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Traffic thin

From Page 1

with their near and dear ones in villages and towns, easing the usual rush and traffic jam. With a thinner traffic the civic life got some relief and many city dwellers were seen pleasure outings in parks and the zoo with children. As the attendance in offices was relatively poor yesterday, the first working day af-ter the four-day Eid holiday

Most shops in the city except the kitchen markets and grocery shops kept their shutters down. Meanwhile, the holiday makers started returning to the capital vesterday.

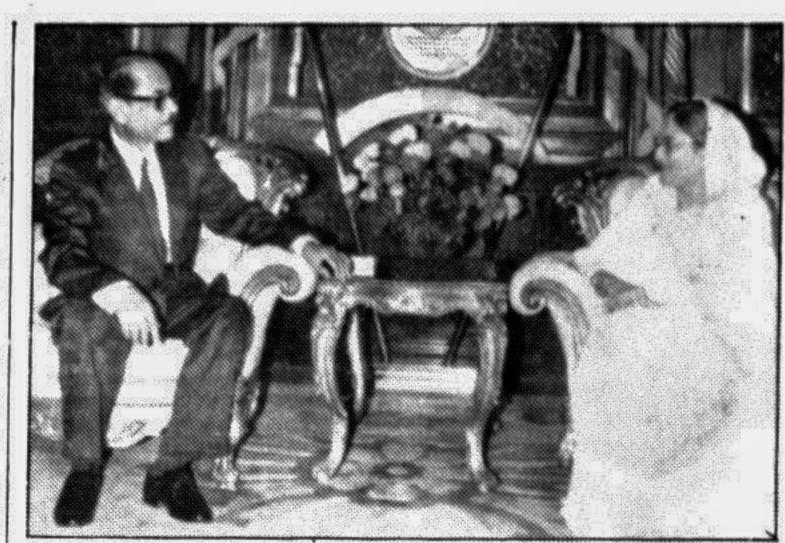
President Shahabuddin Ahmed hosted a Eid reception at Bangabhaban. The President also hosted a separate reception for diplomats.

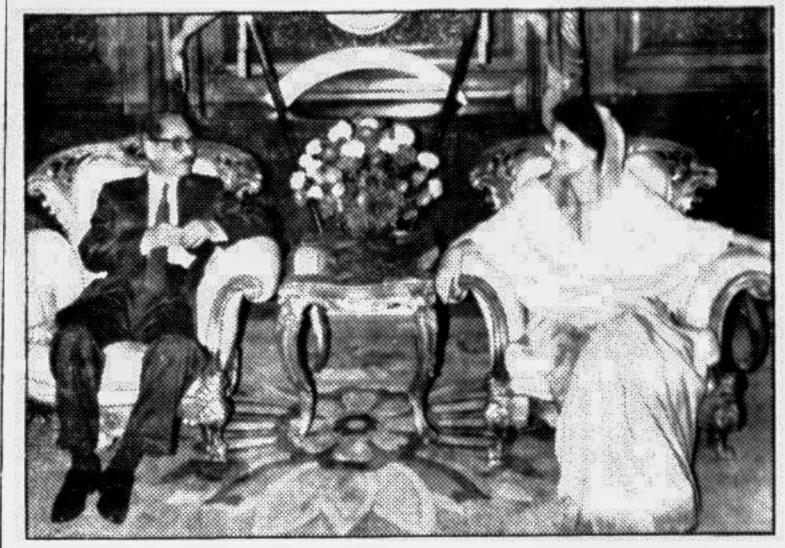
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina also hosted a reception at her official residence, Ganobhaban. She returned home from USA in the morning of the Eid day.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Žia also hosted a reception at her Minto Road official residence Sunday morning.

In the old parts of the Dhaka city, many socio-cultural organisations brought out colourful Eid processions with banners and festoons. In some processions, there were carts covered with mosquito nets to portray the mosquito menace in the city.

Our staff correspondent reports from Chittagong: Eid-ul-Fitr was celebrated with traditional festivity in the port city Eid congregations were held at Chittagong Stadium, Jamiatul Falah Complex, Anderkillah Shahi Jame Mosque and Laldighi Moidan and at numerous other places.





Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina (Top) and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia (Bottom) called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban on the Eid day. - PID photo

Hasina praises US role

'No dictatorial regime should be supported'

BOSTON, Feb 12: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina praised the US role in fostering democracy in Bangladesh and hoped American foreign policy would be consistent to support democracy everywhere abroad, reports UNB

"American foreign policy should be consistent to support democracy abroad and by no means dictatorial regime anywhere should be supported," the Prime Minister said in a lecture at Brown University Friday.

Hasina, who has been conferred on Doctor of Laws by Boston University, was invited to deliver a speech styled "Ogden Lecture" on democratic consolidation and development as part of a memorial lecture on international affairs at the Brown University.

The Prime Minister said: Support of the outside world is crucial for democratic consolidation, especially in recently -independent countries."

After the Cold War, she said, American foreign policy towards developing countries should take into careful account two points:

First: The US must be consistent in supporting democracy abroad and which means that no dictatorial regime anywhere should be supported, either materially or morally.

Second: America must be cautious that its moral crusade for democracy does not turn into a forceful push towards uniformity.

Prime Minister Hasina said her government is committed to consolidating democracy by reforming and taking action in three main areas — evolving a democratic system, pressing the entire administrative machinery into service of the people and by establishing the rule of

Hasina said after assuming power eight months ago, she along with her colleagues in the government undertook the task of consolidating democracy.

In this context, she said the government was striving to evolve a system of local government for socio-economic management of the country's villages, towns and cities.

Hasina said with the usurpation of authority of the state in 1975, a trend was set to abuse the administrative machinery of the country to complement and supplement interests of the political groups in

"We have changed that trend," the Prime Minister told the function, adding that she had given strict instructions to the state functionaries not to patronise her party anyway like in the past.

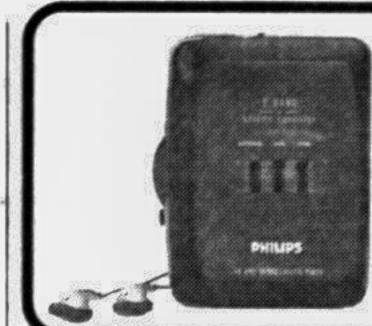
The Prime Minister said her government is totally committed to establish the rule of law. "It is our considered assessment that the first step to this end will be to bring the killers of the Father of the Nation and his family to book," she said.

"We believe the rule of law goes hand in hand with democracy, and no murder or crimes should ever go untried," Sheikh Hasina said. "It is not revenge we seek, rather we want to establish legal institutions and precedent that will safeguard life and liberty of the people."

Hasina said the second step of her government towards establishment of the rule of law would be separation of the judiciary from the executive. "This was mandated by our constitution but never put into effect by those who usurped and abused human rights," she said.

Her third step in this direction would be in terms of equalisation of opportunities of inheritance, education, healthcare for all citizens so that everyone can bloom himself or herself by merit and persever-

Hasina said democracy and good governance require that citizens have the freedom to participate in both politics and economy. "The establishment of freedom of enterprise is crucial for invoking citizens' participation.



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monitored by the PM's Office

and the ministries for agricul-

ture and industries and buffer

stocks of fertiliser have been

built in the northern districts."

