

Small pest poses a big polls test

By Asiuzzaman

A tiny insect has become a major issue for the candidates contesting the upcoming Dhaka City Corporation polls.

The mosquito, which has only a two-week lifecycle, has become the centre of all issues being raised by the candidates and their party leaders.

The new candidates are accusing the immediate past mayor of the ruling party of failing to eradicate mosquitoes which are making the life of

some seven million citizens of Dhaka unbearable.

To counter the allegation, the ruling party's mayoral candidate has said effective measures were taken to check the mosquito menace during his two-and-a-half-year tenure.

While the front runner candidates are accusing each other of failure to rid the capital of the menace, the officials of the Dhaka City Corporation DCC said, it was impossible to make

Dhaka a mosquito-free city unless the capital was kept clean by the citizens themselves.

The DCC had taken up a hundred crore taka mosquito eradication programme every financial year during the last two years. More than one hundred people from both the DCC and the Mosquito Eradication Department used insecticide sprayers in the city to eradicate mosquitoes but the operations proved futile.

Considering the magnitude of the problem, the authorities even convened a high-level meeting in March last year with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder in the chair.

The meeting decided to undertake an all-out programme to control mosquitoes with the help of other ministries.

After the meeting the DCC sent letters to all the ministries requesting them to keep the building premises, drains and other areas under their control clean to check the breeding of Mosquitoes.

"But the response was very poor," one DCC official said on condition of anonymity. Moreover, several thousand service latrines silted drains and unclean ditches are the breeding grounds of mosquitoes in the city, the official added.

"One sq-ft area of stagnant water around your house is enough for breeding mosquitoes," he said, adding: "We will never succeed unless the citizens cooperate with the DCC's efforts to eliminate mosquitoes."

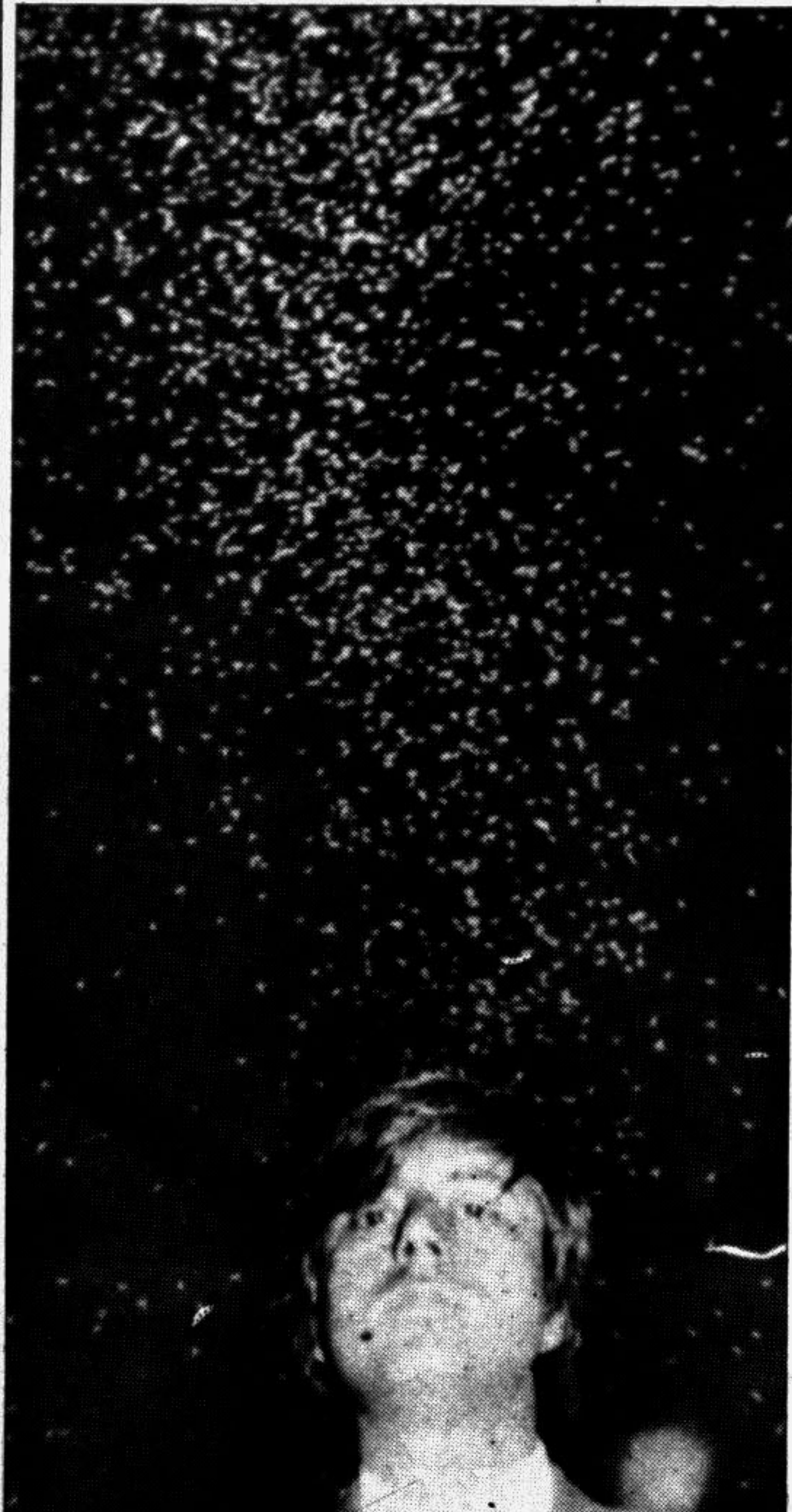
The period from November to February is the high breeding season for mosquitoes.

