French election Mar 22

22 as the date for the first round of next year's regional and

local elections. A second round, required under France's two-

ballot voting system, will take place a week later, government

Quake rocks Philippines

island in the southern Philippines today but there were no

immediate reports of damage or casualties,- government

volcanologists said. The tremor, which occurred at 7.12 p.m.

(1112 GMT) was registered at 6.2 on the Richter Scale and

could cause heavy damage if it struck a populated area, said

Leyo Bautista, spokeswoman for the Philippine Institute of

Volcanology and Seismology, reports Reuter.

MANILA, Nov 13: A strong earthquake struck Mindanao

ministers said after a cabinet meeting, reports Reuter.

PARIS, Nov 13: The French government today set March

Shrimp culture uncertain, Tk 150 cr likely to be lost

By Staff Correspondent

More than 40,000 acres of shrimp culture area in Cox's Bazar which was ravaged by the devastating cyclone of April 29 still remains open to ravages of the sea making it impossible for several thousand shrimp cultivators to restart farming.

An estimated Tk 150 crore may be lost for non-cultivation "The farming season is im-

minent but the authorities have not yet started the repair of embankment despite government's approval for the project," Abdullah Khan, General Secretary of Cox's Bazar Zila Chingri Khamar Association (shrimp cultivators association) said.

A high-powered ministry sub-committee after visiting the cyclone-ravaged area sanctioned 32,000 metric tons of wheat for the reconstruction of 740 kilometres damaged embankment, he said while addressing a press conference at the National Press Club on . Wednesday.

He said that the Ministry of Fisheries undertook reconstruction work of embankment for 7,000 acres of shrimp culture area which the ministry supervises in the district but the major portion (40,000 acres) remains unprotected.

Last year shrimp worth Taka 500 crore was produced in 1,50,000 acres of land in

the country which is one of the major foreign currency earn-

ers, he said. He mentioned that the rehabilitation and technological development programme may cost the government Taka 500 crore but after its implementation export carnings from this sector for the country

would stand at Taka 2,500. "But it is not possible for our part to prepare even an acre of land for cultivation as the April 29 cyclone left us in almost penniless condition," Abdullah Khan said adding 'we need government help to restart our projects besides repair of the embankment."

Some 4,000 cultivators of the district sustained a damage of Taka 400 crore from the April cyclone.

Over 800,000 people are engaged in this sector in the country, he pointed out.

They placed a three-point charter of demands including embankment reconstruction, sanction of bank loans for their rehabilitation and reduction of land taxes from Taka 1,500 to Taka 500.

Other association leaders Md Shahjahan, Nurul Amin, Abu Masud Chowdhury, Dayel Chandra Rajbangshi, Arif Chowdhury, Badiur Rahman and Kadir Hossain were present at the press conference.

Hindus' bid to storm Chavan's meeting on Kashmir issue

SRINAGAR, Nov 13: Indian troops shot and killed 11 unarmed Muslim militants trying to slip into Pakistan, while politicians from all parties met Wednesday to discuss ways to end the Muslim rebellion in Kashmir, reports AP.

Seven people died in other clashes over a 24-hour period, said the government of Jammu-Kashmir state.

In New Delhi, police clubbed and injured at least 10 persons when Kashmiri Hindus tried to storm a political conference on the Kashmir problem, United News of India reported. About 50 people were arrested, Press Trust of India said.

Half-brother of Saddam made Interior Minister

NICOSIA, Nov 13 : Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's half-brother and head of military intelligence was named the new Interior Minister Wednesday in a further tightening of Saddam's inner circle, reports AP.

In a brief dispatch monitored in Nicosia, the Iraqi News Agency said Wathban Ibrahim Hassan was appointed by a presidential decree.

Hassan had been governor of Salah ad-Din, a province in troubled Kurdistan, and head of military intelligence.

The demonstrators were protesting the exclusion from the talks of a representative from the estimated 150,000 Hindus who have fled Kashmir since the Muslim rebellion

have been killed so far this year in the insurrection. Muslim separatists want either an independent state or to leave Hindu-dominated India and join Pakistan, an Islamic

At the end of the daylong meeting, the political leaders appealed to Kashmiri Muslims to give up violence and urged the government to continue the dialogue, echoing calls from previous gatherings.

A statement by the Jammu-Kashmir government said 11 militants were killed in a hail of gunfire Tuesday when they ignored a warning and tried to run across the border in the Kupwara region, 100 kilometres (60 miles) northwest of Srinagar.

