

Bio-pesticides safe and effective mosquito killers

By Masud Arif

Bio-pesticides could be effective and safe substitutes for chemical pesticides in eradicating mosquitoes, according to a study done by researchers at Dhaka University.

The bio-pesticides are not harmful for the human body and as the chemical pesticides do not pollute the environment.

The researchers mentioned that the bio-pesticides could be manufactured locally at a cheap rate.

The research was carried out by Dr Anwar Hossain, Prof Mustafizur Rahman, Sumana Islam of the Bio-Chemistry and Mahfuzur Rahman of the Micro Biology Department of the Dhaka University recently.

The researchers said that the bio-pesticides was a pathogen which was responsible for the growth of a particular disease in the body of mosquito which leads to its death.

This process thus halt proliferation of the mosquitoes, researchers observed.

The study also found that bio-pesticides should be used during the larva stage.

The study group isolated several mosquito larvicidal bacteria among which the *Bacillus Sphaericus* SI-1 was found to be the most potent.

This bacterium was isolated from normal dead larvae, researchers said adding: "The isolated bacterium has been found to be effective against non-infected mosquito in the laboratory."

The researchers observed that the bacterium is hundred times as powerful as the WHO strain in killing mosquitoes.

The mosquitoes responsible for malaria, filaria and some communicable diseases, are controlled mainly by using chemical pesticides in the developing countries, researchers said.

They, however, mentioned that chemical pesticides were causing health hazards and environmental pollution in developing countries including Bangladesh.

In the developed countries, they have already introduced bio-pesticides in preventing the mosquitoes and several other pests, the researchers added.



Police raided Sahidullah Hall of Dhaka University Saturday afternoon. —Star photo

JCD activities suspended

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No classes and examinations of all political activities of the ruling party's student wing at the Dhaka University following the killings.

The UNB report said: The instruction came Friday night when JCD leaders met some high-ups of the ruling party after the shootings.

JCD sources said that BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdul Salam Talukder, Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia and Energy Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain in separate meetings asked the JCD leaders to keep in abeyance their politics at the university until return of the party chief.

Fazlul Huq Milon, Nazimuddin Alam, Moniruzzaman Monir, Kamruzzaman Ratan and Rafiqul Islam Jagru briefed the ministers on Friday's incidents.

As per the instruction, JCD men didn't hold any rally or mourning procession on the campus, but a large number of leaders and activists opposed to Ilyas faction were present at Madhu's Canteen Saturday.

No activists of the Ilyas group, blamed for the shootings, was seen in the Arts Faculty area, but were rambling in Jashimuddin, Ziaur Rahman and Bangabandhu halls.

When contacted, Advocate Mujibur Rahman, BNP adviser on student affairs, told The Daily Star over telephone that he had not heard any news on the suspension of JCD activities on the DU campus.

"I have not heard any such news or received any decision," he said.

However, a Cabinet member hinted the suspension of JCD activities on campus.

The minister, who spoke on condition that he would not be named, said "The prevailing situation calls for such decision... but the decision would be formalised after the Prime Minister returned home."

