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12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 4.00

VOL. III NO. 253 REGD. NO. DA 781

ASHWIN 20, 1400 BS.

DHAKA TUESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1993

RABIUS SANI 18, 1414 HIJRI

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### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Hasina likely to return Oct 8

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina, who is under treatment at the Singapore National University Hospital, is likely to return home on October 8. Hasina left Dhaka on September 19 for a medical check-up in Singapore. Party general secretary Zillur Rahman told this to UNB last night.

#### BNP special meet today

A special meeting of the BNP will be held today at 7 pm at the party central office with BNP secretary general and Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar in the chair. All thana unit presidents and general secretaries of Dhaka city BNP, vice-presidents of the BNP national executive committee, members of the party secretariat and all party MPs present in Dhaka have been requested to attend, reports BSS.

#### Development body in each thana

FARIDPUR, Oct 4: Government has decided to form development coordination committees in each thana to hasten the process of rural uplift. A government circular said the committees will comprise union parishad chairmen, departmental thana heads and 3 nominated female members of the union parishads. The Thana Nirbahi Officer will act as the secretary while the local MP will be the Advisor of the committee.

## Rutskoi, Khasbulatov surrender: Scores killed in fighting

# Yeltsin forces crush revolt

MOSCOW, Oct 4: Russian army tanks and paratroops smashed a communist-led revolt in Moscow today as reformist President Boris Yeltsin enforced his rule over hardline foes, reports Reuters.

A Yeltsin aide said leaders of the armed uprising surrendered, after day-long fighting at the White House parliament building, and were taken to a place of safety.

Kremlin official Dmitry Ruriko said Russian Khasbulatov, chairman of the abolished parliament, and former Vice-President Alexander Rutskoi were driven off in buses, for questioning.

They could face trial, he said.

Paolo Valentino of the Italian newspaper Corriere Della Sera quoted the two as saying that they knew there was an order to shoot them down as soon as they came out of the building.

Former Afghan war hero Rutskoi, named Acting President by defiant lawmakers last week after Yeltsin moved to

abolish the legislature, tried to arrange a truce earlier while fellow hardliner Khasbulatov was reported depressed.

Rutskoi had said he would fight to the death if presidential forces tried to storm the White House. But he surrendered after an agreement with Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

**MOSCOW, Oct 4: Up to 300 hardline gunmen may still be holed up in corners of the Russian parliament despite the surrender of their leaders. Itar-Tass news agency reported today, quoting an informed source in the Russian government, reports Reuters.**

Hundreds of their dejected followers, deputies and staff, fled out of the building before the two leaders. They gave up after 12 days holed up in the White House, now spewing flames and smoke.

At dusk the fighting broke out again, with hundreds of tracer bullets lighting the night sky. Snipers remained in the

area and more T-72 tanks headed towards pockets of resistance.

An anxious world backed Yeltsin's success against the country's second "October Revolution," seen as a bid by desperate conservatives to restore the collapsed Soviet Union.

Thousands of Muscovites and millions of television viewers around the globe saw the revolt fall after a day-long battle that turned the heart of a city of nine million people into a killing zone.

Some reports said hundreds died in the dawn raid by special forces commandos on the central riverside building in scenes surpassing Moscow street battles of the 1917 Bolshevik revolution.

An Interior Ministry spokesman said there were about 100 dead inside the Parliament building. He said reports of 500 casualties were exaggerated.

Witnesses saw dozens of bodies in and around the Parliament building. — AFP photo



Dissenting People's Deputies, carrying white flags, walking out of the Parliament building in Moscow yesterday. President of the southern Russian republic of Kolmikiya, Kirsan Ilyumdjinov is seen waving his hand in the centre. — AFP photo

### Chronology of crisis

Following is a day-by-day look at Russian political crisis, reports AP.

Sept 21: President Boris Yeltsin announces he is dissolving parliament and calls new elections for December.

Hard-line lawmakers meet in emergency session, vote to impeach Yeltsin and appoint Vice President Alexander Rutskoi as president. Anti-Yeltsin demonstrators put up barricades around Parliament.

