

### Withdrawal of anti-crime bill demanded

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Different organisations yesterday demanded withdrawal of the bill titled 'Law and Order Disruption Crimes (Summary Trial) Act, 2002' placed in the Jatiya Sangsad on Sunday.

In a statement yesterday, the Sammilito Ainjibi Parishad said that the proposed law is designed to persecute the opposition activists.

It said if the law is passed in parliament, the general people will be deprived of the democratic rights and the right to justice.

The Parishad pointed out that at least 12 thousands criminals belonging to the ruling party were freed so far following the repeal of the Public Safety Act and many of those are taking part in the upcoming city corporations elections.

The signatories to the state-

ment include Adv Sahara Khatun, Barrister M Amirul Islam, and Barrister Shafiq Ahmed.

They urged all the democratic and progressive lawyers' organisations to stage protest rallies in all the districts on April 10 under the banner of the Parishad.

In another statement, the Ain O Salish Kendra (ASK) demanded withdrawal of the proposed law, terming it 'unconstitutional' and 'contrary to the democratic culture'.

The Workers Party, Communist Party of Bangladesh and 11 party termed the proposed law a new version of the Public Safety Act, and said it will establish autocratic rule in the country and encourage the politics of vengeance.

They also said the proposed law would stifle the press freedom. The members of parliament are not above the law of the country, they added.



Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing the WDB Sramik League activists at the AL office in the city yesterday.

### Malaysia urged to import more manpower from Bangladesh

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday requested the Malaysian government for increasing import of skilled and semi-skilled manpower from Bangladesh.

The request came when Ashaary Bin Sani, the newly-appointed High Commissioner of Malaysia paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister at her office here.

She said Bangladeshi workers in Malaysia have been contributing to the growth of both the economies. She said the workers who are still staying in Malaysia completing their contractual periods, can be employed in new areas including plantation projects.

She said taking advantage of the liberal investment policy, Malaysian entrepreneurs would come forward to invest in Bangladesh.

As she came to know the two-day visit of Malaysian tourism minister beginning on April 21, she said there is scope of invest-

ment in tourism sector and there can be package tours from both the sides.

The Prime Minister said we would send our business delegations to Malaysia and would welcome similar delegations from there. She said the exchange of such delegations would help expand trade and investment and contribute to explore new products and areas of investments.

Referring to the existing bond of friendship, she said when her government was in power during 1991-96 it has greatly improved following exchange of visits at the highest levels. She expressed the hope of further improving the relations between the two countries in the days ahead.

She assured cooperation of her government to the Malaysian en-

voys during his tenure here in the discharge of his responsibility.

Ashaary conveying the best wishes of Malaysian Prime Minister Dr Mahathir Mohammad to her said, he was looking forward for a visit to Bangladesh at a mutually convenient time. He said he would convey the request of Khaleda to the government of his country.

Khaleda visited Malaysia in 1994 in return of a visit of Dr Mahathir Mohammad to Dhaka in 1993.

The current level of Malaysian investment to Bangladesh is to the tune of 1.32 billion US dollar in 35 projects, which include telecommunication, composite textiles, petro-chemicals, LPG bottling, electrical and electronics and one private sector power project.

### US State Dept official meets Nazmul Huda

BSS, Dhaka

The visiting special assistant (South Asian Affairs) of the US State Department, Ms Lisa A Curtis, called on Communications Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda at his office and discussed matters of bilateral and mutual interest.

The minister told the US official that the government has taken some important steps to ensure political stability and peace in the country.

Such efforts will play a positive role in the development of internal law and order situation and the country will be able to attract huge foreign investment, he said.

He said the prime objective of the present government is socio-economic development of the people through establishment of good governance and human rights in the country.

The minister said prerequisite of good governance is making the parliament functional. He said the main opposition should not create obstacles on the way to development of the people and governance of the elected party.

The minister observed that prime objective of the opposition should be the establishment of good governance in the country by making parliamentary process functional. The opposition should not create anarchy on the streets to snatch away the democratic rights of the people.

Ms Curtis lauded the steps of the present government in the fields of democracy and human rights and in making parliament effective.

### 25 pc women in Sub-continent suffer from hemorrhoids

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About 25 per cent women in the Sub-continent suffer from hemorrhoids or piles, a disease that causes bleeding in the rectum, swollen veins and mucous discharge.

This was disclosed at a symposium on 'Management of hemorrhoids in pregnancy' yesterday, jointly organised by the Gynaecology and Obstetric Department of BIRDEM and Servier Pharma.

Studies also show that four in every ten pregnant women in the sub-continent have acute hemorrhoids that also leads to severe anaemia.

Presenting the keynote paper, eminent gynaecologist Prof T A Choudhury said that there are

many factors causing hemorrhoids during pregnancy. Venous dilation due to increased volume of circulating blood is one of the major factors, he said.

Although there is no cure for this disease, Prof Choudhury said a new treatment has been proved effective and safe.

He said, 'Dalfon 500, an oral medicine, can be effective in the management of hemorrhoids. Dalfon 500 is micronised and purified flavinoid fraction, which is the only pharmacological treatment for the disease.'

Dr Zakirul Karim, scientific project manager, and Dr Pinaki Bhattacharya, Operation-in-charge of Servier Bangladesh, also spoke on the occasion.

