

Nurses get 'formidable' assurance from PM

They all said, the Prime Minister of the country won't see a poor man like me... I met her and she listened to my grievances', said a farmer who looked happy while coming out of the PM's Sugandha office on Thursday, reports UNB.

Abdul Aziz Shaikh, 35, was among the 103 oppressed, job hunters and thank-givers who came to see Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on the second Thursday of her meet-the-people programme on Thursday evening.

Shaikh fled from his village home in Faridpur leaving his old mother uncared after a bank manager had chased him for repayment of agricultural loan of Taka 3,000 despite the government's order of exemption on loans up to Taka 5,000.

Begum Zia, like the first Thursday on October 31, on Thursday also heard them patiently and ordered immediate action for some of

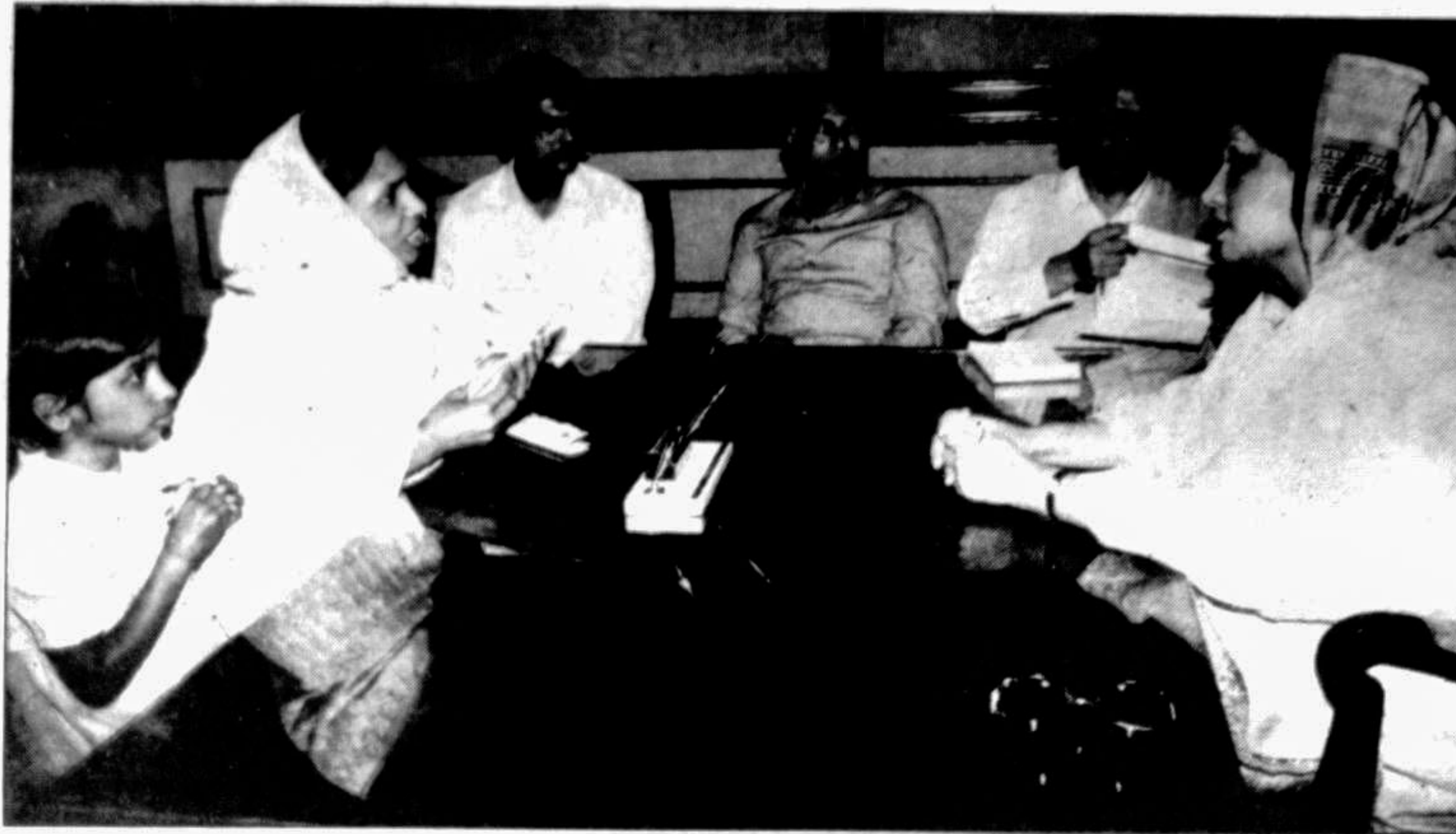
the cases including Shaikh's problem.

