

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Mirpur yesterday. - PID photo

Khaleda

From Page 1 Col 7

Chaired by the BNP chief in

Uttara Kudrate Elahi Liton, the

largely- attended meeting was

also addressed by the State

Minister for Religious Affairs,

MA Mannan, Dhaka City Mayor

Mirza Abbas, MP, Mir Shawqat

Alt MP, Amanullah Aman, MP,

Salauddin Ahmed, MP, Dr

Moin Khan, MP, Major (Retd)

Quamrul Islam, MP, ATM

Alamgir , MP, BNP nominee in

the by-poll Syed Mohammad

Mohsin and some party leaders

the meeting there were two

trends in the country's poli-

tics— the politics of produc-

tion and development and the

politics of destruction, anarchy

trend and carried forward de-

tivities in the country" she

said, "they (meaning the op-

position) were engaged in the

politics of ruination, which the

The PM listed the people-

countrymen has already re-

oriented steps her government

had adopted and sought pco-

ple's cooperation to imple-

vote for those who did not

want uplift and welfare of the

Kamarkhali School would be

developed new schools set up,

and Harirampur area provided

with other facilities including

the locality to take the advan-

tage of loans for poultry, dairy

and cottage industries, offered

by her government and con-

tribute to their respective fam-

ilies and also the national

Industries'

workers

postpone

strike call

Parishad of Bangladesh Che-

mical Industries Corporation,

Bangladesh Sugar and Food

Bangladesh Steel and Engi-

neering Corporation's Wor-

kers' Federation have post-

poned their proposed 72-

hours strike call scheduled to

begin on February 2 for next

two months, an official source

The decision came out fol-

lowing the fruitful discussion

between the Industries Mi-

nister Shamsul Islam Khan,

Labour and Manpower Minister

Abdul Mannan Bhutyan, Indus-

tries Secretary Dr Ekram

Hossain and the labour leaders

of the Sammilita Sangram

The meeting also decided

that further discussion will

continue to chalk out the

specific measures to solve the

problems of workers and em-

meeting also requested for

early implementation of the

Wage Commission report. The

Labour Minister agreed to

Abedin President and General

Secretary of the Bangladesh

Chemical Workers Federation,

Mostafizur Rahman Chowdhury

and AKM Nazrul Islam,

President and General Sec-

retary of Bangladesh Steel and

Engineering Corporations Em-

ployees and Workers Fede-

ration, Alauddin Mridha of

Bangladesh Sugar Workers

Federation and Wadud Sharif

General Secretary BSFIC

Central Employees Union took

part in the discussion, the

JS session

From Page 1 Col 8

at enabling the tribal Chakma

refugees to return to the hill

Tripura and join the hustings.

tracts from Indian state of

spondents based in Dhaka, the

Minister described the talks

between the government and

the Shantibahini leaders as

"quite positive" and said the

bill is being moved as per pro-

posal of the Shantibahini.

Talking to overseas corre-

The proposed bill is aimed

source said.

Iskander Ali and Joynal

consider the request.

The labour leaders of the

ployees of the corporations.

Parishad.

said last night, reports BSS.

Industries Corporation and

The Sammilita Sangram

She asked the womenfolk of

She urged the locals not to

The PM announced that the

velopment and production ac

"BNP has pursued the first

The Prime Minister told

of Harirampur.

and terrorism.

jected."

ment them.

masses.

electricity.

the local school, and women.

### Vote-rigging alleged

### Hartal in Faridpur today, Jessore tomorrow

FARIDPUR, Jan 31: District unit of Awami League today called a half-day hartal in the town tomorrow (Monday) in protest against alleged rigging

in pourashava election. - UNB. The hartal call came at a tally of the party held in front I Chalkbazar Jamiya Mosque this afternoon

Local Awami League leaders alleged that their chairman andidate Hastbul Hasan Lablu was defeated to the independent candidate Fazlul Kabir Chand by a small margin because of rigging in the elec-

The rally was addressed, among others, by Mosharai Hossain MP and the chairman candidate Lablu

Our Jessore Correspondent adds: Complete hartal from dawn to dusk was observed Sunday in response to the call jointly given by Awami League, Jatiya Party, and Five Party Alliance.

The hartal was called to protest against alleged massive

Illiteracy root

of poverty: PM

### US-Bangla trade dimension to

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday identified widespread illiteracy as the root of country's poverty and backwardness, reports She said the government is making relentless efforts to

reverse the situation through wiping out illiteracy. But she said spreading education could prove to be a

great challenge. However difficult the challenge may be, she asserted. "We shall have to surmount it. The Prime Minister was in-

augurating a 2-day conference on "Primary and Mass Education Problems and Remedics" at the International Conference Centre here yesterday morning.

