

**BUY NOW - PAY LATER**

**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES USA  
Gas Cooker

Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized distributor for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

# The Daily Star

**Tally**  
DOTMATRIX PRINTERS  
FOR  
SUPERB PRINT QUALITY



LIBRA COMPUTER AID  
Tel: 8112881, 8110821, 8112806, 8112282, 8112384

VOL. X NO. 303 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2000

3rd Millennium

AGRAHAYAN 8, 1407 BS

SHABAN 25, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

## Zia pioneered state terrorism, Nasim tell JS

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim has branded late President Ziaur Rahman as the pioneer of state terrorism in the country.

Speaking in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, the home minister also accused Zia and deposed President H. M. Ershad of grabbing power through terrorism.

The country's youth community started plunging into the abyss of terrorism and drug addiction since the early '80s following capture of state power at gunpoint by Zia and Ershad, he claimed.

Linking Zia's ascend to power to the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the minister viewed that Zia, as beneficiary of the killing, should also be tried along with the self-confessed killers who he had rewarded.

Nasim's comments came hot on the heels of comments made by BNP's expelled lawmaker Major (ret'd) Akhtaruzzaman who

See page 11 col 6

## 3 bills passed

Parliament yesterday passed three Bills, including one providing for welfare trust for non-government primary school teachers, reports UNB.

The Bills are Non-government Primary School Welfare Trust Bill, Securities and Exchange Commission (Amendment) Bill, 2000 and the Drugs Control (Amendment) Bill, 2000.

Education Minister ASHK Sadeq who initiated the Non-government Primary School Welfare Trust Bill hoped that it would give financial benefit to about 75,000 non-government primary teachers of the country.

A Board will administer the proposed Trust. The Secretary of the Mass and Primary Education will be its Chairman.

The Securities and Exchange Commission Bill, piloted by Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, provides measures to make the Commission stronger and more disciplined.

The Drugs Control Bill moved by Home Minister Mohammad Nasim, will make the existing law update to keep pace with various

See page 12 col 1

## 18 audit reports placed in JS

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday placed 18 audit reports in Jatiya Sangsad, conducted by the Comptroller of Audit and Accounts on different government departments and public sector organisations, reports BSS.

The performance audit reports, special audit reports and annual audit reports of those organisations and departments have been placed in line with clause 132 of the Constitution.

The departments and organisations on which the audit reports were placed in the House included National Book Centre (1993-97), Agriculture Rehabilitation Project (1995-96), BKSP (1983-84), 17 offices under the Forest Department (1990-96), Land Revenue Collection (1994-96), Bangladesh Cable Ship Ltd (1994-95) default loans in Bangladesh Shipha Rin Sangstha (1997-98), Essential Drugs Co (1997-98), Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (1997-98), Land Management and License Fee Realisation of Bangladesh Railway (1997-98), Islami University (1997-98), Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution (1997-98), Water Resources Ministry (1997-98), Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Ministry

See page 11 col 6

## Inside Today Article

**PM Feels Let Down by Babu Raj**

Column: Between the Lines  
By Kuldip Nayar  
Page 4

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 22		5.11 pm
Nov 23	6-19 am	

## Prayer Timings November 22

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-35
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-45	4-00
Maghrib	5-18	5-23
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia exchanging pleasantries at a function at Senakunja in Dhaka Cantonment on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day yesterday.

-PID photo

## Finally they talk

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia yesterday exchanged pleasantries when they sat side by side at the Armed Forces Day function at Senakunja in Dhaka Cantonment.

Khaleda Zia and her party leaders boycotted last year's function protesting the way she was invited by the Armed Forces Division.

At yesterday's function, Hasina and Khaleda were together for over half an hour from 7pm, but they did not talk politics.

UNB adds: The Prime Minister inquired about the health of her arch political rival who is suffering from knee pain for quite a long time now.

Television camera and press photographers waited long to record the event.

Khaleda arrived at the reception venue at 6:05 pm. Hasina's motorcade went there at around 6:30 pm.

After delivering her speech

from a small rostrum built on the lawn, the Prime Minister was taken to presentation line where she talked to dignitaries and exchanged greetings of the Armed Forces Day.