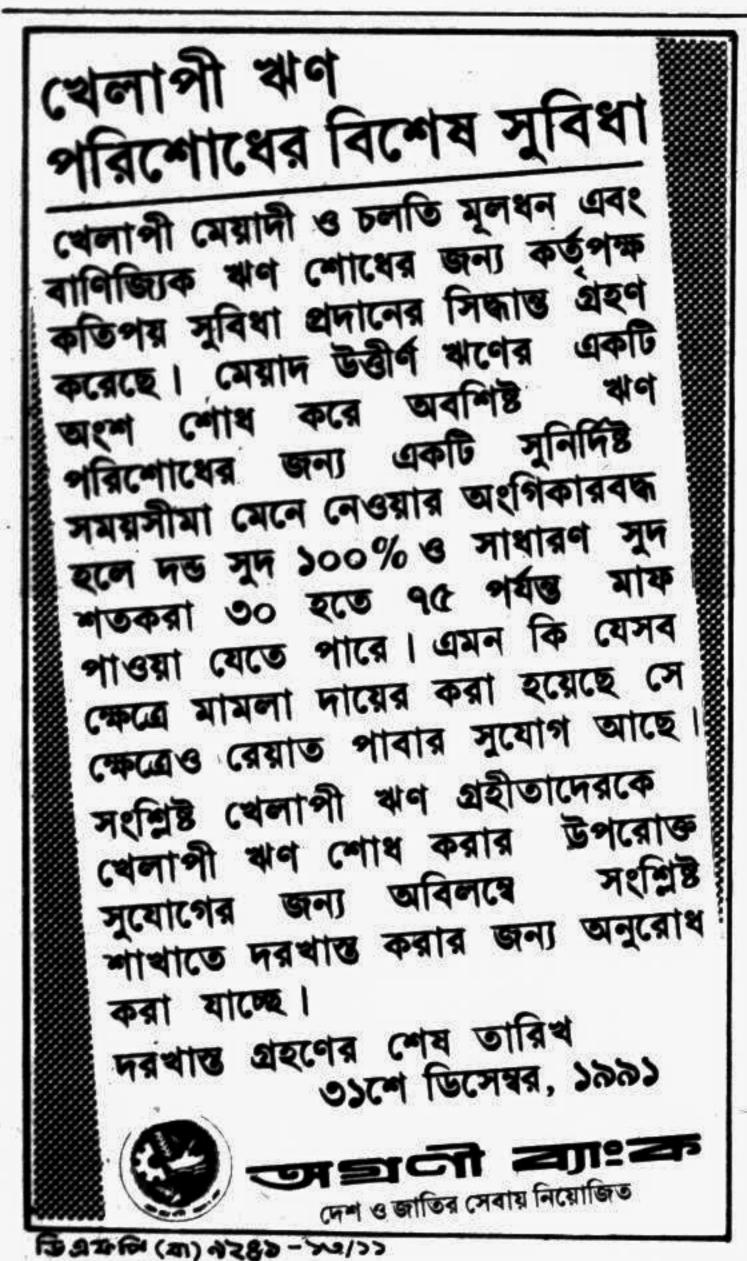
One man who survived the gunfire was detained by the troops, it said.

A state official, speaking on condition of anonymity, claimed the group was heading to Pakistan for training with guerilla organisations.

escalated two years ago.

More then 1,600 people

Interior Minister S B Chavan chaired the meeting of 22 politicians, in the first soundings by the five-monthold government on possible solutions to the Kashmir dis-



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Writ on presidential poll

Counsel justifies secret ballot

The hearing of the writ petitton filed by Abdus Samad Azad, MP, and six others challenging the Presidential Election Act, 1991, continued before a High Court Division Bench of the Supreme Court for the third day Wednesday. reports BSS.

Amir-Ul Islam, the counsel of the petitioners, submitted his arguments that there was no precedence in the country of an election having been held through the open ballot.

In support of his contention he mentioned the union parishad, upazila parishad and, Jatiya Sangsad elections and said even trade union and bar association elections were held through the secret ballot.

The hearing will resume today (Thursday).

Zakir Ahmed also appeared on behalf of the petitioners. Aminul Huq, Attorney General, A Y Salehuzzaman Deputy Attorney General Hasan Arif. Deputy Attorney General and Obaidur Rahman Mostafa, Assistant Attorney General appeared for the state.

Mujib's killers rehabilitated abroad: Kader

MEHERPUR. Nov 13: Awami League leader Kader Siddiqi today reiterated the demand for the trial of the killers of Sheikh Mujib, reports UNB.

