

## Illegal activities in UP polls to be resisted: CEC

The Chief Election Commissioner Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf Saturday urged the officials to conduct the coming Union Parishad election in a free, fair and congenial atmosphere, reports BSS.

"Any violent or illegal activity in the ensuing election must be resisted with utmost effort," he said.

The Chief Election Commissioner was addressing a conference in connection with the coming Union Parishad election at the NEC auditorium in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the morning.

Election Commissioner Justice Syed Misbah Uddin Hossain also addressed a meeting which was attended by all the deputy commissioners, deputy election commissioners, assistant election commissioners, and district election officers.

High officials of the Election Commission secretary also attended the meeting.

Explaining the significance of the Union Parishads election, Justice Rouf called upon the officials to conduct the election with their total sincerity, devotion and impartiality.

Referring to the various violent incidents in the last Union Parishad election, he said any such violent activity must be resisted severely.

The newly built tradition of fair election that has developed through the parliamentary election of February last, must be maintained by all through their relentless effort, he said.

He also assured the officials of all help and cooperation of the Election Commission in discharging their duties without any fear or hesitation.

## Injunction on a faction of CU Teachers' Assoc activities

CHITTAGONG, Nov 30: A court today issued an ad-interim injunction on the activities of a faction of Chittagong University Teachers' Association which claimed to be the legal representatives of the teachers of the campus, reports UNB.

District Judge of Chittagong Khandker Abu Bakar issued the injunction upon a petition filed on November 28 by Prof. Yusuf Sharif Ahmad Khan of a rival faction of the teachers' association.

The court asked both factions to maintain status quo until the case of the petitioner is heard.

Prof. Khan was the President of a faction that won the last election of the association which ended its term long back. The teachers' group led by Khan is opposed to the present Vice-Chancellor Prof. Hamida Banu and Dr. Mehkar are leading the faction, said to be pro-VC, against which the court issued the injunction.

## Mokhtar's death

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An unnatural death (UD) case was registered with Tejgaon police in this connection but no case was filed on behalf of the dead man, Tejgaon police said.

Shaymoli and her six year old daughter Pinky who was also present during the incident were released from custody in the early hours on Saturday, police said. They were picked up again for further interrogation, police said.

Shaymoli's mother was also interrogated Friday night. Her testimony was like the daughter, police said.

Tejgaon police said that they did not get the autopsy report of the dead and the examination reports of his belongings including the revolver which were recovered from the car. "It was not yet decided whether it was a murder of suicide", Tejgaon police said.

Our Narayanjanj Correspondent adds: The white Civic Honda car, bearing number Dhaka Metro-Ka-03-1185, in which Mokhtar Hossain was found dead was owned by Abdus Salam, his friend.

After the post mortem in Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), the body was sent to his residence at Aliganj of Fatullah. His namajana was held at Aliganj play ground Saturday and he was buried at Aliganj graveyard.

Leaders of Bangladesh Upazila Parishad Chairman Samity in a statement Saturday termed the death as "killing" and condemned it saying there was a deep conspiracy behind it.

## Unemployment to be more acute by 2000

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 1.11 crore labour force will be added to the existing 3.45 crore by the year 2000 making the country's unemployment problem more acute.

This extra labour force is already born and even a slight growth in population would not help the situation so far unemployment is concerned.

This was stated by Prof. Iqbal Mahmud in his key-note paper presented at a seminar on 'unemployment problem: industrialisation at the engineers' institution in the city Saturday. Planning Minister Jahruddin Khan also addressed the seminar.

## Nepal destroys marijuana crops

KATHIMANDU, Nov 30: Nepal has destroyed marijuana crops valued at 550 acres (220 hectares), south-east of Kathmandu, 125 people had been arrested between August and the end of November for trying to sell drugs in Nepal or for shipping them to India. The 125 included 15 Indians, three Germans and three Afghan refugees living in Nepal, reports AFP.

The rise in labour force will also aggravate the already acute unemployment problem of the educated people through a 'cyclic order', he observed.

Employment prospect in the agriculture sector has been gradually declining and has now reached saturation point. He mentioned that all the five-year plans also testified this trend. Only an additional 20 lac labour force could be absorbed in farming by the year 2000 if it could be developed and diversified, Prof. Mahmud said.