There may be differences of opinion, but regarding education there can be no two opinions, Begum Zia said and called upon all irrespective of party affiliation, opinion and social standing to come forward for spreading education.

She pointed out that the country's education system, dating back to 1854, had progressed very little. The nation has achieved barely 25 per cent literacy rate. "If we progress at this speed, we will require another seven hundred years to make our entire population literate.

Referring to the resource constraints, Begum Zia said it can only be overcome by educating the masses and added the present government had laid stress on education which is her party's political commitment. "Our goal is to achieve Education for All by the year 2000," she said.

Pointing out that women constitute half of the country's population, Begum Zia said stressed had been laid on education of women.

### Zardari granted

KARACHI, Jan 31: An appeals court on Sunday granted bail to Asif Ali Zardari, the jailed husband of former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, reports AP.

The Sindh High Court set Zardari's bond at 500,000 rupees (dlrs 20,000) no an illegal possession of weapons

But the High Court must agree to grant bail on pending charges of kidnapping and extortion before Zardari can be freed. A hearing on those charges was scheduled for Monday.

vote rigging, terrorism, bomb blast and firing by ruling party activists in Jessore pourashava election held Saturday.

All shops, markets, and commercial organisations including bank and insurance companies remained closed during hartal hours. Educational institutes also remained closed. Attendance in the government offices was also very thin. Vehicular traffic, including bus, trucks, rickshaw did not ply.

A meeting jointly organised by AL, JP and five party alliance at Daratana square at 5 pm today demanded the Election Commissioner to cancel the election results and hold a fresh one immediately.

They also announced their decision to gherao the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Jessore at 10 am tomorrow (Monday) in support of their demand and college a day long hartal in the town on Tuesday.

# grow: Milam

The US Ambassador in Bangladesh, William B Milam yesterday hoped that the commercial dimension in the US-Bangladesh relationship would grow in importance as Bangladesh was continuing to press forward with its economic reform programme, re-

In a message here on the occasion of the second threeday US trade show being held in city, the US Ambassador said that the trade show was a cooperative venture between US embassy in Dhaka and the American Bangladesh Economic Forum.

He said the show was offering the opportunity to the visitors to see products and services of the American companics in Bangladesh which included computers, telecommunications, banking, commodities, machinery, and transportation services.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman inaugurated the three-day trade show titled "US Business in Bangladesh" at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel Saturday.

William B Milam said the second show, which was extended to three days from two days of the first one, was a strong step towards establishing the US trade show as an annual event in Bangladesh.

The period of the show was expanded with a view to accommodating more visitors than the 12,000 who came to the first show.

"I hope to see the show expand in future as Bangladesh becomes a more active player in international business and the interest of US companies in greater market exposure in Bangladesh increase," he said and assured of providing information on US goods and services from the embassy's commercial section on con-

President of the American Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF) SH Kabir in his message expressed his confidence that the US trade show would be an annual event here with more participants displaying a greater array of products and services from the US firms.

He said the objectives of the ABEF included promotion of economic co-operation between USA and Bangladesh particularly in the private sector and providing assistance to those American companies who were interested in investing and doing business in

#### Editor: S. M. Ali **Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM : DAILY STAR DHAKA.



Sheikh Hasina addressing an election meeting at Mirpur yesterday

#### Gold-smuggling case

### Lankin went to ZIA to 'release friend's goods'

By Court Correspondent

Former Russian information officer Vladimir I Lankin Sunday admitted that he went to the air freight godown at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) to get released tow diplomatic' consignments on request from one of his closest friends in Dhaka.

"But my friend Kalim bin Rahman who resided in Gulshan did not tell me that the consignments were full of gold", Lankin told The Daily Star yesterday as he was being taken to the Dhaka Metropolitan Magistracy on completion of a four-day police remand.

Lankin and two other Bangladeshis Ambrose Gomes and SM Ratan were arrested in connection with smuggling nearly two maunds of gold into the country from Singapore last Monday.