Hasina then proceeded to the

VIP enclosure where Khaleda was

**PM reiterates call to opposition to join Sangsad**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday reiterated her call to the opposition members to join the parliamentary proceedings showing respect to the democratic and constitutional norms, reports BSS.

Replying to a supplementary question from Nurul Islam Nahid (AL-Sylhet), she expressed the hope that the opposition would refrain from destructive activities which cause sufferings to the

See page 12 col 5

sitting with her party leaders M Saifur Rahman and Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. The Prime Minister went close to Begum Zia and flashed her usual smile. Khaleda reciprocated.

Wearing a light sky-colour sari Hasina sat beside Khaleda who was wearing a bottle-green sari.

Hasina also invited Khaleda to take sweets and snacks. Khaleda took a small piece of sliced cake. Hasina took cake and tea.

The Chief Justice sat on the left of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition sat on her right. Ministers and leaders of Awami League and BNP also sat under the canopy around the two leaders.

Hasina then exchanged greetings with diplomats and dignitaries standing in queues. Khaleda sitting in her sofa also exchanged greetings with them. At around 7:45 pm, the Prime Minister said goodbye to Khaleda and left the reception.



Visitors at a stall of the BATEXPO 2000, the three-day fair which was inaugurated yesterday at Sonargaon Hotel. Story on page 6

-Star photo

## Papers on share scam cases yet to reach lower court

Hearing for charge-framing now on November 29

By M Shamsur Rahman

Although six months have elapsed since the Appellate Division passed its judgement, the documents on the three 1996 share scam cases did not reach the lower court till yesterday, resulting in further delay in hearing for charge-framing.

The three cases involving Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Shineeupur Holdings and Doha Securities came up for hearing at the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court yesterday but Judge Mollah Mustafa Kamal had to reschedule the hearing as case documents did not reach the court.

The judge fixed November 29 for the next hearing on the cases, which were filed in 1997.

Prosecution lawyer Dr Mohammad Ali persuaded the judge to allow hearing, saying that he obtained certified copy of the Appellate Division judgement.

But the judge refused, saying he can not allow hearing without case documents in his court. "Besides, it will raise new controversy," he said.

He also advised the prosecution to pursue the relevant authorities so that the case documents reach the court.

The judge said his court does not have the juris-

diction to pursue it. "We can only hear the case when we receive the documents but can not help in transfer of case documents," he said.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court had passed the judgement on May 15 this year rejecting a High Court judgement and ruled that hearing of the three cases would be held at the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Court.

The accused in the cases are Sohail F Rahman, Salman F Rahman and DH Khan of Beximco Pharmaceuticals; Sohail F Rahman, Salman F Rahman and AEM Siddiqui Rahman of Shineeupur and AKM Shamsuddin of Doha Securities.

The three companies along with 12 others were accused of manipulating stock prices in 1996 when the stock market nose-dived to an unexpected low after reaching unreasonable heights. As a result, thousands of investors lost all their savings.

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) later formed an expert committee to probe the matter. Fifteen complaint cases were filed against the accused directors of listed companies and brokerage

See page 11 col 1

## Anne cautions Stopping child labour would rather worsen situation

Princess Anne has cautioned that the temptation to stop child labour would mainly shift the problem from work to much worse conditions on the streets, reports UNB.

"It shifts the problem from work, which is even under reasonable conditions in factories, to potentially much worse conditions on the streets," said The Princess Royal, the daughter of the Queen of Britain, who arrived in the city yesterday on a three-day visit.

Her comments conflict with the US Harkin Bill that threatened import boycott unless child labour was eliminated from workplaces.

The 50-year-old Princess came up with the observations at a discussion meeting on child labour at a local hotel. The Bangladesh chapter of Save the Children (UK) and the Metropoli

See page 11 col 6

## Liaison body meeting could not be held

By Staff Correspondent

A scheduled meeting of the Central Liaison Committee of BNP-led opposition alliance could not be held yesterday as majority of representatives of the component parties did not turn up.

The meeting was scheduled to begin at 11am at 29, Minto Road to finalise action programmes to be announced at opposition's "grand" public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city on Thursday.

