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NEWS BRIEFS

Dr Morshed's body
arrives today

The body of late Dr Morshed Talukder, editor of the weekly Jagorani, London, will be flown to Dhaka this morning. His namaz-e-janaza will be held at the Zia International Airport Mosque after arrival. His body will then be taken to his village home at Bhauapur, Tangail for burial, reports BSS.

**Massive publicity
on development**

The government has decided to launch massive publicity through various mass media regarding a huge development activities initiated by the present government throughout the country. This was decided at a meeting held yesterday at the Ministry of Information with Information Minister Nazmul Huda in the chair, reports BSS.

**4 kg of cannabis
hauled, 2 held**

By Staff Correspondent

City mobile police hauled four kilogrammes of cannabis from two rickshaw passengers at Biswa Road near Maniknagar Friday morning. They also arrested the passengers Kamal and Abdul Ali. Meanwhile, four persons were arrested by the detective branch on Friday from Sayedabad for possessing 400 bottles of phenisyl syrup.

Bank rate reduced

The Bangladesh Bank has reduced the bank rate to 5.5 per cent from the present rate of Taka six per cent per annum, according to a bank press release in Dhaka yesterday. The bank rate was made effective from March 3, reports BSS.

Sehri, Iftar timings

Rndn	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
22	6	—	6:07 pm
23	7	4:56 am	6:07 pm
24	8	4:55 am	6:08 pm

JCD factions fight gunbattle at JN college

Police sergeant dies in crossfire

By Staff Correspondent

A police sergeant was killed in a fierce gunbattle between two factions of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at the Jagannath University College in the city yesterday.

The sergeant, Hasanul Farhad, in his thirties, was caught in a cross-fire near the college. He was hit in the chest by a bullet and died on way to hospital.

According to witnesses, over 200 shots were exchanged between the warring groups of students during the two-hour gunbattle that began at 11 in the morning. No other casualty was, however, re-

ported. Police arrested 32 students from the spot after the incident and recovered one rifle and 9 cocktails from the area.

According to college sources, the two factions of the BNP's student front, known as the 'Sagir' and 'Kajal' groups, clashed early last month following which the Kajal group was forced to leave the college campus. Yesterday's clash occurred when the Kajal group attempted to reassert its supremacy on the campus.

Stalwarts of the 'Kajal' group started pouring into the campus through several entrances at about 10:00 am and made a sudden attack on their rivals. Attacked from all sides, the Sagir group activists managed to make their way out through the main gate along with the panic-stricken general students and took shelter at the nearby Kabi Nazrul Islam College.

The two groups then exchanged gunfire for about two hours, turning the whole area into a veritable battlefield.

The heavily outnumbered police picket, deployed earlier near the college, failed to make any impact.

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Police in riot gear entering the Jagannath University College yesterday after a two-hour gunfight between rival JCD factions in the morning left a police sergeant dead.

Press Note :
Probe ordered

A police sergeant on duty was killed in a cross-fire between two rival groups of students at Jagannath University College premises yesterday. Home Ministry Press Note said here last night, reports BSS.

The government has constituted a one member commission headed by the Dhaka Divisional Commissioner to inquire into the incident, the Press Note added.

It said a violent clash took place between two rival groups of students at the Jagannath College premises at 12:30 pm. Both sides used lethal weapons during the clash.

"I feel strongly that further reform is incredibly important since there is a window of opportunity for Bangladesh at the moment and there is no time to lose," she said.

The crest of the mountain is within sight and achieving significant growth and poverty alleviation is within the reach of Bangladesh because of the 'remarkable' macro-economic stability prevailing in the country, she added. Emphasising on the need to keep up the momentum she cautioned:

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WB concerned at anti-reform talk

By Staff Correspondent

"When a car is going uphill, if you lose momentum, you will slide backward."

Speaking at a press briefing at the end of her nine-day visit here, Hamilton provided a broad outline about her discussions with government officials. She also commented on the debate about the economic reform policies and the need to improve public sector project implementation as well as the importance of gearing up the private sector.

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Shawkat dispels fears over rice price

Despite an upward trend in the month of Ramadan, price of rice during the current month has remained well below the peak price during the corresponding period in 1991-92.

Stating this to UNB yesterday, Food Minister Lt Gen Mir Shawkat Ali, however, regretted that certain quarters were making hue and cry to make a political capital out of this temporary rise in price.

In pursuance of the Prime Minister's directive, Shawkat said, the government launched open market sale (OMS) operation in Dhaka and other areas where the prices went up above the national average.

In Dhaka, the OMS has been launched at 14 points: Mohamadpur Bazar, Mirpur Bazar, Kawran Bazar, Shantinagar Bazar, Hatirpool Bazar, Jatrabari Bazar, New Market, Mohakhal Bazar, Sutrapur Bazar, near Press Club, Kachukhet, Lalbagh Killarmor, Nawabganj and near Railway Hospital.

The prices in Dhaka and other areas have started declining following the OMS operation.

He said the prevailing price of coarse variety of rice in the current month varied from Tk 10 to 10.50 per kg, there are isolated pockets, including Kishoreganj, Netrakona, Madaripur, Bogra, Natore, Sherpur, Sirajganj, Patuakhali, Barguna, Feni and Moulvibazar, where the price has shot up above the national average causing hardship to poor consumers.

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He said the prevailing price of coarse variety of rice in the current month varied from Tk 10 to 10.50 per kg throughout the country. However, it was selling at Tk 12 per kg in Dhaka and Tk 11.50 per kg in Chittagong. As against this, the

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