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JS goes into session today Opposition awaits BNP's next move

The 22nd session of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad (JS) begins today with the Opposition awaiting the ruling BNP's next move towards resolving the persisting political impasse.

This session is likely to be the last one of the fifth parliament as the ruling BNP has hinted at its dissolution to hold an early general election if the Opposition does not agree to participate in by-polls to fill 47 vacant seats.

The session is scheduled to begin at 6:30 pm. The session might be a short one.

The fifth parliament, which has virtually become a one-party legislature following resignation of the Opposition lawmakers 20 months ago, may be dissolved early next week, as hinted by the BNP acting secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at a press conference Monday evening.

The Awami League and its allies are waiting for the ruling BNP's next steps regarding their demand for holding the next general elections under a neutral

caretaker government. They will then decide their "final programmes to have the demand fulfilled," Opposition sources said.

"We want to see what measures the BNP takes in the reported last session of the fifth parliament and also outside it in the next few days towards accepting our demand for a caretaker government," a top AL leader told The Daily Star last night.

The leaders requesting anonymity added: Mere dissolution of the Parliament

EC objection 'Refrain from statements on polls schedule'
 By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission yesterday asked the political leaders to refrain from making any statement regarding the time and schedule of the by-elections or the general election.

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would not refrain us from the current agitation. "We're pledge-bound to realise our demand through continued street agitation. We will intensify it if the government does not opt for a peaceful solution."

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina last night held discussions with senior party leaders on the current situation. They will meet again this afternoon and also exchange opinions with leaders of Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami.

Prior to going for the "final showdown", the AL along with the JP and the Jamaat would announce some "moderate programmes" on November 16 the last day of their six-day hartal programme. The programmes, sources said, will include rallies and processions all over the country from November 20 to December 5. They will announce a fresh programme on December 5 that may include continuous hartals.

The last session of the JS was prorogued on September

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Hartal: Fourth day passes off

The fourth day yesterday of the Opposition's six-day countrywide hartal programme passed off by and large peacefully barring some stray incidents of violence in which six persons were injured.

Two persons were injured in a clash with police in the city and another four in a bomb blast at Narayanganj.

Yesterday's hartal was from 6:00 am to noon. A large number of rickshaws came out on the city streets as pickets were fewer and less active than on previous three days. A good number of auto-rickshaws and 'tempos' were also seen plying from the morning.

Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami called the six-day hartal to press their demand for holding the next general election under a neutral caretaker government. Rajshahi division has been exempted from the hartal due to recent floods there. Countrywide hartal will be

observed from 6:00 am to noon today and tomorrow. In the Farm Gate and Asad Gate areas of the city, at least 70 handbombs were exploded on the main roads by some unidentified people between 10:00 am to 11:00 am. However, nobody was injured.

Near Maghbaz crossing, police lobbed two rounds of tear gas shells and chased the pickets into a road-side house. Two persons were hurt in the incident. Unlike on previous hartal days, riot police and pickets were seen peaceably yesterday at different strategic picketing points. Pickets deserted Asad Gate, a strategic point during hartal hours, well before 12 noon.

At Dar-es-Salam on the Mirpur road near Shamoly about 200 pickets were seen sitting on the road while police chatted with them as rickshaws passed by.

Pickets were seen making no serious attempt to stop

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Dissolve JS, hold polls under caretaker govt, repeats Hasina

