religion-based

Allege Jamaat leaders

The government is out to ban

religion-based political par-

ties in the name of scrapping

of the fifth amendment to the

constitution, Jamaat-e-Islami

They vowed to resist any

They were speaking at a

programme marking the 33rd

founding anniversary of

Islami Chhatra Shibir, student

body associated with Jamaat,

at the city's Institute of

Matiur Rahman Nizami,

ameer of the party, said it is

every Muslim's duty to work

towards a stronger Chhatra

Delwar Hossain Sayedee said,

"No conspiracy will work. We

will never allow anyone to ban

Jamaat leader Rafiqul Islam

said, "The government wants

to destroy the country's reli-

gious forces. We want to tell

them that the religion-based

politics will be here as long as

DU probing

students brought out protest

processions on the campus

demanded resignation of DU

Proctor KM Shafiul Islam and

blasted Home Minister

Sahara Khatun for her remark

on circumstances leading to

Five members of the nine-

member committee led by its

convener Harun-or-Rashid

went to AF Rahman Hall for

investigation at around

written or verbal depositions

Earlier, the committee

Harun-or-Rashid who

presided over the meeting

said, "We will hopefully sub-

mit the report within 15 work-

highest decision making

body, formed the nine-

member committee, which

includes Proctor KM Saiful

Islam Khan, DU Teachers

Association (Duta) President

Khondoker Bazlul Haque,

former Duta president Anwar

Hossain and Prof

AL LEADERS MEET BCL MEN

Two organising secretaries of

the ruling Awami League held

a closed-door meeting with

Chhatra League top brass last

BM Mozammel Haque,

assigned to look after the

student body associated with

the ruling party, met the BCL

leaders against a backdrop of

factional fights in educa-

tional institutions including

Held at Juba League head-

quarters on Bangabandhu

Avenue, the meeting began a

around 7:00pm and lasted for

around three and a half

enquired the BCL leaders

about the recent clash that

left a student killed at Sir AF

They also wanted to know

about BCL men's involve-

ment in illegal trade over

college admissions, a Chhatra

League leader told The Daily

Rahman Hall of DU.

Star after the meeting.

Nanak and Mozammel

Dhaka University.

Jahangir Kabir Nanak and

Rahmatullah.

The DU syndicate, the

held its first meeting at the

university yesterday morn-

before the committee.

The speakers at the rallies

religion-based politics."

secular politics exists."

FROM PAGE 16

and held rallies.

Siddique's death.

students of the hall.

11:40am.

members.

Former Jamaat lawmaker

leaders alleged yesterday.

move to that end.

Diploma Engineers.

Shibir.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

politics

NEWS

No room

Tapan Kumar Sarkar, director of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority, told The Daily Star that at least 5.25 lakh motorised vehicles ply the city streets now, while it was 3.03 lakh in 2003.

On average, 180 new vehicles including motorbikes step onto the city streets every day, Sarkar added.

Sources in Dhaka Metropolitan Police (traffic) said the number of nonmotorised vehicles in the capital is over five lakh.

In 1992, there used to be 246.49 vehicles on every kilometre of the city roads. That number at present is around 500 vehicles per km.

DMP Joint Commissioner Shafigur Rahman told The Daily Star that a megacity like Dhaka should have 25 percent of its size dedicated to roads.

But in reality, only 8 percent of its total area is claimed by roads, and 3 percent of that is meant for public transport and heavy vehicles.

Of the total city size, 45 percent is occupied by residential establishments, 15 percent by mills, factories and shopping malls, 20 percent by administrative and academic establishments and 12 percent is used for other pur-To make things even worse,

there is an acute shortage of traffic personnel.

Metropolitan police officials said only 730 people have been recruited to DMP (traffic) in last six years.

In 2003, 2,265 DMP personnel used to handle 6.53 lakh vehicles, and now 2,995 have to control over 10 lakh vehi-

DMP (traffic) was divided into two zones in 2000 and into four in 2006. Apart from manpower

shortage, it faces a transport crisis. As the department has only nine vehicles, it has to rely on requisitioned cars for use by its personnel, added the officials.

