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Hasina discusses human wall programme

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Awami League (AL)-led opposition parties have stepped up their campaign at different places along the 'human wall' route from Teknaf to Tentulia in the run-up to the December 11 programme.

The AL, its front organisations and the left-leaning parties yesterday held rallies at different points on the 900-km route, and urged people to participate in the human wall programme to show their 'no-confidence' in the BNP-Jamaat coalition government.

In Dhaka, key leaders of the opposition parties yesterday met Leader of the Opposition and AL President Sheikh Hasina at her residence and discussed their parties' preparations ahead of the programme.

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PHOTO: STAR

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina discusses the December 11 Teknaf-to-Tentulia 'human wall' programme with key leaders of the 14-party opposition combine at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday.

Musharraf's security file found on London streets

AFP, London

British police were probing yesterday why a top secret file detailing security arrangements for the visit of Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to Britain this week was found abandoned on a London street.

The 17-page document was reportedly found by a delivery driver in a brown envelope on upmarket Curzon Street hours before Musharraf and his wife touched

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REGISTRATION

English medium schools get more time

TAWFIQUE ALI

The government has extended once again the deadline for registration of English medium schools. A meeting of education officials chaired by Education Secretary Faruq Ahmad Siddiqi decided on Monday to move the registration deadline up to January 31, said a meeting source.

As per the decision, all the education boards have been instructed to

obtain detailed information on the private English medium schools through the District Education Officers concerned.

"A further course of action will be taken as per the ministry instructions on receipt of the list and details of the institutions," according to the source.

The meeting participants also decided to carry out regular monitoring of the functions of such institutions under the existing rules, said an official who attended the meeting, seeking anonymity.

"See, irregularities in the English medium schools sector is one of the many other problems, it will be resolved by and by," said the official, who declined to respond when asked about the mechanism for monitoring and how problems will be resolved.

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METER PROCUREMENT

JS body blasts Desa for 19-month delay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body yesterday blasted Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (Desa) officials for taking 19 months to finalise a tender for 10,000 three-phase meters.

The Desa officials came in for flak from the parliamentary standing committee on power, energy and mineral resources ministry also for its attempt to lay blame on the committee chairman for the delay in the procurement process.

Earlier a probe report on the delay in finalising the tender was

submitted yesterday to the parliamentary body. The committee termed the report insufficient and asked the ministry to identify the officials responsible for delay and initiate legal steps against them. It also asked the Desa to issue work order in favour of the lowest bidder.

At the meeting, the parliamentary body also discussed the financial irregularities in the Desa accounts involving Tk 970 crore. The Desa submitted a report regarding inconsistency between assets and liabilities figures in its ledger book. The committee rejected the report

and decided to discuss the matter at the next meeting.

While discussing the probe report, a ruling BNP lawmaker and member of the committee questioned the committee chairman's jurisdiction and accused him of interfering in the ministry's routine work ignoring the rules of procedure of the Jatiya Sangsad, meeting sources said.

Chairman of the committee, Shahidul Islam, however, denied the allegations outright and said he had in line with the rules examined the

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Khaleda seeks Japanese help for Padma bridge

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday sought Japanese assistance in building Padma bridge as the government plans to start the construction work next year.

She sought the cooperation when a visiting delegation of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentary League (JBPL) called on her at the Prime Minister's office (PMO).

The delegation mooted an idea of forging a greater regional cooperation for utilising available resources for poverty alleviation and ensuring progress of the Asian countries.

The prime minister assured all-out cooperation in this regard.

Mentioning the completion of feasibility study of the Padma bridge project by Japanese experts, she sought their cooperation to start the construction work in the coming year.

Led by Acting President of the JBPL Shin Sakurai, the Japanese delegation assured of pursuing the matter with the authorities.

Kazuyasu Shiina MP and Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Matsu Shiro Horiguchi, among others, accompanied Shin Sakurai.

