

## Hasina : unruly partymen

From Page 1 Col 7  
blame any party for that act of violence. Referring to some press reports today about her blaming the BNP, NDP and Jubo Command for the shooting Hasina categorically said, "I did not say anything like that to any journalist and they mis-reported it quoting me". "I still don't even find the reason behind the attack after my address," she hastened to add.

Hasina apologized for the assault on journalists by a section of her party's unruly activists during the rampage before her address.

Turning to Anti-terrorism Act Hasina said that it was only being used by the present government to repress opposition supporters.

Though the present BNP government claims itself a democratic one it hardly practices democracy," she also said.

"The people of the whole country are now hostage to

terrorism backed by the government," she added. "She wondered why the police had failed to arrest the gunmen in Sunday's violence at the Lalight meeting. "Police did not act as the gunmen were headed towards my vehicle directing their fire at me," she alleged.

UNB adds: Hasina said that the government press note on Sunday's incident was confusing and alleged that the government was trying to conceal facts to shift its responsibilities.

Hasina said there were some minor incidents between two groups of BCL activists over a trifling matter before the meeting started. But she questioned if they were responsible for the attack why were they not arrested?

She said there was no link between the attack on the meeting and the clash that took place between BCL activists — the two were totally separate incidents.

Responding to a question, Hasina said there was no grouping and conflict in BCL and Awami League.

Referring to the campus violence, Hasina said one after another educational institution across the country had been closed following violent clashes and now the BUET, Mymensingh Agricultural University and Jahangirnagar University are victims of JCD's terrorism.

Violence also gripped the port city where two Awami League leaders and a BCL leader had been brutally killed by the activists of Jamaat-e-Shibir and NDP during the last week, Hasina alleged.

Also present at the press conference were Awami League presidium members Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, Prof Pulin Dey, Sultanul Kabir MP, Aatur Rahman Khan Kader, M A Mannan and A B M Mahiuddin Chowdhury.

**Press Note false, motivated: AL**

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman yesterday termed the Press Note issued by the Home Ministry on Sunday's incident at Lalight in Chittagong as false, fictitious and motivated and asked the government to withdraw it, reports UNB.

In a statement, he alleged that the government was involved in a new conspiracy to divert the incident through the Press Note after being failed to implement its well-planned conspiracy to kill people's leader Sheikh Hasina.

Being scared and imbalanced by the growing popularity of Awami League, the government took recourse to such heinous attempt on the life of Sheikh Hasina, he said. The Awami League leader demanded exemplary punishment to the persons involved in Lalight incident.

**Partial hartal**

From Page 1 Col 5  
The violence that marred the meeting after and before the address by Sheikh Hasina, the leader of the opposition, left at least 50 persons injured, most of them with bullet.

Police appeared to have played a silent role without swinging into quick action though the meeting venue was located adjacent to the Chittagong Metropolitan Headquarters.

A senior police official on condition of anonymity said that the blame for the attack might have been put on police by the political leaders had the police gone for severe action during the trouble.

"However, now legal action must follow the incidents of violence that erupted here," the police official added.

Sheikh Hasina, during a press briefing this evening, also blamed the police for not going into quick action or arresting anybody during the violence.