Absorption of labour force in agriculture sector was 1.07 crore in 1950-51 which increased to 1.74 crore in 1985-86. The flow of absorption declined year by year, he said. Quoting the Task Force report submitted by Prof. Rehman Sobhan the paper mentioned that the lion share of future employment must come from the industrial sector in the next decade.

On prospect of employment in the small industries sector, the paper pointed out that in the year 1986-87, small and cottage units in the private sector provided 83.9 per cent of the country's total structure of manufacturing employment.

## 200 Cong workers, 50 newsmen held

CALCUTTA, Nov 30: About 200 Congress (I) workers were arrested when they put up road blocks at different crossings at Howrah town today in protest against the death of a youth Congress worker recently, according to official sources, reports PTI.

The Congress worker was killed by some miscreants who were allegedly involved in drug smuggling in the area.

The road blockade programme, which was led by the Congress (I) MLA, Ambika Banerjee, and former MLA, Ashok Ghosh, caused heavy traffic disruption in the entire Howrah town. When the police intervened, they were attacked by the demonstrators, the sources said.

The Congress (I) sources here said that the police made lathi-charge on peaceful demonstrators which was, however, denied by the police. The arrested Congress (I) supporters were later let off, the sources added.

AFP from New Delhi adds: Police in the northern Indian State of Assam arrested 50 journalists today after they broke a ban on public protests to demonstrate against the detention of two colleagues, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

The protesters, who demanded the unconditional release of Manjit Mahanta and Rajib Bora, were lodged in a makeshift jail and released after a couple of hours, PTI said.

Mahanta, a reporter with the Assamese-language daily Ajir Asom, and Rajib Bora, a sub-editor with the English language newspaper the Sentinel, were arrested this week and accused of links with the insurgent United Liberation Front of Assam.

Both men were picked up by the army, deployed by New Delhi to combat the group spearheading a campaign for the creation of an independent Assam.

## Khaleda to attend OIC

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Uddin Siddiqui.

Bangladesh ambassadors in Riyadh and Dakar will also be members of the delegation.

This will be the first time Begum Zia will attend the summit of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

She is scheduled to address the plenary session on the second day (Dec 10) of the Islamic conference.

As head of a democratically elected government which came to power through a popular upsurge against an autocratic regime, her contribution will have a special bearing in the OIC context, according to the announcement.

The main thrust of the 4-day summit will be on recent changes and consideration of new and more comprehensive role for OIC, particularly in the field of economic cooperation among the member-states, said the Foreign Office.

It will also consider reports from various subsidiary organs of the organisations, including the Islamic Centre for Vocational Training and Research in Bangladesh.

The report of a 15-member Reflection Committee constituted at the 20th ICFM in Istanbul will be submitted to the conference.

The Dakar summit is being held at a historic time when momentous changes of far-reaching consequences have taken place in the international arena.

Iran-Iraq war which dogged the Islamic Ummah for long ten years is "behind us and crucial invasion of Kuwait" by another member state, Iraq, had challenged the fundamental principles of the OIC charter and sent shock waves to global economy, it was stated in the Foreign Office announcement.

## 12 hurt as RU rival students clash

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 30: Rival activists of Chhatra Maitree (BCM) and Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) hurled crackers and staged chase and counter-chase during clashes at the Rajshahi City College today leaving at least 12 students injured.

The activists also brandished arms openly that created panic among the general students.

The clashes followed provocative slogans chanted during separate processions of the student groups on the campus. Tension spread to the Rajshahi Medical College where the agitated Shibir workers ransacked a common-room there protesting the incident.

Both student organisations brought out separate processions in the city accusing each

other for the incident. Another report said, Rajshahi University student and Chhatra Maitree activist Pitu Talukdar was stabbed critically allegedly by activists of Chhatra League (S-A) on the campus today.