Sept 22: Military and police stick with Yeltsin. Downtown crowds cheer the president. Lawmakers' calls for a nationwide strike go unheeded.

Sept 23: Gunmen who authorities say are from a right-

wing officers' group try to storm military command post, killing one police officer and a nearby resident. Yeltsin announces early presidential elections for June, six months after parliamentary ones.

Sept 24: Yeltsin orders parliament's defenders disarmed after news that lawmakers distributed dozens of automatic weapons. Few guns are sighted.

Sept 25: Yeltsin says opponents are on "last gasp," says he won't use violence to end the standoff.

Sept 26: In big show of Yeltsin's popular support, thousands cheer him at a concert on Red Square and at least 10,000

### Yeltsin 'really sad'

MOSCOW, Oct 4: President Boris Yeltsin is 'really sad' about his decision to order an assault on the Russian parliament building but he had no other choice, a senior aide said today, reports Reuters.

Sergei Stankevich, speaking in English, told CNN television: "The President is really sad that he didn't manage to prevent this outbreak of violence. But at the same time he is absolutely sure that he did his best to continue negotiations. The full responsibility for this violence is placed on the leaders of the White House."

## World leaders back Yeltsin

LONDON, Oct 4: World leaders rallied Monday to the defense of Russian President Boris Yeltsin, although many said they regretted the bloodshed in fierce fighting in Moscow, reports AP.

British Prime Minister John Major gave his total and unequivocal support for Yeltsin's actions, and urged other world leaders to do the same.

"This is a critical moment for the reform process and a critical moment for the future of Russia," Major said.

"I do not believe in the last day of so that President Yeltsin had any choice but to act as he did and I very much admire his restraint over recent months."

US President Clinton remained unshaken in his support, despite the violence used in recapturing the Russian parliament building.

"I believe that he will be successful in the end because the people support him," Clinton said at a town meeting in Sacramento, California.

"I think the US should support Yeltsin as long as he is the person who embodies a commitment to democracy and of letting the Russian people chart their own course."

Clinton stands four-square behind Yeltsin despite the bloodshed in the siege of the Russian parliament building, he said.

Democratic governments have to defend themselves against force. Clearly that is what President Yeltsin has done," White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said after Clinton's 3.5-mile jog at the Presidio in San Francisco.

"The president stands four-square behind him. We're waiting to see what happens there today," she said.

Foreign ministers of the 12-nation European Community issued a statement supporting Yeltsin's decision to use tanks and soldiers to flush out hardliners and their supporters from the White House said Monday. "Democratic governments have to defend themselves against force. Clearly that is what President Yeltsin has done," White House spokeswoman Dee Dee Myers said after Clinton's 3.5-mile jog at the Presidio in San Francisco.

## 40.28 pc pass Jessore Board HSC exams

By Staff Correspondent

Only 40.28 per cent of the examinees came out successful in this year's Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) Examinations held under the Jessore Board, according to results announced yesterday.

The percentage of pass is the lowest among the results of three boards published so far. The results of the Rajshahi Board are yet to be announced.

Out of the 61,693 candidates who sat for the examinations 24,856 passed, 4,077 in the first division, 12,781 in the second division and 3,611 in the third division. Another 4,387 were deemed passed under special consideration.

In the Science Group, 16 students of the Jhenidah Cadet College featured in the merit list, including the first three positions.

Mohammad Ehsanul Haq (Roll Jhenidah Cadet 1) topped the merit list from the Science Group securing 959 marks with distinctions in Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry and Statistics.

Kamrul Hasan Tiplu (Roll Jhenidah Cadet 3) placed second scoring eight marks less than Ehsan. His total was 951.

Satyabrata Das (Roll Jhenidah Cadet 41) secured the third place with 946 marks with distinction.

## World Habitat Day observed

By Staff Correspondent

The World Habitat Day was observed yesterday in Bangladesh as well as in other countries with the pledge to ensure shelter for all.