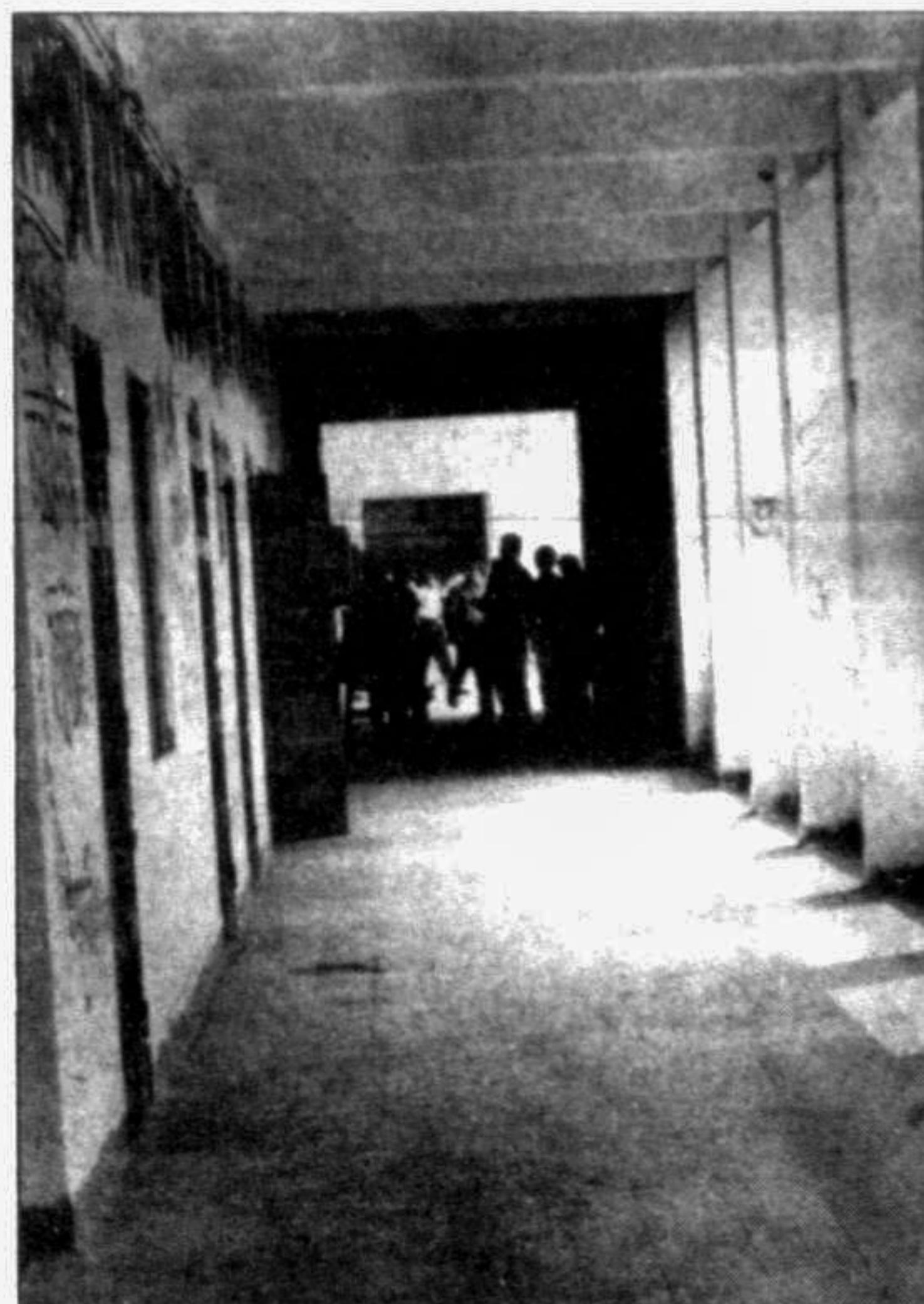
JCD central committee leaders might call on the Prime Minister today (Sunday), sources said.

Provosts and Tutors of the two halls accompanied the police during the raids.

Meanwhile, none was arrested Saturday in connection with the killing of the two Dhaka University students, according to police.

Two DU students Ashraf Azam Mamun and Mahmud Hossain were shot dead early Friday as a result of a violent factional conflict within the JCD.

Another student and JCD activist Nasrullah Khan Junaed was being treated at the Orthopaedic Hospital with serious bullet wounds.



Arts Faculty of Dhaka University giving a deserted look yesterday following suspension of academic activities for two days. —Star photo

Student bodies blame govt

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The GCO leaders, addressing the rally, condemned the killings and blamed the JCD for the continued violence on the campus.

The GCO rally was addressed by Belal Chowdhury, Noor Ahmed Bakul, Mukhlesur Rahman, Nasiruddoza and Ahad Ahmed.

The GCO has announced a protest rally in the Dhaka University campus September 7 and countrywide demonstrations September 8 to protest terrorism and alleged conspiracy of the government.

Addressing the rally the GCO leader Belal alleged that the Home Minister was inspiring terrorists and fundamentalists to carry on their activities.

Noor Ahmed Bakul in his speech said that the government had to take the responsibility for the killing of DU students Mamun and Mahmud.

The student community would move against Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia if her government failed to resist the killers sheltered by the Jamaat-Shibir and Jubo Command clique, GCO leader Bakul warned.