Dr Karim said the drug has no known effect on the unborn foetuses.

Servier is a research-based French pharmaceutical company that started its operation in the country recently. It also operates in over 140 countries across the globe. The main expertise of the company lies in the age-related diseases like diabetes and cardiovascular diseases.

Servier has been marketing the drug through Transcom Bangladesh Ltd.

### 5 arms recovered

BSS, Dhaka

Police recovered five firearms and one round of bullet from across the country during the last 24 hours ending at 6 am yesterday.

They also arrested six persons in connection with the arms recovery and filed two cases under the Arms Act, a police headquarters press release said here.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police recovered four explosives and arrested three persons in this connection.

Besides, police arrested 1,303, including seven identified terrorists, 657 warrants and 630 persons involved in different cases under investigation.

### DU teachers condemn Israeli aggression

UNB, Dhaka

Dhaka University teachers yesterday condemned Israeli aggression against Palestine and demanded immediate withdrawal of its troops from all Palestine territories, including Yasser Arafat's Ramallah headquarters.

In a statement, some 175 teachers of the university urged the people irrespective of cast and creed around the world to raise their voice against the Israeli incursion and massacre in Palestine.

### New air chief takes over

AGENCIES, Dhaka

Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam took over as the Chief of the Air Staff yesterday.

He replaced Air Vice Marshal Rafiqul Islam who went on retirement yesterday, said an ISPR press release.

Air Commodore Fakhru Azam called on Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, who is also the Defence Minister, at the prime minister's office at Armed Forces Division yesterday morning.

He was ceremonially adorned with the badges of rank of Air Vice Marshal by acting Chief of the Army Staff Major General Jamilul Din Ahsan, Bir Protik, and Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral A Taher in presence of the prime minister.

Among others, Defence Secretary K M Eshanul Haq and Principal Staff Officer of the Armed Forces Division Major General A M Mahmuduzzaman were present on the occasion.

Later, newly appointed Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Fakhru Azam made a courtesy call on President AQM Badruddza Chowdhury at Bangabhaban yesterday.

President Prof Chowdhury, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, welcomed Air Vice Marshal Azam and wished him success in his new assignment.

### Hasina iterates support for Palestinians

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has reaffirmed the full supports of her party as well as Bangladesh for Palestinians.

Hasina also called for unity of Muslims around the world, especially of the Arab nations, to free Palestine from the worst-ever Israeli aggression.

The words of support came on Sunday at a meeting between Palestinian Ambassador in Dhaka Shahta Zarab and the leader of the opposition at the latter's Dhanmendi residence in the city.

The meeting took place in the wake of Israeli blitz on the Palestinian cities and confinement of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to his Ramallah headquarters.

The AL has already organised different programmes, including

protest rallies and demonstration against Israeli aggression and special prayers for divine blessings for freedom of Arafat.

Shahta Zarab told the AL chief that Arafat had already learnt about the programmes in support of the cause of Palestine and the Palestinians were happy with the AL for its support.

An aide to the AL chief, who was present at the meeting, later told The Daily Star that Hasina expressed deep concern at the current situation in Palestine and the personal security of Arafat.

Former foreign minister Abdus Samad Azad, AL president's Political Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Kazi Zafrullah, MP, Abul Hossain, MP, and Sheikh Hasina's Press Advisor Jawadul Karim were present at the meeting.



### Dr Zafrullah awarded 'Public Health Hero'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, coordinator of the Ganasswasthya Kendra, has been awarded 'Public Health Hero' by the School of Public Health of California University, USA, says a press release.

He was awarded at a special ceremony in the USA on March 15.

Dr Zafrullah won the award for his outstanding contribution to the healthcare programmes dedicated to the rural masses.

The award is also a recognition of his role in formulating drug policy in 1982 and in empowerment of women at the grassroots level.

Former American health worker Dr Philip Randolph and film director and actor Rob Rainer were also given different awards at the ceremony.

Dr Zafrullah also received Independence award in 1977, prestigious Magsaysay Award in 1985 and Right Livelihood Award in 1992.

Advertisement for 'রাজউক উত্তরা মডেল স্কুল ও কলেজ' (Rajuk Uttara Model School and College) featuring educational details and contact information.

Advertisement for 'CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN ABU DHABI' listing various engineering and supervision roles with requirements and contact details for PAX OVERSEAS LIMITED.

Advertisement for 'Tuition Wanted' and 'SAT, GRE, GMAT, TOEFL, IELTS' services, including contact for 'Spoken English Gateway'.

Advertisement for 'B.Sc Engineer (Civil) & Marketing Executive WANTED' with detailed job requirements and application instructions.

Advertisement for 'unicef' regarding 'Review & design of the community water & sanitation facilities for the environmental sanitation, hygiene and water supply in urban slums & fringes project'.

Advertisement for 'Appeal for help' from Sajed Ali Sardar, a person with disability, seeking financial assistance for education.

Advertisement for 'Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank' featuring a 'Tender Notice' for construction work and contact information for the bank's services department.

Advertisement for 'LUXURY HOUSE TO-LET AT GULSHAN-2' describing a six-story apartment with amenities and contact details.

Advertisement for 'Biman Bangladesh Airlines' featuring a 'Tender Notice' for an envelope system and contact information for the airline's procurement department.