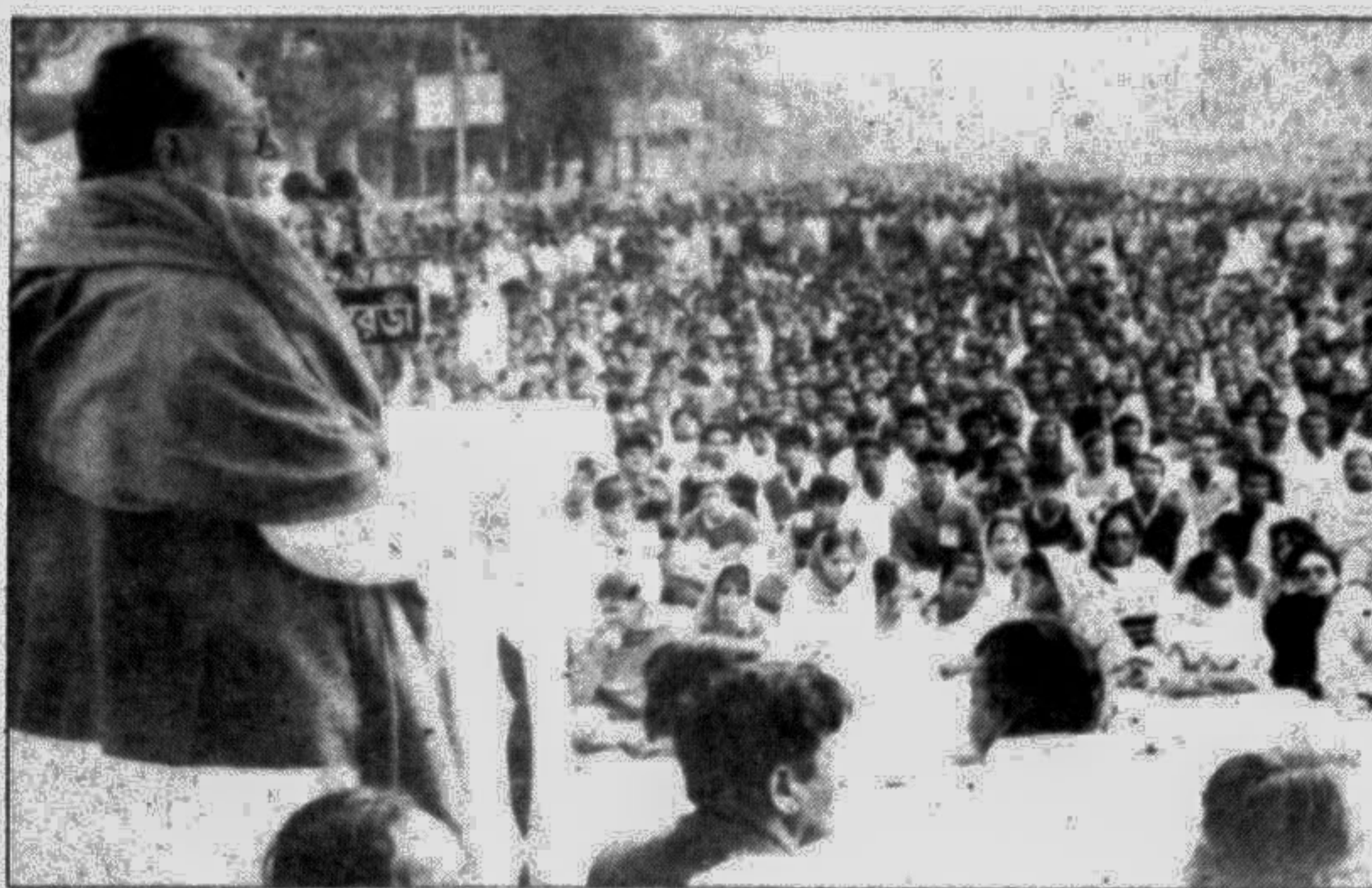
**Delhi-London trade accord**

NEW DELHI, Jan 25: India and Britain today took a major step to strengthen bilateral economic cooperation by signing the revised agreement for avoidance of double taxation, reports PTI.

The agreement, according to official sources here, would considerably step up British investment and technology flow into India.

An official spokesman told newsmen the high-power British business group accompanying the visiting British Prime Minister, John Major, would also sign a memorandum of understanding with its Indian business group to "concretise" the ideas presented in the joint Indo-British partnership initiative.

Both the Indian Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, and the British Prime Minister were appreciative of the analysis of the businessmen and expressed their optimism about strengthening cooperation in industrial and technological areas.



Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, addressing a public meeting in city yesterday organised to protest Sunday's alleged attempt on Sheikh Hasina in Chittagong. — Star photo

## Attack on Hasina unveils govt's terroristic activities: Zillur

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League Monday alleged that the present government had unleashed a reign of terror as its popularity had slumped to zero-level because of its "misrule."

The attack on our leader (Sheikh Hasina) once again bore testimony to government's terroristic activities," Zillur Rahman, General Secretary of the party told a public rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue organised to protest what the AL said attempt on Hasina's life in Chittagong Sunday.

"People have monitored the activities of the government for the last two years now the government has started taking recourse to terrorism to stifle voice of opposition."

He urged the people to make today's countrywide six-hour hartal a success.

The protest rally was organised by the city unit of AL and was addressed, among others, by Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak MP, Matia Chowdhury MP, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and AL candidate for Mirpur by-election Kamal Majumder.

City unit president Mohammad Hanif chaired the meeting.

Security was tightened around the meeting venue and police were deployed on the rooftops of most of the high-rise buildings and also atop the Outer Stadium.

