

## JS session prorogued

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The 10th session of the Jatiya Sangsad was prorogued yesterday with the treasury bench requesting the speaker to initiate a fresh dialogue with the main opposition Awami League (AL) on its ending the parliament boycott.

The House on the last day of its four-day session yesterday passed the Code of Civil Procedure (Third Amendment), Bill, 2003, 'paving the way for quick disposal of civil suits and halting the trend of making false claims and lodging false cases on land disputes.'

"You (speaker) call the opposition (AL) members, hear from them what they want and tell us what we are to do. We want the return of the opposition to the House," Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said in his winding up speech in the House.

Bhuiyan was however critical of the main opposition party's role and alleged it (AL) is planning to destabilise the country.

Prior to reading out the prorogation order by the president, Speaker Jamir Uddin Sircar urged lawmakers

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PHOTO: STAR

Roadside sellers make quick bucks late into Tuesday night at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque market as shopping gathers more speed by the day before the Eid-ul-Fitr celebrations.

## Bush for use of force for peace

AP, London

Welcomed to Britain with royal pagantry and a smattering of anti-war protesters, US President Bush yesterday defended the war in Iraq, saying military might must at times be used to confront the continuing, global danger of terrorism.

"In some cases, the measured use of force is all that protects us from a chaotic world ruled by force," Bush told academics gathered at Whitehall Palace.

During a 3 1/2-day state visit here, Bush was seeking to puncture what he views as misconceptions on this side of the Atlantic about America's use of force in Iraq.

"There are principled objections to the use of force in every generation and I credit the motives behind these views," Bush said, mindful of the bitter opposition among many in Britain and across Europe to the US-and British-led war in Iraq.

But, he added: "Those in authority, however, are not judged only by good motivations. The people have given us the duty to defend them and that duty

sometimes requires the violent restraint of violent men."

He invoked the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks in America to warn against inaction.

"The hope that danger has passed is comforting, is understanding, and it is false," he said. "These terrorists target the innocent and they kill by the thousands. And they would, if they gain the weapons they seek, kill by the millions and not be finished... The evil is in plain sight. The danger only increases with denial."

Earlier, Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip gave a royal salute to the American leader, greeting Bush at Buckingham Palace.

As ceremonial cannon blasts from a 41-gun salute shook the palace, Bush and his wife, Laura, moved down a receiving line with the queen and prince, greeting Prime Minister Tony Blair, Foreign Secretary Jack Straw and a phalanx of military officers in formal dress. Bush and the prince then inspected a column of Coldstream Guards, with their trademark gray coats and tall, furry black hats.

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## Koizumi reelected Japan's PM

VOA News, Tokyo

Japanese legislators approved a second term in office for Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi yesterday, a formality after his ruling coalition won a narrow victory in a general election held November 9.

He must now push ahead with plans to reform the economy and to send troops to Iraq -- despite heavy opposition.

Yohei Kono, the speaker of Japan's lower house of Parliament, announces that Junichiro Koizumi

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## Police look to arrest pop star Jackson

AFP, Santa Barbara

Police who searched Michael Jackson's Neverland ranch amid child molestation allegations were seeking to arrest the pop icon, NBC television said yesterday.

The network cited "many sources" as having seen the arrest warrant for Jackson when authorities swooped down on his ranch near Santa Barbara, California.

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## Govt feels pressure to withdraw magistrate from Sadarghat

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Launch owners are putting heavy pressure on the shipping ministry to withdraw the special magistrate from Sadarghat launch terminal ahead of the Eid-ul-Fitr.

The leaders of Bangladesh Launch Owners Association at a meeting at the Department of Shipping yesterday protested against the ongoing drive against faulty vessels and demanded Special Magistrate Munir Chowdhury's withdrawal.

They said they would not be held responsible if any untoward incident took place at the terminal.

The meeting, chaired by shipping department Director General Ahsanul Azim, also discussed the launch terminal situation and steps to be taken for

maintaining law and order there in the run-up to the Eid.

