

Kashmiris boycott prayers at Hazratbal

SRINAGAR, Nov 18: Kashmiri Muslims kept away from the Hazratbal mosque after it was opened to them today following a month-long army siege, demanding the withdrawal of a security cordon around the shrine, reports AFP.

Some 1,000 protesters attempted a march on the lake-side mosque but were beaten back by members of the Border Security Force (BSF), whose presence around the complex has sparked public resentment, a police official said.

Thousands of Indian army troops pulled out from around the mosque Wednesday and left security duties to border guards after Muslim militants holed up inside the shrine surrendered Tuesday.

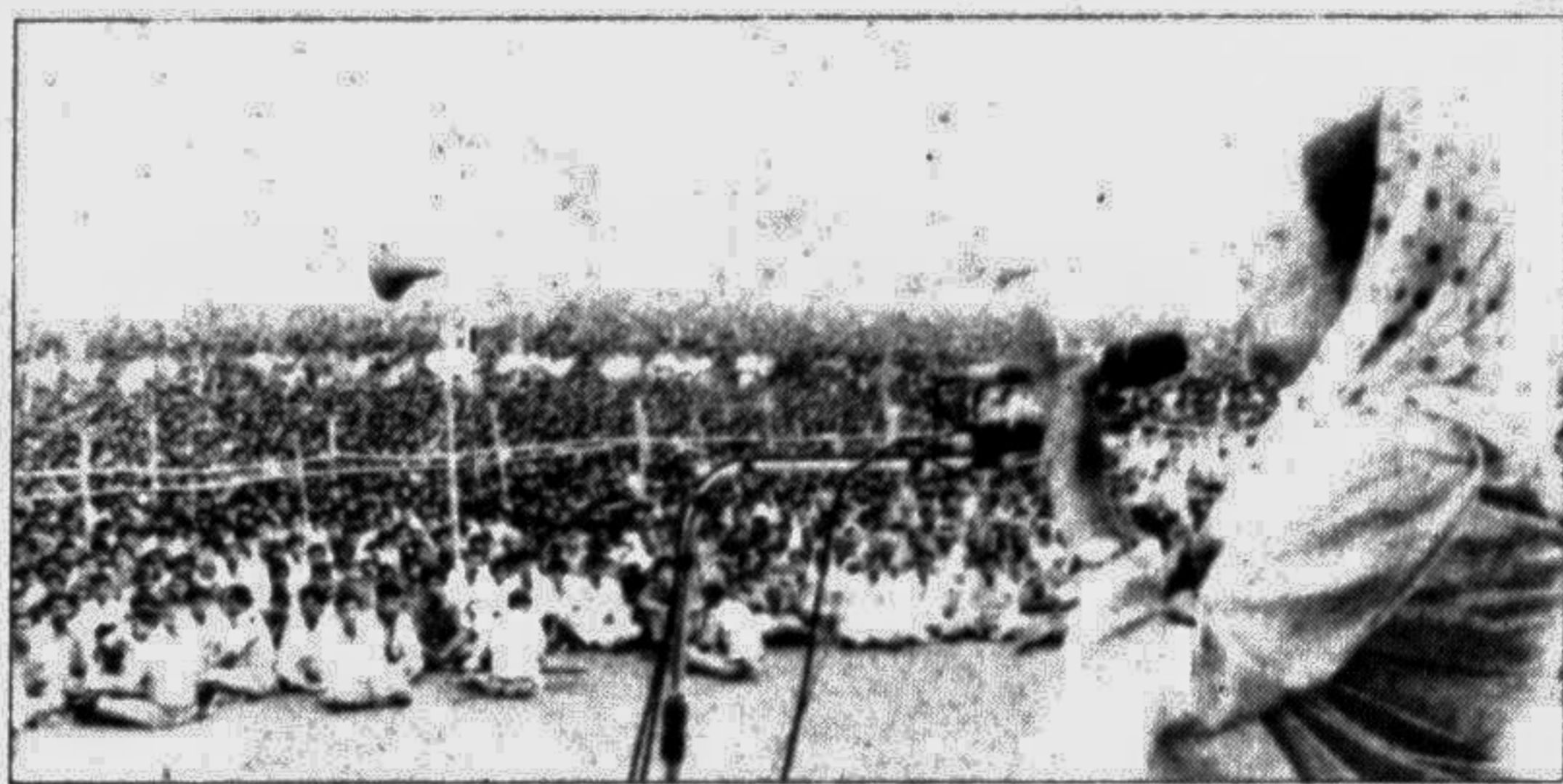
Meanwhile, 33 Muslim pilgrims set free Wednesday after interrogation returned to the police barracks where the 32 suspected rebels are being held, demanding they also be released.