blasted the past government for

its failure in producing a single

MW of more power in its five-

year rule and narrated her gov-

ernment's measures to meet the

deficit by generating more

with US President Bill Clinton,

the Prime Minister said that

she requested Clinton to con-

vert Bangladesh's debts into aid

and sought his support in insti-

tutionalising democracy in the

country and developing its

questioner that she is scheduled

to visit Pakistan on March 23

three-page statement on her

visit to the US where she partic-

ipated in the first World Micro-

credit Summit, was conferred

the Doctorate of Law degree, met

President Clinton and Hillary

Clinton and addressed

Appointment of

IG, Prisons on

deputation

protested

By Staff Correspondent

cers Association in an open let-

ter addressed to Prime Minister

yesterday protested the ap-

pointment of the Inspector Gen-

eral (IG) of Prisons on deputa-

tion and demanded appoint-

ment in the post from the

It sought her intervention in

The letter said, "The Min-

istry of Establishment ap-

pointed an army officer to the

post of the IG, Prisons on Jan-

uary 30, 1997, while the file for

appointment to the post from

the among the departmental of-

ment has created a deep sense of

frustration among the officials

and employees of the Prison de-

the Jail Reforms Commission

of 1980 and a Martial Law

Committee on Prisons had ear-

lier recommended for appoint-

ment of the IG (Prisons) from

"The news of this appoint-

The letter mentioned that

ficials was under process."

partment," it added.

Prison service.

this regard.

The Prison Executive Offi-

to attend the OIC summit

Bangladeshis there.

Sheikh Hasina told another

Earlier, the PM read out a

Asked about her meeting

On power shortage, she

Teenaged boy, young woman

shot dead By Staff Correspondent A teenaged boy and a young woman were shot dead in the city on Saturday and Tuesday

respectively, police said. Body of a young man was recovered from near the staff quarter of Dhaka Central Jail on Tuesday. Rizvi. 13, a student of class

VIII was shot by some unidentified assailants near his residence at Rishikesh Das Lane under Sutrapur thana at about 6:45 pm Saturday. He was rushed to the Dhaka

Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors declared him dead. Rizvi was the son of one Shamsul Hug. Police recovered three bul-

lets and one sawed-off rifle from near the spot where the boy was shot, Sutrapur thana police said.

None was arrested in this connection till yesterday. Khaleda Khatun, 26, wife of

Md Hanif, a resident of East Jurain under Demra Police Station was hit by a bullet Tuesday noon. The body was rushed to the DMCH where doctors declared her dead.

Sources at the DMCH quoting the relatives of the victim said that she was hit by a stray bullet during a gun fight between two rival gangs quarreling over distribution of toll money collected on the eve of Eid-ul-Fitr.

Demra thana police however could not confirm the incident.

The body of Md Alamgir, 20, son of Md Alauddin Sikder was recovered from near the jail staff quarter at about 6:30 pm and taken to the DMCH by one Dulal.

The body bore marks of stab injury, sources at the DMCH

US Senate okays Richardson as envoy to UN

WASHINGTON, Feb 12: The US Senate on Tuesday voted to confirm Congressman Bill Richardson as new US Ambassador to the United Nations.

PM: Opposition plan

From Page 1

counter cross-border insurthe CHT problem to remain un-

Answering another question, Sheikh Hasina dismissed the BNP allegation that Awami League had sold out the na-

"Who sold the country's infacilitate push-back or those

Referring to her party's role in the nation's struggle for independence, the AL chief commented, "The party which liberated the country through shedding blood, the person (Bangabandhu) who opted for the hangman's noose refusing the premiership and those who laid down their lives can never sell out the country. It's they, who sit on arranged throne, sell out the country.

Asked on her party's plan to raise the number of reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad, a constitutional provision expiring in the year 2000, the Leader of the House said, "It needs two-third majority and a constitutional amendment. We'll be able to continue the system and raise the number provided the Opposition cooperates with us. I think the reserved seats should be increased.

tion the PM hinted that the Local Government Commission was planning for women's representation in the local government bodies

she said.

economy

USA. However, she responded to a volley of questions on issues

other than her visit. Asked to comment on BNP's allegation that Bangladesh was inviting in its territory the wrath of "insurgents" in northeast India by joining India to gency, the PM said, "They want resolved. Should we harbour the terrorists or take action against them?"

tional interests to India.

terests? Those who returned empty-handed from India without Ganges water and signed a joint communique to who brought the Ganges water?" she retorted.

In the nearly one-hour press conference, Sheikh Hasina also spoke on her participation in the World Microcredit Summit and other programmes in the United States and replied to questions on her planned visit to India and Pakistan and reported crisis of power and fertiliser in the country.

