

## 2000 Railwaymen seek voluntary retirement

Railway authorities have so far received two thousand applications from employees seeking voluntary retirement, it was learnt today, reports BSS.

The applications were in response to the government's declared programme to rationalise manpower in the railway by offering special one-time financial benefits to those opting for voluntary retirement of the applicants, 1100 were from the eastern and the rest from the western zone.

Communications Minister Olt Ahmed handed over the benefit cheques to the first batch of 27 railway employees who retired voluntarily at a function held on October 22 at the Railway Bhaban, in Dhaka. The total value of the cheques amounted to Taka 65 lakh, railway sources said.

The sources felt that the number of applications was likely to exceed the 10 thousand mark. It was earlier esti-

imated that to rationalise manpower in railway, about 10 thousand jobs would have to be reduced, in the even of applications exceeding the number, the "first come first serve" policy would be followed, sources added.

The authorities have arranged to handover cheques on dates as per the wishes of the employees to retire voluntarily.

Although the last date for filing applications seeking voluntary retirement was fixed on November 30, the process of handing cheques began long before on the request of the employees, the sources added.

The government in order to reduce manpower in the revenue sector of the railways, earlier announced one time financial benefits to those employees seeking voluntary retirement on completion of ten year's of service and those whose ages were not more than 52 years.

## Perot episode is crazy, says Bush

DALLAS, Oct 27: President Bush expressed amazement Tuesday at independent candidate Ross Perot's report of a Republican plot to disrupt his daughter's wedding and denied it was true, reports AP.

Bush also said Perot's massive spending of his own money in the final days of the campaign — the elections are on Nov. 3 — is "a little bizarre... strange, strange."

Democratic presidential nominee Bill Clinton, still leading in the national polls, said he didn't know what to make of the Perot-Bush exchange but that he wanted to win back Perot supporters who may have strayed from the Democratic ticket.

"You don't interrupt your opponent when he's making a

fool of himself," said Clinton campaign strategist Paul Begala.

In two new tracking polls, Clinton's lead over Bush widened slightly to 11 points.

Clinton led 44-33 in ABC's poll of likely voters and 42-31 in the Cable News Network USA Today poll. In ABC's poll, Perot rose two points to 19 percent. That poll was conducted from Friday to Sunday, before his first campaign rallies on Sunday. Perot was also at 19 per cent in the CNN-USA Today poll, down one point.

Clinton ended his eighth and final bus tour in Georgia and was heading to Florida to campaign for that key battleground state.



Jahanara Imam, Convenor of the Nirmul Committee addressing a public meeting in city yesterday. — Star photo

## Newsman killed

From Page 1 Col 7

The Eighth Battalion of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police died on way to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) from the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

The police personnel was severely hit on his head.

Witnesses said that police blocked the Jubo Command procession at the level crossing the gates of which were closed because of an approaching mail train Isha Khan Express from Mymensingh.

The accident occurred when a group of photographers were trying to take snaps of the processionists from inside the enclosure of the level crossing.

The press photographers could not hear the sound of the approaching train because of the clamour and chaos while police blocked the procession. Witnesses said as the train hit the rickshaw of Khair (26) he fell on the track and was instantly crushed under the wheels.

Police constable Saleh Ahmed (30), who was on duty at the spot, received serious head injuries and the rickshawpulled Abdus Salam (25) lost his right leg. The press men were standing on the rickshaw while they were trying to photograph the procession.

The policemen and the rickshawpulled were admitted to the DMCH in unconscious state.

Three other photographers, Humayun Kabir Hiru of the Daily Star, Shahidullah of the Banglar Bari and Alam of Bangla Bazar Patrika, who were on the same rickshaw, narrowly escaped the death as they fell a few yards away from the tracks.

Earlier, the processionists started marching towards Parliament after a rally near the Century Arcade at Maghbazar.

Soon after the accident, police resorted to baton charge to disperse the mob from the area. Several people were hurt in the beating.

All the injured were rushed to the DMCH. Humayun Kabir Hiru and Shahidullah were released after first aid while Alam was admitted with fractured waist-bone.

The body of the police constable was received by an assistant police commissioner of DMP at the CMH and the body of the Samachar photographer was awaiting autopsy at the DMCH.

## BFUJ, DUJ condole death

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) have condoned the death of photo journalist Khairul Alam Khair in a train accident yesterday, reports UNB.

