

SKOP to enforce 48-hr rail-road barricade from tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
 Sranik Karmachari Olyka Parishad (SKOP) will enforce a 48-hour rail-road barricade programme from tomorrow demanding implementation of the agreement signed with the government.

The agreement includes announcement of minimum wages, cancellation of privatisation process and reopening of all closed mills.

Meanwhile, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement yesterday expressed solidarity with the SKOP-called barricade programme.

Bhuiyan criticised the government for not implementing the agreement.

He urged the government to accept the demands of the SKOP without further delay.

Haroon's election now a mere formality

Star Report
 The government's intention to have its 'own man' Yusuf Abdullah Haroon elected unopposed president of FBCCI has succeeded at last as the Election Board found the nomination paper of his lone contender invalid.

Now it is a mere formality to declare Haroon President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) for the next two years.

The FBCCI Election Board yesterday declared the nomination paper of Aminul Haq, the lone contender of Haroon, invalid on the ground that it carried a wrong voter number of the candidate and the post he wanted to vie for was not mentioned correctly.

However, Aminul Haq alleged that it was pre-planned.

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Musharraf didn't turn up to meet Hasina

PM's speech at UN hurts Pak military ruler?

NEW YORK, Sept 9: A scheduled meeting between Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Pakistan chief executive General Pervez Musharraf did not take place as the military ruler did not turn up at the venue in the UN headquarters yesterday, reports UNB.

Briefing newsmen at the UN Plaza Hotel in the evening, Foreign Secretary CM Shafiq Sami said Pakistan sought rescheduling of the meeting from Bangladesh side. But that was difficult as Prime Minister Hasina was constrained by her tight schedule.

Responding to a volley of questions regarding possible reasons behind the cancellation of the meeting by Pakistan, Sami said Pakistani side did not cancel it, but Bangladesh's permanent representative to the UN Anwarul Karim Chowdhury took it as a surprise development.

"We are not sure what the reasons are but it came as a surprise," Chowdhury told reporters.

Asked whether the Prime Minister's hard-hitting remarks on illegal capture of power and war crimes in her address to the UN Security Council prompted General Musharraf to stay away from the meeting, the Foreign Secretary said her speech was not directed against any particular country.

In her speech at the UNSC on Sept 7, Hasina called for action against unconstitutional capture of power by military

regimes. Diplomatic sources hinted that Prime Minister Hasina's harsh word against military takeover in any member state of the UN might have offended the Pak military ruler.

Hasina-Musharraf meeting was set at the request of the Pakistani military ruler who took over power last year overthrowing the elected government of Nawaz Sharif.

Shafiq Sami was not sure about the possibility of this forsaken meeting to take place in the near future.

When asked if Bangladesh's efforts to defuse tension in South Asia suffered a jolt following this, Sami could not give any specific answer.

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BNP threatens to paralyse country

Withdraw 'false' case against Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP leaders yesterday warned that they would "paralyse the country" if the "false and conspiratorial" case against party Chairperson Khaleda Zia and other leaders is not withdrawn immediately.

The case relating to purchase of two Airbus aircraft for Biman is "false, fabricated and politically motivated" and has been filed to mislead the people as the oust-government movement got momentum, they said at a public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city.

The city BNP organised the rally with its president Sadek Hossain Khoka MP in the chair to protest filing of the case.

Scared by Khaleda Zia's popularity and unity of opposition parties, the Awami League government filed the case to tarnish her image, create a rift

between the two leaders and activists, they alleged. But their conspiracy will not succeed, they said.

They said that the then prime minister and the finance minister gave their consent for purchase of the aircraft after the committees and sub-committees concerned completed the whole process lawfully.

BNP Standing Committee member Abdul Matin Chowdhury claimed the government of Sheikh Hasina filed the case after it became sure that it would not get more than 20 seats in the next parliamentary polls.

They have been hatching conspiracies and will continue to do so to cling to power. But

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Test series against Pakistan if India pull out

By Sports Reporter

Bangladesh will play their first ever Test and one-day series against Pakistan early next year if India refuse to tour Pakistan in December.

The Bangladesh Cricket Board has agreed in principle to play a home and away series at a meeting with General Taqir Zia, the president of Pakistan Cricket Board, in Sharjah, Board General-Secretary Syed Ashraful Huq, who attended the Asian Cricket Foundation meeting on September 6 and 7 along with the PCB boss, revealed this to the press on his arrival from the Gulf state.

