

# Students demand ban on movement of trucks in city

By SSMCH Correspondent

More than 2000 students demonstrated in the city yesterday protesting the death of a medical student under the wheels of a speeding truck recently.

Students from different educational institutions staged the demonstration in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 10 am and demanded restrictions on the movement of trucks in the city during the day-time.

The Sir Salimullah Medical College Students' Union organised the demonstration as part of its ongoing programme which started following the death of Rumana Parvin, 21, a first-year student of the MBBS class of the SSMC. She was killed in a road accident November 15 when a speeding truck rammed her rickshaw near the Dhaka Medical College Hospital gate.

Presided over by vice-president of the SSMC Students' Union CSB Jalal Rozel, the programme was also addressed by Nasima Alik, Hasan Jafar Rifat, Mostafa Kamal, Ahsan Ahmed and representative from different institutions.

The student leaders demanded a ban on the movement of trucks in the city from 6 am to 6 pm, enforcement of speed control of buses near the educational institutions and punishment of those who violate traffic laws.

The rally ended at the memorial sculpture of Shaheed Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon, near the Teachers-Students Centre (TSC) of the Dhaka University.

The president and the secretary of the Association of Physicians of Bangladesh Prof Md Tahir and Prof Tofayel Ahmed respectively said that movement of trucks and buses must be restricted in the city during the day-time.

# Death anniversary of Dr Milon

From Page 1 Col 4

members of the BMA placed wreaths at the newly-erected memorial to Dr Milon near the TSC and at his grave at the Dhaka Medical College premises.

Wreaths were also placed at both places on behalf of the BNP, the Awami League, JSD (Inu), the 10-party Left Alliance, DUCSU, Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal, Chhatra League (M-I), Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya, Chhatra League (M-L), Chhatra Oikya Forum, Doctors' Association of Bangladesh, the IPGMR Teachers' Association, Dhaka Medical College Teachers' Association, Unemployed Doctors' Association, Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners' Association, Doctors' Forum, the Dr Milon Smriti Sangsad and other political and cultural organisations.

Shyama, the only daughter of Dr Milon, also placed a wreath at her father's memorial. The BMA held a discussion by the side of Dr Milon's grave yesterday morning.

Presided over by BMA President Dr M A Majed, the discussion was participated, among others, by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, Awami League leader Abdul Mannan, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Prof Iazuddin Ahmed, JSD leader Kazi Aref Ahmed, Dr A K M Kamruzzaman, MP, Advocate Shamsul Huq Chowdhury, MBA Secretary General

Dr Gazi Abdul Huq and late Milon's mother Selma Akhter.

Addressing the meeting, Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain called upon all to show respect to democracy for which, he recalled, Shaheed Dr Milon had sacrificed his life.

He said it is the duty of all citizens to make all-out efforts to give democracy an institutional shape. "It's not possible for the government alone to accomplish this cherished task."

Everyone must show utmost tolerance to establish democracy in the country on a firm footing, the Energy Minister said.

"Impatience may put democracy in deep crisis," he cautioned and emphasised on consensus for proper and quick solution of various national issues.

Awami League leader Abdul Mannan said the killers of Dr Milon should be brought to justice and called upon the government to find out the real culprits involved in the murder.

Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed said it is the duty of the state to arrange the trial of the killers. Its a bad sign for democracy that the ousted autocratic force and the communal forces are strengthening their positions, he observed.

The Shaheed Dr Milon Smriti Sangsad organised a separate discussion at the TSC crossing yesterday afternoon with Dr M A Majed in the chair.

# AL reacts sharply

From Page 1 Col 3

The Leader of the Opposition did not, contrary to what you suggested in your commentary, make any derogatory remark about the Parliament. She was merely responding to repeated requests from the journalists to give her reaction to the Prime Minister's public statement. Strangely enough, you seem to believe that by making a general comment about a question of public interest, she has committed a serious mistake. Your logic seems to suggest that to talk about a crime committed by some one else is tantamount to committing the same crime. You Mr. Editor, have started a new logic which should be amusing if only it was not so offensive.

As regards the Speaker's ruling, why have you not studied the rules of procedure before making the extra-ordinary comment, "Could the Speaker have done something else?" Yes, Mr. Editor, the Hon'ble Speaker would have done his duties properly if he adhered to the rules of procedure. Your ignorance of the rules of procedure is perhaps understandable but no one can, in all fairness, claim that the Speaker is also ignorant of the rules of procedure. It was plain as daylight that this was a motivated and highly partisan ruling.

