



## BNP road march to start from Shanir Akhra

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia will lead a road march from Dhaka to Brahmanbaria on November 1, said a party press release yesterday.

The party chief will address a public meeting at the city's Shanir Akhra, prior to beginning the road march and also address the roadside rallies, the release added.

The party has made some changes in its programme of holding public meetings during the road march.

As per the changed programme, the road march will begin from Shanir Akhra in the city at about 9:30 am. A public meeting will be held at the venue prior to the march.

On way to Brahmanbaria, Khaleda Zia is scheduled to address rallies at Devidwar High School ground and Companyganj under Muradpur thana.

The road march will end the same afternoon following a public meeting at the Niaz Muhammad Khan School and College field, the press release said.

## JU reopening: Joint meeting on Nov 1

By JU Correspondent

Jahangirnagar University (JU) authorities have called a meeting of deans, provosts, chairmen of departments, the proctor and other teachers at the Senate Hall on November 1 to discuss re-opening of the university.

Vice-Chancellor Prof Alauddin Ahmed will preside over the meeting.

Recommendations of the meeting will be forwarded to the Syndicate, the supreme authority to take a decision on the matter. But, date for the Syndicate meeting has not been fixed, campus sources said yesterday.

The sources said there is a possibility of re-opening of the university after the ongoing admission of students.

Meanwhile, the Admission Fee Hike Resistance Committee (AFHRC) has called a rally of guardians of JU students on November 1 to press immediate re-opening of JU and withdrawal of enhanced admission fees.

Sources in the AFHRC said, See Page 12 Col 2

## New phone, fax numbers of The Daily Star

The telephones and fax numbers of The Daily Star have been changed with the conversion of six digits into seven digits from Friday mid-night.

The new telephone numbers are: 8616771, 8616772, 8616773, 8616774, 8614670, 8613036. The fax number is 8613035.

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By Harun ur Rashid

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### Prayer Timings

October 30

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5:00	5:30
Zohr	12:45	1:20
Asr	4:00	4:15
Maghrib	5:30	5:35
Esha	7:15	7:45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Talks with C'wealth team Musharraf's 'no' to time frame for civilian rule

ISLAMABAD, Oct 29: Pakistan's military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf refused today to give a Commonwealth delegation a time frame for a return to democracy, reports AP.

"My response was I can't give any time table for a certain reason not for any malevolent intention, but the reason was I have set myself certain objectives and I am targeting those objectives," Musharraf told reporters following the meeting.

He said he first wants to revive the ailing economy and clean up the country's corrupt politics and create an atmosphere for democracy to flourish.

"I wish there was a computer where I could feed all these ob-

jectives and the computer could give me a time frame, but since there is no such computer I cannot give a time frame," he said.

There was no immediate comment from the Commonwealth delegation which is in Pakistan to press for an early return to democratic rule. The

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delegation is led by Canada's Foreign Minister Lloyd Axworthy, who also asked to see deposed premier Nawaz Sharif.

But Musharraf said that wasn't possible, however, he offered the delegation a telephone call with the ousted prime minister. Axworthy reportedly waited one hour for the tele-