Nasir-ud-Doza alleged that a group sheltered by the government was carrying out the violence and killings.

The GCO leaders said that terrorism in the country would continue until Home Minister was replaced.

The leaders urged the student community to go for a united movement to resist the terrorists.

Meanwhile, more political

parties and student organisations yesterday condemned the killing of the two students of the Dhaka University.

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) in a statement alleged that the government was indifferent to the continued terrorism on the campuses and the political arena and remarked that comments by the ministers in this regard lacked sense of responsibility.

The CPB strongly condemned the government's 'failure' to control terrorists and called for a united movement of all democratic patriotic forces against terrorism.

The Ganatantri Party in its reaction to the DU killings said terrorism in the country could not be eliminated as, what it said, the ruling party was supplying illegal arms to its activists and forcing the police to remain inactive.

The National Democratic Party (NDP) in its statement remarked that killing of DU students had created doubts in the public mind whether this government would be able to control the law and order situation at all.

Four student organisations — Chhatra Oikya Forum (Mishu), Chhatra Oikya Forum (K-J), Biplobi Chhatra Sangha and Ganatantrik Chhatra Kendra — in a joint statement alleged that ruling BNP was sheltering the terrorists within the party and that it was arming them.

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New regulation regarding visit to Maldives

The Maldives government has issued a new regulation regarding Bangladeshi nationals' visit to that country on tourist visa for a period up to 15 days, reports UNB.

The regulation stipulates that Bangladeshis arriving in the republic for a period up to 15 days should be in possession of a valid return ticket with all sectors confirmed and 150 US dollars.

Those failing to comply with any one of the two conditions may not be granted entry permit by the immigration department and will be subjected to deportation on the same flight on which they arrive in the country.

However, Bangladesh nationals who arrive in the Maldives with a valid work permit or those who have confirmed accommodation registered at a tourist resort or agency shall be exempted from the above regulation.

The regulation will come into effect on September 1.

The Maldives Foreign Ministry has informed the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry that this regulation has been issued following a number of unfortunate incidents in which Bangladeshis nationals had been left stranded in the country without means either to support themselves or to leave the country.

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Bank guard

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duty till his reliever turned up. Reazul Hasan, Probationary Officer of the bank and an eye witness in the case was in the chamber of the manager at the time the guard shot him from a close range. The bullet pierced through the chest of the manager.

The manager was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where he was declared dead.

The court examined 12 prosecution witnesses before delivering the judgement.

Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzak Khan assisted by Masud Ahmed stood for the state while the accused was defended by Syed Anjad Hossain, Mosharraf Hossain and others.

AL council

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Chairman of Choumuhuni Poursava Akkas Ali, and party leaders Azhar Khan and Abdul Latif of Chittagong. The meeting prayed for the departed soul.

The meeting expressed concern for the ailing party leaders Principal Nazrul Islam MP, Asaduzzaman MP and Rahmat Ali MP and prayed for their early recovery.

It also expressed concern at the attack on Mosharraf Hossain MP and ex-MP Ferdous Zaman Mukul, allegedly by terrorists of BNP.

The meeting which began at 11 am continued till midnight last night and was adjourned till 4 pm on September 15.

Khaleda

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sador Soemkano Isawadi and Ambassador of Thailand Chatya Chindawongse were also present at the airport.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman are staying back at the Indonesian capital to attend the unscheduled meeting of foreign ministers today.

The members of the entourage who returned with Prime Minister Begum Zia include among others State Minister for Forest and Environment Gayeshwar Roy, Farida Hasan MP and Chairman of Khagrachhari hill district Samiran Dewan.

Shantibahini

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insurgency in the CHT.

Meanwhile, the government-formed parliamentary committee headed by the Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed completes its fact-finding visits to three CHT districts tomorrow.

The committee members visited Khagrachhari August 27-28, Rangamati August 29-30 and then went to Bandarban yesterday.

During the visits the committee exchanged views with different political parties, tribal leaders, administrations, and the local elite in its quest to recommend ways to resolve the issue.

However, if any dialogue was held, it would be the first of its kind under a democratic government.

During Ershad's rule, six rounds of talks were held between security officials and representatives of the Shantibahini on different occasions in the Pujanga area of Khagrachhari district but all of them ended inconclusively.

