

16 Tripura militants killed in shootout

AGARTALA, Oct 11: At least 16 hardcore extremists of the National Liberation Front of Tripura were killed and their camps smashed by the police in a major raid in two different places in the dense forest in South Tripura district in the early hours of yesterday, according to confirmed reports reaching here today, says PTI. Official sources here, however, said today that only the entry of the so-called war headquarters of the NLFT at Chakakucherraga was shot dead when he challenged the police party during the raid. While eight extremists, including a woman and the sentry, died on the spot at least eight more had succumbed to their injuries in the dense forest, reports said. Blood stains were found in and around the escape routes in many places inside the forest, a highly placed official source said on condition of anonymity. He also said that most of the other extremists, who had received bullet injuries, might die. A Chandigarh report says,

nine militants were among 10 people killed and three militants were nabbed in Punjab since last night. Two unidentified militants were killed in an encounter with securitymen near Jarhtoli village in Jagraon police district while another militant, identified as Gurbhuj Singh alias Bheja, was killed near Maqbool Pur village in Amritsar district last night. One special and one 30 bore pistols, 12 live and seven empty cartridges were seized from the sites of encounter. In another encounter, an unidentified militant was killed in sadar police station area of Amritsar last night. Two others, one of them identified as Jaswinder Singh Sahid, were killed in another encounter near Bhal Ladhu village in Tarn Taran police district. One SLR, one magazine, one 12 bore DBBL gun, one LMG magazine of AK-47 and over two hundred cartridges of different calibres were seized from the scene.



Five-Party Alliance brought out a procession in city yesterday demanding annulment of anti-terrorism ordinance. — Star photo

5-Party observes protest day

The Five-Party Alliance Sunday observed protest day against what it described as "Government's failure to punish the killers of CPB leader Ratan Sen, gunmen who carried an assassination attempt on Rashed Khan Menon, MP, and non-implementation of the agreement with the opposition on the trial of Jamaat-e-Islami leader Prof Golam Azam. As part of the programme, the alliance held a rally at Noor Hussain Square here in yesterday afternoon, where senior leaders of the alliance including Naim Jahangir, Abdullah Sarkar, Tipu Biswas, Sharif Nurul Ambia and A F M Mahbulul Huq spoke. It was presided over by Nirmal Sen. The speakers criticised the government for its failure to bring the culprits of Ratan Sen murder to book. They alleged that even after two months of the incident, the "identified people," who carried the assassination attempt on Rashed Khan Menon, were not "touched by the police."

Hasina regrets

From Page 1 Col 8 During the opposition leader's 20-minute stay with the family, Atanu denied having been physically assaulted or beaten. He was detained but nobody tried to hurt him, Atanu said adding that his repeated request that somebody should call his parents over telephone, was unheeded till the police rescued him. Syed Iskander was not at home during Hasina's visit. Sheikh Hasina was away in Rajbari during the Saturday's incident. Eleven police officials of DMP (Protection) who were on duty at the opposition leader Sheikh Hasina's Dhanmondi residence on Saturday were suspended, according to a top police official. The police source, without

Prabarana Purnima observed

"Prabarana Purnima", a religious festival of the Buddhist community, was observed yesterday with due solemnity and enthusiasm throughout the country, reports BSS. Bangladesh Buddhist Federation arranged a discussion at the International Buddhist Bihar in the city on Prabarana Purnima—marking conclusion of the three months of seclusion of the Buddhist monks in the monasteries. Presided over by the principal of the Bihar pandit Shri Mahatma Mahather, the function was addressed, among others, by Shashanka Bimol Barua, Dr Sumangal Barua, D P Barua, Kishor Kumar Barua, Shrimat Buddhanda Bhikku and Parimal Mutsuddi. Addressing the function, the speakers said the principles of non-violence and amity preached by Lord Buddha can play a significant role in bringing peace in the present day world. They said the message of Buddha preached 2,500 years back is still relevant. Special prayers were offered in all Buddhist monasteries seeking peace and progress of the country as well as the world.

Kuwaiti journalist held for insulting Minister

KUWAIT, Oct 11: Police on Sunday detained a newspaper columnist accused of insulting the Information Minister and criticising government security policy, and plans to hold him until investigation of his case is completed. This is the first confrontation between the government and the liberal forces in the Parliament. Abdullatif al-Duaibi, a columnist at the independent newspaper Al-Qabas, told The Associated Press by telephone from the police station after detention.