Mariam Begum, the President of Diploma Nurses' Association, came with the problems of many of her nearly 10,000 nurses and went back with 'formidable' assurance from the Prime Minister.

Dr Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury, who has set up a welfare foundation after his name, was there to congratulate the Prime Minister for her uncompromising movement against autocracy.

He also offered Taka two lakh for a diarrhoea research centre in one of the northern districts to combat the water-borne disease.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Energy Minister Dr Mosharraf Hossain, Information Minister Nazmul Huda, State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda and State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain were present at the four and a half hour-long meeting.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia giving a patient hearing to the problems of the people of different walks of life on her second-day of 'Meet the people' session at Sugandha Thursday —Star photo.

Jakarta asks foreigners not to meddle in Timor

JAKARTA, Nov 14: The country's military chief told other countries Thursday not to meddle in Indonesia after the army's bloody suppression of a pro-independence demonstration in East Timor drew international condemnation, reports AP.

The government of President Suharto said it arrested 42 people in connection with Tuesday's demonstration, during which dozens of Timors were killed when troops opened fire.

The Indonesian government says troops reacted in self-defense, but an American reporter injured in the incident said the soldiers fired unprovoked.

Indonesian authorities Thursday revised their death toll downward from as many as 50 to 19. Human rights groups said from 50 to more than 100 were killed.

The protesters had gathered to honour two men whom East Timor nationalists say

were killed by Indonesian troops.

The United States, Australia, Portugal, the European Community and the United Nations condemned the use of deadly force in the oil-rich former Portuguese colony, which Indonesia forcibly annexed 15 years ago.

Gen. Try Sutrisno, head of the armed forces, said in response that the issue was solely a domestic concern.

"We hope that foreign countries do not meddle in the internal affairs of Indonesia because it involves the sovereignty of Indonesia," he said.

Sutrisno, when pressed by reporters, said the government's downwardly revised death toll does not mean that the government has no regard for human rights.

"We are a big nation that upholds human rights since the days of our forefathers," the general said.



US Ambassador to Bangladesh William B Milam called on Leader of the Opposition and AL chief Sheikh Hasina Thursday. —Star photo.

Writ on presidential poll Open ballot violates rights of MPs, says counsel

The hearing of the writ petition filed by Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, and six others challenging the Presidential Election Act, 1991, continued Thursday before a High Court Division Bench of the Supreme Court, reports BSS.

The bench comprised Justice Fazle Hussain Mohammad Habibur Rahman and Justice Abdul Hasib.

The petitioners' counsel Amir-ul Islam submitted his arguments that the Presidential Election Act with the provisions of open ballot had violated the fundamental rights of members of the Jatiya Sangsad and destroyed the sanctity of election.

Attorney General Aminul Huq said the ballot is either secret or open and it is specified in the act. The guarantee of fundamental rights as in Article 39 of the Constitution in subject to reasonable restrictions, he added.

The hearing may resume on November 17.

Besides Amir-ul Islam and Zakir Ahmed appeared on behalf of the petitioners.

Attorney General Aminul Huq, Deputy Attorney General A.Y. Selimuzzaman and Assistant Attorney General Obaidur Rahman Mostafa appeared for the state.

Parties reach accord to bring peace in Rajshahi

RAJSHAHI, Nov 14: An all-party meeting held today with the Deputy Commissioner reached a three-point agreement in quest of peace, reports UNB.

The points are restoration of peace in Rajshahi Medical College and in the city and settling of all disputes through legal process.