The worshippers had been trapped inside the shrine when the army laid siege to it on the night of October 15.

A forum of Kashmiri political and militant groups, led by the All-Party Kashmir Freedom Conference, called for a boycott of prayers at the white-marble mosque until the BSF soldiers are withdrawn.

Meanwhile, the European parliament today asked Belgium to free as soon as possible Kashmir separatist leader Amanullah Khan, arrested in Brussels last month.

Khan, chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF), was arrested October 18 because of a 1990 arrest warrant issued against him by Interpol at the request of Indian authorities.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at the Tanore Dakbungalow ground in Rajshahi yesterday. — PID photo

PM: Welfare

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The Prime Minister said the BNP government had removed the country's image of 'bottomless basket' and developed the country to the extent that it was now considering to export foodgrain. While giving a long list of her government's socio-economic development programmes, she asked the audience whether these were the 'successes' or 'failures'.

The people shouted in chorus, "These are successes" and raised their hands to demonstrate their support to the government.

The Prime Minister reiterated her call to the people for starting dairy and poultry farming, fish cultivation, small and cottage industries in a massive scale.

She asked the rural people particularly the women to avail themselves of loan facilities for setting up self-employment generating projects.

The Prime Minister said Rajshahi-Tanore road had been constructed as per the pre-election pledges.

Responding to some local demands, Begum Zia said, Tanore-Chubaria road would be constructed, a bridge would be built, and a hostel would be built for the Shantal tribesmen at Tanore.

She also said rural electrification programme would be started in Tanore and educational institutions of the thana would be provided financial assistance.

The Prime Minister distributed poultry birds among the distressed men and women after the meeting.

Silk industrial estate in Rajshahi soon

RAJSHAHI, Nov 18: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today announced that a silk industrial estate would be set up in Rajshahi soon at an approximate cost of Taka eight crore twenty lakh to revive the lost glory of Rajshahi silk and earn foreign exchange, reports BSS.

She made this announcement while inaugurating the national conference on sericulture development here at the district council auditorium.

The Prime Minister, however, said the setting up of a silk industrial estate would not suffice unless cultivation of mulberry in a massive scale is undertaken to attain the target of meeting domestic demand and earning foreign exchange.

Begum Zia said her government was contemplating formulating a realistic policy to fairly solve the existing problems of the silk industry.

The proper steps, she said, would help enhance efficiency of the manpower, involved in the silk sector and improve the quality of the silk products, which are necessary to compete in the international market.

Organised by the Textile Ministry, the national conference on the development of sericulture in Bangladesh was attended by the mulberry cultivators and exporters.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Mosharrar Hossain, State Minister for Land Kabir Hossain, State Minister for Textile Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Establishment Barrister Aminul Huq, Mayor of

Rajshahi Mizanur Rahman Minu, Syed Manzur Rahman Hossain MP, Textile Secretary AH Mofazzal Karim, and Chairman of the Bangladesh Sericulture Board MG Rabbani spoke on the occasion. Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh Islamic University Prof MA Hamid presented the key-note paper at the inaugural ceremony.

Begum Zia said increased allocation would be made in the Fourth Five Year Plan for the development of silk industry.

The development of silk industry, most of whose workforce are women, could help women and the unemployed rural youths in getting employment, she said.

Describing Rajshahi as the city of silk the Prime Minister thanked the mulberry cultivators and exporters for attending the conference.

She hoped that the conference would be able to give new directions in restoring the lost glory of silk.

