terday, reports AP.

harmed

national day.

were also seated.

Man fires blanks

at Charles

in Sydney

Britain's Prince Charles on yes-

The prince, 45, was un-

The man ran about 30 yards

harmed. No one else was

(metres) from the crowd and

onto a stage where the prince

was about to speak to more

than 10,000 people at outdoor

celebrations marking Australia's

man to the ground only feet

(metres) from the prince, who

was immediately shielded by

police and whisked off the plat

form, where a choir and band

knocked from their seats in the

fired a starting pistol twice.

Startled dignitaries were

Police confirmed the man

Security guards wrestled the

Alija rejects Russian call for UNSC meet

JAKARTA, Jan 27: Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic rejected today a Russian call for a ministerial meeting of the UN Security Council's permanent members to try get compliance to a territorial division in Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports AFP.

We will not accept any imposed solution, if it means imposing a solution which was proposed to us during this round of talks. I have to say, we are not going to accept it. lzetbegovic told a press confer-

Abbas addresses campaign at DU

By DU Correspondent

The BNP's DCC mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas sought votes on the ground that he had been with the teachers, students and employees of the Dhaka University during the anti-autocratic agitation.

Abbas was addressing an election campaign meeting at the DU campus yesterday afternoon. The Jatfyatabadi Chhatra Dal arranged the meeting in support of Abbas and the party's commissioner candidates for the Nos 56 and 57 city

The meeting was also addressed by the DUCSU VP Amanullah Aman, MP, Aziz Ferdous, MP, and JCD leaders Fazlul Huq Milon, Nazimuddin Alam. Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anny was in the chair.

Addressing the meeting. Abbas strongly denied ever having said that if elected he would force the AL mayoral candidate Hantf to leave the country.

"Even the President of the country cannot oust any citizen," Abbas added.

"Hanif is telling lies against me," Abbas alleged

Where was Harif when we were fighting autocracy on the city streets?" Abbas questioned.

Campaigning From Page 1 Col 7

their support. The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leaders at almost all the rallies in the city during the past two days, have pleaded that the voters should elect their candidates

for protecting 'Bismillah' in

the country's constitution.

On the other hand, the Awami League leaders, in a bid to prove that their party was more committed to the Islamic faith, have been arguing that most of their leaders. including Sheikh Hasina had so far performed the Hajj several times. Even Hasina's at tendance at the Akheri Munajat of the Biswa litema held recently at Tongi have frequently been pronounced by the leaders to attract the at tention of the more religious minded voters.

ence towards the end of his one-day visit here.

He was referring to the division of his country between Bosnians, Serbs and Croats according to the results of recent talks in Geneva.

Russia's special envoy to former Yugoslavia, Vitaly Churkin, Tuesday proposed that foreign ministers of the permanent member countries of the UN Security Council (UNSC) meet to get all sides to comply to the division

"We did not accept a division of Bosnia-Herzegovina but we were forced to accept it ... If Churkin has in mind imposing such a solution. I am afraid he won't be able to impose it." lzetbegovic said.

BNP gears up campaign in city

By Staff Correspondent With the election day approaching, the ruling party leaders have geared up the campaign in support of their mayoral nominee Mirza Abbas and ward commissioner candi-

BNP secretary general Abdus Salam Talukder addressed a series of meetings at Nakhalpara rail crossing. Dhanmondi, Nawabganj, Tannery Square and Swarighat urging the voters to exercise their right to franchise fudiciously.

Salam Talukder said, the voters in the capital had rejected the opposition Awami League because 'they betrayed the people.

He said, the BNP government had fulfilled all the pledges made before the 1991 parliamentary election by switching over to the parliamentary form of government, exempting agricultural loan and raising the age limit for government service to 30 years.

The BNP secretary general urged the voters to vote for the "bicycle" in Sunday's polls.

The meetings were also addressed by Mir Shawkat Ali. Mahbubul Alam Tara, Nazrul Islam Khan, Mohammad Shajahan, Barkatullah Bhulu, Shahidullah Khan MP and student leader Nasiruddin Pintu.

Special measures

From Page 1 Col 5 was peaceful and there had been no untoward incident.

Justice Rouf said the presiding officers would announce a provisional results of their respective centres as soon as the counting was over.

He said the presiding officers have also been asked to send a copy of the result through post office to Election Commission which should bear a seal of January 30. He said the post offices would remain open throughout the night in the four cities for the purpose.

