

Dhaka suggests SAARC Mayors' Forum

KATHMANDU, Nov 23: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today suggested that Dhaka and Kathmandu could jointly sponsor a SAARC Mayor's Forum, reports BSS.

Speaking at a civic reception hosted in her honour by the Mayor of Kathmandu at the Rastriya Sabhagriha, the Prime Minister expressed her belief that the forum would add a new dimension to the regional cooperation efforts.

Begum Zia said Bangladesh and Nepal should profit from meaningful exchange of ideas, experience and expertise in social and economic sectors.

"Cooperation in harnessing our natural resources, including water for optimal common benefit is a goal we must jointly pursue, Begum Zia said, adding this would bring benefit to all in the region.

The Prime Minister was presented with the golden key of the city by Mayor PL Singh. On her arrival at the Rastriya Sabhagriha, the Prime Minister was received by the Mayor of Kathmandu.

Hundreds of women in colourful dresses danced and sang as the Prime Minister proceeded to the exquisitely decorated dais. The women showered flower petals on Prime Minister.

A special song, composed for the occasion, was sung to welcome the Bangladesh Prime Minister.

Begum Zia visited the Martyrs' Memorial in Kathmandu in the morning and placed wreaths there. Located between Bhimsen

Stambha and Bhadrakali Temple in the city, the memorial arch contains the statue of the late King Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah and the busts of four martyrs namely Shukra Raj Shastri, Dharma Bhakta, Ganga Lal and Dasharath Chand.

The memorial is dedicated to the martyrs who laid down their lives for the cause of democracy in 1951.

Late King Tribhuvan had led the revolution of 1950-51.

SAARC Sectt Begum Zia also visited the SAARC secretariat here this afternoon.

On her arrival at the secretariat, Begum Zia was received by the SAARC Secretary General IH Zaki. The directors of the SAARC secretariat were introduced to her by the secretary general at the main hall.

Earlier, in the morning, SAARC Secretary General IH Zaki called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Regal Suite at Soaltee Obero.

During the meet, Zaki briefed the SAARC chairperson on the activities of SAARC secretariat in the last one year.

Women's team meets Khaleda

The members of All Nepal Women's Organisation led by its president Mangala Devi Singh today called on Begum Zia at her Regal Suite at hotel Soaltee Obero.

Singh thanked the Prime Minister for her contribution in the restoration of democracy in Bangladesh.

Women's status

From Page 1 Col 5 participate in the development process in many ways. Yet their potential and contribution to bring about much needed economic and social change is inadequately recognised and greatly undervalued, she regretted.

The SAARC chairperson expressed her satisfaction that the three-day ministerial meeting went into a detailed discussion apart from highlighting the major concerns about the role and status of women.

She was happy to know that the conference also defined a much more focused and targeted approach on women's reproductivity, health, delivery of services, the consequences of poor health and nutritional status of factors responsible for high maternal and infant mortality, including early marriages.

Kathmandu talks

From Page 1 Col 5 the official talks by paying tributes to late President Ziaur Rahman for his initiatives to form the South Asian Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC).

The two Prime Ministers expressed satisfaction at the development of their bilateral relations and their mutual intention to further consolidate and expand the existing friendly ties and enhance cooperation.

The smiling Bangladesh Prime Minister told them that the meeting was held in an atmosphere of cordiality and the two sides discussed bilateral, regional and SAARC issues. Replying to a question, Prime Minister Koirala said the two sides discussed the pros and cons of the water management and sharing problems.

Hasina leads walkout

From Page 1 Col 7 members to join the protest at 8:50 last night. She also demanded resignation of the Home Minister.

The Jatiya Party (JP), the JSD, the Workers Party and the Gonotantri Party joined the AL call for a walkout while the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh and the Islami Oikya Jote (IOJ) preferred to stay in the House.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, while replying to the Opposition allegation of undemocratic behaviour against the government, said that the government was committed to ensuring the constitutional right of the opposition to hold rallies, bring out processions and even stage sit-ins or demonstrations.

"But the constitution does not allow anyone to ransack vehicles, arson public property and loot commodities, the Home Minister said, adding that these were the things the AL activists indulged in, jointly with the JP, on November 10 last.

The Home Minister also claimed that he had himself talked with the Opposition leaders before November 10 and promised his cooperation to the Opposition parties in the observance of their programmes if those were peaceful in nature.

"I even promised them supply of drinking water because they would be thirsty while staging the sit-in under the burning sun," the Home Minister said, but regretted that the Opposition did not give him the scope because they deliberately adopted unconstitutional means.