Later the Prime Minister visited an exhibition, organised on the occasion.

Mugger nabbed in city

By Staff Correspondent
A mugger was caught red-handed by police yesterday when he and three others were trying to snatch a bag from a salesman near the New Market in the city.

However, the three accomplices of the arrested Iqbal, 20, managed to escape.

Restriction on Tabani lottery prizes

The Second Assistant Judge Kutubuddin Ahmed Sikder yesterday in an order restrained the Tabani Beverage Company from selling their soft drink products Coca Cola, Sprite and Fanta by lottery and prize giving till November 24, reports BSS.

The court also ordered restrain on the company's advertising such lottery in the tabloids, radio and television up to November 24.

Bangladesh Ain Adhikar Trust filed a title suit No. 256 of 1993 with an injunction petition against Tabani Beverage Company for selling its soft drinks through illegal lottery.

After hearing, the court passed the ad-interim order and fixed the date for hearing on November 24.

Advocates Abdus Salam, Ayubur Rahman, Glasuddin Ahmed, Sk Rezaul Karim and Muradul Huq appeared for the Bangladesh Ain Adhikar Trust while Advocate Yakub Ali appeared for the company.

Osmany medical students observe hunger strike

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Nov 18: A group of students observed a two-hour hunger strike today at the Sylhet MAG Osmany Medical College (SMC) in protest against the attack on the JCD college unit leaders on November 6.

The protesters also demanded immediate arrest and punishment of those responsible for the attack.

Another report says: All kinds of political activities have been suspended for an indefinite period in the Abdul Haque Smriti College of Chhatrak Thana in Sunamganj district with a view to keeping the academic atmosphere congenial.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the governing body of the college yesterday following a series of clashes between the various student organisations.

The meeting was attended by the guardians, leaders of political parties and local elite.

Trial of Taslima Nasreen demanded

Religious leaders at a public meeting yesterday demanded arrest and trial of Taslima Nasreen for blaspheming Islam in her writings, reports UNB.

The meeting at south gate of Baitul Mukarram Mosque in a resolution urged the government to make law providing for capital punishment to the blasphemer.

presided over by Shaikhul Hadis Maulana Azizul Haq, the meeting was also addressed by Maulana Habibur Rahman, Maulana Nuruzzaman and Maulana Noor Hossain Kasheem.

They said the writings of Nasreen had hurt the religious sentiment of the Muslims and called upon the people to mobilise opinion against her.

Taslima Nasreen has become a controversial writer. Her book 'Lajja' has been banned.

The meeting decided to submit a memorandum to the Speaker on November 28 demanding trial of Nasreen.

A procession was brought out after the meeting that paraded to Jatila Press Club chanting slogans against Nasreen.

The Midnight File

Bosnia's 3 warring factions sign joint declaration

GENEVA, Nov 18: The leaders of Bosnia's three warring factions today signed a joint declaration to guarantee UN aid convoys unhindered passage across Bosnia this winter. After a day of talks with the leaders of Bosnia's Muslims, Serbs and Croats, UN High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata said the three factions had agreed on six points "that we consider absolutely necessary to carry on humanitarian assistance this winter," reports Reuter.

Ukraine ratifies START treaty

KIEV, Nov 18: Ukraine's Parliament overwhelmingly ratified the START-1 disarmament treaty today but with stiff conditions on giving up ex-Soviet nuclear weapons on its territory. Deputies leaving a closed session of parliament said a draft resolution ratifying the treaty but proposing "gradual" disarmament was approved by 254 votes to nine. About 30 deputies abstained, reports Reuter.

25 killed in Salvadoran prison riot

SAN SALVADOR, Nov 18: At least 25 prisoners were killed and 30 injured today in rioting at a prison in eastern El Salvador, officials said. "There are 25 dead and about 30 wounded," the Director of the San Francisco Gotera Prison, about 100 miles (170 km) east of the capital of San Salvador, told Reuters by telephone.

3 killed, 5 hurt in city, N'ganj

By DMCH Correspondent

At least three persons died and five others were injured in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Of the dead, two minor children died in road mishaps while a middle-aged man died in mysterious circumstances.

