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**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Administrative Transparency Needed for a Good Government**  
by Syed Naquib Muslim  
Page 4

**International**

**Bosnian army launches major offensive against Croats**

**New Jerusalem Mayor supports Jewish settlement**  
Page 5

**Business**

**Open up markets to foreign imports or face trade action, Washington warns Beijing**

**Palestinians need to invest \$2b a year on infrastructure**  
Pages 6, 7

**Feature**

**Women On The Move**

**The Village Salish: Taking the Law in Their Own Hands; Calling on Fellow Women Physician; Rebellious Against the Status-quo**  
Page 8

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**

**Undiminishing Influence of Bench**  
Page 3

## 11-nation WHO health ministers' confcnc ends Emergency regional centre to be set up in Dhaka

**By Staff Correspondent**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurated the conference at the International Conference Centre on Monday. Bangladesh earlier hosted the second meeting of the regional health ministers of the WHO South-East Asia region in 1982. The decision to set up an emergency health centre in Dhaka was the major outcome of the three-day conference. The WHO regional official said at the briefing, adding that "Consensus has also been reached on other issues."

The Bangladesh Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf was elected chairman and Mongolian Health Minister P. Nyamadava vice-chairman of the conference at the first business session on the opening day.

The WHO official said, progress in the implementation of recommendations of the 10th meeting, the TCDC programme in health, health management, development of human resources for health, AIDS, EPI targeted diseases, and future action for old scourges — malaria, TB, leprosy — were discussed in three business sessions of the conference.

The ministers expressed their overall satisfaction over the progress of implementation of last year's recommendations but opined that optimal utilisation of available health facilities is not being made in the countries.

They suggested formulating a new mechanism to use maximum health resources for the sake of 1.2 billion population of the region, one-fourth of the world population.

The 10 health ministers took a new approach towards TCDC (technical cooperation among developing countries) and said the developed countries should be included in the health programme for the region.

The ministers also discussed the question of recognising the medical degrees and diplomas awarded in the regional countries. They, however, could not reach any concrete decision on the issue but a committee may be formed to examine the matter.

The South-East Asian Health Ministers emphasised the need for involving the private sector in the health management activities.

AIDS poses a serious threat to this region and by the year 2000, some 2.5 million HIV infection cases are likely to be reported in the 11 countries, the ministers maintained.

Currently, an estimated 30,000 adults and children are

Sec Page 12 Col 8

## Dhaka for developing world jute economy

Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah yesterday underlined the need for international collaboration and cooperation for revival, sustenance and development of the global jute economy, reports BSS.