The lunch owners became incensed as the special magistrate was conducting regular raids on passenger and cargo vessels.

They are lobbying the government for the withdrawal of the magistrate, sources said.

As many as 450 vessels, including 200 passenger launches, were fined Tk 26 lakh for overloading, risky driving, lacking in safety equipment and up-to-date survey certificates during the drive that began in August.

Eleven passenger launches and 100 cargo vessels were impounded for irregularities.

Sources said some launches belonging to Arafat Raman, son of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, were also fined

and impounded for failing to meet safety standards.

His Coco-1 was detained yesterday for about half an hour for carrying goods on the passenger deck.

Home Secretary Mohammad Omar Farooq visited the terminal Tuesday night and expressed satisfaction at the overall situation.

But Officer-in-Charge of Sadarghat Police Outpost Sergeant Altaf was removed from the terminal for failing to discharge his responsibility.

The drive largely restored discipline at the terminal also by removing illegal shops and stopping movement of suspicious people there, sources said.

## 5 AL leaders get bail in 'godfathers' list case

SC CORRESPONDENT

The High Court (HC) yesterday granted three months anticipatory bail to five frontline Awami League (AL) leaders in 11 defamation cases.

The HC Division Bench of Justice Md Joynul Abedin and Justice AKM Fazlur Rahman heard the bail petitions of the AL leaders and granted them bail. The AL leaders were present in court.

Earlier on November 15, the same bench granted anticipatory bail to 16 top AL leaders including its General Secretary Abdul Jalil in the same cases.

The leaders who obtained bail yesterday are Amir Hossain Amu, Tofail Ahmed, Abdur Razzak MP, Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP and Sohel Taj MP.

The plaintiffs alleged that the AL had put them on the list with a motive to reap political benefits by

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PHOTO: STAR

Rickshaws and cars converge from all directions bringing traffic to a standstill at Segunbagicha crossing yesterday. Traffic control has increased around Dhaka's major shopping districts, but some areas still lack authorities' attention.

## Secys asked to be in JS during question time

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday asked ministers to ensure the presence of secretaries in the Jatiya Sangsad during question time and the law secretary during passage of bills.

The move came after an unscheduled

debate among four senior ministers following a legislator's dissatisfaction at the absence of secretaries in parliament gallery.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed, Communications Minister

Nazmul Huda and Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain participated in the debate.

The ministers were divided into two groups over the issue with some arguing that the House should give a special instruction to the top civil

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## Ctg out of touch with world

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Telecommunications link between Chittagong and rest of the world remained snapped from yesterday afternoon till the filing of this report last evening at 7:15pm as road workers cut off an underground line at Mirersarai.

The incident occurred some 57 km off Chittagong city when the Roads and Highways Department workers ignorantly cut off a fibre optic line at around 3:30pm on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway, knocking the region out of communication channel.

The link might be restored by late last night, Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board sources said.

## US to fund \$3.5m for CNG set-up

UNB, Dhaka

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) will provide \$3.5 million for the development of CNG (compressed natural gas) infrastructure run by private operators.

The money will be channelled through banks as credit to Bangladeshi private entrepreneurs and businesses willing to install CNG infrastructure.

The USAID has signed two agreements with Prime Bank Limited and Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Limited in this regard.

The agreement with the USAID is believed to be the first of its kind to support CNG infrastructure anywhere in the world, a press release said.

The agreements were signed against the backdrop of a mini-trade

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Sehri, Iftar timings			
Ramadan	Nov	Sehri	Iftar
23	19		5-15
24	20	4-54	5-15

Prayer Timings		
November 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-54	5-10
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-15	5-25
Esha	7-30	8-00
Source: Islamic Foundation		

## Cops ordered to firm up raids

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The home ministry yesterday asked police to strengthen ongoing raids to catch listed notorious criminals.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury gave the directive while

presiding over a review meeting of the law and order monitoring cell at the home ministry yesterday.

He said 7,000 BDR (Bangladesh Rifles) and Ansar personnel have already been deployed to help police

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