The Midnight File

NAM fails to resolve dispute over Yugoslavia

JAKARTA, Sept 5: Heads of delegations here today failed to resolve a dispute over Yugoslavia which has plagued the Non-Aligned Movement summit here, scheduling instead an unprecedented last minute meeting, reports AFP.

Kabul sets up commission to help flood survivors

KABUL, Sept 5: The economically strapped Islamic government on Saturday set up a commission to help survivors of a flash flood that swept away entire villages, killing at least 800 people in northeastern Afghanistan. But the government, struggling after four months to consolidate power, is virtually broke. International aid has all but dried up because of the factional fighting within the shaky leadership. Government officials gave no details about the commission but said an announcement would come soon, reports AP.

Biman's computer

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"We have reverted to our previous system by 40 per cent and now re-arrange and issue special commands to the computer," the source, a sales officer, told The Daily Star.

He said that a special committee monitors the flight and booking positions everyday and suggests commands to the computer system.

The source pointed out that following the installation of the autoconfirmation system, the number of Biman's passengers has fallen considerably because of last moment ticket cancellation by reconfirmed passengers.

There was no way to convey a message to a wait-list passenger if the computer showed confirmation at the eleventh hour and that's why many of the flights had taken off down-loaded," the source who declined to be identified said.

The source said that the combined system has responded well and that the down-load problem has been reduced.

A concerned Biman official, however, rejected the question of reverting to previous system but said "We had to consider some special cases of reconfirmation."

The official, however, said that the recently formed special reservation and monitoring cell (SRMC) held a meeting every morning, reviewed the flight positions and acted accordingly.

He categorically rejected

Madaripur tense Suspected dacoit dies in custody

From Our Correspondent

MADARIPUR, Sept 5: Tension gripped Madaripur town Saturday following the death of an accused in police custody, witnesses and police said.

Wajed Ali Fakir, a suspected dacoit arrested on Wednesday, died Saturday while in custody, sources said adding that local people alleged that "he died because of torture." But police said Fakir died of a heart failure.

The authorities formed a committee to probe the matter and deployed police in the town to check violence.

Several hundred people brought out a procession and held protest a rally in the Nutan Shahar area which was addressed by Shahjahan Khan MP of the Awami League.

Hasina visits AL MP at CMH

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League leader Principal Nazrul Islam, MP, was admitted to the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in the city yesterday following acute pains in his chest.

According to a party press release, Principal Islam was shifted to the CMH from his village home in Charfashon in Bhola after he became unconscious due to serious pains in his chest Friday.

AL chief and leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina went to the CMH yesterday afternoon to see him.

She spent some time in the hospital and enquired about the condition of Principal Islam.

AL leaders Tofael Ahmed, MP, Amir Hossain Amu, Begum Matia Chowdhury, MP, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, Mahmudur Rahman Manna and Abdul Mannan accompanied Hasina.

Democratic Forum won't go against party interest, assures Dr Kamal

The Democratic Forum, led by Dr Kamal Hossain, again came under criticism at the meeting of the Awami League Central Working Committee yesterday (Saturday), reports UNB.

Sources close to the meeting said that some senior leaders in their deliberation at the meeting considered the Democratic Forum as a process of dividing the party.

They observed that the Forum has created adverse reaction among sympathisers of the Awami League.

The meeting was learnt to have requested Dr Kamal, an Awami League presidium member, to engage his labour and intellect to organisational matters of the party.

In his more than an hour-long speech, Dr Kamal reportedly defended his position and assured the meeting that his Democratic Forum will not go against party interests.

Mustafiz's bail prayer rejected

A district court yesterday rejected anticipatory bail petition of Mustafizur Rahman MP, chairman of now defunct Bangladesh Commerce and Investment Ltd (BCI), who was accused in a fresh case of dishonest misappropriation of property and criminal breach of trust, reports UNB.

The case was filed with Motijheel thana by Harunur Rashid, a senior officer on behalf of Bangladesh Bank against Mustafiz who is facing several other cases.

The petitioner seeking anticipatory bail said he had come to know that conspirators who suspended the business of BCI had fabricated fresh story of offences of criminal breach of trust and misappropriation relating to some accounts of the Company and taking steps to harassing him further.