When all the three accused were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate after the end of four-day police remand yesterday, Lankin made a confessional statement under Section 164 of Criminal Procedure Code (CrPC) and was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail while two others Gomes and Ratan, both staff of clearing and forwarding agents were taken on a further twoday remand by Detective Branch (DB) police for ques-

Swapon Das, a staff of the Russian Embassy in Dhaka,

who was also arrested in con nection with the sensational gold case will be produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate today (Monday). "When the gold was found in the consignments I became stounded. If I had known would never have gone to get the consignments released", Lankin told The Daily Star.

No bail petition for Lankin was moved in the Court yes terday. But his lawyers Abdul Mannan Khan and Fazilatunnessa submitted a prayer before the Magistrate for first class division in jail for Lankin.

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Shahiduddin Ahmed fixed today (Monday) for hearing on the prayer.

Advocate Nazrul Islam prayed for bail for Ratan and Gomes but the Magistrate rejected the bail petition and granted two-day police remand on another prayer by the DB for further questioning.

The lawyer defended Ratan and Gomes saying "these two people are staff of clearing and forwarding agents and are not responsible for the smuggling. they were only representing their agents to get the consignments released."

However the Court Inspector Manwara Begum argued that Ratan and Gomes should not be granted bail as the case were under investiga-

#### Work stoppage at DMCH continues

By DMCH Correspondent

Doctors, nurses and other staff of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) abstained from duties for three hours from 10 am to 1 pm yesterday the second consecutive day of their programmes in protest against storming of the hospital by armedmen last Thursday.

They also held a press conference at the hospital in the morning demanding official investigation into Thursday's incidents and punishment to persons involved.

Hundreds of Dhaka University students assaulted doctors and staff of the DMCH and ransacked several rooms Thursday following death of a university student Yusuf Ali Sheikh.

died unattended at the DMCH while doctors said that he was brought dead.

Fresh action programme will be announced today.

Students alleged that Yusuf

#### 66 killed as train hits bus in China BEIJING, Jan 31: A train

struck a bus that was trying to speed across the tracks at an unguarded crossing Sunday, killing 66 people and injuring 28 others, the official Xinhua News Agency reported, says

Xinhua said all of those killed were on the bus, while only one person on the train, the driver, was slightly hurt.

The bus was carrying 94 passengers, 34 over its intended capacity, Xinhua said.

The crash occurred at 7:24 am (2324 GMT Saturday) in northeast China's Liaoning province between the small towns of Gaotaishan and Xinlitun, Xinhua said.

#### Avalanches kill 50 in Georgia MOSCOW, Jan 31: At least

50 people were killed by avalanches that crashed down onto a Georgian mountain pass on the border with Russia, Interfax news agency quoted a rescue official as saying today, reports Reuter.

#### Poura elections From Page 1 Col 7

Candidates of the Jamaat-e-Islami, National Awami Party (Mozaffar), JSD (Rab), Muslim League and Oikya Jote won in one pourashava each, while the Workers Party bagged two chairmanships.

The confusion over the political affiliations of unofficially elected chairmen arose as Saturday's polling was held on a non-party basis.

Besides many contested the polls as independents. Meanwhile, Barrister Ra-

figul Islam Miah, the Works Minister and Joint Secretary of the BNP, giving his reaction over the election results told The Daily Star last night that they were not discouraging for the Party. Comparing the number of

votes cast in favour of the ruling BNP in the parliamentary polls in 1991 with the votes secured by the Party in the just held pourasava election, the Minister asserted, 'the BNP has not lost popularity among the people'.

Awami beague leader Mohammad Nasim, giving his reaction, said that the results

of the just held elections were the people's protest against the undemocratic behaviour of the government.

The ruling party candidates defeat in the majority of seats by those of the Opposition in dicated that the government was not acting according to the will of the people, Nasim said adding 'the BNP should get the message for the sake of its own survival as the ruling party and for democracy to be put on a firm footing in the

Jatiya Party leader Monirul Hoque Chowdhury expressing his reaction on the polls said that the result of the pourasabha elections clearly showed that the Opposition secured more seats than the ruling party.

"It was a clear no confidence of the people in the incumbent government", the JP leader added. The JP leader also believed

They know that this is a stumbling block. We cannot even conceive of giving them a that the government should go for a mid-term parliamentary declaration of compliance poll to get fresh mandate of without being satisfied or fully the people to govern the counsatisfied on the procurement try following the poura elecside," he told reporters before leaving Baghdad for Bahrain with his eight-member team

tion results. Poll Results on Page 2

## The Midnight Eile

#### Six Afghan factions agree on peace formula

PESHAWAR, Pakistan, Jan 31: Six Afghan Mujahideen groups have agreed on a peace formula that calls for a ceasefire in the current fighting in Kabul and elections in less than a year, Mujahideen sources said here today. The Pakistani and Saudi ambassadors to Afghanistan brokered the formula that was agreed at a meeting of the group at the eastern Afghan town of Jalalabad, the sources said, reports Reuter.