The privilege motion against the Prime Minister was considered and approved by the Business Advisory Committee and she herself agreed to the holding of the discussion on 29 November. No such procedure was followed on the motion by Mr. Rafiqul Islam Mia. The Speaker took it upon himself to announce his decision without giving the Leader of the Opposition an opportunity to offer a personal explanation. She stood up three times to draw the Speaker's attention and speak but the Hon'ble Speaker turned his attention elsewhere and refused to give her the opportunity to which she was entitled. Is this not a clear evidence of his partisan conduct? Even after his ruling, she spoke and gave an explanation of her remarks at the airport but what was the Hon'ble Speaker's reaction? He declared, right or wrong, she had to accept his

ruling. Surely the members of parliament must respect the Speaker and accept his ruling but do they have to accept even his "wrong" rulings? Is this what the Daily Star is advocating?

May I remind you, Mr. Editor, that it is the Bangladesh Awami League which took the initiative for establishing parliamentary democracy in the country. Have you forgotten that it was a reluctant BNP which was compelled, under the pressure of public opinion and Awami League's efforts, to accept the parliamentary system? Before insinuating that the Awami League might jeopardize parliamentary democracy you should have reflected on the record of the two parties. The whole question has been turned by you into a personal issue between Sheikh Hasina and the Speaker but it is not a personal issue. It was the Prime Minister who, by her statement, struck at the parliament and its honour. Sheikh Hasina, on the other hand, wants to strengthen the democratic process. She stands for the dignity and honour of the Parliament and its members which was called into question by the Prime Minister.

All the right thinking people and certainly your esteemed readers will be distressed by your lack of objectivity and hasty condemnation of the Leader of the Opposition. You failed to make the distinction between an offender and someone who comments on the offence. You have taken the undue liberty of sitting on judgement on a matter in which your bias is transparent. Moreover, you have failed to study the question properly before making those serious allegations against the Leader of the Opposition.

We sincerely hope that in the interest of healthy journalism and the reputation of the Daily Star you will promptly publish this statement so that the misunderstanding and confusion created by you can be dispelled.

\* How "biased", "ignorant", "out and out partisan", "uninformed" and "lack (ing) objectivity" my commentary was, I leave it to my readers to judge. — Editor

# Chandpur College closed sine die

From Our Correspondent

CHANDPUR, Nov 27: The Chandpur Government College has been closed sine die today following a clash between two student groups.

The clash occurred over forced snatching of the ballot papers of the Students' Union elections of the college.

At least 25 students and a teacher were injured in the fracas.

The elections, scheduled for December 8, have been postponed.



Deputy Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Khan Panni receiving the Australian parliamentary delegation at the Zia International Airport yesterday. — PID photo

# Australian MPs in city

A nine-member Australian parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker Henry Alfred Jenkins arrived here yesterday on a week-long visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni received the delegation at the Zia International Airport. Salahuddin Yusuf MP of Awami League, Australian High Commissioner Kenneth Aspinall and Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Abul Hashem were also present.

In the afternoon, the delegation called on Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Panni at his Sangsad Bhaban office and discussed matters relating to the functioning of parliaments in Bangladesh and Australia with special emphasis on committee system.

State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan and Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Abul Hashem were present in the meeting, said a press release.

The members of the delegation are expected to visit Rangamati and Cox's Bazar. They are also expected to call on a number of cabinet ministers and attend a joint meeting of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

Nepali MPs BSS adds: A six-member Nepalese parliamentary delegation led by Radha Krishna Mainali MP arrived here yesterday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

The delegation was received at the Zia International Airport by L K Siddique MP, Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. Anwarul Hossain Khan Chowdhury MP and a member of the Public Accounts committee was also present.

The members of the Nepalese parliamentary delegation are expected to attend a briefing session with the Public Accounts committee and discuss the working of the committee in Bangladesh.

# Khulna City College closed

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Nov 27: The authorities today closed down Khulna City College here for five days to avert possible violence.

Officials said they had closed the college in apprehension of possible clashes between two rival student groups now brandishing weapons following the recent death of a student leader belonging to the opposition Jatiya Party.

# JP calls hartal in Barisal today

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 27: The Jatiya Party (JP) has called for a half-day hartal here tomorrow protesting the reported attempt on the life of the acting president of the party and an attack on its meeting.

The JP brought out a procession in the divisional headquarters today in support of the hartal.

Earlier on Friday, bombs were reportedly hurled at the Patuakhali Circuit House where JP leader Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury was staying. A public meeting organised by the party in Bakerganj also came under attack, it is alleged.

# Hasina's house

From Page 1 Col 5

get inside the house defying the police sentry Nazrul Islam. A skirmish took place between the youths and the policeman. Later, Bahar and Afzal, went to the Ramna thana to lodge a complaint against alleged 'misbehaviour' by the sentry.

The Duty Officer took the youths to Hasina's house to verify the allegation. At this stage, one Nazib of the AL told the police that the youths did not belong to the AL and added that they might have ill motives behind their attempted entry into the house.