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1 killed, another kidnapped for ransom

AMANUR AMAN, Kushtia

Outlawed party cadres slaughtered an abducted Jhenidah trader Monday night as his family failed to pay Tk 2 lakh in ransom, while miscreants abducted another trader in Kushtia and demanded a ransom of Tk 5 lakh the same day.

A gang led by Tipu, local leader of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF) picked up Shariful, 30, from his grocery shop at Sheikhpara Bazar in Shaikupa upazila at about 10pm on November 21.

Later they asked Sariful's family

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Fears grow among foreigners in KSA

Saudi govt vows no let-up in fight against militants

AFP, Jeddah

Osama bin Laden's al-Qaeda claimed yesterday the attack on the US consulate in Jeddah, dealing a blow to the Saudi government's attempts to wipe out Islamic militants behind a wave of terror strikes.

Monday's broad daylight assault on the fortified compound in the

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Ctg mayor threatens strike Dec 18

Demands transfer of cops

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Chittagong Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury yesterday threatened to enforce a hartal in Chittagong on December 18 if by that time two assistant commissioners of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) are not withdrawn for their alleged misbehaviour with him.

Earlier yesterday the two CMP officials, Senior AC of Detective Branch (DB) Gazi Jashim Uddin and AC (Kotwali), reportedly attacked and foiled an Awami League (AL) rally leaving at least 10 people injured, said witnesses.

Chittagong city unit AL was arranging a rally on Chittagong Railway Station premises to host a reception to its Organising Secretary Afsarul Amin, who returned to Chittagong from Dhaka after securing an interim bail in a police assault case.

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'Arms factory' unearthed at Feni

UNB, Feni

Police unearthed an "arms factory" and arrested eight people at Chhagalnaiya upazila headquarters on Monday night.

Acting on a tip-off, police raided the factory, Daradi Metal, and seized arms-making equipment.

The arrestees are Jasimuddin, 18, Abu Siddique, 21, Abdul Hai, 17, Ayub, 19, Rafiq, Abdur Razzak, 17, Halim, 20, and Azimuddin, 22.

Police said Abdul Hai, Rafiq and Ayub were the regular workers of the factory, while Azimuddin was "hired from Dhaka recently for manufacturing arms".

The owner of the factory, Humayun of Sathia Sonapur village, managed to flee during the raid.

Prayer Timing

December 8

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-15	5-50
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-19	5-22
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

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ফোন: ৯৫৫৯৮৫, ৯৫৬৬৩৩৬, ফ্যাক্স: ৮৮-০২-৯৫৬২৪৪৭

ইদ পুনর্মিলনী ২০০৪

ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স ইনস্টিটিউশন, বাংলাদেশ-এর পক্ষ থেকে ইদ পুনর্মিলনী অনুষ্ঠান আগামী ১০ ডিসেম্বর ২০০৪, শুক্রবার, বিকেল ৪-০০ ঘটিকায় ইনস্টিটিউশন চত্বরে আয়োজন করা হয়েছে।

উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে গৃহায়ণ ও গণপূর্ত মন্ত্রণালয়ের মাননীয় মন্ত্রী জনাব মির্জা আব্বাস, এম, পি, প্রধান অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত থাকতে সদয় সম্মতি জ্ঞাপন করেছেন এবং বিনিয়োগ বোর্ডের নির্বাহী চেয়ারম্যান প্রকৌশলী মাহমুদুর রহমান বিশেষ অতিথি হিসেবে উপস্থিত থাকবেন।

অনুষ্ঠানে সভাপতিত্ব করবেন ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স ইনস্টিটিউশন, বাংলাদেশ-এর প্রেসিডেন্ট অধ্যাপক ডঃ প্রকৌশলী এম, আনোয়ারুল্লাহ যাজীম।

উক্ত অনুষ্ঠানে যোগদানের লক্ষ্যে ইনস্টিটিউশনের সদস্য প্রকৌশলীদের আমন্ত্রণ জানানো যাচ্ছে। অনুষ্ঠানের আমন্ত্রণপত্র সদর দফতর হতে সংগ্রহ করার জন্য অনুরোধ জানানো যাচ্ছে।

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