Militants set Kashmir microwave centre afire

JAMMU, Oct 11: Micro wave communication between Kashmir Valley and rest of the country was snapped today as armed militants overpowered the guards on duty at microwave centre on a hilltop near Banihal and later set it on fire. An official spokesman said twelve armed militants laid an ambush around the micro-wave centre last night and took away two rifles and one hundred round of ammunition from the guards after overpowering them. The militants later set on fire the centre damaging charger room, battery room, two generators and other equipment, he said, reports PTI.

Anti-terrorism ordn

From Page 1 Col 4 erment had created a law and order situation in the country intentionally to promulgate such an ordinance. Sheikhs Hasina urged the Law Minister to withdraw the ordinance saying "the existing law of the land is enough to suppress terrorism." She warned that the opposition would stage a walkout if the Law Minister was allowed to lay the ordinance. The Leader of the Opposition asked what was the use of promulgating the Ordinance when the Home Minister had claimed that best possible law and order situation had been prevailing in the country. Earlier, Suranjit Sengupta of Ganatantri Party took the floor on a point of order to oppose laying of the ordinance and said that the anti-terrorism ordinance could not be considered as an ordinance since a bill with similar contents was under consideration of the House.

amendments to it. The State Minister for Law Aminul Hoque, in a bid to re-fute opposition argument that the President can not promulgate an ordinance which was pending — in a parliamentary committee said, "Article 93 of the Constitution provided the President with the right to do so." Aminul Hoque also contested opposition argument that the text of the ordinance was violative of the fundamental rights of the citizens ensured by the Constitution. He, however, said that Supreme Court of the country was there to declare any clause of the ordinance void, provided there was any such clause in the ordinance, and "the honourable opposition members were at liberty to go to the court in this regard any time." Others, who spoke against the anti-terrorism ordinance were: Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder (AL), Retired Colonel Showkat Ali (AL), Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury (JP), Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury (NDP), Shahjahan Seraj (JSD-S), Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury (JP), Assaduzzaman (AL), Maulana Mattur Rahman Nizami (Jamaat), Sheikh Ansar Ali (Jamaat), ATM Fazle Rabbi (JP), Abdur Rahim (AL), Abdus Samad Azad (AL). When the Speaker announced his decision in favour of laying the ordinance just before adjourning the House at 9-40 pm, MPs belonging to AL and other opposition parties promptly rose and started leaving the House. Later, at a press briefing Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad claimed that opposition MPs staged walkout in protest against laying of anti-terrorism ordinance. The House was adjourned until 4-30 pm tomorrow. Editorial on page 4

Ansar, VDP urged to work as a dynamic force

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury Sunday called upon the Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) to work as a dynamic force in maintaining law and order and developing rural Bangladesh, reports BSS. The Home Minister was addressing a conference of range, battalion and district level officers of Ansar and VDP at the conference room of Ansar and VDP headquarters, here. Chowdhury urged the members of Ansar and VDP to gear up their activities in establishing peace and stability and sustaining socio-economic development. He asked them to actively participate in the welfare activities like mass education, primary health care, coopera-

