BFUJ, DUJ condemn closure of APB

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) have expressed strong resentment and condemned the unilateral announcement of closure of Beximco-run news agency, APB.

In a joint statement issued by BFUJ president Abul Kalam Azad and secretary general Akhter Ahmed Khan and DUJ president Altaf Mahmud and general secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan, the journalists' leaders noted that the news agency was closed abruptly without clearing the payment of arrears salaries of four months.

The decision of closure came at a time when DUJ had been discussing with the agency authorities over existing problems at APB, for a peaceful solution, they said. They blamed the Beximco authorities for taking such decision what it did in the past in the cases of the Muktakantha and the Independent.

Meanwhile, APB unit of the DUJ will hold a protest meeting at the news agency office in the city at 3 pm today.

New DU Club executives

Election of the executive committee of the Dhaka University Club for the year 1999-2000 was held on June 24 during the annual general meeting of the club, says a press release.

The meeting was presided over by the Prof Abul Kalam while the election was conducted by Prof Jalalur Rahman.

The elected office-bearers are: Prof Dr Md Khalilur Rahman — President, Prof Dr S M Mahfuzur Rahman and Prof Nurul Amin Bepari — Vice-Presidents, AKM Ruhul Amin Akand — Treasurer, Prof Dr Tofael Ahmed Chowdhury — Secretary, and M Ziaur Rahman and Abu Musa Md Arif Billah — Joint-Secretaries.

And the members are Prof Dr Md Mufakkharul Islam, Prof Khandker Ashraf Hossain, Prof Dr Jamal Uddin Ahmed, Prof Abu Ahmed, Dr Moin Uddin Kamal, Dr Mujib Uddin Ahmed, Dr Zinat Imtiaz Ali, Dr Emran Kabir Chowdhury, Prof Abul Kalam and Md Hashibur Rashid.

'Better health a must for eradication of poverty'

Global health, poverty and development were the main focus of the deliberations at the Conference of the Global Health Council held in Washington DC from June 20 to 22, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

Former US President Jimmy Carter was the keynote speaker in the conference which was chaired by Fazle Hasan Abed, Founder and Executive Director of BRAC.

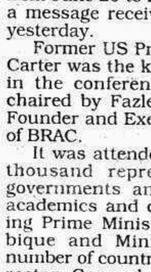
It was attended by over one thousand representatives of governments and NGOs, and academics and donors including Prime Minister of Mozambique and Ministers from a number of countries and the Director General of the World Health Organisation.

Addressing the Conference, Abed pointed out that improvement in health condition was an important prerequisite for eradication of poverty implying that better health meant more rapid growth of the economy.

From a study in Bangladesh on infant and child mortality, he said, it was found that among the children whose mothers were involved in BRAC's programmes of microcredit, health and education the mortality rates reduced by 51 per cent over a period of five years. Similar impact was also found in the rates of malnutrition, he added. There was also a panel discussion on BRAC's approach to development.

Carter highlighted the discrimination in fund allocations among the refugees in developed and developing countries bearing a direct impact on the health and other conditions of such multitude of unfortunate displaced persons.

Death anniversary



The first anniversary of death of freedom fighter and banker Abdul Latif will be observed today, says a press release.

Elder son of late Zulfiquer Ali of Debidar thana in Comilla, Latif was a teacher in the beginning of his career and joined the United Bank of India in 1957.

Later he joined Eastern Mercantile Bank Ltd. He went on retirement in 1988 from Pubali Bank.

He had actively took part in the Language Movement in '52 and in the Mass Upsurge of 1969. He also played a key role in organising the freedom fighters in Naogaon during the Liberation War in 1971.

He was also involved in social work and was advisor of Dhaka City Committee of 'Adhunik' and vice president of Bangladesh 'Nagorik Manobadhiker Parishad' (Bangladesh Citizen Human Right Committee).

Memorial meeting, Khatam-e-Quaran, feeding of destitute and a *Milad Mahfil* will be organised after *Magrib* prayers today at his 14, East Bashabo, Balaka Lane residence in the city.

Govt, donor agencies working to finalise Integrated Framework

Government and donor agencies have initiated work to finalise an Integrated Framework (IF) for Bangladesh to make donor supports for building trade capacity more efficient and effective, reports UNB.

The assessment process began at the country-level workshop held in the city this week with representatives of six international agencies.

The assessment will be finalised through consultations with business, industry and NGOs at a roundtable in Dhaka later this year, said a World Bank press release yesterday in the city.