The DCC used two types of insecticide — pyrifos as larvicide and sicofing as adulticide in its anti-mosquito drive.

Last year, the DCC used the comparatively less powerful Resigen-05 brand for adulticide which failed to kill mosquitoes.

"The sicofing gave us good results when the drive began in the second week of November," the DCC official said.

The anti-mosquito drive was geared up during the Sixth SAF Games last December and it would continue at a normal pace until next March during which some 15,000 litres of adulticide and 6,000 litres of larvicide would be sprayed to make Dhaka a mosquito-free — at least temporarily — city.



A swirling column of mosquitoes glows in the twilight as dusk descends on the city yesterday. — Star photo

DCC polls diary

By Staff Correspondent

Supporters of different candidates in the Dhaka City Corporation polls are adding more and more new ideas to the art of campaigning everyday. With only four days left for the elections, the ideas are also getting wilder.

In the Mirpur residential areas yesterday morning, the residents became annoyed, as usual, at the noisy campaigning created by loud speaker voices from innumerable rickshaws.

From one side, one could hear "Vote for Fish" and from the other, "Vote for Bicycle." And someone from in between shouting in favour of the "Rooster".

Understandably, it was indeed hard for anyone to pay attention to any of the messages delivered from the flock of noisy rickshaws. All of a sudden, the residents could hear the tone of "Milad Mahfil." It seemed as if a moving Milad Mahfil was roaming around the area. Having the distinct characteristics of the tune used in Milads, everyone rushed to their respective verandahs. It was only one of the other campaignings on a rickshaw, using his new trick!

Campaigning for the "Pineapple" could be fun. The candidate gives his campaigners yellow balloons, T-shirts and perhaps, who knows, can of pineapple juice, too.

At the Ramna Park Crossing yesterday evening, a candidate's procession with the pineapple as his election symbol was marching towards the Press Club in silence. Silent, because there were not many people around.

The jolly procession was headed by a fellow carrying a gigantic paper pineapple. He was followed by a bunch of street kids. The kids were wearing brand new yellow T-shirts with pineapples printed on them. But instead of being jolly, the kids were trembling in the chilly late January breeze. They could not wear anything heavier over their T-shirts because that would spoil the very purpose of the campaign.

A passer-by, seeing the shivering pineapple campaigners commented: "They must be feeling like chilled pineapple juice!"

'Invest in me,' Manzur asks voters

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the CPB and mayoral candidate of the left-leaning political parties Manzurul Ahsan Khan yesterday called upon the people to 'invest' their votes in his ballot box for their better future.