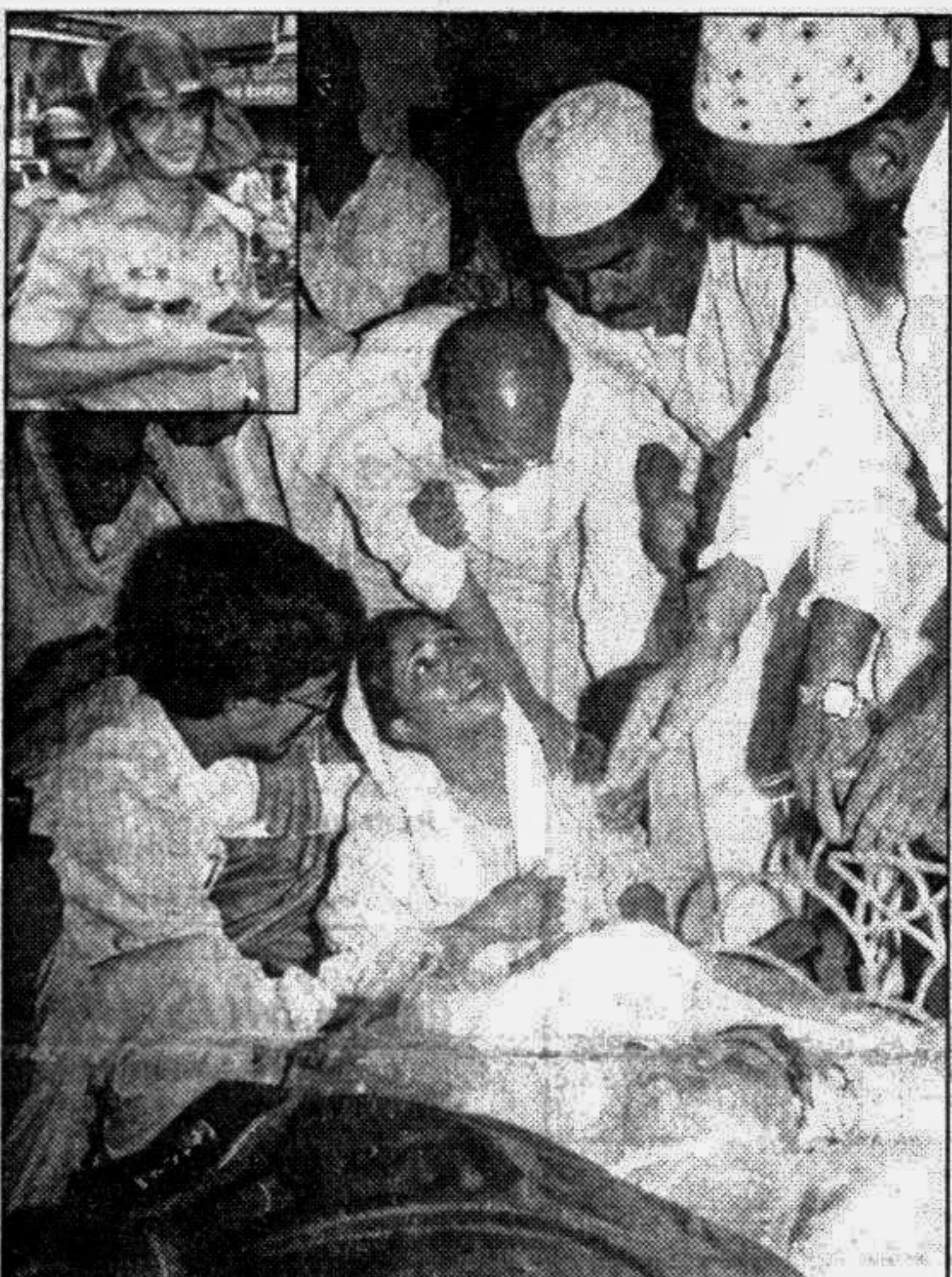
phone call which he did not receive. It wasn't clear whether it would be rescheduled.

The army chief has resisted pressure to say when Pakistan will return to democracy.

"I think this (Commonwealth) team went away satisfied... that whatever we are doing it is in the interest of Pakistan and these are the aspirations of the people," the army chief said.

Civilian members of the new military regime have told delegation members that their setup is not martial law because civil rights remain intact, as well as press freedoms and the judiciary.

The Commonwealth, which See Page 12 Col 2



Wife wailing over the body of Ahad Parvez (inset — in uniform), who was murdered near Shapla Chattar on Thursday. —Star photo

## Murder of police sergeant: 2 held

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were arrested yesterday in connection with the killing of a police sergeant, Ahad Parvez, in the city's Shapla Chattar area on Thursday night.

The arrested were identified as Humayun Kabir and Mafizur Rahman.

Ahad, 40, was scheduled to leave for East Timor on November 3 as a member of the UN peacekeeping force. Earlier, he participated in UN peace-keeping in Cambodia.

Ahad had also received the President's Award for outstanding performance.

Ahad was fatally injured when he was struck on the head with a machete by a gang of fleeing muggers. He had followed the gang of eight who were fleeing in an auto-rickshaw.

The incident took place at about 8:15 pm near Shapla Chattar, where Ahad was on duty.

