

# OIC bodies in financial crisis

By Moinuddin Naser

The research and academic bodies of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) are facing severe crisis due to the lack of regular contributions by member countries of the organisation.

The ensuing Islamic Conference of Foreign Ministers (ICFM) to be held in Istanbul from August 3 to 8 is likely to discuss the problems with special reference to the Middle East crisis and the necessity of an Islamic movement to bring a change in the relationships of different Islamic countries.

Bangladesh Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman who will lead a nine-member delegation to the conference is likely to emphasise the need for a harmonious relationship among the Muslim countries in order to bring about a change from within the system through education, youth centres, social welfare, legal aid and other economic activities.

The Islamic Centre for Technical and Vocational Training and Research (ICTVTR) set up in Tongi, Dhaka in 1979 following a resolution at the OIC summit is also facing a severe fund crisis as the other academic and research organisations of the OIC.

Among other organisations facing severe fund crisis are the Statistical Research Centre (Turkey), Islamic Cultural Centre (Turkey), Islamic Trade Development Centre (Morocco), Islamic Foundation for Science Technology and Development (IPSTAD) (Saudi Arabia) and Fikha Academy (Saudi Arabia).

The ensuing ICFM is likely to address the problems being faced by different OIC bodies essential for developing human resources and technology for the betterment of the Muslim Ummah.

The Bangladesh delegation to the ICFM will include the Director General of the ICTVTR. The DG ICTVTR will submit a report in the ICFM, depicting the crisis being faced by the most important

centre of the OIC in Dhaka. According to a Foreign Ministry source the outstanding dues in terms of contributions by different member countries alone to this institution has been totalled at worth 12 million dollars.

Only Bangladesh, Pakistan and Jordan are upto date in payment of their regular contributions to this centre, which has an annual budget of Taka 1.97 million dollars.

However, Saudi Arabia has paid an additional voluntary contribution of 4.5 million dollars for this centre. But most of both the rich and the poor members of the OIC are reluctant to pay their contributions to the centre.

However, only Kuwait used to pay its contribution regularly. According to ICTVTR sources, the staff of this institution have not been paid salaries for the last 7 months due to shortage of funds.

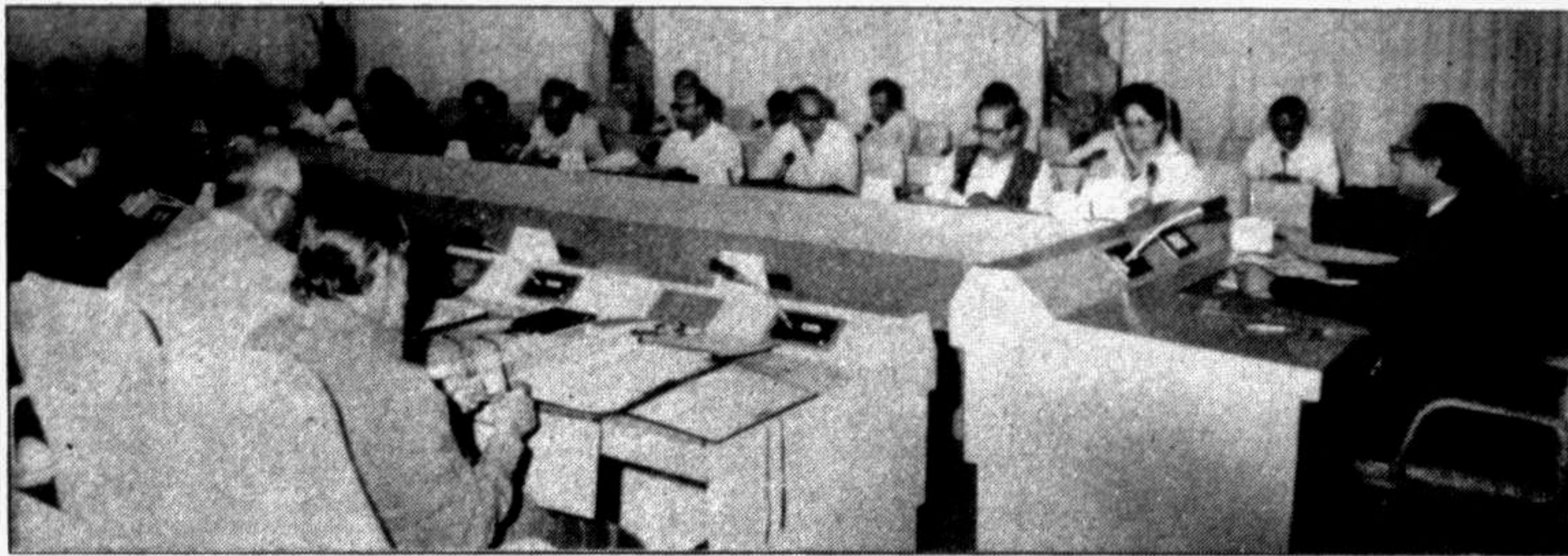
Scholarships to the local and foreign students could not be provided for the last six to seven months due to lack of funds.

According to a Foreign Ministry source most of the members of the OIC, in spite of being repeatedly approached, have not paid any heed to the problems.

Iraq and Iran, it is learnt have not paid contributions for the last several years. There are also some members in the OIC who have not paid a single farthing from the very beginning.