Policemen, interrogating Bahar and Afzal, quoted the two as saying that they came to the city from Kalganj of Jhenidah district in connection with Afzal's going to Malaysia.

The youths told police they wished to visit Hasina's house to meet her. But the policemen on duty at the gate assaulted them, they alleged.

Ramna police said they had filed a case under Section 54 and would produce them in court today.

# BNP, AL leaders

From Page 1 Col 4

The House Khaleda Zia will make a statement on the floor of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) clarifying her November 7 remarks which reportedly accused the Opposition MPs of telling lies in Parliament.

The Prime Minister will make her statement with the AL-led Opposition and the Jatiya Party benches empty.

In addition to her clarification, the Prime Minister would request Speaker Shaikh Razak Ali to reconsider his ruling relating to the motion against the Leader of the Opposition for the 'sake of democracy'.

The Speaker would then review the motions against both the Leader of the Opposition and the Leader of the House. The boycotting Opposition will re-enter the House following the Speaker's reconsideration of his earlier rulings. They would then not press for a discussion on the motion against the Leader of the House.

However, neither Chowdhury nor Samad Azad could be contacted till late last night.

Meanwhile, sources close to the Awami League said, although the party was now

ready to positively scrutinise the Treasury bench formula. The AL leaders would raise a few fresh demands at today's negotiations.

A senior AL leader told The Daily Star last night that they would demand an 'effective commitment' from the ruling party regarding showing more attention to the Opposition's views on various political and economic issues and tolerance to the Opposition-sponsored public rallies.

Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, who submitted the notice for a breach of his privilege by Sheikh Hasina, told this correspondent last night that his party was ready to make a compromise with the Opposition for the sake of democracy. "But it must be an honourable settlement," the minister maintained.

Replying to a question, Barrister Rafiq said that he would not withdraw his notice, but he wouldn't mind if the Speaker were to reconsider his ruling passed last Wednesday.

Meanwhile, the Sangsad is scheduled to resume at 4 this afternoon.

# Sweden departs 9 Bangladeshis

STOCKHOLM, Nov 27: Nine Bangladeshi men held after a police raid on a convent providing sanctuary for illegal aliens were deported from Sweden today, Civil Aviation Authorities at Arlanda Airport said, reports Reuters.

The nine were among 40 people rounded up and questioned in the raid at Alsike convent near Uppsala, run by Protestant nuns who had proclaimed it a church sanctuary for asylum-seekers.

Since the ouster of Nicolae Ceausescu by a popular revolt in December 1989, the Romanians observe December 1 as their National Day which earlier used to be celebrated on August 23, Mociotiu told newsmen at a press briefing at his office ahead of the occasion.

The Embassy in Dhaka will also celebrate the day, he added.

He said that Romania witnessed massive changes since the 1989 revolt after which more than 80 per cent lands were returned to the former owners.

He said that ties between Bangladesh and Romania are good but there remain many prospective areas to be explored.

Currently there is about five million dollar trade both ways between the two countries. Bangladesh exports raw jute and leather and imports textile machinery from that country.

"Romania is now a democratic country like Bangladesh and both countries established democracy in almost a similar way," the Ambassador said, adding: "Crises in the two countries are also common."

"Romania is still passing a transitional period after years of totalitarian communist rule," Mociotiu remarked.

The volume of trade between the two countries can be higher if the entrepreneurs from both sides avail the simplified economic policy.

Romanian Ambassador-designate Liviu Radu and Commercial Counsellor Petre Stamatescu were present at the briefing.

# One to die

From Page 1 Col 5

page at Saleh Noor College examination hall when some examinees were expelled on the ground of adopting unfair means. The students ransacked the hall and assaulted invigilators and members of the law enforcing agency.

The Principal of the college under Patiya thana lodged a case against 25 examinees. Police submitted charge sheet against the accused persons.

The court examined 13 witnesses in the case and found the accused guilty.

Public Prosecutor Kafiluddin Chowdhury, advocates Rafiqul Islam and Ehsanul Huq appeared for the State while advocates Zahurul Islam, Dipok Kanfi Das, Meshabuddin Tarek and others defended the accused persons.

# 5-party blames BNP for crisis in JS

By Staff Correspondent

The Five Party Alliance at a meeting Saturday blamed the ruling party for the present crisis in the Jatiya Sangsad and demanded immediate solution to the problem.

The meeting, presided over by its Convenor Rashed Khan Menon, was addressed, among others, by Hasanul Huq Inu, Sharif Nurul Ambia, Abu Sayed Khan, Khalequzzaman, Belayet Shikder, A F M Mahbulul Huq, Motuiddin Khan Badal, Haider Akbar Khan Raqo and Bimal Biswas.