Islamic Chhatra Shibir remained away from the meeting, but its parent organisation, Jamaat-e-Islami, attended the meeting.

Earlier, different student organisations of Rajshahi University and City College today submitted memoranda to the Deputy Commissioner and the Mayor to press their respective demands.

The RU unit of Islamic Chhatra Shibir in its memorandum to the DC demanded punishment of the killers of its four leaders and ouster of terrorists from educational institutions.

Shortly after Shibir's departure, Chhatra Maitree submitted another memorandum to the DC, Selimuzzaman, demanding punishment of the killers of its leader Jamil Akhter Ratan and restoring peace on the campus.

Besides, JCD activists of Rajshahi City College unit also submitted a memorandum to the City Mayor, Mizanur Rahman Minu, demanding a new hostel for the college.

Laws enacted to protect foreign investment: Industries Minister

SINGAPORE, Nov 14: Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan today said that Bangladesh welcomed foreign investment to accelerate the pace of industrial development, reports BSS.

He was addressing a seminar on "Investment in Bangladesh" here today. Over one hundred renowned industrialists and prospective investors from various countries were present, a PID handout said.

Khan said that Bangladesh had already enacted laws to protect and promote foreign investment ensuring transfer of capital investment.

Mugabe in India calls for end to apartheid

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: Zimbabwe President Robert Mugabe began a three-day state visit to India Thursday and said he wanted to see a faster pace in dismantling apartheid in South Africa, reports AP.

Mugabe's visit came as his country was canvassing support for its finance minister, Bernard Chidzero, as United Nations secretary general. India holds the rotating chairmanship of the UN Security Council.

Mugabe made no mention of the campaign as he began the visit with a 21-gun salute at the presidential palace.

BCL-JCD clash in Netrokona: 7 injured

From Our Correspondent

NETROKONA, November 14: More than seven persons injured, three of them seriously, in a clash between two rival groups of students in Madan upazila town about 22 kms from here.

Reports reaching here from Madan said that the clash ensued yesterday afternoon when a procession of the BNP-backed student front JCD was passing near the meeting venue at Hospital Road of the Awami League-backed student front BCL holding its annual conference.

BCL activists at the venue chased the JCD activists brick-battling them.

JCD activists then made a counter-chase.

Total uncertainty

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include a hunger-strike by the teachers of the university if all others fail to realise the demand for a violence-free campus, he added.

The DUTA General Secretary said that the government would have to make a pledge to the people through an open announcement that a permanent solution would be found to curb violence on the campuses. Then the DUTA may consider withdrawal of its strike, he added.

Meanwhile, Abu Zaed Shikdar, Registrar of the Dhaka University, when contacted said that he did not know when the DU classes would resume.

Expressing his concern he told The Daily Star that the teachers, now on strike, had to be met for an end to the crisis. "I do not know when such talks will take place," he said.

The teachers' demands appear to be intertwined with the overall campus situation, which, a top DU official opined, can be improved through implementation of recommendations likely to be given by the Parliamentary Body on Campus Violence.

But the Jatiya Sangsad committee is expected to submit its suggestions by the end of next month. "The time is far off", the official pointed out.

Education Minister Jamir-uddin Sircar, when contacted last night, told The Daily Star the government will not interfere in the affairs of the university till the Parliamentary Committee on Campus violence gives its recommendations and a consensus is reached on their implementation. "The BNP, forming the democratic government in the country, believes the university must function as an autonomous body without any governmental meddling," he added.

Sircar appreciated the con-

24 fishing boats seized in Bay

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Nov 14: Naval patrol team seized 24 mechanised fishing boats from the deep of the Bay of Bengal today for not having valid documents.

The team also arrested 22 boatmen in this regard.

One killed in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed when a speeding minibus struck an auto-rickshaw at Gabtoli Thursday morning.

Police said Munnun Jan Begum (55) fell off on the street when the speeding minibus struck the Mishuk she was riding near the Ayesha market in Gabtoli at around 8 am. She was subsequently killed when the minibus ran over her fallen body, police added.

