20 injured in BNP-cop clash in Ashulia

5 detained; 2 buses torched; 7 suffer burns OUR CORRESPONDENT, Savar

At least 20 people, including three policemen, were injured in a clash between BNP activists and the law enforces in Ashulia, on the outskirts of the capital, yesterday.

The clash erupted around 11:00am when several hundred BNP activists tried to block Nabinagar-Chandra road, an approach road of Dhaka-Aricha and Dhaka-Tangail highways, during holding their prescheduled rally, said Mohammad Rasel Sheikh, senior assistant superintendent of police in Savar.

Sheikh Badrul Alom, officer-in-charge of Ashulia Police Station, said during the 20-minute clash, the BNP activists exploded five crude bombs and hurled brick chips, prompting SEE PAGE 4 COL

41 gold bars seized at Dhaka, Ctg airports

STAR REPORT

Customs officials seized 41 gold bars worth around Tk 2.3 crore at Dhaka and Chittagong airports yesterday.

Of the total, 25 gold bars worth Tk 1.5 crore were recovered from Shah Amanat International Airport in the port city while 16 at Shahjalal International Airport in Dhaka.

Nobody was arrested in this regard.

In Chittagong, the seizure came around 12:05pm after several unclaimed luggage from a flight from Sharjah, which landed on the port city in the evening, were reported.

Scanning the entire unclaimed luggage, customs officials found the gold bars weighing 2.5 SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

Hartal not barrier to dialogue

Says Syed Ashraful Islam

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hartal is not a barrier to political dialogue and the govern ment's main concern is to hold a participatory election, LGRD Minister Syed Ashraful Islam said yesterday. A new government will take over in January following

an election, he said, hoping that all parties would join the . next polls after resolving the current deadlock through : January 24, minister withdiscussion. Talking to reporters in the capital's Osmani Memorial: Sengupta said yesterday.

Auditorium after attending the 42nd National · Cooperatives Day and distribution of National · Hasina will start the task of Cooperatives Award 2011, he said, "We hope that the : constituting an interim opposition leader (Khaleda Zia) will respond to the call : cabinet shortly after their (for dialogue) on time." The prime minister's offer for dialogue is still there, said · ment of the schedule by the

the Awami League general secretary. "We are waiting for her .: Election Commission, he (Khaleda) to come to Gono Bhaban.'

On October 26, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina phoned · tal's Shilpakala Academy, Khaleda Zia and invited her to Gono Bhaban.

Cabinet to resign soon for forming all-party govt

Says Suranjit Sengupta

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

· The ministers will resign · soon to pave the way for forming an all-party interim government to oversee the · upcoming election due by · out portfolio Suranjit Prime Minister Sheikh

resignation and announcetold a discussion at the capiorganised by Bangabandhu

Sangskritik Jote. For the last couple of

days, the PM has been asking the ministers to get ready to quit, several ministers told The Daily Star. One of them hinted that the polltime government might be formed in the next 15 days. Speaking to The Daily Star

after the programme, which marks Jail Killing Day today, Suranjit said the ministers would tender resignation letters to the premier in "shortest possible time". He did not specify the size of the new cabinet but said it would be a "mini cabinet".

Talking to The Daily Star,

exceed 20 members.

in the all-party cabinet.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6 .

Left politicians, Nagorik Okiya highlight need for alternative political force

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

a senior minister hinted that : Some left-leaning politicians and members of a citizens' the cabinet was unlikely to · platform yesterday emphasised forming an alternative · democratic force, accusing the two major parties of practis-Suranjit, also an Awami ing politics of vindictiveness and nurturing Jamaat-e-Islami League adviser, called upon · for serving their interests.

opposition leader Khaleda: The ruling Awami League and the opposition BNP are Zia to respond to Hasina's call 'destroying democracy, they said at a views-exchange meetand send names of her chosen ing among the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), candidates for representation : Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (BSD) and Nagorik Oikya at the capital's Shishu Parishad.

The PM is waiting to get a . CPB President Mujahidul Islam Selim said, "The country's positive response from the : democracy is threatened due to their (AL and BNP) feud. Now, main opposition BNP about · rights of the working class are completely neglected, while extorits participation in that ition, terrorism and other nuisances have pervaded society."

cabinet, said Environment : BSD General Secretary Khalequzzaman said many peoand Forest Minister Hasan · ple had been killed over last few decades due to unhealthy political culture of the AL and the BNP, while Nagorik Oikya "The PM will wait for the : convener Mahmudur Rahman Manna said the country BNP till the last moment. If it · could not advance due to these two parties.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 7

The Daily Star | 3

RESOLVING ONGOING POLITICAL CRISIS

Hope still there for talks

Panellists tell BBC Bangladesh Sanglap STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There is still hope for resolving the ongoing crisis over an election-time government through talks between the two main parties, panellists said at BBC Bangladesh Sanglap yesterday. The chances of a third force taking over the state power

are little, as both parties want democracy to prevail, they added.

Awami League adviser Tofail Ahmed, BNP standing committee member Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Bangladesh Institute of Peace and Security Studies President Maj Gen (retd) ANM Muniruzzaman, and Bangladesh Mahila Parishad President Ayesha Khanam spoke at the event held in the capital's Biam Auditorium.

As the audience expressed concern that the country is heading towards anarchy, Muniruzzaman said that if the political parties failed to reach consensus soon, Bangladesh would not be able to control the violence that the ongoing crisis would breed.

Emphasising the necessity of forming a non-party caretaker government to oversee the poll, Khandker Mosharraf suggested that the constitution be amended to that end. "Since the constitution is framed to serve the people, it can be changed to ensure peace and order in the country," he said.

Tofail Ahmed, however, said there was no need to do that. "In many countries like India and Canada, the parliamentary elections are held with the incumbent government in power. A free and fair election can take place under an all-party government proposed by Sheikh Hasina," he said.

AL to observe Jail Killing Day today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling Awami League has declared elaborate porgrammes to observe the Jail Killing Day today in a befitting manner.

In the early hours of this day in 1975, Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Mansur Ali and AHM Qamaruzzaman were shot dead inside Dhaka Central Jail.

These national leaders, also close associates of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, had played pivotal roles in the formation of the Mujibnagar government-inexile in 1971 and had decisively steered the nation to victory over Pakistan at the end of the year.

The party activists will hoist the national and party flags at half mast, wear black badges, and place wreaths before Bangabandhu's portrait in Dhanmondi's Bangabandhu Memorial Museum at 7:00am and the Banani graves of his family members and the leaders at 7:30am.

SEE PAGE 4 COL 6





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