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Inside Today

Article
PM's Post-election Speech and Economic Emancipation
by Md Asadullah Khan
Page 4

Focus
Law and Our Rights
Torture and deaths under police and jail custody '95: A Reminder for the new government; and Justice Mohd Ansar Ali—A Tribute
Page 5

International
Strike to protest Gowda's visit cripples Kashmir
Yeltsin supporters launch bid to form anti-communist front in Duma
Page 8

Business
Bangladesh should attain autarky in food soon, IIRI official tells
The Daily Star

ASEAN to woo foreign funds by liberalising rules
Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index	998.81 (+0.95%)
Market capital Tk	6781.82 cr
Transactions in volume	614074
Transactions in value Tk	1020 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	425.77 (+2.01%)
Market capital Tk	3830.96 cr
Transactions in volume	10405
Transactions in value Tk	69.55 lakh

Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day
Nayok's Fecib Attempt
Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS
Maid found dead at a city house
By Staff Correspondent

A maid was found dead in a house at Asad Avenue in the city Friday afternoon, police said.
Police sent the body of the victim Yasmin, 30, to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.
The details of how the maid died could not be known immediately. An unnatural death case has been filed with Mohammadpur thana.
Meanwhile, a hotel assistant, Abul Khair, 35, was electrocuted while working in the hotel at Elephant Road yesterday afternoon.

Salman Haider meets Mizan
The visiting Indian Foreign Secretary, Salman Haider, called on Jatiya Party acting Chairman Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury at his Gulshan residence yesterday. During the meeting, they exchanged views on matters of mutual interest of the two countries. JP sources said. Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Dev Mukherjee was present on the occasion, reports UNB.

Fighting leaves 17 dead in Somalia
MOGADISHU, July 6: At least 17 people were killed and more than 69 wounded in overnight fighting between militiamen loyal to faction leaders in the war-torn Somalia's capital, witnesses said today, reports AP.

World Bank draft Agenda for Action Privatise gas, telecom sectors and restructure PDB

By Inam Ahmed and R M Titumir

The World Bank (WB) has suggested gradual divestiture of the natural gas sector, privatisation of the T&T Board, and restructuring of the Power Development Board (PDB) to make independent and corporatised entities for generation, transmission and distribution activities.

It has also recommended that labour force in the Railway sector be trimmed, the Roads and Highways Department be transformed into a maintenance-oriented organisation and the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority be corporatised and commercialised giving it management and financial autonomy.

These suggestions were made in the Bank's draft document, "Agenda for Action", aimed at setting priorities for the new government. These were sent to the ministries concerned last week.

The government should restructure the PDB along functional lines and establish independent and corporatised entities for generation, transmission, and distribution activities, the Bank said.

An independent regulatory authority to oversee the reorganised sector, including setting of tariffs should also be established, it maintained.

