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Tidal surge in coastal belt, Navy survey ship sinks

Cyclonic storm weakens: 200 fishermen 'missing'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A Navy survey ship sank near Kutubdia off-shore island in a cyclonic storm in the Bay of Bengal that also whipped up tidal surge up to three feet in the southern coastal belt yesterday.

Fishing trawler owners associations in Kuakata and Patharghata in Barisal claimed yesterday evening that about 200 fishermen in 30 trawlers were yet to return to shores from the sea, our Barisal correspondent reported. Tidal waves rising up to seven feet hit Dublar Char, Fatrar Char and other

Our staff correspondent in Chittagong reported that a small survey ship--Survey-11-- of Bangladesh Navy sank in the rough sea near Kutubdia island early yesterday

Officials at the radio control tower at Chittagong port confirmed it. The Navy in Chittagong said all the crew of the survey ship swam ashore using life

The cyclonic storm turned into a land depression and crossed the Sundarbans coast near the Raimanagal river at around 9 pm last night, the Meteorological Department in Dhaka said. The storm is likely to move in a northeasterly direction and weaken gradually, it said.

"It has become weaker and turned into a land depression, causing rains accompanied with gusty winds," one official told The Daily Star

Day-long showers under the impact of the depression paralised life in the city and most other areas of the country.

Low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



PHOTO: ZOBAER HOSSAIN SIKDER

Arms surrender **Govt rejects**

petition to

of her personal security.

government order.

licensed guns.

UNB, Dhaka

exempt Hasina

The government yesterday rejected the petition for exempting opposition leader Sheikh Hasina from surren-

dering her licensed arms on grounds

Sheikh Hasina's PS Nazrul Islam,

the home ministry said all licensed

arms are to be deposited as per a

will have to be surrendered," it said in

in parliament is holding the rank of a

minister, she will also have to deposit

that the government is conscious

about security of the opposition

leader and would make necessary

arrangement for ensuring her

"Even the arms of the ministers

Since the leader of the opposition

However, the ministry assured

In reply to an application sent by

Fishing trawlers lie moored on the foreshore of the Karnaphuli River at the Chittagong Fishery Ghat yesterday, as a cyclonic storm brews over the Bay of Bengal, raising tidal surges and heavy rains.

Ward commissioner of CCC arrested

Army to control traffic, launch cleanliness drive in port city from Nov 19

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A ward commissioner of the Chittagong City Corporation (CCC) was arrested yesterday when he went to the Bayezid Bostami police station to deposit his licensed shot-

Also, a meeting between Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and in-charge of the joint forces Zahurul Ahsan decided that troops would be deployed in the port city on November 19 for traffic control and a cleanliness drive.

Our Chittagong correspondent reports that Kafiuddin Khan, ward commissioner of the Panchlaish ward, was shown arrested for his involvement in a murder case in

Meanwhile, Assistant Subinspector Al-Amin and Constable Jamal of Kotwali police station, arrested red-handed by the army Monday night while taking bribe, were suspended and closed yester-

Former CCC ward commissioner and president of the Chittagong Port Dock Workers League Jahangir was yesterday produced before the Chittagong Metropolitan Magistrate's court, which placed him

on a three-day police remand. The court also sent president of the Chittagong Seamen's Association SM Shafique on a day's

Jahangir alias Dock Jahangir was arrested Sunday at Chittagong airport minutes before he was to fly off Singapore. Shafique, who went to see off Jahangir, was also arrested.

Meanwhile, the army hauled up 75 people, including seven listed criminals, across the country during the last 24 hours ending 8:00am

The troops also seized 13 firearms - three pistols, five shotguns and as many pipe guns and 75

rounds of ammunition. On the 36th day of countrywide clampdown on criminals yesterday, inclement weather hampered

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3 Security men of govt, private

exempted

The government order to deposit licensed arms and ammunition will not be applicable to members of the and VDP and security personnel organisations, banks and insurance companies, establishments and

The Ministry of Home Affairs in a statement last night once again reminded all concerned to deposit their licensed firearms including guns, rifles, pistols, revolvers and shotguns along with ammunition with the nearby police stations or arms depots (malkhana) of the deputy commissioners (DC) by

Debate on army drive to dominate JS session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ongoing countrywide army crackdown on criminals looks set to dominate the fifth session of the eighth Jatiya Sangsad, which begins tomorrow.