"We will continue the movement until the killers of Bangabandhu are brought to the dock", Siddiqi told a public meeting at Mujibnagar where the provisional government was formed in 1971.

Siddigi said the prime task of the armed forces is to safeguard the country's sovereignty and protect a democratic government but a group of army men had staged coup in August 1975 tarnishing their image.

"The plotters, instead of being tried, were rehabilitated with jobs abroad", he said criticising late President Ziaur Rahman for his mysterious silence on the issue.

Expressing resentment for negligence toward the freedom fighters, Siddiqi urged the government to take appropriate steps to give them due honour and to rehabilitate them in the society.

The meeting, presided over by local Awami League leader Abdul Mamin Chowdhury, was also addressed by Ayub Hossain, Prof Abdul Kuddus and Aftabuzzaman Feroz.

This was the first public meeting Siddiqi addressed at Mujibnagar after his return from self-exile in India. He was arrested from Jhenidah last January while proceeding towards Meherpur to address a public meeting.

Earlier, he placed floral wreath at the mausoleum at Mujibnagar. He also addressed another public meeting at local Shamsuzzuha park.

Bombs blast at Dutch Interior Ministry

AMSTERDAM, Nov 13: Bombs exploded at the Dutch Interior Ministry in the Hague and the home of a Junior Justice Minister North of Amsterdam early today, police said. No one was hurt, reports Reuter.

A group calling itself radical anti-racist action claimed responsibility for both blasts in a statement sent to the Dutch news agency ANP, saying it was protesting against Dutch asylum policy which it called restrictive and dehumanising.

Police originally said the Hague explosion hit the Justice Ministry, in the same building as the Interior Ministry. Anonymous warnings were given an hour before each bomb went off, police said. "The warning was that there would be a bomb at the Justice Ministry . . . may be they (the perpetrators) made a mistake," a spokesman said.

The explosion rocked the second floor of Interior Ministry just before 5 a.m.

Repatriation

From Page 1 Col. 7

SPGRC on August 4, with its about 2.5 lakh members, announced starting, a 'long

march' on August 14. The planned, march wa later put off following assurance of repatriation from Nawaz Sharif.

The Rabita Secretary General, who arrived accompanying two former Saudi Ministers Shaikh Ahmad Salah Jamjoom and Dr Muhammad Abduh Yemani, is scheduled to call on the President and the Prime Minister during his stay in Bangladesh.

Dr Nasseef told newsmen that before arriving here, he had met the Pakistan Prime Minister and discussed early repatriation measures with



Wednesday.

Two Britons

From Page 1 Col. 8 Sillman, aged about 42.

The report stated, 'An evil child-molester is running a youth club with a grant from his local council." Justin Sillman, 42, was previously jailed for two years for a catalogue of sex crimes against boys aged 12 to 15.

He is now working with deprived youngsters in East London. He is the chairman of the management committee of the Brick Lane Youth Club in Tower Hamlets- and arranged for the local council to provide 6,500 pound sterling last year for equipment."

A Bengali Daily "Surma" published from East London also warned the local Bengali guardians about the activities of the Brick Lane Youth Club.

The chairman of the Health and Social Service Committee of Tower Hamlets Association for Racial Equality, Sue Davis in a letter to Ruth Hindley, Acting Director, Social Services Strategy Group also expressed her concern about the report on the Brick Lane Youth Club being run with a prestigious sponsorship.

In response to this concern, John G D Grieve, Chief Superintendent of Metropolitan Police engaged an officer to investigate the matter.

On August 1, 1991 British MP Lord Peter Shore also wrote to the Councillor of Tower Hamlets Peter Hughes not to support any activity of the Brick Lane Youth Club as long as Sillman was associated with it.

In response to this request Peter Hughes had also written to Peter Shore assuring him that no support would be given to the Youth Club unless the council was satisfied that Sillman had no connection with it. Peter Hughes also assured that he would see how the earlier grant was made to the club by the local council.

Peter also made enquiries about the club several times and warned the local administration about the concern of the guardians.

One Kumar from London wrote to his father in Bangladesh about the activities in London of Sillman and his colleague Jeremy Shaw. This was however totally ignored by the officials and press in Bangladesh.

Kumar informed his relatives that Jeremy Shaw's proposal to put all Bengali families in boats was a racial slogan.

According to concerned quarters Jeremy Shaw and Sillman now visiting Bangladesh with the sponsorship of some Bangladeshis, were trying to become credible to the Bangladeshis in London so that they could attract more Bangladeshi boys to indulge in sexual offences.

Observers feel that an investigation should be made in this regard.

