

JS winter  
session  
begins  
Nov 2

By Staff Correspondent  
The Jatiya Sangsad will go into its winter session at 4 pm on November 2.  
President Shahabuddin Ahmed summoned the seventh session of the seventh parliament yesterday, according to a government handout.

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WB unhappy  
over defence  
spending

Star Business Report  
The World Bank in its Public Expenditure Review has raised questions about expenses on various sectors including defence.

According to the Bank, the expenditure pattern runs contrary to government's emphasis on poverty reduction.

Detailed story on  
Business Page

5-hour traffic  
jam near  
Kanchpur Bridge

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 6: Hundreds of passengers of inter-city buses got stranded for hours as a group of transport workers barricaded the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Kanchpur Bridge yesterday.

Commuters experienced the worst traffic jam in recent weeks on the roads from Savadab to Simrail (better known as Chittagong Road), Demra and Narayanganj for about five hours from 1 pm.

Siddhinganj police said transport workers damaged a Chittagong-bound bus near Bhulgar on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at around noon. Earlier, a few days back, a group of transport owners delinked themselves from Dhaka-Chittagong Bus Owners' Association and formed a new body styled 'Falcon', said sources.

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Bank holiday  
Saturday

Bangladesh Bank and all commercial banks will remain closed on Saturday on the occasion of Bijoya Dashami, said a Bangladeshi Bank press release yesterday, reports UNB.

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The Daily Star  
on the Internet  
<http://www.dailystarmedia.com>

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by Kuldip Nayar

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## New pay scale: Highest Tk 15000, lowest Tk 1500

The Cabinet yesterday approved the National Pay Scale fixing the basic salary for the top grade at Tk 15,000 and the lowest Tk 1,600, including tiffin allowance of Tk 100, reports UNB.

The new pay scale recommended by the secretary committee, which was formed to review the recommendations of the 5th National Pay Commission, will be implemented in phases with retrospective effect from July 1, 1997.

The scale containing 20

grades will be implemented in the next three years.

In the first year, 60 per cent of the enhanced salary under the new pay scale, will be given from July 1, 1997 to June 30, 1998.

In the second year, remaining 40 per cent of the enhanced salary will be given from July, 1998.

All allowances, including festival allowance/bonus (excluding tiffin allowance) as received on June 30, 1997 will be given during fiscal 1997-98

and 1998-99 (up to June 30, 1999).

From July 1, 1999, allowances and bonus under new scale will be given.

### Pay scale at a glance on back page

The cabinet, at a meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, also took the decision to give tiffin allowance of Tk 100 for the non-gazetted class III and IV employees from July 1, 1997.

With tiffin allowance, the lowest salary will be Tk 1,600. This will reduce the difference between the highest and lowest salary.

Under the new pay scale, the highest will be 9.37 times of the lowest salary (including tiffin allowance) as against 11.11 times of the 1991 pay scale.

The Cabinet observed that the 5th Pay Commission in its report stated that no government in the past was able to increase the salary at rates exceeding the inflation.

Furthermore, the 5th Pay Commission expressed the opinion that the fixation of the lowest pay at Tk 1,126 would be enough to compensate for the inflation.

But considering the problems of the government employees, the Cabinet has decided to increase the salary at an enhanced rate compared with the inflation.

With the introduction of the new pay scale and its implementation in phases, the lowest pay (including tiffin allowance) will be increased 27 per cent more than the inflation in the current fiscal year. This increase will go up to about 42 per cent when the new pay scale will be implemented in full.

The cabinet further observed that no government in the past was able to completely implement the recommendations of the pay commission.

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## 34 killed as bus plunges into pond in B'baria

From Our Correspondents

BRAHMANBARIA, Oct 6: At least 34 people including 6 children and 4 women were killed and 10 injured when a bus fell into a deep roadside pond at Boyeshamura on Brahmanbaria-Sylhet highway 18 kilometres from here today.

Thirty-two people died on the spot and two died on way to hospital. One Dipali Biswas was admitted to Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital in critical condition.

The Brahmanbaria-bound bus from Madhabpur was on high speed when it crumpled and rolled into the pond as the driver lost control, police and witnesses said.

The driver, Abul Khayer managed to escape, police said. The tragic accident took

place at about 11:30 am.

Fifteen of the dead were identified as Bishnaw Das, 40, of Shatbargi village, Abul Husien, 20, of Anand village, Amena Begum, 4, and Ayesha Begum, 3, of Badura village, Idris Chowdhury and Narmuz Khan of Jalalpur village, Shahinur Rahman of Shabazpur village, Hafez Md Alamgir, 35, of Alakpur village, Arzuda Begum, 40, of Horipur village and her two children, Razab Ali, 65, of Madhabpur village, health assistant Junia Mia, 40, of Sarail Thana Health Complex, Nurul Islam, 35, and Tuheen, 17. The rest could not be identified till writing of this report in the evening.

It was a heartrending scene when the bus was salvaged in

the afternoon. Thousands of worried people flocked there, relatives of the victims wailing. Sylhet-Dhaka and Brahmanbaria-Sylhet road links remained suspended till about 4 pm. Deputy Commissioner A K M Wahedul Islam visited the spot and supervised the salvage operation.

UNB adds: Witnesses said only 8-10 people managed to get out of the bus which completely sank in the pond.

Hearing a hue and cry, the panic-stricken villagers nearby rushed to the scene to help rescue the victims.

The salvage operation was conducted with a crane from Titas Gas Company.