Responding to another ques-

She said there was no crisis of fertiliser in the country. "Requirements and supply of fertiliser are being constantly

the same department. IPU conference From Page 1 Sangsad Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury Tuesday said that

Bangladesh enjoys an admirable standard in the 'gender-balance' in politics compared to many other countries.

"Possibly, I am the only Speaker in any parliament of the world where the chair is privileged to watch to key positions - Leader of the House and the Leader of the Opposition occupied by distinguished women," he said.

dominated the political arena. but it is noteworthy that women are coming up with a faster rate. But it is necessary that women should take greater interest, he The six-member delegation

taking part in the conference in the Indian capital is made up by the members from Awami League, main opposition BNP and the Jatiya Party.

Interestingly, two of the three Awami League members are women, one of the two from

the BNP and the lone Jatiya Party are also lady members.

Clinton

Bangladesh to grant, and establishing and protecting human rights and the rule of law around the world also came up during the meeting, she said.

Khairul Kabir breathed his

A namaz-e-Janaza was held in Singapore before his body

was flown back home Friday night. His body was taken to the

He was one of the founding members of the club, and remained a life-member. His colleagues and friends paid their last respects and offered namaz-e-Janaza in the club premises

Among others Sangbad Edi tor Ahmedul Kabir, KG Mostafa ABM Musa, Sadek Khan, Enayetullah Khan, Mahfuz Anam, Towfique Aziz Khan, Press Club President Reazuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Khandaker Monirul Alam attended

Later another janaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. It was largely attended by his friends, relations and well-wishers, civil

He said men have earlier

From Page 1

the loan payable to the US from

She along with her son Joy also had Iftar at the invitation of Hillary Clinton at the White House, where they discussed the necessity of taking state and social initiative to change the fate of poor people, specially the women.

Hillary Clinton showed curiosity about and supported the social development through the Grameen Bank model in eradicating poverty in Bangladesh.

Water treaty

From Page 1 Charging the Congress with neglecting the port during its rule in the state. Dr Dasgupta

The December-12 treaty of 1996, was pragmatic in all respect, taking best of care for the Calcutta Port as also maintaining the best of neighbourly ties with Bangladesh in a bid to resolve the outstanding issue between the two countries.

Sinha said even if the Finance Minister's claim was to be taken for granted that it would save the Calcutta Port, his party would be happy. But if the port suffered a slow death, the Basu government would have to quit.

Road accidents From Page 1 fied as the helper of the bus while the other was a passenger.

The injured were admitted to different local hospitals and clinics. Two unidentified passengers were killed when a Dhakabound truck fell into a roadside

ditch as the driver lost control at Sheoratoli in sadar thana Saturday evening. A Parshuram-bound passenger bus ran over an unidentified pedestrian at Bagur bus stand in Chandina thana at about 1:30

pm on Sunday. The victim could not be identified. BSS says: Three members of a family were killed and 22 others injured in four road accidents on the Dhaka-Maoa road

on Friday. Police and witnesses said, the first accident occurred at Shologhar on the Dhaka-Maoa road at about 9-30 am when an auto-rickshaw carrying four passengers collided head on with a bus. An old woman, aged about 60, her son Mohammad Ripon, 34, and daughter Rehena, 25, died on the spot. However, Mahbub, grandson of the de-

ceased survived. In the second accident, five persons were injured seriously at Keutkhali on the same road at about 10 am when a bus fell into a roadside ditch after the driver lost control of the vehi-

In another accident, 10 others were injured in Hasara area on Dhaka-Maoa road at about 11 am when a passenger bus hit a roadside tree. Six other persons were seri-

ously injured at Kuchiamora on the Dhaka-Sirajdikhan road at about 2 pm when a passenger bus rammed an auto-rickshaw. In Chittagong, three persons were killed and twenty others injured when a passenger bus

skidded off the road at Baradar-

garhat under Sitakunda thana on Monday. According to Sitakunda police, the accident occurred when the bus coming from Dhaka with some 55 passengers on board reached Baradargarhat. The driver of the bus lost con-

into roadside ditch. Two persons died on the spot while another succumbed to injuries at the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

trol of the vehicle and it fell

Of the dead, two persons were identified as Maharam Ali (25) and Dileep Barua (28). A seven-year-old girl Laiju Begum, daughter of one Nayeb Ali of village Shaptibari under Aditmari thana was run over by

a bus on Wednesday on the Lalmonirhat-Patgram road near the BSCIC industrial area. Police and witnesses said the girl died on the spot. One person was killed and

another one seriously injured

in a road accident at Jogodal on

the Panchagarh-Tetulia road yesterday. Abdul Aziz (40) was killed and Mangal (45), fatally injured when they were struck by a branch of a road-side tree while travelling by bus sitting on its

