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The Daily Star colleagues celebrate 30 years of editorship of Mahfuz Anam at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR


Be vocal
against attack
on media
Info minister urges
newspaper editors

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud yesterday urged editors of daily newspapers to create public opinion against BNP-sponsored terrorism and violence, saying BNP attacked the very existence of the country. He said this while exchanging views with the editors at his office at the secretariat. BNP activists attacked the residence of the chief

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PRAYER
TIMING
NOVEMBER 2



Fazr	Zohr	Asr	Maghrib	Esha
AZAN 4:55	12:45	4:00	5:30	7:15
JAMAAT 5:30	1:15	4:15	5:34	7:45

SOURCE: ISLAMIC FOUNDATION

‘We want protection, compensation’

Demand transport owners for plying buses amid BNP-Jamaat blockade; home minister to visit terminals from Friday

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

A handful of buses hit the streets, especially on the inter-district routes, in the last two days despite a decision of top transport associations leaders to keep services normal during the BNP-Jamaat blockade. Many bus operators and workers are not ready to operate buses unless they get clear assurance about protection and compensation from the highest authority because plying the vehicles would put their life at risk. Moreover, they were not ready to operate buses with less passengers in fear of economic losses, even though some transport and ruling party leaders assured them of giving compensation. They want announcement from the prime minister, insiders said.

Against the backdrop, Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal yesterday held a meeting with top transport leaders at his secretariat office to come out with a solution, as both the authorities and transport leaders think BNP, Jamaat may announce further blockade in coming days, sources said. As per the decision of the meeting, the home minister will visit all four major bus terminals in the capital from Friday to assure transport owners and workers of giving necessary safety and compensation from the government, two participants of the meeting confirmed The Daily Star last night. He will visit Gabtoli on Friday noon and three other terminals – Mohakhali, Saydabad and Phulbaria – within next few days. A day after BNP and Jamaat

announced a three-day blockade starting on Tuesday, leaders of transport owners and workers convened a meeting and agreed to continue operating both passenger and goods vehicles during the blockade. Shajahan Khan, president of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation, chaired the meeting attended by top leaders of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, the Federation, and Bangladesh Bus Truck Owners Association. Meanwhile, continued to bear the brunt of the situation. Ali Iqbal, a Kuwait expatriate, came to Gabtoli Bus Terminal at around 10:00am yesterday to go to Meherpur. He said he failed to get any bus. “We will not run any bus unless

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Mirza Abbas remanded for five days

UNB, Dhaka

A Dhaka court yesterday placed BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas on a five-day remand in a case involving an act of sabotage and attempts to snatch away pistols from law enforcers during clashes on October 28 in Dhaka. Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shafi Uddin granted the remand after rejecting his bail petition. Mustafizur Rahman, sub-inspector of Shahjahanpur Police Station, filed the case making Mirza Abbas the prime suspect on October 29. Forty-nine BNP men were identified as suspects while 700-800 unidentified individuals have been mentioned in the case. Police and the BNP supporters clashed in some parts of Dhaka involving the party’s scheduled grand rally on October 28.

Measures taken to attract foreign investment: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament yesterday that the government has taken extensive measures to attract foreign investment. The government is also working on to maximise the utilisation of domestic resources through ensuring internal stability, the premier also said. In a scripted answer, Hasina, also Leader of the House, said five investment development agencies have been constituted in the country to attract foreign investment. Those were Bangladesh Investment Development Authority (BIDA), Bangladesh Economic Zone Authority (BEZA), Bangladesh Economic Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA), Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority (HTPA), and Public Private Partnership Authority (PPPA). She mentioned that One-stop Service has been introduced in these agencies to facilitate investment, while plans have been taken to make all the offices providing investment services fully online and digitised. Besides, the government is providing various financial and non-financial incentives

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THREE-DAY BLOCKADE

AL dominant on Dhaka streets

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Awami League and its affiliate organisations were more prominent on Dhaka streets yesterday, the second day of the three-day nationwide blockade called by BNP, its allies, and Jamaat-e-Islami. Leaders and activists of the ruling party took positions at different spots around the capital, held brief rallies, and brought out processions wielding bamboo sticks. The AL activists were seen taking possession at places, including AL central office on Bangabandhu Avenue, Uttara’s Azampur, Darus Salam, near Technical crossing, Mirpur 10, Banani, Badda, Farmgate, Kallyanpur, Shahbagh, Bonghsal, Gabtoli, Rampura, Sabujbagh, Kamlapur, Jatrabari, Bijoynagar, and Sadarghat areas. They chanted slogans against BNP and Jamaat, branding their actions as “criminal activities”. Chhatra League activists were seen patrolling on bikes with bamboo sticks and cricket stumps on the Dhaka University campus area around noon. Asked why they had taken to the streets, the AL men claimed they were on alert to protect people’s lives and property from BNP-Jamaat’s violence and anarchy. “As the ruling party men, it’s our

responsibility to protest people’s lives and property. We are in the field to ensure smooth movement of the common people,” SM Hanif, president of Mirpur Thana unit, told The Daily Star. During a visit around 12:30pm, AL men were seen sitting on the roads in front of Awami League’s central office on Bangabandhu Avenue, led by Dhaka city (south) AL President Abu Ahmed Mannafi and General Secretary Humayun Kabir. Addressing the leaders and activists, Mannafi said, “Those who will try to set fire will be strongly resisted. People have rejected BNP’s blockade.” BNP and Jamaat separately called the three-day nationwide blockade of roads, railways, and waterways, claiming that it was in protest of police action during their events and arrests of activists. Meanwhile, AL General Secretary Obaidul Quader yesterday alleged that BNP has again chosen the path of terrorism behind their so-called systematic movement. He said although BNP claims to be a pro-democracy force, in essence, they are an anti-democratic and anti-national force. Quader further alleged that BNP is now trying to win the mercy of foreign masters with a failed movement by spreading disinformation.



Buses lie idle at Mohakhali terminal yesterday. Many bus operators and workers are not ready to operate buses amid the ongoing blockade unless they get assurance about protection and compensation.

PHOTO: PRABIR DAS