The rally was followed by a procession.

The Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Abdus Samad Azad said that AL would no longer tolerate the BNP's activities "to bury democracy."

He said that as a major opposition the AL extended its cooperation to uphold democratic practice and eradicate politics of "coups and killings" but BNP had always refused the cooperation.

He said that AL must establish the rule of law in the country.

Abdur Razzak said that there was another attempt on Hasina during the reign of autocratic ruler, now similar attempt was being made during the rule of the neo-autocrat.

He cautioned that this way of ruling would not help the government.

Amir Hossain Amu alleged that late President Ziaur Rahman introduced autocracy in the country and the people thought the democratically elected government would correct itself but people's hope went in vein.

Matia Chowdhury said that the people would respond to the attack on AL chief by electing the AL candidate in the city's Mirpur constituency.

## Gold haul at ZIA

From Page 1 Col 4

Dhaka from Darby Impex Enterprise, 401-b Victoria Street, Singapore by a Singapore cargo flight (SQ-618) Saturday, the source said.

A Customs official said that as the papers submitted by the clearing and forwarding agents seemed false, they opened the consignments and recovered the gold.

Meanwhile, two officials of the Russian embassy present at the airport yesterday said that the Russian Mission in Dhaka was not, in any way connected with the incident and that the consignments were not for the Mission.

But the embassy officials admitted that Vladimir had been their information officer and now not in service.

However, all the three arrested persons detained at Cantonment Police Station were being interrogated in connection with the smuggling until filing of this report: midnight last night.

The three persons are likely to be produced in the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Court today (Tuesday) and the recovered gold will be handed over to the Bangladesh Bank authorities, said police.

## Travesty of truth

From Page 1 Col 7

meeting at Lalight Maidan. And she went to the extent of bringing an allegation against BNP and other political parties for making an attempt on her life. He said, "I deny with all assertion that no activist of BNP or any other party was involved in the Lalight incident and I do say that rival Awami League activists were involved in the incident."

The Forest and Fisheries Minister said the incident like the one of Lalight Maidan and its surroundings, if not truly publicised and the offenders involved in it brought to book, would vitiate the whole political atmosphere of the country and jeopardize the future of hard earned democracy and seriously hamper development efforts of the nation.

He called upon all political parties to stick to democratic norms and shun falsehood and mispropaganda.

Noman said that the strike call given by Awami League for tomorrow aimed at creating chaos and confusion in the country as it was not for a genuine cause of the people. "Why should the country and the people suffer for internal rivalry of Bangladesh Awami League?" he asked saying frequent hartal, strikes and blockade of roads and highways were hampering economic development and the democratic process of the country.

Chittagong city Mayor Mir Nasiruddin, Begum Rosy Kabir,

## Madhu Mela begins

KESHAPUR (Jessore), Jan 25: A three-day Madhu Mela in observance of the 170th birth anniversary of the epic poet Michael Madhusudan Datta began today in the premises of the poet's ancestral home-stead at Sagardari here, reports ISS.

The programme was inaugurated by the District Collector, Keshap, who wished the success of the Mela.

The Mela will continue for three days, ending on Saturday. It will feature a variety of cultural programmes, including music, dance and drama.

The Mela is expected to attract a large number of tourists from all over the country.

The Mela is being organised by the Madhusudan Datta Memorial Trust.

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## Mizan, Mahmudul Hasan allowed to leave country

A High Court Division Bench yesterday granted permission to former prime minister Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury to leave the country for performing holy 'Omrah' at Mecca and holy Ziarat at Medina and to visit Abu Dhabi for medical check-up within the first two weeks to February, reports ISS.

The bench comprised Justice Mohammad Mozammel Haq and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman.

The court also allowed former minister Major Gen (Retd) Mahmudul Hasan to leave the country for performing holy Ziarat at the Mazar Sharif of Hazrat Khawaja Moinuddin Chisty (RA) at Azmir in India within the first two weeks of February.

## Textile accord with Canada

Bangladesh and Canada signed a textile agreement on 'Quota Negotiation' yesterday, reports UNB.

The agreement will remove the uncertainty in export of T-Shirts from Bangladesh to Canada and is expected that textile trade between the two countries will improve to a great extent.

## Baghdad

From Page 1 Col 4

warplane during recent confrontations and did not want a continuous showdown with the United States.

