The Baily Star



Unfit, obsolete and polluter

vehicles, harmful to public health

and encumbrance to traffic, have

been removed from the streets. "It

might cause temporary inconve-

nience to many but the suffering will

not prolong," she reassured stating

the justification of the step to

encourage new vehicles in a

successfully faced the challenge of

reaching textbooks with necessary

intensified to cleanse the educa-

teams sent aboard for increasing

garment quotas for Bangladesh

and said they returned home with

positive outcome. Two influential

congressmen from the US during

their visit to Bangladesh have

League government of inducing the

worst of nepotism and corruption in

the power sector, the Prime Minister

said more time would be necessary

to fulfil the conditions of the donors,

restructure the sector and to over-

come financial and managerial

improvement of transmission and

distribution and making it more

efficient," she said claiming that

loadshedding has come down. She

also said that stress has been laid

on expansion of rural electrification.

The Prime Minister said she

could not be satisfied with the

progress of recovery of illegal arms,

arrest of identified terrorists and

their trial process although the work

"Implementation of some of our

was begun in last 100 days.

"But work has started for

Accusing the previous Awami

assured of looking into the matter.

tional institutions of terrorism.

corrections to the students in time.

She said her government

Government efforts have been

Khaleda Zia mentioned the

streamlined traffic.

Repressors never last long: Hasina

UNB, Dhaka

Former prime minister Sheikh esterday said those who voted for 'Sheaf of Paddy' at the last polls would change their decision if another election were held in the country right now

"Those who voted on the 'Sheaf of Paddy' are also repressed now. They have already regretted their decision. If there is a parliamentary election now, they will think other wise," said the Awami League chief who, along with her deputies, refrained from joining the new parliament on the excuse that the voting was not fair.

She made the observations while addressing a special extended meeting of her party's student wing, Bangladesh Chhatra League, yesterday morning at the Bangabandhu Avenue party office.

Hasina claimed that Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League activists as well as minority people across the country were tortured after the October 1 polls And the BNP-Jamaat government is patronising terrorism though they pledged to curb crimes.

The country has already come to a standstill with progress of the economy stalled and that's why the people of the country want relief from such a situation, she told her student activists.

"Repressors never last long. Victory of the truth is universal, but victory of lies is temporal," Hasina said urging her student followers to protect the repressed and tortured people across the country. "You

Shahriar

FROM PAGE 12 They chanted slogans against Shahriar Kabir and organisers of the

reception contacted yesterday When evening, CMP Commissioner Shahidullah Khan said, "We have already taken enough safety measures. No one will be allowed to disturb law and order in and around the reception venue. Police will go for prompt action against any lawbreakers.

Air Bangladesh

FROM PAGE 1 CAAB also found some discrepancies in the documents of a chartered aircraft the company brought to Dhaka to ferry hajis, he added.

Sources concerned said the AB managed to obtain a no-objection certificate (NOC) from the religious affairs ministry, saying it would carry Hajj pilgrims. But it was not clear how the ministry gave the NOC when the AB did not obtain permission from CAAB to operate passenger flights.

He admitted that the AB had cheated the pilgrims and also tried to swindle the government by issuing a cheque of over Tk 2 crore which later bounced.

The secretary said the government was doing its best so that the stranded pilgrims could perform haii. Different foreign airlines have

nust bring back smile in the faces of the tortured people. Hasina said the BNP-Jamaat

overnment went desperate to sell gas and warned that the countrymen would not accept such deci-"What will happen to us? Why should we sell gas out of lust for money? The people of Bangladesh will not accept if anyone sells out

their only wealth," she said. The opposition leader pointed out that though BNP government in their election manifesto did not mention anything, her party was specific about the issue

'Gas may be exported only when there will be a surplus after meeting the country's demand for 50 years. the former prime minister said reaffirming her oft-repeated stance on the proposed pipeline sale of gas to India.

She told her student wing not to be frustrated and make a list of false cases filed against her party-mer across the country. She said legal aid committees would be formed in all the districts to provide legal support against false cases.

Delayed again schedule start of the day's sitting.

Absence of quorum continued even after Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar took seat at 4:40 pm, but the crisis was over before he took up the day's agenda. The prime minister attended the

ministers sitting on front row of the treasury bench.

