

# 30 BCL workers arrested in M'singh

MYMENSINGH, Mar 3: Thirty activists of Chhatra League (S-A), including a newly-elected UP chairman, were arrested tonight after they allegedly ransacked and set ablaze several hostel rooms of JCD workers in Mymensingh Polytechnic Institute, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the Awami League-backed Chhatra League activists stormed into Zainal Abedin and Shaheed Khairul hostels of the institute at about 9 pm today and set fire to 29 rooms of Jatyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) workers.

Police rushed to the hostels and arrested 30 people said to be Chhatra League activists. Those arrested include Abdul Malek, the newly-elected chairman of Bhaera Union Parishad of the Sadar upazila and a student of the institute.

Sources said the incident occurred in the wake of an injunction on student union election of the institute scheduled for tomorrow.

The local court ordered postponement of the election on a prayer by a JCD activist, the sources added.

# Kamal retracts

From Page 1 Col 5

many forums to draw support of the non-political personalities.

Kamal further argued that the present move for the democratic forum was in essence a move to consolidate and give democracy an institutional shape, sources added.

A total of eight leaders representing the party Presidium and the Secretariat took part on the deliberations yesterday. They are: Kamal Hossain, Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim and Amir Hossain Amu.

Party sources say, Azad and Kamal Hossain emphasised the need for a collective leadership in the party. But they added this would in no way affect the authority enjoyed by Sheikh Hasina.

This was, however, strongly contested by Mohammad Nasim who pleaded for a monolithic leadership of the party under Sheikh Hasina and commented "only then the party will survive effectively."

On the Indemnity Repeal Bill the meeting unanimously viewed that the government would not extend support to the passage of the bill.

As an alternative, they observed, the party should take the issue to the street. "Only then the government could be brought to its heels on this question," they observed.

The meeting, however, observed that efforts should be taken to mobilise support for the Indemnity issue and the pressure should come more from different social organisations than the Awami League itself.

The speakers were unanimous in their opinion that stern action should be taken against anybody in the party found directly or indirectly involved in the killing of Badal.

Insiders say the report of the secret inquiry committee on the killing of Maniruzzaman Badal, a leader of the AL's student wing, is expected to be placed before the Working Committee meeting today.

According to sources, a seven-member secret committee was formed immediately after the killing of Badal in last January to identify the

fellow partymen involved in the killing of Badal.

But it was not formally disclosed to the district level leaders, sources added.

Mostafa Mohsin Montu, who was allegedly involved in the killing of Badal, however, denied any involvement in the Badal killing.

While deliberating on this issue at the yesterday's meeting Montu said that he could not even think of any act against any party worker.

Traditionally, extended meeting of AL Central Committee does not take any decision or adopts any resolution.

The opinions expressed in such meetings are collated and placed before the Central Working Committee for decision.

UNB reports: Party chief Sheikh Hasina in her winding up address was learnt to have asked party leaders to build Awami League as the only alternative political force, foiling all conspiracies against it.

She said that Awami Leaguers must always work for the party only, not for any other forum in individual capacity, devoting all their talent and energy for strengthening the organisation to meet future challenges.

Hasina called for strict maintenance of party rules and discipline.

She asked the district leaders to mobilise people's opinion in their respective areas against undemocratic steps of the government and to project party's policies and programmes.

The Awami League chief also called for building people's opinion in favour of repealing the indemnity Ordinance and against the citizenship of Jamaat leader Prof Golam Azam.

She underscored the need for strengthening the front organisations, including the student wing.

The Awami League central committee is meeting today (Wednesday) at 10 am to take decisions in the light of deliberations at the extended meeting.

# NZ match

From Page 1 Col 8

standings, reports AP.

Captain Martin Crowe scored an unbeaten 74 at McLean Park as the unbeaten Kiwis eased to victory in a match that was almost wrecked by rain.

New Zealand scored a speedy 162 for three from 20.5 overs in an innings interrupted three times by rain.