A case was registered with the Mirpur thana and police managed to arrest the driver, Mujibur Rahman, and seized the minibus (Dhaka-Cha-9085).

The body of the victim was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Filipino volcano may make the world cooler

LONDON, Nov 14: The eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines last June could make the world cooler over the next few years, experts said, reports Reuters.

An article in today's authoritative Nature magazine said the eruption, one of the biggest this century, spewed out unusually sulphur-rich clouds.

The article did not give a precise estimate for the forecast climatic change.

AL invites applications for JS by-polls

Awami League parliamentary board Thursday sought applications from intending candidates for the December 21 by-election in Bakerganj-5 constituency vacated by President Abdur Rahman Biswas, reports UNB.

Biswas resigned from parliament before contesting the presidential polls on October 8.

A press release of Awami League said application for the party nomination in prescribed form should be submitted to its central office by November 19.

The parliamentary board met in the evening at the party office with its president Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Maldives to start mission for holding SAARC summit

Maldives Foreign Minister Fatullah Jameel is expected to embark on a week-long mission to three South Asian capitals from November 17 for staging the stalled 6th SAARC summit, diplomatic sources in Dhaka said Thursday, reports BSS.

SAARC Chairman President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom of Maldives, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan and President Ranasinghe Premadasa of the host country discussed the aftermath of the collapse of the summit and took the decision to hold it within this year, as per provision of the seven-nation forum.

Sufia Kamal

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also presented her with flowers and gifts.

Reading out the address of honour presented to her by the Begum Sufia Kamal Birth Anniversary Reception Committee, noted drama performer Asaduzzaman Noor termed the octogenarian poet as the symbol of human progress and welfare.

"The kindred spirit of Begum Rokeya had brought you from the ivory tower of literature to the rank of the common masses to share its sorrows and happiness," he said.

In an emotion-choked voice Dr Md Anisuzzaman, on behalf of the 165-member Reception Committee, said the function epitomized the heart felt respect and gratitude the country's people bear towards this personality.

He recalled her valiant role as a litterateur and citizen in all the occasions of national life.

Sufia Kamal would continue to lead the down-trodden and the disadvantaged section of society to move forward, Dr Anisuzzaman hoped.

Sufia Kamal was born on June 20, 1911 in Barisal. She devoted her entire life to literature, education of the Muslim women and development of the disadvantaged section of society.

Her first contribution to Bangla literature was a story titled 'Sainik Badhu' (soldier's wife), published in a magazine at Barisal called 'Tarun'. From then on, she continued her career as a litterateur. Many of her works were published in the United States and the Soviet Union. Her publications exceed 17.

Sufia Kamal received at least 26 national and international awards for her contribution to literature and society.

Responding to the civic reception accorded to her, Sufia Kamal thanked the organisers and said that they had actually honoured the backward women of the country.

Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui, who presided over the function, said the poet had become an integral part of the country's current history.

"The nation will remain ever grateful to her for her contribution to the social development," he added.

The reception ceremony was rounded off by a cultural function performed by eminent artistes of the country.

Investment Bank

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wanted to go back to their country. She described it as a humanitarian problem and said it should be settled in that perspective.

The Rabita Secretary General said the repatriation of the stranded Pakistani would start soon. "The problem is not only repatriation but also their rehabilitation," Dr Nasseef said.

He said they would be settled in Punjab province adding "the situation is favourable for their return."

Begum Zia sought cooperation of the Muslim countries for smooth functioning of the Dhaka-based ICTVTR. She said they should provide funds so that the organisation could carry on its activities.

Recalling his meetings with shaheed president Ziaur Rahman, the Rabita Secretary General said the late president had contributed much for the promotion of Islamic culture and values.

Begum Zia said the objective of her government was to change the lot of the people through implementing its various social welfare programmes.

The Midnight File

Soviet Constitution abolished

MOSCOW, Nov 14: The Soviet Executive State Council decided today to abolish the Soviet Constitution and to permit republics to operate under their own constitutions. The text of the union treaty along with the declaration on human rights adopted at the last congress are a sufficient replacement for the Constitution, reports AFP.