House vesterday witnessed only the regular question-answer session. The speaker adjourned the session at 5:56pm, leaving five other items on the order of the day, apparently to enable the lawmakers to listen to the prime minister's address to the

nation The session is due to resume at 4:30pm today.

nis body was stolen from Feni sadar hospital and dumped in unknown place. After two days of the incident, on

August 25, the government ordered closure of the institute at the behest of Joynal Hazari, then ruling party MP of the area. About 1200 students and all teachers and employees were transferred to 19 similar institutes in different parts of the country.

Hazari had also proposed to turn the institute into a BDR transit office. But finally the proposal could not be materialised as the location was close to the border.

BTTB continuing the negotiations?"

He also expressed his frustrations that by implicating his company while bringing no specific charges, the image of Gasmin

Shazneen case

FROM PAGE 12 The prosecution side was ready for hearing. Moreover, Mojibur Rahman, first prosecution witness and complainant of the case appeared in the court to face crossexamination by the defence lawvers.

After hearing both sides, the court granted the petition.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15. voungest daughter of Latifur Rahman. Chairman of Transcom Group, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence on April 23, 1998

Latifur Rahman filed a murder case with Gulshan thana on April 24, 1998, accusing Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, a domestic help at his residence

Mojibur Rahman filed a rape case with Gulshan thana accusing seven people including Shahid after six months of investigation into the murder case.

All the accused Shahid, Hasan, Shaniram, Badal, Minu and Parvin -were produced in the court during the hearing.

Advocate ABM Sharfuddin Khan Mukul, Mahbub Ahmed and Sheikh Baharul Islam appeared for the state while Advocate Mohammad Ali and Mizanur Rahman for the accused.

AL reaction

FROM PAGE 1 Sheikh Hasina's government had undertaken massive steps reducing power outages. Khaleda's government has no credit in this sector, he added.

forcible occupation. "Today, the

situation has come to such a pass

League made its observations

about these elements only to protect

be allowed to ply, he added.

possible to reduce the number of

three wheelers to 10 to 12 thousand

without stopping a fit vehicle from

false cases. A person will face a

maximum of seven years in jail and

monetary fines for lodging fake

plying on city roads," he added.

Acid throwers

Sangstha will be its members.

tion, transportation, stocks, selling

be given the authority to issue

licences for transportation, selling

The deputy commissioners will

The licence issuing authorities

have been empowered to conduct

If any individual imports, pro-

duces. uses and sells acid without

having valid licences, he would face

The new laws also propose

raids on illegal traders and seize

acid and cancel licences.

inas in this reaard.

the authorities.

FROM PAGE 1

complaints

successors.

and use of acid.

and use of acid.

with fines.

the country."

Refuting the Prime Minister's sitting from 5:13 pm with only a few observations about her plan to celebrate the election victory, Azad said "As a matter of fact there was During the 70-minute sitting, the no mood for celebration among the

people after the rigged election of October 1. People were rather stunned by the election results manipulated under a deep conspiracy.' Instead of celebrations, people

showed their "no-confidence" in the alliance government for continued repression, extortion, killing and

Feni Polytech death on campus. The same night

that people are burning terrorists and hijackers even in the capital city in the wake of government's miserable failure to control law and order." Referring to Prime Minister's

remarks about opposition observations on Taliban connections with this government. Azad noted that those who are in the alliance government had declared themselves as Taliban. He said the alliance candidates.

Dubious deal FROM PAGE 1

Route permits FROM PAGE 1 along with Tyco, has been unjustly

Kashmir state and other parts of India.' "Sustained and irreversible steps in this direction will create conducive e environment for the resumption of dialogue between India and Pakistan in accordance with Shimla agreement and the Lahore Declaration," it said. ncluding Mufti Shahidul Islam, who The Shimla accord was signed in contested against former prime 1972 by the then Indian and minister Sheikh Hasina had claimed Pakistan Prime Ministers Indira themselves as Taliban, "Awami

for hundreds of acid attacks every year.