ABM Shahjahan, former executive director of Dhaka Transport Co-ordination Board (DTCB), said the authorities concerned should encourage people to reduce the use of private cars and commute more on public transport like double-deckers. By introducing hefty peak-

hour charge on private cars, the authorities can discourage unnecessary use of those. Besides, he added, mini-

buses, human hauliers and

for mining and review existing

been short-listed by the unit

back in October for this job.

They are: IMC Group

Consultant Ltd (IMCL) of the

UK, Pegasus International of

Malaysia, Pricewaterhouse

Coopers of India, e.Gen

Consultants of Bangladesh-UK

and Norwest Corporation of the

But the selection of British

consultant named IMCL cre-

ates a conflict of interest as the

company is already working as a

supervisory consultant for the

underground mine of

Barapukuria Coal Mining

Company -- a subsidiary of

Petrobangla, alleged one of the

named e.Gen has lodged a

complaint in this regard in

November asking how it would

be able to provide "independ-

ent and fair opinion" on mining

method proposals since IMCL

was already involved with

stated that the consulting firms

would not be hired for any

assignment that, by its nature,

may be in conflict with another

argued that IMCL is responsible

for the supervision of produc-

tion planning, operation and

safety of underground works

carried out by the Chinese

contractor of Barapukuria.

Therefore, the company (IMCL)

is not in a position to give any

opinion that may end up putt-

ing at risk its own credentials or

technical competency in the

Barapukuria mine's develop-

ment generated a lot of contro-

versies and questions were

raised against the quality of

mining project, the IMCL's job

is to supervise the works of the

mine's Chinese contractor and

launch operation in 2000 and

designed to produce 60 million

tonnes of coal over a period of 30

designs of the Chinese devel-

oper, the mine's production

target has come down to 30

million tonnes while the cost of

the mine's development had

mercial operation practically in

2005. It incurred huge losses in

the first three years, but made its

first operating profit in 2008-09

A Barapukuria coal mine

company source said most of

the problems with the

due to high sale price of coal.

The mine launched com-

doubled.

But because of poor mine

The mine was supposed to

report to the government.

As the consultant of the

Sources said the

Barapukuria project.

MCL's supervision.

The e.Gen in its complaint

assignment of the firm.

The unit's tender document

The short-listed consultant

short-listed bidders.

Barapukuria mine.

Five consultant firms have

mining proposals.

similar modes of transport should be removed from the city streets.

Jubo Dal

hand alleged

activist on Friday.

yesterday afternoon.

Mahfuz, 32.

man killed

Feni Jubo League's

Local Jubo League activists of

Sonagazi in Feni allegedly

kidnapped, then killed and

later hid the body of a Jubo Dal

The deceased was identified

Police could not recover the

Mahfuz's wife Parul Akhter

filed a case with Sonagazi

thana accusing Khokan, Jasim

Uddin, Halim and Shah Alam

by name and another six to

seven unidentified persons for

the alleged killing of her hus-

said Jubo League activists

Khokan, son of Hafiz Ullah of

Char Chandia village forcibly

took Tiger Mahfuz on his

(Khokon) motorcycle from

Takia road in Sonagazi upazila

sadar to a place near the house

of Enayet Ullah at Char

Chandia village at around

7:00pm. She alleged that

ment that a blood stained

jacket of Mahfuz was found

under a bridge adjacent to

Bhuiyar Bazar in Char Chandia

village yesterday. But local Jubo

League activists Jasim uddin

and Halim snatched the jacket

Sonagazi thana Officer-in-

Charge Md Nizam Uddin

confirmed filing of the case and

said attempts are on to arrest

the persons involved with the

13 cases including murder

against Tiger Mahfuz with

different thanas including

League general secretary

Shamsul Arefin said Mahfuz

was a criminal. He said those

who are being accused of

kidnapping Mahfuz were also

miscreants but he claimed they

were not Jubo League activists.

contempt of court. This princi-

ple is being followed for over 60

years in this subcontinent," the

The Appellate Division also

asked the authorities con-

cerned to provide a copy of its

verdict to the judges concerned

HC judges

Sonagazi upazila Awami

He also mentioned there are

after a while, she alleged.

kidnapping.