A discussion was organised by Commitment, a voluntary organisation, and the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) at the UNIC seminar room.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia attended the function as chief guest while State Minister for Forests and Environment Gayeshwar Roy and Human Settlement Programme Adviser in Bangladesh Jon Meelker were also present.

Director of House Building

## Somali's drag body of American thru' streets

By Staff Correspondent

NAIROBI, Oct 4: Somalis danced and cheered Monday as the body\* of a dead American was dragged by ropes through the streets of Mogadishu, reports AP.

Somalis also celebrated around the wreckage of the two helicopters and several destroyed armoured personnel carriers, according to Maj David Stockwell, the chief UN spokesman in Mogadishu. He spoke by telephone with The Associated Press in Nairobi.

New fighting erupted Monday in Somalia in the second day of a major UN assault aimed at shattering the military command structure of fugitive warlord Mohamed Farrah. — AFP photo

## Code of conduct for city polls ready

By Staff Correspondent

The draft of a new code making defaulting bank loanes ineligible for election under the city corporations is ready.

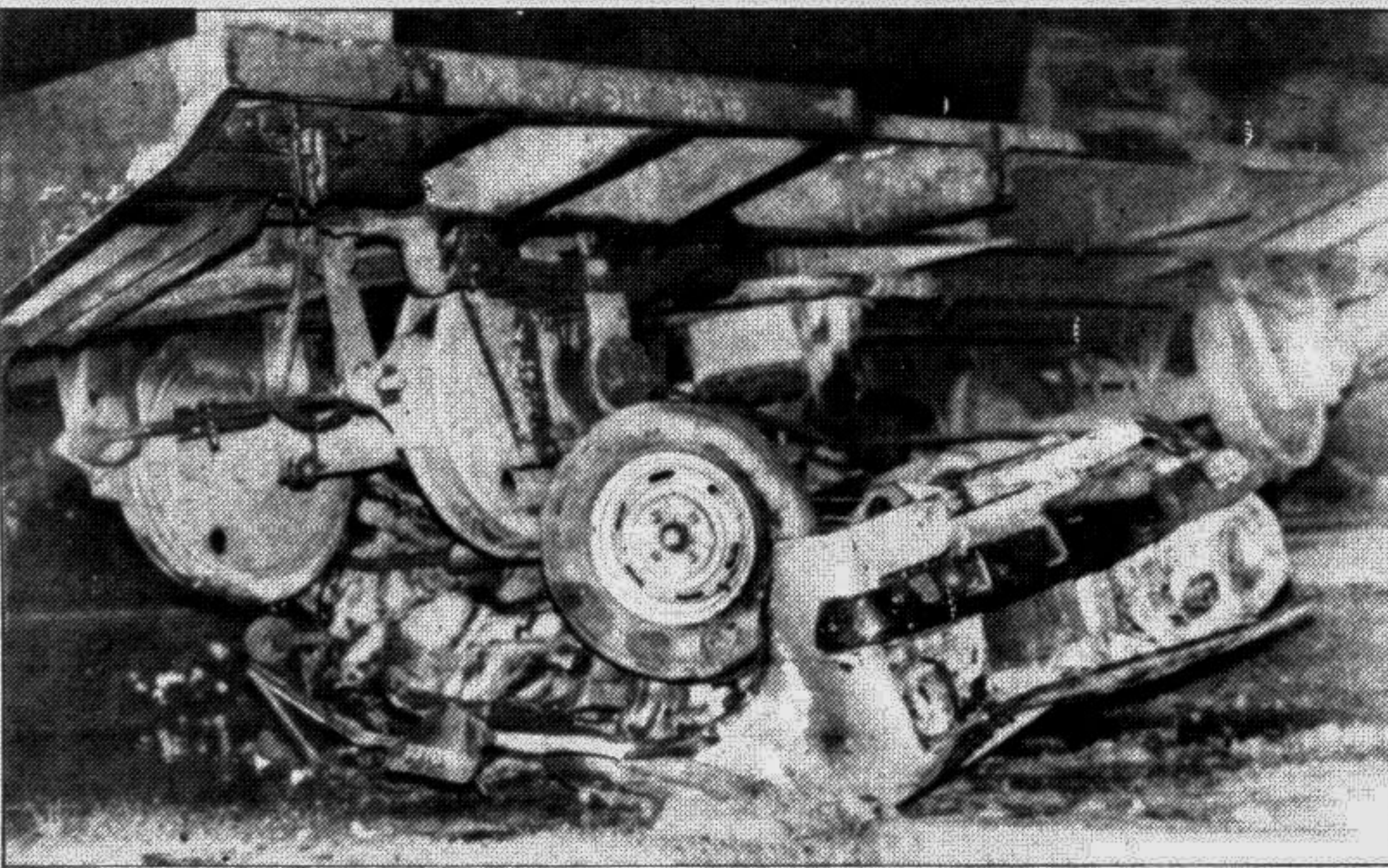
The new code of conduct also puts a ceiling on campaign expenditure by the candidates in the forthcoming elections for the four city corporations due early next year.

