20, Krazal Astorik Avenue, Safura Tower, (11th Floor) Dhaka-1213.