Ahad was first rushed to the Rajarbagh Police Lines hospital. He was later taken to the PG hospital and then to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH). See Page 11 Col 7



Bangladesh opener Javed Omar square drives during the one-day match against England A at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday. —Star photo

## Hosts disappoint again

Al-Amin

Captain cool Mark Alleyne scored an unbeaten half-century to guide the visiting England A to an exciting five-wicket win over Bangladesh with five balls to spare in the Starship day-night limited-over match at the Bangabandhu National Stadium yesterday.

The Gloucestershire all-rounder remained unbeaten on 66 as the second string England side chased a modest Bangladesh total of 226 in the stipulated 50 overs.

The visitors needed 12 runs from the last two overs, but Alleyne stood out like a true professional to fuse the soaring spirit of the boisterous home crowd, making ten runs in the 49th with wicketkeeper Rob Turner to effectively seal the fate of the match.

The stocky right-hander then whacked Aminul Jr for a four down the mid-on boundary in the first ball of the final over to overcome the target, putting England on 229 for five.

The victory kept England's unbeaten tour status intact.

Alleyne, who had earlier captured a wicket with his medium pace, was declared man-of-the-match by adjudicator former captain Shafiqul Haq. Alleyne also won the Channel-10 top-score award. Al-Shahriar won the Akker Awaz 'catch of the match' See Page 12 Col 7

## Thus they spoiled the whole soup

A training on quality control of frozen food in US fails to take place

By Rafiq Hasan

An offer for training of some quality control officials of the Department of Fisheries in the US was cold-shouldered by the ministry allegedly due to lack of its representation in the team.

The offer, made by the US-AID funded Agro-based Industries and Technology Development Programme (ATDP), particularly aimed at ensuring quality of frozen food including shrimp exported to the US and European countries, sources said.

The training is necessary for maintaining Hazard Analysis Critical Control Point (HACCP), one of the pre-conditions for frozen food export from Bangladesh, they said.

The proposal was made to the Department of Fisheries in August. It was forwarded to the ministry for approval. But some high officials of the ministry allegedly proposed that their names be included in the team, which the sponsors thought 'unnecessary and wastage of money', the sources said.

So the ministry refrained from making any correspon-

dence regarding the matter despite repeated requests.

"The programme is for technical persons and has nothing to do with policy makers. How the ministry officials would be benefited by such a training on quality control?", one source asked.

When contacted Fisheries Secretary Ayub Quadri expressed his ignorance about any such offer from the ATDP. He, however, recalled that there was a proposal by the ATDP much earlier to send some officials abroad with a trade delegation, which was not acceptable to the government. "Government officials can't go abroad with traders," he said.

The sources claimed that quality control officials who are directly involved in maintenance of quality of exportable frozen food did not have any basic training abroad although the exporters availed a number of foreign tours under the ATDP for practical knowledge. But Ayub Quadri said that the fisheries officials were given See Page 11 Col 8

## Sechhasebak League leader shot dead

By Staff Correspondent

Convener of Awami Sechhasebak League Dhanmudi unit was shot dead by unidentified assailants inside a room of a community centre in the city's Green Road staff quarters area Thursday night.

The dead was identified as Sarwar Hossain Hiru, 25, son of Abdul Jobbar, a resident of Green Road area, police said.

According to police, a gang of about eight assailants shot Hiru inside a room on the first floor of the a community centre on Thursday night and escaped the scene.

None, however, was arrested in this connection till last night. Brother of the victim filed a murder case with Dhanmudi thana.

## Sylhet JCD activist shot dead

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 29: An activist of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal was shot dead by some unidentified assailants near his house in Peer Mohalla area of Sylhet town this afternoon.

The victim, Jagul Ahmed, a student of second year B.Com at the Madan Mohan College was called out of his residence at about 2:30 pm by a group of assailants, family sources said.

They first shot him and then stabbed severely in presence of pedestrians. The victim succumbed to his injuries in the Operation Theatre of the M A G Osmani Medical College Hospital at about 3:30 pm, sources said.

The Sylhet district unit of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal blamed BCL for the killing.