Sonagazi.

verdict said.

of the HC.

She said in the case state-

Khokan beat Mahfuz there.

Parul in the case description

as Mahfuzul Haque alias Tiger

body of the Jubo Dal worker till

A CORRESPONDENT, FENI

DMP Commissioner AKM Shahidul Hoque said the traffic situation worsens for lack of co-ordination among different government and semi-autonomous bodies responsible for managing vehicles and their movement in the city.

Joint Commissioner Shafiqur said most of the organisations concerned seem content to have left street management entirely on traffic police.

For instance, he said, Dhaka City Corporation issues licence for rickshaws, but it does little to seize illegal rickshaws. Similarly, BRTA hardly acts against illegal and unfit vehicles and drivers with fake licences.

Book sale

centre of Bangla Academy remained crowded throughout the day.

However, Sohrab, an attendant of a bookstall of the NGO, D Net, expressed his discontent over the sales of their books saying, "We could not sell much as most visitors mainly come to buy novels, but NGO publications are mainly based on research. Book unveiling ceremony,

cultural and discussion programmes on different issues were also on at the fair.

Children were seen with their guardians in the fair seeking books of their interest. The collection of titles for children included those on comic characters, fairy tales, etc. and science fictions. Some publishers also released videos on animated versions of the fairy tales along with books.

The fair information centre reported 160 new titles.

The titles that came out yesterday include Neuron a Abaro Onuron of Muhammad Jafar Iqbal, Kata Janapad Kata Itihas of Brig General [Ret] S Shakhawat Hossain, Ayesha Mangal of Anisul Haque, Hantarak of Sawkat Osman, and Nirbachita Column of Obaidul Qader.

The fair remains open from 3:00pm to 9:00pm six days a week while it's open from11:00am to 10:00pm on Friday with a two-hour break at 1:00pm.

The fair has two gates for entrance and exit, one in front of Atomic Energy Commission and the other one near Doel Chattar.

mining design and project

implementation, said the

source adding the company did

not perform this job properly till

Daily Star Hydrocarbon Unit

project director said the short-

listing of the qualified consul-

tants was being done in consul-

tation with the ADB. If there was

a conflict of interest, the ADB

experience of working in

Bangladesh, it had a competi-

tive edge. He does not see any

conflict of interest in short-

the Hydrocarbon Unit's tender

deals with studying the coal

deposits of the country and

recommend mining methods,

IMCL's current job with the

Barapukuria mine did present a

serving consultant, will the

IMCL be able to speak negative

about the mine's operation,

design or methods?" he asks.

30 hurt in clash

at city madrasa

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A group of people equipped

with bamboo sticks ran-

sacked a madrasa at Shah

Saheb lane in capital's

Gendaria area yesterday and

looted belongings, leaving at

Dhaka Medical College

Hospital while the rest

people led by Shah

Mohammad Imtiaz attacked

the students and staffs of

Ahsania Yeatim Khana and

Darul Ulum Ahsania Fazil

Ahmed of Gendaria police

station said there had been a

long-standing feud over the

appointment of representa-

tive of the madrasa between

Imtiaz and his relative Shah

Mohammad Ahsanuzzaman -

the current representative.

Officer-in-charge Faruque

Madrasha around 3:00pm.

received treatment locally.

Of them 14 were rushed to

Sources said around 50

least 30 persons injured.

"As Barapukuria mine's

The tender evaluation pro-

conflict of interest.

the study.

But another official says, as

listing IMCL in the tender.

He said, since IMCL had the

However, talking to The

problems.

the recent years.

could detect it.

