

## Both factions of BNP

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have been working sincerely towards reforms," Lt Gen (retd) Mahbubur Rahman, a pro-reform standing committee member of the BNP, told The Daily Star yesterday.

Asked whether they would send any letter to the EC, Mahbubur said they would discuss the matter today.

Meantime, the EC, which has already begun sending out invitations to the secretary-generals or general secretaries of the 15 parties chosen for the talks, is not sure which of the BNP factions should have the call, said sources in the commission.

Election Commissioner Muhammed Sohul Hussain yesterday told The Daily Star, "We still have time to think things over." In the schedule unveiled last week, the BNP is slotted in for the dialogue on November 22.

"We will send invitation to the parties some 15 days before the scheduled date. We hope the situation will work out by this time," he said referring to the crisis in the immediate past ruling party.

Asked if the matter is not settled then which of the factions they would choose for the talks, Sohul said he cannot say anything about it now. "We will take a decision when the time comes," he added.

Khandaker Dewar Hossain yesterday said that in no way can the EC send Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan the official letter inviting the BNP to the dialogue.

"He [Bhuiyan] doesn't belong to the party anymore. He cannot represent us at any forum," the new secretary general told reporters yesterday.

But Mahbubur Rahman, a pro-

reform leader, said they have already rejected the chairperson's decision to expel Bhuiyan from the party.

"We have cleared our position Monday. Most of the former lawmakers are with us," he said.

Besides making statements against each other, both the factions have started contacting the senior leaders and those at the grassroots level to strengthen their camp.

The pro-reform group spearheaded by Bhuiyan thinks they deserve the administration's backing as they are "committed to bringing reforms in the party as well as politics in general".

Leaders still siding with the chairperson think those at the grassroots level will never allow Bhuiyan to split the party, keeping Khaleda Zia in jail.

### Bulu

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He was forced to stop halfway through the work and return the wheat to the authorities as Bulu's men began to obstruct work when he refused to meet their demand, read the FIR.

Enraged, the accused beat up his assistant Solaiman after detaining him at the union parishad office on the night of February 22 of the year, Pasha complained adding that they also tried to gun him (Pasha) down.

The BNP men later dumped Pasha on roadside unconscious, said the case statement.

He said Bulu's men kept harassing him by filing cases when he returned home from hospital after a lengthy recuperation.

## Twins born

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separate. Breathing, movement and other activities of the new-borns are normal.

"Following a chest x-ray, ecocardiography and ultrasonogram of the twins' abdomen we will come to the decision whether the babies can be separated," said Dr Mahmud. A board will be formed with surgeons and paediatricians for the purpose, he said.

"It seems that the process of separation will be very critical," he added.

Father of the twins Khalilur Rahman, a farmer, said the condition of the twins was well from the very beginning and the doctors of the clinic referred them to the DMCH for better examination of the internal condition of today can face the world of tomorrow."

An ultrasonogram of Hashu Begum during pregnancy predicted twins but it did not say anything about their conjoined condition, Khalil said.

Experts said when an embryo begins to split into identical twins but stops midway leaving the partially separated egg to mature, it results in conjoined twins. This occurs once in every 1,50,000 to 2,00,000 live births and is three times likely to happen to females than males.

The chances of survival of conjoined twins depend on how they are connected. About 40-60 percent are stillborn and 35 percent survive 24 hours or less.

For twins who undergo surgery, one often dies after the operation and the rate of survival beyond the age of two is just 20 percent.

### 2 DU teachers

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Hossain and DU Social Science Dean Prof Harun-or-Rashid-- before the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka at 3:00pm with a forwarding report.

The case was filed against some 6,000 unnamed students, teachers and outsiders for damaging public and private property, obstructing police from performing duties and pelting policemen with stones on the DU campus on August 22.

In the forwarding report, Sub-Inspector Sirajul Islam, also the investigation officer (IO) of the case, mentioned that the two arrestees gave important information about the incidents on the DU campus. So, they need to be confined to jail until the investigation of the case is completed, the IO said.

The defence lawyers submitted a petition for granting them bail though there are no provisions for seeking bail under the emergency powers rule.

After hearing both the sides, Metropolitan Magistrate Hassan Sarwar ordered to send them to jail.

Earlier, the two were also placed on a four-day remand in another case filed for their involvement in the incidents on the DU campus.