Zimbabwe then were set a target of 154 to win in 18 overs — the maximum number of overs possible in the time left — but struggled to 105 for seven against some impressive New Zealand bowling.

"We're delighted, a bit relieved. It's a good result for us," said Kiwi skipper Martin Crowe.

"It was a topsy-turvy, frustrating day, but we hung in there."

Zimbabwe suffered its fourth straight loss in the tournament and is out of semifinal contention.

Neighbours and arch-rivals India and Pakistan play each other at the Sydney Cricket Ground in the only match scheduled for Wednesday, but two key matches are slated for Thursday.

Defending champion Australia, who have a 1-2 record, face England, who have two wins and a no-result on their record, in Sydney on Thursday. West Indies play South Africa.

(Details on Page 10)

# Germany twins aid to Rly with boosting efficiency

Germany has reiterated its continued commitment to development cooperation with Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The commitment was renewed when visiting German official Rainer Morbach and German Ambassador Dr. Karl-Heinz Scholtyssek called on Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman at his office Monday.

Morbach, Director, Southern Asia Division 11, Ministry of Economic Cooperation of Germany, is in the city in connection with bilateral management consultations on Bangladesh-German Development Cooperation held from March 1-3.

A press release issued by the German Embassy Monday said priorities of the future cooperation will be given in the areas of poverty alleviation, basic education, family planning and health, flood protection, energy and railways.

It, however, said the future commitments in the railway and energy sectors should only be considered after substantial reforms to strengthen the efficiency of these sectors have taken place.

# Ro Ro ferry

From Page 1 Col 5

dressed, among others, by Industries Minister M Shamsul Islam Khan, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, State Minister for Shipping Harunur Rashid, Danish Charge d'Affaires K K Nielsen and Danish Chairman Peder Elkeyer.

# Heroin trafficking Blankson confesses

By Staff Correspondent

Robert Blankson, an alleged drug trafficker, confessed to police yesterday that he had brought 3,300 grams of heroin from Thailand to Bangladesh, according to reliable sources.

Blankson's three day remand ended Tuesday and he will be produced in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court today (Wednesday), the sources added.

A source from the Detective Branch (DB) Police yesterday said that Robert Blankson gave the smuggled-in heroin to Eliadah McCord to carry it to Zurich, Switzerland.

DB police said, Blankson's statements during questioning over the last three days were satisfactory and would help unearth the drug-trafficking ring.

Eliadah McCord, an American girl and Robert Blankson, a South African national, were arrested on February 25 and 27 in connection with trafficking heroin.

UNB adds: Police have so far interrogated more than 20 local people in connection with last week's sensational heroin smuggling case.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia taking salute at the BDR marchpast on the occasion of 'BDR Week '92' at the BDR headquarters in the city yesterday. —PID photo

# Rajuk plots: Ershad himself took applications, says PP

A Special Judge's Court completed yesterday the hearing of prosecution charges and defense on former president HM Ershad, who allegedly abused his official position to favour 49 persons with residential plots in a posh area in Dhaka, reports BSS.

Former chairman of Rajuk, SM Rahamatullah, was the only co-accused in the case in which both of them violated the rules of the government and, hereby, committed criminal offence, the prosecution charged.

Judge Fazle Kabir later adjourned the court till March 9 to pronounce whether the court would frame the charges before the trial begins. Yesterday and earlier on February 25, the Court heard if the prosecution had a prima facie case.

Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzaq Khan submitted that the former president violated the established rules to offer the plots of land. He himself received applications and recommended for the plots, which Rajuk later endorsed.

He said unless a person had a remarkable contribution to the government, or did some great services or attained some feat of national importance the president can't do so, Rajuk is competent enough to receive the applications except on the three grounds.

Razzaq Khan replied that

the names were not a necessary part of the FIR. In fact, he said, there was only one sentence of FIR on the murder of seven students in a Hall of Dhaka University in 1973, he reminded.