UNB adds: Two people were killed in two road accidents on the Kishoreganj-Bhairab highway on Tuesday afternoon.

Witnesses said a minor boy, Al Amin, 9, son of Moslehuddin of village Jolowapara in sadar thana, died on the spot when a Dhaka-bound bus from Hossainpur knocked him at 12:30 pm near Pulerghat bridge.

In another accident, Shah-

jahan, 45, from village Hori-

gacchi in Tarail thana, fell from the roof of a Bhairabbound bus from Kishoreganj and died on the spot near Pancholgate bus stand in Kotiadi thana at about 1:30 pm. And in Habiganj, a boy was

killed in a road accident near the Madhabpur thana parishad on Tuesday. Police said the dead, Siraj 10. son of Siddique Mia of the Madhabpur thana, was standing by the roadside near his house when a Comilla-bound bus from Sylhet hit him from behind. He died on the spot but

the bus sped away. One killed, 20 hurt

in Ullapara clash SIRAJGANJ, Feb 12: One person was killed and 20 were injured in a clash between two rival groups in village Maitrabarahar of Ullapara thana to-

day, reports UNB. The dead was identified as Sirajul Islam, 28, who died on the spot. He was hit by a spear.

Four of the injured were admitted to Sirajganj General Hospital and a local health centre. Condition of two injured -Majnu, 26 and Ashraf, 17 - was said to be critical.

Police said the clash began when a group of people attacked the residence of the victim at about 11 am centring an old dispute over the possession of a

A case was filed with Ullapara thana.

Godown gutted at Mirpur

A godown of a packaging industry was gutted in a fire at Mirpur in the city last night, reports BSS.

Fire service sources said the

Number 10. The fire fighters brought the blaze under control after an hour of struggle. The extent of damage and the cause of the fire could not be as-

fire broke out at about 9 pm in

the godown at Mirpur Section

BNP front bodies' joint meet today

certained immediately.

A joint meeting of the front organisations of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), will be held at its central office in Dhaka today at 11 am, reports

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will preside over the meeting, said a press release.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Political and economic situation in Bangladesh good: Clinton

WASHINGTON, Feb 12: President of the United States of America Bill Clinton said on Tuesday that the political and economic situation in Bangla-

desh was good, reports BSS. President Clinton made this remark in a written statement at the credential presentation ceremony of the new Bangladesh Ambassador to the United States KM Shehabuddin at the White House.

The US President appreciated the agreement with India on sharing of the Ganges waters under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and said this step was in the right direction. He expressed the hope that

Bangladesh would continue to

attain economic growth and

political stability under the

able leadership of Sheikh Hasina. Earlier presenting the letter of credence, Ambassador Shehabuddin conveyed the warm greetings of the President and

the Prime Minister of Bangladesh to the US President Replying to the renewal of invitation to him by the Bangladesh Prime Minister, Clinton said "I hope I can make

In his written reply to Ambassador Shehabuddin's remarks, Clinton said the friendship between the two countries is deep rooted, strengthened by years of co-operation on important goals like democratisation and economic development. He cited the long struggle for independence and high turn-out of voters in the June, 1996 election as examples of the Bangladesh people's attachment to

democracy. President Clinton commended Bangladesh government's staunch commitment to economic development and poverty alleviation. Since Bangladesh's independence in 1971, he said the two nations have worked hand in hand towards achieving these goals. He assured that this productive partner-

City AL extended meet today

ship will continue.