After hearing both sides, the District and Sessions Judge rejected the petition.

Another corruption case against Ershad

Anti-Corruption Bureau yesterday filed a case against the Tejgaon thana against former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, former Telecommunications Minister Kazi Firoz Rashid and former Chairman of the T and T Board Maksud Ali Khan, reports BSS.

According to an Anti-Corruption Bureau press release here last night, the case has filed against them for arranging establishment of telecommunication in 89 former Upazilas by a tied French loan and thereby emburdening Bangladesh with a loan of Taka 28,62,67,311.78 and Taka 71,56,682.76 as annual interest thereon by misusing power, misappropriation of funds and accruing financial benefits, instead of establishing telecommunications in the former Upazilas with Finland's grant.

The statement of the case is that the press release said, the Chairman of the T and T Board Maksud Ali Khan on 19-1-89 had requested to be allowed to go ahead to establish telecommunication in 89 Upazilas under a French loan immediately before Bangladesh-Finland annual bilateral discussions, scheduled for January 21-26, 1989. It added that during discussion on 26-1-89, Finland gave commitments to assist establishment of telecommunication in 89 Upazilas.

The Planning Minister and the Planning Secretary in a summary of items in the annual bilateral discussion between France and Bangladesh that was to be held on 21-3-89 opined that following the progress of discussion with the Finnish government on providing grant, implementation of the project with the French loan would not be reasonable.

Rejecting the above opinion the press release mentioned, former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad directed on 21-3-89 to implement the project under French loan and enlist it as priority project on 8-6-89.

During the biennial meeting held on 11-6-89, the French government granted 80 million franc for establishing telecommunication in 89 former Upazilas, the press release further said adding, out of this amount 35 per cent was grant, 65 per cent was loan and rate of interest was 2.5 per cent.

When the T and T Board recommended for giving the work order to Messers T R T at the rate submitted by them, the Cabinet Committee on Purchase on 3-4-90 gave a decision to call tenders again and did not approve the proposal of the T and T Board and former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad approved the T and T recommendation on 14-5-90.

Ignoring the decision of the Cabinet Committee on Purchase, the press release noted, the former Minister of Telecommunications Kazi Firoz Rashid requested the former President through a summary to reconsider the proposal of his ministry to purchase radio equipment from Messers T R T as the single tender.

On the direction of former President to reconsider the proposal, the Cabinet Committee on Purchase approve the proposal to give work order for Taka 44,19,41,774 to Messers T R T on 28-7-90, the press release added and said, as a result the T and T Board was burdened with the tied loan of Taka 28,62,67,312 with the annual interest Taka 71,56,682 thereon.

Devendra Govt College closed sine die

MANIKGANJ, Sept 5: Devendra Government College was today closed sine die after an armed clash between two groups of students created panic on the campus, reports UNB.

Five students were injured in the clashes. They were admitted into the Sadar hospital.

Police and college sources said the clash erupted at about 10:30 am when some supporters of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal attacked a Sangrami Chhatra Samaj leader while filing his nomination paper to contest student union election.

The attackers also set fire to the motorbike of Hedayetullah.

After about half an hour of the incident, supporters of the two groups clashed with lethal weapons. Two gunshots and blasts of 4 crackers were also heard amidst the melee.

Today was the last date of filing nomination for the election.

Chhatra League (M-I) and Chhatra League (M-B) brought out processions protesting the incident.

Yellow journalism

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formed for the merger of the property of the Dainik Bangla and the Bangladesh Times for the healthy management and development of the two dailies. There is a plan to build a 20-storey building of the two dailies in which a bank has expressed interest to provide with necessary loan.

He said with the earnings from the proposed high rise building of Times — Bangla, these two papers could run in a comfortable position.

Congratulating the newly-elected office-bearers of the Bangladesh Times Karmachari Parishad the minister urged them to put in their best efforts for the over all development of the daily.

The Chairman of the Times-Bangla Trust M I Chowdhury, Director General of Film and Publication Department Goolam Panjatan, Editor of the Times Mahbub Anam, president of the Press Sramik Federation Moshraf Hossain and the newly elected president and general secretary of the Bangladesh Times Karmachari Parishad Omar Faruk and Alauddin Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

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