BNP leaders M Shamsul Islam and Anwar Zahid, Jatiya Party leader ABM Golam Mostafa and Jamaat-e-Islami leaders Ali Ahsanul Uddin, Abdul Qader Mollah and ATM Azharul Islam turned up in time. But none from Islami Olkya Jote turned up till 1:30pm.

After waiting for long, Golam Mostafa left the venue. Azharul Islam also left at about 12:45pm.

Sources said Shamsul Islam and Anwar Zahid made a number of phone calls to other representatives of the component parties.

See page 11 col 6

## SC takes up Ershad's petition for hearing

By Special Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday took up for hearing a petition for leave to appeal by former president HM Ershad against his sentence for five years and a fine of Tk 5.5 crore in Janata Tower case.

Ershad surrendered to trial court on Monday and was taken to Dhaka Central Jail. The High Court confirmed his conviction by the trial court in August this year but reduced the jail term to five years from seven years. It found him guilty of fraudulently obtaining a commercial plot at Karwan Bazar to build the tower.

As the Appellate Division partly heard the leave to appeal petition yesterday, Ershad's lawyers could not move a bail petition.

Barrister Rafiqul Huq, Barrister Maudud Ahmed and Advocate Khandaker Mahub Hossain

See page 11 col 1

## Sedition case Hearing on charge framing against Adel Jan 1

By Court Correspondent

The Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed January 1 for hearing on charge framing in a sedition case against Jahangir Mohammad Adel and his two sons on charge of hoisting a Pakistani national flag atop his residence in the city on August 14.

Judge Hrishikesh Saha adjourned the proceedings of the case following a time prayer by the defence lawyers.

Advocate T M Akbar, lawyer of the accused submitted three petitions before the court the first for fresh bail of Jahangir Mohammad Adel, the second for bail of Zohayer Mohammad Adel and the third for time of hearing charge against the accused.

District PP Mohammad Ali opposed all the petitions.

After hearing both the sides, the court granted fresh bail to Jahangir Mohammad Adel upon

See page 12 col 8



Princess Anne addresses a discussion meeting at a city hotel yesterday to mark the publication of "Big Business, Small Hands: Responsible Approaches To Child Labour." The meeting was organised jointly by the Bangladesh Chapter of Save the Children (UK) and the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

-Star photo

## BB drive against loan defaulters at stake?

Star Report

Recent developments within the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) could very well throw a spanner in the Bangladesh Bank's campaign against delinquent borrowers.

The FBCCI elections this year have witnessed quite a few loan defaulters secure important posts on the country's apex trade body which, fear many, may frustrate the move to restore discipline in the banking sector.

A case in point here is the election of well-known loan defaulter Mohammad Ali to the FBCCI vice presidency. According to its norms, the FBCCI nominates the vice president to sit on the board of the central bank.

The Bangladesh Bank governor has already sent a demi-official (DO) letter to the Finance Ministry early this month, urging it to take steps to bar loan defaulters from contesting in elections to chamber bodies and associations.

Earlier in July this year, the central bank sent a proposal to the Finance Ministry, seeking measures to restrict loan defaulters from running in the FBCCI polls.

The proposal is in line with the endeavour by the central bank and, in particular, by the finance minister to clean up the banking sector which has been burdened with an unsustainable level of bad loans.

A number of reform measures have been initiated to restore discipline in the banks.

When the concerted campaign was progressing well, the possibility of a defaulter FBCCI vice president sitting in the BB board has triggered apprehension that all the good works may well go down the drain.

The business circle also feels that the FBCCI should take steps of its own to amend its memorandum of articles to bar loan defaulters and defrauders from its executive body. It should also consider expelling Mohammad Ali to regain its reputation.

A case in point may be what the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) did in 1997. The MCCI cancelled the membership of Ali's company after a central bank investigation in 1997 unearthed that goods of Dhaka Vegetables, Ali's company, in the bank's godown had turned out to be water in place of Soyabean oil.

Ali had borrowed crores of taka from the bank by keeping the so-called oil as collateral for obtaining the loans.

The fraud finally led the bank to file case against the defaulter. According to MCCI articles, one stands to lose membership if such large-scale financial irregularities are detected.