UNB adds: The defence held that Minister-in-charge of the Works Ministry Zamiruddin Sircar categorically said 'no' to a question in parliament on April 29, 1991 when asked by Nurul Islam Moni if there was any irregular allotment of Rajuk plots during 1985-91. Assertion of the government that there was no irregular allotment came in parliament after this case was filed.

This case cannot continue if the reply of the Minister in parliament was correct, the defence asserted.

Again, the defence submitted, Rajuk which is the appropriate authority of making allotment at a meeting on March 6, 1991 ratified the allotment of plots in question with a decision to rectify if there was any procedural lapse in those allotments.

The defence went on arguing against the merit of the case, often repeating its points, before the court rose for the day at 2-55 pm. Charge hearing for the second day yesterday continued for about four hours without recess for the Zohr prayers.

# Expansion of BDR under active consideration: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Tuesday called upon the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel to make an effective contribution to checking smuggling in cooperation with other law enforcing agencies, reports BSS.

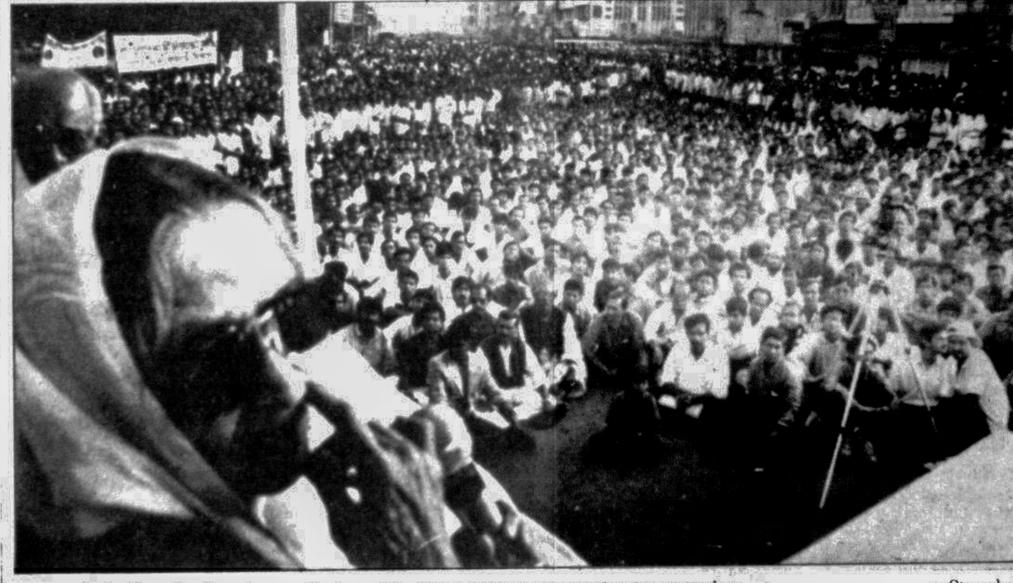
Begum Zia hoped that the BDR would continue to work with patriotism, honesty, sincerity and devotion like in the past to check smuggling, besides curbing other crimes in the bordering areas for the greater interest of the nation.

The Prime Minister was addressing the inaugural session of the BDR Week '92 at the BDR headquarters, Palkhana, Dhaka.

Begum Zia said the expansion and development of BDR was under the active consideration of the government.

The Prime Minister inspected the guard and took the salute of the smartly turned-out contingents of BDR. She also distributed medals among the BDR personnel for their outstanding contribution while discharging their duties.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina, Ministers, State Ministers, Members of Parliament, Chiefs of the Three Services, Diplomats and High Civil and Military Officials attended the function.



Begum Sufia Kamal addressing a rally to resist anti-Liberation forces in the city yesterday. —Star photo

# UNHCR : Rohingyas

From Page 1 Col 7

cial in Bangladesh will increase from 18 to about 40 with more staff coming from their bases in the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Indonesia, Laos and Vietnam by this week.

Anvar will meet with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Home and Relief Ministers, government officials, representatives of diplomatic missions, UN agencies and NGOs during his stay.