An extended meeting of the Dhaka city Awami League (AL) will be held at 5 pm today at the Bangabandhu Avenue office, a party press release said

yesterday, reports BSS. The city AL leaders including the presidents and general secretaries and convenors of different units and front organisations, the party MPs elected from the city and the ward commissioners have been requested to attend the meeting.

Housemaid

From Page 1

that she wanted to kill Farida Begum, mother of Safayet, as she misbehaved with her several times, police said. As the boy and his mother were sleeping together she chopped both of them. She thought that both of them had been killed and left the house immediately, police

Lonely death at DMCH

From Page 1

After verifying the paper of ref-

erence, he asked me to take the

injured off the car. "But I need a

stretcher," I said. "Ask the man at the gate," he replied. A young man wearing a lungi and a half-sleeved sweater came up with a stretcher. "You need to pay something for the stretcher," he declared in a strong Urdu accent. "Come and help me take the man off," he shouted. "Oh, he is a dead man, just look, leave him here, we will look after him." The young man was one of the hospital dome (people who deal with the deadbodies, a lucrative business when the body is unidentified

and unclaimed. I heard later). The injured 'farmer' was still groaning unconsciously as he was put on the dirty steel-made stretcher. The stretcher-climb on the stairs of the DMCH hospital was so steep that the patient almost fell off. We were on our way to Ward No. 30, along the corridors of the hospital, obviously too long a walk for

such an emergency patient. I thought. One doctor and a female nurse were in charge of the crammed hall. Emergency patients, most in agony, were everywhere. The doctor, after about 20 minutes looked at the injured 'farmer' from yards away and said, "go and bring ... medicines for him." I could hardly make out what he talked about when the Urdu-accented young man intervened, "come with me I will get you the medicines." He continued, "first

get him admitted. We had to run back to the entrance of the hospital to complete the admission procedure for a fee of Tk 10. All this time the 'farmer' remained unattended. On our return, the doctor, too busy to talk on the phone, asked a sweeper of the ward to check the condition of the 'farmer'. "How many stitches does he need? What is his condition?", he asked the sweeper. The sweeper pulled open the blood stained shirt of the farmer and banged his fingers hard into his tummy. "His condition is no good, sir, prescribe him the minimum possible drugs," said the sweeper to

the doctor. The doctor scribbled a few medicines on a piece of paper and handed it over to me. "How much might it cost?" I inquired with the doctor. "Around five hundred," someone replied from the back. Now the problem was who would pay for them. opened my wallet to find that its post-Eid situation was far short from the requirement. Mokhlesur, came up with the remaining two hundred and we soon followed the Urdu-accented enthusiast out of the hospital. The pharmacies outside the emergency unit said that the medicines were not available. "Don't worry, give me the money I will get them for you in five minutes," our enthusiast again tried to rescue us.

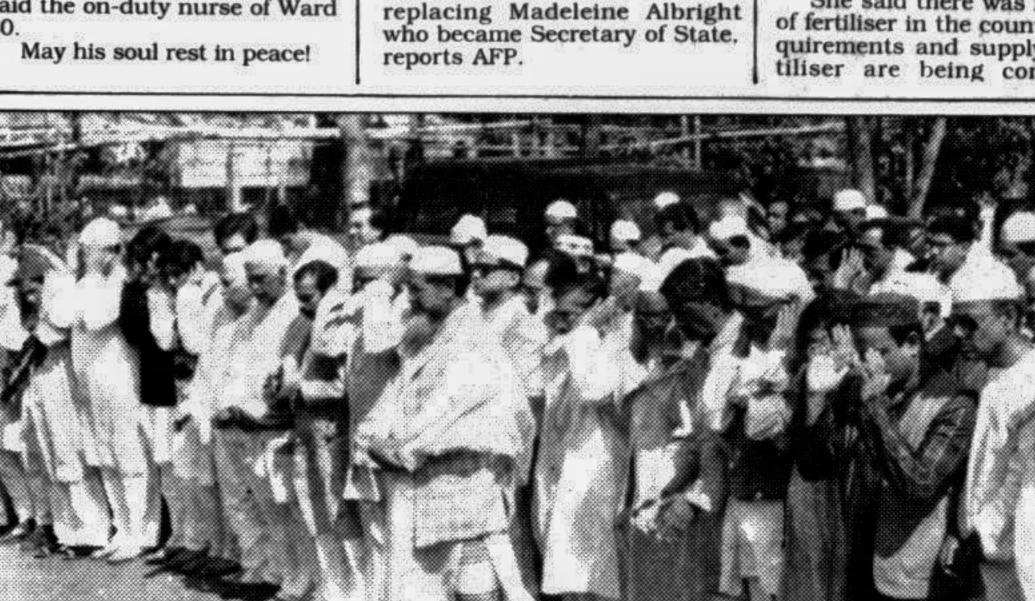
When the doctor of Ward 30 was informed about the situation, his reaction was, "Your patient is in a bad shape, leave him on us we will do whatever we can."