He said the people had wasted a lot of votes by electing the candidates of the rightist political parties, who always took the elections as a trade for making profit by investing huge sums of black money. The poor people were not benefited by electing such people to power, he added.

Manzur said this while addressing three electoral meetings yesterday at the Mirpur, Mohakhali and Shantinagar areas.

The CPB leader alleged violation of the election rules by both the BNP and the Awami League.

Graffiti

From Page 1 Col 7

how the expenses for graffiti and camps can be estimated and they have been advised to consult the engineering department, the DCC's Chief Executive Officer Abdul Jabbar told The Daily Star last night.

"We will seek specific guidelines for the task from the Chief Election Commissioner tomorrow (Tuesday)," he said. On January 22 the EC issued letters to the Chief Executive Officer of the DCC and also to the Deputy Commissioner to submit to the commission by January 28 the accounts of expenses for wall-writings and erecting election camps so that the costs could be preserved in the candidates' personal files in the Election Commission. Such expenses would be deemed as campaign expenditure of the candidates.

Meanwhile, the DCC yesterday asked the Zonal Officers to visit the election camps and ask the workers to remove them immediately.

Earlier, on Saturday and Sunday the DCC requested the candidates through loudspeakers to remove the camps and erase the graffiti and also published public notices in a section of the press in this regard last week.

Mayor candidates' public rallies from today

By Staff Correspondent

Candidates in the Dhaka city mayoral elections will begin holding major public rallies from today.

The Left-parties' candidate Manzurul Ahsan Khan will hold his rally at the Bangabandhu Avenue at three this afternoon.

Mirza Abbas of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Col. (Retd) Abdul Malek of the Jatiya Party and ATM Azharul Islam of the Jamaat-e-Islami, Bangladesh will hold their rallies at the Manik Mia Avenue, the National Stadium gate and Baitul Mukarram Mosque gate respectively on Thursday.

Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will address the rally of the BNP candidate.

Awami League candidate Mohammad Hanif will hold his major public rally at Manik Mia Avenue on the following day. Sheikh Hosina, Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief, will address the rally.

12 injured in armed attack in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Jan 24: Twelve persons were injured in an armed attack by rival neighbours at Rugganj Kaebpara union this morning.

Among the injured, Sona Banu, 30, Taherun, 40, Abu Kashem, 15 and Sirajuddin, 50, were admitted to the Narayanganj General Hospital in critical condition. They were severely chopped with hatchets by the rivals.

Police said, a certain Hanif, a neighbour of Sirajuddin, led the attack along with ten others at 9 am today.

The attackers, carrying hatchets and batons, pounced on Sirajuddin's family members to evict them from their home. Hanif had been reportedly trying to illegally occupy the land belonging to Sirajuddin's family.

Prokrichi

From Page 1 Col 5

Ruhul Matin, agriculturist Javed Iqbal, Dr Gazi Abdul Huq, engineer A N H Akhter Hossain, Dr Mushtaq Hossain, architect Ahsanul Huq, agriculturist Manirul Islam, Professor Abu Yusuf and Dr A B Bhuiyan.

The leaders of the professionals at the meeting also accused the members of the administration cadre of conspiring to jeopardise the country's democracy.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia shaking hands with a child during her DCC election campaign at Abhoy Das Lane in the city yesterday.

Repression in Kashmir has increased: Benazir

ISLAMABAD, Jan 24: Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto accused India Monday of increasing repression in Kashmir behind a smoke screen of talks with Pakistan on resolving bilateral disputes, reports AFP.

The Indian government wants to divert the attention of world public opinion from the turmoil in Kashmir, she said in a televised address to the nation.

This is not acceptable to us, the prime minister said.

Two days of talks here early this month between the foreign secretaries of the two countries failed to make any progress toward a settlement of the thorny Kashmir issue.

Islamabad proposed afterwards that the next round, for which no date has been set,

focus on devising a plan for a referendum in Kashmir. The proposal has been rejected by New Delhi.

Bhutto said talks with India would be 'fruitless' until there was an improvement in the Kashmir human-rights situation.

But she stopped short of ruling out a resumption of talks.