A social organisation 'Broti' also expressed its concern at the attitude of the government officials in dealing with the matters. The organisation in a

statement to the press, signed by Sharmin Sonia, Nujhat Shahjadi, Anish Barua, Kazi Sufia Akhter, and Nerun N Yakub expressed its resentment after a news item was published in a section of Bengali dailies that

the two Britons were allowed to see President Abdur Rahman Biswas in Dhaka.

The two Britons are staying at Hotel Pritom and have reportedly engaged a person who earlier used to serve in Bangladesh High Commission in London to get press cover-

They also held a press conferences but The Daily Star was excluded by the person engaged to contact the press.

UNB adds: Two British voluntary workers, now on a visit to Bangladesh, will leave Dhaka today (Wednesday) for Sylhet where they would undertake relief works for the flood vic-Jeremy A Shaw, chairman

of Bethnal Green Neighbour

hood, a London-based volun-

tary agency, told reporters in Dhaka yesterday (Tuesday) that they had got permission from the Bangladesh authorities to conduct relief work in Sylhet. He said Bethnal Green Neighbourhood, in cooperation

with London-based Bangladeshi voluntary agency "Nirala", had collected about 400,000 pieces of cloths for the distressed flood-victims of Bangladesh which they now wanted to distribute in Sylhet. The clothes had already ar-

rived at Chittagong port which should now be released for distribution in Jagannathpur, Shalia, and Derai upazilas in Sunamganj.

Shaw denied allegations reported in a Bangladesh newspaper that the two Britons, Jeremy Shaw and his companion Justin Sillman, were involved in sex abuse cases or any activities against the Bangladeshi community in London.

The allegations against them were motivated and concocted by their political opponents who want to use the Bangladeshi community in London, he said.

them of taking necessary steps to stop piracy in the Bay. -Star photo

The unanimous decision to form a parliamentary special committee on campus violence was taken at the close of the second session of the House on August 14. The committee was entrusted to pin-point the causes of the campus violence and to suggest its remedies.

The constitution of the committee was completed during the third session of the parliament that prorogued on November 5.

mittee include Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Khandker Delwar Hossain, Majidul Haque, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Dr Khandker Mosharraf Hossain, Zamiruddin Sircar, Mir Shawkat Ali, Mohammed Nasim, Tofael Ahmed, Matiya Chowdhury, Dr Mizanul Haque, Prof Abdul Mannan, Rashed Khan Menon and Sheikh Ansar

Internee doctors

From Page 1 Col. 8 Medical Association (BMA).

Called by the Central Internee Doctors' Council, the internees of the DMCH will also observe strike for different lengths of time before they Lama. go for a day-long strike on November 24. The strike will be observed for three hours (everyday from 10 am to 1 pm) on November 16, 17, 18 and 19, and for four hours everyday on November 20, 21 and 23.

The Council has also convened a press conference on November 24 when the internee, doctors would announce their next course of action. Earlier, the internee doctors also staged a sit-in demonstration before of the director of the DMCH on November 12 in this regard.

2 killed, 14 missing

From Page 1 Col. 3

the Fire Service stopped the search at 11-30 pm, saying they could not trace any more

But witnesses alleged Fire Brigade men abandoned the search as they could not bail out water pouring in from all sides in the canal. Mohiuddin and Riju

Rahman who survived the disaster told UNB that 22 labourers were working when the pipe burst with a big bang. They feared many of their fellow workers were trapped under the mass of sand and RCC

However, Badiur Rahman, Assistant Director of the Fire Service, said they called off the rescue operation as they were told by survivors that only one man was missing after the accident.

Meanwhile, another Fire

The Prime Minister also

night visited Panthapath.

Service source said that it would take several days to clear out the water pouring into the canal. BSS adds: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday

went to Dhaka Medical College Hospital to see the body of the victim, died in the mishap. The Prime Minister was in-

given first aid while two were treated in the emergency. Begum Khaleda Zia talked to Monohar and Ibrahim in-

formed that four persons were

jured in the accident, and inquired about their treatment. The Prime Minister also visited some other patients there and directed for proper

Those who were given first aid included Mokbul, Habib, Khaleque and Siddique - all of whom were working at the accident site.

treatment.

Dhaka Metropolitan Corporation Mayor Mirza Abbas and State Minister for Textiles Maj (Retd) A Mannan were with the Prime Minister during her

30,000 families homeless

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 13: About 30,000 families in the district were rendered homeless by floods and river erosion in last 10 months.