Bangladesh prepared the needs assessment prior to the high-level meeting in Geneva in 1997, which agreed on the IF.

Besides, the international agencies reviewed trade-related technical assistance under the IF for trade development for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), including Bangladesh.

The meeting of the WTO, World Bank, IMF, UNDP, UNCTAD and ITC was held in Dhaka to underline the importance of the country leadership in this framework of assistance.

The IF initiated by 1996 WTO Ministerial Declaration for a Plan of Action, asked WTO member countries to provide enhanced market access for LDCs' exports and six agencies to provide an IF for trade-related assistance.

The goal of the IF is to help LDCs use trade as an effective means for development and to advance their interests through the WTO.

"Trade fosters the economic growth which is essential to poverty reduction," said Fred Temple, WB's Country Director for Bangladesh at the workshop.

In Bangladesh, promoting trade growth requires the right incentive regimes, overcoming critical infrastructure constraints and strengthening both public and private institutional and human capacities, Temple said.

Five child members of the Rupali Tarar Mela, a juvenile organisation, presented 100 paintings, that denounced war and appealed for peace, to Yoshikazu Kaneko, the Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh at a ceremony held at the Japanese Embassy yesterday.

What's on today . . .

Film show: Zahir Raihan Film Society has organised a retrospective of the Contemporary World Cinema to mark its 13th founding anniversary.

Films: "Before the Rain" by Milcho Manchevsky (Macedonia) at 5 pm and "The Voyage" by Fernando Solanas (Argentina) at 7 pm Venue: German Cultural Centre, Dhanmondi.

Seminar on Budget: North South University (NSU) will hold a seminar on budget '99. Speakers: Prof Hafiz G A Siddiqi, Prof Vice Chancellor, NSU, Prof M Shamsul Haque, Director, MBA Programme & Acting Treasurer, NSU, Dr. Salahuddin Ahmad, Chairman, Department of Economics, NSU and Dr. Mohammad Musa, Pro Vice Chancellor, East West University. Venue: NSU campus. Time: 4 pm.

Film show: The programme 'Focus on European Films' is jointly organised by Chalachitram Film Society and Alliance Francaise. Film: 'La Terra Trema' by Luchino Visconti (Italy). Venue: Alliance Francaise auditorium, Dhanmondi. Time: 6 pm.

Lecture on Science Series: National Museum of Science & Technology (NMST) has organised "Lectures on Popular Science Series."

Subject: The Possibilities of Solar Energy.

Speaker: Prof M Azizul Haque of BUET. Venue: Auditorium of National Museum of Science & Technology, Agargaon, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 4 pm.

Flock holiday: Bangladesh Girl Guides Association has organised a 4-day long 'National Flock Holiday' of the 'Yellow Birds'. 200 yellow birds (6 to 10-year-old school girls) will attend the "Flock Holiday' beginning today. Venue: Guide House, National Headquarters of Association, New Baily Road.

Obituary

Shamsunnahar Begum, wife of SI Shahjahan, a former director of BCIC, died at her residence in the city early yesterday, says a press release.

Author of the book *'Amra O 71-er Newsprint'* , she left behind a son, two daughters, grandchildren and a host of relatives and admirers.

Her *qulkhwani* will be held at her residence at 40/E Indira Road after Asr prayers on Friday.

★ ★ ★ ★

Eminent social worker and industrialist Alhaj Shamser Ali died of old age complications at Dhaka General Hospital in the city Sunday night, family sources said yesterday. He was 87, reports BSS.

The first manufacturer of reenforced concrete pipe in the country Ali was involved in different social activities at Shaympur and Gandaria in the city.

He left behind two sons, three daughters and a host of relatives. He was the father of literateur and educationist Hayat Mamud.

Qulkhwani of Ali will be held at his residence at 102/A, Dinnath Sen Road, Gandaria after *Asr* prayers tomorrow.

★ ★ ★ ★

Syed Abdul Wadud, Administrative officer of the Ministry of Defence died in the city yesterday at the combined Military Hospital (CMH). He was 56, reports BSS.

He was buried at the Agargaon New Colony Jame Masjid Graveyard after Namaz-e-Janaza at Agargaon Jame Masjid.

Prof Monwar dead

Khandaker Monwar Hossain, a retired professor of Statistic Department of Rajshahi University, died of cardiac arrest in Rajshahi on Sunday. He was 70, reports UNB.