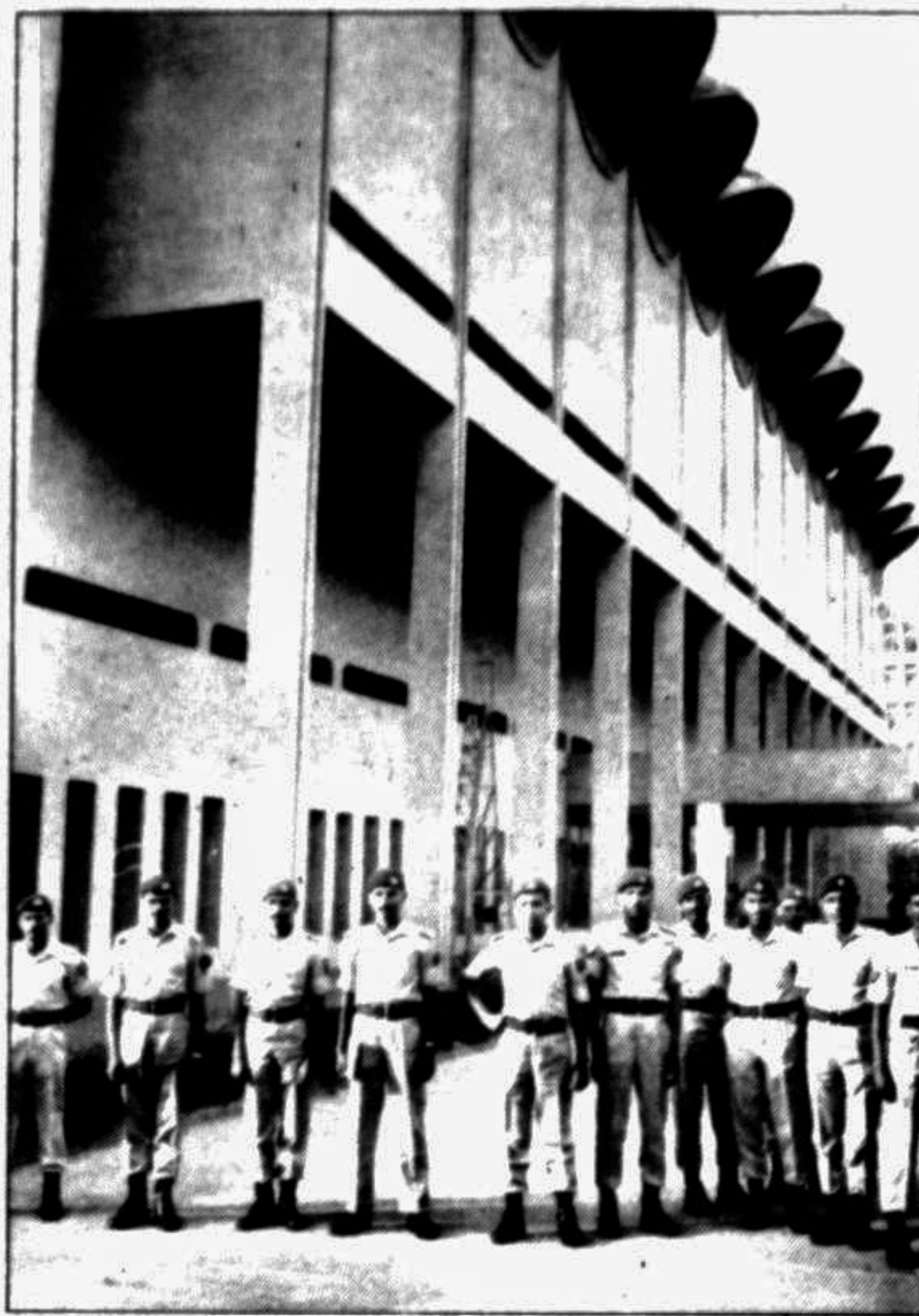
Pitu was taken to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital (RMCH) immediately.

## VCs

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dia not to publish any misleading reports regarding terrorism.

The meeting was attended by the vice-chancellors Prof. Moniruzzaman Miah of the Dhaka University, Prof. Kazi Saleh Ahmed of the Jahangirnagar University, Prof. Mohammed Asadur Rahman of Bangladesh Agriculture University, Mymensingh, Prof. Md. Shajahan of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology, Prof. Muhammad Abdul Hamid of Islamic University, Kushtia, Prof. Golam Rahman of Khulna University and Prof. Sadruddin Ahmed Chowdhury of Shahjalal University of Science & Technology.



Police guarding the National Museum which remained closed to the visitors for the second day yesterday as employees stopped working to protest appointment of an 'outsider' as new Director General. — Star photo

## Shopkeepers go on token strike from Dec 10

The city traders and shopkeepers, who are protesting planned market raids, announced Saturday a two-hour token strike daily beginning December 10 to press their five-point demand, reports UNB.