The HC judges are justices Mirza Hussain Haider, Mir Hasmat Ali, Syed Mahmud Consultant Hossain, Shamim Hasnain, Quamrul Islam Siddiqui and Md Barapukuria mine were created

These judges sitting in a few division benches of the HC in due to contractual flaws, poor different orders had stayed the works done by the Chinese conviction of Iqbal, granted bail developer and slow response to him, or extended the orders from the Bangladeshi counterof bail and stay, or directed him parts in dealing with various to surrender to a court, and called for the record of the case But the IMCL too has an important role in clearing

from the trial court. The judges passed the orders between September 17, 2008, and November 22, 2009, upon separate petitions filed by Iqbal.

On March 13, 2008, the Special Judge Court-1 in Dhaka convicted and sentenced Iqbal to 13 years' imprisonment in a corruption case filed by the Anti-Corruption Commission.

On November 22, 2009, the HC bench of Justice Mir Hasmat Ali and Justice Md Nuruzzaman allowed a writ petition filed by Iqbal and directed the trial cour to transfer the records of the case against Iqbal to the HC within seven days. On January 3 this year, the

ACC filed an appeal with the Supreme Court challenging the HC order that called for the records of the case. Following the appeal, the

Appellate Division pronounced the verdict on January 18 this

The copy of this verdict was released on February 4.

Advocate Khurshid Alam Khan appeared for the ACC while barrister Masood Reza Sobhan argued for Iqbal.

JP lawmaker cess will be completed within a short time. Once awarded with the job, the consultant will have FROM PAGE 16 around 18 months to complete

to discuss sharing of the distribution of Test Relief programme rice. The lawmaker suggested that out of the 200 tonnes of rice, 133 tonnes be distributed among the poor people of his constituency by Jatiya Party workers and 62 tonnes by Awami League workers and five tonnes by Workers Party men.

The Awami League leaders, however, demanded greater share saying they had promised the people ahead of the elections. As the Awami League leaders kept on insisting, Talha asked them to go to Shefali Mamtaz, an Awami League MP, if they wanted more share. Witnesses say that the Awami League leaders became angry

with this and assaulted Talha. There were instances of hurling chairs at the lawmaker during the meeting but senior leaders rescued the lawmaker,

said witnesses. Bagatipara Awami League General Secretary Sekendar Ali said, "He [Talha] was not beaten up, only a bit abused by angry Awami League men. Senior

leaders brought the situation under control before it could go out of hand." Talha could not be reached

for his comments.

Research, latest

FROM PAGE 16 He met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Agriculture Minister Matia Chowdhury to raise his concerns.

"By 2050, Bangladesh is going to have 250 million people or more but agricultural land is shrinking because of urbanisation. So, you need to produce more," he said, adding that food is the most important global issue now to ensure social stability, especially after 2006 when over 20 countries witnessed rioting because of rising food prices.

With the rise of energy prices and climate change in the forefront, it has become extremely important to start research programmes for new varieties of crops, better techniques for farm management and market interventions so that all people can afford food but ecology remains uninterrupted.

He said research institutions in Bangladesh are working to develop more saline and submergence-tolerant variet-

"I expect the collaboration between the international and national centres," Roy said, adding that it is expected that new technologies will be responsive to climate change, more drought, flood and stress-tolerant crop varieties. Science is at the forefront to solve such problems.

On production cost, Amit Roy, a chemical engineer, said two-thirds of urea vanishes in the air as soon as it is broadcast, the usual practice in the developing countries. It not only damages health of soil and environment but also causes loss of huge energy used to produce it, he noted.

"We need balanced fertiliser," said Amit Roy, adding that after the first generation fertilisers developed in Tennessee Valley Authority in the US 50 years back there has been almost no invention.

There should be virtual research centres with experts from Asia, Africa, Europe and Australia so that they all can share information fast and develop new technologies that maximise yields with less input costs, the IFDC president said.

"Public funding for research activities, therefore, has to come back," he said placing stress on efficient energy use. For example, Bangladesh

has gas but there is a dilemma on its use, he said, adding: "Will it be used for power generation, fertiliser or cooking?"