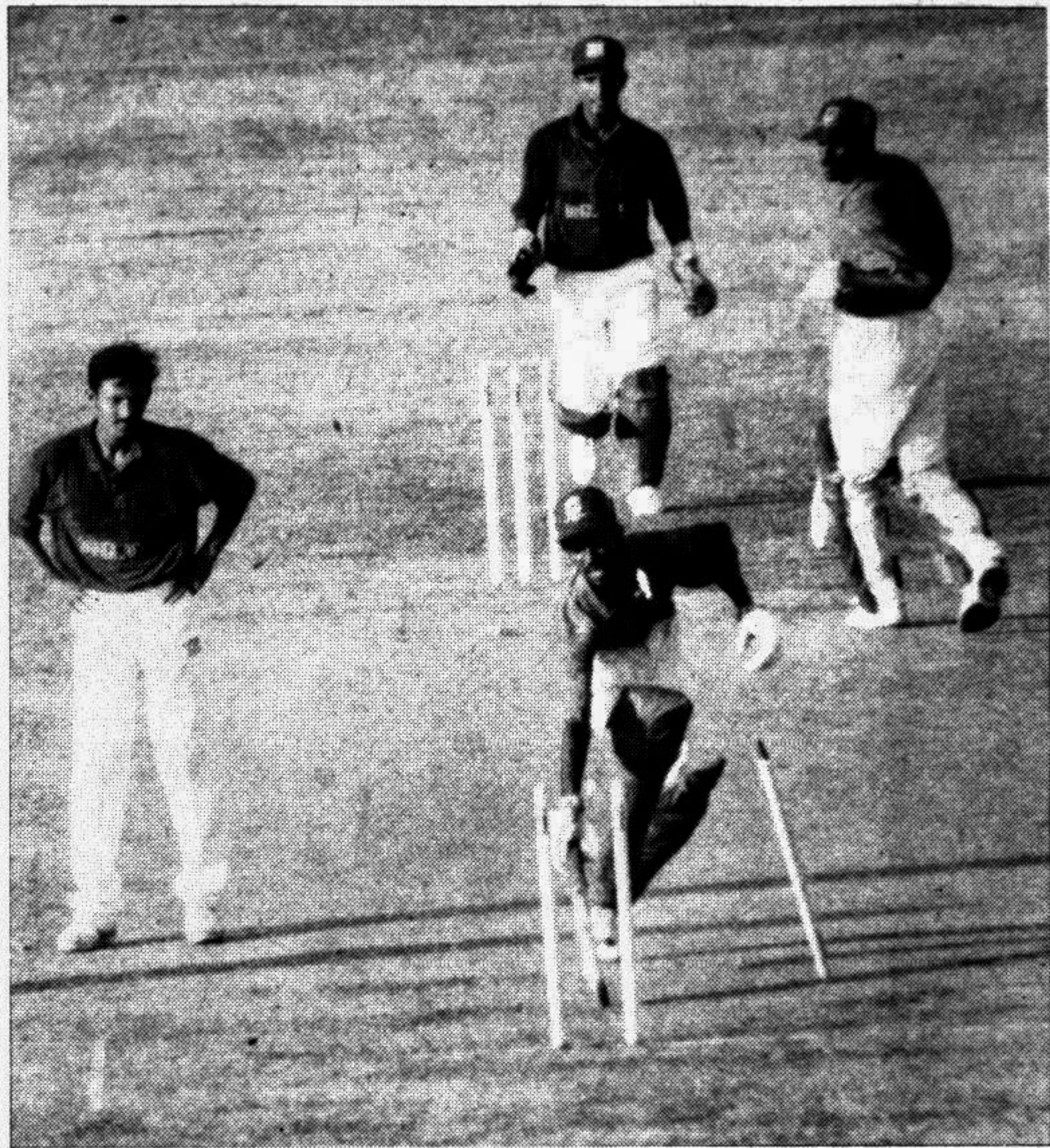
Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated that the next election must be held under a neutral caretaker government and called for dissolution of the illegal parliament.

"People will not accept any election unless it is held under a caretaker government," said Hasina adding that people will also oppose any election under a party-government.

Sheikh Hasina was addressing a joint meeting of the presidents and secretaries of various thana, ward and union units including ward commissioners of the party, held at the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue. Dhaka City Corporation Mayor and AL Dhaka city unit president Mohammad Hanif chaired the meeting.