She said India already had 600,000 troops in Kashmir and that it was sending two more divisions there in a bid to 'crush' the Muslim uprising.

More than 8,000 people have been killed in the Indian-controlled southern two-thirds of Kashmir since a separatist campaign intensified in 1989, amid accusations by New Delhi that Pakistan was fueling the revolt.

Islamabad denies India's allegation that it is training and arming the militants in its only Muslim majority state.

Degree exam date changed

Examination of Mathematics

of Degree pass course of Rajshahi and Khulna divisions under the National University has been deferred to February 14. The examination was earlier scheduled for January 30. The other examinations under the university will be held as per schedule, reports UNB.

Aminul Huq

From Page 1 Col 6

charge as the Attorney General and asked him to attend to his duties immediately.

An embarrassed Huq, however, stopped going to the office until another government handout released Sunday clarified the government's position on the issue.

The second handout claimed that Huq had informed the Law Ministry that he would return from Saudi Arabia on Sunday and the Additional Attorney General was given the charge of Attorney General as a routine matter.

Aminul Huq, while talking to The Daily Star, said he returned home on January 2 and had been attending office since January 17.

Replying to a question, the Attorney General said, "The embarrassing situation is over and I have started working again."

Partial strike

From Page 1 Col 8

ment's accord with the World Bank on the reformation of certain sectors, reopening of the closed industrial units, release of labour leaders and applying the Wage Commission Award to the employees of private sector industries.

As the opposition political parties did not support the strike, it could not affect normal life. The movement of vehicular traffic including the inter-city bus services was normal. The domestic and international flights of Biman Bangladesh Airlines, railway, launch and steamer services were also normal.

In the evening, the striking labourers brought out in the city a procession carrying sticks. The procession was led by their leaders Nur Hossain, Iqbal Majumder and Abul Hossain. The procession created a two-hour traffic jam in the Gulistan area.

Trade union sources claimed that four lakh workers and employees of the industrial belts refrained from duties in response to the strike call.

In a press release last night, the trade unionists also slated "the attack on the workers by hired goons of the government" to foil their agitation.

The press release was signed by Abul Bashir, Lutfar Rahman, Shahidullah Chowdhury, Shah Alam, Anwar Begum and others.

Our Narayanganj correspondent reported normal operation at Adamjee, the country's largest jute mills.

Begum Zia

From Page 1 Col 8

candidates there.

She is expected to address another public meeting in the capital — at Manik Miah Avenue — on Thursday to round off her polls campaign in Dhaka.

Inaugurating the Institute of Child and Mother Health at Matuail, the BNP chief started the tour with some of her party colleagues at around 5:00 pm.

Ignoring her personal security, Begum Zia exchanged greetings with the men, women and children, sometimes through the window and sometimes over the open hood of her private Nissan jeep.

Enthusiastic people came out of their houses and formed a veritable human barricade to get a look at the charismatic leader.

It took one and a half hours to cross the residential areas of Sabujbagh, Bashabo' and Madartek. The Prime Minister did not avail of any government facilities during the tour.

She addressed six public meetings yesterday, urging people to vote for the bicycle.

"Abbas has proved his honesty and capability as a mayor," the BNP chief reiterated at her first meeting in front of the Arambagh market.

She said the BNP enjoys mass support of the people which was proved in the last parliamentary elections.

"The BNP leaders have the courage to resign ahead of elections, and this is because of the popular support," the ruling party chief said.

She said the development of the city would continue uninterrupted if Mirza Abbas is elected mayor.

BNP leaders Tariqul Islam, Rafiqul Islam Miah, Mir Shawkat Ali, Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Jahanara Begum, Shamsun Nahar, Khwaja Ahsanullah, M. Ziaul Huq Zia, Mirza Abbas, M. Sanwar Hossain, Moazzem Hossain Alal and D M Hossain Monnu also addressed the rally.

Meanwhile, a number of central leaders continued campaigning in the city separately.

PM : ICMH

From Page 1 Col 5

of land at Matuail, a peri-urban area at a cost of Tk 3963.38 lakh. The institute will have 286 staff members including 42 doctors and 28 nurses when completed by 1995.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Deputy Minister for Health and Family Welfare Sirajul Huq, local MP Salauddin Ahmed and project director of the ICMH Prof M Q K Talukder also spoke on the occasion.