The meeting in a resolution said that the government from the very beginning of its taking over was trying to make Parliament ineffective.

It said the game which the government was playing in Parliament instead of discussing basic national issues and the problems of the people would otherwise benefit the anti-democratic forces.

The meeting also condemned the attack on the memorial monument of the martyrs of Liberation War by the Jamaat-Shibir clique and demanded punishment to the persons involved.

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# The Midnight File

## Ukraine dismisses Russian threats

KIEV, Nov 27: Ukrainian officials dismissed Russian threats to stop servicing former Soviet missiles on their territory as irresponsible and defended their parliament's stiff conditions for getting rid of nuclear weapons. Yuri Kostenko, head of a parliamentary commission which spent nearly a year examining the Start-I arms treaty before its conditional ratification, accused Russia of using the nuclear issue as an excuse to destabilise Ukraine, reports Reuters.

## Iran for better ties with Iraq

BEIRUT, Nov 27: Iran wants to normalise ties with longtime foe Iraq and the exchange of visits by both countries' officials is part of that policy, Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati said in comments published today. He told the pro-Syrian Lebanese daily As-Safir: "We share 1,200 kilometres (746 miles) of borders with Iraq. We're neighbours. Why should our relations be strained? We want to establish good neighbourly ties and this requires an effort from both sides," reports AFP.

## Opposition conspiring

From page 1 Col 5

Pointing to the interest shown by foreign entrepreneurs in investing in Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said frequent hartals and indiscipline will discourage them.

The BNP has always been by the side of the people and will continue with its programmes aimed at the welfare of the commonman," Begum Zia said and expressed her confidence that the opposition could never be successful in its designs because the people were with her party.

Seeking support of the masses in implementing the development programmes undertaken by her government, Begum Zia said it will not only ensure progress but also consolidate democracy.

The Prime Minister called upon the people to take part in the nation-building activities initiated by the BNP government. She expressed her confidence that the lot of the people can be improved through united and hard work.

Begum Zia underlined the importance of grooming up the children to give the nation proper leadership in future. She said education was the key to all success in shaping our future generations to meet the

challenges of time. Addressing another rally at the Cox's Bazar Jele (Fishermen's) Park near the beach, Begum Zia sought the cooperation of the people in the efforts of her government to carry forward the development programmes of the government.

Referring to the demands of the people of Cox's Bazar, the Prime Minister said necessary infrastructure including health facilities, power supply and road communication will be developed to turn Cox's Bazar into a Grade One pourasava.

Govt to encourage private initiatives to expand tourism COX'S BAZAR, Nov 27: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today assured her government's continued support to the private sector initiatives for expansion of tourism in the country, reports UNB.

She was addressing a function organised to celebrate the completion of hundred years of the Cox's Bazar Pourasava at the local Preparatory High School premises.

Begum Zia said the government will attract Cox's Bazar as an attractive tourist resort with all necessary facilities.

## Search for oil in Bay

From Page 1 Col 3

adding that in case of further delay, the exploration might have to be postponed until November next year.

In order for any oil exploration by a foreign firm to begin in the country, a PSC submitted by a company, followed by signing of a MOU and submission of proposals, should be approved by the Ministries of Energy, Finance, Law, the NBR and the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Energy.

The Ministries of Energy and Finance have, however, last Tuesday approved the PSCs of the Dutch and Scottish companies at an inter-ministerial meeting to which representatives of the Law Ministry and the NBR were also invited but did not turn up.

Meanwhile, five more companies submitted their proposals to the Petrobangla for a review on November 15. The companies are: Total Exploration Production of France, Cairu Engineering Pvt Ltd Co of Scotland, Mckenzie International Co of the USA, United Meridian International Corp of the USA, and Stellar Oil and Gas (BVI) Ltd of England.

## BNP conspiring

From Page 1 Col 4

The opposition leader alleged that the government was trying to brand the entire student community as terrorists by patronising some identified goons of the Chhatra Dal. She urged the students to remain alert against the conspiracy.

Hasina said after assuming power the BNP has betrayed the 10-point demands of the students, just as it had betrayed the legitimate demands of different working classes and professional groups. She also asked the students to continue their agitation for realisation of their 10-point demand.

## 4 BAF men die

From Page 1 Col 7

and Pilot Officer Rahman. The full names and ages of the victims were not immediately available.

An official of the Inter-Services Public Relations said that an enquiry has been ordered into the accident.

High-ranking officials of the BAF have visited the spot, sources said.

Hasina condoles UNB adds: Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina expressed her deep shock at the death of four officers of the Bangladesh Air Force in Jessore yesterday.

In a message of condolence, she said the nation suffered an irreparable loss at the premature death of these brilliant sons of the soil.

Hasina prayed for the salvation of the departed souls and expressed sympathy for the members of the bereaved families.