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New

Unambiguously backing Indian

position, Russia has said India-

Pakistan dialogue could resume

only after Islamabad takes "sus-

tained and irreversible steps" to end

talks between the visiting Russian

Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov and

Indian External Affairs Minister

Jaswant Singh here Sunday night

Pakistan President Pervez

Musharraf's commitment to fight

terrorism "can only be judged by the

concrete action he takes on the

cooperate in "stopping infiltration of

terrorists into India. across the

international boundary and the Line

of Control and ending continued

terrorist violence in Jammu and

The statement asks Pakistan to

ground."

A joint statement issued after

infiltration of terrorists into India.

Gandhi and Z A Bhutto and Lahore declaration was initialed by Prime Minister A B Vajpayee and former Pakistani premier Nawaz Sharif in February 1998.

The discussions between lvanov and Singh covered a wide range of issues, including South Asian

relations in political economic and military spheres and Russian President Vladimir Putin's proposed to India this year-end. During the discussions. Ivanov

A group of plastic and burn surgeons perform an operation on an acid victim, Nurjahan, at the Dhaka Medical

College Hospital in the city yesterday. The cabinet yesterday proposed tough new laws to punish those responsible

Indo-Pak dialogue: Russia

backs Delhi's stance

stronaly condemned continued terrorism against India from across the border and said these activities from Pakistan and the territory controlled by it cease completely. Significantly, one of the issues

that came up for discussion between the two sides was cooperation between India, Russia and China in what is seen as Moscow's keenness for trilateral efforts for a multi-polar world.

The proposal was first mooted by former Russian Prime Minister Primakov way back in 1998 but China had at that time coldshouldered it. Russia and China are concerned over long-term military American military presence in event of the deal getting the green Afghanistan and Central Asian countries like Uzbekistan, signal, the multi-role submarines Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in their could reach India in the next two neighbourhood in the wake of global years campaign against terrorism,

according to analysts here. Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji, during his recent visit to India, is understood to have brought the issue of US presence in Central Asian countries.

But the Indian External Affairs Minister made it clear last night to mediapersons after talks with Ivanov that while Russia, China and India exchange views on specific important issues, this would not take the shape of a "formal axis."

Mindful of US sensitivities of Moyeen India-Russia-China cooperation, New Delhi would not like to signal that the three countries are coming together in a formal alliance sources here say.

PM's address

FROM PAGE 1

your rights. Who you are angry or aggrieved with that you are forging these rights?" she posed a question to Awami League who are boycotting the 8th parliament from its very inception.

Addressing the nation over the national TV and Radio yesterday evening to apprise the people of her government's successes in its first 100 days' start-up programme, Khaleda said they would uphold the rights of the opposition to speak in parliament and make constructive criticisms.

"But, we will have to protect the interest of the people, hard-earned democracy and discipline at any cost," she categorically said in her eight-page speech.

In presenting the evaluation of the 100-day agenda, which she launched in her maiden address to the nation on October 19, the PM said a government can't be judged only by 100 days of activity.'

A big success cannot be expected within two or four months as we started off in a difficult situation shouldering a heavy burden of problems and crisis, serious disor-

"We need time for this. Our iournev just started afresh." she said seeking cooperation of all and pledging to present them with a prosperous Bangladesh.

"We know your (people's) expectation is high. But our problems are complex and resources limited. So it is not possible to change everything overnight," the Prime Minister said calling for the countrymen to be patient.

Detailing the successes of the hundred days' programmes of her government, the Prime Minister mentioned the recovery of illegal arms, arrest of identified terrorists

She said work also started for forming local committees on law and order at district, upazila and union levels to maintain peace. "The process of repealing two

black laws -- PSA and SPA -- both formulated during the Awami League regimes, is underway," Khaleda Zia said. Legal procedure has also begun to release political detainees and many had already aircraft carrier ship. The submarines been set free while cases of political could help India bolster its "second harassment are being reviewed. strike" nuclear capability. In the

The Prime Minister said the udicial commission had started nvestigating the much-talked-about incidents of deadly bomb explosions during the previous regime of Awami League.

She highlighted her government's activities to increase the export of manpower to Singapore, Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, UAE and some other countries. Besides, efforts are being made for legal entry of Bangladeshi youths to Italy and other countries.