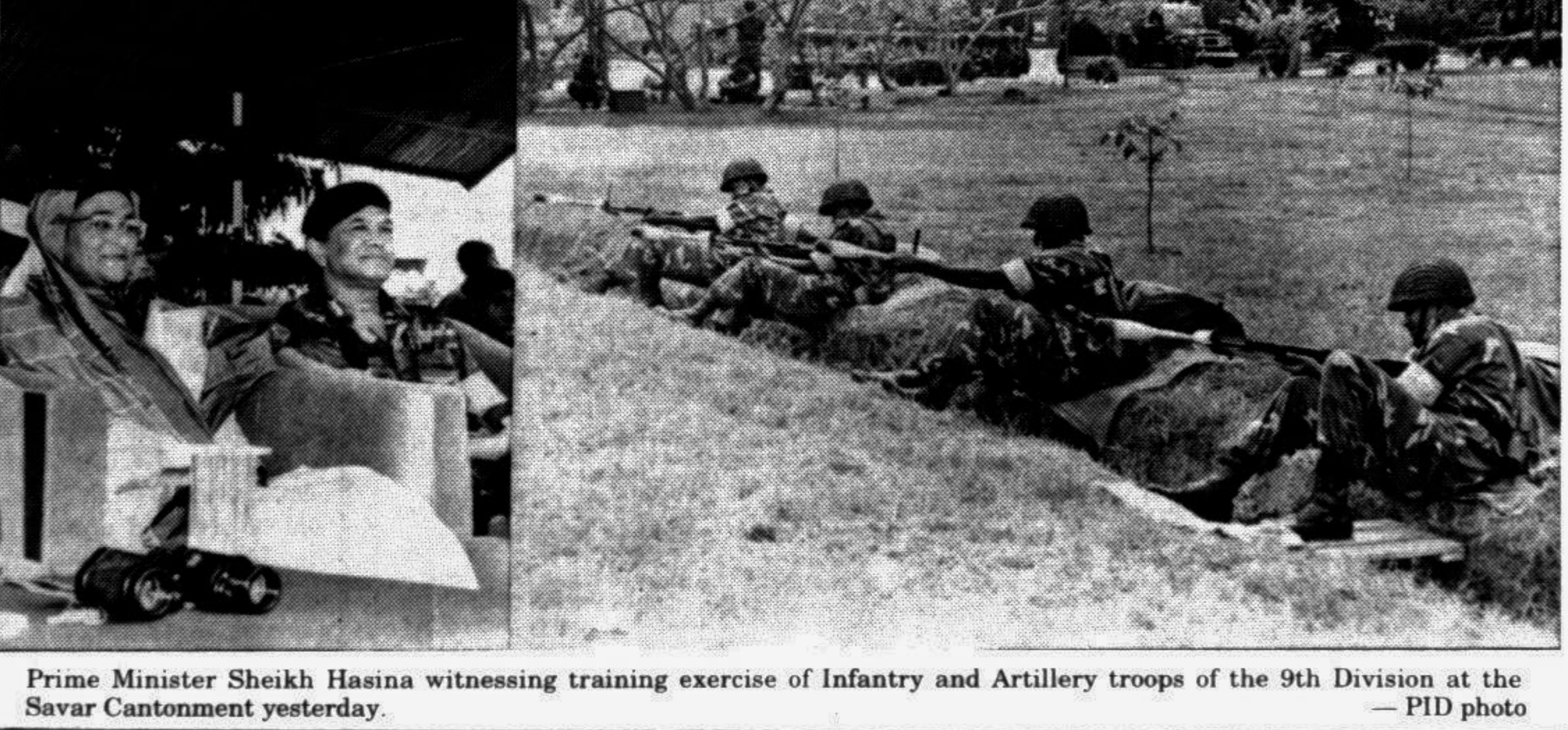
The Bank pointed out that a GDP growth rate of eight per cent a year would require a corresponding 16 to 20 per cent growth in power generation although it has been difficult to achieve a growth of over seven per cent a year in the last decade.

But still the power sector has been the largest loss-maker in the economy.

The Bank stressed that since Taka 20 billion annual capital investment is needed for matching expansion of the power sector, the government should move quickly to radically improve the sector's performance.

It said the government, to cope with the situation, should create an enabling environment for private sector participation in build-own-operate power generation plants.

About the Bangladesh Telephone and Telegraph Board (BTB), the WB suggested privatisation of the BTB saying, "This is likely to



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina witnessing training exercise of Infantry and Artillery troops of the 9th Division at the Savar Cantonment yesterday. — PID photo

Fresh areas in northern region flooded as rivers swell further

The overall flood situation in the country further aggravated yesterday as fresh areas of the northern region were inundated due to rise in water level of the major rivers, reports UNB.

Most rivers in the country's four river basins swelled with five rivers in the Brahmaputra and Meghna basins flowing above their respective danger levels.

According to a Flood Information Centre bulletin, the water levels of 26 rivers in the Brahmaputra, Ganges, Meghna and South Eastern Hill basins registered rise while those of 16 others marked fall.

The Ganges at Bahigyakul which was below its danger mark on Friday rose by 10 cm and was flowing six cm above the danger level. Brahmaputra at Bahadurabad further swelled by 16 cm during the period, overflowing 19 cm from its danger mark.

Kushiyara at Sheola and Amalshid points receded during the period by 19 cm and 31 cm respectively but remained 22 and 51 cm above their respective danger levels.

Surma at Kanailhat rose by three cm and was now flowing above 82 cm of its red mark.

In Sirajganj, flood situation turned serious as more areas were inundated by the overflowing Jamuna. Thirty more villages of Kazipur thana were submerged on Friday night after flood water entered by breaching 200 feet of Singrabari embankment.

Officials said standing crops of some 1,000 acres of land were damaged due to the flood.

Flood situation also worsened in Shahjhadpur, Chowhall and Tarash thanas due to swelling of the Jamuna. Some 25 villages were submerged in the three thanas.

A total of 195 villages in six thanas of the district have been flooded so far, officials said.

Nearly one core people of 50 worst affected villages in Kazipur, Sadar, Chowhall, Belkuchi and Shahjhadpur thanas have been marooned while 78,000 people affected.

Over 100 families of Kawakola union in sadar thana have lost their homes due to erosion by the Jamuna, according to UP chairman Azizur Rahman.

Flood situation in Jamalpur district aggravated further as six more unions in four thanas were inundated due to rise in water level of the Jamuna.

The newly flooded unions

Lalmatia double murder case Maid Rumana awarded death sentence

A court in Dhaka yesterday convicted Rumana the accused of Lalmatia double murder case and sentenced her to death by hanging, reports UNB.