Speaking in an interview in Baghdad with Cable Network News, he said, "We have genuine intentions to have a new chapter with the new (US) administration if the new administration is ready for that."

Aziz said: "Iraq has never targeted" an allied plane, calling allied statements that Iraq fired anti-aircraft artillery and used its radar to target the warplanes "fabrications."

"We don't want continuous confrontation with the United States of America," he said. "That was not our objective in the past, it is not our objective now and in the future."

Aziz, an urban spokesman Saddam Hussein uses to show the more polished side of his government, said that if President Bill Clinton's administration showed "any intention to have a new kind of relations with Iraq, based on mutual understanding, based on mutual respect of sovereignty, based on international law under normal standards of behavior of nations, then that will be very much welcomed in Iraq."

Aziz blasted US Defence Secretary Les Aspin, who said Sunday that Iraq would not comply with United Nations resolutions until Saddam were ousted.

In a statement here tonight M Nasirul Haq and Nirmal Chandra Das, President and General Secretary respectively of the CUJ said a group of armed elements had assaulted some reporters and photo-journalists, who went to cover the meeting.

They said Awami League, being the biggest opposition party in the country, had totally failed to provide security to the journalists while discharging their professional duties.

They urged the government and all the political parties not to patronize terrorists and allow the journalists to discharge their duties without any fear for the sake of democracy.

## CUJ concern over Ctg incident

CHITTAGONG, Jan 25: Leaders of Chittagong Union of Journalists (CUJ) today expressed grave concern over the assault on some journalists by a group of armed miscreants, at Lalight Maidan yesterday where Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressed a public meeting, reports BSS.

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## The Midnight File

### Red alert in Kashmir

Srinagar, Jan 25: Authorities in Kashmir put the state on a maximum security alert and drafted in additional army troops today, the eve of India's Republic Day, amid fears of attacks by Muslim secessionist guerrillas. Army and paramilitary troops stepped up round-the-clock patrols of the entire Kashmir valley including Srinagar, the state's summer capital and urban hub of the Muslim secessionist campaign, reports AFP.

### Tension escalates in Sind

KARACHI, Jan 25: Tension escalated in Sind today as the ethnically divided southern province mourned the deaths of 24 people in weekend bomb explosions. Rival ethnic groups called protests here as Sind Chief Minister Muzaffer Hussain Shah described Saturday's bombing in Hyderabad a "deep conspiracy of anti-state elements" while other political leaders condemned the government's failure to maintain law and order, reports AFP.

### Seminar on private sector ends

## 'Simplify procedures for investment'

By Staff Correspondent

Simplification of procedures relating to investment, credit, taxes, import and export and access to utilities are pre-requisites for a healthy growth of the private sector of the country.

A national seminar on 'Private Sector Growth, Technology Choice and Investment in Industrial Development of Bangladesh' adopted these recommendations at its concluding session on the National Economic Council (NEC) Auditorium Monday.

Organised by the government, ESCAP and the Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce (BCCI), the seminar also pointed out that creation of "market-friendly" public administration remained a critical element for private sector growth.

The seminar observed that there was a growing need for an outward-oriented private sector growth in Bangladesh with major emphasis on export of manufactured and processed goods.

"For this, entrepreneurs should abandon those industrial activities which have lost

competitiveness in the world market.

The recommendations were made public through a post-seminar press briefing. The three-day seminar discussed 13 papers and was attended by entrepreneurs, policy makers, development practitioners, researchers and academics.

Dr Harun-Ur-Rashid, Secretary, Planning Division, while disclosing the recommendations said it was observed that as the prospect for availability of external resources for industrialisation was not encouraging, it has become imperative to mobilise internal resources for the purpose.

He said the seminar strongly felt that government should allocate increased resources towards upgrading the infrastructure and support services.

## Electricity

From Page 12 Col 8

management steps without hampering the productive sectors and overloading of the installed generating and transmitting equipment in the power sector.

The approval of the measures was given at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

## Commercial show of stage drama on Feb 3

By Staff Correspondent

Nagorik Natya Sampradya has drawn up programmes to mark the introduction of commercial show of stage drama in the country on February 3.

A leading theatre group, Nagorik pioneered the commercial show of stage drama in the country by presenting 'Baaki Itihas' at the British Council Auditorium on February 3, 1973. It also started using the Mahila Samity Auditorium for regular show of stage drama.

The drama organisation will hold a discussion to be followed by the staging of its old drama 'Baaki Itihas' on the day.