Early yesterday morning one Tutul, 9, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding bus at Tejgaon near the WAPDA building.

Salma, a ten-year-old girl, was knocked down by a speeding private car at Sobhanbagh, opposite the Dental College dormitory at around 5:45 pm yesterday.

Meanwhile, at least five persons were injured when a bus rammed into a parked microbus and an auto-rickshaw. The injured were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

In another incident a retired army sepoy Nurul Islam died an unnatural death at the Tejgaon Boarding House. The 50-year-old victim, who hailed from Jamalpur, had come to Dhaka on a business trip. He was heard groaning in his bed by the inmates of the boarding house. Tejgaon police recovered the body and sent it to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

In Narayanganj, one Abdul Khaleq, 25, a pro-Awami League Juba League activists and a businessman, received bullet injuries when he went to the Narayanganj Court to attend the hearing of a case involving his cousin.

Khaleq was called aside, according to witnesses, and was assaulted, reportedly by his opponents. The attackers shot at Khaleq from close range, hitting him in the arm.

CHT violence

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oupost, sources said.
The trouble initially began in the morning when the tribal students' move was countered by the Pahari Gana Parishad formed by the non-tribals of the area.

UNB adds: The Chakma king Devasish Roy Thursday urged the government to conduct an impartial inquiry into the violence at Naniarchar Bazar in Rangamati that left several people dead.

Roy also called for finding out the cause of the incident and taking necessary steps to punish those guilty to prevent recurrence of such events.

The Chakma tribe chief, in a press release, appealed to all to show restraint and help defuse tension.

Meanwhile, the Chittagong Hill Tracts Coordination and Peace Council, in a statement, sought a judicial inquiry and punishment of those responsible for the trouble.

The council itself has formed a probe body headed by its district convener Borhan Uddin Ahmed for an unofficial investigation.

NAFTA: Reaction

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"Unless we had a stronger government with full-hearted conviction to boost the country's economy, we would be lost," Khan said and added that the way the country was being "infested" by harts and lawlessness, the future might be very bleak.

Observers in Dhaka feel that the NAFTA was a US move to send signals to the European Community (EC) and Japan that even if the General Agreement on Tariff and Trade (GATT) fails to come through, NAFTA would be the main economic leverage to counter those other two economic forces.

Prof Bhuiyan said, "Beginning with Canada, Mexico and the USA, the NAFTA would certainly want, at a later stage, to bring other central American and Caribbean countries under its fold."

"Similarly, Japan and Korea may take the initiative to form another bloc with the Asian economic powers, experts observed.

"Where does Bangladesh and the other South Asian countries stand in this case?" asked Prof Bhuiyan.

"We will be mere by-standers to the world game of the economic giants," Prof Abu Ahmed of the Economics Department of the Dhaka University said.

"At least, for a short time, our position will go down."

The SAARC's contribution to world trade as well as its internal trade volume reflects a ray of hope for forming an economic bloc of the regional countries, analysis felt.

However, the last meeting of the committee, held on July 29, decided that the members would unofficially try to reach an agreement on the issue before the next meeting. The meeting was supposed to be held on September 1, immediately after the return of the Speaker from Europe after medical treatment.

According to sources in both camps, no back-stage parley took place to narrow down the differences since that last meeting.

The members of the committee, while talking to this correspondent yesterday, blamed each other for not holding such informal negotiations among themselves. The committee members talking to The Daily Star, however, refused to be identified.

Meanwhile, both the sides admitted the need for preparing a primary reports on the issue for submission to the House.

Replying to a question, two members of the committee belonging to the Treasury and the Opposition benches, said that so far they saw no possibility for the 'primary report' to be a unanimous one.

