



**MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE**  
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF  
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,  
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KEESWARI GREEN,  
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE  
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES.  
**NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.**  
 199, TEJGAON 1/A, DHAKA.  
 TEL: 605967, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

### Inside Today

#### Article

### The Noble Ideals Enshrined in the UN Charter

Column: Enchiridion  
 by Waliur Rahman  
 Page 4

#### Focus

The five freedoms of the information age; Women and AIDS; and Role of biochemistry in food processing; Problems and prospects of industry  
 Page 5

#### International

Troops loyal to deposed govt pound Taliban positions  
 KDP confirms fall of N Iraqi city of Sulaimaniya to PUK  
 Page 8

#### Business

Dhaka to receive Tk 200 cr aid from Norway, FAO  
 DSE price index posts 121-point fall  
 Pages 6,7

#### Metropolitan

#### Dhaka Day by Day



Dropping Dead at DSE  
 Page 3

#### NEWS BRIEFS

#### 104 firearms recovered

Police recovered 104 illegal firearms, 119 bullets, 12 explosives and other weapons from different parts of the country during the last 72 hours till yesterday. A police press release said that the recovered firearms included both country-made and foreign rifles, single barrel guns, double barrel guns, revolvers, pistols, pipeguns, shotgun guns and LG. A total of 11 persons were also arrested in this connection, reports BSS.

#### Road barricade in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent  
 SYLHET, Oct 13: The Sylhet District Unit of the Jatiya Abadi Juba Dal, youth front of the BNP, enforced a six-hour road barricade programme on Dhaka-Sylhet highway today protesting frequent load-shedding in Sylhet region and demanding immediate release of Juba Dal and JCD leaders. The activists put barricade at several points of the highway from 6 am to 12 noon. They also called for a day-long hartal on October 15 to press the demands.

#### BNP enforces hartal in Jessore town

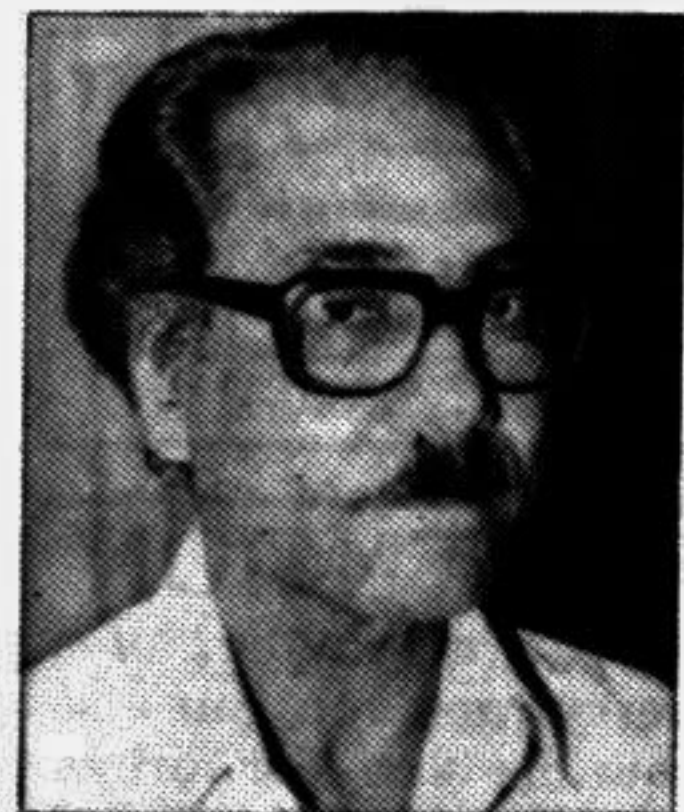
From Our Correspondent  
 JESSORE, Oct 13: A day-long hartal called by the local Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was observed in the town today. All shops, markets and business houses remained closed during the hartal. However, Dhaka-bound coaches plied normally. The BNP called the hartal in protest against the arrest of its leader and municipal commissioner Nur Ullah.

#### Pak students attack minister's house

PESHAWAR, Oct 13: Hundreds of Students protesting against new tuition fees, attacked the house of a Pakistani minister in Northwestern Mirgora town and damaged government property in several other cities, police and witnesses said today. Sources said angry youths entered the house of Mahbubur Rehman, the Minister for Sports and Culture in the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) government, and destroyed furniture and electronic goods, reports AFP.

