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**BNP procession**

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legedly by ruling party activists under cover of police during Tuesday's half-day hartal in the city.

The explosion of fire-crackers scattered the procession creating panic in the area. People ran for safety.

Earlier, several hundred BNP workers led by its city unit convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, gathered in front of the party's city office at Nayabazar to bring out the planned procession. Before reaching Kakrail, the processionists paraded the North South Road, Bangshal Road, Siddique Bazar, Gullistan, Purana Palton and Bjoyanagar road chanting various slogans against the government and the ruling party.

A BNP press release later alleged that ruling Awami League activists hurled fire-crackers on its procession at the Kakrail crossing and that police also swung into action. The press release claimed that 20 leaders and workers of the party were injured in the "attacks".

A DMP press release said the BNP procession was brought out illegally and claimed that the bomb attacks were made on police without any provocation. A case was filed in this connection, the release added.

**Timely warning**

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the building collapsed. His younger brother, Shahidullah said Abedin suffered a heart stroke on hearing the bad news. Shahidullah told newsmen who visited the spot that the building was constructed upto the second floor in 1992 and the rest only six months ago.

When contacted, an engineer of the Narayanganj Pourashava told The Daily Star that the building collapsed either because no soil test was done before the construction or because it was raised beyond its permissible level.

**Bangabandhu Murder**

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Bangabandhu's 677 number residence, said he woke up from bed hearing the bugle at the President's residence and saw from his window the hoisting of flag at dawn on August 15.

At that time, a speeding jeep came from the direction of Mirpur road and stopped in front of the gate at Bangabandhu's house. It seemed abnormal, as no vehicle moved at such speed on that road," he said adding that those travelling by the jeep talked to the security guards.

Newaz, who was a Physics student of Dhaka University at that time, continued: "I also noticed some army men in black uniforms, advancing by crawling. They started firing towards Bangabandhu's house."

"Amidst non-stop heavy firing and shelling by cannons, all inmates of our house took shelter in bathroom and corridor inside the house," the witness said adding that at that time his sister-in-law informed them by telephone that Sheikh Montu had been killed.

He said heavy firing continued for sometime and later they heard shots at intervals. As he tried to watch the situation, the black-dressed army men standing with arms in the compound of Bangabandhu's house saw him.

At their order, Newaz said he and other inmates of the house,

**CHT settlers**

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that formation of a Regional Council making a tribesman its head, would be "much less of a full-autonomy as cherished by the tribal communities".

Despite all these diversified views expressed by different sections of the people in CHT, all are now waiting eagerly to see a peace treaty signed as soon as the negotiating parties — NCCHT and PCJSS — could bridge the little gap, if there is any.

including his elder brother, two sisters and his cousin Aminul Haq Badsha, came out and stood in a row. Later, they were taken to a one-storey abandoned house, he said.

"While we were being taken there, I heard a woman crying from Bangabandhu's house and after two consecutive gunshots, the crying stopped," the PW said recalling what, according to him, was the worst day's experience in his life.

**President offers fateha at graves of Begum Mujib, 3 nat'l leaders'**

President Shahabuddin Ahmed offered fateha at the mazars of three national leaders at Banani graveyard in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

President Shahabuddin prayed for the eternal peace of the three leaders — Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed and Capt Mansur Ali — who were killed in the Dhaka Central Jail on November 3, 1975.

Later, the President also offered fateha at the grave of Begum Fazilatunnesa Mujib who was killed along with other members of her family on August 15, 1975.

**Art biennial**

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The State Minister said nearly 700 art works of 400 artists will be put on display at the exhibition, including 215 of 178 artists from the host country.

A five-member jury has been formed comprising Indian renowned artist Gonesh Haloi, Prof Yamamoto Fuji Hiko of Japan, Prof Faruque Sheeta of Alexandria University and eminent art critic Dr Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir and artist Prof Gayum Chowdhury of Bangladesh.