The main opposition Awami League is expected to question the legal basis of Operation Clean Heart besides raising for debate deaths and tortures in custody, and arrest of political activists, including two of its

The ruling party, on the other hand, appears unwilling to have any scheduled debate on the army drive However, according to sources in the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), the treasury bench is ready for any unscheduled debate on the anti-crime operation. In what appears a bid to avoid a

prolonged debate on the issue, the treasury bench is learnt to have been pushing for a brief session, four or five working days maximum, the sources added.

Also, the sources said, it is highly ikely that there will be no Prime Minister's Question Time in this session to spare her from answering any questions on the issue.

Questions for the home minister, especially on the army drive, could also be discouraged.

Should that happen, the main opposition would raise the issue on point of order, a parliamentary rule that allows lawmakers to speak on issues out of agenda, given all other options are blocked So far, the AL has submitted to

the parliament secretariat more than 200 notices under different categories seeking discussion on the planned issues, sources said.

The secretariat received over 2,500 questions mostly from opposition legislators until yesterday, they SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

20pc fuel price hike planned

The government has decided to increase fuel prices about 20 per cent in a year to 'minimise the losses due to price increase in the international market' and also 'to check smuggling of fuel to a neighbouring

Last time, the government increased fuel price around 10 per cent in December 2001.

The energy ministry has already prepared a price hike proposal for different types of fuel and will submit it

to the prime minister today for her consent, according to

"The new rates would be made effective as soon as we get the prime minister's nod," State Minister for Petroleum and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hossain told The Daily Star last night.

He said it has become 'imperative' for the govern-

ment to increase prices. "Crude oil price in the international market has shot up to \$35 a barrel from \$22.50 in the last one year. And

Army drive to go on until crime curbed

No indemnity for custodial deaths, says Moudud



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Law. Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said the anti-crime crackdown will continue until the country's law and order improves.

A monitoring cell would be formed to speed up investigation into the cases filed during the ongoing Operation Clean Heart, he

In a press briefing at his Secretariat office, Moudud noted the operation by army, BDR and police forces has already achieved a considerable success in curbing

He explained to journalists the legal course of action following the death in police custody.

The law minister said the army vould not be indemnified for deaths in its custody. Neither would there be any separate investigation into any of these deaths. All deaths would be investigated in line with the existing laws of the land.

If someone dies in police custody, the police official concerned will have to inform the nearest magistrate of the death as per Police Manual 302 (d). The magistrate would probe the cause of death according to section 176 of the Criminal Procedure Code and would record statements of witnesses. As per the investigation, the authorities would take appropriate SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

No plan to restrict **NGO** activities

LGRD minister allays donors' concern

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday made clear to the donors that it has no intention of restricting activities of the non-government organisations (NGOs) and is preparing a policy to

Local Government, Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan spelled out the government's position when a fivemember delegation of the Local Consultative Group (LCG) led by World Bank Country Director Frederick T Temple met him at his

Secretariat office. The LCG comprises the WB, the International Development (USAID), the European Commission and the Dutch The delegation called on

Mannan Bhuiyan to air its apprehension that the government could impose restriction on NGO activi-Members of the delegation told

Sehri, Iftar timing Ramadan Nov Sehri Iftar 13 14 | 4-50 | 5-17 15 4-51 5-16

United States Agency for the minister that the press reports seem to indicate the restriction. Bhuiyan, the LGRD and Cooperatives minister, said the

government does not intend to impose any restriction on the NGOs. Rather the cabinet committee on NGO Affairs almost finalised a recommendation to prepare a policy to enable the non-government organisations run their social development activities smoothly, he said.

The policy aims to bring all NGOs under general regulations so that the NGO objectives could be implemented in a yet more coordinated way, Bhuiyan added.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

organisations

armed forces. BDR. police. Ansar employed in different government, semi-government and private

November 15.

The arms and ammunition will SEE PAGE 11 COL 3