Matin Chowdhury also said that the on-duty policemen allowed them to stage a peaceful sit-in outside the protective cordon but the Opposition activists resorted to pelting stones on the police, exploding cocktails. They even fired on the police with sawed-off rifles, he said.

Later, the AL and JP activists jointly damaged cars, burnt a few vehicles and looted people's property," the Home Minister said, adding that this could not be termed democratic behaviour.

"What the Opposition wanted that day was a corpse, but the police behaviour frustrated them," the Home Minister observed.

Regarding the Opposition claim of the government showing disrespect to the Noor Hossain Day, the Home

Minister said that rather the AL showed disrespect for Noor Hossain's sacrifice for democracy by holding its programme with that of the JP which killed Noor Hossain.

Twenty legislators belonging to both treasury and opposition benches took part in the one-hour discussion which virtually lasted two hours and ten minutes.

Shamsul Haque of the AL moved the notice on the issue. Abdus Samad, Tofael Ahmed, Matia Chowdhury, Mohammad Nasim and Sajeda Chowdhury of the AL, Barrister Moudud Ahmed of the JP, Rashed Khan Menon of the WP, Suranjit Sengupta of the Gonotantri Party and Sheikh Ansar Ali of the Jamaat were among the 15 opposition members who spoke on the issue.

The seven treasury bench members who also deliberated on the issue included professor Barudoza Chowdhury, Whip Abul Karim, Mashhur Rahman, Abdul Ali Mridhal, Khalilur Rahman, and Shahjahan Omar.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Abus Samad Azad told the House that the Opposition had raised the issue with a view to solving the problem once for all through discussion in the Sangsad.

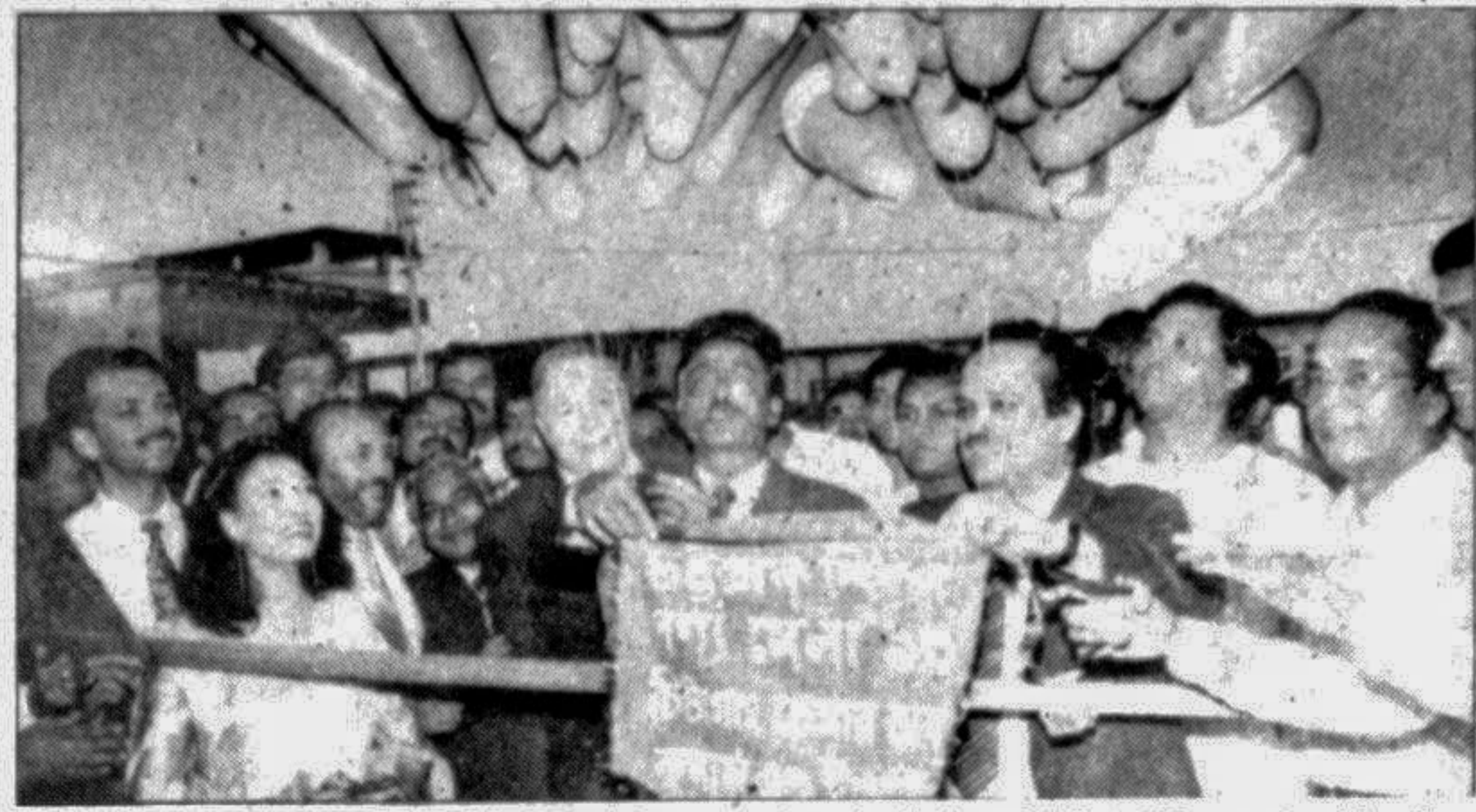
"We expected the treasury bench leaders to be sorry, especially for the police attack on Parliament members of the Opposition bench, but they have failed to show this generosity,"