The draft, prepared under the supervision of LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukdar, is said to be in conformity with the amended City Corporation Ordinance which among other things, also provides for direct election to the post of mayors. According to LGRD ministry

sources, the new code aims to limit the gross election expenditure of a mayoral candidate to Tk five lakh and personal expenses at Tk 50,000.

The maximum amounts under the two heads for any candidate for a commissioner's are Tk 50,000 and Tk 5,000 respectively.

The security deposits for the candidates for mayors and Commissioner are Tk 5000 and Tk 2000 respectively. The code also prohibits the printing of bicolour posters, erection of dais more than 4,000 square feet in size and all gates and arches



A goods train ran over a private car killing four of its five riders last night at the Kamalapur railway level-crossing, conspicuous for its lack of shutter-gates and any street lights.— Star photo

## Three of a family perish as train hits car in city

By Staff Correspondent

All but one of a four-member family and their driver were killed in a tragic train-car crash in the capital yesterday evening.

Witnesses said Muhammad Ali, Thana Agriculture Officer of Keranganj, along with his wife Bilkis Begum, 30, five-year-old daughter Moutushi and their driver, who could not be identified, were killed when a goods train rammed their car near the Kamalapur level-crossing at 7:50 pm.

Muhammad Ali's two-year-old daughter Mumu was, however, miraculously saved.

Two fire-fighting engines which went to the spot for rescue were set ablaze by the mob who accused the fire service personnel of being late and also for igniting a fire in the badly crushed car with its injured passengers trapped inside.

Fire Service officials, however, denied the charges.

Muhammad Yusuf, an eyewitness who was on a rickshaw only a few feet away, said the car carrying five including the driver was being shunted into the Kamalapur railway container depot.

As the car went half-way through the level-crossing, an empty container wagon hit the car. Yusuf said. The driver had obviously failed to notice the approaching train because of the darkness.

There was also no shutter gate on the level-crossing, he pointed out. Yusuf said he saw the train bulldozing the car and dragging



Lucky survivor Mumu

## 110 international observers to monitor Pak polls tomorrow

ISLAMABAD, Oct 4: Some 110 international observers have arrived in Pakistan to monitor Wednesday's crucial general elections being held under army supervision, officials said today, reports AFP.

The Washington-based National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI) has sent a 35-member team, headed by Canadian MP Maurice Foster, they said.

NDI monitored the 1990 and 1988 general elections in Pakistan, but the losing parties

in both cases contended they were rigged.

The European Community has sent a 30-member team, led by the former Prime Minister of Denmark Anker Jorgensen.

Another 30-member team of observers from Bangladesh, India and Sri Lanka has also arrived. The team belongs to the seven-member South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, of which Pakistan is a founding member.

A 15-member team of observers from the British Com-

monwealth, of which Pakistan is a member, will also monitor the polls, the team is led by Clive Griffiths, president of the legislative council of Western Australia.

