

Khaleda warns against any unlawful act

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia has warned party leaders and activists as well as their relatives that stern action will be taken against anyone involved in unlawful activities like land-grabbing, property-plundering and extortion.

Party sources said the BNP chairperson told her party men that even top leaders and dedicated activists of the party or their relatives would not be spared.

A close aide to Khaleda Zia said she yesterday instructed BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan to convey the message to party leaders and activists across the country.

He said the attention of the BNP chairperson was drawn to some press reports on illegal occupation of markets, bus terminals and clubs by a section of BNP men and also in the name of BNP by ousting the Awami League men.

Oath taking of alliance MPs-elect likely tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has urged all the MPs-elect from the BNP-led four-party alliance to remain present in the capital by this afternoon, according to a statement issued last night by party's office secretary Emran Saleh Prince.

Oath-taking ceremony of the MPs-elect is likely to take place tomorrow.



Two troopers watch from a rooftop as police, paramilitary BDR and Army personnel search a car at the main entrance to the Election Commission Secretariat yesterday.

When will things start falling in place?

NAZMUL ASHRAF

When the new government will be formed, when the next parliament convened and when a speaker, deputy speaker and a new president elected are the most common questions now sweeping the public mind after Monday's general election.

A look at the constitution should help.

"The president shall appoint as prime minister the member of parliament who appears to him to command the support of the majority of the members of parliament," says Article 56(3).

So, in all probability President Shahabuddin Ahmad will appoint BNP chief Khaleda Zia as prime minister, who has emerged as leader of the two-thirds members-elect of the eighth parliament.

Khaleda led top BNP leaders to the Bangabhaban twice since her party's victory in the election to discuss, among other issues, formation of the new government. The BNP top brass is weighing both the options of whether to form government before or after re-polling in 16 constituencies scheduled for October 8.

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Business leaders against agitation

STAR REPORT

Leaders of the country's four important business bodies have forewarned that any agitation programme negating the general election would immeasurably worsen the already-slumped economy.

In a joint statement yesterday, the leaders expressed their deep concern at the latest political development in the wake of eighth parliamentary election held on October 1.

The nullification of election results would frustrate the "national bid for building the parliamentary democracy as an institution".

The attempt to tilt the democratic process backward paints a bleak picture for every sector both home and abroad, the leaders said.

Latifur Rahman, president of

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JCD men beat up DMCH intern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists beat up an intern of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday.

JCD men swooped on Bijoy Dutta, 27, at Ward No-2 of the hospital at noon. They took him to Dr Fazle Rabbi Hall and beat him mercilessly.

Dutta was first admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and later shifted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital as his condition deteriorated.

The reason behind the attack on Dutta could not be known till filing of this report last night.

Taskforce to explore feasibility of deep tube-wells

NAIMUL HAQ

In the wake of groundwater arsenic contamination, the government has formed a high-profile taskforce to explore the feasibility of deep tubewells for safe drinking water.

Official sources said the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) formed an eight-member 'Groundwater Taskforce' last month, which is headed by SKM Abdullah, a geolo-

gist and former chairman of the Petrobangla.

The main thrust of the taskforce is to identify how safe the deep aquifers are and to recommend the use of deep tubewells to the government accordingly.

The government may opt for deep tubewells as a safe option in the arsenic-affected villages following the recommendations prepared through extensive research on the groundwater table in the deep

aquifers, sources said.

"The working group will mainly be involved in exploring the deep aquifers. We will recommend to the government short-, mid- and long-term solutions, based on the findings," Abdullah told The Daily Star.

The working group has to be very cautious about the use of deep tubewells, since about 2.5 per cent of them are affected by arsenic, Abdullah said.

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Nightmare on the desert

Juvenile camel jockeys return home with parents

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A family with two children, which was tricked out of the country two years ago to have the children used as camel jockeys in oil rich Dubai, returned home yesterday.

The family of Moslem from Charsibill, Bhola is now being taken care of by BNWLA (Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association). The BNWLA along with the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training (BMET) helped the process of repatriation of the family.

The family flew home by a Biman flight yesterday morning

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Ismail and Emran with their parents on their return home.

JCD to continue non-stop strike at DU

DU CORRESPONDENT

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), a student wing of BNP, has vowed to continue its ongoing non-stop strike at the Dhaka University as long as the Vice-Chancellor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury does not resign.

The university authorities have postponed all classes and examinations till October 11 due to situation prevailing on the campus.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the Syndicate chaired by VC Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury yesterday evening.

The meeting urged all concerned to come forward to help restore congenial atmosphere on the cam

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UK, Pakistan happy with US proof against Laden

AFP, Islamabad

Pressure on Afghanistan's Taliban regime came to a head yesterday as Britain unveiled key evidence that Osama bin Laden ordered terror attacks and Pakistan admitted the West had a case against him.

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair set off for Moscow and US Defence Secretary Donald Rumsfeld toured Oman and Saudi Arabia for talks on strikes against Afghanistan, as military action inched ever closer.

The United States has demanded that the Islamic militia hand over bin Laden and shut down his al-Qaeda movement, which they blame for suicide attacks on New York and Washington by hijacked airliners that left more than 5,500 dead.

Blair told an emergency debate of the British parliament yesterday that his government had evidence that bin Laden's guilt was "beyond any doubt."

But a Taliban spokesman flatly refused to surrender

bin Laden to the United States under any circumstances.

"The (Taliban) movement will not hand over bin Laden to the United States even if it received proof of his involvement in the September 11 attacks," the militia's ambassador to Pakistan, Abdul Salam Zaeef, told the Emirati daily Al-Khaleej.

"If we receive such proof, bin Laden will be tried under Islamic law and if he is found guilty we will examine what to do," Zaeef said.

The acknowledgment by Pakistan, the last country to recognise the Taliban, that a 20-page US intelligence report "provided sufficient basis for an indictment" against bin Laden came as a further blow to a regime that is reportedly weakening every day. Bin Laden warned associates of a "major operation" against the United States shortly before the attacks and at least three of the hijackers involved in the assault were directly linked to the exiled Saudi millionaire, he said.

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Oct 5		5-42 pm
Oct 6	5-52 am	

Prayer Timings		
Oct 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Juma	12-15	1-20
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	5-50	5-56
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation