



BNP Secretary General Abdul Salam Talukder addressing a public meeting at the Gulistari Square in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## BNP rejects demand

From Page 1 Col 3  
ing the elected BNP government through street agitations is also unconstitutional, he said. "In a democracy, handing over of power can take place only through ballots," Talukder asserted.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Khandaker Mosharrif Hossain said the "defeated forces" like the Awami League (AL), Jatiya Party (JP) and the Jamaat had forged an unholy alliance to remove the victorious BNP from power. The Jamaat had been defeated during the general elections held in 1991 and the JP had faced defeat during the nation's victory against the autocratic regime of Ershad in 1990, the minister noted. He urged the people to resist the "conspiracy of the defeated forces against the democratic process upheld by the ruling BNP."

Public Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah told the meeting that the BNP was not afraid of holding elections under a caretaker administration. "We reject the concept of caretaker government because it was entirely contradictory to the concept of democracy and the Constitution," Miah said.

The minister also said that the Leader of the Opposition did not believe in parliamentary democracy. "Parliamentary democracy does not permit the President to dissolve Parliament without any such suggestion from the Prime Minister and Leader of the House," he said. The AL chief proposed outline for a caretaker administration wanted the President to dissolve Jatiya Sangsad without prior suggestion from the Prime Minister.

Minister for Information Nazmul Huda also dismissed the demand for a caretaker government and said the mainstream Opposition, especially the AL, had meanwhile well understood that they would not go to power without rigging elections. The AL was now also clear about the fact that it would not be able to rig elections with the BNP in power, Huda said and asserted that the Opposition wanted an unelected caretaker government, unquestionably a weak one, only to capture state power through rigging the next national polls.

Referring to a recent statement of the Leader of the Opposition that, if voted to power,

she would be able to put an end to the Farakka problem, the Information Minister told the meeting that "the nation would be destroyed if Sheikh Hasina goes to power."

Referring to the government's bid to strengthen the Election Commission (EC) for holding national polls in a more sound atmosphere, Huda called upon the Opposition to help carry forward the present democratic process through attending the next session of Parliament.

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said that there was a common element among all the components of the AL-JP-Jamaat alliance against the government, all of them are undemocratic. "The AL showed its undemocratic notions when it opted for one-party rule in 1975, the JP showed the same notion when its leader Ershad ousted an elected government in 1982, while the Jamaat does not believe in the concept of modern democracy," the minister said and urged the common man to stand against the three-party alliance of the undemocratic forces.

Chaired by President of the city unit of the party and Food Minister Mir Shawkat Ali, the rally was addressed by, among others, State Minister for Sports Sadeq Hossain, State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahanara Begum, State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Sarwari Rahman, city BNP General Secretary Salauddin Ahmed, and Vice President of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) Amanullah Aman.

## 600 more join AL

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said present political crisis could only be resolved by conceding the demand for elections under a caretaker government, reports UNB.

Addressing the workers and employees of the Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC), who joined the Awami League at 29 Minto Road, Hasina said BNP had been governing the country in 'autocratic' style for last three and a half years without any economic well-being of the people.

A press release of the Awami League said more than 500 workers and employees of the BTC and 100 freedom fighters from Cantonment thana joined the party.

## Suhrawardy Hospital

From Page 1 Col 3  
authorities.

Most of the toilets of the NICVD were not regularly cleaned, they said, the wards were not kept tidy while the bins were overflowing with garbage.

Sometimes it takes two days for the janitors to clean bathrooms.

The wards were full of mosquitoes, said one nurse of the hospital. Patients alleged that many of them were attacked with malaria and typhoid.

"Nothing moves here without bakshis," commented Mohammad Hasan who brought a patient from Nabinagar. He alleged that he had to pay Taka 100 to one of the attendants to get a bed for his patient.

Md Shahjahan, a patient from Faridpur, said he caught fever after he was admitted to the mosquito-ridden hospital. "I asked for some medicine for fever, but the nurses could not come to me because, they said, they were very busy."

Nurses of the hospital said that the organisation was always short of medicine supply and that's why they could not provide medicine to the patients.

Besides, there were pilferage of medical supplies by a section of nurses and medical attendants, some officials of the Institute said.

The most dangerous part of medicare of the NICVD is shifting of its patients. The

CCU of the Institute is about 1000 yards away from the general wards.

The new patients, after they received the initial treatment at the CCU, are generally put on a wheel chair and pushed through a bumpy road.

"This is one reason we can't shift a patient when his condition suddenly gets bad," said a nurse of the general ward. "For a serious heart patient, the road linking the CCU and emergency unit can be a killer," she said. The nurse declined to be quoted.

The doctors, nurses and patients, all equally complained about the diet supplied by the NICVD authorities.

While roving round some wards, these correspondents found that caterers were giving rice from an unclean bowl with flies hovering over. A thick layer of fat had accumulated on the mutton curry — an item in the day's menu for the heart patients.

Strict administrative intervention was a priority suggestion that came from the doctors, patients and their relatives.

"This Institution can be run smoothly with a strict chain of command," commented a senior cardiologist.

M Akhteruzzaman, Director of the NICVD, has been planning a programme to identify the priorities and bottlenecks.

The director, who joined the NICVD only this month, did not elaborate.

## LDF suggestions

From Page 1 Col 7

ning the use of religion in politics and made necessary constitutional amendment for separation of the judiciary and the executive.

The LDF — a combine of eight of left-leaning parties including the CPB, Sammayabadi Dal, Sramik Krishak Samajbadi Dal, Workers' Party, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD), Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal (Khaliquzzaman), BSD (Mahbub) and Oikya Prokriya had been holding discussions among themselves for the last few days to formulate these proposals for overcoming the present political uncertainty and also for holding free and fair elections.

The LDF felt that amendment to certain provisions of the Constitution would be needed to implement their suggestions.

It proposed that the Election Commission be recast and be established as an independent institution free from the control and authority of the government. Introduction of identity cards for the voters and machinery for renewal of voter's list as a permanent arrangement be set up, the suggestion said.

The LDF also suggested that legal steps be taken to bar loan defaulters or possessor of black money and war criminals from being candidates in elections. Submission of manifesto of party or individual must be made mandatory and that a candidate be allowed to contest from any number of constituencies.

The retired or dismissed civil or military officials should not be allowed to be candi-

dates for five years from the date of their retirement or dismissal. Conditions should also be introduced so that none gets party nomination unless being a member or involved in party activities for at least three years.

The LDF described the formula of a caretaker government suggested by the Awami League as "not acceptable" because of several loopholes. "We cannot support dissolution of Parliament by the President as proposed by the AL," Manzurul Ahsan Khan said.

Rashed Khan Menon MP of the Workers' Party, Nirmal Sen of the SKSD, Dilip Barua of the SD, Khaiequzzaman Bhuiyan of BSD and Hasanul Haq Inu (JSD-Inu) were among those present on the occasion.

## Dhaka-KL meet

From Page 1 Col 7

They said Malaysian entrepreneurs, who had earlier visited Bangladesh, were keen to set up joint venture industries in different sectors of Bangladesh, including machinery, textiles, fertiliser, sea food and frozen fishes.

During his stay in the Malaysian capital, Mostafiz is expected to call on Prime Minister Mahathir Mohammed.

He is expected to hold a preparatory meeting with his Malaysian counterpart for the planned visit by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the ASEAN country in the second week of October.

On his way to Malaysia, the Foreign Minister is scheduled to visit Brunei from August 14-16 in a bid to attract investment of the oil rich tiny state for Bangladesh.

## Student leaders

From Page 1 Col 4

the campus. The university authorities plan to hold further talks with the student leaders Friday.

The student leaders felt that consensus among the student bodies was more important than holding talks with the university authorities, insiders said.

Meanwhile, the academic committee of the Law Faculty of the DU at a meeting yesterday expressed a deep concern over the present situation on the campus.

The meeting condemned the attack on teachers including Prof Ershadul Bari, Dean of the Law Faculty.

UNB adds: The Dhaka University employees will observe a day-long strike on Thursday to protest the attack on an employee on August 4.

The decision was taken by the Dhaka University Employees' Association at an emergency meeting of its executive committee yesterday.

## Golam Azam

From Page 1 Col 8

House," he added.

Replying to a question, the Jamaat Ameer said his party stood for completion of five years' term of present Parliament. "Let the ruling party accept a caretaker government and take credit in completing its full term," he said.

He, however, added that if the government rejects the demand, Parliament may not complete its term. "The government's wrong decision may force us to go for mass agitation," he said.

Asked if his party will join the next session of Parliament, Azam said, "We're not the lone opposition. How can we go to the House leaving two major opposition parties (AL & JP)?"

The press conference was attended by party leaders Abbas Ali Khan, Moulana Motiur Rahman Nizami, MP, Mohammad Quamruzzaman, and Abdul Quader Mollah.

On the demand for blasphemy law, the Jamaat leader said the legislation is required to punish those who blaspheme the Quran, Islam and the Prophet. The present law, enacted 100 years ago, is not adequate, he said.

Asked which of the issues of a caretaker government and blasphemy law is to be given preference by his party in its future politics, Azam said the two demands are different. The demand for a caretaker government is to ensure the people's right to voting and the blasphemy law is to punish the offenders of Islam, the Quran and the Prophet.

About controversial writer Taslima Nasreen, he told a questioner, "I don't even want to utter her name. She is not an eminent personality. She is not a factor."

"Those who oppose Islam made her a heroine. Those who made Rushdie a hero made her a heroine. Here woman is not an issue, she has taken a stand against Islam. The people in the country are angry as some so-called Muslims have lent support to her stand."

Azam parried a question on his role during the country's War of Liberation in 1971, saying that he had written a book explaining his position.

Earlier, in a written statement distributed among the journalists, the Jamaat leader appealed to the western leaders not to hurt the Muslim sentiments by calling Islam "fundamentalism" and Islamic agitation "militant Islam". He said Islam has no link with terrorism.

He said Islamic agitation is gradually capturing the support of the peace loving people. They are getting convinced that only laws of Allah and honest leadership can deliver real goods to them, he added.

"We cannot set the time limit" for Islamic resurrection to make Bangladesh an Islamic state, he told a questioner. It depends on the condition to be created on the make-up of the people charged with the spirit of Islam.

However, the jute minister said the government is thinking about reviving the protection clause again. But the BJSJA feels that the formula being contemplated would be unworkable as monitoring them would be difficult.

The World Bank also proposed an alternative suggestion to impose a surcharge on the private sector jute mills producing yarn. Again, the BJSJA is saying that it would not work smoothly because of monitoring difficulties and would bring about administrative complications. "Within the legal framework, a composite mill will create an artificial economic entity exclusively for exporting twine/yarn," the report said.

In conclusion, the report cautioned that the exclusion of the BJSJA mills from the JSAC programme is likely to raise issues of equity and justice in the face of many uncertainties on its successful implementation.

## Hasina's daughter to wed in Jan

By Staff Correspondent

Saima Wazed Putul, daughter of the Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina, is getting married shortly, family and party sources said yesterday.

The bridegroom, educated in the United States, is a distant relation of Putul, now studying in India.

The date of the wedding is set for January 3, the sources said adding that a big ceremony would be organised in Dhaka on the occasion.

Putul is the only daughter of Hasina and her scientist husband Dr M A Wazed Miah who also have a son.

## Talks on Rohingya repatriation Aug 12

From Staff Correspondent

CHITAGONG, Aug 9: The 17th round of talks on Rohingya repatriation between Myanmar and Bangladesh is scheduled to be held on August 12 at Cox's Bazar, official sources said.

A six member Myanmar delegation led by its Immigration Director U Maung Aung is likely to attend the talks being held over five months after the 16th round of talks.

The Bangladesh side will be headed by Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Shaqlul Islam.

The 16th round of talks were held in February at Sitway, capital of Akyab.

The talks this time may focus on expediting the process of repatriation of the Rohingya refugees staying at Cox's Bazar and Teknaf, sources said.

## Primary teachers

From Page 1 Col 5

which include nationalisation of all registered non-government primary schools. They are also demanding a monthly allowance of Tk 1500 for each of them until the school are nationalised.

The president of the Non-government Primary School Teachers Association, Asaduzzaman, said that around 33,000 teachers of about 7000 unregistered primary schools were presently receiving an allowance of Tk 500 each per month.

## Jute spinners face tough time

From Page 1 Col 4

to the BJSJA to discuss the issue of being included in the JSAC directly with the government and it also advised the government to look into the issue. It may be mentioned that the jute traders were recently included in the JSAC programme.

The jute twine and yarn market is the only one to have shown a growth trend in recent years as the traditional jute goods, sack, hessian and carpet-backing cloth, continues to lose ground to synthetics in the global market.

"It is an irony that this more viable, competitive and growing sub-sector has been excluded from the restructuring programme when the mills producing traditional jute goods, which are really being de-commoditised in the international market due to intense competition from substitute materials like polypropylene, are included," the BJSJA report noted.

Titled "JSAC and unjustified exclusion of mills under BJSJA: an analysis of financial non-viability", the report was prepared by Dr M Shamsul Haque and Reza Md Monem, Director and Associate Professor respectively, of the Institute of Business Administration at Dhaka University.

The report said that the JSAC programme would create undue advantage for the composite jute mills at the expense of the private spinning mills. "Thus, JSAC will bring instability and cannibalism in the jute industry."

In 1992-93, the BJSJA member mills exported 84,080 tons, or 90 per cent of their production of jute twine/

yarn worth over Tk 233 crore. The local jute yarn export market increased from an average of about 3,000 tons in 1980-81 to over one lakh tons during 1993-94.

The BJSJA mills were earlier included in the first jute sector reform programme initiated in 1989. Under the programme all jute manufacturing industries were given cash subsidies of 15 to 20 per cent of the export volume, concessional interest rates for working capital and their aggregate five-year loss was also segregated with a three-year moratorium.

However, when the JSAC programme was initiated in 1993 the BJSJA mills were left out.

The JSAC programme, the report noted, allows for writing off one-third of the accumulated debt of the participating public and private sector jute mills, with the remainder rescheduled for repayment in 15 years with zero interest and no principal payment for the first three years and only three per cent annual interest for the remaining 12 years.

The JSAC financial package also provides for getting interim financing from the banks for 18 months in case of the private sector jute mills and for three years for public mills. "In the backdrop of all these facilities given to private and public composite mills together with composite mills switching to exporting twine/yarn, a grand stage has been set for crucifying the private jute spinning mills," the report said. It noted that 28 of the BJSJA mills together had an accumulated debt burden of Tk

Non-government primary school teachers began a fast-unto-death in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. — Star photo



## The Midnight File

### Indian air chief to visit US

NEW DELHI, Aug 9: Indian Air Force Chief S K Kaul will visit the United States later this week to strengthen defence ties between the two countries. Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Tuesday. Air Chief Marshal Kaul will hold talks with Pentagon officials and visit the US Pacific Command, the Space Command at Colorado and some operational bases of the US Air Force, the news agency said, reports AP.

### PLO prefers early polls

CAIRO, Aug 9: The PLO wants Palestinian elections to be arranged as soon as possible and will raise the topic this week at a summit with Israel's prime Minister, the chief PLO negotiator said Tuesday. Nabil Shaath disputed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's comment Monday that the Palestine Liberation Organisation has not mentioned elections, even though they are included in peace agreements between the two sides. "What Mr Rabin said yesterday is totally untrue," Shaath told reporters at negotiations here with Israel on expanding Palestinian autonomy, reports AP.

### Treasury bonds

From Page 1 Col 5

government in December last year for the same project of the T&T Board and those were also oversubscribed by the commercial banks.

The bonds are treated as approved security and would serve as statutory liquidity requirements (SLRs) for the banks. The banks would get a five per cent interest on the total value of their bonds.

Despite the low interest rate, the banks are keen to purchase the treasury bonds as most of the banks have been facing excess liquidity, an official of the central bank said and added that acute shortage of government approved securities is another reason for the banks' high demand for the bonds.