## President suggests moratorium

# Student politics not a fundamental right



President Shahabuddin

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday suggested a moratorium on student politics in educational institutions to put an end to campus violence, reports UNB. "If national interest requires, so-called student politics should be suspended temporarily," said the new President following concern vented by a delegation of political leaders over unabated acts of terrorism. Justice Shahabuddin said the students have no fundamental right to do politics on the campus and they must realise that they are being used as instruments for getting political

power. He was talking to a 16-member delegation of Left Democratic Front who called on the President at Bangabhaban yesterday. The LDF leaders congratulated the newly elected President and expressed the hope that he would exercise his moral authority over rival political parties, including party in power and the opposition, for resolving national problems. They expressed their concern at the increasing acts of violence and terrorism across the country, particularly in the education institutions. See Page 12 Col 6

## Habiganj-2 bypolls tomorrow

# EC marks 41 centres as 'trouble-prone'

By Staff Correspondent

The parliamentary by-election in Habiganj-2 constituency will be held tomorrow. The by-election is being held following the death of Awami League MP Sharifuddin Ahmed. He had won the seat in the June 12 parliamentary elections defeating his nearest rival BNP's Zakaria Khan Chowdhury by 16,839 votes. Ahmed had secured a total of 51,369 votes. Meanwhile, a 48-hour ban on electioneering in the constituency became effective from midnight last night. With the BNP boycotting the by-polls, four candidates from four parties will be competing in the race. They are, Suranjit Sen Gupta of Awami League (AL), Sirajul Hossain Khan of Jatiya Party (JP), Tofazzal Hossain Chowdhury of Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal and Mohammad, Sadek of Krishak Mukti Andolon.

Two candidates, Zakaria Khan Chowdhury and Abid Ali Chowdhury had withdrawn their nominations on the last day of withdrawal on September 23. Election Commission (EC) sources said. Voting in the 115 polling centres of the two thanas of the constituency, Baniachang and Azmeerganj, will start at 8 am and end at 4 pm. The day has been declared a public holiday in the constituency. A good percentage of 1,76,407 voters of the constituency is expected to cast their votes tomorrow. Out of this number of voters, in Baniachang thana there are 64,168 male and 65,234 female registered voters while in Azmeerganj thana there are 23,738 male and 23,272 female voters. The Election Commission has identified 41 polling centres as trouble-prone.

## AL, JP candidates blame each other for violating code

HABIGANJ, Oct 13: Candidates of ruling Awami League and its coalition partner Jatiya Party for October 15 by-election in Habiganj-2 constituency today blamed each other for violating the election code of conduct, reports UNB. AL candidate Suranjit Sen Gupta and JP's Sirajul Hossain Khan made the accusations at separate press conferences at the local Press Club. Suranjit accused the JP candidate of infringing the election code through 'personal defamation and provocative propaganda involving religion.' The JP candidate held the ruling party responsible for deterioration of law and order since October 9 and for attacking JP workers. Local people said there will be a straight fight between these two candidates as opposition BNP will boycott the by-election while the Jamaat-e-Islami has not fielded any candidates.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina giving away National Export Trophy at the Osmany Memorial Hall in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## 69 get National Export Trophy awards

# Private sector to be driving force of economy: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her government had taken necessary steps to boost export-oriented industries and urged the entrepreneurs to avail the opportunities. "Private sector will be the driving force in the countries economy," the Prime Minister said while giving away the National Export Trophy awards to best exporters at a ceremony at Osmany Memorial Hall in the city. The government will encourage private initiatives in the industrial sector by improving infrastructure facilities and creating an investment-friendly atmosphere, she said. "There is no alternative to industrialisation and export growth for economic progress," she said adding that the government was now taking bold

steps to give more facilities to the private sector. Entrepreneurs should be more farsighted, devoted and industrious to organise well Bangladesh's position in the competitive international trading in the post-GATT (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) era, the Prime Minister said. The world is proceeding towards economic internationalisation," she added. Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) Vice-Chairman Faysal Ahmed Chowdhury and its Director Mokammel Hossain also spoke on the occasion. The Ministry of Commerce and the EPB jointly organised the function to give export trophies for fiscal 1990-91, 91-92 and 92-93. A total of 69 organisations received awards for their contributions to exports and in creating markets abroad. Pointing out government's recent efforts to develop the country's economy, the Prime Minister said that her government had enhanced facilities at the Dhaka Export Zone and was