He will visit Cox's Bazar on Thursday to see the refugees before leaving for New Delhi on Sunday.

BSS reports: The World Food Programme (WFP) will provide 4,680 tonnes of rice, 562 tonnes of wheat and 188 tonnes of edible oil worth about 19 lakh US dollar to help the Myanmar Rohingyas refugees in Bangladesh.

An agreement in this regard was signed at the Ministry of Relief yesterday.

Gaston Eyben, Director (Operations) of World Food Programme in Bangladesh and MA Hakim, Additional Secretary-in-Charge of the Ministry of Relief, signed the agreement.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) has donated medical supplies worth about

# Punishment

From Page 1 Col 4

University "from the clutches of armed terrorists of Shibir, withdrawal of false cases against the student leaders of Rajshahi, Dhaka and Chittagong universities, and restriction on political activities in places of worship."

Jahanara Imam who chaired the rally urged the people to participate at the 'trial' of Golam Azam on March 26.

Islamic Development Bank (IDB) is expected to send a mission to Bangladesh to study the situation of Myanmar refugees and also explore priority areas of its assistance, according to a message received yesterday.

IDB President Dr Ahmad Muhammad Ali in a message sent to Bangladesh Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said the proposed mission was expected to visit Bangladesh for two weeks beginning from March 6.

UNB from Cox's Bazar reports: A twelve-member delegation from International Red Crescent Society yesterday expressed concern at the continued influx of Rohingyas refugees into Bangladesh.

The delegation representing ten member countries of the Society visited nine refugee camps in the district this morning.

# City Corp workers threaten to go on strike

Bangladesh City and Municipal Employees Federation threatened Tuesday to go on strike from March 9 if its demands for implementation of the new pay scale was not met, reports UNB.

A press statement issued by the federation said the decision was taken at its meeting held yesterday as part of an action programme which started on February 17.

It warned that all activities of the country's city and municipal corporations would be stopped during the strike.

However, water supply during the month of Ramadan will remain out to the purview of the planned strike.

# 5000 tonnes of crude being spilt into Bay every yr

By Staff Correspondent

About 5000 metric tons of crude oil is being spilt into the Bay of Bengal near Chittagong coast alone every year causing severe environmental hazards.

In addition, about two lakh 40 thousand gallons of bilge water waste from the ships, is also dumped in the Bay every year, according to a research paper presented at a seminar on "Environment and Development" in the capital Tuesday.

Organised by the Society for International Development (SID)-Bangladesh Chapter at the Planning and Development Academy auditorium in Dhaka the seminar was attended by the Forest and Environment Minister Abdullah al-Noman as chief guest.

Dr Anun Nishat, Professor, Department of Water Resources Engineering of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, presented the paper titled "Environmental concerns for planning and development in Bangladesh" at the seminar.

The paper said that besides the crude spillage there was always a possibility of accidental oil spillage from oil tankers through which the ecosystem of the Sundarbans could suffer irreversible damage.

It suggested the necessity for reception facilities for ballast or bilge water from ships at Chittagong or at Mongla port near Khulna to prevent discharge directly into the Bay.

The 24-page paper said that the damage caused by oil spill to marine and other coastal resources of the delta has not been estimated and also suggested necessary pollution control laws and development of an oil spill contingency plan with regional agreement to ensure protection of the Bay of Bengal.

Department of Environment sources said that crude oil, burnt mobil and other petroleum products, discharged by the deep sea vessels in the Bay, enter the Sundarbans during tides and cause severe damage to the world's largest mangrove forests.

Besides spillages, industrial wastes and other pollutants from the upper parts of the country are also being carried to the Bay by the country's rivers worsening the situation, they added.

# The Midnight File

## State Department's chief human rights man quits

WASHINGTON, Mar 3: The US State Department's chief human rights official Richard Schifter announced Tuesday he is resigning after more than six years in his post. He denied a published report that his departure was prompted by policy differences over Israel, reports AP.