About her government's focus on rearing a skilled workforce, she said English courses for nurses and hotel employees are on in the capital She mentioned the restoration of

discipline at Zia International Airport as well as Chittagong and Mongla

der and anarchy," she said.

and the beginning of their trial.

programmes was delayed. We also could not finish part of some programmes," she informed the nation saying such limitations and delays should be admitted before

the people. Because, she maintained, there were only heaps of problems everywhere when they took over. "Law-and-order situation should be further improved. Social security

problems.

and peace should be ensured. This is a tough job though," she said about the tasks ahead, adding that there remain huge unauthorised weapons in private hands.

"Dangerous criminals are hiding to escape. They all should be brought to justice," she said hinting at continuing anti-crime hunt.

She regretted the failure to arrange a convention against 'terrorism carried out by Awami League." She, however, assured that political initiative would be aken soon in this regard.

The PM said her government had to face much trouble in restoring total peace in society because of patronage given to terrorists and politicisation of police administration by the last Awami League government.

She mentioned that the gove ment had taken some tough steps to bring back discipline and professionalism in police and other lawenforcing departments. The PM also mentioned the stern actions taken by her government against the lawbreakers wherein even her party leaders and workers were not spared. Expressing grievances over the opposition's behaviour towards former president Shahabuddin Ahmed, the PM pointed at the reactions that appeared in newspapers and said that it was clear to everybody how hurt and humiliated a senior person like him had been. She recalled that everybody ogether made the former chief ustice head of interim government in 1990 and under his supervision a free and fair election was held in



Afghanistan was another key

issue of discussions between

Ivanov and Singh because of the

deep involvement of India and

Russia in the massive reconstruc-

tion efforts by them in the war-

ravaged country. New Delhi and

Moscow have consistently backed

the Northern Alliance, now ruling

Afghanistan, in the battle against

Ivanov made it clear yesterday

that Indo-Russian military coopera-

tion would be according to interna-

tional obligations and as part of that

Russia is likely to take off the 3,000-

km range cruise miisslies from the

submarines it proposes to lease to

India and replace them with a much

shorter version of missiles with a

range of 300km. This, according to

sources, is to avoid violation of the

Missile Technology Control Regime

the money from the exchequer.

Khurshid Ahmed and Abida Sultana

and for folksongs Abdul Latif, Latifa

Chowdhury and Mostafa Jaman

whether the BTTB frequency used

by the ETV was under the BTV's

control. The lawyers argued that

although the frequency was pro-

vided to the BTV, it was lying unused

ETV to prove the BTTB's frequency

approval and observed that these

papers were titled as the approval

frequency use?" the court asked.

"How could it be the approval for

Barrister Rafig said the title was

Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed

and Nihat Kabir, were also present

on behalf of ETV Chairman A S

given because the documents also

mentioned some equipment

needed to be imported.

behalf of the government.

At this stage, the court examined

(MCTR).

FROM PAGE 1

opinions.

categories

Abbasi.

ETV case

FROM PAGE 12

since 1987.

for import.

Mahmud.

been requested by the authorities to carry them, he added.

Protest in Kolkata

"In any recognised madrassah is found indulging in anti-national activities, it will be immediately shut down," Sattar said. "West Bengal will not fund madrassahs which teach children to fight for Islam."

Thousands of Muslim protestors marched through the streets of Kolkata yesterday to warn the government against intervening in religious education

"Let the West Bengal government prove terrorists activities in these madrassahs, and we will take all necessary action to stop it," said Syed Asad Madani, president of the powerful Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Hind organisation.

"Otherwise, the government cannot close down our religious schools," Madani told a rally.

"Religious education is our fundamental right and no one can take it away from us."

Indian intelligence officials

West Bengal through the infiltration of extremists over the porous Bangladesh border. Indian police say two Pakistani nationals shot dead by security

damaged.

forces last week in the eastern state of Jharkhand had confessed before they died to participating in the American Centre attack.

accuse the Pakistani ISI intelligence

agency of securing a foothold in

At a recent public meeting, West Bengal Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharya expressed grave concern over growing ISI activities in border districts.

India also blamed Pakistanbased militant groups for carrying out the December 13 attack on the Indian parliament in New Delhi. Since then, the two rivals have

massed an estimated 800,000 troops on their common border where they remain locked in a tense military stand-off

Neurosurgery ward

FROM PAGE 1

nation table, as more patients arrived from the emergency ward. The boy was placed on a dirty, wornout mattress on the floor.

