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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Dhaka to get \$15m ADB loan**

MANILA, Oct 27: The Asian Development Bank approved today a 15 million dollar loan to Bangladesh to reconstruct cyclone-damaged school facilities in Chittagong and Khulna. The interest-free loan carries a one per cent annual service charge and is payable over 40 years including a 10-year grace period, reports AFP.

**Toll collector arrested**

Police nabbed an alleged toll collector along with a pistol from Jikatola Jagorant Club area in the city yesterday. Police said a band of 6 to 7 armed youngmen forced into a house and demanded Tk 5,000, reports UNB.

**Zia Academy hails PM**

Zia Academy yesterday hailed Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and her government for the proposal of introduction of English language from the primary to college level from next year. In a statement, Syed MA Hashem, Executive Director of the academy, said English language should be nourished and flourished to cope with the pace and progress of other nations in the world, reports BSS.

**76 more held on various charges**

Police yesterday rounded up 76 people from different parts of the city in the last 24 hours on various charges. Of the arrested, four were wanted, two accused of murder and dacoity, three of arms cases, another three of smuggling, four of narcotics cases, two of burglary and four of stealing, reports UNB.

## Khaleda rebuts Hasina's remarks on 1986 polls Walkout marks placing of anti-terrorism bill

By Staff Correspondent

The much talked-about Anti-terrorism Bill was finally introduced in the House Tuesday amid a stormy walkout by the Opposition members.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina vehemently opposed the move as Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury sought permission of the Chair to introduce "Suppression of Terroristic Activities Bill, 1992."

Hasina led the walkout by the Awami League, Communist Party of Bangladesh, Ganotantri Party and JSD (Siraj) members at around 9:24 pm, closely followed by the Jatiya Party members led by Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury.

The walkouts came just when Speaker Shakh Razzaque Ali was about to ask the Minister to introduce the bill following a heated debate which lasted for over one hour. Before the walkout, Hasina made certain allegations about

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's role during 1986.

The Leader of the House immediately refuted the charges and said that Hasina's allegations were "totally untrue" and the opposition members walked out because they did not have "any moral courage" to listen to the Treasury Bench.

The Prime Minister demanded that the 'untrue allegations' made by Hasina be expunged.

The Jamaat-e-Islami and the Islami Oikya Jote members did not join the walkout.

As soon as Speaker Shakh Razzaque Ali asked the Home Minister to seek permission to introduce the bill, Hasina sprang to her feet and addressing the chair said: "I think you cannot allow him to introduce the bill."

However, the Speaker told Hasina that her objections could only be heard after the

permission was sought. He then went on to allow the minister to seek permission to introduce the bill.

The Speaker informed that only one member can speak against the introduction of the bill as per the Rules of Procedure.

Taking the floor on behalf of the Opposition, Hasina termed the bill as "totally unconstitutional, and completely against all fundamental rights and the United Nations Human Rights Charter".

She questioned the motive behind the move to introduce the bill by the Home Minister when the presidential ordinance was placed before the House by the Law Minister and a similar bill was earlier introduced by the State Minister for Law during the last session.

Noting that the bill introduced by the State Minister was sent to the parliamentary committee, Hasina said, "It is

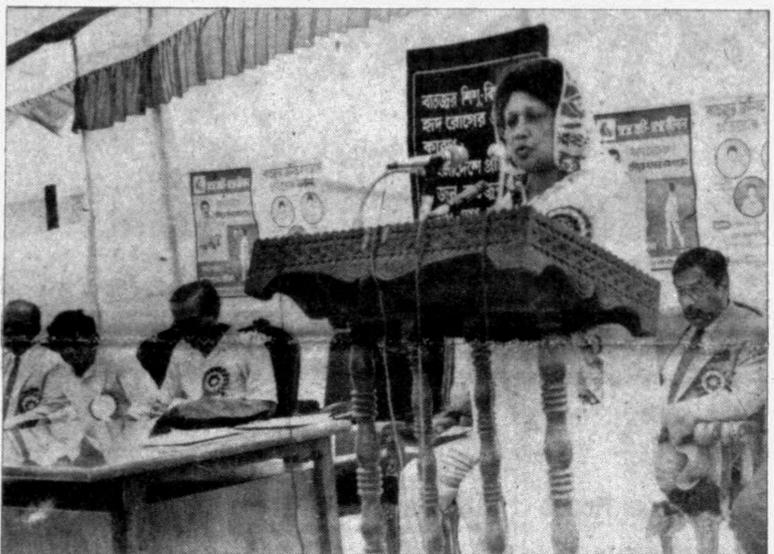
still not known what was the fate of the report by the Committee on the pending bill".

"We want to know the fate of that bill," she declared, adding "why is the government playing games with Parliament".

Saying that both the bills were similar and did not have any difference, the Leader of the Opposition pointed out that the provisions of the bill is 'completely against' Articles 7, 11, 26, 27, 38, 39 and 40 of the Constitution. "Every constitutional right of the people has been violated."

According to the provisions of the law, she said, people cannot seek refuge of the law and their right for equality in the eye of the law will also be violated.