Twin worries for BNP

From Page 1 Col 7 leaders during campaigning. have raised the interest and excitement to that of any national level polls.

Keeping pace with the intensive electioneering by its arch-rival the Awami League (AL), the BNP has also thrown all its weight behind its party nominees, particularly for the mayoral posts. Despite her tight schedule as the head of the government, the BNP chairperson Prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia has launched herself into hectic campaigning since January 13. She has been spending almost a third of a day everyday in electioneering, going from door to door and seeking votes for the BNP nominees. However, most of her campaigning has remained confined to the capital city and mayoral candidate Mirza Abbas. It is understandable that the BNP hierarchy considers the contest for the Dhaka mayor's chair a prestige issue for the

party. The constituency of the mayor of Dhaka encompasses eight JS seats, all of which were captured by the BNP in 1991 with landslide victories. The defeated AL candidates included Sheikh Hasina, Kamal Hossain, Sajeda Chowdhury and several other well-known and prominent leaders.

However, the AL managed significantly improved showings by poll in more votes in the three by-elections in the city which followed. Now, the AL, having taken lessons from its previous failures, is all geared up and determined to gain control of the DCC. For this, it has been striving relentlessly to get its nominee Mohammad Hanif elected as mayor.

The organised campaigns of the AL in all the 90 city wards have posed a serious challenge to the ruling party. The eventual outcome would not only be a question of who becomes the mayor; rather, the results would reflect the general opinion of the people in the eight JS constituencies in metropolis. That is why the polls are so significant for the BNP as well as for the AL and the others.

The ruling party has had to confront multifarious problems regarding the present polls.

One such problem was regarding the party's nominations for the posts of commissioners. Because it is the ruling party, there were too many aspirants for the BNP nominations. Apparently the leadership failed to efficiently handle this

tricky issue.

While only one official BNP candidate was nominated for each of the 90 wards under the DCC, yet some of the other aspirants did not withdraw from the race. And this situation has clouded the chances of many BNP nominees Moreover, the official BNP candidates as well as those BNP supporters contesting independently, have been keeping their electioneering confined to their own constituencies, often ignoring the need to campaign for the party's mayoral nominee Mirza Abbas.

On the other hand, with the exception of a few cases, the AL solved a similar problem in the wards quite astutely and the party's commissioner candidates have been simultaneously working for their mayor nominee. This is one pluspoint for AL that has worried the BNP.

The AL leadership confidently claims that it has ensured casting of the party's 'solid votes' in the city while a large number of voters who did not vote for it in 1991 have now promised to back Hanif. The AL leaders are also optimistic about getting a good number of votes from the people of the lower-middle class, the uprooted street hawkers, the rickshaw-pullers and other working people. They will vote for us since the BNP could not ameliorate their suffering," said a central leader of the AL who believes that the current economic stagnation will also adversely affect the BNP in the city polls.

There is no question that the BNP policy-makers are well-aware of the situation, and have been working to cope with it and win the game.

According to some political observers, the mayor nominees of the Jatiya Party and Jamaat are also expected to erode support for the BNP which, again, may be to Hanif's benefit. This is no less a worry for the BNP election strategists.



Bodyguards wrested a man (kneeling away from the camera) to the ground after he lunged at Prince Charles (right) and fired shots from a toy cap gun before an audience of thousands of people in Sydney yesterday. — AFP photo

Fisherman killed

in BSF firing

From Staff Correspondent

ermen was shot dead and two

others received bullet injuries

when the BSF opened fire on

them from a patrol boat in the

Isamati river near Padma

Shakra BOP under Satkhira

at about 2100 hours last night.

the BSF opened fire on a fishing

boat inside the Bangladesh

spot while Mogbul Husain and

Idris Ali were admitted to

Satkhira hospital in a critical

Couple robbed

at Dhanmondi

By Staff Correspondent

gold-ornaments and cash at

Dhanmondi, Road No-3 last

couple on a rickshaw and

snatched two gold-chains, two

gold-rings and a wallet with

A couple was robbed of their

Three muggers waylaid the

Boatman lad Ali died on the

According to BDR sources

district last night.

territorial water.

condition.

night.

8 pm.

was lodged.

KHULNA, Jan 26: One fish-

Manzur's 12-pt plan for DCC

From Page 1 Col 8

he believes that terrorism originates from unemployment and ruling parties' patronisation. He plans to create new employment opportunities and discourage any sort of political support for terrorists.

