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Government employees demonstrating at the Secretariat yesterday for implementation of the new payscale. — Star photo

### Infant murdered over land dispute

**From Our Correspondent**  
JHENIDAH, Oct 1: A six-month-old baby was murdered allegedly by neighbours over a land dispute at village Khamarail in the Sadar thana on September 27, police said.

The six-month-old baby, Rajib, was snatched from his elder sister in the evening and murdered. The body was found next morning, police said.

Police arrested three persons in this connection.

### PL-480 debt

**From Page 1**  
During the 30-minute discussion, Underfurth described the Ganges water sharing treaty with India as a positive and concrete step in the right direction.

The minister mentioned that the sub-regional cooperation amongst India, Bangladesh, Nepal and Bhutan as complementary and not parallel to SAARC. He sought active US support in this regard.

Also on Tuesday, the Foreign Minister had a useful meeting with US Permanent Representative to the UN, Bill Richardson, who holds a cabinet rank and is well-known in Bangladesh.

Congratulating Richardson on his appointment as US Permanent Representative to the UN, Azad said Bangladesh considered him as a friend and expressed the hope that his interest in political stability and economic growth of Bangladesh will continue.

Richardson appreciated the efforts of the Bangladesh government to strengthen the democratic process.

## Mahanagari Cup

**From Page 1**  
ence of a strong band of black-and-white supporters, the infant-terrors of Muktiyoddha hardly reflected any slipshod that would endanger their bid.

Although the defence appeared a bit shaky at the onset, it turned into an all-proof wall as the game grew older. On the other hand, Rakib, undoubtedly the best performer of the final, formed a razor-sharp attacking duo with a diminutive Swapan to test the defence of their fancied opponents.

Meanwhile, Mohammedans, hot on the heels of their dog-fight 2-1 semifinal victory over arch-rivals Abahani, perhaps played their worst match of the season. The popular Motiheel outfit even failed to make a single serious attack in their lacklustre showings much to the disbelief of their supporters.

The wise words of their inspirational Iraqi coach Shamir Shakir seemed to have fallen in deaf ears as his boys ran like headless chickens forgetting his advice to get into gear on the counter-attack.

The Mohammedan booters, who appeared in the final within 48-hour after their energy-sapping encounter against Abahani, apparently were not up to the level to tackle the more physically fit Muktiyoddha footballers.

Besides, their kick-and-chase approach in the first break had also back-fired as Muktiyoddha merely allowed any space for their two fast moving forwards — Afraz and Don.

In addition to their misery, midfielder Arman, the only fresh player in the line-up who played on Monday, was once again a pale shadow of his brilliant self.

Although Muktiyoddha ran away with the trophy, it could have been a different story had the Mohammedan forwards

### Review body

**From Page 1**  
gested a minimum basic pay of Tk 1850 and the Maximum Tk 18,000.

The Cabinet Secretary, however, briefed Prime Minister and the Finance Minister on Monday on the recommendations made by the committee. It is expected to be placed before the Cabinet at its next meeting on Monday, the sources said.

The review committees recommendations have been kept a closely guarded secret, suggesting minimum basic salary for the government employees at Tk 1300 to 1400 and the maximum Tk 14,000 to 15,000 the sources added.

The last Pay Commission Award was announced in 1991 and the minimum pay was at Tk 900 and the highest Tk 10,000.

Meanwhile, riot police kept a close watch on a group of government employees, who staged demonstrations in the Secretariat yesterday, defying a ban on protests.

They held a rally where their leaders said they would not accept anything short of a 1.5 ratio between the minimum and the maximum basic pay of the government employees and officials.

They demanded early implementation of the report. They had earlier demanded fixation of minimum pay at Tk 3000.

### Pabna incident

**From Page 1**  
(general), Pabna, who heads the probe body.

Other journalists served with identical notices are correspondents of the Dainik Janakantha, The Daily Bhorer Kagoj and the Chief Editor and the Editor of a local daily the Nirbhar.

The New Nation, the Dainik Bangla, the Dinkal and some other national dailies also published the news on the alleged rape but their correspondents are yet to receive such notices.

However, neither the victim nor the persons allegedly involved in the incident have been served with such notices as yet.

So far, no case has been initiated in connection with the incident.