Professor B Chowdhury, referring to the Opposition's repeated interruptions during the Home Minister's speech, said: "We all really need to practise parliamentary norms in and outside the House."

Professor Chowdhury delivered his speech with the AL-led Opposition benches empty. The opposition re-entered the House 20 minutes after staging a five-minute walkout.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali presided during the discussions. The discussion on the November 10 incidents over the House took up legislative business with Deputy Speaker Humayun Khan Pannil in the chair.

The House passed the Electricity (Amendment) Act, 1993 at 10:35 pm and was adjourned to resume again at 4 this afternoon.



Communications Minister Oli Ahmed inaugurating the Industrial Fair-93 organised by the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the Chittagong Stadium Gymnasium yesterday.

Swedish Minister hints at more assistance

Swedish Minister for International Development and Human Rights Alf Svensson yesterday said he was satisfied with aid utilisation in Bangladesh, indicating that his country's development assistance to Bangladesh is likely to be increased, reports UNB.

Talking to reporters on the eve of his departure from here after a 5-day visit, he said satisfactory improvement with regard to aid utilisation was visible compared to the situation 10 years back.

"I heard 10 years ago the aid utilisation was not good... there were 'problems at that time. But now it is really good," Svensson said.

Sweden, an important development partner of Bangladesh, usually provides financial assistance to the tune of 120 million Swedish kroner every year.

The minister, during his tour, visited various Swedish-aided projects, including one in Bhola, and expressed his satisfaction, specially at the activities in the field of education.

He said his government would provide with expertise and resources for education. He suggested for putting more emphasis on education and more allocation in the education sector, saying "eradication of illiteracy will bring about

development to the Asian country."

I am hopeful about the progress and prosperity of Bangladesh... I hope to see a new Bangladesh after 5 to 10 years," Alf Svensson said giving a good impression about the country and its people.

Replying to a question, the minister said, "Bangladesh is in the right track with regard to parliamentary democracy. I had meeting with the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition."

The human rights minister had his negative view only regarding women. "Women do not really enjoy equal rights here," he said, adding "there is a lack of respect for women as well."

Dhamrai

From Page 1 Col 8 died on the spot while an unidentified man, aged about 35, expired on way to hospital.

A third accident occurred at 9 Monday night when a Benapole-bound night coach of Sobag Paribahan from Gabtali skidded off the road and fell into a 25-feet-deep ditch near the Karnapara bridge on the highway in Savar thana.

Some 50 passengers were injured, 15 of them seriously. All three drivers managed to escape. Three cases were filed with the Savar and Dhamrai thanas.

Biman earns Tk 823cr in '92-93

Biman Bangladesh Airlines earned Taka 823 crore and 50 lakh during 1992-93 while the provisional total expenditure for the period was Taka 762 crore and 75 lakh, State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Manin informed the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Shahjahan Chowdhury of the BNP, he said Biman's total earnings in 1991-92 were over Taka 788 crore and 99 lakh as against a total expenditure of over Taka 754 crore and 22 lakh.

Answering another question, from Sheikh Ansar Ali of Jamaat, the State Minister said that the outstanding dues of different travel agencies owed to Biman stood at Taka 6.60 crore and September 30, this year.

Workers' Party demands govt resigns

The Workers' Party of Bangladesh demanded the resignation of the BNP government for giving "political legitimacy to black money, black law and terrorism," reports UNB.

The demand came during a two-day meeting of the left-wing party's politburo on Sunday-Monday, a party press release said yesterday.