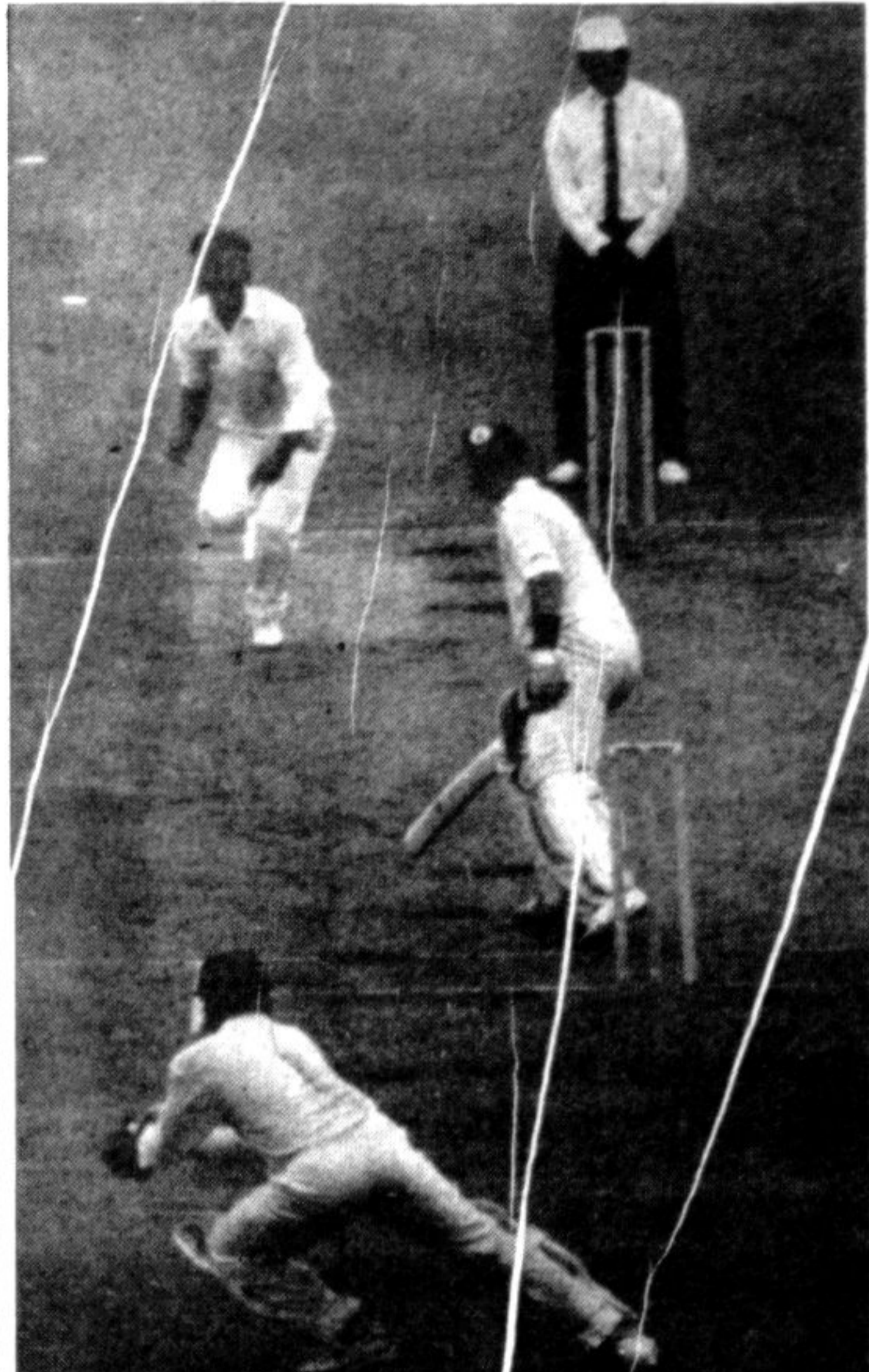
Shah was inaugurating the 20th session of the International Jute Council at a city hotel here. The inaugural function was also addressed by Shamsul Huq Chisty, the Executive Director of the International Jute Organisation (IJO).

The three-day session is being attended by the members of the International Jute Council representing the jute exporting and jute importing countries.

The Jute Minister called upon the IJO member countries to explore every possibility to develop the global jute economy through research and development. It is time that we pay more emphasis on proper diversified use of jute to face the declining demand of traditional products, he said and called for restoring the unquestioned position of jute as an environment friendly material free from health hazards.

He expressed his satisfaction to know that a number of countries and specialised agencies have been extending their helping hands in the work of the IJO for research and development in the fields of jute agriculture, jute industry and market promotion.

Sec Page 12 Col 6



Zimbabwean skipper Andy Flower watches anxiously as an edge from the southpaw's bat finds shelter in wicketkeeper Nasu's gloves. Bowler Jahangir Alam Talukdar is agog with expectations for obvious reasons. — Star photo

## Khaleda wants incr eased trade ties with US

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday underlined the need for increasing trade relations between Bangladesh and the United States for the mutual benefit of the two countries, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister said this when the visiting US Assistant Secretary of State Robin Lynn Raphael called on her at her office in the morning.

Begum Zia said Bangladesh has been pursuing the policy of 'trade, not aid' and so it was laying emphasis on increasing her trade relations with other countries.

Sec Page 12 Col 4

**Govt-Prokrichi talks yield no results**

The government yesterday held a meeting with the leaders of the agitating non-administrative civil servants and the professionals including engineers, agriculturists and doctors (Prokrichi) to discuss their 17-point charter of demands for administrative reforms.