The bill is designed to "curtail human rights and carry out repression and torture". See Page 12 Col 1



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating a private owned 300-bed National Heart Foundation Hospital at Mirpur yesterday. —PID photo

### PM opens Heart Foundation Hospital 'Combat heart diseases with latest know-how'

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for creating facilities for the treatment of cardiovascular diseases, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the National Heart Foundation Hospital at Mirpur, a private initiative, Begum Zia who is the chief patron of the foundation, urged the doctors and specialists to acquire latest know-how for the prevention and treatment of the number three killer disease in the country.

Describing establishment of the hospital as a significant event, the Prime Minister hoped that other welfare oriented organisations would come forward to complement

the government efforts to improve the health care.

She recalled the establishment of the country's first National Cardiovascular Institute at the initiative of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman. She said besides PG Hospital, facilities for the treatment of heart ailments are available in eight other Medical College Hospitals. She said expansion of facilities for treatment of heart ailments in other main hospitals in the country is under consideration of the government.

Presided over by Justice Chowdhury A T M Masud, the function was also addressed by See Page 12 Col 7

### Science ministry likely soon

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here yesterday that the government was contemplating creation of a separate ministry to look after the development of science and technology, reports BSS.

Begum Zia said this when a 13-member delegation of scientists led by Professor Innas Ali, President, Bangladesh Science Academy called on her at her office.

Earlier, Professor Innas Ali briefed the Prime Minister the need for a separate ministry for the development of science which he described as key to development.

Prof. Ali also recalled the creation of Science and Technology Ministry during the time of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman which was inte-



by Sabir Mustafa

When the expected storm broke over the Jatiya Sangsad last night, the most forceful gale came from a totally unexpected direction. A walkout by the Opposition (minus Jamaat) over the Suppression of Terroristic Offences Bill was a foregone conclusion, but the air of bitterness that descended on a half-empty House at 9:25 pm was not.

The issue of the election of 1986 and the Awami League's participation in it, was resurrected by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the mover of the bill, when he rose to reply to Sheikh Hasina's objection to the bill's tabling. See Page 12 Col 4

### AL call to resist Anti-terrorism Bill

The new Presidium of Awami League at its first meeting yesterday denounced the Anti-terrorism Ordinance introduced as bill in Parliament yesterday and urged the people to "resist" it, reports UNB.

"The ruling party has brought the Anti-terrorism Bill in Parliament in a mean motive to repress the opposition and infringe upon the fundamental and democratic rights of the people," the AL presidium meeting said in a resolution dubbing it as a "terrorist ordinance".

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting, held at its central office. See Page 12 Col 6



Wife of the Samachar photographer Mohammed Khairul Alam wailing after she got the news of his death—Star photo.

### Newsman, cop killed as train hit them

By Staff Correspondent

A newspaper photographer and another half a dozen people injured when an express train hit them at a city level crossing Tuesday.

Witnesses said that Khairul Alam Khair, staff photographer of the Dainik Samachar, was

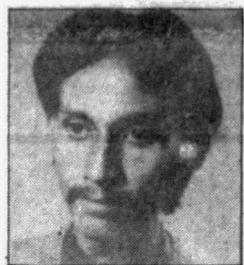
cut to pieces and three other press photographers were knocked down when they were taking pictures of a noisy procession blocked by police at the level crossing near Hotel Sonargon at about 4-15 pm.

Salih Ahmed, a constable of See Page 12 Col 3

### PM visits DMCH

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia last night visited Dhaka Medical College Hospital to see the persons who were injured in the train accident at FDC railway crossing in the afternoon, reports BSS.

Begum Khaleda Zia went to the morgue of the hospital to see the bodies of photo journalists Khairul Alam and police See Page 12 Col 3



Khairul Alam

### Implement June 29 accord: Imam

By Staff Correspondent

Riot police Tuesday stopped several thousand Nirmul Samannye Committee supporters, marching towards the Jatiya Sangsad (Parliament), near the city's Bangla Motor crossing where a group of opposition parliamentarians joined them and expressed their solidarity with the Nirmul body movement.

This was third such march by the Committee for Elimination of the Killers and Collaborators of 1971, to press home the demands of the trial of controversial Jamaat chief Gohar Azam and ban on fundamentalist politics in the country. The opposition MPs led by

the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad came from parliament at around 5-45 pm. The other members of the team were opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim, Abdur Razzak, Shamsuddoha, Suranjit Sengupta, Sahjahan Siraj, Sajeda Chowdhury and Shajahan Khan.

The committee held a meeting on the road near the barbed-wire police barricade.

Samannye Committee Convener Jahanara Imam, who presided over the meeting, urged the opposition members to help implement the four-point accord signed in See Page 12 Col 4

### Strike paralyses Srinagar as Indian MPs plan visit

SRINAGAR, Oct 27: A general strike by Muslim militants to protest the planned arrival in Kashmir of an Indian political delegation paralysed Srinagar today amid heightening security to prevent attacks on the MPs, reports AFP.

Kashmiri rebel sources here said the strike was also aimed at protesting the 45th anniversary of Kashmir's accession to India by the northern province's former Hindu Maharaja. They described it as a "day of great sorrow."