"We are still hopeful that India will go to Pakistan for the sake of cricket. But if they don't, Bangladesh and Pakistan will

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2 killed as PCP groups clash in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Sept 9: Two tribesmen were killed and two others critically injured here today in a clash between two rival groups of tribal youths linked to local domination and extortion at Bitu Karbari Para at Panchbari in the district, reports BSS.

Security officials said the casualties came in nearly an hour's gunfire between the two groups of Pahari Chhatri Parashid supporting and opposing the 1998 landmark Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) peace agreement.

They said Arun Bikash Chakma, 27, and Jatra Chakma, 25, both belonging to the anti-peace accord group, died on the spot.

Security was tightened in the area.

2 gunned down in Chittagong

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Sept 9: Two persons were gunned down in separate incidents at Rauzan and Sandwip thanas in the district last night.

Unidentified gunmen shot Arif Billah to death at Kadolpur village under Rauzan thana at around 8 pm while he was going to a neighbouring house. Local people said that the mis-

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (L) meets with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee in New York on the sidelines of the UN Millennium Summit on Friday. — AFP photo

Straw, Nasim hold talks today

British Secretary of State for Home Affairs (Home Minister) Jack Straw MP arrived in Dhaka yesterday, evening, on a two-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim received the British Minister at Zia International Airport.

Jack Straw is a senior cabinet minister in Tony Blair's government.

Official talks between the British Minister and his Bangladeshi counterpart Nasim will be held at the Secretariat today.

Straw will call on Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, Chief Justice Latifur Rahman and exchange views with the representatives of civil society and other prominent figures of the country.

Besides, he will also briefly attend a Human Rights and Prison Management Course, to be jointly organised by Penal Reform International (PRI) and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST).

Officials of the Home, Foreign and Commonwealth offices in the United Kingdom are accompanying Straw.

Soon after his arrival, Straw met a group of elite from Sylhet and attended a reception at the residence of British High Commissioner David Carter.

The British minister will address a press conference prior to his departure for London this evening.

Rab murder

Shanu's brother Chhoto held

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Sept 9: Police arrested Azizur Rahman Chhoto at Khalishpur yesterday afternoon in connection with the killing of S M A Rab.

Chhoto was named by Rangui as one of the killers. He is the younger brother of terrorist Golam Mowla Shanu, the main accused in Juba League activist Shahidul Islam Lifon murder case. Shanu was charged in the case.

Lifon was gunned down in police custody near the judge's court, Khulna last year.

Chhoto was taken to remain for five days today for interrogation. With Chhoto, the number of arrests in Rab Murder Case stands at six. Five others are Rangui, James, Mota, Javed and Sento.

Javed and Sento are yet to disclose the names of godfather involved in the conspiracy to kill Rab.

One of the 13-member special team of KMP officials today said, Chhoto is also one of the charged sheet accused in Lifon Murder Case.

Meanwhile, Rab Smriti Parashid and a whip faction of Awami League, Juba League and Chhatri League will jointly bring out a procession to be followed by a rally tomorrow to press home their demands for arresting killers and masterminds of the murder.

Dacoits loot Tk 4 lakh

By Staff Correspondent ARmed robbers took away cash and valuables worth about Tk 4 lakh from a house at Raupura under Khilgaon thana in the city in the early hours of today, police said.

According to the FIR lodged with police, dacoits entered the residence of one Alaunder Hossein at about 3:30 am breaking a window.

The miscreants confined the inmates in a room and took away the cash and valuables at gun point.

However, none was arrested till writing of this report last night.



Family members of Bangladeshi settlers slain on Sept 9, 1996 by the then Shantibahini at Pakuakhali in Bagerhat upazila of Rangamati brought out a procession in the city yesterday. They were demanding publication of the probe report and trial of the killers. — Star photo

400 ml. of DENGUE DESTRUCTION



PROTECTS YOUR FAMILY

Boral's relatives feel insecure

Masked armed men pull down black flags in Chitalmari

From Quazi Amanullah

KHULNA, Sept 9: Masked men entered into villages of Mollahat and Chitalmari thanas by attacking the houses of the sympathizers of Boral who raised slogans against Sheikh Helal, MP, the prime minister's cousin, and hurled not only insolent remarks at him, but also shoes and rubbish, in presence of the Home Minister at the condolence meeting attended by thousands of men and women. The fiasco compelled Sheikh Helal to quit the podium.

Minorities of Chitalmari are allegedly being targeted by terrorists after the incident. Kalipada Mondal, Tarakanath and a former member of Chitalmari UP were roughed up.

A group of armed men have created a riotous situation at

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