Asked about depletion of underground water, he said water is a very scarce commodity and so there must be pricing of it. "If you don't do it, you will export free water, say melon, mango or vegetables that bear water."

Referring to water use in Israel, he said if more water is used than the amount required the zoo.

for producing crop, there should be a premium. With energy prices going

up, the whole model of production probably will have to be readjusted, Amit said, adding: "You have small farm holders who need to start adapting to new technologies to become more productive."

There are always demands for low-priced food, he said. "But you have to make farming profitable. This is the first thing. On the other hand, you have to increase income so that people can afford the price of food."

Inspectors

FROM PAGE 16

and seven years old. "According to the terms and conditions of the procurement agreement, the giraffes were supposed to be within 18 to 24 months of age.'

Kibria also said after the three-member Animal Inspection Committee visited South Africa a month before the procurement, it did not submit a report about the age and health of the giraffes.

Kibria described this as a "gross neglect" of their duties. The report states that the

government sustained a huge loss in purchasing animals that were older than they were purported to be. Departmental action was

recommended by the investigating committee against members of the Anima Inspection Committee.

The Animal Inspection Committee is headed by Habibur Rahman, who is also the current director general of the Directorate of Livestock Services.

Under current regulations, live animal imports are exempted from the customary pre-shipment inspection.

In June 2008, Dhaka Zoo procured another 22 rare animals from South Africa including zebra, oryx, wildebeest, impala, greater kudu, common elan, horse and donkey.

Twelve of these animals died within a year.

A total of 25 rare animals died at the zoo last year.

Located on 186 acres in Mirpur, the Dhaka Zoo is currently home to around 2,161 animals and 157 different

Fifty-seven species are

mammals, including elephants, Bengal tigers, lions, cheetahs, rhinoceros, zebras, different species of monkeys and chimpanzees and hippos.

The zoo has 61 species of birds, 11 species of reptiles, including snakes and crocodiles, and 28 species of fish.

The long neck giraffes instantly became the leading attraction amongst visitors at

Empowered

FROM PAGE 16

magistrates, who are government administration cadres, will hold trials for corrupt practices in the elections, like taking or giving bribes, and making false statements against candidates to influence the polls.

For committing those offences, one could be sentenced to prison for a maximum of seven years and a minimum of two years, monetary fines could also be added to the punishment.

The executive magistrates are also empowered to try offences like carrying out electoral campaigns on the polling day within 400 yards of polling stations, and usage of microphones and loudspeak-

ers on the polling day. The draft rules allow sentencing of such offenders to prison for a maximum of three years and a minimum of six

months. But the mobile court act says executive magistrates presiding over the mobile courts cannot sentence anyone to imprisonment for more than two years, regardless of the punishment stipulated in

the laws concerned. The legal experts said executive magistrates will face difficulties in trying electoral offences, as they do not have the authority to try those.

They said the Code of Criminal Procedure clearly specifies the functions and jurisdictions of judicial and executive magistrates, and it does not allow executive magistrates to try any electoral offence, and to imprison such offenders.

A debate arose just before impose fines on offenders. the last parliamentary polls, centring the issue whether executive magistrates could try electoral offences after the separation of the judiciary from the executive branch of the government.

The EC wrote to the SC, seeking its opinion on the matter before the December

The general administrative committee of the SC, headed by the chief justice, unanimously decided that only experienced judicial magistrates should be engaged in administering justice in cases filed in connection with elec-

toral offences. "As jurisdictions of the judicial and executive magistrates are clearly delineated, the latter need not be entrusted with the authority of the former," the SC noted.

The EC then deployed judicial magistrates for trying electoral offences during the

ninth parliamentary election. The legal experts said after the separation of the judiciary from the executive branch, no one except judicial officials can be entrusted with judicial powers without the approval

of the SC. Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, eminent jurist Shahdeen Malik said an executive magistrate may impose punishments like fines. He said the power of handing down imprisonments should no longer lie with anyone other

than judicial magistrates. "Hence, vesting judicial power in executive magistrates or in anyone else other than judicial officials of the republic, is in my opinion,

On expiry of the effective-

incumbent Awami League-led

ment, empowering the execu-

tive magistrates to sentence

an offender to a maximum of

two years of imprisonment.

