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WITH TODAY'S ISSUE

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BEETLEJUICE 2

Tim Burton is directing Michael Keaton in the cult movie sequel

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NIGHTMARE CATCHING UP

Rahul Gandhi fears he may be killed like his father and grandmother

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POLLS-TIME GOVT

BNP places formula at JS, faces AL flak

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The BNP yesterday placed its proposal in parliament for forming a non-partisan polls-time government headed by a respected person chosen through consensus among the ruling and the opposition parties.

The main opposition party also demanded amending the constitution to implement the proposal.

The offer, however, was met with a scathing attack from the ruling Awami League MPs, who termed the proposal unconstitutional.

In protest, the opposition lawmakers staged a stormy walkout and did not join again.

The BNP-led opposition lawmakers returned to

the House yesterday, after remaining absent from it for 12 consecutive sittings. Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia, however, did not join the session.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, her cabinet colleagues and AL leaders have long been urging the BNP to join parliament and place its proposal on the mode of the election-time administration.

But the BNP chose not to do so, saying the onus was on the ruling party to amend the constitution to install a non-partisan government.

The opposition camp had also been asking the AL to take steps for holding talks to resolve the political crisis. But on Tuesday, it wrote to the AL, urging it to

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Lawmaker Jamiruddin Sircar placing the BNP proposal in parliament.

Country tense

Ban on rally in Ctg; scores arrested

STAR REPORT

Tension runs high in the capital and elsewhere in the country over a possible face-off between the ruling Awami League and the main opposition BNP, as both parties plan to hold rallies tomorrow in four cities, including Dhaka.

Following in the footsteps of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, the Chittagong Metropolitan Police yesterday slapped an indefinite ban on political meetings, rallies and demonstrations in the port city from 6:00am today. The DMP imposed a similar ban in the capital on October 19.

Terming the ban unconstitutional and undemocratic, acting BNP secretary general Mirza Fakhru Islam Alamgir urged the

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WB sees economy in political danger

Warns of further slide from its 5.7pc growth forecast

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The World Bank has said Bangladesh needs a smooth transition of power through a democratic process for its steady economic growth.

"We are looking forward to an electoral process that is free, fair and credible ... that reflects the will of the people," WB Country Director for Bangladesh Johannes Zutt said yesterday.

If the country fails to have "a smooth transition to a new administration," economic growth will further go down from the WB's latest forecast of 5.7 percent for the current fiscal year, Zutt said at a media briefing on the quarterly

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POLLS-TIME GOVT 14-party rejects BNP's proposal

HASAN JAHID TUSHER

Leaders of the ruling Awami League-led 14-party alliance last night rejected outright the BNP chief's proposal for the formation of a polls-time government and unanimously supported the prime minister's.

They also decided that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina would head the polls-time government as stipulated in the constitution.

The decisions came at a

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Late rush for metro rail

Land not acquired yet PM lays project's plaque Oct 31

TAWFIQUE ALI

With only three months left of its tenure, the government plans to lay the foundation stone of the long-awaited metro rail project in the capital, pending key project preparations.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will lay the plaque of the project on October 31 upon receiving the go-ahead of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (Jica) on the appointment of a consultant, Communications Minister Obaidul Quader said yesterday.

Stretching from Uttara to Bangladesh Bank at Motijheel, the 20km metro rail is expected to carry 60,000 commuters every hour.

Acquiring land for the project depot has

remained uncertain as its site was relocated from Pallabi to Uttara third phase in the face of objections from the army authorities.

The depot site was chosen at Pallabi near Mirpur cantonment on the basis of a detailed study. Relocation of the depot required acquisition of 23 hectares of land.

Bangladesh Bridges Authority (BBA), the implementing agency of the project, requested Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (Rajuk) to acquire the required land. But Rajuk instead handed over nearly a 5-hectare land, earmarked for a bus depot, for the metro rail project depot.

"We are not entitled to acquire land for any other organisation. We can do so for our

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LAW TO STOP EXTRAJUDICIAL ACTS

Bill sees light at end of govt tenure

SHAKHAWAT LITON

The Jatiya Sangsad will today pass a bill that will allow life-term jail for law enforcers or government officials convicted of custodial death, torture and cruel inhumane treatment.

The bill also proposes some stringent punishments including suspension from the service during investigation of such charges against an offender, regardless of whether the offender is a member of regular law enforcement agency or the armed forces, or of any other government office.

Officials charged with the offence would not be able to justify their acts citing exceptional circumstances, including a state of war, internal political instability, a state of

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