Their demands include denouncement of government assertion involving businessmen in smuggling, measures to check smuggling at the borders and a list of contraband items before launching the countrywide anti-smuggling drive from December 17.

As per the two-hour strike, shops in the metropolis will open at 11 am from December 10 instead of the 9 am-schedule.

The programme was announced in an emergency meeting of the Dhaka City Central Market Convening Committee at the Century Archive Shopping Centre.

Announcing the action programme, its Convenor Helauddin Hela said they had no political affiliations and reiterated the decision to continue their agitation in a democratic way.

The meeting also urged the government to initiate negotiation for implementing the five-point demand.

## Political parties differ

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the BNP which never accepted the results had no reason not to dissolve the upazila parishad.

Nirmal Sen said that the upazila parishad could be dissolved during the change in the form of government but the taking of the belated decision bypassing parliament, jeopardised the situation. He said that the Five-Party would demand the immediate announcement of alternative modalities of the parishad, which is yet to be announced by the government.

Nirmal Sen however said that it could not be a point of movement.

He said that the Awami League without consulting its former allies extended its hand to unite the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat which could not be accepted by any means.

He said that the Five-Party Alliance observed that the motive of the Awami League was to restore the upazila chairman to their positions. He questioned, "Would the Awami League be able to demand the reopening of the upazila courts?"

The current convenor of the PDF Pankaj Bhattacharyya termed the politics of the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat as the politics of convenience.

## Lecturers

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association said in press release.

In the meeting, the lecturer-leaders urged the government to fulfill by December 12 their main demands. Their main demands include promotion by abolishing 20 per cent reserved posts, encroachment of the lecturers of 114 assimilated college and fixation of Tk 2,400 higher scale in four years and Tk 2,800 time scale in five years.

Association President Kamal Ataur Rahman, Senior Vice President AK Muhammad Sanaullah were among others present in the meeting.

## 709 promoted

Government Saturday approved promotion of 709 lecturers of the government colleges to the posts of Assistant Professor.

Measures to promote about 400 more lecturers as early as possible is under way, a PID handout said in Dhaka Saturday.

Actions are being initiated to fill up the vacant positions of Associate Professors and Professors in the government colleges by promotion.

Recruitments to fill up the resultant vacancies in the posts of lecturers will be made as early as possible.

## AI member jailed in Vietnam

BANGKOK, Nov 30: A court in Vietnam has sentenced a member of Amnesty International to 20 years in jail on charges of anti-Communist subversion, the official Vietnam News Agency reported, reports AP.

The report said Dr. Nguyen Dan Que, whom the Ho Chi Minh City court sentenced Friday, has "denigrated the leading role of the Communist Party in the liberation struggle" since the Communists defeated the US-backed South Vietnam government in April 1975.

The report, monitored in Bangkok on Saturday, said Que was a member of the London-based human rights monitoring group. That could not be immediately confirmed.

He said that the PDF had not yet decided whether it would support the December 9 hartal. He said that the PDF would consult the Five-Party Alliance on this issue.

Pankaj Bhattacharyya however criticised the BNP for its procedure in taking the decision to dissolve the upazila parishad. He said that the upazila had not come into being democratically, but in the same way, the dissolution of this administrative unit was undemocratic.

He, however, agreed that the upazila system was very necessary for local administration and to provide jobs to the educated youths in the rural areas.

He said that to stop the uneven population growth in the urban areas all concerned quarters should think about the system.

About the SKOP movement, the PDF leader said that the matter was being discussed among them. He said that the SKOP came into being at the initiative of all democracy loving political parties and the

political parties had time and again supported the demands of the SKOP during the nine-year movement against autocratic regime.

He, however, urged the government to accept the demands of the SKOP before the date set for the 48-hour and the 72-hour strike programmes.

Political observers feel that with these political developments in the country there might be a realignment among the political parties on the question of a future movement.

They think that the Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat preferred to launch movement on the question of the dissolution of the upazila despite pending issues like the SKOP programme because of their interest. Siding with the SKOP may jeopardise the relations between the Awami League, Jatiya Party, Jamaat and the capitalists of the country, they opined.