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SALE AND REPURCHASE PRICES OF ICB UNIT CERTIFICATES REFIXED

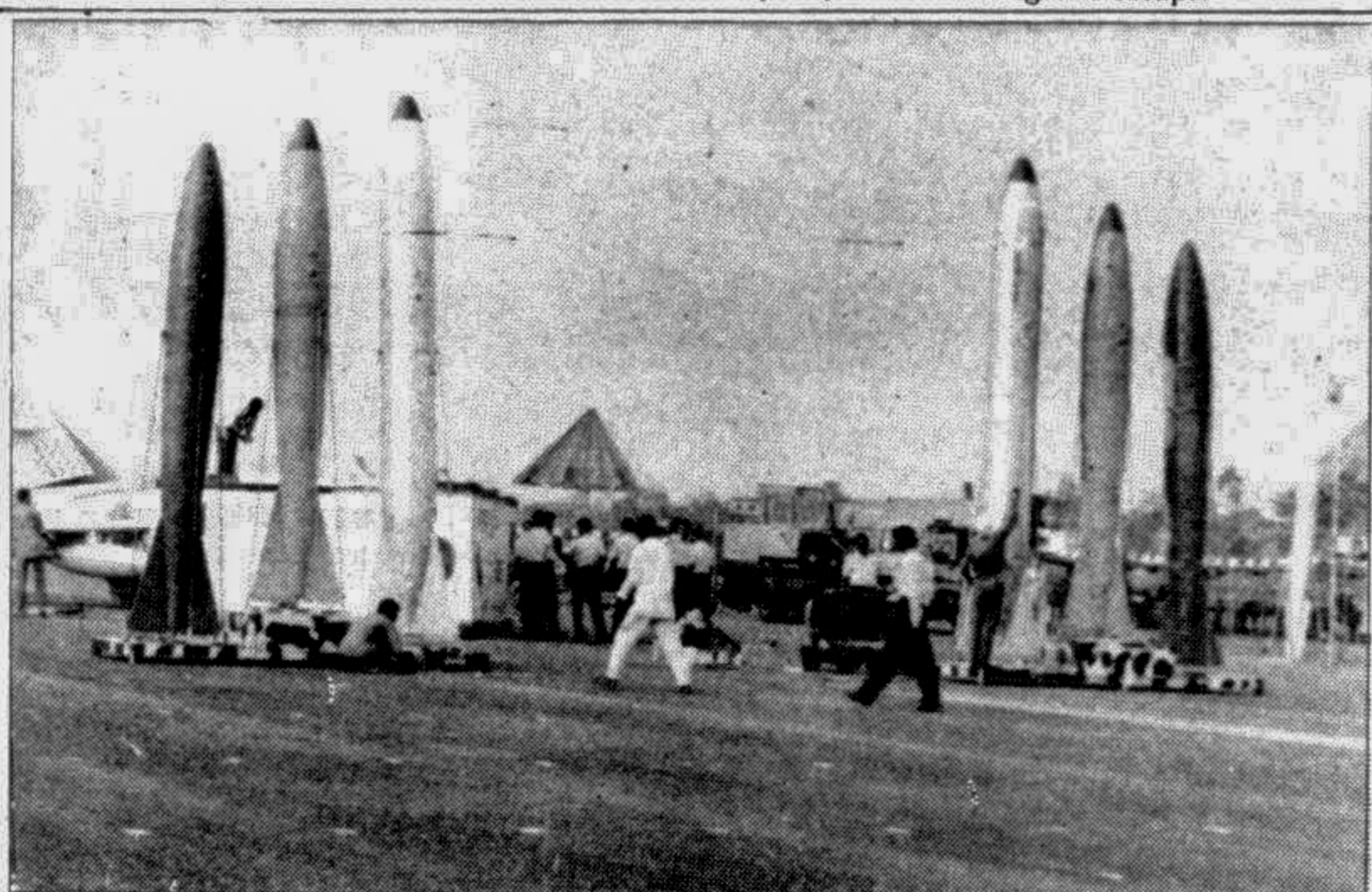
EFFECTIVE FROM : 20-11-1993
SALE PRICE : TK. 115.00 PER UNIT
REPURCHASE PRICE : TK. 110.00 PER UNIT

PLEASE CONTACT ICB OFFICES, MEMBERS OF DHAKA STOCK EXCHANGE LTD. AND ICB-AUTHORISED BANK BRANCHES

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Preparations are underway for an exhibition of armaments at the old airport at Tejgaon in the city on the occasion of the Armed Forces Day on November 21. — Star photo

Defamation suit: Sheikh Selim, 2 others acquitted

Metropolitan Magistrate Khandkar Shwaket Hossain, in a judgement Wednesday, disposed of a defamation suit and acquitted all the defendants honourably, reports BSS.