### Indefinite strike

**From Page 1**  
cludes permanent employment for 8,203 master roll and casual workers who have been working for over 10 years and implementation of regularisation order of 1,311 'work-charge' workers.

While talking to The Daily Star, Rezaul Karim, member-secretary of the Forum said, "We shall only call off the announced strike if the authorities ensure implementation of our demands."

Asked if the leaders believe they would be able to realise their 11-point demands calling for the indefinite strike, Karim said, "If we fail we may consider stronger action programme."

Claiming their nine-day strike a success, Sheikh Taibur Rahman, another leader of the Forum said, "We have not yet received any positive response from the concerned authorities. A meeting was held at the ministry Wednesday to discuss the Forum's demands. As far as I can tell you, there was no satisfactory outcome."

The forum leaders added that ferry services across the country may also be affected during the strike from October 6.

## 2 snatchers held from near Home Minister's house

**By Staff Correspondent**  
Two alleged snatchers were caught and beaten up by some people near the residence of the Home Minister at Bailey Road in the city yesterday.

According to witnesses, police rescued and arrested the two, Hiru and Mainul, aged around 20. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for treatment of their injuries.

Ranna police, however, did not confirm the incident till the filing of this report at mid-night.

The witnesses said a gang of four stopped a rickshaw carrying a woman and snatched a gold chain from her at about 4 pm.

As she shouted for help, some passers-by rushed to the spot and caught two of the snatchers. The other two managed to flee.

### DSE members

**From Page 1**  
will ensure implementation of the decisions.

"Separation of the DSE management from the policy-making body will bring transparency, accountability and avoid conflict of interest," a senior SEC official said.

"Now, the DSE chief is the CEO as well as one of the policy-makers. So, there are chances of conflict of interest emerging from time to time," the official said.

The present 12-member DSE Council has nine elected members, with the other places going to the president of Institute of Cost Management and Accountant, the president of Metropolitan Chamber, and a joint secretary of the Ministry of Finance.

Under the proposed amendments, four new ex-officio members will make their way into the Council. A senior Bangladesh Bank official (with the rank of general manager) and three others chosen by the SEC, according to an SEC source. The MCCI president will be replaced by the FBCCI president in the Council.

The three SEC nominations may include experts or people who will look after the interests of small investors, the sources said.

A gazette notification will formalise the amendments which will be effective from the date of its publication.

### Focus on Biman's CBA

**From Page 1**  
gain hold on the control desks as they need to manipulate the roster plans to get their men posted in strategic places.

The departments in which the unions influence the roster planning include sales and reservation, traffic, motor transport and operation, the sources said.

Citing the crisis of tickets in New York route, a Biman official admitted that passengers often had to "bribe the front desk men to confirm tickets in certain international routes."

The amount of bribe ranges from Tk 200 to Tk 2,000 for getting confirmed tickets, specially in the peak seasons.

Besides, harassment in cargo booking is also a common complaint. Space controllers in cargo service often demand extra money from the customers, it is alleged.

"We rarely get space without giving bribe," said the owner of a freight forwarding company in the city. With more than a decade of experience in the business, the company owner, requesting anonymity, said "We have to pay not less than Tk three per kilogram even in the lean season."

The rate rose up to Tk 10 to 12 in the peak season to get space for exporting any kind of goods including perishable items, vegetables and garments.

"You cannot protest because space controllers are backed by their unions," alleged business man, saying, "You will not get space to send your goods unless you pay extra money."

### Production sharing contracts

**From Page 1**  
said, explaining the problems.

"It is not sufficient to go only by the drilling programme. It has to be a combination of all including technical and financial strength or track record," the official said.

Even if the blocks are awarded on the basis of such "unbelievable" offers, according to many officials and waiting it can only be done for the western part of Bangladesh, undiscovered and risky.

The issues are being discussed at various levels and the policy planners appear aware of them. "We will not do anything that goes against our national interests," says minister Noor Uddin Khan.

Top Petrobangla officials, including chairman Mosharraf Hossain, would not say any evaluation is still to be completed.

But those criticising the "secrecy" say the awards cannot be made as done in normal international tenders where contracts go to "highest or lowest bidder."

Says one Petrobangla insider: "We must take into account the fact that once a block is awarded to a company, it is given for up to 25 years and Bangladesh cannot afford to make any mistake."