Obituary references

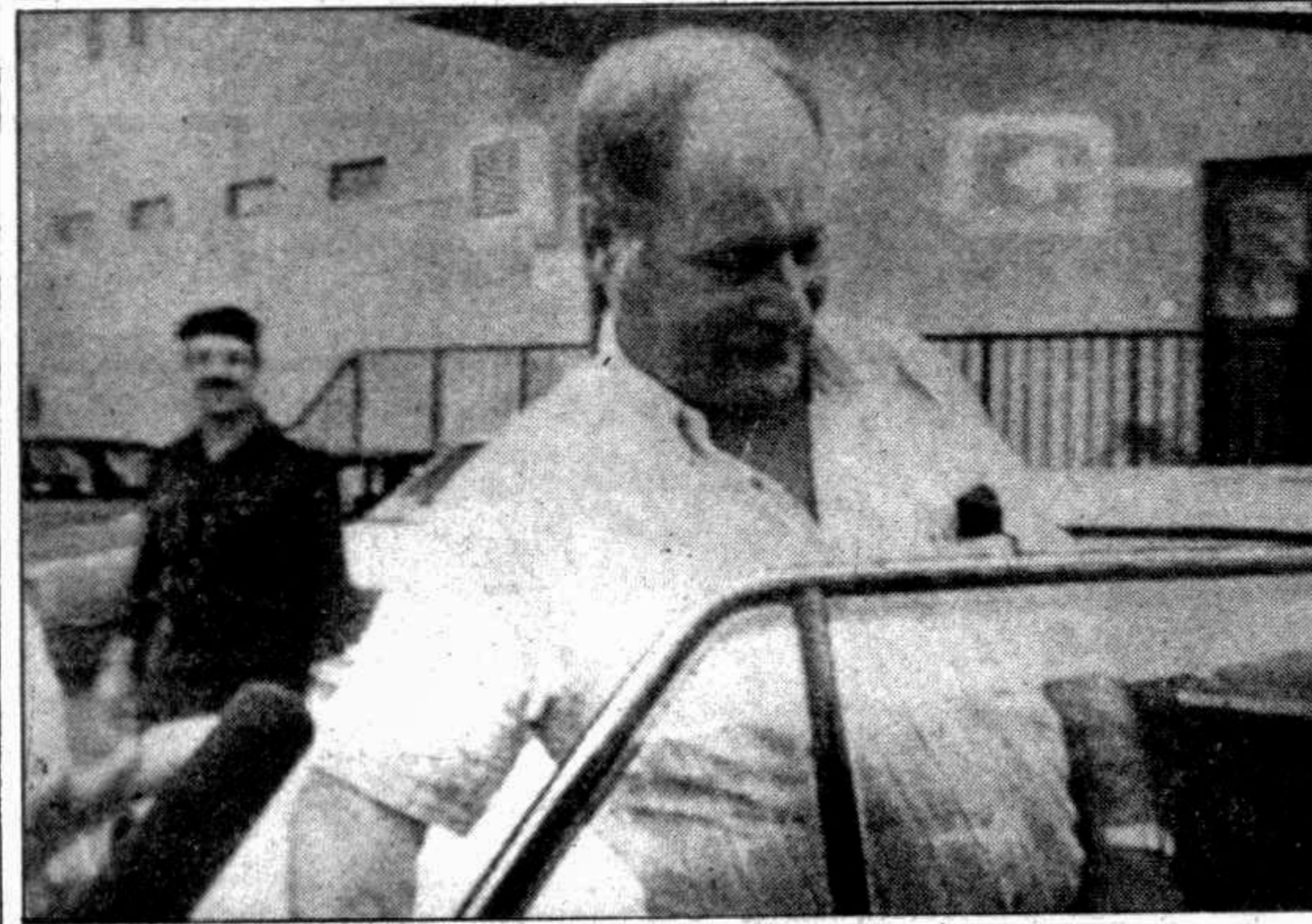
The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed obituary references on a member of the current parliament and six other former members of parliament and provincial assembly who died after the sixth session of the Sangsad, reports BSS. As the House began its seventh session Speaker Shaikh Razaque Ali moved obituary references conoling the deaths of Principal M M Nazrul, MP, and former parliamentarians Syed Hossain Mansur, Borhanuddin Ahmed (Gagan), Abdul Jabbar, Mohammad Nuruzzaman, Moulana Manzurul Huq and Abu Zafar Mohammad Mohtuddin. The House passed the resolutions unanimously and observed one-minute silence as a mark of respect to the departed souls. Describing the population explosion as the main problem of Bangladesh, Chowdhury said, if the 45 lakh members of Ansar and VDP adopted family planning method and could motivate people. Earlier, the Home Minister inaugurated "monitoring development and research cell" at the Ansar and VDP headquarters.

PM: Gouripur rally

From Page 1 Col 3 League MP Nazrul Islam in a road accident. She urged the people to choose the "right man" as their representative for ensuring development of the area. The Prime Minister said the people had liberated the country in a bloody revolution for socio-economic emancipation of commonman, but the post-independence government failed to improve their lot. Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had introduced the 19-point programme aimed at welfare of the people, she said reminding that the country was making a significant leap forward during his rule. After the assassination of Zia, the autocratic regime didn't do any development and welfare of the people and indulged in making fortune through corruption, Begum Zia said. They didn't have any relation with the soil and the people. Since assumption of power, she said, her government had been involved in clearing up the rubbish left over by the nine-year autocratic rule. "We have started anew the politics of production initiated by Zia," she said urging the people to take the opportunity for developing their area by returning her nominee. The Prime Minister said the present government is the "friend" of the people and mentioned different development programmes undertaken for them, including mass education, education for women and compulsory primary education. Referring to the women development programme, she