According to sources, the four hour meeting, beginning at 10 am, failed to produce any concrete solution to end the conflict between the administrative and non-administrative cadre services.

LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Haque, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, and Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yousuf represented the government at the meeting while the officials and the professionals were represented by a 14-member team that included, among others, Dr M A Majed, Mohammad Abu Hena, Ruhul Matin, Javed Iqbal, Akhter Hossain and Dr Mushtaque Hossain.

This was the third meeting. Sec Page 12 Col 1

**Drugs firm plant in Pabna shut down for dumping wastes**

PABNA, Nov 3: Square Pharmaceutical industry, housing at the BSCIC premises in the town, was closed down today (Wednesday) for dumping waste causing air pollution in the adjoining areas, reports UNB.

The pharmaceutical will remain closed until better ways of dumping waste are devised, official sources said.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of the Ministry of Environment and the pharmaceutical authorities today.

It was attended, among others, by Dr Babar M Kabir, an environment expert of the Ministry, Dr Jiban Ray, Professor of the Pharmacy Department of Jahangirnagar University, Indian environment experts Dr K Lathiry and Dr Rao and Director of the Square Pharmaceutical Tapan Chhowr. Sec Page 12 Col 5

## Commentary Campus terrorism: PM should call a national convention

**By Mahfuz Anam**

The daylight gang 'execution' of the JCD leader Jinnatul Islam, by fellow partymen of a rival faction, should spur all political leaders into seriously rethinking about the overall student political scene and taking some radical steps to rescue student politics from the hands of killers, 'mastaans' and the corrupt. The ruling party is reportedly shaken by the incident, and is at a loss as to what actions to take. Now is the time for Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to take the lead, and call for a dialogue among all major political parties, so that we can have a well-thought out national policy on how to eradicate terrorism from our educational institutions.

We recall that Begum Zia had called for such a dialogue back in December '91. But it suffered due to non-attendance by Sheikh Hasina, and lack of sincerity of purpose on the part of the BNP. There were also no follow-up of the 7-point resolution taken at that time. Now the situation is different, which we hope will make this second attempt more genuine.

First, the Prime Minister must have realised that with all the authority and power of her position as the head of the government, and her own individual popularity and prestige, she is not in full control of her student front. As The Daily Star report of yesterday points out, so far eight JCD leaders have been killed due to inner party conflict, of which five are from the Dhaka University. As all this happened over the last two and half years, and not just recently, it is clear that the PM's efforts to quell factionalism inside the JCD has failed miserably. We recall her bold action in expelling some JCD stalwarts about a year back. But she stopped short of going all the way, in face of resistance from some of her cabinet colleagues.

It is also to be pointed out that, in September '92, Begum Zia had declared that grants would be cancelled, and if need be, recognition withdrawn, if student violence occurred in any educational institution. She has not implemented that decision on a single instance yet.

Given the politics as we see, Sec Page 12 Col 3

## WB minister slates BJP for exploiting Taslima Nasreen's novel

CALCUTTA, Nov 3: West Bengal Information Minister, Kanti Biswas has criticised the BJP for making Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasreen's novel 'Lajja' the shame, a political weapon, reports BSS.

Biswas said, "We cannot support the version of Nasreen's 'Lajja' since it does not reflect the actual situation of Bangladesh. In fact, the said novel encouraged fundamentalists in both the countries."

"Action will be taken against those who are copying the novel illegally and selling forged editions," he cautioned.

Most of the dailies in Calcutta are reported to have published the statement of Biswas. Calcutta Doordarshan Kendra, Channel-2 also telecast his comments on Tuesday night's bulletin at 10.30.

## Nowhere revisited, again

**By Chandrashekar Das**

The first Wednesday of November, 1993 irrevocably and irreparably zoomed into the blackhole of time as Bangladesh lost, not for the first time, to Zimbabwe.