The suit was lodged by Addl Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandkar against Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim, MP, Sheikh Fazlur Rahman Maruf and Faruque Kazi, Editor, Managing Editor and Senior Staff Reporter respectively of the Banglar Bani. The contempt proceeding was against a news item published on the September 3 issue of the daily with a caption "Kuti Takar Protarana-o-Jallatir Avhijogey Atrikta Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandkarer Biruddhya Adalat-a-Mamla" (case in the court against Addl Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandkar on charges of defalcation of crore taka and forgery).

The court issued warrant of arrest against Faruque Kazi and summoned Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim and Sheikh Fazlur Rahman Maruf. All the defendants appeared in the court and were granted bail.

The case, however, was referred to the court of Khandkar Shwaket Hossain for hearing over the framing of charges. Khandkar Hossain, hearing both the sides, set aside the proceedings and acquitted all the defendants honourably.

A panel of 32 lawyers headed by senior Advocate Khandkar Mahub Hossain appeared on behalf of the defendants.

Nayan death case Tania on police remand

By Staff Correspondent

Film actress Tania Rahman, arrested in connection with the mysterious death of her male servant was taken into police remand for three days.

She was produced before the CMM yesterday.

Tania, who has appeared in bit roles in six local movies so far, was being interrogated by the Mohammadpur police for the death of one Alamgir Hossain Nayan, 22, who she claimed was her servant.

The actress reportedly found Nayan lying unconscious in her bedroom on Tuesday evening with a severed leg tendon and foaming from his mouth. Tania told police.

Tania said that she had initially taken the unconscious Nayan to the Suhrawardy Hospital and later shifted him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead.

According to Tania, who lived alone in her Tallabagh apartment following separation from her husband, Nayan had been working in her house for the past three months. She also claimed that Nayan was a hermaphrodite, but this could not be confirmed by the police.

Tania told the police that one of her friends, Arif, had introduced her to Nayan who was then living with three others of his kind at Madhubagh.

Tania, married twice, lost her first husband on September 9, 1984 and remarried in 1992.

Japan: Bills

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Minister Masaharu Gotoda, reportedly broke party ranks to support the package or abstain from voting.

About five Socialist lawmakers voted against the legislation.

The reform bill bans corporate contributions to individual politicians, establishes public funding for political parties and changes the system for electing parliament's more powerful lower house.

Meanwhile, police continued interrogating the actress but are yet to make any headway in the investigations. The autopsy report of the deceased was not also available.

A police source, however, suspected that the victim might have been poisoned.

Japan: Bills

Japan: Bills

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh
Head Office, Dhaka

Notice of Seventeenth Annual General Meeting

Notice is hereby given that the Seventeenth Annual General Meeting of the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) will be held on Thursday the 23rd December 1993 at 3:00 PM at the Head Office of the Corporation at BSB Building (12th floor), 8, Rajuk Avenue, Dhaka to transact the following business:

- To confirm the minutes of the 16th Annual General Meeting held on the 27th December, 1992;
- To receive and adopt the audited accounts of the Corporation for the year 1 July, 1992 to 30 June 1993 and report on the working of the Corporation during the said year;
- To declare dividend;
- Any other business with the permission of the Chair.

By Order of the Board of Directors
Md Abdur Rahman Khan
Secretary

Dated: 18 November 1993

NOTES:

- The Register of transfer of shares of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh shall remain closed from 5th December 1993 to 23rd December 1993 (both days inclusive).
- A shareholder entitled to attend at the General Meeting may appoint a proxy to attend in his/her behalf but such proxy must be a shareholder of the Corporation. The proxy form must be affixed with required revenue stamp and should be deposited at the Head Office of the Corporation before 72 hours of the time fixed for the meeting.

D-835