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Government to honour '71 friends

RAKIB AHAMMED and HASAN JAHD TUSHER

The government has decided to honour around 500 foreign individuals and organisations that helped the nation win freedom in 1971.

With Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, the cabinet yesterday approved a proposal to accord a reception to these foreign friends on the 40th anniversary of independence on March 26 next year.

The ministries of foreign affairs and Liberation War affairs have prepared a draft list of 472 people and institutions from 26 countries including India, Russia, the United Kingdom, Canada, Cuba, France, Japan and Germany. Akashbani of India, BBC, UNHCR, UNDP, WHO, ILO and FAO are among the organisations to be cited for their contribution to the nation's struggle for freedom.

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Huji training camp busted

5 leaders held, explosives recovered

STAR REPORT

The Rapid Action Battalion busted a hilltop training camp of Harkat-ul-Jihad-al-Islami (Huji) in Chittagong early yesterday and held five leaders of the banned militant outfit with some training materials and explosives.

The detained Huji operatives admitted to Rab of running training in the hilly areas for the last few months, sending a chilling message to the law enforcers that the outfit which is responsible for major deadly attacks in the country rears its head again.

Although a good number of Huji top tier leaders are still on the run, the law enforcers have been assuming that the outfit has no strength to continue its subversive activities.

Inspector General of Police Hassan Mahmood Khandker said they have arrested many such elements, but many are still at large and active.

"We are continuously after militants and hooligans and hopefully we would be able to arrest others who are still evading arrest," he told The Daily Star.

The Huji set up training camps in the remote hilly forest areas in early 1990s and ran those till the crackdown after the August 17 serial blasts in 2005.

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PHOTO ON PAGE 15

RMG protesters return to work

Owners to remove pay anomalies; PM vows to act tough on troublemakers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Production resumed in three of five units in Dhaka Export Processing Zone (EPZ) and in two units of 13 in Chittagong EPZ yesterday, as workers returned to some factories, a day after violent clashes.

The latest bout of violence over wage grievances left four dead and 200 others injured in Chittagong, Dhaka and Narayanganj on Sunday.

The workers returned to jobs after factory owners assured them of full benefits from the new pay scale and paying out the arrears for November.

But the day was marked by violence in other areas. Workers at readymade garment factories in Gazipur and at Uttara EPZ in Nilphamari walked out of their workplace to protest the alleged anomalies in the implementation of the new minimum wage.

As the first course of action, the government

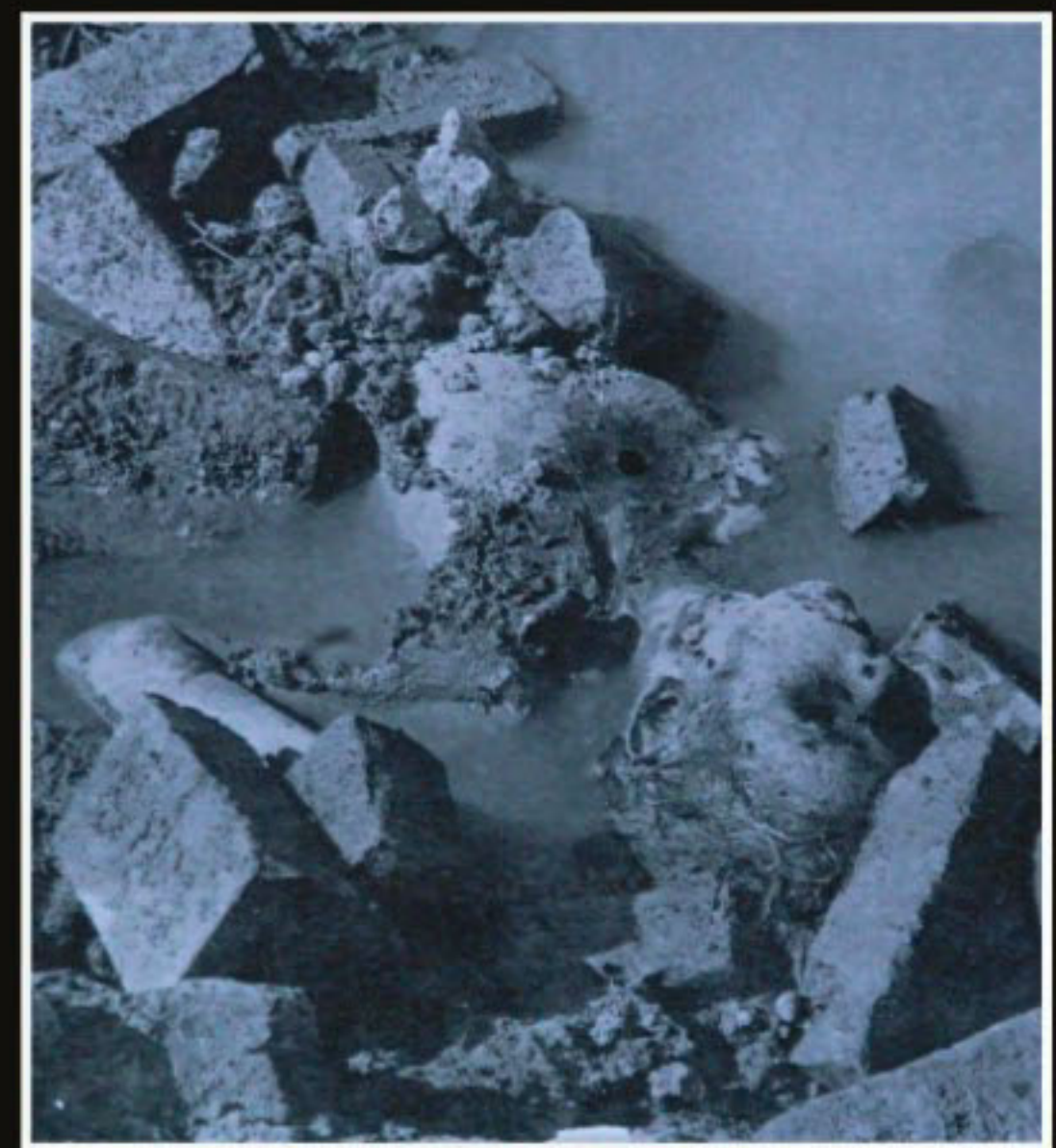
last night decided to form a tripartite steering committee comprised of representatives of the government, owners and workers to oversee the implementation of the new pay scale.