The Bangladesh delegation to the ICFM will also include Secretary Foreign Ministry, Director General of International Organisations, Director General (West Asia), Consul General (Jeddah), Ambassador (Ankara), Director, International Organisation, the Consul in Ankara, and the Director General, ICTVTR.

While returning from Istanbul the Foreign Minister may also visit Iran and the United Arab Emirates to discuss bilateral issues with those countries.



A regular weekly meeting of the Council of Ministers was held at Bangabhaban Monday. Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed presided over the meeting, also attended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. — PID photo

# Liberal industrial policy

From Page 1 Col. 7

Under the policy to allow accelerated depreciation allowance from 80 per cent to 100 per cent for industrial investments.

The policy provides for setting up industrial estates upto district level by the Board of Investment (BOI) and up to upazilas by Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) for encouraging private sector investments and dispersal of industrial base.

The sponsoring authorities with take appropriate arrangements through periodic surveys and studies on demand situation, existing capacity utilisation and prospective future expansion of production capacities to avoid "oversaturation" in investments in specific industrial sectors and sub-sectors.

Data Banks will be encouraged at the government and other industrial promotional agencies to provide full information to the industrial operators on relevant matters.

The new policy provides for announcement, from time to time, of a list of regulated industries. Explaining this, the Industries Minister said that the list would be aimed not at controlling private sector. The purpose is to formulate policy principles in areas of industrial operations which have effects on public health, environment and cultural life, he stated.

No specific interest rate has been set for industrial credits

under the policy. The rate will be determined by the market mechanism in the financial sector.

The policy provides that the duty structure for intermediate goods and other imported industrial raw materials would be lower than that for the finished products. Protection to the domestic industries will be given through tariff and duty structure, the Industries Minister said.

Replying to a question, he said that the capacity utilisation in the overall industrial sector was about 60 per cent on an average basis. He stated that the government had stepped up efforts to identify the sick industrial sectors and to take up appropriate measures for overcoming the related problems. "Something concrete will come up in this context within the next six months", he noted.

About the public sector industrial operations, the Minister said that strict measures would be taken to enforce full administrative and financial discipline in the public sector. The public sector industrial investments will be limited to reserved lists and those areas where investments in national interests are necessary but the private sector is still not coming up to set up units, he said.

The policy provides for converting the public sector industrial enterprises into

public limited companies, and transforming the sector corporations into holding corporations. The sector corporations will also be allowed to set up joint industrial ventures with both local and foreign private investors.

The privatisation moves will be pursued under the industrial policy to raise the operational efficiency and productivity of existing public sector industrial enterprises. The disinvestment of such enterprises other than those in the reserved list for the public sector will be continued in a phase-wise manner under a realistic programme. If necessary, the related units will be totally divested.

Replying to a question, the Industries Minister said that the government expected over 300 million US Dollar external assistance from the sources like the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and Japan for supporting industrial activities. Negotiations are in progress, the Minister added. (More on Business Page — 8)

## Highlights

From Page 1 Col. 5

- Entrepreneurs from 51 per cent to 100 per cent.
- Encouragement to those industries where local raw materials and other ingredients are used.
- Relaxation of tax upto 100 per cent on export earnings of the industries.
- Withdrawal of disparity between private and public sector industries in providing different facilities.
- Withdrawal of disparity between local and foreign entrepreneurs in providing different facilities.
- Extending the benefits of exchange rate fluctuations to the entrepreneurs.
- Encouragement to labour intensive industries to create job opportunities with manifold facilities including tax holiday.
- Keeping the existing reserve sectors under government control and allowing private participation in telecommunication, cellular telephone and paging etc.
- Disinvestment process of different industries and shares under government control except the reserve sectors would continue.
- Development of industrial estate at district level by private initiative on lands to be acquired by the government.

# Kuwait takes back 12,000 returnees

By Staff Correspondent

The Kuwait government has given visas to 12,000 Bangladeshis and 7,000 of them have joined work there after the Gulf war, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mia said on Monday.

The 7,000 include 4,000 returnees. This is the highest number of people Kuwait has taken from a single country after the war, he told a conference of the Kuwait and Iraq Returnee Bangladesh Welfare Forum at the National Press Club Auditorium.

He said that the democratically elected government of Begum Khaleda Zia was concerned about the 61,000 returnees who were forced to leave Kuwait and Iraq during the Gulf war.

A Tk 135 crore project is under preparation to rehabilitate more than 8,000 returnees, he said.

Rafiqul Islam Mia also mentioned the Prime Ministers' visit to Kuwait and other Middle East countries soon after assuming office.

The State Minister said that there were some legal constraints in the process of sending them back since the Kuwait government had cancelled all the previous agreements during the Gulf war.

"We can't force Kuwait to take back our returnees or take any legal action against her," he said and added that the government has sought help from the United Nations and International Labour Organisation to help them return to work there and compensate Bangladeshis returnees.

State Minister for Jute Abdul Mannan Bhuyyan, Abdul Hye MP and Oias Kamal Chowdhury were present as the special guests at the conference presided over by the forum's President Shakhawat Hossain Sawkat.

A memorandum comprising their problems and demands was handed over to the Minister on behalf of the forum.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls against the police action.

Police sealed off all the entrances to the campus and did not allow any vehicle enter the area.

A tense situation was prevailing in the campus till midnight last night as security forces were being reinforced in and around the campus.

Protest processions were also brought out in different halls