## Kathmandu adopts partial currency convertibility

KATMANDU, Mar 3: The Nepalese government will introduce partial currency convertibility from Wednesday, Minister of State for Finance Mahesh Acharya said Tuesday. Under the new arrangements, 65 per cent of the foreign currencies earned from exports and services rendered can be sold to the banks at rates determined by currency traders, reports AP.

# Historic March

From Page 1 Col 8

became like long, windy canals carrying human waves; streets full of young men and women holding placards demanding independence for Bangla Desh.

Many carried sticks and iron rods more as a symbol of defiance than for any practical purpose as they would be no match for the army's automatic firearms.

The demand for immediate sitting of the National Assembly and transfer of power to the elected representatives of the people continued with Sufia Kamal and Maleka Begum of the Mahila Parishad issuing a statement calling on the people to continue the non-violent movement.

Soon, the Mahila Parishad would take a leading role in organising women to take an active role in the struggle for freedom.

The protests however, were not limited to Bangla Desh. Voices began to be raised in West Pakistan as well, against General Yahya Khan's decision, once the anger of the Bengalee people and the magnitude of the dictator's blunder began to become clear.

One of the first West Pakistani leaders to speak out for the Awami League's right to form the next government of Pakistan was Air Marshal Asghar Khan.

According to the Karachi-based English-language Dawn: "He (Khan) again emphasised that Sheikh Mujibur Rahman should be immediately called upon to form the government with all the requisite power and authority. They (Bengalees) must be allowed to enjoy

and exercise power which after all, is their right, he said."

Asghar Khan regretted the hostile attitude shown by many West Pakistani leaders who said openly that military rule was preferable to transfer of power to the Bengalees.

In Baluchistan, the National Awami Party (NAP) of Khan Abdul Wali Khan called a general strike for March 12, and termed Yahya's actions as "deplorable and undemocratic."

However, protests against Yahya Khan in West Pakistan remained limited to minor parties and personalities, with the exception of Wali Khan and NAP.

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, meanwhile, ordered the opening of offices between 2.30pm and 4.30pm for the next two days in order to allow employees to collect their salaries.

In a directive issued on the night on March 4, Mujib said banks should also open during those hours to carry out transactions within Bangla Desh only. He ordered the state bank not to facilitate transfer of any money abroad.

The hartal was to continue for the next two days, with only emergency services exempted.

Mujib said in his statement: "I congratulate our heroic masses for the stirring response made by every man, woman and child of Bangla Desh to our call to protest against the conspiracy to perpetuate the exploitation and colonial rule. The people of the world should know of the courage and determination with which the unarmed civilians of Bangla Desh — workers, peasants, and students — have demonstrated against the denial of their rights, even in the face of bullets."

"I also congratulate our resolute people for having understood the hardships and sacrifices which the continuing hartal imposes on them. They must, however, remember that no people have attained freedom without extreme sacrifice. The people therefore must remain prepared to continue the struggle for emancipation at any cost."

## Sundarbans

From Page 1 Col 5

Wood in the reserve forests of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, he said was reduced to less than 700 million cubic feet in 1985 from 840 million in 1964.

The minister said that even the highly productive village forests, the source of 82 per cent of the total wood and bamboo supply, were exploited to more than their sustainable yield.

Eighty five per cent of the total one lakh hectares of Sal forest areas in the country's central and northern regions have been degraded and encroached upon, the minister added.

The Canadian High Commissioner, who spoke at the function as a special guest, urged the government for a prompt formulation of an environment policy for the country before the beginning of the Earth Summit in Brazil in June.

The policy for Bangladesh was required so that the country could become "the voice of the developing countries" at the summit, he said.

ATM Shamsul Haque said that there was need for increased public awareness about the threats caused by the environmental degradation in the country and around the globe as well.

SID-Secretary General Fatema Zohora identified under development and population boom as the main causes of the environmental degradation in the country, which she said might in the long run result in the weakening of the country's already fragile socio-political and economic structure.

Dr Anun Nishat of BUET and Q K Ahmed presented two key-note papers on the theme of the seminar.