

Opposition walks out over remarks on Zia
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition lawmakers led by Opposition Leader Khaleda Zia staged a stormy walkout during parliamentary proceedings last evening, protesting the home minister's remarks on late president Ziaur Rahman.

Making a statement on Islami Chhatra Shibir's brutality at Rajshahi University, Home Minister Sahara Khatun said, "Jamaat-Shibir, who got back political rights under the patronisation of killers Zia-Mushtaque, have been carrying out subversive activities one after another to foil the trial of war criminals."

The BNP-led opposition lawmakers, who returned to the House after a long boycott, tried to silence her by shouting in a body.

As soon as the home minister completed her statement, **SEE PAGE 15 COL 1**

BNP back, places list of demands

Demands talks on price spike, campus violence, Asian highway

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Returning to the House after a long absence, the BNP-led opposition yesterday demanded parliamentary discussions on issues like price hike of essentials, law and order, campus violence and Asian highway.

It also asked the government to scrap the decision cancelling the lease of BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia's cantonment residence and withdraw "false and fabricated" cases against Khaleda, her two sons and other BNP leaders.

Presenting a charter of demands, the BNP and allies urged the speaker to expunge the treasury bench's "indecent remarks" on late president Ziaur Rahman, give the opposition four more front-row seats, chairmanship of two more standing committees and a deputy speaker's post.

After being off for 64 consecutive sittings since June, lawmakers belonging to BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami and Bangladesh Jatiya Party entered the House moments after the day's proceedings began at 3:10pm.

Shortly afterwards, Opposition Chief Whip Zainul Abidin Faroque took the floor and placed the charter.

In response, Speaker Abdul Hamid said discussions can be held on important issues.

"You [opposition MPs] cannot discuss everything in one day. You may discuss some issues when you will speak on the thanksgiving motion on the president's address."

He earlier welcomed the opposition lawmakers to the House amid desk-thumping by the treasury bench. Leader of the House Sheikh Hasina was not present at that time.

Hamid assured the opposition deputies of expunging all unconstitutional languages used during parliament proceedings. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 1**



A bus hits a rickshaw breaking the three-lane system on DIT Road at the city's East Rampura yesterday. PHOTO: AMRAN HOSSAIN



President of Turkey Gul due today
DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Turkish President Abdullah Gul arrives in Dhaka today on a two-day official trip which aims to enhance cooperation, boost economic ties and further strengthen bilateral relations. **SEE PAGE 7 COL 1**

Gul talks to The Daily Star

In an email interview with The Daily Star, Turkish President Abdullah Gul says there is much room to expand bilateral relations, particularly in economic and commercial fields. Despite the global economic crisis, the two-way trade volume was around \$600 million in 2009. He says a \$1 billion trade volume between Bangladesh and Turkey is an achievable target. **SEE FULL INTERVIEW ON PAGE 11**

PM talks with Abbas at ZIA

Reiterates Bangladesh's support for Palestinians
UNB, Dhaka

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas yesterday made a stop-over for an hour at Zia International Airport where he and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina had a discussion on matters of mutual interest.

President Abbas arrived here by a special aircraft at 3:00pm on his way back home. Hasina received him at the VVIP lounge.

Hasina and Abbas had a 30-minute meeting from 3:20pm, amid latest developments in the Palestinian's protracted struggles for an independent state ending Israeli occupation of Arab lands.

PM's Press Secretary Abul Kalam Azad told reporters that the Palestinian president apprised the PM of the outcome of his visit to Japan and Korea.

Hasina told the Palestinian leader that Bangladesh always stood beside the Palestinian people and supported the legitimate cause of Palestine.

"Bangladesh would continue to support establishment of peace in Palestine as Bangladesh believes in peace and harmony across the world," she said during the talks. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

RU INCIDENTS HC rules for strong probe commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court yesterday issued a suo moto rule upon the government to explain within eight days why it should not be directed to form a high-powered enquiry commission to investigate the recent gruesome incident of Rajshahi University.

In the rule, the court asked the home secretary and education secretary and the inspector general of police (IGP) to explain why they should not be directed to form the commission to find out how the RU incident took place on Tuesday.

The HC bench of Justice Md Mamtaz Uddin Ahmed and Justice Naima Haider also fixed February 23 for further order on this issue. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 6**

Rajshahi Jamaat chief arrested

Body of Shibir leader recovered, govt launches drive to nab culprits; 32 held

STAR REPORT

Police yesterday arrested Rajshahi city Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Aatur Rahman in connection with the two cases filed for Tuesday's violence at Rajshahi University and the murder of Faruk Hossain.