On the other hand the movement for the upazila system would not carry that risk for those parties.

## Verdict an example

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country," said Ismail Hossain, husband of the victim.

He said that the family was "totally satisfied" with the verdict and felt that it was "quite appropriate". He however added that summary trials are needed for crimes like mugging, child-lifting and repression on women to make the legal system more effective.

The family paid glowing tributes to the 24 witnesses, who included law enforcement officials, for their role during the process of justice.

The witnesses were mostly poor people and none of them were known to us, but they were bold, sincere and honest," said Abdullah-al-Mahmud, the eldest son of Mahiya Islam. "They stood by the truth without being afraid of the consequences and the long hours of interrogation did not exhaust

them," he added.

A pall of gloom still hung heavy over the family even a year-and-a-half after the gruesome murder on May 3, 1990. The members sat in sombre silence in the living room of their Gulshan residence "Mahiya House."

The family also expressed its gratitude to the law enforcement officials and the public prosecutor for their cooperation during the proceedings.

The verdict created a sensation in the capital and people also felt that it would serve as an example and act as a deterrent against such criminal acts.

Observers felt that the police should deploy its total effort in apprehending the two absconding convicts and also provide adequate security to Mahiya's family.

## Togo rebels return to barracks

LOME (Togo), Nov 30:

Rebel soldiers returned to their barracks on Saturday, abandoning their attempt to overthrow the government in the face of threatened French intervention, reports AP.

The national radio, occupied by the soldiers since Wednesday, reported it was returning to normal operations. A broadcaster said the country's frontiers and international airport had been reopened.

A radio disc jockey later switched from the format of 1980s French love songs and country western songs to a reggae hit by Bob Marley, "Get Up, Stand Up," a song that calls for people to stand up for their rights.

The rebel soldiers had besieged the ocean-side palace of Prime Minister Joseph Koffigoh with tanks since Wednesday. The soldiers were trying to starve Koffigoh out.

French Ambassador Bruno Delaye went to Koffigoh's aid, spending two days with him, effectively acting as a human shield.

Koffigoh asked for French intervention under a mutual self-defense treaty after the rebel soldiers threatened to

torch the capital, Lome. France dispatched 300 paratroopers and marines to neighboring Benin on Friday, and by late evening the coup attempt had crumbled.

President Gnassingbe Eyadema urged the soldiers to give up their attempt to restore his power in this former French colony on Africa's western coast. Seventy per cent of the army is from Eyadema's Kabyle tribe.

The dissidents had threatened to "reduce the city to ashes" if Eyadema did not name a new government. This amounted to a demand for the reinstatement of Togo's 24-year military ruler, who was stripped of all but ceremonial powers by Koffigoh's government in August. Eyadema had been accused of corruption and rights abuses.

Since August, soldiers made several attempts to unseat Koffigoh's government, but this week's was the most serious.

In their final communique the soldiers said civilians should not try to retaliate against the military.

"We will not allow anyone to attack him in the street, in the market, or in offices," the communique said.

## The Midnight File

### Cambodian leaders in Thailand for talks

PATTAYA, Thailand, Nov 30: Cambodian leaders began gathering in a Thai resort today to prevent a peace accord from foundering over the near-butching of a Khmer Rouge guerrilla leader in Phnom Penh. The Supreme National Council (SNC) was to have held its first meeting on Cambodian soil next week. The venue was switched to Pattaya because of Wednesday's assault which threatened to derail a UN-brokered accord signed last month to end civil war. Leaders of the four factions agreed to meet on Tuesday and Wednesday. Representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council will also be present, reports Reuter.

### Ramon Mitra chosen Filipino President candidate

MANILA, Nov 30: The Philippines' ruling coalition today chose politician Ramon Mitra to run for the 1992 presidential election, spurring a bid by former military chief Fidel Ramos. Congress members and local officials of the democratic Filipino's struggle (LDP) chose Mitra, speaker of the lower house of representatives, at a national convention. LDP officials said. He and Ramos, who was in the fore of the 1986 revolt that ousted the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos, have sought the endorsement of President Corazon Aquino for the May election, reports Reuter.