The Institute of Child and Mother Health, which will have clinical and field facilities, is aimed at improving the health and nutritional status of children and mothers of the country.

Begum Zia said the setting up of the institute would also help provide training facilities to the health workers, carry out research, increase people's health awareness, reduce the outbreak of diseases and infant and mother mortality rates.

The Prime Minister regretted that desired success could not be achieved in many fields including the health services due to the wrong policies.

Businessmen

From Page 1 Col 4

the private sector should come forward to boost exports to the Gulf countries.

Envoy to Bahrain Akhtarul Alam informed the meeting that a 60-member business team from Bahrain will visit Bangladesh in April to study business prospects and the investment climate.

High Commissioner to Malaysia Mahbub Alam said Bangladesh's exports to that country increased about five times in two years and there is also scope for exporting rice there.

The Midnight File

Clinton plans to nominate Perry as Defence Secy

WASHINGTON, Jan 24: President Clinton plans to nominate William J. Perry, the No.2 man at the Pentagon, as his next Secretary of Defence. White House officials said Monday. Two officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, did not say when the announcement would be made. It will be sooner, rather than later, one said. Perry, who had expressed some reservations about the job over the weekend, is deputy secretary of defence and has been regarded as a front-runner since Bobby Ray Inman, a retired admiral, withdrew last Tuesday with a blast at his critics, reports AP.

British Gen assumes UN command in Bosnia

SARAJEVO, Jan 24: UN peacekeepers in Bosnia got a new commander Monday, and the head of all UN troops in former Yugoslavia demanded once again that his forces be allowed to call in air strikes. Lt. Gen Sir Michael Rose of Britain assumed command from Lt. Gen. Francis Briguemont of Belgium on Monday. The 53-year-old Briton formerly headed the elite Special Air Service commandos and led SAS regiments during the American Embassy siege crisis in Iran and the Falklands war with Argentina, reports AP.

Fahd, Arafat talk ME peace deal

RIVADH, Jan 24: PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat held talks with King Fahd here today for the first time since infuriating the Saudi leader by supporting Iraq after the invasion of Kuwait, reports AFP.

They discussed the PLO-Israeli negotiations and other aspects of the Palestinian cause, a Palestinian diplomat said.

"We lent support to BNP in forming the government. Now they are hobnobbing with those who want to ban us. So, there is no question of giving any concession to this government," he told an election meeting of his party here this afternoon.

Local Jamaat leader Shamsul Haq presided over the meeting at Steel Mill Bazar area in the city, also addressed by Shahjahan Chowdhury MP, party's mayor candidate for the Chittagong City Corporation polls Afsaruddin Chowdhury, Principal Maulana Abu Taher and M A Taher.

Nizami, the secretary general of Jamaat, said the BNP government had failed to alleviate poverty, remove unemployment problem and curb corruption during the last three years of its rule.

On completion of the project, improved quality of hard rock will be extracted from mine.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

No concession to BNP govt, says Nizami

CHITTAGONG, Jan 24: Jamaat-e-Islami leader Maulana Matu Rahman Nizami today blamed the ruling BNP for joining hands with those parties which want a ban on religion based politics, reports UNB.

"We lent support to BNP in forming the government. Now they are hobnobbing with those who want to ban us. So, there is no question of giving any concession to this government," he told an election meeting of his party here this afternoon.

Local Jamaat leader Shamsul Haq presided over the meeting at Steel Mill Bazar area in the city, also addressed by Shahjahan Chowdhury MP, party's mayor candidate for the Chittagong City Corporation polls Afsaruddin Chowdhury, Principal Maulana Abu Taher and M A Taher.

Nizami, the secretary general of Jamaat, said the BNP government had failed to alleviate poverty, remove unemployment problem and curb corruption during the last three years of its rule.

On completion of the project, improved quality of hard rock will be extracted from mine.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.

The cabinet also decided to postpone implementation of the ban on production and marketing of polythene shopping bags in the country. But ban on establishment of new polythene manufacturing factories and increase capacity of the existing ones will remain in force.