He is survived by his wife Hosne Ara Hossain, also a professor of the Rajshahi University, three sons and two daughters.

Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain is the younger brother of Monwar Hossain.

Late Hossain was the founder of Statistic Department of the university, said a press release.

He was buried at his family graveyard in Manikganj, his home district, yesterday.

Meanwhile, BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed profound grief at the death.

In separate messages, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AQM Badrudozza Chowdhury, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Standing Committee Member M Saifur Rahman MP, Fazlur Rahman Patal MP and Harun-or-Rashid MP have also condoled the death of Prof Monwar Hossain.

Obituary

S J A Akhtar Hussain, retired Superintendent of T and T, died of throat cancer yesterday at his Mirpur residence. He was 78, reports BSS.

His *namaj-e-janaza* was held at the Baitus Jajud Jame Masjid, Mirpur after the *Zohr* prayers.

Later his body was taken to Faridpur for burial in his ancestral home in the village of Gerda.

His *qulkhwani* will be held at his residence at House 11, Road 15, Block B, Section 10, Mirpur.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and a grandson.

Optical traders brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding withdrawal of proposed VAT. —Star photo

PM defends growth rate

From Page 1

BKSAL and post-liberation economic programmes of the Bangabandhu government.

The Prime Minister called the proposed national budget a "document of socio-economic development" and said it would encourage indigenous industries.

She said one of the main features of the new budget is to maintain the economic stability despite last year's devastating floods.

The budget did not impose any new tax, barring the expansion of the existing VAT base to consolidate the tax system, she said.

Hasina defended the projected GDP growth of 5.2 per cent for the outgoing fiscal (1998-99) and said the rate of inflation has also been coming down since January last.

Referring to the withdrawal of duty on a number of items, she said reduction of duty on raw materials and intermediate items would encourage the local industries.

The duty structure has been reorganised to check cross-border smuggling while subsidy was given to the agriculture sector withdrawing VAT on seeds, she added.

The Prime Minister said since assumption of power, her government was pursuing economic diplomacy to attract foreign investment to the country.

She also told the House that steps are underway to reduce the trade imbalances with India and other countries.

Referring to her recent talks with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, Hasina said her Indian counterpart had agreed to give zero-tariff access on 25 Bangladeshi export goods to Indian market that, she thought, would help reduce the widening trade gap.

Hasina said increased allocations have been made in the budget for the Defence and Police sectors, which are higher than the allocations of the previous government.

The education sector, she said, got the highest allocation in the budget because overall development is not possible without expanding education.

Claiming the new budget as a means to save the poor people, the Prime Minister said 26.02 per cent of the revenue earning has been earmarked for poverty-alleviation programme.

The garment businessmen were happy with the budgetary proposals for incentives to set up backward linkage industries, she added.

She said the budgetary steps would help create employment through small income generating projects. Tk 100 crore has been allocated for self-employment projects.

The Prime Minister said the government has restored discipline in the banking sector following recommendations by the Banking Reforms committee and so far realized Tk 3000 crore of default loans out of total Tk 11,000 crore.

She said foreign investment of 4.4 billion US dollar has been registered with the Board of Investment (BOI) and Tk 66.42 billion were received as remittance from Bangladeshi expatriates.

Garments worker raped

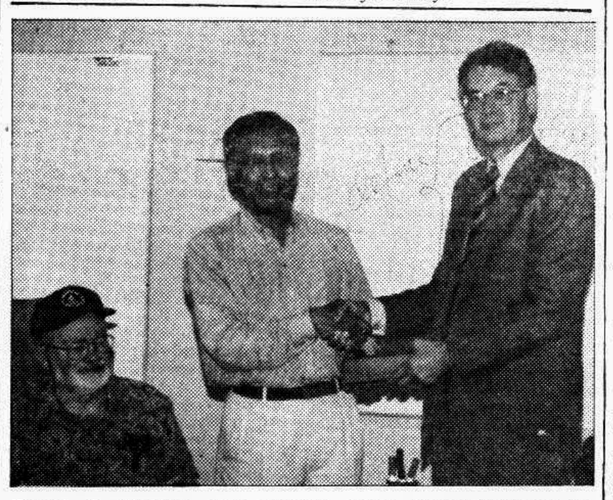
By Staff Correspondent

A teenage garments worker was raped by a gang of youths at Golapbagh under Demra thana in the city on Saturday night.

Police said the 16-year-old victim was returning home along with her two sisters. When they reached near their house, two youths forcibly took them to a house and raped her.