"BNP has lost its credibility. People will not be able to exercise their rights of fran-

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HOWZZAT! West Indian Amarnath Busdeo fails to make ground as Bangladesh's Javed Omar Belim (not in picture) nine-pins the wickets to run him out in yesterday's one-day match at the Dhaka Stadium. Bangladesh won by six wickets. — Star photo

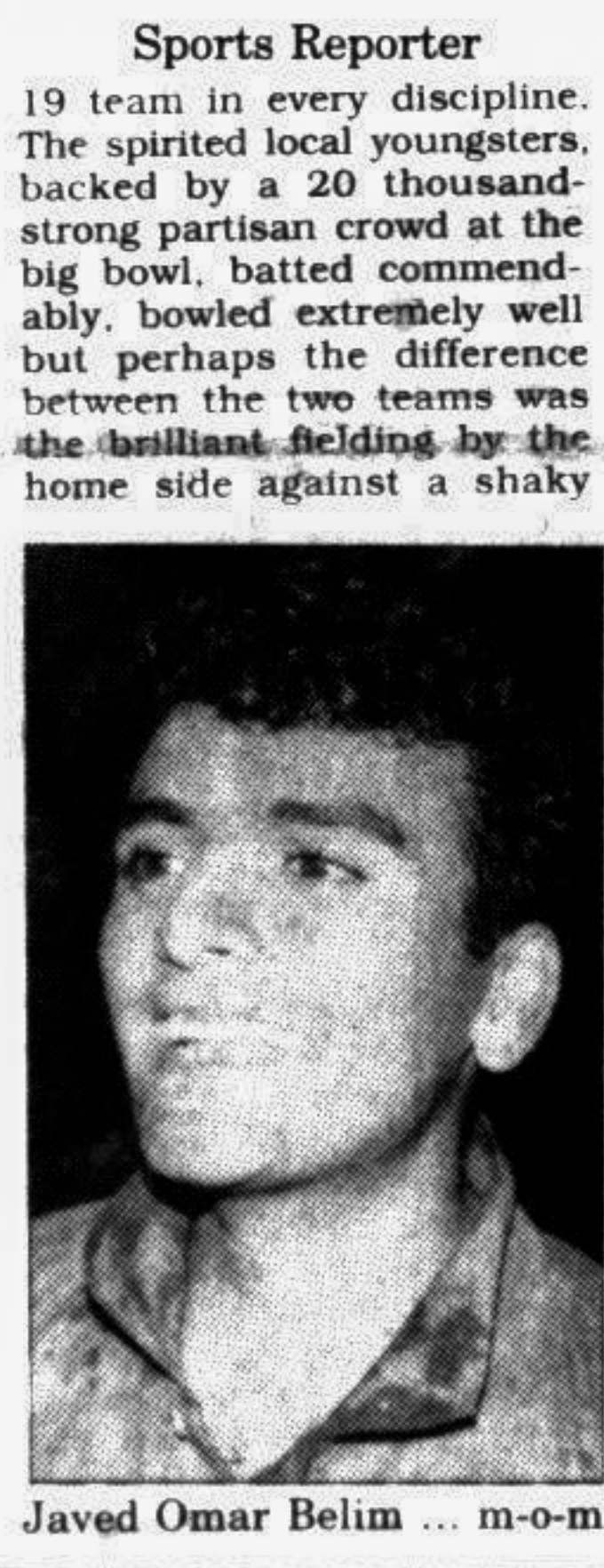
Hosts humble Windies

A brilliant knock of 79 from opener Javed Omar Belim Golla guided Bangladesh to glory when the local youth selection handed the visiting West Indies under-19 team a crushing six-wicket defeat in the first limited-over match. A day-night affair at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

Javed, the diminutive right-handed, national opener, who had earlier effected two superb run outs in restricting the Caribbean youngsters to a reasonable total of 185 for nine in the stipulated 50 overs, played the sheet anchor role to propel Bangladesh to a scintillating victory with a disciplined 79 off 141 balls.

On a docile wicket the achievement of skipper Slim Shahed and his boys may not surpass the memorable win last year against Indian A but the outcome on Tuesday proves that Bangladesh has come a long way as a cricketing nation.