Prosecution case, in short, is that on October 2, 1994, Rumana, the maid servant of Lalmatia Chowdhury family brutally killed Nilufar Amatul Maula, a lecturer of the Home Economics College and her grown-up daughter Mahjabin Chowdhury Shoma, a second year student of Mymensingh Medical College at their Lalmatia residence with a boti-da.

Police arrested Rumana from her village home at Char-gobindapur of Shibbalaya thana

See Page 12 col 8



Rumana — the maid

Economic diplomacy must for progress: Samad Azad

Foreign Minister, Abdus Samad Azad, said yesterday that the Awami League government would make endeavours to strengthen relations with all countries for achieving expeditious economic progress of Bangladesh.

Emphasising the need for economic diplomacy he said the foreign policy objective will best be served through all-out efforts to promote trade and economic relations with the Western, neighbouring and Muslim countries.

In an interview with BSS at his office he said foreign policy must reflect internal policy of the government, and he added, economic self-reliance helps the country to assert its sovereignty.

"We ourselves have to take all-out initiative to achieve a self-reliant economy using modern technology and creating employment opportunities in a faster pace with participation of all sections of the people," he said.

He said in the present day context economic diplomacy was needed to develop a country's economy by expanding external trade, creating market for Bangladesh commodities abroad and creating employment opportunities both at home and abroad.

Samad Azad said the foreign ministry would work in accordance with the need of the time and people working here must have accountability.

Replying to question he said priority would be given to resolve all outstanding problems with the neighbouring countries including India with which Bangladesh has a long common border. In this context, he stressed the need to arrive at solution of the long standing Ganges water sharing problem and said scarcity of water during lean period has been affecting the economy of Bangladesh. The balance of trade between the two countries is also an important issue, he added.

He said India has shown interest to resolve bilateral problems with Bangladesh. Asked about the reaction to the message sent to him by his Indian counterpart I K Gujral he said it was a "beginning of a new avenue to be explored by both the newly-elected governments."

Samad Azad said he was confident that the bilateral problems with India would be resolved to the mutual benefit of the two countries.

He said that now both the sides should make renewed efforts to meet frequently and discuss all bilateral issues to reach solutions.

The foreign minister emphasised on strengthening further the economic cooperation among the SAARC member countries for common benefit.

He said Bangladesh's relations with Muslim countries would be strengthened further. In this context, he recalled that it was Bangabandhu's government which laid the foundation of promoting Bangladesh's relations with Muslim countries immediately after liberation. He said Bangabandhu attended the OIC summit in Pakistan in 1973 following which relations with Muslim countries was strengthened.

Asked what would be the

Indo-Bangla official talks We expect some quick results: Sobhan

By Diplomatic Correspondent

Bangladesh and India, both now having new governments, opened official talks at the foreign secretary level yesterday in a bid to forge a new horizon of understanding.

The nearly one and a half hours meeting was led by Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan on the home side and visiting Indian External Affairs Secretary Salman Haider, who arrived in the city on Friday on a three-day visit.

Emerging from the talks, Farooq Sobhan told waiting newsmen "We are on good track. We have marked a forward movement."

Sobhan added that the two sides have discussed everything and "we expect some quick results."

Asked to explain, he said that although the main objective of the Indian foreign secretary's visit was to deliver a message from Prime Minister Deve Gowda to his Bangladesh counterpart Sheikh Hasina "We took the opportunity to discuss bilateral as well as international issues."

Responding to a question if there has been any agreement on any issue such as water sharing, Sobhan replied: "He (Haider) has not come with any mandate for that."

He said that the Indian foreign secretary had shown enormous goodwill of his government and emphasised solution of bilateral issues in the interest of improving relations

Permanent law commission to be set up: Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that a permanent law commission would be set up and a bill to this effect be introduced in the first session of Parliament, reports UNB.

Exchanging views with a group of lawyers who came to meet her at her office in the evening, the Prime Minister said many existing laws need to be reformed suiting the present world order and sought the lawyers' suggestions for improving the draft bill.

Referring to her pledge for separating the judiciary from the executive, Hasina also sought suggestions of the lawyers in this regard.

Earlier, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, Advocate Abdul Matin Khasru informed the meeting that a draft bill had been sent to all the district bars for their consideration and suggestions on it.

Reciprocating Barrister Amirul Islam said a committee has been formed for a review of the draft bill.

The State Minister for Law informed that the bill might be introduced either in the first or second session of Parliament.

Prime Minister Hasina assured the lawyers, who came under the banner of Lawyers Coordination Council, that with limited power her government would try to establish rule of law in the country.

"This government is your government and we want your cooperation in running the administration," she said.

Responding to the demand from the lawyers for repealing

42.2 pc pass SSC exams in DB, 43.9 pc in JB

The results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examinations held under Dhaka and Jessore Boards in 1996 were published yesterday, reports BSS.