25 Pak politicians arrested

KARACHI, Nov 14: Police said today they had detained 25 Pakistani political activists at Karachi Airport as they tried to board an aircraft with forged British passports. They were arrested on Wednesday evening as they prepared to fly to Thailand from where they planned to travel to Britain to seek political asylum, reports Reuter.

19 Tamil rebels killed

COLOMBO, Nov 14: Government troops killed at least 19 Tamil guerillas in two separate battles in northeast Sri Lanka as a fresh spurt of fighting hit the island's strife-torn areas, officials said today. Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerillas launched a surprise attack on army bunkers in northern Chettikulam Wednesday but were repulsed by troops, military spokesman Colonel Sarath Munasinghe told reporters here, reports AFP.

Narayan Chowdhury dead

CALCUTTA, Nov 14: Noted Bengali litterateur and outstanding critic of both English and Bengali writing Narayan Chowdhury died in the early hours today. Chowdhury (80) has 50 books to his credit, besides being a regular broadcaster of literary programmes of the All India Radio. He was also known for his expert editing of various journals, reports PTI.

New Chief Justice of India

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: Justice K N Singh has been appointed the new Chief Justice of India. Justice Singh will succeed Justice Ranganatha Misra, who retires on November 24, and will take over office on November 25. Singh will remain in office for only 18 days, reports PTI.

6 drug traffickers to die

BEIJING, Nov 14: Six drug traffickers were recently sentenced to death in Quanzhou, in the eastern Chinese coastal province of Fujian. One of the criminals, Yu Changchun, was executed for trafficking in 950 grams of heroin from the southwestern border province of Yunnan, the China News Service (CNS) reported, reports AFP.

An attempt to sabotage

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hardliners in the Shanti Bahini, who are allegedly backed by some elements in India. Though India denies any support to the rebels, the government in Tripura has done little to send the refugees and the insurgents back home.

Peace talks are nothing new in Chittagong Hill Tracts nor is the amnesty. The government held secret talks with the Shanti Bahini six times during 1985-88. Last month's amnesty is the fifth one since 1983.

In its major attempt to achieve a political solution to the conflict the previous government held elections to

Captured AIR station chief escapes

SRINAGAR, Nov 14: A station chief of the state-run All India Radio (AIR), captured by Kashmiri militants 11 days ago, has escaped and returned home unharmed, officials said here today, reports AFP.

Bashir Arif, AIR's Director in the eastern Kashmiri district of Leh had returned home and was currently with Srinagar police, police chief O N Saxena said.

S Africans

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288 for two (Keppler Wessels 90, Peter Kirsten 86 not out, Adrian Kuiper, 63 not out).

SCOREBOARD

Scoreboard in the third and final one-day international cricket match between India and South Africa today:

India				
R Shastris run out			109	
K Srikanth st				
Richardson b Kirsten			53	
S Manjrekar c				
McMillan b Rice			105	
S Tendulkar c Cook				
B Donald			1	
Kapil Dev not out			3	
Extras (b-4 lb-5 nb-1 w-6)			16	
Total (for four wickets, 50 overs)			287	
Fall of wickets: 1-86, 2-261, 3-264, 4-287				
Did not bat: D Vengsarkar, P Amre, M Prabhakar, C Pandit, V Raju, J Srinath.				
South Africa				
Bowling	O	M	R	W
Donald	10	0	55	1
Snell	10	1	56	0
Mathews	10	1	50	0
McMillan	8	0	40	0
Rice	9	0	54	1
Kirsten	3	0	23	1

Sihanouk

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Ranariddh, the Prince took a seat in the airport pavilion for a short ceremony where classical dancers displayed their talents and threw flower petals at his feet.

He warmly embraced Cambodian People's Party General Secretary Chea Sim before he drove off with Hun Sen. Tens of thousands of people, assembled and given national flags by the government, cheered along the boulevards as Sihanouk drove to the Royal Palace.

Before leaving Beijing, Prince Sihanouk told journalists he was delighted to be coming home.

"I feel very happy, extremely happy to have the opportunity to go home and to work there among the Cambodian people... in particular to achieve national reconciliation and national unity," he said.