Aminul Islam, chief inspector of factories (CIF), will head the committee, said Munnujan Sufiana, state minister for labour and employment, after a meeting at BGMEA Complex with the leaders of Bangladesh Garments Manufactures and Exporters Association (BGMEA), Bangladesh Knitwear Manufactures and Exporters Association (BKMEA) and various workers' unions.

Sufian said representatives of different ministries including labor, finance, and chairman of wage board etc; leaders of BGMEA and BKMEA and two representatives from workers would be the members of the tripartite committee.

Meanwhile, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday told authorities to identify those

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FILE PHOTO

On the Martyred Intellectuals' Day the nation is reminded of the cost it had to pay in the Liberation War and also the fact that the victory wasn't easy at all.

Country could not care less

No list of martyred intellectuals, no probe into the heinous crime as yet

EMRAN HOSSAIN

A shaken Shaheen Reza Noor helplessly watched the gunmen pushing his father, journalist Sirajuddin Hossain, towards a car in the small hours of December 10, 1971.

The gang of 10 to 12 Bangalee collaborators covering their faces with mufflers asked him to shut the door and go inside the house at Shantinagar in the capital.

Sirajuddin was whisked off to an unknown location. He had been missing since then.

Sixteen-year-old Shaheen did everything he could for the next few months to know the whereabouts of his father. All his attempts went in vain. It was not until 1972 that he came to know about the fate of his father.

Khalil, a member of Al-Badr, confessed to police in 1972 that he and his gang killed Sirajuddin and dumped his body in the Rayerbazar killing ground.

"I could not even find my father's body. The self-confessed killer managed to elude punishment despite being sentenced for life by a court," Shaheen, assistant editor of The Daily Ittefaq, said yesterday, recalling the memories of the turbulent times.

A Dhaka court sentenced Khalil to life imprisonment in 1973 after Shaheen filed a case following his

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New house for Khaleda

SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will move into a duplex in the city's Gulshan area on the first day of the New Year.

The house belongs to

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PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

The Gulshan house, where BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is likely to start living from January 1, 2011. The photo was taken yesterday.

Hartal good for nothing

Businesses urge parties to end politics of confrontation

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Economic progress depends largely on political stability and harmony but hartals resulting from confrontational politics cause a haemorrhage to the national economy and inhibit faster growth, industrialists said yesterday.

They urged the political parties to refrain from enforcing hartals, saying such agitation programmes not only harm economic activities but also tarnish Bangladesh's image as an investment destination of foreign entrepreneurs.

Businesses shared this view at a discussion with editors of print and electronic media at Sheraton Hotel in the capital. Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and

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WE MEAN BUSINESS

The Bigger Picture: On Victory Day, our business readers will have an extra reason to celebrate. Your newspaper of choice is launching eight pages of business news stories -- with more than two on stocks -- doubling our coverage. We'll keep you better informed than ever, with all the economic issues around the country and all those that matter around the world, including in-depth analyses from The Economist.



আমার দেশ আমার গর্ব

Come join us to sing our national anthem 'Amar Shonar Bangla, Ami Tomay Bhalobashi.'
16 December, 4:30 PM at the South Plaza, National Assembly (Adjacent to Manik Mia Avenue)

All of us from Grameenphone will be waiting for you

