



WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

LIFE style



CRUNCH CLASH

Bangladesh face India today fighting to stay in SAFF Championships

PAGE 14

EX-NAZI FACES TRIAL

The 92-year-old is accused of murdering a resistance fighter

PAGE 8

JS to exist, but not in session

Polls within Jan 24, PM tells top bureaucrats; cabinet to function but won't take any major policy decision

M ABUL KALAM AZAD

Amid confusion over the polls-time administration, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the general election would be held without dissolving the current parliament and the cabinet.

She added the polls would be held within the last 90 days of the parliament's tenure, which ends on January 24.

But the prime minister did not specify the polls date, Cabinet Secretary Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told journalists after the PM's meeting with the secretaries at the Cabinet Division.

In the meeting, Hasina said the House would not be in session and the cabinet would take no important policy decision during the 90-day timeframe (October 27 to January 24).

She also advised the secretaries to study how transition of powers takes place in other parliamentary democracies.

The main opposition BNP has been pressing for dissolving the House and restoring the non-party caretaker government system before holding the election.

Like in the past, Hasina in yesterday's meeting rejected the demand, saying polls would be held under the constitutional framework. She also directed the secretaries to prepare themselves for the election.

Confusion has been running high for the past several months over the role of members of parliament and cabinet in case the election is held under the present administration.

Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, recently told the nation that parliament would be dissolved before the election.

But she changed her mind after consulting with her cabinet colleagues

SEE PAGE 10 COL 4



The Sitakunda embankment in Chittagong lies badly damaged by ship-breaking activities, mostly movement and dumping of heavy metal parts from scrap ships. Wide gaps have developed on the dyke and through them seawater rushes into adjoining Joramtol area at high tide. The photo was taken a few days ago.

PHOTO: ANURUP KANTI DAS



Banners in Stadium Gate area of Ramu to welcome Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina carry names and photos of Nurul Islam Selim, president of local Press Club and ex-chief of the upazila unit BCL, and Yunus Rana Chowdhury, general secretary of local Sramik League. Circled red, they are among the 12 persons whom two probe bodies found to have been involved in last year's attacks on Buddhist community.

PHOTO: STAR



Hurt deep down Buddhist heart

PM to reopen repaired temples in Ramu, Ukhia today; still may not see many happy faces

MUHAMMAD ALI ZINNAT, Back from Ramu

When Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visits Ramu today, she can expect to see some happy faces, as the government has rebuilt 19 Buddhist temples that were torched and vandalised in Ramu and Ukhia in September last year.

But the question remains how safe do the victims feel when the main culprits behind the attacks on the Buddhist community are moving freely.

Ramu's roads and alleyways are swarmed with huge banners and festoons showing portraits of several of the men, whose involvement in the attacks was confirmed by two probe

SEE PAGE 2 COL 1

RELATED STORY ON PAGE 2

HALL-MARK'S Tk 2,964CR SWINDLING

A year on, Sonali mulls litigation

REJAUL KARIM BYRON

Sonali Bank is finally making moves to sue the owners of Hall-Mark Group and some bankers for realising Tk 2,554 crore swindled from the bank more than a year ago.

The bank's board of directors at a meeting last week directed its management to take initiative to file cases after the bank's lawyers alerted it to a time-bar for filing cases, said a high official at the bank.

Bangladesh Bank in May last year detected the country's biggest banking fraud in the state-run bank. The forgery took place between 2010 and 2012, when the controversial business group took the loan amount from the bank on forged documents.

The Anti-Corruption Commission has already lodged 11 cases against several officials of Hall-Mark Group and Sonali Bank.

In March, the finance ministry had asked the bank to suggest ways to resume operations of Hall-Mark Group, including rescheduling the loan. The move faced strong criticism from different quarters.

Instructed by the ministry, Sonali Bank later appointed six lawyers for their opinion about six matters including legal steps and rescheduling of the loan.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6

MAY 5 MAYHEM

Top Hefajat leader Wakkas detained

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives

detained

Hefajat-e

Islam leader

and former

state minister

Mufti

Mohammad

Wakkas at the capital's

Malibagh yesterday in

connection with Hefajat's

May 5 mayhem at Shapla

Chattar.

Wakkas, Dhaka city unit

vice-chairman of the

organisation, was accused

in 10 cases, including a

murder case, sources at

Dhaka Metropolitan Police

said.

The cases were filed with

Motijheel and Paltan police

stations, sources added.

SEE PAGE 2 COL 6



Voter list without war crimes convicts

Govt to amend law in next JS session

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The cabinet approved yesterday a proposed amendment to the electoral roll law to bar convicted war criminals from being registered as voters.

As per the proposed change, the name of a person will be excluded from the electoral roll or will not be included in it if he or she is found guilty under Bangladesh Collaborators (Special Tribunal) Order, 1972 and International Crimes Tribunal Act 1973.

The approval was given at a cabinet meeting held with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair at the Secretariat, Cabinet Secretary M Musharraf Hossain Bhuiyan told journalists.

The government will place a bill in the upcoming session

SEE PAGE 10 COL 6

Contempt notice served on HRW

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Crimes Tribunal-1 yesterday issued a show-cause notice upon Human Rights Watch in connection with its "biased and unethical" report on the war crimes case against Ghulam Azam.

The Tribunal-1 asked the Board of Directors of Human Rights Watch, its Asia Director Brad Adams and Associate

SEE PAGE 2 COL 3

SQ REVEALS...

Today we reveal SQ's new look - logo, color and wallpaper. The brand enhancement is more than just a logo makeover, we have also revisited our tagline.

Our new tagline - stand tall or naught - defines our attitude. If something is worth doing, then it is worth doing well. We are humble enough to acknowledge that we are not invincible, but arrogant enough to state that if we cannot stand tall in what we take up, then we will not pursue it. SQ was born with the name Superior Quality and we will settle with no less.

The brand is depicted by a graphical representation of the peak of a mountain, standing tall and proud.

No re-branding is complete without a new website, and we haven't disappointed. Sqgc.com is not just a website for us, it is our way of life, our message and a commitment to our business.

Human Resources
SQ Group

scan here



sqgc.com