There is also a huge shortfall in the SLRs of the banks, which they can meet by purchasing the treasury bonds, the officials said.

The commercial banks have to deposit five per cent of their total time and demand liabilities as cash and 15 per cent of that as liquid asset with their accounts in the Bangladesh Bank. They do not get any interest out of the deposit unless those are deposited as government approved securities.

Due to recent shortage of approved securities, the banks were compelled to keep the entire amount in cash with the Bangladesh Bank without receiving any interest.

The provision of keeping 15 per cent of the banks' total liabilities with the central bank was, however, made as a safety measure for them, so that, in case of heavy withdrawal of deposits from any particular bank, the deposited amount can be used.

### PM: Master plan

From Page 1 Col 7

The government is also considering the proposal for providing necessary funds for the 'Science Foundation', the Prime Minister said.

The Prime Minister stressed the need for scientific and technological development in the country to keep pace with the modern world and said science and technology should be utilised as the medium of development.

Referring to the formation of a full-fledged Science and Technology Ministry and the National Council for Science and Technology by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, she said her government was following the policy of the late president in this field.

The Ministry of Science and Technology has been reconstituted while emphasis has been laid on the research and development in different sectors, the Prime Minister said.

Presided by the president of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, Dr S D Chaudhury the august function was also addressed by State Minister for Science and Technology Prof Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Planning Dr A Moeen Khan and Secretary of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences Prof Aminul Islam.

Education Minister Jamiruddin Sirar, the members of the academy and some renowned scientists of the country were present.

### Gias Kamal recovering

Gias Kamal Chowdhury, chief reporter of BSS and president of BFUJ, who is now under treatment at the Mount Elizabeth Hospital, Singapore, has improved considerably, a report received from the hospital said yesterday, reports BSS.

### Tremor

From Page 1 Col 8

moderate to strong." The officer-in-charge of the only Geo-physical observatory in Chittagong, Mohiuddin, when contacted over phone, said his centre was not equipped to measure the intensity of such quakes.

He also said he was not authorised to divulge any information collected by his centre which was only supposed to be relayed to the Dhaka Met Office.

Pressed further he said the epicentre of the quake was located 405 kilometres from Chittagong, but he was not sure about the exact direction of its origin.

The Dhaka Met Office official, when contacted again, said that in all likelihood the earthquake may have originated in India's Assam state or Shillong in Meghalaya.

No report of loss of life or damage to property was received till the time of filing the report last night.

### Doctors

From Page 1 Col 4

last agreed to implement most of the demands and the BMA agreed on a three-month moratorium on strikes.

At that time, the minister agreed to create 1000 new posts at the union level by December next, promote 20 per cent of the BCS (Health) cadre officials, within six months and create a BCS (Family Planning) Cadre within a month.

But the demands have not been implemented as per agreement, the BMA said.

Meanwhile, the BMA president Dr M A Majed and secretary general Dr Gazi Abdur Haq, in a joint press statement, expressed their concern at the situation in the Tongi and Gazipur hospitals arising out of the suspension of doctors.

There is no doctor in those hospitals for the last one week. Thousands of patients are being forced to seek treatment elsewhere as the posts of the doctors are vacant, they said.

The BMA leaders criticised the government and said, "The bureaucrats of the Health Ministry are least concerned about the treatment of patients."

They demanded immediate withdrawal of the suspension orders and called for ending all "evil activities of the bureaucrats against the doctors" immediately.

As part of the BMA's fortnight-long programme, the doctors will refrain from work after 2:30 pm everyday from tomorrow up to August 16.

It would also hold a doctors' representatives' conference at the BMA Bhawan on August 12, demonstration in front of the Health Directorate on August 17, and meetings and processions across the country from August 20 to 25.

আজকের কাগজ

ক্রমের পাঠকের দৈনিক

সুখবর! সুখবর!! সুখবর!!!

বিনামূল্যে বিজ্ঞাপন ছাপানোর সুবর্ণ সুযোগ

বিস্তারিত তথ্যের জন্যে

আজকের কাগজ দেখুন

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-869035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.