The Midnight File fishermen's security in Bay

From Our Correspondent COX'S BAZAR, Nov 13: Cox's Bazar Fishing-boat Owner's Federation (CFOF) submitted memoranda to the Deputy Commissioner and the Superintendent of Police of the district today demanding realisation of its ten-point demands including ensuring se-

Rally demands

It also held a rally and brought out a procession today in the town to press home its demands.

curity for the fishermen during

fishing in the Bay of Bengal.

The demands included recovery of the trawlers hijacked by the pirates, immediate arrest of the alleged leader of pirates Major (Rtd) Ziauddin and adoption of effective measures to stop piracy in the Bay.

The rally held in front of

the office of the Deputy

Commissioner was addressed by Mohammad Ishaq, MP. Kabir Ahmed, President of the Federation and Nurul Huda Chowdhury, General Secretary. Speakers at the rally resented the seizure of the

trawlers from the fishermen for not having licences and 'said the owners of most of the trawlers lost their licence during devastating cyclone of April 29. The Federation, however, threatened to go for a hunger

strike unto death from November 21 if all hijacked trawlers were not recovered by November 20. Deputy Commissioner of Cox's Bazar Daud-uz-zaman Chowdhury while addressing the demonstrators assured

Report on campus From Page 1 Col. 8

will visit universities outside the capital to assess the situation there and to exchange views with teachers and stu-

The members of the com-

internee doctors from Taka 2500 to Taka 4,000, arrest and trial of the killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon and fulfillment of the 23-point demand of the Bangladesh

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Benazir's tapes produced in court

ISLAMABAD, Nov 13: The Pakistani government produced a tape recording today of opposition leader Benazir Bhutto talking about Pakistan's nuclear capability to support claims that she had given away state secrets. Interior Minister Shujaat Hussain, under fire himself over a financial scandal, played the recording to senators to support a parliamentary privilege motion moved by members of the ruling Islamic Democratic Alliance (IDA), reports Reuter.

Kashmir crippled by strike

NEW DELHI, Nov 13: India's Home Minister today accused Pakistan of supporting Muslim separatism in Kashmir, as the Kashmir valley was crippled by the start of a three-day strike to protest alleged Indian atrocities there. Speaking at a meeting of political parties called by the government here to discuss the Kashmir issue, minister S B Chavan said New Delhi was eager to bring peace in the northern state, reports

Kurdish forces withdrawn

NICOSIA, Nov 13: Kurdish rebel forces have withdrawn from three main cities in Iraqi Kurdistan as part of an agreement to end a two-week government blockade and head off a major military confrontation, a spokesman said Wednesday. The pullout signalled a victory for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein's efforts to get the Kurds to resume deadlocked negotiations on autonomy for their region in northern Iraq.

Ershad's corruption case

Hearing adjourned till Nov 17

By Staff Correspondent

The Special Judge Court trying deposed President H M Ershad on charges of corruption yesterday adjourned hearing till November 17 as the Chief Defence Lawyer Sirajul Haque did not attend the Court to conduct the deposition of the defence wit-

The Court which resumed after a day's adjournment yesterday was assembled at 10.40 a.m. Defence witness Shah Moazzem Hossain, in jail, was also brought to the Court for deposition. One Aziz Uddin Ibne Lama,

an MP of Jatiya Party from Sylhet and named as a defence witness, was also present in the Court. When hearing in the case was about to resume Defence Counsel Yusuf Hossain Humayun expressed his inabil-

Uddin Ibne Lama, MP, who speaks only in his own dialect. Yousuf Hossain Humayun said that only Chief Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque could understand the language of

ity to conduct the case because

he said that he did not under-

stand the language of Aziz

Moscow holding 50b roubles in secret accounts

practices.

TV

From Page 1 Col. 4

The Information Minister

Rights Implementation

said the present government

was working on measures to

improve the programmes of

the state-run electronic media

through effecting changes in

government is working toward

that direction although the

gret expressed by one of the

organisers of the function at

the absence of the television

camera, particularly when the

Information Minister himself

was the chief guest on the oe-

casion, and said this itself

could be treated as a change

from the hitherto followed

task is difficult, he said.

Certainly, this democratic

Mr Huda referred to the re-

Sangstha, reports BSS.

the old practices.

MOSCOW, Nov 13: The Soviet Finance Ministry is holding more than 50 billion roubles in two secret accounts, a senior parliamentary official said, reports Reuter. Alexander Orlov, head of

the Soviet Parliament's Audit Commission, told deputies that the "nest eggs"- equivalent to about 90 billion dollars of the official exchange rate — had never figured in the country's budget calculations.

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