"This thing about 1986 is brought up time and again, and now I have a few things to say", Hasina said, and narrated how "emissaries from the cantonment" went to see BNP chief Khaleda Zia early that year and assured her that "sepoys of the army and the public would respond to her call, overthrow Ershad, and put her in power,

The Prime Minister talked to the injured photo journalist Mohammad Alam and his family members. Begum Zia enquired about his condition from the attending physicians.

Begum Zia also went to the operation theatre to see the injured rickshawpulled Abdus Salam.

The Prime Minister ordered the Health Minister to ensure proper treatment to the injured persons. She said financial assistance would be given to the family of the photo journalist Khairul Alam who was killed in the accident. The constable's family will get financial assistance as per law.

The Prime Minister was informed of the tragedy when she was in the parliament and she rushed to the hospital immediately after the sitting was over.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia and DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, MP were, among others, present in the hospital.

## Implement accord : Imam

From Page 1 Col 7

Parliament between the ruling and the opposition parties several months ago.

In the four-point accord the ruling party agreed to try Golam Azam under existing laws, withdraw the cases against 24 Nirmul Committee leaders and sponsors of people's court, take action against Jamaat for violation of the Constitution and stop harassment of the committee supporters.

Samad Azad said that after signing the agreement Deputy Leader of the House placed it in parliament and was accepted. But the ruling party betrayed.

His speech was interrupted by brief commotion of the street lights from Bangla Motor to Hotel Sonargaon went off.

A section of people attending the rally then started throwing stones at police, ansars and BDR men. The lights, however, came after a few minutes.

Samad Azad said that the killers of 1971 and 1975 were now united to save their existence but the people of the country would not forgive them and must try them.

"We forced the ruling party to accept parliamentary democracy and we once again will force them to implement the accord," Azad said, adding

that "we will raise the issue in the House tonight."

Jahanara Imam said that the Constitution allow formation of special tribunal to try "war criminal like Golam Azam" but as the government in cahoots with the Jamaat is obstructing it.

She said that the people would force the government to accept people's demand and until the demand was fulfilled the movement would continue.

She reminded the people the next course of action including a half-day hartal in the capital on November 8.

Among others, Mohammad Nasim, Sajeda Chowdhury, Shahana Straj, Suranjit Sengupta, Shamsuddoha, Abdur Razzak, Hassan Imam, Kazi Aref Ahmed and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya (Bir Bicram) addressed the meeting.

Earlier before the march started, the committee supporters gathered before the Engineers Institution and held brief rally. Jahanara Imam and Abdul Mannan Chowdhury addressed the rally.

The Nirmul Committee programme coincided with the march of Jubo Command which organised a rally in the Mogbazar area. The two programmes caused hours-long traffic jam in and around the meeting areas.

## Seen from the Gallery

From Page 1 Col 5

Chowdhury, while defending the merits of the bill, turned back the years and recalled a speech given by the Leader of the Opposition in 1986, in which she had reportedly said that anyone who took part in Ershad's election would be regarded as "traitors to the nation."

Within days afterwards, the minister said, the AL decided to take part in the polls.

Hasina, looking pretty agitated, demanded the floor after Chowdhury had sat down to tremendous table-thumpings by Treasury benchers, back and front.

Sheikh Hasina rose on a point of personal explanation, but, as Speaker Shaikh Razzaka Ali soon found out, a political leader's "personal explanation" can hardly be divorced from the wider political context.

The AL president did not, however, limit herself to explaining how it was the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) which had "betrayed the nation" by concluding a "secret entente" with Ershad. She reminded the House, to loud cat-calls and heckling from BNP backbenchers, that it was she, on March 26, 1982, who had first spoken out against the imposition of martial law two days earlier.

"This thing about 1986 is brought up time and again, and now I have a few things to say", Hasina said, and narrated how "emissaries from the cantonment" went to see BNP chief Khaleda Zia early that year and assured her that "sepoys of the army and the public would respond to her call, overthrow Ershad, and put her in power,

"They don't have the courage to stay and listen to my reply, they are fleeing, walking out. All their comments were untrue, Mr. Speaker, and all that must be expunged. You can't have democracy by by-passing parliament", Zia said and sat down, without producing another ovation from the Treasury members or Jamaat.

Much later, Badruddoza Chowdhury again demanded that Hasina's comments be expunged, and said that Zia would give a personal explanation later in the presence of the opposition.

They don't have the courage to stay and listen to my reply, they are fleeing, walking out. All their comments were untrue, Mr. Speaker, and all that must be expunged. You can't have democracy by by-passing parliament", Zia said and sat down, without producing another ovation from the Treasury members or Jamaat.