#### PM's surprise visit to Dhaka Cantt

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited an army unit at Dhaka Cantonment, reports BSS. It was a surprise visit and the troops of the 42 East Bengal Regiment were having their mid-day meal when the Prime Minister arrived there. The Prime Minister directly

received awards for their contributions to exports and in creating markets abroad. Pointing out government's recent efforts to develop the country's economy, the Prime Minister said that her government had enhanced facilities at the Dhaka Export Zone and was

#### Khaleda reaches Jeddah

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia who left Dhaka for Saudi Arabia yesterday to perform Umrah reached Jeddah at 6 pm local time, party sources said, reports BSS. She is scheduled to leave Jeddah for Makkah last night to perform Umrah there. Begum Zia was received at the Jeddah Airport by the royal protocol and some thousands of Bangladeshi people living there, the source said. UNB adds: The former prime minister has been invited by Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz for the pilgrimage as royal guest of the Kingdom. She is accompanied by her family members, including two sons, daughter-in-law Jobaida Rahman, brother Sayeed Iskandar and his wife and relative Giasuddin Al Mamoon and his wife. Besides, former Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin and his wife and Begum Zia's private secretary, Mosaddek Ali, and his wife are also in the team.

## DSE share index falls by a record 121 pts

Continued selling pressure forced the Dhaka Stock Exchange All Share Price Index to plummet by a record 120.96 points yesterday, prompting the market operators to look for ways to arrest the slide, reports UNB. The benchmark index went down 6.25 per cent on the day to reach 1813.14 points from Saturday's 1934.40, amidst a tremendous selling pressure. The index registered a loss of 4.5 per cent or 90 points on Saturday from Thursday's 2024.43 points. On Saturday, 88 issues, out of the 97 traded, incurred losses and eight registered gain. But yesterday, out of the 72 issues traded, 70 incurred losses while the rest two gained. The selling pressure was very high," DSE Chairman Intiyaz Husain told UNB, commenting on the market slide after a bull run for weeks before a warning issued by the market regulators on Wednesday. The DSE council met yesterday amid the huge sale-pressure for evolving ways of recovering the market from a continuous decline and restoring the confidence of the small investors after the introduction of the circuit breaker system in share trading. The meeting reviewed the

record fall in share trading at CSE. From Staff Correspondent  
 CHITTAGONG, Oct 13: Chittagong Stock Exchange today witnessed a record fall in share trading following imposition of 'circuit breaker' system. A total of 50 issues were traded on the day, of which, 49 incurred losses while one remained unchanged. Market capitalisation de-



BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia talking to party leaders at Zia International Airport yesterday prior to her departure for Saudi Arabia. — Star photo

## Husain's paintings of naked deity

# India's secular charter once again put to acid test

From Kunal Ganguly

NEW DELHI, Oct 13: A pencil sketch showing Hindu goddess of learning, Saraswati, naked has triggered a controversy in India with the country's best known painter Maqbul Fida Husain at the center. Anger among Hindu radicals is rising and police is apprehensive about the internationally acclaimed artist's safety when he returns to India from London next week. Radicals from Bajrang Dal — a rightwing group — has already destroyed some of Husain's paintings and police is worried that the real fundamentalists among them may try to harm the 81-year-old artist easily recognised by his flowing white beard. The Bajrang Dal is widely regarded as a militant front of the BJP. The Bajrang Dal was blamed for leading the attack on the Babri masjid in northern India in 1992, which triggered nationwide Hindu-Muslim riots that killed about 2,000 people. But in India, home for 960 million people, 82 per cent of whom are Hindus, there are voices of sanity also. Top Hindu intellectuals have said Husain should not be harmed and all should respect art. But outraged by the sketch, Hindu activists this week made