Mistakes, intentional or unintentional, will leave little room for corrections in this case. Now that competitive bidding is being done, say watch-

## Patuakhali couple denies alleged torture by police

**From Staff Correspondent**  
BARISAL, Oct 1: The alleged torture of a couple by the police of Galachipa thana under Patuakhali district, as reported in national dailies, has been denied.

Ali Ashraf and Minara Begum, the alleged victims of torture yesterday denied the allegation at a press conference held at Patuakhali Press Club.

In a written statement they denied being tortured by police.

Earlier on August 25, the couple had complained about torture and sexual abuse to the journalists and members of the human rights monitoring cell of Patuakhali Bar Association.

## Maijbhandari's wife sues Ramna thana OC, SI of Detective Branch

Sirajun Munira Bashir, wife of BNP leader Syed Najibul Bashir Maijbhandari, has filed a criminal case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court against the OC of Ramna Thana and an SI of Detective Branch, reports UNB.

The complainant, in her petition, accused Rafiqul Islam, OC, Ramna Thana, and Md Abdul Hakim, Sub-inspector of DB, of injuring Maijbhandari to extort confession and an attempt to murder him.

On September 22, she said, police arrested Bhandari from Press Club area, took him to Ramna police station and brutally tortured him there for confessional statement.

Bhandari was seriously wounded due to heavy physical torture, she said.

After hearing the complaint yesterday, Metropolitan Magistrate Shokat Nabi sent the case record for judicial enquiry.

### BATEXPO '97

**From Page 1**  
tion in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia on October 4.

Addressing a press conference yesterday BGMEA President Mostafa Golam Qudus said that more than one hundred foreign buyers have already registered their names for participation in the fair.

"We have received a lot of response from the foreign buyers," he said.

### PM sanctions

**From Page 1**  
Prime Minister's special fund, said an official hand out.

Allocations have also been made from the Prime Minister's relief fund for giving sarree, lungi, rice and wheat to the puja committees.

The relief materials have already been despatched to the district authorities for distribution to meet the need of durga puja.

**MOU**

**From Page 1**  
The MOU will lead to the formal signing of the agreement in Dhaka.

The Bangladesh high commissioner in New Delhi, C M Shafi Sami and the Indian high commissioner to Bangladesh, Deb Mukherjee, were present. After signing the MOU both the secretaries expressed the hope that the cultural cooperation between the two neighbours would be enhanced in the coming days.

Earlier, the Bangladesh delegation called on the Minister of State for External Affairs, Kamal Sinha, at her office.

They discussed matters of mutual interest.

### Investment Corporation of Bangladesh

**Notice of the Twenty First Annual General Meeting**

Notice is hereby given that the Twenty First Annual General Meeting of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) will be held on Thursday, the 30th October, 1997 at 3.00 PM at the Hotel Purbani International Limited, 1, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka to transact the following business:

- To place the minutes of the 20th Annual General Meeting held on 9th October, 1996 for information;
- To receive and adopt the audited accounts of the Corporation for the year from 1st July 1996 to 30th June, 1997 and report on the workings of the Corporation during the said year;
- To declare dividend; and
- To transact any other business with the permission of the Chair.

**By Order of the Board of Directors**  
Md. Fayekuzzaman  
Secretary

Dated: 30th September, 1997.

**Notes:**

- The Register of Transfer of Shares of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh shall remain closed from the 16th October, 1997 to 30th October, 1997 (both days inclusive).
- The instrument appointing a proxy shall be in writing and in the case of an individual shareholder under the hand of the shareholder or his attorney authorised in this behalf by a Power of Attorney, and in the case of an institution under its Common Seal or under the hand of its attorney authorised in this behalf.
- A proxy shall not be valid unless it is dated and properly stamped prior to its lodgement with the Corporation before 72 (Seventy two) hours of the time fixed for the meeting.
- No person shall be appointed a proxy nor shall any person act as such, who is not a shareholder qualified to vote at the meeting in respect of which the proxy is given.

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## Bangabandhu Murder Case

**From Page 1**  
latter.

Of the 14 lawyers of the 14 absconding accused, Gazi Zillur Rahman, lawyer of absconding accused Lt Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid cross-examined the PW-18, while the rest declined.

T M Akbar, lawyer of accused in custody Lt Col (LPR) Muhiuddin was cross-examining the witness when the court was adjourned at around 4:20 pm. Earlier in the day's proceedings, cross-examination of PW-17 by the defence lawyers was completed.

