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BNP's Ctg divisional rally today

Khaleda to address
STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Opposition BNP holds the first of its six divisional rallies here at Laldighi Maidan today. BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will address the rally as the chief guest at 4:00pm. This will be her public meeting in Chittagong after the December 2008 election. She is expected to arrive in the port city by 2:30pm, BNP sources said. BNP units of Chittagong have been campaigning for

N-plant stays in deal still

PM's forthcoming visit to Russia may get the power project back on track

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's upcoming visit to Russia in a couple of months might see a breakthrough in the sluggish progress of installing nuclear power plants in Bangladesh, foreign ministry officials have said. A contract on cooperation for using atomic energy is likely to be signed between Dhaka and Moscow for installing two 1,000 megawatt power plants in Bangladesh, they said. An inter-ministerial meeting at the

foreign ministry yesterday discussed the progress made so far to that end. "Foreign Minister Dipu Moni wanted to know the present status of talks with Russia," an official of Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission told The Daily Star after the meeting with the foreign minister in chair. The foreign minister enquired about the things that need to be completed before signing the contract, he said. Dipu Moni is likely to visit Russia next month ahead of the premier's Russia visit, said foreign ministry officials.

The foreign minister asked the officials concerned to work sincerely and expedite the process of signing the contract with Russia on installation of nuclear power plants in Bangladesh, sources said. Bangladesh failed to make any visible progress in this regard since signing of a protocol deal with Russia on October 21, 2009 on cooperation for peaceful usage of nuclear energy. The deal was inked in Moscow during the visit of a nine-member Bangladesh delegation headed by State Minister for

CHITTAGONG PORT
Strike stops goods handling for 8hrs

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

The cargo handling at Chittagong port remained suspended for eight hours yesterday as the dockworkers abstained from work demanding reinstatement of their terminated colleagues. The Chittagong Dock Bandar Sramik Karmachari Federation enforced the programme from 8:00am pressing for the reinstatement of workers fired during the last interim government. The workers and employees also staged a sit-in in front of Bandar Bhaban, the office of Chittagong Port Authority (CPA). The dockworkers got back to work in the afternoon. The strike was called after a meeting between the shipping minister and a six-member team from the federation ended inconclusively. Terming the work abstention by dockworkers illegal and

Tk 3,000 fee fixed for MRP

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The fee for emergency machine-readable passport (MRP) has been fixed at Tk 6,000 while Tk 3,000 will be charged for a normal MRP, according to a home ministry notification. The fees for the MRP to be issued in foreign missions of the country will be different. Fee for an emergency MRP is \$200 while \$100 for normal ones in abroad, says the notification. The 84-page new passport will be valid for five years.

Judge recruitment, role of courts to be watched

Says new SCBA president; pro-AL lawyers blame poll loss on internal feud, wrong choice of candidates

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League is looking to find why its panel in the Supreme Court Bar Association (SCBA) election suffered a defeat while the opposition thinks it is the beginning of people's no-confidence in the government. Khandaker Mahub Hossain, pro-BNP lawyer and newly elected SCBA president, said they would not use the association as a tool to gain political mileage. SCBA, however, will play its role in upholding the independence of the judiciary and protecting human rights, he added. Munsurul Hoque Chowdhury who vied for the post of president on the Awami League



Khandaker Mahub Hossain

ticket said they would cooperate with the new leadership if it works for the welfare of SCBA and protest if it goes against the national interests. Ruling Awami League-backed Sammilita Ainjibi Samannaya Parishad (SASP) and BNP-backed Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Oikya Parishad (JAOP) contested the election on March 23 and 24. After a long 16 years Awami League nominated panel lost the election. Senior pro-Awami League lawyers and all candidates of SASP panel yesterday sat at a meeting at Bangabandhu Bhaban at Dhanmondi 32 to analyse their defeat.

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OnlinePoll

Do you think BNP will come forward with information about war criminals to help the government try war crime?

Yes (12.5%)
 No (80.7%)
 No Comments (6.8%)

Total votes: 1105

TODAY'S POLL
 Do you support government's decision to shed 150-250MW of power in Dhaka from midnight to 9:00am to meet the demand of electricity for irrigation during Boro season?

Please cast your vote at www.thedailystar.net

Serve villagers, get promotion

PM tells govt officials, doctors

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the number of working days spent in the villages would be considered as one of the major elements before government employees are considered for promotion in their jobs. Hasina said this when a delegation of Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) led by its President Dr Mahmud Hasan and Secretary General Dr Sharfuddin Ahmed called on her at the Prime Minister's Office. Hasina further urged the country's doctors and others concerned in the health sector to give their best efforts to take quality medical services to the doorsteps of the mass people, said PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad. "One of our government's major pledges to the people is to give them quality medical facilities. Implementation of this pledge largely depends on you," she told the doctors. Hasina during the meeting further directed the authorities concerned to boost up government's activities over family planning affairs. There is a trend for the government officials to be posted inside the capital city, the PM observed. "Then what will happen to the fate of our rural people who are major part of the population? We must ensure quality services to the people living in the rural areas," she said. The last AL government planned to set up 18,000 community health clinics across the country, Hasina said. Each community health clinic had been planned to set up to provide modern, but cheap medical services to the people of the

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Prayer Timing

March 29

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-45	5-20
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-45	5-00
Maghrib	6-20	6-25
Esha	7-45	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

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