BCL President Mahmud Hasan Ripon, General unconstitutional," he added. Secretary Mahfuzul Haider In the face of strong Chowdhury Roton, DU unit demands from the admin cadres, the immediate past President Sohel Rana Tipu caretaker government proand General Secretary Sazzad mulgated an ordinance Sakib Badsha were among empowering executive magisthose present. trates to preside over mobile Earlier on Thursday, Prime courts to maintain law and order, with the power only to

Minister Sheikh Hasina asked her party's three organising secretaries - - Nanak, Mozammel and Ahmad ness of that ordinance, the Hossain--to look into what was wrong with the student government promulgated a body. new mobile court ordinance Meanwhile, at least six and ratified it in the parliacrackers were exploded and

merce group subject in positions on the list. 10 rounds of bullets shot in TSC area on the DU campus at around 10:30pm.

800 more buses Govt out to ban

FROM PAGE 1

\$1 billion soft loan scheme, which India committed to provide Bangladesh during the recent visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

The proposed import would include both single decker and double decker buses. The government prefers articulated buses as well. "If any Indian company is able to supply articulated buses we will go for import of 200 such buses," said Abul Hossain, as articulated buses take a longer time to supply.

"We have a tentative plan on how the \$1 billion would be utilised," he said adding the government prefers bus import to replace the old vehicles in Dhaka city.

He said the government will go for a drive to withdraw unfit buses from the city after the new buses are launched.

He said the government is planning for an extensive and coordinated communications network to ease traffic congestions in the capital. Bangladesh Road

Transport Corporation imported 50 Volvo and 213 Ashok Leyland double decker buses a few years back to ease traffic congestion in the city.

But the move has failed, as most of those buses have remained abandoned due to lack of maintenance, sources

"Launching the new buses in Dhaka will just create more traffic congestion unless the government ensures BRI

system", said Dr Sarwar Jahan,

head of the Department of

Urban and Regional Planning of Buet. 'We have no scope to expand roads in Dhaka. So, the government should think the future impact before introducing the new vehicles in city," he said.

The 20-year Strategic Transport Plan for Dhaka also clearly suggests that each of the transport components should be developed in an integrated manner so that one does not foil the other. The area of Dhaka

They visited different Metropolitan City is nearly rooms of the dormitory, 1,530 square km and an estimated population is about of including room no-404 where 1.5 crore. Around 16,000 buses Siddique had been residing are running on the city roads and talked to the resident to serve this huge population, said a statistics available at Siddique's roommate BRTA.

Rezaul Karim handed over However, traffic jams in the three broken parts of a tearcity have become a national concern due to unplanned gas shell to the committee urbanisation. Unfit vehicles and old buses are also contrib-The members asked the uting massively to polluting students to submit their

the city's environment. Dhaka Metropolitan Police traffic department seized around 13,000 unfit vehicles from August 2009 to January 2010. In the meantime the traffic department had to

Dulal's double

FROM PAGE 1 dictate the more glamorous events. In the track and filed event that started yesterday India won three gold while Sri Lanka claimed two and Pakistan grabbed one.

In swimming the Indians took four out of five gold decided on the day. They also claimed both the shooting gold decided on the day.

The runaway leaders now lead the medals table with 75 gold, 29 silver and 13 bronze. Pakistan improved their tally to 11-19-19. Bangladesh remained in the second position with 8-11-35. The Lankans are breathing down their neck with 7-20-27.

Afghanistan also claimed two gold yesterday, improving their tally 3-5-8.

release around 11,000 vehicles due to lack of alternative transportation and dumping grounds as well.