Fida Husain

marched in the streets with posters that said "Artistic License is an Artist's Privilege." Husain, who is often described as "India's Picasso" because his style resembles Cubism, is a Muslim. He is also the man to whom the revolution of Indian art on the international art scene is often attributed. The sometimes eccentric painter, who walks barefoot wherever he goes, has in the past managed to draw a lot of attention to himself with his brush. Even though he is a married man he recently unveiled a series of paintings by which he expressed his obsession with one of India's most famous film actresses, Madhuri Dixit. After it came to be known that he has painted Saraswati naked, it angered the local Hindu politicians who control Bombay. The right-wing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which is part of a governing coalition in Maharashtra state, of which Bombay is the capital, has threatened to launch a national campaign against Husain. "His painting has insulted the Hindu culture," said Mangal Prabhat Lodha, a local BJP leader in Bombay. "He must

#### BNP units urged to observe Nov 7

By Staff Correspondent  
 The National Revolution and Solidarity Day Observance Committee of the BNP held its first meeting here yesterday with a call to all the party units across the country to observe the day on November 7 with due solemnity. Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawqat Ali, convener of the committee presided over the meeting, held at the Minto Road official residence of Begum Khaleda Zia, the BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad, said a party press release. The meeting was addressed by the BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP and committee members Col (ret'd) Akbar Hossain MP, Abdullah Al Noman, MK Anwar. See Page 12 Col 8. Priest shot dead in Bagerhat  
 From Our Correspondent  
 KHULNA, Oct 13: Shuddang, shu Chatterjee (55), priest of a temple at Shamaddar Khali under Morrelganj thana in Bagerhat district was shot dead by unidentified assailants Saturday midnight. Local people said the murder of the Hindu priest could be a sequel to previous enmity with some influential people of the village over the vast land property on which the 100-year old temple is situated. Police arrested two persons for interrogation. They are Khan Mozammel and All Ashraf. A case has been registered in this connection.

## 9 killed as bus, truck collide in Bogra

BOGRA, Oct 15: Nine people were killed and 15 others injured in a bus-truck collision at Nawadapara on Bogra-Rangpur highway this morning, reports BSS. Witnesses said, the accident took place when a Bogra bound bus (Dhaka-Ja-1647) from Pirob collided head-on with a loaded truck (Dhaka Metro-0688) coming from opposite direction. Of the nine, five died on the spot while the four others at the Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital. The seriously injured passengers were admitted to the Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital. A case has been registered with the Bogra sadar thana in this regard.

## Cabinet discusses draft bill to repeal indemnity ordn today

The government has completed preliminary preparations for repealing the Indemnity Ordinance that blocked the trial of the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB. Official sources said a Law Ministry committee formulated a draft Bill for scrapping the black law and it was to be placed in the next session of Parliament. The Bill is likely to be discussed in the cabinet meeting today. The draft Bill was formulated by a constitutional expert-level committee which had been entrusted with the responsibility of preparing a report on le-

## Bangabandhu killing Tank operator Osman arrested, taken on remand

Tank operator Osman allegedly involved in the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members in the August coup was yesterday taken on a seven-day police remand, reports UNB. Said to be a close associate of 'self-confessed killer' Farooq and Rashid, Osman had led the tank column towards 32 Dhanmondi on August 15 night in 1975. CID personnel arrested him from his residence at Chandina in Comilla district on Saturday night. He was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday and CID sought a 10 day's remand. The CMM granted CID seven days for interrogating the accused.

## Train derails in Narsingdi: 25 injured

NARSINGDI, Oct 13: At least 25 people were injured when a Dhaka-bound express train from Noakhali derailed near Rahimabad Khamarbari of the district today, reports UNB. Railway sources said three bogies of the train derailed between Amirganj and Khanabari stations at about 3:05 am after its engine got separated from the running train. An enquiry committee found

**Prime Bank**  
 Opens its  
**10th Branch**  
 at Kawran Bazar, Dhaka  
 on Monday, October 14, 1996

Besides general banking, Prime Bank's different new savings schemes, Consumers Credit Scheme, Lease Finance and recently introduced One-Stop Utility Services Scheme have already created a great enthusiasm among the people.

Prime Bank marches ahead with all its schemes to reach you quickly.  
 Prime Bank stands for modern, progressive and welfare banking.

**Prime Bank Limited**  
 Bank with a difference