### Gunmen kill five in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Nov 30: Gunmen killed five people and wounded eight in northern Pakistan today when they opened fire on a pickup truck, police said. The attack in the Swat valley was apparently the result of a blood feud, the official APP news agency said. In a separate incident, a student was killed and two people were injured on Friday in a hand grenade attack on a congregation at Pabbi near the provincial capital of Peshawar, reports Reuter.

### 35 killed after drinking liquor

NEW DELHI, Nov 30: At least 35 people have died and nearly 200 have fallen ill after drinking liquor at two places in India, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today. Twenty-five people, including three civil servants, died and nearly 200 more became ill in Rajkot, a city in the western coastal of Gujarat where open sale and consumption of liquor is prohibited, reports AFP.

### Vote of confidence to Turkish govt

ANKARA, Nov 30: The Turkish Parliament gave a vote of confidence today to the 10-day-old coalition government of Conservatives and Social Democrats, led by Suleyman Demirel. The 450-member house voted 280-164 for the government programme to foster democratic reform, combat inflation and corruption, and solve the Kurdish crisis in the southeast, reports Reuter.

### BCL (S-A) factions clash in DU Strike observed in most towns of Sind

By DU Correspondent

Two rival groups of the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A) traded gunshots and chased each other at the SM Hall of Dhaka University Saturday that panicked the students and rocked the campus.

The BCL activists exchanged about 20 rounds but none was reported injured.

Campus sources said that the groups were known to be the supporters and opponents of BCL's central leader Moazzem Hossain, who was now in Dhaka Central Jail.

No compromise on trial of Mujib's killing: Nasim

Opposition Chief Whip in Parliament and Awami League Publicity Secretary Mohammad Nasim Saturday said that the peoples participation in the movement last year was not to establish "a new autocracy" in the country, reports BSS.

Addressing the annual conference of Cantonment thana branch of Bangladesh Chhatra League as the chief guest, Nasim said that Awami League would never compromise on the questions of people's right and trial of killing of Bangladesh.

Presided over by Nipu, the function was addressed, among others, by Advocate Sahara Khatoun, Abdul Hamid Sikder, Dr. Habibur Rahman, Faiz Ahmed and Khalidur Rahman.

### 51 Indian MPs urge UN to lift sanctions against Iraq

NEW DELHI, Nov 30: Fifty one members of parliament, representing all major political parties, today jointly appealed to the United Nations to lift economic sanctions against Iraq to permit the import of food, medicines and baby milk to save the lives of 170,000 children below five, reports PTI.

In a letter addressed to the UN Secretary-General Perez de Cuellar, the MPs said thousands of Iraqi civilians were dying everyday.

Many children in critical condition were being shifted to Jordanian hospitals, travelling almost 1,000 km by road, as no anaesthesia was available in hospitals in Iraq, Mohammad Afzal, Janata Dal member of the Rajya Sabha, said at a press conference here.

KARACHI, Nov 30: Pakistani opposition politicians said their call for a strike over the mass arrest of their supporters had closed down many towns in southern Pakistan today, reports Reuter.

But police said most industries stayed open in the Sind provincial capital Karachi and in Hyderabad, which are dominated by parties belonging to the ruling coalition.

"There is no strike in Karachi and industries and ports are working," a Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry official said.

In rural Sind, the Pakistan People's Party (PPP), the party claimed success.

## Ministries

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The Prime Minister directed the concerned ministries to maintain schedule of execution, of uplift projects so that allocated funds did not remain unspent at the end of the year.

She also emphasised the need for efficient management, monitoring, evaluation and feed back systems for effective implementation of the projects.

The meeting called for minimising the system loss of electricity.

The meeting was attended by Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Planning Minister, AM Jahruddin Khan, Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal ibne Yusuf, Food Minister M Shamsul Islam, Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Establishment M Nurul Huda, secretaries and senior officials of the respective ministries.

## Violence

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cadres and markets remained closed.

Shibir activists reportedly forced shopkeepers inside narrow lanes here to pull down their shutters.

Both private and public offices in the city could not function fully due to thin attendance while banks could not operate.

Carrying of cargo to and from Chittagong Port was suspended due to the non-plying of trucks. Mills and factories at Nasirabad and Shaikundu industrial belts suffered production losses.

Shibir supporters also brought out peace processions in different parts of the city calling for flushing out terrorists from the campus and allowing its nine activists to sit for examinations at the Chittagong Polytechnic Institute.

Editor: S. M. Ali