It was a deserving victory for Bangladesh Youth, who outclassed the West Indies U-



19 team in every discipline. The spirited local youngsters, backed by a 20 thousand-strong partisan crowd at the big bowl, batted commendably, bowled extremely well but perhaps the difference between the two teams was the brilliant fielding by the home side against a shaky Caribbean outfit.

The West Indies youngsters, who are in the capital on a brief visit after a successful tour of Pakistan where they won the unofficial three Test series 2-0 and lost the limited-over three-match rubber 3-2, contrary to their reputation exhibited some bizarre mis-fielding, much to the delight of the local crowd.

It must have been a very painful experience for their coach Augustine Logie, the middle order batsman of the all-conquering West Indies team of the 80's and one of the all-time best fielders of the world.

However, in the days match, Bangladesh Youth, set to score 186 runs for a win, created unnecessary fluttering of the hearts during the last ten overs before Selim Shahed hit the winning run off Reon King with two balls to spare to coast Bangladesh Youth to 187 for four.

But it was Javed who stood firmly on his ground to set a

See Page 12 Col 1

One killed as JCD rivals clash in Sirajganj

From Our Correspondent
 SIRAJGANJ, Nov 14: A schoolboy was killed and ten others sustained bomb injuries in a clash between two rival groups of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal at Sirajganj Islamia Government College today.

Abdul Jalil, 14, a student of class seven of Multilateral High School, died on the spot and four others injured when a powerful bomb exploded during the clash.

The body was sent to Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

The seriously injured Abul Kalam Azad, 18, Alamgir

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10 injured in Barguna jail clash

From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, Nov 14: At least ten people were injured in a clash between the 'hajatees' and prisoners in the Barguna jail at around 11 am today.

According to sources, the prisoners were demanding rice in their daily meals instead of bread for a long time but they were refused.

Today, they threw out their meals at noon. At one stage, they locked in clash with the hajatees.

Situation was brought under control after three hours, sources said.

3 children abducted from Savar

SAVAR, Nov 14: Three children have been abducted from Savar municipal area in the last 24 hours till this evening, police and local residents said, reports UNB.

They were picked up in a microbus from Majidpur area, allegedly by the so called 'Chokhbandha Party', a terror brigade active in the region for a long time.

The victims were identified as Halim, 10, son of Sikim Ali, Maram Ali, 8, and Abdur Razzak, 7, son of Yakub Ali.

Cases were filed with Savar police.

Thirteen people have been abducted from the area during the last one month.

Some changes in administration

The government has ordered transfer and posting of a number of high officials, an official announcement said yesterday, reports UNB.

A B M Abdus Shakur, officer on special duty (Additional Secretary) at the Establishment Ministry, has been appointed, on deputation, General Secretary of District Gazetteer.

Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce Mohammad Abu Taleb moves to the Board of Investment as its member while BOI member Majharul Karim has been appointed Joint Secretary of the Commerce Ministry.

OSD (Joint Secretary) of the Establishment Ministry Dipak Kumar Saha was made Director of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC).

OSDs (Joint Secretary) of the Establishment Ministry Amiyangshu Sen and Sheikh Shafiqul Islam and Director of BSCIC Abdul Quddus were appointed members of Bangladesh Handloom Board.

OSD (Joint Secretary) Captain (rtd) Jamilur Rahman Khan has been appointed Director of the Privatisation Board.

Joint Secretary Mohammad Nazmul Islam, another

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Airlines to bear all cost, warns govt Passengers with forged papers to be sent back in next flight

The government has cautioned all airlines operating in the Karachi-Dhaka route against carrying passengers with forged travel documents, according to official sources.

Passengers without valid documents will not be allowed entry and they will be put on a return flight directly by the Immigration Department at ZIA. The airlines will have to bear the cost, the sources said.

Meanwhile, all the 282 returnees from Pakistan, who arrived earlier this week, were released on bail yesterday, according to the sources.

Star Report

They were arrested under Section 54 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, on suspicion of carrying forged travel documents.

It has been established that the returnees are of Bangladeshi origin, and their relatives have posted bail money for them, the sources revealed.

However, they will face charges for carrying false travel documents, they added.