It also accused the government of denying and ignoring the interests of the majority people, including the workers, farm labourers and the middle class, as well as mortgaging the country's economy to the World Bank and IMF.

A resolution adopted at the meeting, chaired by party president Amal Sen, contained a series of allegations against the BNP.

Dhaka University students whiling away their time near the main gate of the Arts Faculty during a strike yesterday called by the Mantu-backed BCL(M-L) protesting the murder of one of its activists Alok Kanti Pal on the BUET campus Monday night.

Tribal students plan long march tomorrow

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Nov 23: The supporters of the Pahari Chhatra Parishad (Hilly Students' Council) have planned a 'long march' on November 25 from Naniarchar to Mohalchhari thana under Rangamati hill district in protest against the November 17 incidents of violence at Naniarchar Bazar that left as many as 27 people killed and over 100 injured.

They also observed a day long hartal today at Bagchhari and Kutubchhari areas of Rangamati district protesting the Naniarchar incidents, sources informed.

However, the members of the parliamentary committee, on their way to Khagrachhari for talks with the Shantibahini tomorrow morning, are expected to visit Naniarchar, according to official sources.

One killed, 4 hurt in stampede at Rajbari Stadium

RAJBARI, Nov 23: A young boy was killed in a stampede and four others including the Additional Deputy Commissioner (General) were injured at the Rajbari Stadium this evening, reports UNB.

Raju (16), son of a local businessman, was killed on the spot in the stampede that occurred when the awaiting spectators for a show by the visiting Chinese acrobatic team rushed through the stadium's gate to have their seats.

Witnesses said ADC Abu Naser was hurt seriously when he tried to save a child from being stampeded. The three others wounded are Abdul Zabbar, 26, Md Akbar, 28, and Tamizuddin, 26. The were admitted to Rajbari General Hospital.

The show went on uninterrupted despite the tragic incident.

Decision to gear up anti-smuggling efforts

KHULNA, Nov 23: An Indo-Bangla border coordination conference here today decided to further strengthen efforts towards keeping the border free from crimes, reports UNB.

The day-long conference discussed measures to combat transborder crimes and matters related to smuggling, law and order situation in the border areas, trespass, violation of border guidelines, land disputes, kidnapping, killing, dacoity and maintenance of border pillars, said a BDR press release.

Deputy Director of Bangladesh Rifles Brigadier TU Muhammad Iftakharul Basher led the home side at the conference. He was assisted by the Sector Commanders of Khulna, Kustia, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Dinajpur.

The Indian side was led by Balkar Singh, Inspector General of South Bengal Frontier of Border Security Force and RN Bhattacharya, Inspector General of North Bengal Frontier of BSF. BSF Deputy IGs of Calcutta, Kishanganj, Krishnanagar, Malda, Shilliguri, Coochbehar sector were also included in the delegation.

DU strike

From Page 1 Col 5 led by Dr Kamal Hossain. Our DU Correspondent reports: No classes were held in the university yesterday and all the departments were closed.

The Montu-backed BCL(M-L) blamed the pro-Awami League BCL(M-L) for the killing while the BCL (M-L) leaders said that Alok was killed by fellow BCL (M-L) workers.

After the autopsy, the body of Alok was handed over to his relatives yesterday. The body was taken to the Jagannath Hall of the DU, where Alok resided, before being sent to his village home in Kishoreganj district.

Meanwhile UNB adds: The Dhaka University Teachers' Association yesterday condemned Monday night's killing of a student and expressed grave concern over an alarming state of 'terrorist campus politics'.

Eagle to replace hammer, sickle

MOSCOW, Nov 23: Millions of hammers-and-sickles, the Communist symbol of workers and peasants, are headed for the attic of Russian history, reports AP.

More than two years after the Soviet collapse, Russia is finally getting a new national emblem. And it is coming right out of the same attic.

The Russian state symbol will be the double-headed eagle which for centuries proclaimed the military might of the czars over an empire spanning two continents.

Ganges barrage

From Page 1 Col 4 headquarters before the next conference, to be held in Kathmandu in April 1994. The conference agreed that the headquarters would be regarded as both a decentralised secretariat and a networking system.

The experts shared the view that mutual cooperation in the region could bring enormous benefits to half a billion people in terms of energy development, flood management, augmentation of lean season water flows, irrigation development and inland navigation.

"The abundance of water in the region in one season," Ahmed said, "followed by scarcity in another season of the year further necessitates inter-country cooperation in optimal water management."