Meanwhile, police claimed to have recovered the body of an Islami Chhatra Shibir leader, accused of being involved in Tuesday's violence, at a house in Chapainawabganj.

The law enforcement agencies have started combing operations at all the Jamaat-Shibir strongholds across the country. They arrested 32 Shibir men. Six were placed on remand.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police yesterday suspended another policemen in connection with negligence of duty at a Rajshahi University dormitory Tuesday.

Police arrested Jamaat leader Aatur, also an assistant headmaster of Loknath High School in Rajshahi, around 10:15am yesterday as he was going to school, Boalia Police Station chief Jasimuddin told The Daily Star.

Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner Nawsher Ali said Aatur was being interrogated and he was arrested after investigation revealed his involvement in the violence. "Only two days before the violence, Aatur presided over a meeting in Rajshahi city where many Jamaat leaders delivered provocative statements and we received information that he ordered the murder," said the RMP commissioner.

Talking to reporters at Boalia Police Station Aatur denied involvement in the violence. **SEE PAGE 15 COL 4**

BCL men beat up journos at RU

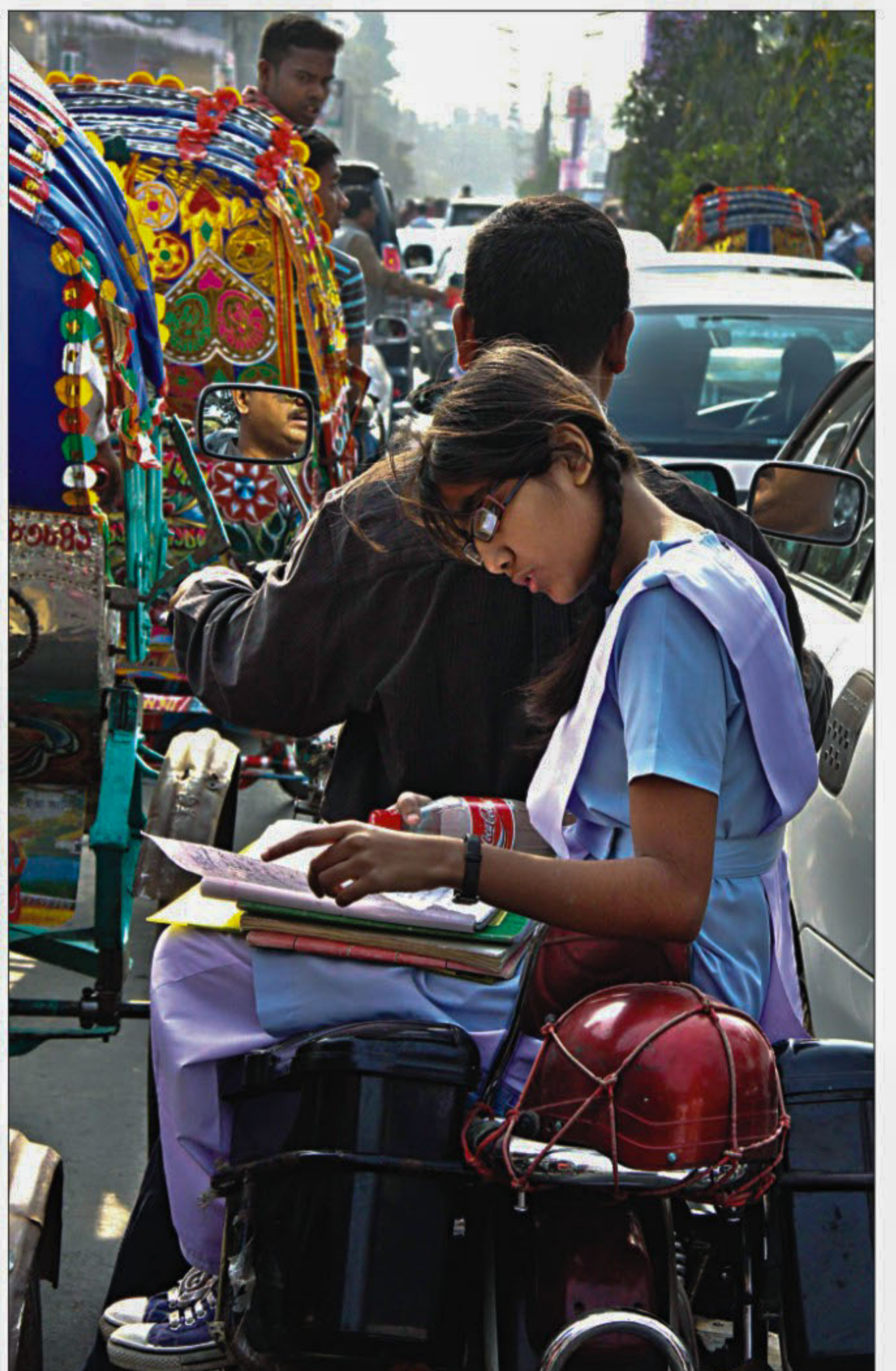
A RU CORRESPONDENT

A group of Bangladesh Chhatra League cadres yesterday severely beat up 11 journalists and photojournalists at Rajshahi University.

Seriously injured photojournalist of Prothom Alo Azaharuddin and New Age reporter Soumitra Majumdar were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

Sources said Chhatra League activists around noon yesterday attacked Musaddek Ali, a student of Islamic history department, suspecting him to be an activist of Islami Chhatra Shibir in front of the university central library.

Sources said as Azaharuddin and Channel i cameraman Moïn Hossain of **SEE PAGE 7 COL 6**



Trapped in the gridlock, an SSC examinee utilises the time by doing her last-minute lesson revision. The photo was taken in front of the city's Motijheel Govt Boys' High School yesterday. PHOTO: ANISUR RAHMAN

SSC exams begin

64 students, one teacher expelled
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Secondary School Certificate and its equivalent examinations started yesterday with a total of 4,108 absentees while 64 students and one teacher were expelled on the first day for resorting to unfair means.

Eight education boards, one madrasa education board and one technical education board are conducting the month-long SSC, Dakhil and SSC vocational examinations for 2010 with the examinees **SEE PAGE 7 COL 4**

PM shows up late for SSC exams