Meanwhile, it was learnt that socalled helpers have got hold of trolleys who charge up to Tk 100 for carrying a patient each time.

Unable to pay such an amount, Halim preferred to wait and after half an hour, the trolley arrived to take Sohel to the X-ray room.

The X-ray on the skull revealed nothing serious but the boy had his left leg fractured.

Doctors said even if Sohel needed an operation. he had to wait until the following morning. "In fact, we need to have more investigations on him before we can open his skull for surgery." said one of the doctors.

"Usually, we don't operate (upon a patient) after the work hour. But if we decide to do go for an operation, we often have to request the anesthetist, ward boys and nurses to assist," said another doctor.

"If the autoclave is not ready and

the man handling the surgical instruments is not available, we have to of the board while four secretaries of reschedule operation date even if it ministries concerned, a woman means more pain for the patients." lawmaker, an expert and the chair-

Continued the doctor: "We understand their agonies, but what can we do? There are circumstances when we have no supply of stitching materials, spirit, bandage, anti-septic fluid, iodine and saline, not to speak of life-saving drugs.

"We get supply for only 22 beds, whereas we regularly have more than 60-90 patients here.'

An official of the hospital administration said, "Ministers and high officials come here. listen to our problems and make numerous promises but practically nothing is done."

"In fact, the additional secretary of the health ministry visited the hospital only vesterday to discuss problems the hospital is facing," the official, preferring to remain unnamed, added.

situation in the light of Indo-Pak city", one leader said. Then a large border stand-off, reconstruction in number of fit three wheelers with post-Taliban Afghanistan, bilateral

required documents would also not Protect Gulshan But BRTA officials said there was no such decision. Abdur Rob, an Lake: BEM assistant director of BRTA, said there must have been some misgivrally today According to him, nearly 18 BSS, Dhaka thousand registered three wheelers

have been plying on the city roads Bangladesh Environment since 1994. Of these, three thou-Movement (BEM) will hold a rally in sand are vet get route permit from the city and submit a memorandum to the authorities today demanding Besides, a few thousand more proper steps to protect Gulshan have already become unfit to ply on Lake from pollution city roads. " So, it is very much

Environmentalists, local people and activists of different environmental organisations will participate in the rally at 11 am in front of the RAJUK Bhaban.

It said the authorities re-opened sewerage lines to the lake on January 22 this year, ignoring concern over pollution and health hazards.

In November last year, a huge number of fishes of the lake died due to serious contamination of its water by the waste that flowed in through the sewerage line.

JCD activist murdered in Sirajganj

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Sirajganj

person of the Jatiya Mohila An HSC student and activist of JCD was murdered by the miscreants at The draft law proposes introduc-Ramkantapur Kheaghat under tion of licensc and maintaining of Ullapara Upazila Sunday night. proper registers on imports, produc-

The victim was identified as Rassel Hoque, 19, son of Mojnu Bepari of village Gopalpur under Enayetpur Police Station. Rassel was a second year student of Akbor Ali Science College.

Police suspected that when the victim was returning from Ullapara Bazar to Ramkantapur some miscreants murdered him due to enmity.

Police sources said some marks imprisonment up to 15 years along of injury were found in Russel's body when they sent it to Sirajganj general hospital for autopsy. A case had setting up of a treatment and been lodged with Ullapara Police rehabilitation centre for the acid

Three run over by train in Kushtia UNB. Kushtia

Three persons perished under the wheels of a running train and 10 others were injured while crossing a rail gate near Charaikol railway station, 8-km away from Kushtia town last night.

Police sub-inspectors Monir and Alauddin, a pedestrian, were killed when they were run over by a Goalundo-bound shuttle train from Poradah

Monir and Torab were in a police pick-up van along with 10 others. The vehicle crossing the rail gate and Khalid Hassan, for Tagore was twisted and thrown about 30 songs Rezwana Chowdhury feet away by the running train, Bannya and Ifat Ara Dewan, for witnesses said modern songs Syed Abdul Hadi,

JCD leaders FROM PAGE 12

their way into the examinations hall at the college without permission of invigilators on Saturday afternoon when the Degree (pass) and Subsidiary Examinations were They drove Ishtiaq Ahmed

Dollar, vice-president of the NSGCSU and BCL leader, and Uzzal Kumar Howlader, a BCL worker, out of the examinations hall. Explaining why he filed the case, the officer-in-charge reasoned that the two students belonging to the

Clashes kill 55

AP, Lagos

Thousands fled neighbourhoods of Nigeria's largest city yesterday during a third day of ethnic violence that has killed at least 55 people and injured 150, officials said. Fighters carrying machetes, swords, slingshots, bows and arrows vastly outnumbered police officers.