The communication minister said the government has decided to go for a massive drive to withdraw unfit buses from Dhaka city. "But we want to ensure the replacement of public transport first and that's why bus import from India is being considered seriously." Dr M Rahmatullah, former

Escap, said bus import from India under the soft loan scheme would be better as Bangladesh can import at a lower cost from the neighbour. He suggested importing big and gas-driven buses so

director (transport) of UN-

that traffic situation can be improved with the replacement and pollution minimised. A total of 23 million trips in various modes of transport

take place in the Dhaka Metropolitan area every day, according to the Dhaka Urban Transport Network Development Study. Of the total trips, 8.4 millions are done with rickshaw,

7.5 millions by city buses and 4.1 millions on foot.

Kuwaiti

Bangladesh's interests since independence.

The prime minister and a high-profile delegation comprised of ministers and high officials will hold talks with Kuwait's top government leaders and businessmen. The prime minister is

scheduled to hold talks with the Emir of Kuwait Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah tomorrow. At the top of Sheikh Hasina's agenda will be

increasing Kuwaiti assistance for infrastructure and other development projects, particularly the fund for the Padma Bridge, added sources. Manpower exports and the

expansion of bilateral trade and commerce are also likely to dominate the talks. Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina and Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Nasser Al-Mohammad Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah will lead their respective countries during the talks. At noon tomorrow the

prime minister will deliver a speech at a luncheon with Kuwait's Chamber of It is expected that she will

call upon Kuwaitis to invest in Bangladesh's power, telecommunications, gas, leather, agro-based industries as well

as major infrastructure projects in Bangladesh. She will also urge businessmen to import Bangladeshi

products, including readymade garments, ceramics and pharmaceuticals. Hasina's Kuwaiti counter-

part will host a state banquet in her honour tomorrow evening. Highly placed government officials, including the speaker of Kuwait's parliament and the deputy prime ministers, will

pay courtesy calls on the PM at her lodgings in Bayan Palace. On Tuesday Sheikh Hasina will visit Kuwait Oil Company in Ahmedia.

In the afternoon she will

attend a reception hosted by the Bangladeshi community in Kuwait. She will fly out of Kuwait on

Tuesday evening and is expected to return to home earlyWednesday. Sheikh Hasina has visited

several other Gulf states, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar

and the United Arab Emirates.

The admission trade in Eden Women's University College is

controlled by BCL unit President Jasmine Shamima Nijhum and General Secretary Farzana Yasmin Tania, insiders BCL activists contact admission seekers and take

them to the top leaders to fix the amount for their admis-They then collect the photocopy of the admit cards of admission seekers, two copies of passport size photographs,

photocopies of their SSC and HSC transcripts and give those to an influential teacher of the college. The teacher then nominates students for their desired subjects, sources said. A student seeking admission to the college said her name was on the merit list in commerce group but she could not get a subject in that group.

were no seats left in that group and nominated her for political science. The college has 1,175 seats in the science group, 920 seats

The teachers told her that there

in commerce group and 2,570 seats in humanities group, according to officials. A BCL leader there said an admission seeker securing 1057th position on the merit list was enrolled for a com-

exchange for Tk 30,000 bypassing a few who secured better

Admission trade admission trade at Eden

> When contacted, Eden College BCL President Nijhum said two expelled organising secretaries of the party--Sharmi and Happy--are making these allegations against

> > "I have not visited the cam-

Mahfuza Chowdhury could

pus for two days to avoid such allegations. Our principal has also asked us not to go to her during admission process, which would otherwise give people scopes to spread such allegations against us," she Eden College Principal Prof

not be contacted over her cell phone. BCL leaders in Dhaka College had stopped the admission process demanding 500 seats under "political"

quota, which prompted the National University authorities to introduce the online admission process. BCL sources said their leaders had taken around Tk 20,000 in advance from some

50-60 students each. When contacted Mahiuddin Sarkar, president of Kobi Nazrul College BCL unit, said a few students of

Jagannath University might against them.

Chhatra League is involved in such illegal trade," he said.

have made such allegations "This year the college authorities and we sat together and decided to make the admission process free and fair. No one of Bangladesh

According to the leader, around Tk 15 lakh has so far been accumulated through the