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday set an example attending the 4th National Convention of Krishibid Institution, Bangladesh one-hour late just to yield passage for SSC candidates for smooth travel to exam centres.

"Today is the beginning of the SSC examination. I could attend your programme just on time. But I made delay for the convenience of the SSC candidates to appear at their examination," she told her audience.

After having been assured that all SSC candidates had reached their examination halls, she started for the **SEE PAGE 15 COL 8**

2 shot at in N'ganj, Tk 19 lakh snatched

One mugger beaten to death; Mirpur criminals shoot youth, take away Tk 4 lakh

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Angry mob yesterday beat a mugger to death and injured his two accomplices for shooting at two employees of a business firm and snatching Tk 19 lakh from them in Fatullah, Narayanganj.

Meanwhile, another gang of four criminals yesterday shot a youth and took away Tk 4 lakh from him in the city's Mirpur around 1:30pm.

In the first incident, locals and Fatullah police chased and caught the three-man gang but could not recover the money. Police recovered two revolvers and seven bullets from them. The mob also set their get-away motorcycle on fire.

The deceased mugger, approximately 42 years old, and his two partners are yet to be identified. The injured muggers were rushed to Narayanganj 200-bed Hospital and later transferred to Dhaka Medical College Hospital **SEE PAGE 15 COL 2**

Rejoinder

Barrister Mainul Hossain, chairman of editorial board and executive director-I of Ittefaq Group of Publications Ltd, in a rejoinder Tuesday said he never said Anwar Hossain Manju amassed Tk 2 crore through illegal means and distributed it among the workers and journalists of the Daily Ittefaq.

The Daily Star on Monday in a report headlined "ACC **SEE PAGE 15 COL 7**

JAMUNA MALL HC order to demolish illegal floors upheld

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Supreme Court yesterday upheld the High Court order to demolish the unauthorised top four floors of Jamuna Future Park Shopping Complex by dismissing a petition filed against the HC decision.

A six-member bench of the **SEE PAGE 7 COL 1**

In remembrance on the First Death Anniversary of Rebecca Mahmud (Nilu)



At the ordain of Almighty Allah you left us to eternity on this day the 12th February 2009. We still remember you and feel deeply shocked at your early death. Your act and deeds as Director of First Lease Finance and Investment Limited give us the source of inspiration in discharging our responsibilities.

We pray to Almighty Allah for your eternal peace.

Members, Board of Directors and Staff Members
of
First Lease Finance and Investment Ltd