eddy said that the "we had given arms to the youth of the society to fight autocracy and it is our duty to rehabilitate them," the minister rose to give a personal explanation. He gave an explanation which sounded new to many in the gallery. "I had said that the young writers of our country had taken up arms in the fight against autocracy. And we know what weapons our writers wielded. It was their pens and writings with which leaflets and posters were written, banners drawn. That was the arms I was referring to and not any illegal weapons," he said, explaining that he was speaking at a seminar for young writers on the need to stop terrorism.

The second gem however had come first and it concerned government advertisements given to newspapers. Mizan Chowdhury of JP had first objected to his comment that "Dainik Janata had eaten-up half the government's advertising wealth during Ershad's nine-year rule." Then Suranjit Sengupta wanted to know how much of the left-overs was being eaten up by Dinkal, the mouthpiece of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP). "The nation had demanded that BNP — a party after their heart — should have a paper of its own. It became a national demand. Since Dinkal was published, it has become so popular that it rightfully laid claim to a lot of government ads. "As it is our policy to distribute ads according to circulation and Dinkal has an extremely high circulation, there is nothing I can do about the paper getting so many ads," the minister explained at length.



Picture taken on a screen in Baghdad showing American munitions expert Chad Hall leaving the Borj al-Hayatt hotel yesterday for Kuwait, three days after he was snatched by Iraqi police. — AFP photo

Referring to the women development programme, she said they had to come forward and equally take part in nation-building activities. She assured all possible help from the government and said "land banks" would soon start providing small credits to women for poultry, farming, small and cottage and agro-industries. Mentioning this year's expected harvest of paddy, she said "the problem of rice will be gone soon, and now we have to increase the production of fish. We have to revive the glory of Bengal abundant with fish and rice." The Prime Minister also stressed the need for boosting production in every field and factory and turn Bangladesh into an exporting country. During her day-long election campaign tour, Begum Zia also addressed huge public meetings at Shaheganj Bahumukhi High School ground and Shambhuganj High School premises. Begum Zia at the Gouripur Stadium rally also assured to consider nationalisation of Gouripur Girls High School and construction of roads to remove the communication problem in the area. The rallies were also addressed by Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Jute Minister Brig (Retd) Hannan Shah, State Minister for Communications Fazlur Rahman and members of parliament Selima Rahman, Noorjahan Yasmin, Anwar Hossain Khan Chowdhury, Abu Abbas and Abdul Karim. BNP candidate Nazmul Huda also spoke. The Prime Minister, just before her departure for the capital, laid the foundation of the Mymensingh Press Club.

UN team to focus on 'hidden' Iraqi Scuds

MANAMA (Bahrain), Oct 11: The leader of the largest UN weapons inspection team to visit Iran said Sunday his mission will focus on up to 200 Scud missiles that intelligence sources believe may still be hidden, reports AP. Nikita Smidovich, a Russian, said the timing of the inspection was not related to the November 3 US presidential election. Irwin tried to delay the team's two-week mission, to start Friday, saying it is wary of a US-engineered attempt to provoke a confrontation to help President Bush's lagging campaign. Upon arrival at the team's regional headquarters in Bahrain, Smidovich said:

Indemnity

From Page 1 Col 5 the 'last deadline'. The Speaker of the House Shaikh Razzak Ali granted time but categorically told the committee that it must be the last deadline. The Speaker also reminded the committee members that it was over a year that the committee was formed for making a report on the bill. The special committee on the issue was formed on August 8 last year following introduction of the bill in the House by the Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim. The committee, according to sources, held 14 meetings so far and the latest deadline granted yesterday was the fifth one.

Mostafiz, opposition

From Page 1 Col 5 Reliable sources said that the minister explained the prevailing situation over the pushing of Bangla-speaking Indian citizens into Bangladesh and Rohingya refugee issues. The AL leaders gave a patient to the minister and suggested that both the issues should be discussed in Parliament. In another round of meeting with Foreign Minister Sunday morning at the same venue Ganatantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta, National Democratic Party leader (NDP) Salauddin Kader Chowdhury, Jamaat Leader Mattur Rahman Nizami, Maulana Abdus Sobhan and Sheikh Ansar Ali MP were present. Independent candidate Nurul Islam Moni was also present at the meeting. According to a participant of this meeting, after the minister elaborated on the present situation the opposition MPs stressed on holding detailed discussions on both the issues in Parliament.