**PM's fresh call to Opposition  
Join JS instead of holding meetings on streets**

DAUDKANDI, Nov 5: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today renewed her call to the Opposition to join the parliament and place their demands in the House, reports UNB.

"Come back to the Parliament. If you have anything to say, then say it in the House, instead of holding meetings on the street," she said at a huge public meeting at Daudkandi School ground.

"Why should you remain aloof when we have already accepted all your demands?" she said while requesting the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament to take part in the discussion in Parliament, the nerve-centre of all activities.

The ruling party had created every scope for all to talk inside the House, claimed the Leader of the House adding, "If anybody does not tell anything inside the House, then what can we do."

The Prime Minister alleged that the Leader of the Opposition neither took part in the parliamentary debates nor asked any question inside the House.

In this regard, she mentioned the Prime Minister's question hour in parliament, where the Leader of the House replies to any question of the members for 30 minutes every week.

"During the formation of the government, we called for help from all as we want to build up the country with the cooperation of all," she added.

The Prime Minister, who had addressed an international seminar of the engineers at Bausia on the western side of the Meghna-Gumti bridge, went to Daudkandi on the other side to address the public meeting.

**6 sued in Khulna**

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The five officials of Sonali Bank named in the FIR are former General Manager Mahmudul Huq, Assistant Manager Malik Abdul Ahad, Senior Officer Mollah Ekram Hossain, Godownkeeper Altaf Hossain and Godown Inspector Matiar Rahman.

The misappropriation was committed in connivance with the bank officials, the FIR further stated.

were allegations of plundering money against a number of ministers and MPs of the former government.

"They have plundered huge public money," Hasina said alleging that some six to seven crore thousand taka were plundered in the name of development of power sector by a former minister of this locality.

"Cases have been filed against those guys for corruption," she said adding that the people of the country want the trial of the corrupt people.

Referring to the ensuing union parishad elections, the Prime Minister said all concerned will have to take strict measures for ensuring a free and fair election.

Mentioning an incident of setting fire to the homes of villagers at Sadananda, Hasina said those who are responsible for the incident will also be brought to the book.

**Foundation stone of Engineering staff college not laid**

By Staff Correspondent

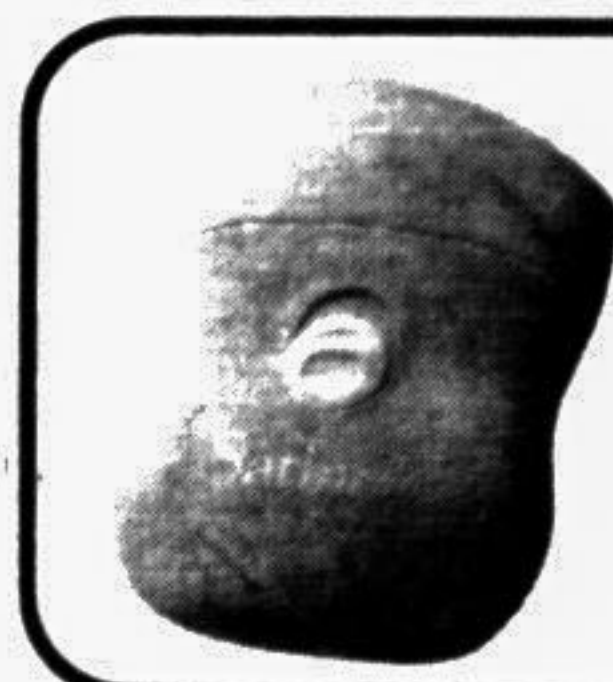
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday did not lay the foundation stone of the proposed Engineering Staff College at Gazaria yesterday, as scheduled earlier, according to engineers attending the function.

This led to resentment among engineers present on the occasion, which also marked the inauguration of a three-day international seminar on "Engineering as Profession in the 21st century".

Diploma engineers have been agitating for quite some time against setting up of the proposed Engineering Staff College.

