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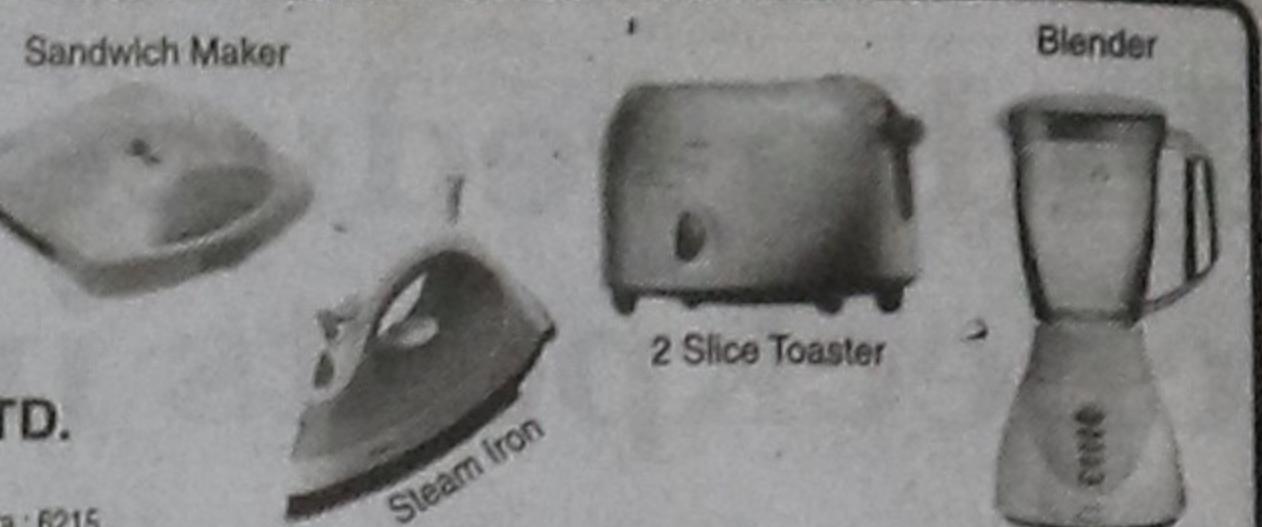
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**Khaleda hosts iftar party for diplomats**

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar party at Sheraton Hotel yesterday in honour of the diplomats stationed in Dhaka.

High Commissioners, ambassadors, mission chiefs and chiefs of different international organisations attended the iftar followed by a dinner, said a press release.

The BNP chairperson exchanged pleasantries with the diplomats and the distinguished guests. Sources said BNP leaders who attended the programme held informal talks on the country's latest political situation.

They also briefed the diplomats and chiefs of donor agencies of BNP's plan for movement and preparation for next general election. The diplomats also enquired about BNP's views on various vital issues.

Ambassador of the State of See page 11 col 1



Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Khaleda Zia hosted an iftar party for foreign diplomats posted in the country at her 29 Minto Road residence yesterday.

-- Star photo

Council meeting**BNP asks 5 Khulna leaders to explain**

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 3: Five leaders of BNP have been asked to show cause why disciplinary action should not be taken against them for forming a 101-member districts committee on Friday violating constitution of the party.

The leaders today received the show-cause notice signed by party's Secretary-General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. They have been asked to come up with their reply by December 5 or face the consequence as the constitution of the party permits.

We will definitely give reply to show-cause notices in due time explaining the reason for convening the council meeting, the leaders said.

The show-cause notices were served on Advocate Ghazi Abdul Bari, Shahanzaman Mortuza, Advocate GA Sabur, Syed Shahidullah and Kausar Ali Jamaddar. All these five top-ranking leaders of BNP's Khulna chapter convened the council meeting of the district committee on Friday despite the existence of a convening committee which has the approval of party Chairperson Khaleda Zia.

The formation of the 101-member committee on Friday at the instruction of former speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali MP and city Mayor Shaikh Tayebur Rahman angered party activists at grassroots level, the worsening of the rift and deepening the crisis.

Activists loyal to both Razzak-Tayeb and Ashraf-Manju factions have taken position against each other since Saturday in front of the party's city office.



The Ministry of Social Welfare and the National Forum for the Disabled organised a rally in the city yesterday to mark the International Day of Disabled Persons. Students of different specialised institutions for the disabled took part in the rally.

-- Star photo

Terrorists clash at Karwan Bazar

By Staff Correspondent

Panic gripped Karwanbazar market area as two groups of terrorists clashed for about 15 minutes, firing gunshots and exploding numerous homemade crackers yesterday evening.

Traffic on the nearby Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue came to a halt for sometime during the clash.

Assisted by some club-wielding local youths, Ansars stationed at Karwanbazar chased down a 15-year-old boy and badly beat him up.