The 20-member delegation headed by Parliamentary Affairs Minister Ghulam Nabi Azad was to arrive later Tuesday on a fact-finding mission to Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital and urban hub on Muslim militancy.

Officials said the MPs would try to meet local residents and politicians during the three-day visit designed to investigate reports of police excesses

and monitor the situation related to the region's Muslim secessionist drive.

The Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), the Hizbul Mujahideen, the Ikhwani-Muslimin (Muslim brotherhood) and other militant factions sponsored a boycott of the visit, saying it could herald a political process which would not be beneficial for Kashmiris.

The JKLF has ordered Kashmiri human rights groups not to meet the Federal politicians, scheduled to arrive on a commercial flight, in line with the boycott plan, officials said.

Kashmir's human rights organisations and provincial politicians often accused federal security forces of "excesses" in their counter-secessionist drive.

New Delhi, which ignores the allegations, says the civil rights groups and regional

journalists should also publish reports of murders and atrocities on civilians by the Kashmiri rebels.

Srinagar journalists said they would boycott the New Delhi-sponsored visit, adding that the MPs were biased against the people of Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state.

Shops and offices remained shut and private vehicles stayed off the roads in Srinagar and in other parts of the Kashmir valley Tuesday as the militants launched the one-day protest, witnesses said.

Groups of Muslim militants, defying securitymen on the streets, burned effigies of Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and shouted anti-India slogans protesting the event, they added.

The all-party delegation will report its findings on its return to the Federal Home Minister, officials said. See Page 12 Col 6

### 10 of a family confined in Azimpur colony flat

By Staff Correspondent

Family members of Bashir Hossain, a government officer, remained confined at his Azimpur colony flat since Sunday noon.

Bashir Hossain alleged that some BDR personnel were responsible for locking his flat and snapping its power line that day. According to Bashir Hossain, the action was taken to put pressure on him to vacate the flat.

Eye witnesses said that ten members of Bashir's family including some children confined in the ground floor flat since Sunday noon were getting food supply from the neighbours and relatives through the windows till last night.

Bashir Hossain, working as an audit account officer at the Chief Accountant's office of Land, Law and Justice Mi-



The interned family of Bashir Hossain peeping through the veranda grill. —Star photo

### Shantibahini, govt hold talks Nov 5

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 27: The Shantibahini has agreed to sit for a dialogue with the Parliamentary Committee on November 5 the date proposed by the government, highly placed sources said.

The consent from Shantibahini came after the government accepted their latest condition for withdrawal of 13 frontier camps from Khagrachhari District at least five days ahead of the talks.

The courier of the "Liaison Committee" who last Thursday went to the Shantibahini See Page 12 Col 8

### 7 killed in truck mishap

A truck loaded with fertilizer bags turned turtle killing seven people on board on the spot at Belchia, two miles off the Jamalpur town early hours yesterday, according to fire brigade sources, reports UNB.

Jamalpur bound truck (No Dhaka-Na 4640) coming from Narayanganj with some people on board met the accident when the driver lost control of the steering, the sources said.

Soon after the incident fire servicemen from Jamalpur town rushed to the spot and recovered the dead bodies from beneath the truck.

The bodies were handed over to the police while five persons were admitted to Jamalpur Sadar Hospital in critical conditions, the sources added.

The identity of the dead could not be known immediately.

### Rival groups clash at AJM: 3 injured

Form Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 27: The conflicting workers' groups of Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) today terrorised the mills area by blasting crackers and chasing each other.

Police opened blank shots, lobbed teargas shells and beat up the clashing workers with batons to bring the situation under control.

The pro-BNP workers informed that three of their activists were hurt during the day-long violence in and See Page 12 Col 7

### ATAB calls off strike

By Staff Correspondent

The nine-day strike of the travel agents was withdrawn Tuesday following a meeting with the Finance Minister Saifur Rahman at his office, airlines sources said.

The meeting agreed on a formula for realising of Value Added Tax (VAT) from the travel agencies under which 15 per cent VAT would be realised from the three per cent of the total ticket value. Under the formula an amount of 45 paise VAT will be charged on a 100-taka ticket.

The travel agents will pay it to the airline with their monthly or fortnightly statement, from where it will be deposited to the government fund, the sources said.

It was not clear whether the travel agents would realise it from the passengers or pay themselves from their commission, earnings.

Some 550 members of the Association of Travel Agents of Bangladesh (ATAB) had gone on a strike demanding withdrawal of VAT imposed earlier on the nine per cent commission. See Page 12 Col 7

### 383 sick textile units identified

The Selection Committee of sick textile industries has so far identified 383 industries as sick industry after considering a total of 472 applications, according to a Shilpa Bank press release yesterday, reports BSS.

A meeting of the committee held the same day with its Convener A K A Noon in the chair at the Shilpa Bank Bhaban here considered 11 industries as sick industry out of a total 18 applications.

The members of the committee including Major (Retd) A K M Akhtaruzzaman, Lt Colonel (Retd) Kazi Selimuddin and Mahmudul Karim attended the meeting.