Police sources, quoting the statements of the returnees, said that these people had been staying and working in Pakistan for 4 to

10 years.

Most of them, according to the sources, had travelled to Pakistan over land via India with forged documents.

The Pakistan government recently started a massive crackdown on Bengali-speaking workers in Karachi.

Following the crackdown, many people paid Rs 12,000 to 13,000 to travel agents who procured the forged passports and tickets for their return, the returnees told police.

The 282 returnees arrived at the ZIA, in two different batches from Karachi on Saturday, according to the sources.

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A BDR patrol at Purana Paltan in the city during hartal hours yesterday. — Star photo

3000mw power shortfall unless new sources tapped by 2015

The country's gas-based power generation capacity is likely to face a shortfall of over 3000 mw in the next 20 years, unless alternative sources are tapped.

According to the Power System Master Plan (PSMP) of the Energy Ministry, finalised recently, gas-based power generation will reach 6200 mw by the year 2015 against a demand for 9357 mw leaving a shortage of 3157 mw. Power generation in the country is now around 2000 mw.

Of the total present gas reserve of 9 trillion cubic feet, 5 trillion cubic feet allocated for the power sector which is almost entirely dependent on gas as its main raw material.

The country would be needing Tk 108.32 billion investment in the power sector till 2000 and another Tk 153.622 billion for the next five years till 2005. Around 80 per cent of these investments would be used for import of equipment for power generation.

The PSMP recommended carrying out environmental study in Chittagong, Mongla, Siddhirganj and Haripur thermal plant sites to determine the impact of oil and coal-fired power generation in these areas.

It also recommended monitoring of the environmental condition at Barapukuria before going for the proposed 250 mw coal plant there.

Stressing on exploration of hydrocarbon reserves, the

See Page 12 Col 4

Series of talks Two ministers make peace

By Staff Correspondent

The row between state ministers Prof Abdul Mannan and Goyeshwar Roy over formation of the Jatiyatabadi Juba Dal committee at Tongi was resolved yesterday at the initiative of BNP acting secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan.

Mannan Bhuiyan, also the Food and Agriculture Minister, had a series of meetings with State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof Abdul Mannan and State Minister for Environment Goyeshwar Roy at his secretariat office yesterday.

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Expansion of Security Council Third World divided over membership

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 14: Developing nations sought to expand the 15-seat Security Council with their own representatives and curb the power of the five permanent members during a two-day debate in the General Assembly, reports Reuter.

But the formal discussion on Security Council reform, which ends in the 185-nation assembly today, showed little unity among Third World states on which should join the prestigious 15-member body and who should have

veto power.

Almost all members agree the Security Council needs to be enlarged to at least 20 members to reflect the changing world and give the body a wider representation.

But reform "seems to have become more rather than less problematic," said Canadian Ambassador Robert Fowler.

The permanent seats belong to the five main Second World War victors — the United States, the Soviet

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NEWS BRIEFS

59 arrested in Cox's Bazar
 From Our Correspondent
 COX'S BAZAR, Nov 14: Police in a special raid arrested 59 people on various charges from different parts of the district in two days. Of them, six were arrested from sadar thana, six from Ramu, four from Ukhia, 21 from Chokoria, 15 from Teknaf, three from Moheshkhali and four from Kutubdia thana.

Students stage sit-in in Rajshahi
 From Our Correspondent
 RAJSHAHI, Nov 14: Several hundred students here today staged a sit-in on the Dhaka-Chapainawabganj highway demanding restoration of the admission test system into colleges. The students also put a barricade on the highway in front of the Rajshahi Government College, disrupting road communication for two hours from 11 in the morning.

Egyptian diplomat killed in Geneva
 GENEVA, Nov 14: An Egyptian diplomat was shot dead late on Monday in the underground car park of his Geneva apartment block, Swiss police said today. Egyptian sources identified him as Alaa El Din Nazmi, a counselor in the commercial section of Cairo's mission to the United Nations European headquarters and international organisations in Geneva, reports Reuter.