Constable suspended for beating embassy guard

By Staff Correspondent A night guard of Myanmar Embassy in the capital, Arifur Rahman, was severely beaten reportedly by an on-duty police constable in the embassy premises at Banani Sunday afternoon. A top level police source confirmed the incident and said the police constable (protection), Saidul, was suspended Sunday night. Arifur Rahman, the night guard who was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with head injuries, said that Saidul hit on his head with a rifle butt as he protested bringing of a prostitute by the constable in the embassy premises Saturday night. Meanwhile, a police officer said that Saidul hit the night guard at a stage of altercation but he could not tell anything about the cause of the altercation.

Revenue

From Page 1 Col 7 of the targeted Taka 776 crore. The collection was Taka 743.05 crore. Despite the shortfall in VAT collection, the amount was almost double the last year's collection for the same period which was Taka 366.40 crore. Excise duty collection was also very significant despite the fact that most items under excise had been shifted to VAT. The targeted excise duty collection was Taka 69 crore while the actual collection was Taka 179.60 crore. Customs duty collection also showed a slight fall compared to the target. It stood at Taka 655.87 crore as against the target of Taka 725 crore. Last year's customs duty collection for the same period was Taka 621.01 crore. NBR sources also said that the expansion of tax base in the current budget also contributed to the "good performance" of the collection drive.

From the gallery

From Page 1 Col 4 Sudhangshu Shekhar Halder and Col Showkat Ali, insisted the Ordinance was in fact a non-ordinance. A bill virtually identical to the "so-called ordinance", as Jatiya Party's Fazle Rabbi called it, was already being considered by a parliamentary Select Committee, making the promulgation of the ordinance an act tantamount to usurpation of parliament's legislative authority by the executive, they said. "The President of the republic has acted in excess of his powers. He has no right to promulgate this Ordinance," said Showkat Ali of Shariatpur. The Speaker seemed pretty unimpressed by all this, but State Minister for Law and Justice Aminul Huq soon had him rapt in attention with a long discourse on the ins and outs of the Indian Constitution and Kaul. The powers conferred on the presidents of India and Bangladesh were the same, Huq maintained, and quoted at length from Kaul to show that the Indian president did indeed have the power to promulgate ordinances even if a similar or identical bill was pending before the house. Kaul however had said that the President could do so, if a statement explaining and clarifying the reasons why such an Ordinance had to be promulgated, was sent to the Speaker and distributed among members on the day it was laid before the House. Razaque Ali was quite enthusiastic about half of what Kaul had to say, but when Sengupta pointed out that no such statement of explanation had been distributed among the members, the Speaker chose to ignore it. "I am in full agreement with the Speakers of the Indian Lok Sabha, and permit this Ordinance to be laid", he said to loud protests from Awami League ranks. When Information Minister Nazmul Huda speaks, the House wakes up. Yesterday, the barrister provided two gems for the members and visitors alike, though without provoking the sort of reaction from Opposition benches as have often been seen in the past. When Sheikh Hasina referred to a recent speech by Huda in which he had suppo-

Eight inmates of Sylhet Shishu Sadan arrested

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, Oct 11: Eight inmates including four school going boys of Sylhet Government Shishu Sadan were arrested yesterday on charge of overstaying in the institution. However, the students alleged they were arrested for their protest against the corruption of the institution authorities. The students later brought out a procession and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner. Smidovich said his 50-member team, which includes nuclear, chemical and biological weapons experts, planned surprise visits to sites previously undeclared by Iraq.

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Huda: Circulation

From Page 1 Col 7 It was followed by The Daily Ittefaq, Taka 53.88 lakh, Dainik Bangla, Taka 49.04 lakh, the Bangladesh Times, Taka 43.58 lakh, The Daily Sangram Taka 37.42 lakh, Banglar Bani, Taka 35.58 lakh, The Daily Sangbad Taka 26 lakh, Daily Dinkal Taka 21.62 lakh and the Dainik Shaikhi Taka 20.77 lakh. The Daily Star, Tk 8,29,650