It was quite late in the night.

We decided to leave the money rest, a group of local terrorists with Mannan who would wait on Monday evening evicted the until morning to get back to Gazaria and take our waiting taxi back home. More than one and half hours had passed, the 'farmer's' groaning and gasping was yet to reach anyone's ears.

We were at one of the largest hospitals of the country with thousands of doctors, nurses and employees, let alone the huge budget for it.

Wednesday morning I rang up the Ward 30 and inquired about the condition of the 'farmer'. "He died at seven this morning and his body has been kept in the morgue. If it is unclaimed for three to four days, it will be sent for burial or else," said the on-duty nurse of Ward



Namaz-e-janaza of Khairul Kabir, founder-editor of the Sangbad, was held at the Jatiya Press Club on Sunday. - Star photo

Sit-in in front of Demra PS Armed goons evict mills workers from colony

their families from a colony of a re-rolling mills in the city's Postogola-Shympur industrial belt, reports UNB. In an instant protest, some 200 people, including women and children, staged a sit-in

demonstration in front of

Demra thana. However, they

withdrew the 19-hour sit-in fol-

Armed goons evicted more

than 100 laid off workers and

lowing assurance by police Tuesuay atterneon. But the evicted people could not enter the colony till 8 pm on Tuesday as the mastans continued their hold inside the National Foundry and Engineer-

The trouble erupted after po-

lice arrested 14 labour leaders.

including the president and the

ing Works.

ers' union, early on Eid day. President Joynal Abedin and general secretary Shafiqul Islam and 12 others were later produced before court and the special court on Monday refused to set them free on bail. Witnesses said after the ar-

workers and their family members from the mill's colony. The evicted people took position in front of Demra thana at about 8 pm on the day and withdrew at about 3 pm Tuesenter their residences. Police said they arrested the

workers following a case filed

by the owner of the mills as

they were staying inside the mills illegally. But leaders of Samajtantrik Sramik Front which the registered workers union is affiliated to alleged police took a side. "The mill has been put un-

der lay-off . not the colony."

Businessmen observe

said a leader of the Front. Refuting the allegation, Demra police said they also arrested a local mastan, Giasuddin on Tuesday. "We are going only by law," said the duty offi-

hartal in Nayarhat general secretary of the work-SAVAR, Feb 12: Local businessmen barricaded the Dhaka-Aricha highway for an hour today and issued an ultimatum for an indefinite barricade on the highway unless toll-collec-

> The businessmen, who observed a day-long hartal today at Nayarhat bazar in Savar thana protesting intimidation allegedly by some student activists, warned they would block the highway from February 15 if the extortionists were not arrested in 72 hours.

tors are arrested, reports UNB.

By Staff Correspondent Khairul Kabir, founder-editor of The Daily Sangbad and a prominent banker, was laid to day. But they were not able to rest at his family graveyard at Ghorasal in Narsingdi on Sun-

last at a hospital in Singapore on Friday after fighting a protracted battled against lung

Khairul Kabir

laid to rest

Jatiya Press Club on Sunday.

the janaza.

servants, bankers and journal ists.

The qualkhwani of Khairul Kabir was held at his Gulshan residence on Monday.