

BCL GONE CRAZY

Hasina warns, MPs ignore

HASAN JAHID TUSHER
 Bangladesh Chhatra League has gone beyond control as ruling party lawmakers have been ignoring Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's repeated directives to contain the unruly activities by the student body.
 The unlawful and violent activities by the BCL are centred on different educational institutions across the country under direct and indirect patronisation of local lawmakers, some of whom are even ministers.
 While these leaders have been deliberately ignoring the prime minister's call for taking stern action against BCL activists involved in criminal activities, law enforcement agencies cannot also take any step against the wrongdo-

ers because of the strong backing from these leaders.
 The law enforcement agencies have informed the government about these patrons.
 AL acting general secretary Mahbul Alam Hanif also admitted that the allegation of patronisation by AL lawmakers is "partially" true.
 "It is obvious that Chhatra League is involved in misdeeds under the patronisation of some ministers, lawmakers and party leaders in many places," he said last night. "We have recently warned these leaders in person, asking them not to interfere in Chhatra League affairs; otherwise, organisational action will be taken against them."

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Expedite war crimes trial

President urges Int'l Crimes Tribunal

UNB, Dhaka
 President Zillur Rahman yesterday urged International Crimes Tribunal to speedily accomplish the trial of war criminals for their misdeeds during the country's Liberation War in 1971.
 The president made the call when a three-member delegation of the Tribunal led by its Chairman Justice Nizamul Haque called on him at Bangabhaban. Tribunal members—Justice ATM Fazley Kabir and AKM Zahir Ahmed—accompanied the chairman.
 Zillur said it is the public demand to complete the trial of those people who had committed crimes against the humanity.

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KILLING AT NATORE

BNP agitation tomorrow

STAFF CORRESPONDENT
 BNP will stage rallies across the country tomorrow protesting the killing of its leader in an attack at Natore on his way to the Wednesday's grand rally in Rajshahi.
 The main opposition in parliament will also observe a half-day hartal in the victim's home district Bogra and hold rallies at all metropolitan cities and district headquarters on Sunday.
 The party will also hold countrywide "gayebana janazas" [funeral prayers in absentia] of Zakir Hossain and pray for him in the mosques after Jumma prayers across the country today. Such janaza will also be held at the BNP's Nayapaltan central office.
 BNP Secretary General Khandaker Delwar Hossain announced the programme at a press briefing at the central office yesterday.
 A BNP convoy from Bogra

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SQ Chy sued for money laundering

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Anti-Corruption Commission yesterday sued BNP lawmaker Salauddin Quader Chowdhury on money-laundering charges.
 Toufiqul Islam, ACC assistant director, filed the case with Dhanmondi Police Station. Shah Alam, officer-in-charge of the police station, confirmed the filing of the case.

The case statement says Chowdhury laundered \$250,000 and HK\$100,000 (\$12,864) to buy Beximco Pharmaceuticals' global depository receipts (GDRs).
 In his wealth statement to the ACC, the senior BNP leader did not mention the purchase of GDRs, a certificate issued by banks, which purchases shares in a foreign company.
 In 2005, the Securities and Exchange Commission permitted Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd to issue GDRs worth \$2.7 crore (over \$4.03 crore) on London Stock Exchange.
 Money Laundering Prevention Act, 2009, allows only foreigners to purchase GDRs of a local company. But Chowdhury bought Beximco Pharma GDRs as a director of Chichester



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Return houses to 13 Hindu families

HC asks police admin over Pirojpur property grabbing

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday ordered the police administration of Pirojpur to rehabilitate to their houses within five days 13 Hindu families in Mathbaria upzila evicted allegedly by Awami League activists.
 It also directed the superintendent of police (SP) of Pirojpur and officer-in-charge (OC) of Mathbaria Police Station to ensure restoration of the victims' lands and other property from the grabbers.
 The HC ordered them to provide adequate security to the evicted families.
 It is alleged that a group of local AL men occupied houses and property of the 13 families of South Sonakhali village in the last three months.