Much later, Badruddoza Chowdhury again demanded that Hasina's comments be expunged, and said that Zia would give a personal explanation later in the presence of the opposition.

They don't have the courage to stay and listen to my reply, they are fleeing, walking out. All their comments were untrue, Mr. Speaker, and all that must be expunged. You can't have democracy by by-passing parliament", Zia said and sat down, without producing another ovation from the Treasury members or Jamaat.

Much later, Badruddoza Chowdhury again demanded that Hasina's comments be expunged, and said that Zia would give a personal explanation later in the presence of the opposition.

They don't have the courage to stay and listen to my reply, they are fleeing, walking out. All their comments were untrue, Mr. Speaker, and all that must be expunged. You can't have democracy by by-passing parliament", Zia said and sat down, without producing another ovation from the Treasury members or Jamaat.

Much later, Badruddoza Chowdhury again demanded that Hasina's comments be expunged, and said that Zia would give a personal explanation later in the presence of the opposition.

They don't have the courage to stay and listen to my reply, they are fleeing, walking out. All their comments were untrue, Mr. Speaker, and all that must be expunged. You can't have democracy by by-passing parliament", Zia said and sat down, without producing another ovation from the Treasury members or Jamaat.

## Businessman stabbed, robbed

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman was stabbed and robbed of Taka five lakh at the western side of Kamapur Railway Station in the city yesterday morning.

The victim, Ranjan Kumar, told the Railway police that he started journey from Jamalpur by Jamuna Express and reached Dhaka yesterday. At the time of getting out of the station through the western side, he was waylaid by some muggers. They stabbed him and snatched his bag worth Taka 5,00,00 in cash. Railway police said.

A case was filed. None was arrested.

## Kidnapped Ctg trader yet to be rescued

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 27: The businessman of the city's Boxirhat market who was allegedly kidnapped at gunpoint by a group of armed terrorists Sunday evening remained missing even after two days.

Kotwali police here said the victim Sirajul Islam could not be rescued till writing of this report at 3 pm. Sirajul Islam, owner of a jewellery shop in city's Boxirhat market was kidnapped by miscreants from Masterpura area of Ghat Forhadbeg under Kotwali P S while he was returning home from his shop Sunday evening.

Sources said the armed miscreants had intercepted the rickshaw carrying Islam and forced him to get into an autorickshaw. When members of the public attempted to rescue Islam the miscreants opened several rounds of gun shots injuring a rickshawpulled and then hurriedly took away the victim for an unknown destination.

A case was lodged with Kotwali PS.

## AL call

From Page 1 Col 5

President members Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Kamruzzaman, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, Abdul Momen, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak and party General Secretary Zillur Rahman were present at the meeting.

The meeting decided to hold seminars on poverty alleviation, agriculture, industry, education, health and politics in line with the new party policies adopted in the last council.

It also discussed organisational matters and took various decisions, party sources said.

## Science ministry

From Page 1 Col 4

grated with the Education Ministry during the Ershad regime.

He said a national science policy was declared during Ziaur Rahman's time. During nine years of autocratic rule science and scientists had been ignored, Ali mentioned.

Other members of the delegation were Dr M A Wazed Mia, Prof Aminul Islam, Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, Prof A M Harunur Rashid, Prof S N Nabi, Harunur Rashid, Jonab Ali, Dr MA Mannan (BAEC), Dr M Sujayet Ali, Dr M. Walfuzzaman, Dr MA Mannan (PG) and Dr Shamsur Ali.

## Confined family

From Page 1 Col 5

nistry said that he has been living at the 60-B Azimpur colony since July 1986. The flat was allotted to him by BDR authorities when he was on deputation to the BDR.

At the end of his tenure, he was sent back to his former office and the BDR authorities asked Bashir to vacate the flat. But, Bashir claimed, he was reallocated the same flat by the Directorate of Accommodation of the government for which he has the necessary papers.

Even then the BDR authorities insisted on his vacating the flat and put pressure on him, he alleged. He said that previously some BDR personnel locked the flat keeping his family members inside on September 22. They took similar action again on Sunday, he said and added that he has informed the Lalbagh police about the incident. He was at his office when the flat was locked on Sunday.

When contacted, Lalbagh thana police said that they have received a complaint over telephone, but no case was registered.

Meanwhile, concerned authorities of BDR, when asked about the incident said that the building, where Bashir Hossain is occupying a flat, belongs to BDR, so he was asked to vacate it. But he was not cooperating with BDR, the authorities said.