The delegates of the three countries emphasised on the need to create an atmosphere of mutual trust and confidence and regular consultation among the co-basin countries for optimal water resource development.

The Midnight File

Arafat, Rabin to visit Euro-Parliament

BRUSSELS, Nov 23: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and PLO Chief Yasser Arafat will visit the European Parliament separately next month, Parliament officials said Tuesday. The 518-member EC assembly has invited Rabin to speak during a special plenary session here Dec. 1. He is scheduled to meet Jacques Delors, President of the EC's executive commission, reports AP.

Shuharto in Iran

NICOSIA, Nov 23: President Suharto of Indonesia arrived Tuesday in Tehran to discuss economic and political relations between the two Muslim nations, the Islamic Republic News Agency reported. It said Suharto was accorded a "warm welcome" by President Hashemi Rafsanjani on arrival. He was accompanied by his wife, Tien, and his foreign minister, Ali Alatas. The visit, Suharto's first to Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, will last five days, said IRNA, monitored in Nicosia, reports AP.

967 Kashmiri militants killed in 10 months

NEW DELHI, Nov 23: Indian army and paramilitary troops killed 967 Muslim militants in Kashmir during the past 10 months where the separatists are battling for self-rule, a government spokesman said today, reports AFP.

The spokesman for the federally administered northern Indian state said 858 Muslim secessionists were slain in the Muslim-dominated Kashmir valley since last year.

"One hundred and nine Muslim militants were shot at the line of control, which demarcates the two zones of the divided state located on the foothills of the Himalayan ranges, the spokesman said.

A total of 648 civilians and 152 Indian troops died as of October 31 this year, he said, citing official figures disclosed by security forces battling the militants in the disputed northern frontier state.

Thousands of people were taken into custody and a vast amount of arms seized during the 11-month phase in turbulent Kashmir, which is administered directly by Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao's federal government, he added.

The startling disclosures were made in the Hindu-dominated city of Jammu, the winter capital of Kashmir.

More than 7,500 people have died in Kashmir since 1989 when the Muslim militants stepped up the bloody drive for self-rule in the state bordering Pakistan.

Almost daily, soldiers and the militants clash in Kashmir, leaving dozens dead and many others wounded. The state remains under a police curfew and civilians are under orders

to be entertained. Tofael Ahmed and Abdus Samad Azad supported Selim's proposition.

In reply, Deputy Leader of the House Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury pointed out that on the opening day Opposition chief whip Mohammad Nasim had also disclosed the subject matter of a similar notice regarding the PM's remarks.

Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali observed: "I don't know how it happened. Most of the newspapers published the subject matters of the notices before the resumption of the session."

He said that the matter should be examined. He also said that he would give his decision on Barrister Rafiq's notice today.

NBR launches survey

From Page 1 Col 7 During the second stage of the income tax survey, a comprehensive residential and other rental property survey would be conducted along with collecting income information about shops and business establishments and about the incomes of all sections of professionals, including doctors, engineers, chartered accountants, lawyers and others.

Both the stages of the survey would be completed within the next one year.

"We hope to cover all the categories within the next one year, but it would be a continuous process aimed at increasing the number of taxpayers from six lakh to about 20 lakh over the next five years," he said.

The total income tax collection stood at Tk 1621 crore during the last financial year and the target for 1993-94 is Tk 1900 crore.

Of the total amount collected in 1992-93, the NBR source noted, nearly 80 per cent came from deduction at the source and companies, and only 20 per cent from individual taxpayers.

বাংলাদেশ পাবলিক ম্যানুস্ক্রিপ্টস অ্যান্ড প্রিন্টিং কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
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জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিজিএমইএ-এর স্বাধীনতাসকল সদস্যগণকে তাহাদের নিজ নিজ কোম্পানীর প্যাডে কোম্পানীর নাম ও ঠিকানা, মালিকের নাম, টেলিফোন নম্বর, টেলের নম্বর, ফ্যাক্স নম্বর, শ্রমিক সংখ্যা, মেশিন সংখ্যা, ব্যাকার, আইটেমওয়ারী উৎপাদিত পণ্য ও বার্ষিক উৎপাদন ক্ষমতা এই বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে বিজিএমইএ-এর ঢাকাস্থ প্রধান কার্যালয়ে প্রেরণের জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হইল।

ইতিপূর্বে বিজিএমইএ নিউজলেটার ও সার্কুলার মারফত সকল পোষাকশিল্প মালিকদের নিকট এই তথ্য চাওয়া হইয়াছিল।

কালেক্টর আহমেদ
যুগ্ম সচিব

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