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The Daily Star family celebrates 30 years of editorship of Mahfuz Anam at The Daily Star Centre yesterday.

#### Be vocal against attack on media Info minister urges newspaper editors

BSS, Dhaka

Information Minister Hasan Mahmud vesterday 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 SEE PAGE 4 COL 3



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, workers for plying buses amid BNP-Jamaat blockade; home minister to visit terminals from Friday

TUHIN SHUBHRA ADHIKARY

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.

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

Against the backdrop, Home announced a three-day blockade Minister Asaduzzaman Khan starting on Tuesday, leaders of A handful of buses hit the streets, Kamal yesterday held a meeting transport owners and workers especially on the inter-district with top transport leaders at his convened a meeting and agreed routes, in the last two days despite secretariat office to come out with a to continue operating both a decision of top transport solution, as both the authorities and passenger and goods vehicles during the blockade.

Shajahan Khan, of Bangladesh Road Transport Workers Federation, chaired the meeting attended by top leaders of Bangladesh Road Transport Owners Association, 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 SEE PAGE 4 COL 2

### 5-day remand for Abbas, Alal, 8-day

for Sarwardi STAR REPORT

Courts in Dhaka yesterday granted a five-day remand each for BNP standing committee member Mirza Abbas and joint secretary general Syed Moazzem Hossain Alal, and an eightday remand for Lt Gen (retired) Chowdhury Hasan Sarwardi in separate cases.

Dhaka Metropolitan Magistrate Shafi Uddin granted the remand for Abbas after he was arrested on Tuesday in a case filed with Paltan Police Station on October 28 over the death of a police constable.

Alal was also arrested in the same case.

Yesterday, the court also rejected their bail petitions Meanwhile, the court also placed Sarwardi on an eight-day remand in a case over cheating people with a

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

#### DENGUE VACCINE

## 2nd phase trial gets promising results

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The second phase trial of the dengue vaccine has got promising results.

With three years of follow-up, the single-dose tetravalent dengue vaccine, TV005, was found well tolerated and immunogenic for all four serotypes in young children to adults, including people lacking previous dengue exposure," said Rashidul Haque, a senior scientist at icddr,b, at a press conference.

Researchers from icddr,b, and the Larner College of Medicine at the University of Vermont, USA are the first to study the promising dengue vaccine in Bangladesh.

The third phase trial of the vaccine will begin in India this year and Rashidul said it would be better if they would be able to do the trial jointly.

The findings come with a ray of hope at a time when Bangladesh is grappling with its most devastating dengue outbreak on

Meanwhile, at least seven dengue patients died while 1,903 others were hospitalised in the last 24 hours till yesterday, according to the Directorate General of Health Services.

The result of the clinical trial along with the study was published in The Lancet

Infectious Diseases journal recently. The second phase trial found the vaccine to be 100 percent effective for persons with previous exposure to any of the serotypes 1 to 3, and about 87 percent effective for serotype 4.

On the other hand, for a person with no previous dengue infection, the vaccine is 70 percent effective for Serotype 1, 99 percent for serotype 2, 94 percent for serotype 3, and 88 percent for serotype 4.

In the trial, 194 volunteers received the TV005 vaccine or placebo over three years, beginning in 2016.

There is a ray of hope, as the vaccine seems to work. However, two to three more years are needed to get it in the market as many more things have to be done to ensure its safety," said Dr Tahmeed Ahmed, executive director of icddr,b.

"We do not have capacity to bring it to the market and a company has to come forward for its mass production," he said.

The antibody produced due to the vaccine will remain effective for three years, said Dr Firdausi Qadri, investigator from Icddr,b, adding that they would follow the data up to five years to know more about it.

Dr Firdausi also said a phase-2 B trial will be conducted on a larger population to observe the vaccine's effectiveness.

### Measures taken to attract foreign investment: PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told parliament vesterday that 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 a

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 SEE PAGE 4 COL 1

### 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, Gabtali, 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 countrywide blockade of roads,

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

railways, and waterways, claiming that it

He said although BNP claims to be a prodemocracy force, in essence, they are an anti-democratic and anti-national force.

so-called systematic movement.

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.