

# No chance of talks with BNP: Nasim

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A policymaker of the ruling Awami League yesterday dismissed any possibility of dialogue with the BNP over a poll-time government, saying the next national elections would be held in time for the sake of the constitutional system.

"There is no chance to have a dialogue [with BNP]. But the election must take place no matter what happens," AL presidium member Mohammad Nasim told a triennial council of the capital's Dhanmondi, Hazaribagh, Kalabagan and New Market thana units at Kalabagan playground.

Councils to ward 14, 16, 17, 18, and 22 under the Dhanmondi thana unit were also held.

The AL started holding the councils to different thana and ward units of Dhaka city after about 10 years in a bid to ramp up organisational activities ahead of the parliamentary elections.

Nasim, a former home minister, said the next two months were important as what he said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's life was at stake for trying the war criminals of the Liberation War.

AL Joint General Secretary Mahbubul Alam Hanif directed the party men to remain on the street on October 25 when the BNP threatened to paralyse the capital.

From October 25, the present government will start acting as an interim government till handover of power to the next elected government through an election within January 24.



1) A bus set on fire by demonstrators on Dhaka-Chittagong highway in front of International Islamic University, Chittagong campus in Sitakunda upazila yesterday following the death of a student of the university in a road accident. 2) Protestors blockade the highway with bats and sticks. 3) Part of a 10km tailback on the highway following the blockade.



PHOTO: STAR

## NEWSIN brief

### HC directs EC to allow Sobhan to contest Barguna-2 by-poll

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday directed the Election Commission to allow independent candidate Abdus Sobhan to contest Barguna-2 by-election scheduled to be held on October 3.

In response to a writ petition, the court also issued a rule upon the EC to explain in four weeks why cancellation of his candidature should not be declared illegal.

The returning officer on September 7 cancelled the nomination paper of Sobhan saying that he failed to submit signatures of one percent of the total voters, Sobhan's lawyer Sagir Hossain Leon told The Daily Star.

### 3 held with heroin worth Tk 50 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Detectives arrested three alleged drug dealers with 1kg of heroin worth around Tk 50 lakh in the capital's Malibagh area on Monday night.

The trio -- Md Shohidullah, 38, Saroar Hossain alias Sohagh, 32, and Shaon Ahmed, 25 -- were arrested at Darbar Sharif lane in Chowdhurypara, said Assistant Commissioner Md Iqbal Hossain, who led the drive.

### Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee New York unit formed

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A 29-member executive committee with elected president Fahim Reza Nur and General Secretary Sikrity Barua has been formed for the New York unit of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee.

A meeting of the unit with Acting President of the committee Shahriar Kabir in the chair was held at Jamaica in the USA on September 15, said a press release.

### 25pc discount on Saudia's tickets

CITY DESK

Saudi Arabian Airlines has offered 25 percent discount on online tickets from September 23 to 30 marking the 83rd National Day of the country.

Tickets will be available for flights scheduled November 1 to December 10, said a press release.

Further details will be available at respective travel agents' office and Saudia office in the capital's Sonargaon hotel.

## UNIVERSITY STUDENT'S DEATH IN CTG ROAD ACCIDENT

# Protesters damage 35 vehicles, block road for 3hrs

Causing 10km tailback on Dhaka-Ctg highway; transport strike called for today protesting vandalism

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

At least four buses and a truck were burned and about 30 vehicles were vandalised blocking Dhaka-Chittagong highway for over three hours yesterday after a private university student was killed in a road accident in Sitakunda upazila of Chittagong.

Protesters barricaded the highway using burnt tyres that led to hundreds of passengers being stranded on the busy highway.

Tailbacks were created on the highway for more than three hours causing immense sufferings to the passengers.

Meanwhile, protesting the locals' attack on the vehicles, transport owners and workers called a 24-hour transport strike on the highway for today.

Chittagong Zilla Sarak Paribahan Malik Group called the strike, said Abul Kalam Azad, secretary general of the organisation.

Around 10:00am yesterday, Nurunnabi Rubel, 21, of Syedpur union of Sitakunda upazila and a BBA student of International Islamic University, Chittagong was run over by a Chittagong-bound passenger bus from Lakshmipur.

Rubel tried to stop the bus to get on

it but the bus ran him over at South bypass road in Sitakunda Sadar leaving him dead on the spot. The bus that ran Rubel over was one of the vehicles burned.

On hearing about Rubel's death, students of his university also barricaded the highway and vandalised vehicles in Kumira area, said Sohel Imtiaz, officer-in-charge of Bara Awlia Highway Police Station.

The students' and the locals' demonstrations led to two tailbacks being created; one from Sitakunda Sadar to

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A woman wails with a photograph of his deceased son as around 200 relatives and family members of the Rana Plaza collapse victims stage a sit-in opposite Jatiya Press Club in the capital yesterday to demand compensations. National Garment Workers Federation organised the programme, marking five months of the tragedy. The nine-storey Rana Plaza in Savar outside the capital collapsed on April 24.

PHOTO: STAR

## BNP to wait till Oct 25 for CG

Says Khaleda

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia last night said they would wait till October 25 for restoration of the caretaker government system for a credible election.

"After that, if the government hasn't restored the system and wants to hold a one-sided election, the opposition will resist it," she told a views exchange meeting with the grassroots leaders and activists of eight districts of Rangpur division at her Gulshan office in the capital.

"We are getting ready our way," Khaleda said. She also termed the voter list flawed and observed that a credible election was not possible with it. She further said she had heard that the government was preparing Border Guard Bangladesh (BGB) to resist the opposition movement.

The BNP chief said though KM Hasan was legally eligible to be the chief adviser of the caretaker government, the Awami League did not accept him. Now, the BNP will not accept incumbent Prime Minister Hasina as chief of the election-time government, she added.

## Advance train ticket sale begins Oct 2

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Railway will start selling advance tickets from October 2 to facilitate holidaymakers ahead of Eid-ul Azha.

Tickets of all classes for October 11 to 15 will be sold from October 2 to 6, Director General of Bangladesh Railway Abu Taher said at a press briefing at Rail Bhavan yesterday.

The sale will continue from 9:00am to 5:00pm everyday, he said, adding that the railway will start selling return tickets from October 9 to 13.

At the briefing, Railways Minister Md Mazibul Hoque said nine pairs of special trains will be launched on the country's busy routes from October 6 and will ply till October 11.

Four more pairs of special trains will operate on the day of Eid so that devotees can offer prayers at the country's largest Eid congregation at Sholakia in Kishoreganj, he added.

The minister said additional police forces will be deployed at prime railway stations to check black-marketing of tickets.

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## One held with gold bars of 1kg at Ctg airport

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A man was arrested with eight gold bars weighing a total of about 1kg at Shah Amanat International Airport in Chittagong early yesterday.

The arrestee, Bisu Bordhan, 42, returned from Sharjah by a flight of Air Arabia that landed a few minutes before midnight.

Noticing Bisu's suspicious movements, customs officials of the airport intercepted Bisu and found the eight gold bars each weighing about 10 tolas.

During primary interrogation, the arrestee said he bought the bars as the price of gold is currently low in the global market.

Md Selim Sheikh, assistant commissioner of airport customs, suspected that Bisu was only carrying the gold and would have handed it over to someone else in the country.

The arrestee was handed over to police while the seized bars were kept in the custody of customs, he said.

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