## Nakajima named WHO DG for second term

Dr Hiroshi Nakajima was nominated Thursday for a second 5-year term of office as Director-General of the World Health Organisation (WHO) by the 91st session of the Executive Board, meeting in Geneva, says a WHO press release received in Dhaka yesterday.

Dr Nakajima's present term of office ends in July 1993. Thursday's nomination will be submitted for the approval of the 46th World Health Assembly meeting in Geneva next May.

Dr Nakajima was born in Chiba City, Japan, on 16 May 1928. He obtained his medical degree at the Tokyo Medical College in 1955 and he holds a postgraduate degree in medical science.

Dr Nakajima joined the World Health Organisation in 1974 in the position of Scientist, Drug Evaluation and Monitoring. He became Chief, Drug Policies and Management Unit in 1976. In 1978, the WHO Regional Committee for the Western Pacific nominated Dr Nakajima as Regional Director. In May 1988, while still in office as Regional Director, he was appointed Director-General of the World Health Organisation by the 41st World Health Assembly.

## Delhi's statement

From Page 1 Col 5

spoke of the 'existing friendly and cordial relations' between the two neighbours that the leaders said would be strengthened further.

One source said that the messages were just a formality but today's statement would echo Dhaka's sentiments on the New Delhi statement that, observers here say, was provocative and went beyond all proportions.

By adopting the ruling BNP sponsored resolution in JS, Dhaka interfered in its internal affairs, New Delhi charged and warned that it would "watch and judge future actions of Government of Bangladesh, with due attention."

The sources indicated that the government had taken strong exception to the warning which, they insisted, went against all norms and principles governing international relations.

Relations between the two countries have been at a very low ebb after a wrangle over the SAARC summit postponement and subsequent recriminatory statements on the issue.

## Tito files damage suit against Tejgaon OC

Jatiya Party Secretary General Khaleedur Rahman Tito has filed a damage suit against the Officer-in-charge of Tejgaon thana for causing physical injury and public humiliation when taking him to custody on December 22, reports UNB.

Tito, now in detention under the Special Powers Act, in his petition to the Sub-Judge Court claimed Tk 10.10 lakh as damage and compensation for causing him physical injury, public humiliation, disgrace, physical discomfort and mental sufferings.



British Prime Minister John Major (left) shakes hands with his Indian counterpart P V Narasimha Rao yesterday at Rashtrapati Bhavan (Presidential Palace) in New Delhi. — AFP photo

## ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সর্বসাধারণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, মোহাম্মদপুর, শ্যামলী, আদাবর, আগারগাঁও, কল্যাণপুর, রায়ের বাজার, কাটাসুর প্রভৃতি এলাকার বৃষ্টির পানি নিষ্কাশন তথা জলাবদ্ধতা নিরসনকল্পে "ঢাকা স্টর্ম ওয়াটার ডেনেজ সিস্টেম ইমপ্ৰুভমেন্ট প্রকল্প" এর অধীনে নির্মিত কল্যাণপুর পাম্পিং স্টেশনের কার্যক্রম সুষ্ঠুভাবে পরিচালনার স্বার্থে বর্ষার অতিরিক্ত পানি সাময়িকভাবে সংরক্ষনের জন্য শহর রক্ষা বাঁধের অভ্যন্তরে রামচন্দ্রপুর, উত্তর আদাব, বড় সয়েক, ছোট সয়েক, নন্দারবাগ, ও মিরপুর মৌজার প্রায় ৫১০ একর নীচু খালি জমি যে অবস্থায় আছে সেই অবস্থায় রেগুলেটিং পন্ড হিসাবে সংরক্ষনের প্রস্তাব সরকারের সক্রিয় বিবেচনাধীন রাখিয়াছে। উক্ত পরিস্থিতিতে সংশ্লিষ্ট মৌজা সমূহের অন্তর্গত উল্লেখিত পরিমাণ নীচু জমিতে কোন প্রকার মাটি ভরাট বা ইমারত/বাড়ীঘর নির্মাণ করা হইতে বিরত থাকিবার জন্য জমির মালিকগণকে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে। প্রস্তাবিত রেগুলেটিং পন্ড এলাকায় কেহ মাটি ভরাট, ইমারত/বাড়ীঘর নির্মাণ করিলে তাহার দায়-দায়িত্ব তাহাদের উপরই বর্তাইবে।

ওয়াসা-জরুরী