### DU syndicate

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Faiz said the university might partially be reopened during the holy month for the convenience of the student-researchers.

The authorities would take steps to remove the "sense of insecurity" among the teachers and students before reopening the university, the VC added.

Under the project for preventing unification of the Bangali and Jamuna rivers, the work to protect the roads and establishments in the south part of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge project started in 2004 at a cost of Tk 130 crore, officials said.

The WDB started some repair work on the damaged dam yesterday so that the erosion can be prevented.

## Thousands marooned

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while the Kushiyara at Sheola is likely to rise by 7cm and may flow 49cm above danger level, according to Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre (FFWC).

Locals have started repairing the breaches that developed along the Kushiyara dyke at Lakshimbazar.

"If the onrush of water continues further, the situation may take a serious turn," the UNO of Zakiganj said. He distributed five tons of rice, water purifying tablets and oral saline packets among the flood-affected people yesterday and asked for more relief materials from the deputy commissioner.

Zakiganj Upazila Agriculture Officer said that seedbeds on over a hundred hectares of land and Aman paddy and other crops on at least 300 hectares of land were damaged by the fresh flooding.

Low-lying areas of Belebazar were also flooded while breaches developed at six points along the Kushiyara dyke in Dubag and Charkhia unions in the last two days.

The floodwaters also damaged newly planted paddy on over a thousand hectares in Golapganj upazila bringing utter misery to the farmers.

Meanwhile, a total of 799 people died due to flood related causes with eight being dead in 24 hours ending at 6:00am yesterday.

Of the dead, 700 died by drowning, 61 of snakebites, 21 of diarrhoea and 17 of respiratory tract infection (RTI), according to the control room of Directorate General of Health Services.

Meanwhile, 3,641 people were affected by diarrhoea, 820 with RTI, 1,087 with skin diseases and 882 with eye infections yesterday.

Flood control embankment damaged in Bogra

The river Jamuna yesterday partially devoured the flood control embankment and some 20 houses at Kalitala area of Sariakandi in the

## Barapukuria coal mine

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one as the BCMCL authorities decided to seal the area yesterday considering the imminent threat the CO emissions pose on human health. Inhaling a small percentage of CO can kill any human being, said experts.

"We will now review our past mistakes. We shall see whether we needed to inject more nitrogen back in April to July to eliminate risk of carbon monoxide emission," said a source at BCMCL.

The BCMCL produced 2,200 tons of coal from this phase alone on Monday and another 1,000 tons yesterday till deciding to seal it off, he added.

Combined with coal production from another phase, the BCMCL was producing over 3,200mt coal every day for the last 12 days -- enough to cater to the requirement of the Barapukuria 250MW power plant. Prior to the reopening of the Phase 1110, it was all set to import coal for the power plant from Indonesia due to ongoing coal shortage.

Now the Power Development Board (PDB) would once again have to rely on imported coal to run its Barapukuria 250MW power plant.

It is not certain when this phase could be reopened. "In the best case scenario, it will take several more months," the source pointed out.

This phase of the complex

underground mine gives access to 2.30 lakh tons of coal, which has a production value of at least \$100,000.

On October 4, 2005 the BCMCL shut down the mine's production phase 1110 due to deadly saturation of gas.

On April 4, 2006 Chinese contractors tried to unseal the area to recover the costly mining equipment. But it had to be re-sealed on April 7, 2006, as the gas situation inside it was precarious.

Then from April, 2007 the mine's Chinese operators led by CMC, with help of consultants from China University of Mining Technology, started injecting nitrogen into the sealed area to reduce oxygen and to eliminate chances of self-combustion.

On August 18, a team, with the backup of fire services, medical teams and a backup power system, started unsealing the area.

The Barapukuria coal mine project was approved in March 1992 at a cost of Tk 887 crore under Chinese Supplier's Credit with the completion target of July 31, 2001.

Project delays and severe corruption hiked up the project cost to over Tk 1,600 crore. So far, the government has paid off more than Tk 600 crore to China.

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## CA wants Intel

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company is ready to work aggressively with the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of ICT in Bangladesh. Intel now mainly focuses on ICT and education sectors.

He said they want to immediately set up infrastructure of teachers training programme in Bangladesh. Under such a programme, Intel has already trained up about seven lakh teachers in India.