#### Gayoom to give religious lectures in Morocco

COLOMBO, Jan 31: Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom is to go on a lecture tour of Morocco during Ramadan at the invitation of King Hassan II, the country's high commission here said today. King Hassan II invited Gayoom to participate in a programme of religious addresses during the Gimadan month which begins in February, the Maldives High Commission (embassy) said in a statement, reports AFP.

### **Troops target opposition** leaders in Zaire

BRAZZAVILLE, Congo. Jan 31: Following two days of riots. troops attacked the homes of government opponents Sunday killing at least one person, a human rights leader said, reports AP

- Star photo

Hasina

From Page 1 Cel 7

Mohammad Nastm MP, the AL

candidate in the election

Kamal Majumder and Abdus

addressed the second rally at

Mirpur No-10 square. It was

her last campaign meeting for

cession today (Monday) at 2

pm at Mirpur as part of the

Mirpur from her Mintoo Road

official residence, her motor-

cade made a brief stop at the

Gulshan house of industrialist

Aziz Sattar who died Sunday of

Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur

most identical speeches at the

two rallies, said that in parlia-

ment, the BNP MPs had ob-

jected to most of the AL's peo-

ple-oriented proposals like

primary schools in every vil-

lage and reductions in prices

of diesel and had passed the

Anti-terrorism Bill to "terro-

programme only aimed at im-

proving the condition of minis-

ters, party MPs and their rela-

who had voted BNP candidate

Harun Mollah will now correct

themselves and vote for boat,

She also said that the so-

called uncompromising leader

had compromised with the

deposed autocrat and nomi

On the way from one meet

ing venue to the other, the

Opposition leader offered Asar

and Magreb prayers at the

Doctors observe

strike in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

in all the government and

health complexes including

the Sylhet MAG Osmani

Medical College observed 24

hour work abstention today at

the call of the Sylhet district

unit of the Bangladesh Medical

Association (BMA) in protest

against the arrest of a Lecturer

of Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical

rer of the Pathology Depar

tment of the Medical College

was arrested by Sylhet Katwali

thana police on January 18 for

his alleged involvement in a

murder case of Chhagalnaiya

10 hurt: Defeated

candidates'

supporters clash

SIRAJGANJ, Jan 31: At least

10 people were injured and

three houses ransacked in a

clash between the supporters

of two defeated chairman can-

didates here at Al-Mahmud

the town today (Sunday), re-

ports UNB.

the clash.

Avenue in Hossainpur area of

According to preliminary

estimate property worth about

Tk one lakh was damaged in

roa

may

From Page 1 Col 5

a six-day routine inspection

visit, said the key test would

be Iraq's answers to questions

about foreign suppliers to be

presented by UN inspectors in

Maurizio Zifferero, ending

weapons programme.

the next few weeks.

thana under Feni district.

Syed Abul Qasem, a Lectu-

SYLHET, Jan 31: Doctors

nated one of his close aides.

"I think the Mirpur people

The BNP's development

rise the country."

tives, Hasina alleged.

she hoped.

Mirpur Mazar.

College.

Sattar was a friend of

Hasina who delivered al-

Earlier, on the way to

Later in the evening Hasina

Samad Azad MP.

February 3.

"Boat".

campaign.

Rahman.

the election scheduled for Buane Kabue, leader of the It was addressed, among Zaire Human Rights League, others, by Abdur Razzak MP, also said at least 100 people Momtaz Hossain, Obaidul had died in two days of rioting Kader and Amir Hossain Amu. that began when Zairian regu-Both the meeting venues were lar army troops refused to be decorated with banners, placpaid with apparently worthless ards and the party symbol 5-million Zaire notes newly printed at the orders of The AL will organise a pro-

President Mobutu Sese Seko. Kabue and others reached by phone from Brazzaville said Kinshasa was quiet Sunday morning, with little traffic. An overnight curfew has been im-

The French ambassador and six other foreigners were killed during the violence Thursday and Friday, and France and Belgium have sent troops to help evacuate their nationals.

Ten French soldiers arrived Friday to guard the embassy and about 60 French soldiers originally refused permission to enter Kinshasa crossed the Congo River about 10 am (0900 GMT) Sunday to begin

#### Youngman found dead in city

By DMCH Correspondent An unidentified youngman was murdered at Haji Para, Rampura in the capital Sunday. He was about 22.