The authorities said that they were not aware of the confinement of Bashir Hossain's family in the flat.

Speaking about the negotiations, Bush said on NBC's "Today" show, "I would hope that nothing would come up that would derail them... In my view, they've gone far enough that no incident would derail the talks."

## The Midnight File

### Bid to impose emergency will be a mistake: Gorbachev

MOSCOW, Oct 27: Amidst increasing speculation of imminent political changes in Russia, the President of former Soviet Union, Mikhail Gorbachev today said that any attempt to impose a state of emergency would be a grave mistake. Quoting reliable sources Gorbachev said that the Russian Security Council has discussed the imposition of a state of emergency at its latest meeting, but no decision could be taken because of differences of opinions, reports PTI.

### Israelis, Palestinians take up human rights issue

WASHINGTON, Oct 27: Israeli and Palestinian peace negotiators took up the issue of human rights in the occupied territories while at home Israel's military pounded guerrilla targets in retaliatory strikes inside Lebanon. Despite the flareup, Israeli and Lebanese delegations showed up at the State Department to negotiate. "We're here, aren't we?" said Soubel Chammas, the Lebanese ambassador to Washington, reports AP.

### Yeltsin to ban new hardline group

MOSCOW, Oct 27: President Boris Yeltsin, growing intolerant of criticism, said Tuesday he would outlaw a new hardline group calling for his ouster, reports AP.

It is the second time Yeltsin has banned a political group. Last year, he dissolved the Communist Party.

Alexander Prokhanov, a leader of the National Salvation Front, dismissed Yeltsin's action as "political gangsterism, lunacy and idocy."

### Petra Kelly buried

WUERZBURG (Germany), Oct 27: German Greens Party founder Petra Kelly, found shot dead in mysterious circumstances last week, was buried on Monday to the grave of her half-sister in the southern town of Wuerzburg, reports Reuter.

Kelly, 44, was killed by her partner and former army Major General Gert Bastian, 69, who then shot himself, investigators are still unsure whether Kelly had agreed to the shooting.

### ATAB

From Page 1 Col 8

State Minister for Civil Aviation Abdul Mannan, Secretary Habibur Rahman, Managing Director of Bangladesh Biman Abdul Mueyed Chowdhury, Chairman of National Board of Revenue Mashur Rahman and ATAB president Dr. H B M Iqbal were present in the meeting.

Tuesday's long-awaited meeting which continued for about two and a half hour from 11-30 am, was brokered by Law Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz, airlines sources said.

He said Biman's expenditure during the period was Taka 126.48 crore.

### Shantibahini

From Page 1 Col 8

headquarters with a letter of the government returned today with the 'peace message', sources said.

Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity, the mother organisation of Shantibahini has given its 'final consent' to the talks as per the date fixed by the government, the sources said adding the message was communicated to the high command of the government today.

Earlier, the government set October 21 as the date for holding the dialogue between the Parliamentary Committee headed by the Communications Minister Col. (ret) Olt Ahmed and the Shantibahini after consulting the "liaison committee" led by Hanshadz Chakma. But the talks could not be held on that date as Shantibahini placed fresh conditions for withdrawal of 13 frontier camps.

The venue of the dialogue, the first of its kind under a democratic govt in a bid to resolve the 18-year old CHT issue, would be the Khagrachhari Circuit House, the sources added.

Officials said that the dialogue with the parliamentary team would be attended by a five-member Shantibahini team to be led, for the first time, by the president of PCJSS, J B Larma alias Shanto Larma.

## PM: Heart hospital

From Page 1 Col 3

Deputy Leader of the House Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Social Welfare Minister Tariqul Islam, Brigadier Professor A Malek, Director General of the Foundation.

Begum Zia said the objective of the government was to create facilities for treatment of all diseases including heart ailments. She said health sector had been identified as a priority area as the government believed in human resource development.

The Prime Minister said the government encourages private investment also in health sector as in other areas.

She was happy to learn that the National Heart Foundation has branches outside the capital city. She had words of praise for the sponsors of the foundation for organising seminar and symposia in creating awareness about the disease.

The establishment of the foundation was also described as a significant occasion in view of the WHO's theme of

Healthy Heart Beat — Healthy Life. Professor Badruddoza Chowdhury pleaded for more attention to preventive measures instead of curative steps. He described worms as a major health problem among children.

Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf assured co-operation of the government to private investment in health sector to achieve the goal of health for all by the year 2000.