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DEV BUDGET GLITCH

Unending roads

Paltry annual allocations the reason

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Construction of a bridge on the Dhaleswari River at Elasin of Tangail, taken up five years ago, will be completed after 490 more years, thanks to inadequate annual funding.
 A Daily Star analysis of this fiscal year's revised Annual Development Programme (ADP) revealed there are at least 20 road projects that will take between 3 and 490 years to be completed.
 Senior Research Director of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Zaid Bakht said small annual allocations for road projects slow down the pace of implementation, leading to the astronomical timelines for completion.
 BIDS in a report said several new road development projects are included in the ADP every fiscal year, despite a backlog of incomplete old projects.
 Implementation of the newly included projects is also dragged for years due to the same reason.
 A large portion of road projects are often taken up on political consideration, the report added.
 A Planning ministry official said dragging of

project implementation not only makes the public suffer, but it also drives up project costs for several reasons including inflation.
 A draft report on ADP failure prepared by the Planning Commission last month also said limited funds spread over too many projects leads to inefficient fund allocations resulting in cost overrun, failure to complete projects on time, and rendering of projects unviable.
 The BIDS report recommended that a moratorium be imposed on inclusion of new road projects until a substantial part of the backlog projects are completed.
 Zaid Bakht said, "The problems we identified exist in the current budget as well."
 Though there has been a huge backlog of projects in the current ADP, new projects have been taken up, he said adding, the government should take steps to quickly complete old and important projects by increasing annual allocations for those.
 A high official of the planning ministry said the government is also thinking along those lines. It is preparing a detailed plan for development in the transport sector, he said. Implementation of the new plan is likely to start

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POWER, GAS CRISES

Hasina again blames past BNP govt

UNB, Barguna

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday blamed the then BNP-Jamaat government for current power and gas crisis in the country.
 She claimed that her previous government had undertaken several power plant

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New MPO list almost finalised

WASIM BIN HABIB

The government has almost finalised a list of non-government education institutions for giving them monthly pay order (MPO) facilities.
 Around 1,000 private schools, colleges, technical

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A BIWTA excavator removes soil from an encroached upon section of the river Turag near Gabtali yesterday. But the agency dumps it right on the bank making it easily available for anyone wanting to fill up the river again. The carelessness renders the entire exercise futile.
 PHOTO: SK ENAMUL HAQ

Fresh drive to free Turag

25 structures demolished

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) in cooperation with Dhaka district administration knocked down 25 illegal concrete and semi-concrete structures by the river Turag near Amin Bazar bridge yesterday.
 Most of the identified encroachers of the area -- Mirpur mouja under Darussalam Police Station -- are dealers of construction materials. The district administration served notices to 64 of them, said Md Sharif Afzal Hossain, officer of Dhaka River Port.
 "Of the encroachers, 25 erected concrete and semi-concrete structures while the rest infringed on the river area by earth-filling the foreshore."

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First Bangalee to become British lawmaker

UK goes to toughest polls

ANSAR AHMED ULLAH, from London



The Bangalee community in Britain is eagerly waiting for the outcome of the UK General Election 2010 as a Bangladeshi is certainly going to make the history of becoming a lawmaker of the Commons.
 It is now definite as all the parliamentary candidates nominated by Labour Party, Conservative, Liberal Democrat, Respect and

Rushanara Ali
 Conservatives will win most seats but not enough to form a government alone.
 More than 44 million people were registered

Zakir Khan
 More than 44 million people were registered

the Green Party from London's Bangla Town area are Bangalees.
 Meanwhile, Britain voted yesterday in the closest general election for decades, with polls suggesting David Cameron's opposition
 MORE ABOUT UK ELECTION ON PAGE 6

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WATER CRISIS IN DHAKA

Wasa high-ups draw MPs' flak

RASHIDUL HASAN

A parliamentary body yesterday came down heavily on the high officials of Dhaka Water Supply and Sewerage Authority (Wasa) for their failure in resolving water crisis in the city.
 "The committee sought explanation from the officials on why people are still suffering water crisis when they [Wasa officials] claimed that a total of 38 deep tube wells had been set up in the city," Chief of the body Rahmat Ali told reporters after a committee meeting at Sangsad Bhaban.
 "We wanted to know if the deep tube wells were really installed or are still on the cards," he added.

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