The victim lodged a case with Demra thana in this connection, but none was arrested till writing of this report last night.

Demra police said the girl was produced before the CMM's court yesterday.



David C Walker, the British High Commissioner to Bangladesh, handing over a microphone box to Nayeemul Islam Khan, Executive Director of BCDJC, as a token of a donation of a range of training equipment worth over Tk 3,95,250 given to BCDJC by the British High Commission.

Optical traders observe token strike

By Staff Correspondent

Optical shopowners observed a token strike yesterday keeping their shutters down from morning till 2 pm to protest the imposition of VAT and raising of tariff on raw materials used in optical industries in the new budget.

Bangladesh Optical Traders and Industries Association called the strike which was also followed by a protest meeting at the National Press Club auditorium, says a press release of the association.

Addressing the meeting, Abdul Haque, a director of FBCCI, said that imposing VAT at retail level was not logical in the context of prevailing business condition of the country.

Association president Nazrul Islam, vice-president Sheikh Abul Khair, and general secretary Fazlul Haque Jewel also addressed the meeting.

The meeting decided to continue the strike until the VAT was withdrawn from optical shops.

The optical businessmen also brought out a procession in the city and submitted a memorandum to the president of FBCCI.

KU students call indefinite strike

KHULNA, June 28: Students of the Khulna University (KU) called strike for an indefinite period on the campus from tomorrow demanding that a female dormitory be named after freedom fighter Taramon Bibi, reports UNB.

University sources said the students of the University named the newly built dormitory after the name of Taramon Bibi, Bir Pratik, and put up a signboard on the hall premises on February 14 this year.

But a group of outsiders on June 19 damaged the signboard.

To protest the incident, KU students boycotted the classes and laid siege to VC's office for two hours from 11 am today.

British grant for BCDJC

British High Commissioner to Bangladesh David C Walker yesterday presented equipment worth Tk 3,95,250 to Bangladesh Centre for Development Journalism and Communication (BCDJC), reports BSS.

The equipment for BCDJC includes a video cassette recorder, a video camera and its accessories, a colour television set and a public address system, a press release of the British High Commission said in the city yesterday.

Since 1997, the BCDJC, a non-government organisation, received three separate grants from the High Commission for publication of 'The Bangladesh Journalism Review", organising training courses and workshops, under "Women in Journalism programme and media monitoring," the release added.

Jatiya Sangsad tidbits

From page 12

actually, on both sides. An unperturbed Nasim did not waste time in cleaning up his act as he was too absorbed blasting the opposition that was severe about his performance.

A House attendant put a piece of tissue paper on the minister's desk, at one point. There was not even a blink from the minister: His eyes transfixed on the opposition benches.

Suranjit Sen Gupta, prime minister's adviser on parliamentary affairs', sitting beside him, offered the enraged minister, the precious tissue paper. It was only then that Nasim found time to clean his mouth. .

His half-hour harangue over, a relieved Nasim was seen blissfully rubbing his entire face with his handkerchief.

Commenting on the home minister's highly charged delivery, BNP lawmaker Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said, "Had the home minister shouted at the police the way he has done at us, people could have lived in peace... high pitched talk does not necessarily translate as truth."

★ ★ ★ ★

Alleging corruption in the Facilities' Department's office (Directorate of Education) in his constituency (Jhalakathi), Jatiya Party MP Zulfikar Ali Bhutto remarked: The department has failed to do live upto its name. "I don't find any facility for the people (by the Facilities' Department). .... All facilities go to the executive engineer."

In his taunting speech, the JP lawmaker claimed seeing a presidium member of Awami League enjoying officious protocol. He also accused the ruling party leader of sending police officers to arrest him and threaten his life.

Wondering about the power of the AL leader, the JP MP said, "Is he a relative of *Azrail* (the Angel Gabriel) that he wants to claim my life? Although Bhutto could identify the Angel he did not mention the *avatar*'s name.

★ ★ ★ ★

BNP lawmaker M Morshed Khan advised the finance minister not to call one simply a defaulter who grabs the money of the bank he owns. "Such a person should be called moneylooter, not a loan defaulter," he said while blaming the minister for not being fair in dealing financial crimes.

★ ★ ★ ★

Suspended from BNP for a year, Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman had to seek Speaker's protection for his right to speak on the proposed budget. Finding his name missing from the BNP legislators' list, Akhtar wrote to Speaker Humayun Rasheed Chowdhury to participate in the budget discussion.