See page 11 col 5

## Inqilab Editor's petition

## Verdict on bail stayed

By Special Correspondent

Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday stayed for two weeks the verdict of a High Court Division Bench, which had ruled Monday that Inqilab editor AMM Bahauddin surrender before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court by Wednesday.

Chamber judge of the Appellate Division Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury directed the government not to harass or arrest Bahauddin during the period.

The Appellate Division also directed Bahauddin to file a regular leave petition within the next two weeks. The ruling came on a leave petition filed by him yesterday against Monday's judgement of the Division Bench.

A Magistrate of the CMM's court issued a warrant of arrest against him Monday last, following a complaint by the Home Ministry under section 124A of the penal code for publishing a parody of the national anthem in the Inqilab on October 20. It also accused him of inciting the public against the government.

In Bahauddin's defence, Khandaker Mahubuddin and Barrister Maudud Ahmed referred to the judgment on the case of Aliquallah Khan Masud, editor of Janakantha viz DLR 95. Masud, accused of defaming the holy Koran, was granted anticipatory bail, they argued.

Barrister Ahmed later told reporters that the court had taken note of the Janakantha case.

Earlier, Additional Attorney General Mahub-e-Alam opposed Bahauddin's petition for leave petition for anticipatory bail, saying that the publication of the parody of the national anthem had shocked and angered the entire nation.

Deputy Attorney General M. Farook assisted Mahub-e-Alam. Mahubuddin and Barrister Ahmed were assisted by Advocate Humayun Kabir and Barrister Mahubuddin Khokon.

## BB Dy Director allegedly commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent

A Deputy Director of Bangladesh Bank (BB) allegedly committed suicide at his Middle Badda residence in the city yesterday, hospital sources said.

Rezaul Hasan, 40, son of late Alhaj Mominuddin was found hanging from the ceiling of the storeroom yesterday evening.

Not finding Hasan at the residence since about 11 am on Monday, his wife Poppy, also an Assistant Director of Bangladesh Bank, went to his office yesterday to trace him out. But she did not find him there.

Returning home she went to the storeroom and found the body hanging from the ceiling.

The reason behind the alleged suicide could not be known. But a note that read "nobody is responsible for my death" was found. Hasan left behind an eight-year-old daughter.

Badda police recovered the body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

## Khaleda may go for JCD led by Pintu & Laltu

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia is likely to announce soon a new central committee of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) with Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu and Shahabuddin Laltu as its president and general secretary, ignoring strong resentment in the rank and file of the party and its student front.

Three senior BNP leaders belonging to the hard-line group yesterday placed a full list of the new committee with Pintu and Laltu for her approval, sources both in BNP and JCD said. She agreed to give approval, they said.

The hardliners convinced Khaleda Zia that persons like Pintu and Laltu are required for JCD to "capture" Dhaka University and other educational institutions in the city after the Awami League government hands over power to a caretaker administration before the next parliamentary election, the sources said.

Moderate BNP leaders and JCD activists have long been urging Khaleda Zia to turn JCD into a "genuine students' body" and form its central committee with regular students. But this has been ignored over the years.

Sources in JCD said its units at Dhaka Univer-

sity, BUET, Dhaka Medical College, Dhaka College and other educational institutions and Dhaka City North and South units have decided to resist the Pintu-Laltu committee.

A number of leaders of JCD's Dhaka University unit told The Daily Star yesterday that they would not accept the committee led by non-students like Pintu and Laltu. They said most of the JCD activists on the campus deserted Laltu as he joined Pintu last month at the initiative of the hardliners in BNP.

The sources said Pintu and Laltu will enter the DU campus immediately after announcement of the new committee to establish their supremacy there. Three BNP leaders are providing all assistance to Pintu to establish his supremacy at DU and other institutions in the city.

JCD sources claimed that Pintu and Laltu have hired armed cadres and taken "full preparation" to enter the DU campus, JCD central office and other strategic places.

They said a volatile situation is now prevailing in the organisation and clashes may take place any time as students' and non-students' factions are "fully prepared" to face each other.

See page 11 col 5