Four unidentified bodies

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Hartal called today

## BNP activist gunned down at Bogra

From Our Correspondent

BOGRA, Oct 6: Authorities deployed extra forces in the ~~area under the jurisdiction~~ area after a BNP activist was gunned down inside the district party office this evening in the wake of clashes during a day-long hartal in which two BNP MPs were wounded.

The BNP has called another hartal for 12 hours tomorrow to protest the killing of Anwar Hossain and what they said attack on their processions by rival Awami League supporters. Pourasava Chairman Adv.

cate Jahurul Islam, MP and Advocate Hafizur Rahman, MP, were wounded in the attack.

BNP leaders said.

But who killed Anwar Hossain was not known immediately.

Today's dawn-to-dusk hartal was called by the BNP to press for release of district BNP Joint-Secretary Ali Asgar Hena, detained ahead of his Sunday's countrywide barricade programme on charges of damaging the portrait of Banga-

Khaleda blames 'AL terrorists' for Bogra killing

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia has strongly condemned the killing of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal activist Anwar Hossain during a hartal in Bogra yesterday and blamed the pro-Awami League terrorists for the murder.

In a statement issued last night, the Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad also condemned "all other acts of terrorism by AL and police" and demanded trial of those responsible for the "heinous attacks".

Police fired shots, lobbed tear gas shells and charged baton on BNP processions and at the party office and AL ter-

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Bangabandhu Murder Case

## Dalim brought Shafiullah to radio station at gun-point'

The then Army Chief, Major General Shafiullah, was brought out of his office at gun-point by Major Dalim and taken to radio station after the August 15, 1975 killings.

This was stated by Dafadar (dismissed) Shahidur Rahman, the 19th prosecution witness in Bangabandhu murder case, in his deposition yesterday in the court of District Sessions Judge, Dhaka, reports UNB.

He said General Shafiullah was being followed by Deputy Army Chief Major General Ziaur Rahman and other senior officers while Major Dalim with a sten gun led him to the radio station.

According to deposition of the PW-19, Major Dalim boarded his jeep with a sten gun

and was carrying the firearms for all the time till Rahman last saw him taking Shafiullah.

Rahman made his deposition after the cross examination of PW-18 Havildar (retired) Abu Taher was completed.

He also said Major Dalim led army troops towards the Minto Road residence of Abdur Rab Serniabat and posted them on various points around the house early August 15, 1975.

Rahman, who had been driving the jeep with Major Dalim since they left cantonment at 4 am that day, said they heard firing from the house of Serniabat some time after the troops were posted.

According to deposition of the PW-19, Major Dalim boarded his jeep with a sten gun

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Queen Elizabeth starts Indo-Pak tour today

LONDON, Oct 6: Queen Elizabeth II tomorrow begins a 12-day state visit to Pakistan and India, to mark the 50th anniversary of the two countries independence, which officials hope will not be marred when she visits the Indian city of Amritsar.

Intense security will surround the visit by the Queen and Prince Philip to Amritsar on October 14, with an estimated

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday unveiled government plans to provide homes to the homeless living inhuman life and for urban housing prioritising the needs of commonmen, reports UNB.

"We want to build beautiful cities for our future generation as well as for the homeless people. We want to build safe and hygienic abode for all," she said spelling out a series of plans while inaugurating the programmes of World Habitat Day '97 at the Osmani Memorial Hall.

The Prime Minister viewed

that housing problem became acute due to unplanned urbanisation in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and other divisional cities.

"We have to take step at once to make the cities liveable by the year 2000," she said and asked the authorities concerned to take and implement specific plans to that end.

Sheikh Hasina said the contrast between the growing luxury buildings and the unplanned and unliveable slums without light and air in the cities would have to be removed.

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Hasina unveils plans for the homeless

By Court Correspondent  
Three BNP leaders arrested on Sunday — Ilias Ali, Kamruzzaman Ratan and Syed Arif Rafiqul Islam — were placed on a three-day police remand by Metropolitan Magistrate FMA Monayem yesterday.

Police had prayed for a 20-day remand. None of them was produced in the court.

The three were arrested allegedly with firearms from Makhali area in the city. Two cases have been lodged against them for possessing arms and explosives.

At around 3:30 pm yesterday

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## BASIC remains open on Saturday...

All our 21 Branches are open on Saturdays from 9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

(except public holidays).

Our Head Office also remains open on Saturdays

to facilitate Branch Operation.



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## Trade Fair '97

### Invitation to Participate

Attractive agricultural, recreational & educative trade fair will be arranged in 6 district towns of the north-eastern region of the country (Sunamganj, Sylhet, Moulvibazar, Habiganj, Kishoreganj & Netrakona) at the initiative of North-East Miniature Irrigation Project under the Ministry of Agriculture during the coming winter season (10 November-6 December, 1997). In view of popularising use of miniature irrigation machines among the farmers towards cultivating more lands with irrigation, the farmers will be motivated through exhibition of various irrigation machines & agri implements and demonstration of their effectiveness in the fair.

**Who can participate**  
A. Agri & irrigation machinery importers/local trading firms & related individuals.  
B. Agri/irrigation/pisciculture/animal resources/handicrafts activities related govt/semi-govt/autonomous/NGO/private ownership firms & individuals.  
C. Fertiliser/seeds/insecticide importers, local trading firms & related individuals.  
Prescribed application form for allotment of stall/pavilion at the Fair & other information can be collected free of cost from the office of the undersigned & the undermentioned offices at district level during office hours latest up to 15 October 97.

#### Date of holding Fair

District council building	10.11.97 to 19.11.97



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