The proceedings of the case will resume at 10:00 am on Monday.

In his deposition before the court, Abu Taher said he was a Gunner at the Papa Battery under Second Field Artillery Regiment at the Dhaka Cantonment when the incident took place on August 15, 1975.

Maj Khandaker Abdur Rashid was the commanding officer of the unit and Maj Muhiuddin was the Commander of 'Papa Battery'. In which Abu Taher belonged. The three other batteries of the unit were Cubec, Romeo and Headquarter, he added.

Capt Jahangir was the Adjutant of the Unit, PW-18 said adding that Capt Zohar was the commanding officer of the Cubec Battery while Capt Mustafa and Capt Hasan were among other officers of the Unit.

about midnight or 1:00 am. Maj Muhiuddin and Maj Khandaker Abdur Rashid inspected our training.

"At about 3:00 am or 4:00 am, the Battery Havildar (BHM) Major Abdul Kalam ordered us to hook the artillery guns with the truck and later ordered for 'fall-in' ground."

"Capt Jahangir and Maj Muhiuddin came towards us. Capt Jahangir said, 'We will have to carry out a special assignment. We will have to check the Rakkhi Bahini.'"

"He also ordered us to get onto our vehicle and asked us to follow the vehicle right ahead of us."

"How the Rakkhi Bahini could be checked without any ammunition, I asked the BHM. He said 'ammunition are there. You get onto the vehicle.'"

"When I got onto the vehicle, I saw four artillery shells and a box of small arms there."

"The vehicle went to Mirpur Road via the Military Engineering Service, Mahakhali Rail Gate, Cantonment Third Gate and Farm Gate. The BHM was already there on the western side of the Mirpur Road near

north east corner of Dhanmandhi Play Ground.

"He ordered me to install my Artillery gun in that corner and to resist Rakkhi Bahini. Then he moved in the north. Ten to fifteen minutes later, we heard the Azan for Fajr prayers. Immediately afterwards, we heard gun shots from the north western side and noise of four rounds of artillery shells."

"Maj Muhiuddin then ordered shouting, 'Bring your guns here at once.' I joined him carrying my personal weapon, the artillery gun and the vehicle."

"Later we moved further north along the Mirpur Road on instructions from Maj Muhiuddin and halted near the Ganabhaban. Maj Muhiuddin got down there but we remained in the vehicle for about an hour."

"When Maj Muhiuddin returned there he ordered us to patrol the city before returning to the unit."

"When we returned to our unit it was about noon or 1:00 pm. The BHM ordered us to deposit our arms and ammunition and to remain at the battery. We followed."

## BNP's protest march

**From Page 1**  
Mannan Bhuiyan MP, joint secretaries general Abdullah Al Noman and Mirza Abbas and other party leaders including Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain MP, Haris Choudhury, Amanullah Aman MP, Joyanal Abedin Faruq MP, Barqatullah Bhui MP and Khurshid Jahan Haq MP.

The procession reached Bangla Motor crossing through Kakrail, Shanti Nagar, Malibagh and Magbazar areas.

A brief rally was then held at Bangla Motor crossing.

Addressing the rally, BNP leaders thanked the processionists for 'defying government ban on street agitations.'

Former home minister Abdul Matin Choudhury said an autocratic government like that of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was never seen before.

"We've succeeded in demonstrating on the streets defying the ban by the fascist government," he said.

City BNP Convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka said that yesterday's demonstration paved the way for tougher agitations against the 'anti-people' government.

As the procession stopped for a while in front of the

Mouchak Market, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal president Shahiduddin Choudhury Anny announced: "By breaking the police barricade, the people and the students have proved that Dhaka streets are under the control of BNP."

UNB adds: BNP Secretary General, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan thanked the people of Dhaka city for observing the party's demonstration programme successfully, ignoring the 'repressive action and interruption by the government.'

In a statement yesterday, he condemned the police interception and lathicharge on BNP processions brought out from different parts of the city and called upon the police to discharge their duties impartially.

Bhuiyan alleged that the government has been using law enforcing agencies in curbing democratic rights of the people, which is unprecedented. He urged the government to refrain from such 'undemocratic' activities.

In a separate statement, city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka also thanked the city dwellers for observing the demonstration programme and condemned the police action against the party processions.

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