At the Dhaka Stadium yesterday, local hopes were allowed to soar dizzy heights before meeting an anti-climactic crash with the national cricket team, in an all-too-familiar display of fragile temperament, losing to the visiting Zimbabweans by

**More on Page 10**

nine runs in the rain-curtailed exciting first one-day of the two-match Gold Leaf one-day series.

In a match marked by low scores and a general want of character and planning in batting Bangladesh were needed to score just 141 in 38 overs for a win that would have been for all practical purposes a magnificent booster for their ICC Trophy preparations.

Unbeaten on 31, former skipper Minhajul Abedin Nannoo was, at the end of the day, not forced out of the pitch by any of the Zimbabwean bowlers; he and Bangladesh's hopes were effectively smote by time, the quintessence of instant cricket.

Jahangir Alam Talukdar Dulu, an incorrigibly ungainly sight with the bat, albeit useful, was pushed up in the batting order when deft gleaming of pushes, nudges and dabs was the order of the day. The palpable rationale was perhaps, in a Shakespearean phrase, to find direction by indirections. At

Sec Page 12 Col 1

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Rabitat director meets Khaleda**  
Sheikh Waleed Hamzah Jalaidan, the project director of the Rabitat Trust formed for the repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis here, yesterday called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office. He apprised the Prime Minister of various steps taken by the Rabitat Trust for the repatriation of stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

**BCL extended meet begins today**  
A 3-day extended meeting of the Bangladesh Chhatra League will begin today at the Awami League central office. Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will address the opening session at 10 am, reports UNB.

**135 killed in Honduras flood**  
TEGUCIGALPA, Nov 3: Heavy rains that caused flooding on the Caribbean coast of Honduras killed 135 people and left more than 100 missing, officials said today, raising the toll of the weekend storms. The rains, which began Sunday, have also left many people injured and serious damage, according to an emergency relief official in Tocoa, the city hardest hit by the natural disaster, reports AFP.

**Hashem leaves for Delhi**  
A two-day conference of secretary-general of parliaments in the SAARC countries begins today in the Indian capital, New Delhi. Secretary of Bangladesh Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hashem left here for New Delhi yesterday to attend the conference, reports UNB.

## BNP govt afraid of hartals : Hasina

**By Staff Correspondent**

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government of Khaleda Zia was afraid of hartals.

Addressing a big public meeting in the capital, the Awami League chief explained that there should be no reason for a government, that enjoyed public support, to fear democratic agitations like hartals, strikes, sit-ins, etc. But, Hasina alleged, this government was always afraid of hartals and other agitational programmes since, "It had captured power through intrigues with the Jamaat-e-Islami."

The AL leader's observations were made in the backdrop of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's recent remarks opposing the hartals being called by the opposition parties, including the AL.

The AL organised the meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue in observance of November 3 as 'Jail Killing Day'. On this day in 1975, four national leaders — Tajuddin Ahmed, Syed Nazrul Islam, Mansoor Ali and Kamruzzaman — were murdered at the Dhaka Central Jail following the August 15 military coup.

Delivering her presidential speech, the AL chief Hasina said there would be no need for hartal if the government stopped politicising and corrupting the administration, terrorising the society and adopting anti-people steps.

"People were going on strikes Sec Page 12 Col 4

## Public sector units owe PDB Tk 216 crore

**By Special Correspondent**

While pressure on domestic power consumers to collect arrear bills is mounting, the Power Development Board (PDB) has failed to realise outstanding revenue amounting over Tk 216 crore from the public sector for a long time.

The defaulters in the public sector include 16 ministries and the state-run Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA).

According to an official source, the PDB's unrealised revenue stood at about Tk 568 crore on June 30 this year, which is believed to have increased further by now.

The overdue power bill lying with the private sector on June 30 was estimated at Tk 351 crore, most of it with big consumers like industries and commercial enterprises. The

domestic sector constitutes only 17.8 per cent of the PDB's consumers.

The drive to realise arrear bills from the small consumers, mostly at the domestic level, is on and the authorities do not hesitate to disconnect the power lines without prior notice to realise the bills. But, there is little effort from the PDB for the recovery of arrear revenue from the public sector.