According to an official announcement here, the combined percentage of pass of the science and social science groups was 42.20 under Dhaka Board and 43.99 under Jessore Board.

In the Dhaka Board's Science Group, the percentage of pass was 59.94 and under the Jessore board, it was 65.88.

In the social science group

DB merit list JB merit list

Shibazi Sarker Rana of the Government Laboratory High School stood first securing 942 marks in the combined merit list of the science group under Dhaka Board. The second position was obtained by Sayed Farukh Siddique of the same school with 936 marks. Mohammad Merajul Islam Molla of the Ideal School and College came third in the combined merit list with 935 marks followed by Fahmida Nusrat of the Mymensingh Girls Cadet College scoring 934 marks. The fifth position was secured by Sarah Hussain of the same institution with 933 marks. The sixth position was secured by Md Ittefkar Husain of the Ideal School and College who scored 932 marks. Nancy Dewanjee came seventh from the Mohammadpur Preparatory

See Page 12 col 8

Mohammad Rokonzaman of the Jhenidah Cadet College (JCC) topped the combined merit list of the science group securing 935 marks under Jessore Board. The second position was obtained by Suman Mahmud Sanchay of the same college. He secured 931 marks. The third position went to Partha Halder of the same institution. He got 928 marks. The students of cadet colleges under the Jessore Board obtained the top ten positions in the combined merit list with the first three places going to the Jhenidah Cadet College.

Hatiz Al Asad of the Barisal Cadet College (BCC) and Ahmed Ryadh Hasan of the JCC jointly become fourth with 920 marks. Sumita Shaha of the Government Coronation Secondary Girls School secured



Members of a Finnish forensic medicine team retrieve a skull for identification. The skull was discovered in the hills above the village of Kravic, about 70-km southeast of Tuzla July 5. — APPUNB photo

Khaleda elected BNPPP leader

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia was elected unopposed the leader of the party's parliamentary party yesterday, reports UNB.

At the first meeting of the BNPPP held at the Sangsad Bhaban in the evening, she was also entrusted with the responsibility of selecting deputy leader, chief whip and whips of the Opposition.

BNP finished second in the June 12 parliamentary election with 116 seats, emerging as the largest ever opposition party in parliament after independence. It has now 110 members as Begum Zia and two other party leaders vacated six seats.

The party chairman presided over the first BNPPP meeting that lasted nearly three hours from 8 pm at the cabinet room of the Sangsad Bhaban with the participation of 86 MPs, party sources said.

In her brief address at the meeting, Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia thanked the BNPPP members and asked them to attend the parliament sessions regularly and in time to "play a responsible opposition in the House."

Bangabandhu's portrait removed before BNPPP meet

By Staff Correspondent

The portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was removed from the cabinet room of the Sangsad Bhaban before the first meeting of the BNP parliamentary party (BNPPP) began there at about 8:00 pm yesterday.

The portrait was hung on Friday.

Some Sangsad staff, who removed the portrait at about 7:40 pm, said they did so under orders from former chief whip of the BNP and now an MP from the party Khandakar Delwar Hossain.

Tk 29 lakh snatched in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, July 6: Armed dacoits snatched Taka 29 lakh and 25 thousand from the accounts officer of the Sathbira Foods Ltd here today.

Police said, the dacoits stopped a microbus of the fish firm at gun point and decamped with the money.

Five dacoits who came by three motorcycles followed the microbus from the Notunbaraz fish depot, stopped driver Shamsur Rahman at pistol point and snatched the brief case containing the money from the accounts officer, Sheikh Asad Ali.

Police later recovered a motor cycle (Dhaka Met 402-5172).

According to police, the vehicle found abandoned at Bogra road is one of the three motor cycles used in the robbery.

Police took into custody all bus passengers of the microbus, including the accounts officer and the driver.

Police suspect involvement of the driver in the robbery committed in full view of the hundreds of people in Gallamari area.

Dacoity in Ctg 3 policemen suspended: 4 more held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 6: Three police personnel, including one ASI were suspended today for negligence of duty during the looting of four shops in a city market yesterday.

Police said, four youths, of a political cadre, whose names are mentioned in the FIR, were arrested from Feringhbaraz area today. They are: Ekramul Huj alias Chuttu, Golam Sarwar, Md Musa and Nurul Alam.

But the looted goods have not been recovered so far.

Two other suspects were arrested on Friday.

JCD calls strike at DMC today

By Staff Correspondent

The pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) has called a students' strike at the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) today to protest what it said threat on the life of a JCD worker by activists of the Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) on the campus yesterday.

The call was given at a JCD protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon. Speakers at the rally warned that they would go for an indefinite strike at the college from July 9 if stern action was not taken against those involved in the incident.

Meanwhile, leaders of the students' union of the DMC in a statement condemned the incident and demanded trial of the persons involved in violence.