General Secretary of the Institute of Diploma Engineers AKMA Hamid told The Daily Star that diploma engineers had earlier on Tuesday night withdrawn their 'Black Day' programme as the government had agreed to their demand.

Diploma engineers at a meeting yesterday expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for not laying the foundation stone of the college, Hamid said.



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**Govt committed to 'policy of tolerance': Kibria**

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria reassured the donors that the government would not be found lacking in sincerity or seriousness in its search for national consensus on all major national issues, reports agencies.

He said President Shahabuddin Ahmed is held in the highest regard by the Awami League. "We will certainly respond most positively to any advice or suggestions that he may make for solving any of the major national problems."

In his concluding remarks at the two-day Bangladesh Aid Group meeting, the Finance Minister said the ruling party elected Justice Shahabuddin as President because of "our great respect for him and confidence in him".

Kibria said the government is fully committed to a "policy of tolerance and accommodation in national life" and is also "determined to make parliament the focal point of national consensus on all economic and political issues."

The government have noted the statement of the bilateral donors made on November 3 on the political situation in the country, he said.

Referring to the ban on holding public meetings on the streets, he said the people seem to have accepted the decisions gladly.

"But BNP is saying that this is an example of the government's oppression... It is beyond our understanding how stopping the holding of public meetings on busy streets can be advanced as an example of government's oppressive actions."

Kibria said the practice of holding meetings on the streets which has been going on for years had become the cause of untold sufferings to the general public, aggravating traffic jams in different points of the city.

**Donors pledge \$1.9b**

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sition created this situation," Kibria told a correspondent. He further said he hopes that President Shahabuddin Ahmed's words are listened to by everyone with great respect and promised restraint on the government side.

Kibria said the amount of aid has not been reduced. It remained at the same level with that of last years' pledge, considering appreciation of the dollar and the yen.

The WB press release said, "An overreaching concern throughout the discussion was the recent escalation in confrontational politics that risky jeopardizing the country's development efforts. Bilateral donors expressed deep concern about the growing intolerance and political violence which severely constrained the badly needed political reform process."

"Such strife not only has a huge economic costs today, but also has a significant opportunity cost for the future prosperity of the country by discouraging both foreign private investment and external aid. It is hoped that the current differences would be resolved in parliament, and not by violence."

Answering a question, Nishimizu said the meeting did not take up the human rights issue as such but discussed the

**Road accidents**

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terday. Witnesses said, the accident took place when the Jhenidah-bound tempo, carrying supporters of a UP candidate, collided with the truck coming from opposite direction at Noon.

The dead were identified as Thandu, 35 and Sona Mesh, 40. Critically injured Hamid, 35 and Alam 32, were rushed to Jhenidah Modern Hospital while others admitted to a local clinic. The victims hailed from village Magurpara in Sadar thana.

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oppression on women and law and order. The WB said Bangladesh Aid Group will be renamed Bangladesh Development Forum and the next meeting will be held in Paris in September 1999. Before that there will be an update meeting of representatives of the development partners in Dhaka in April 1998.

At the two-day meeting, the donors' representatives focused on six main topics. These are: Macroeconomics situation and growth prospects; governance, public sector management, and local government reforms; project implementation issues; private sector development; human development and food security.

**Typhoon toll rises to 235 in Vietnam**

HANOI, Nov 5: The confirmed death toll in Vietnam from Typhoon Linda had reached 235 today and nearly 2,500 people are still missing as the country continues rescue and relief operations.

The figures were compiled by AFP after contacting officials from 12 provinces in southern Vietnam.

Ca Mau province, at the southern tip of the country, was worst affected, with 65 dead and more than 2,000 people with whom contact has been lost.

**UP polls**

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center 31 this year. The sources said a total of 21,953 chairman candidates have filed nominations to contest the polls in 4,247 union parishads across the country.

For 12,741 woman seats, a total of 36,087 female candidates have filed nominations while the number of member candidates stood at 1,49,686.

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