Wednesday's elections are the third in five years. Though an assembly is elected for five years, the governments of three ex-premiers Nawaz Sharif, Benazir Bhutto and Mohammad Khan Junejo were sacked on charges of corruption and misuse of power.

Meanwhile, in Lahore, thou-

sands screamed their support as former Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto began her last day of campaigning today.

"I ask for your support and a stamp on the arrow," Bhutto shouted to the crowd of about 5,000—a request to mainly literate voters to put their thumbprint beside the arrow of her Pakistan People's Party (PPP) on ballot papers.

The crowd, gathered near the Ravi bridge on the outskirts of the ancient Punjab provincial

capital Lahore, waved red, green and black PPP flags.

Bhutto used the occasion to poke fun at her arch-rival, mocking Sharif for a speech on Sunday evening in which he said only women, and not men, did not change loyalties in Pakistan—a reference to a flurry of floor-crossing in parliament this year that contributed to his fall from power.

"Nawaz Sharif has himself admitted that men change loyalties, sell their votes—but women do not," she said. "I

don't believe in politics of changing loyalties."

Sharif, addressing a women's rally at Mauchi Gate on Sunday evening, predicted a resounding defeat for Bhutto.

Bhutto attacked Sharif and his one-time mentor Zia-ul-Haq for their record on the economy. "For the last 16 years there has been no development, lots of inflation and unemployment," she shouted as the audience roared their approval. "Now you can rid Pakistan of Nawaz

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### US praises govt's development programmes

NEW YORK, Oct 4: US Congressman Gary L Ackerman has highly appreciated the development programmes of Begum Khaleda Zia's government, especially those in the education and women's uplift sectors, reports BSS.

The congressman, who is the chairman of the House of International Committee for Asia and Pacific, expressed this view when he called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her suite at the UN Plaza yesterday.

Ackerman expressed his firm belief that Bangladesh would get out of its poverty cycle with the implementation of the current development programmes. He also appreciated the democratic process established in the country.

The discussions also touched the overall situation in South Asia.

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh always pursued friendly and good relations with everyone, especially with her neighbours.

Begum Zia said Bangladesh has best relations with its neighbours although there were some irritants including a

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### SAARC poverty alleviation report released

NEW DELHI, Oct 4: The Deputy Chairman Planning Commission Pranab Mukherjee today said the focus of the eighth plan was on "massive investment in both physical and social infrastructure to empower poor people through employment-oriented public programmes," reports PTI.

Releasing the report of the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation of the SAARC here, Mukherjee said this together with huge investment had protected the poor from the "stress and strains of structural adjustment," programmes.

In its 154-page report, the commission called upon each SAARC country to devise immediately a national level plan for the poor using the pro-poor perspective and the premises of action identified by it.

### Strike at Osmany Medical College

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 4: A day-long strike was observed at the Osmany Medical College here today in protest against the attack on a Professor of Surgery of the college last Sunday.

A group of armed young men attacked Dr D E Reza at his chamber in the town and injured him on Sunday afternoon. The attackers also damaged medical instruments and the doctor's car.

Students and teachers of the college brought out a protest procession in the town and handed over a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner today.

They demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those involved in the incident. Meanwhile UNB adds: The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) has called for a two-hour token strike for four days in all hospitals of the district from today protesting the attack on Dr Reza.

The district unit of the BMA decided to enforce the strike at the Osmany Medical College Hospital and other hospitals from 10 am to 12 noon everyday at an emergency meeting chaired by Dr M A Rakib yesterday.

### HBFC sanctions Tk 70 cr in three months

Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation (HBFC) has sanctioned Tk about 70 crore as house building loans during the first three months of the current fiscal year as against Tk 5.62 crore during the same period last year, reports BSS.

The rate of growth in House Building loans during the period was 11.04 times higher this year than that of the last year, an official handout said here last night.

About 70 per cent of 700 loanes of the HBFC during the period belonged to middle-class and lower middle-class groups.

A consultancy counter has been opened to help the new loanes of the HBFC while the government has lowered their own investment from the previ-

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