Witnesses said the clash ensued just after Iftar when a gang of about 12 criminals from Tejkunipara area attacked the 'Muripatti', trying to extort money from the sellers of puff and crackers.

See page 11 col 4

Satkhira AL won't agitate for Asadul's release

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 3: Leaders of both district and city committees of Satkhira Awami League have refused to go for any movement to secure release of Kula UP Chairman Assadul Huq who was recently arrested from Jessore airport.

Assadul Huq is an accused in a case recorded under Public Safety Act with Sadar thana for launching an armed attack on the Dalmik Satkhira Chitra office that left its editor Anisur Rahim severely wounded.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of both committees on Saturday.

The party leaders were of the opinion to cancel membership for his alleged involvement in criminal activities.

Quest for a 'scientific guideline' to treat snake bite patients

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Dec 3: A move is underway to formulate a guideline, first of its kind in the country, for 'uniform scientific treatment' of snake bite patients in all hospitals, sources concerned said.

Under the move, a training module will also be prepared to ensure proper training of students of all medical colleges to treat snake bite patients.

The guideline, likely to be prepared shortly, will be placed before the director general health for approval, said the key man behind the move, Prof Dr M A Faiz of medicine department in Chittagong Medical College (CMCH).

"But before we want to introduce training module in all medical colleges," Prof Faiz told this correspondent.

A team of doctors from 13 medical college hospitals in the country, led by Prof Faiz, has taken the move. Faiz received an award in May this year from the Ministry of Science and Technology for his pioneering work in the field of snake bite treatment at CMCH. See page 11 col 1

Autarky not the limit

Better seed, management may provide at least 15pc extra yield, researchers say

By Reaz Ahmad

The country can improve on the autarky achieved this year and increase rice production by another 15 per cent, if not more, with the help of high quality seed and better seed management.

Use of clean seed and proper seed management could provide nine and six per cent extra yield respectively, according to a survey conducted by reputed rice researchers.

In 1999-2000, Bangladesh produced 243 lakh metric tons of food-grains for the first time in history, matching the annual consumption requirement of 130 million people in the country.

A recent survey conducted in seven agricultural zones of the country found that 82 per cent of the farmers use seed that they retain from their own harvests. The survey, conducted under an IRRI project in the country, found another ten per cent using seeds purchased or obtained through exchange.

Only five per cent of the farmers surveyed obtain seeds from the public sector and three per cent from private traders. Peasants collecting seeds from the NGOs are few and far between.

Production potential also suffers because of the low-quality seeds that the farmers retain and their poor management in the field, the survey points out.

Unless special emphasis is given on improvement of seed quality, the country has little option for increase in production. Dr Mahbub Hossain, one of the researchers involved in the survey, recently told The Daily Star.

Farmers are, however, aware that the seeds they retain are not of perfect quality. They know about

JS body recommends compensation for fire victims in garment units

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Commerce yesterday recommended a compensation package providing minimum Tk 100,000 and insurance facilities for each of the victims of fire incidents in garment factories and other accidents at workplaces, reports UNB.

It also called for amending the workers' safety acts by updating those to protect the rights of industrial workers.

Chaired by Raziquddin Ahmed Raju, the meeting was attended by committee members Meer Sakawat Ali Daru, Master Mojibur Rahman, Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui and Mosharrif Hossain.

Commerce Minister Abdul Jalil, Commerce Secretary Ghulam Rahman and Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) president Anisur Rahman Sinha were also present.

The meeting, while reviewing the problems facing the country's largest export-earning sector, felt the urgency of a fool proof fire resistance mechanism in garment factories and in the planned garment complex.

5 officials of Ctg Customs House ordered stand release

CHITTAGONG, Dec 3: Chittagong Customs House today ordered stand release of five officials who have been engaged in a movement against the authority over the issue of transfer of officials in September, reports UNB.

The officials are Chief Appraiser Mashru Islam Maruf, Appraisers Moniruzzaman, Zakir Hossain Chowdhury, Zakir Hossain and Emdadul Islam. The first two officials were engaged in movement under the banner of Awami League.

The authorities transferred 74 officials in two phases in September for alleged corruption. Immediately thereafter they went on strike and kept the Customs House inoperative for three days.

Subsequently, under pressure from the management 30 of the transferred officials joined their new office. Others again started agitating against the transfer order.

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Consumers are advised to contact with Zonal revenue officer immediately for non-receipt of Water/Sewer bills.

For any complaint regarding Water/Sewer bills, please contact the concerned zonal revenue office or Chief Revenue Officer (9131569) or Commercial Manager (9120557) or Deputy Managing Director (Finance & Admin.) (8116799).

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DHAKA WASA

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