Barrett said Intel is giving priority in teachers training programme, as qualified teacher is important behind the root of all successes. "We'll focus on higher education and shape the education curriculum so that students of today can face the world of tomorrow."

The CA said partnership with Intel will help Bangladesh in its forward march towards progress through alleviating poverty, generating employment and increasing economic growth. Partnership can be set up in terms of training, research and technology.

He said Bangladesh is ready to move ahead aggressively with IT. The CA's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam were also present during the meeting.

WiMAX to expand the worldwide connectivity through broad band, which would help the country's socio-economic progress as a chain reaction.

He sought Intel's support in WiMAX technology, a telecommunications technology aimed at providing wireless data over long distance in a variety of ways.

The CA said the major objective of the present government is to establish good governance. The present government is pro-private sector and wants to alleviate poverty through involving the private sector.

The Intel chairman appreciated Grameenphone operations and nationwide networks. Bangladesh could be an example in the world the way Grameenphone has spread its network in villages, he said.

Intel signed a MoU with Grameen Solutions in the morning.

Intel Country Business Manager Gamarjan and Secretary in-charge of the CA's Office Kazi M Aminul Islam were also present during the meeting.

## CA, army chief

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present inflationary pressure. Per capita income increased to 11 per cent in FY 2006-07, which caused extra demands by the people and inflation went up," he said.

A meeting between private and public sector will also be held today to discuss the recent issues relating price hike and problems faced by the businessmen, the adviser said.

The IMF team led by its adviser for the Asia-Pacific region, Thomas Rambough, is likely to discuss with the government the 'next version' of IMF's credit programme while the government may seek a significant amount as budget support to make up for the losses caused by the recent floods, sources said.

### US denies

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on normalizing relations with the North, enemies since the Korean War, and explore removing the terrorism designation.

Hill suggested that North Korea first needs to go further in dismantling its nuclear programs before the US will take it off the terrorism list.

"Getting off the list will depend on further denuclearization," Hill told reporters later Tuesday after a meeting with Japan's nuclear envoy, also in Sydney for a meeting of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

Hill declined to specify what North Korea must do but said those things have been discussed with North Korean officials. "They know what these steps are," Hill said.

Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura, who was in Australia for meetings of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, said he expected to be briefed by Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice on North Korea's status on the list.

"But I believe it depends on all kinds of conditions like the disabling of nuclear facilities and complete verification," Machimura told reporters in Sydney. "These conditions have to be agreed and then realized. I haven't heard that we've reached that position yet."

After a slow start, the parties to the four-party alliance came to power, the now-defunct Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed the MIG-29 case against Sheikh Hasina and the others against Tejgaon Police Station in December 2001.

According to the first information report (FIR), the government incurred a loss of Tk 700 crore on account of the warplane purchase.

Former army chief Lt Gen (retd) Mustafizur Rahman, ex-Air Force Chief Air Marshal (retd) Jamal Uddin Ahmed, retired defence secretary Syed Yusuf Hossain, Air Commodore (retd) Mirza Akhtar Maruf, retired defence joint secretary Mohammad Hossain Semirabat and businessman Noor Ali are the other charge-sheeted accused in the case.

Pending with the trial court, the

## Dhaka rejects

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ministry has informed me that no one by that name [Mohammed Sharifuddin] has been arrested here."

The Indian media quoted India's Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) Director Vijay Shanker as saying that the bureau received information that Bangladesh had arrested Mohammed Sharifuddin, who also goes by the aliases Abu Hamza and Kanchan. The media also reported that the CBI chief wished to check the veracity of the information with Interpol.

Earlier yesterday, external affairs minister of India, Pranab Mukherjee, told the media in New Delhi that his government had sought the assistance of Bangladesh government during the home-secretary level meeting in Delhi in the first week of August to capture the perpetrators of a series of bomb blasts in India.

Denying the claims, a foreign ministry press release yesterday stated, "So far, Bangladesh has not received any request for information in connection with the Hyderabadi blasts." When asked whether Dhaka

was asked by New Delhi for assistance during the home-secretary meet, Touhid added, "Yes, but that was back then."

This could lead to the first test for the new agreement between the two home ministries to set up a joint mechanism for sharing actionable intelligence, as New Delhi has already hinted that it may use it for the first time in relation to the Hyderabadi bombings.

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