In reply to a question by Shahid seaports

Touching on reforms, Khaleda Uddin Chowdhury Anny, a fresher to stressed the need for restructuring the House, the minister said that government institutions and since the government believes in rightsizing the administration for an freedom of speech and free flow of effective and proper administrative information, any political party can system. "A number of organisations publicise its opinion, but the people deemed unnecessary are being are supposed to accept or reject abolished." she said.

A secretarial committee has Replying to a supplementary started working to formulate laws question on distribution of governagainst violators of official discipline ment advertisement on newspaand free the administration from pers. Dr Khan said the government unwanted influence, the Prime is giving advertisements on a Minister said in her radio-TV specific policy, stopping misuse of speech.

She mentioned the rescheduling Replying to another supplemenof the office timings and the weekly tary question by BNP's Joynul holiday to bring dynamism in the Abedin Faruq, the minister mengovernment offices and improve the tioned the names of some nonquality of services. official experts nominated by the

Publication of a two-volume present aovernment for different white paper on corruption and irregularities of the previous Awami Experts for Nazrul songs are League regime was another major Sohrab Hossain, Ferdousi Rahman thing she listed as done during the 100-day lead-in rule of her coalition government.

> Legal procedures and investigations have been started to identify those involved and bring them to book. "We have to wipe out the black spot stamped during their regime on the fair face of the nation as number-one corrupt country," the Prime Minister said.

> Khaleda Zia highlighted the mportance laid on computer literacy by her government. "We want to reach computers to remote village schools," she said informing that despite resource constraints, steps have been taken to procure 10,000 computers for schools across the country.

the documents submitted by the She assured imparting adequate training to the teachers and expanding modern information technology to the district level.

The Prime Minister, in her lengthy speech, criticised the Awami League regime for abandoning the "Food for Education" programme introduced during the BNP government in 1991-96.

needed for using frequency which She announced that the programme with cash stipend Barrister Abdur Razzag and instead of wheat would be resumed Mohammad Hossain Lipu argued in in all primary schools. She also favour of the petitioner while mentioned the steps taken for Attorney General A F H Hasan Arif retirement benefits and promotions and Deputy Attorney General Adilur for non-government teachers. Rahman Khan were present on

Khaleda claimed marked success in removing traffic congestion and assured further improvement of the situation with construction of some flyovers and circular road around the capital.

Shahabuddin was also elected unopposed president in 1996. Khaleda Zia said reminding that BNP did not put up any candidate against him but the Awami League chief had threatened to stage a hunger strike to create pressure on him when he first refused to run for the presidency.

1991.

Implying the Awami League, the Prime Minister said that the "defeated party" had created lot of pressure on President Shahabuddin to do a lot of unjust thinas.

The defeated party had also asked for cancelling the results of the elections, but Justice Shahabuddin had remained unmoved even under "threat on his life" and stood for truth and neutrality. "He did not become their puppet to fulfil their illogical desires and for this there is now indecent remarks against him. He is even being called 'betrayer', unfaithful and traitor," she

lamented. Khaleda Zia alleged that the opposition does not want that a person who has self-respect, a person who is competent and respected should become president of the country in future.

She said a senior person like Justice Shahabuddin was humiliated because he did not give in to the unjust pleas. "Everybody should shun such indecent behaviour in the name of politics, otherwise the youths will not respect us and courtesy will disappear from society.'

going on.

BCL were feeling insecure

in Lagos

Station.

victims. In case the victim dies, the money will be given to his or her The Acid Control Law '2002 proposes to constitute a board to control import and production of acid. The minister for Women and Children Affairs will be the chairman

The law also stipulates that proceeds from fines will go to acid