Among the 12 ministries, the biggest defaulter is the Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives where over 40 crore taka remains unpaid. This amount was accumulated mainly due to non-payment of dues by the municipalities under this ministry.

The arrear due with the Sec Page 12 Col 7

## Accord on Hazratbal siege fails

SRINAGAR, India, Nov 3: An agreement to end the Indian army siege of the Hazratbal Mosque, where Kashmiri Muslim militants have been holed up for 19 days, collapsed today, the chief government negotiator said.

"I am deeply disappointed. I was hopeful that everything would be over today but unfortunately something, somewhere went wrong," said Wajahat Habibullah, a top Kashmir administration official who has headed the talks with the rebels.

Habibullah told AFP that he held four rounds of talks today with the representatives of the 50 armed Kashmiri separatists holed up in the Hazratbal Mosque on the banks of Srinagar's Dal Lake.

He declined to reveal what derailed the peaceful settlement to the standoff.

The 50 Kashmiri separatists and 60-70 civilians have been trapped inside the white marble mosque since it was surrounded by thousands of troops on the night of October 15 during a sweep against insurgents.

A senior government official, Mahmoodur Rehman, had said earlier today that an agreement had been reached during talks overnight and the militants would leave the complex during the day.

He said the Muslim militants would be separated from civilians after an identification parade.

"The law will take its course," and those rebels who do not already face charges of serious crimes are expected to be let off on bail as part of the agreement, Rehman said.

"We are in a hurry to see the episode end so that everybody in Kashmir and throughout India can have a sigh of relief," he said.

There was hectic activity around the shrine amid expectations the drama was drawing to a close.

Teams from the paramilitary Border Security Force accompanied by masked informants were sent to the mosque to help with the identification of the persons leaving the shrine.

Muslim religious leaders were brought to the mosque to inspect a holy relic — a hair believed to come from the beard of Prophet Mohammed (SM) — to ensure it was unharmed. They were sent home after nightfall.

Army vehicles and bullet-proof official cars were seen rushing to the shrine throughout the day.

The militants inside the complex could be heard meanwhile chanting verses from the Quran, the Islamic holy book, over loud-hallers perched on a mosque minaret.

The rebels have ruled out a surrender, demanding the army lift the siege, allow them safe passage and insisting they would hand over the shrine and the relic to the religious leaders and prominent Kashmiri citizens.

Troops were out in strength meanwhile enforcing a strict curfew clamped for "operational reasons," over much of Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital.

## Jinnah murder case: No headway in investigations

**By Staff Correspondent**

Even after three days of the murder of Jinnatul Islam Jinnah on the Dhaka University campus, the police or the DU probe committee formed Tuesday are yet to make any progress in their investigations.

The police, however, raided the Mohsin, Suryasen and the Zahurul Haq halls for two hours from 5 am yesterday but failed to recover any arms or arrest anyone.

The head of the Dhaka University probe committee, Prof Anwarullah Chowdhury, told The Daily Star over telephone last night that he had received no official instructions regarding the investigation.

Sec Page 12 Col 7

## 7 JCD activists held in Sylhet

**From Our Correspondent**

SYLHET, Nov 3: The Kotwali Police arrested seven Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activists in separate raid last night for their alleged involvement in yesterday's clashes with the Awami League-backed Chhatra League.

Police also recovered one shotgun and two rounds of ammunition.

The arrested persons are Fazlul Karim, Rubaiyat Raihan, Nur Mohammad, Fahim Anwar, Abdullah, Mirza Jafar Ahmed and Hossain Misbah.

Meanwhile, the district unit Sec Page 12 Col 8

**Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha**  
RAJUK Bhaban, Dhaka

## Emergency Notice

The esteemed allottees of Sector Nos. 10, 12, 13 & 14 of Uttara Residential Area are requested to see detailed information & notice regarding possession of their plots on inside Page No. 2. All concerned are requested to remain present as per the said time-table on the prescribed date to take over possession of their respective plots.

**Chairman**  
Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha,  
DFP(G) 17698-30/10  
G-1501  
Dhaka