JCD protesting the murder held a rally at the Court Point in the evening. The leaders at the rally demanded arrest of the killers within 24 hours.

The JCD will brought out a mourning procession in the town tomorrow.

## Mysterious death of housemaid

By Staff Correspondent

Mystery shrouds the death of a housemaid in the city's Nababkhatra area under Kotwali police station yesterday evening.

The dead was identified as Rina, 10, who hailed from Rangpur. She used to work as a housemaid at 26 Nababkhatra under Kotwali area.

Hospital sources said that Rina was brought to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 5:30 pm and she died at about 6:15 pm at the hospital. Attendants said that she died of consumption of poison.

Hospital sources, quoting neighbours, said that the See Page 11 Col 8

## Case against Shikdar, Khulna arms dealer

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 29: A case was filed with Khulna thana today accusing Ershad Shikdar and Molla Mansur Rahman, proprietor of Molla S. Ahmed & Co in the city that deals in arms and ammunition.

Sub-Inspector Zahid of Sonadanga thana filed the case under Section 20 of the Arms Act. The FIR stated that the arms

dealer sold a 7.62 mm Chinese pistol to Shikdar unlawfully on October 17, 1990. Neither Shikdar had a licence for a 7.62 mm pistol nor Mansur had any legal authority to sell this kind of pistol to him, the FIR stated.

The Chinese pistol was recovered along with a double barrel gun on Thursday night from a secret cellar at Swarnakamal, Shikdar's house. Mansur is absconding since recovery of the pistol.

Meanwhile, the Mayor of Khulna City Corporation has sent an official letter to the LGED Ministry requesting for removal of Shikdar from the post of ward commissioner for remaining absent from meetings since 1996 without showing any reason.

Police, quoting Shikdar's youngest wife Shova, today said that huge gold ornaments and other precious metals kept in the secret cellar were taken away by his first wife Khodeja who is now absconding along with her two sons and a daughter. Police are hunting Khodeja.

See Page 11 Col 8

## Tk one crore budget for DU convocation

By Abul Kalam Azad

The Dhaka University authorities are making all efforts for holding the first ever general convocation after independence of the country in a peaceful and festive manner.

Elaborate programmes have been taken up for successful holding of the 40th convocation, scheduled for December 18. Convocation was last held in 1970.

A central committee headed by Vice-chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury and 11 sub-committees have been formed for holding the convocation. The committee and the sub-committees are now holding meetings regularly to resolve the problems and review the progress in this regard.

The day-long programme for the convocation will begin at DU Physical Health Complex at 10 am.

A colourful convocation procession will be brought out on the campus. Budget for the convocation has been estimated at Tk 98 lakh. See Page 11 Col 8

The DU will confer honorary doctorate degrees on Nobel Laureate economist Prof Amartya Sen and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for their respective contribution.

Amartya Sen has consented to attend the convocation and receive the Doctorate of Science (Honoris Causa) degree for his outstanding contribution to human knowledge in general and to the discipline of economics in particular.

Honorary Doctorate degree will be conferred on Hasina for her contribution to establishment of national, regional and world peace, poverty alleviation, women empowerment and democratisation of the country.

Prominent personalities in the country including ministers, chiefs of political parties, former renowned alumni, chamber leaders and senior journalists will be invited to the convocation ceremony.

Vice-chancellors of famous foreign universities including See Page 11 Col 8

## Tale of 'filthy' footbridges in Ctg

From Nurul Alam



Condition of the footbridge in front of Municipal School near Chittagong New Market. —Star photo

CHITTAGONG, Oct 27: Three footbridges built here at a huge cost over one and a half decades ago remained almost unused from the very beginning due to odd location.

Built by Chittagong Development Authority (CDA) the footbridges in front of Municipal High School near New Market, on Station Road and Port Road near Barik Building have turned into dens of gamblers, snatchers, gay girls and other anti-social elements.

Besides, these are filled with filth, human excreta and dirt, as many floating people stay there.

People hardly use the footbridges also fearing attacks by snatchers and such other elements.

Many people were mugged on or near those, it is alleged. Floating people are often seen bathing or washing clothes on the bridges. Different companies have put up their signboards on both sides of those. When contacted CDA offi-