

Army, admin asked to help

*Khaleda calls for support in
'saving democracy'*

RASHIDUL HASAN from Khulna

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday sought cooperation of the civil servants and members of the military, police and Ansar-VDP in the opposition's movement if the government does not restore the caretaker government system by October 25.

"We will wait till October 25 for you [Sheikh Hasina] to place a bill in parliament on caretaker government. If you don't do that, we will announce our programmes for movement," she told a mammoth rally at the Khulna Circuit House ground.

Amid tens of thousands of cheering leaders, workers and supporters of the BNP-led 18-party alliance, Khaleda termed the civil administration officials "brothers" and urged them not to torture those joining the movement to save democracy.

"We will press on with our movement as elections under the Awami League government cannot be free and fair. And that's why we seek cooperation of the civil administration,

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A man raises his hands and a father moves to whisk his daughter away to safety as polytechnic students go on the rampage at Dhanmondi-27 in the capital yesterday. Inset, the fearful girl in her father's embrace.

PHOTO: PALASH KHAN



Polytechnic students go on rampage

*Smash dozens
of vehicles*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Polytechnic students yesterday boycotted the first day of their final exams all over the country and went on a rampage, leaving around 250 injured and many vehicles vandalised.

The agitating students were pressing home their two-point demand -- ensuring timely promotion in jobs and withdrawal of the 2008 government provision that classifies entry-level positions held by diploma engineers as "supervisors".

Police arrested 76 students from different places of the country, according to our district correspondents. Students, police and journalists were among the wounded.

In order to realise their
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Send team to watch polls

Hasina urges UN; insists on elections under existing constitutional outline following meeting with Ban

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh has officially requested the United Nations to send its delegation to observe the upcoming general election expected to be held between October 25 and January 24.

"Today I have requested Ban Ki-moon to send an observer team to see the fairness of the next election," Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said at a press conference after meeting with UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon yesterday.



Sheikh Hasina



Ban Ki-moon

She expressed her firm resolve to hold the next general election under the existing constitutional framework, meaning without a caretaker government.

During the meeting held at 2:20am (Bangladesh time) at the UN headquarters, Ban Ki-moon reiterated that the UN wanted to see a free, fair and credible general election

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Govt to drum up support for Rampal plant

*Petition in HC
to stop project*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government will sit with various stakeholders and media representatives in an attempt to convince them that the Sundarbans will not be adversely affected if a power plant is set up at Rampal.

The cabinet committee on purchase, while giving
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TIB against DCs as returning officers

*Recommends EC officials take
charge during next JS polls*

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Transparency International Bangladesh has proposed that deputy commissioners should not be appointed as returning officers in the upcoming national election, taking into consideration the issue of "politicisation in administration."

It has also recommended that the Election Commission should employ its own officials in conducting the next parliamentary polls.

"District election officials, not deputy commissioners, should be
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NEWS ANALYSIS

Ramu, stories of the dark

SYED BADRUL AHSAN

There is yet no news of Uttam Barua. Even a year after Islamist fanatics vandalised Buddhist temples in Ramu and other areas in the south-east of the country and weeks after the inauguration of the renovated temples by the prime minister, the young man remains missing.

The bigger surprise is that no one in the corridors of power is worried about his disappearance, about whether he is dead or alive. Only his family waits, in worry and
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4th HSBC Export Excellence Awards

Painting the world red and green
Spreading the colours of Bangladesh



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Uniglor Cycle Industries Limited

(A sister concern of Meghna Group)
Exporter of the Year, Traditional and Emerging Sector

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