Allowing the deviant BNP MP to speak for five minutes, Chowdhury told the House, "As Speaker, it's my responsibility to protect the rights of all members. Therefore, I give him five minutes -- the minimum time given to any member."

The treasury bench enthusiastically cheered the opposition deputy but those from his own party were not amused.

Taking the floor, Akhtar used the opportunity to deny the statement made by AL deputies that he was the victim of assault by some of his BNP colleagues in the parliament lobby on Saturday.

Shazneen murder

From Page 1

lawyers.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, a leading industrialist of the country, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23 last year. ASP Mujibur Rahman of CID who is the investigating officer of the murder case, lodged the case under Woman and Child Repression Prevention Act, 1995 with Gulshan thana.

Earlier, Latifur Rahman filed a murder case with the same thana. The trial of the murder has already been started at the Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court.

In the charge sheets of both the cases, police accused seven persons -- domestic help Shahid, contractor Hasan, supervisor Badal, carpenter Shani Ram, guard Humayun Kabir and maids – Parveen and Minu. Of the accused, guard Humayun Kabir died of a cardiac arrest on January 11.

The accused six were produced before the court yesterday. During yesterday's proceedings, advocate Saika Ferdous, assistant of Mosharraf Hossain Kajal, the lawyer for maids Parveen and Minu, submitted the time prayer before the judge Tapan Kumar Rudra.

In the prayer, the advocate mentioned that the High Court was likely to pass the order of the criminal appeal on June 30.

Earlier, Kajal filed an appeal in the High Court seeking to set aside the order of the Special Court that framed charges against his clients in the Shazneen rape case.

The court adjourned the proceedings of the case till July 28 after hearing both the sides.

Alleged terrorist snatched from police: 4 hurt

By Staff Correspondent

Four policemen were injured when a group of local youths attacked them and snatched an alleged terrorist, who was arrested with firearms, from the police in the city's Gopibagh area Sunday night.

The injured policemen were identified as SI Abu Taher, Naik Dilip, constables — Yunus and Ayub. They were admitted to Razarbagh Police Hospital.

According to police, acting on a tip-off, a team of Motijheel police arrested Nayan, 26, from the RK Mission Road at about 9.30 pm Sunday. A revolver with six round of bullets was recovered from his possession.

When an SI of the team went to a nearby telephone booth to contact his senior officials, the about fifty local youths surrounded the policemen.

The group then started hurling brickbats at police. At one stage, the attackers matched Nayan with handcuffs around his wrists from the custody of the policemen.

Police failed to catch Nayan again till filing of this report last night. None, however, was arrested in connection with the attack on policemen till last night.

Saifur

From Page 1

Paris the Finance Minister gave a figure and only few weeks afterwards it was suddenly elevated to 5.2 per cent. It was beyond the guess of people how a crop alone could make a dramatic change."

"It is not that wrong. May be, it's true. If the government wants, let it continue to say, but it is for the people whether to believe or not," said the finance minister of BNP government who had authored seven budgets.

On the debate over new taxes, the BNP leader said he believed that it was a difference of perception between the finance minister and "us".

"But, I believe that any tax imposed on people through the finance bill will be a new tax whether levied by existing laws or a new law."

The national budget can be called "a document of stagnation."

Because of the continuous revenue deficit, inflation and exchange-rate adjustments, he observed, the development budget has not increased in real terms.

On the other hand, uncontrolled expenditure against declining tax collection aggravated the situation. "If it continues, I can tell you, country's future is not encouraging."

Blaming the government for stalling the reform process, the former finance minister said only because of stagnancy in reforms, the donors did not release their committed aid. As a result, the government had to borrow from banks. He said, over 6-7 billion US dollars in low-interest aid were in pipeline.

He urged the finance minister to be courageous to implement the committed reforms to make the pledged aid available for development of the country.

Regarding extension of VAT net, he said the value-added tax had been derailed through the proposed budget.

"VAT is for collecting revenue, not for protecting local industry. Protection could be made only by import duties."

Robbery in city

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of robbers looted money, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 2.65 lakh at gunpoint from a residence at Humayun Road under Mohammedpur thana in the city yesterday morning.

Police said a gang of miscreants numbering four stormed into the house of one Farooq Hossain at Humayun Road at about 10.30 am yesterday and looted money, gold ornaments weighing 8 tolas, a mobile phone and other valuables.

BNP protest rally today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP will hold a public rally to protest the proposed national budget at No. 1 Mirpur government primary school playground today at 4 pm.