On an information. Sabujbagh police rushed to 62 Haji Para and recovered the body from inside a locked volcanizing shop at around 4 pm yesterday, said police.

Sabujbagh police said that the victim could not be identified. The victim's hands were tied up and there were several bruises on the body.

The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy last night after the primary inquest by police.

No arrest was made, said Duty Officer of Sabujbagh Police Station.

evacuating an estimated 150 French nationals.

Mobutu warned the Belgian soldiers not to cross the Congo River from Brazzaville to Kinshasa, saying they did not have authority to intervene in their former colony. He said he would arrange for the evacuation of any foreigners who wanted to leave.

The presidential yacht intercepted a ferry full of Belgian refugees on Saturday, forcing them to disembark and board the yacht for the 15-minute ride to Brazzaville.

#### Missions

From Page 1 Col 8 Bangladesh while Vietnam, one of the last outposts of communist rule, is emerging as a key player in eastern Asia.

The decision to open mission in Hanoi is a wise decision considering Vietnam's prospects as an emerging superpower in the region," said one Dhaka diplomat. "From geopolitical point of view, Vietnam could as well be a prospective trading partner for Bangladesh," the diplomat

Vietnam, despite its avowed policy of pursuing communist dogma, is opting for economic reforms and opening to the

"This is why leaders of many countries in the region, including Indonesia, Malaysia and Singapore, have strongly urged the US to normalise reations with Vietnam as a way to help moderate Hanoi and play a constructive role in the region," wrote Hong Kongbased Far Eastern Economic Review in a recent editorial.

From Page 1 Col 5 important events in the SAARC countries.

It also marked in red the national days of seven SAARC countries. March 26 was mentioned as Bangladesh National Day, but the Victory Day, December 16, was not printed in red.

The 12-page calender contains paintings by eminent artists of the SAARC countries.

### FM: Mosque incident

From Page 1 Col 5

On the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees, the Foreign Minister said the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has been granted access to the transit camps for "independent interviews" of the wouldbe returnees.

Citing latest reports available from Cox's Bazar, Rahman said the UNHCR officials interviewed 1,343 people from 277 families and found 989 refugees from 204 families willing to return home volun-

The Foreign Minister could nd give any time-frame when repatriation of more than quarter of a million refugees will be completed. But he said once the move had started it will eventually gain momentum.

He told a questioner that UNHCR director at South Asia Bureau Werner Baltter is coming to Dhaka today (February 1) to discuss a comprehensive package of cooperation on the repatriation. Blatter's visit will be followed by a trip to Bangladesh by UNHCR chief Sadako Ogata to see the condition of the refugees at the invitation of the Bangladesh government.

The Foreign Minister reiterated that none of nearly 17,000 refugees repatriated so far were sent home forcibly. Bangladesh, he said, will never use force to send the refugees home. Asked why Prime Minister

Begum Khaleda Zia postponed her visit to France, Rahman said she thought that "it would not be correct at this moment to leave the country."

He cited Prime Minister's preoccupation with municipal

elections and the by elections

at Mirpur. Pressed further to

explain he said "the French Prime Minister will also be busy with elections in his country".

Agencies add: Replying to a question on the repatriation of Chakma refugees from the Indian state of Tripura, Rahman said the talks between the governments and the tribal Shantibahini leaders made substantial progress and a ceasefire still continued.

The Foreign Minister said that as per proposal of the Shantibahini leaders, he is going to move a bill in parliament today (Monday) seeking to defer the local bodies elections in the Chittagong Hill Tracts by one year to enable the Chakma refugees to return and join the hustings.

Replying to questions on Russian President Boris Yeltsin's reported remark in New Delhi during his recent visit that India, China and Russia could combine to ensure balance of power in the world, he said he found not much rationale behind such proposal

Asked whether it was a kind of "ganging up" by three countries, Rahman said any such combination would appear unworkable without Pakistan which also enjoyed capability of producing nuclear

On repatriation of the stranded Pakistanis," the Foreign Minister said these people were being settled in Punjab and in the constituency of Prime Minister Newaz Sharif. One cannot foresee any trouble because they were not being rehabilitated in Sindh, he said.

OCAB President Zahiduzzaman Faruque welcomed the Foreign Minister at the briefing, while General Secretary Farid Hossain presented the vote of thanks.

# Bangladesh.

C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX : 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035.