The rally has jointly been organised by Mirpur, Pallabi and Kafrul thana units. BNP has termed the new budget as "anti-people and exploitory".

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan will address the rally as chief guest while city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka as special guest, said a press release.

Meanwhile, Sadek Hossain Khoka in a press statement yesterday strongly protested the attack on ward commissioner Ahsanullah Hasan's office and ward BNP office.

DAB demands withdrawal of VAT

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion in the city yesterday criticised imposition of VAT in the health sector and other service sectors in the proposed budget.

This would add to the suffering of large number of 'poor people' in the country, they said and demanded immediate withdrawal of VAT.

Doctors Association of Bangladesh DAB organised the discussion at the national press club auditorium which was addressed, among others, by former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emazuddin Ahmed, Abu Hena MP,

Seminar begins at JU

By JU Correspondent

A two-day seminar on different social and cultural issues began at the Jahangirnagar University yesterday.

Organised by Arts Faculty, the programme was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Alauddin Ahmed.

Chairman of department of International Relations prof Ataur Rahman Khan presided over the session. Dean of Arts Faculty Prof Taibul Hasan Khan delivered the welcome speech while Chairman of department of English Ahmed Reza conducted the session.

Three different seminars were held on the first day. Dr. AKM Shahnawazi of archaeology presented the keynote paper on "Ancient Bengal's Terracotta Sculpture: An analysis". Dr Mozammel Haq discussed the topic.

ATM Atiqur Rahman of History presented the keynote of the second seminar entitled "The Socialist Nucleus of 1962: A review." Dr M Nurul Islam discussed the issue.

"The Melville-myth and the Myths of Melville: Trauma, Stakes and Politics" was the topic of the third seminar with Neamat Imam, a lecturer of English, presenting the keynote. Md Moniruzzaman discussed the topic.

JU Senate session today

By JU Correspondent

The annual Senate session of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will be held today at the Council Room of the Administrative Building.

Vice Chancellor of the university Prof Alauddin Ahmed will preside over the session. A total of 87 senate members are likely to attend the meeting.

Treasurer Prof Shariff Enamul Kabir will present the annual budget for 1999-2000 fiscal before the Senate.

JCD countrywide demonstration today

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of main opposition BNP, will submit memoranda to the Deputy Commissioners (DC) in different districts and stage demonstrations across the country today to press home its 12-point demand.

The demands include lowering prices of educational materials, prioritising the education sector in the national budget, introducing an education policy keeping pace with 21st century, constructing more residential halls, providing job opportunity for the students, and immediate release of all arrested JCD leaders and activists.

Meanwhile, in a statement Habib-Un-Nabi Sohel and Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu, JCD president and general secretary respectively, demanded immediate release of four JCD leaders at Nilphamary including its Domar thana unit general secretary Abul Kalam Azad.

3 injured in Barisal bomb blast

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 28: Three garbage cleaners of Barisal Municipality were injured as a bomb exploded during cleaning of garbage heaps at Henmayet Uddin Road in the town amid heavy downpour at about 11:30 am today.

Witnesses said the powerful bomb went off suddenly when three garbage cleaners — Halim, 31, Panna, 24, and Kabir, 27, were engaged in cleaning the area.

Kabir was released after first aid while Halim and Panna were admitted to hospital in critical condition.

BCS Gen Edn Assoc executives

By Staff Correspondent

A 79-member executive committee of the BCS Sadharan Shikkha Samity (BCS General Education Association) has been elected with Prof Jahanara Begum and Prof Mohammad Kafil Uddin as its president and general secretary respectively.

Former DG of the Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Prof Hamida Banu announced the new committee as the chief election commissioner at a press conference at Dhaka College yesterday afternoon.

Dr Banu was supported by Prof Anwarul Haque of Jagannath University College and former Principal of Jhalkathi College Dr Kudrat-e-Khuda as the election commissioners in conducting the polls held across the country on June 19.

A total of 3295 voters constituting 73.2 per cent of the total voters of 4500 cast votes in the election at 61 centres across the country.

This is for the first time, the executive committee of the association has been elected through direct votes.

Under the BCS Education cadre, there are around 8000 college teachers in 233 colleges, 10 teachers' training colleges and three Aleya Madrassahs.

Among the new executives, vice president Prof Khurshid Jahan, joint secretary general Fahima Khatun, organising secretary Nazim Uddin and former president of the association Prof Janab Ali were present at the press conference.