In order to provide social security to the women in the city. he plans to set up women's organisations in all the 90 wards. A children's day-care centre for the working mothers would

also be set up in every ward, if he were elected. The mayoral candidate plans to employ only women in the vacant posts of the DCC and in schools in future to increase their participation in employ-

"It is possible to introduce a project for low cost modern housing for the lower middle class people who will buy the flats in installments." Manzur

He also plans to rehabilitate and allocate lands for the slum dwellers of the city and provide exclusive space for vendors everywhere in the city to make the footpaths free.

cash at dagger point at around According to Manzurul Ahsan Khan, the education sys-The three youngsters ran tem of the metropolitan city has away from the scene immedicollapsed and it has become a ately after the incident. No case business. In this context he feels the necessity to set up

self-financing schools in all

wards. There will be one teacher for every 40 students so that they do not have to go to private tu tors to learn their lessons.

The teachers would also be paid well, so that they do not feel the necessity to open private tutorials.

A good number of city health centres would be built to make the capital's health system meaningful. These centres would be run by doctors in exchange of an honourarium fixed by the DCC.

.To keep the city neat and clean, the Left Alliance candidate says, a 'green force' involving the street children would be organised in each ward. These green forces', headed by the ward commissioners, would collect garbage and plant trees and do other similar jobs.

Emphasising on collecting city corporation taxes and removing corruption, he said a new taxation system should be introduced which would be convenient for both people and the

Manzur also plans to increase commuting facilities in the city, discourage rickshawpulling — but not banning rickshaws in the city - and improving the quality of the water supplied by WASA and increase water supply facilities.

"We would hardly need any bigger budgetary allocation to implement these plans. These plans are feasible. By cutting administrative costs and checking corruption we hope to gather more money for public welfare," Manzurul Ahsan Khan

Huda urges press to give objective coverage of polls

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda urged the press here yesterday to give objective coverage of the forthcoming city corporation polls and help institutionalise democracy, reports BSS.

Barrister Huda was exchanging views with editors of national dailies and news agencies at the Jatiya Press Club.

The Information Minister said the BNP has been taking steps to ensure freedom of the press and consolidate democratic institutions since it was voted to power in the free and fair polls of February 27, 1991. He lauded the role of the press during the nine year democratic movement in forcing the autocratic regime to quit.

Forex regulations From Page 1 Col 5

also directed the authorised foreign exchange dealers not to shift the date of closure of the contract for even a single day either before or later. The circular also made it mandatory for the banks to preserve all documents regarding forward and swap transactions for inspection by the central bank. Besides withdrawing regulations on forward contracts in forex transactions, the Bangladesh Bank also withdrew its control from a number of

Supporters distributing leaflets in favour of their candidate in

the Dhaka City Corporation polls near Gate No 1 of the

Bangladesh Secretariat in the city yesterday. — Star photo

AL chief doubts

fairness of polls

Hasina today expressed doubts

about the fairness of the up-

coming city corporation polls,

renewing her charge that the

ruling party was engaged in fla-

grant violation of the election

Commission's endeavours, polls

cannot be free and fair under

the ruling BNP," she said, alleg-

ing that the ministers and the

The Awami League president

and Leader of the Opposition in

Parliament warned of launching

a vigorous anti-government agi-

is tampered with by the govern-

Three killed, 30

hurt in Savar

road accident

were killed on the spot and 30

injured when a Chapainawab-

ganj-bound coach collided with

a rice loaded truck at 8 tonight

near Jahangirnagar University

gate on the Dhaka-Aricha high-

way, witnesses and police said,

The bodies could not be

identified immediately and were

taken to Savar Health Complex

SAVAR, Jan 26: Three people

tation if the electoral mandate

BNP candidates had been ignor-

"Inspite of the Election

rules, reports UNB.

ing the election rules.

ing party.

reports UNB.

and CMH.

RAJSHAHI, Jan 26: Sheikh

actions. From now on, prior permission of the BB will not be required to open offices or subsidiary companies abroad by any Bangladeshi. But the bank will have to be informed about certain matters of the office within a month of its opening. Profits to be made from the offices would also have to be repatriated to the country through the banking channel. the circular pointed out - a

aspects related to forex trans-

measure designed to check hundi. The central bank letter also said that such branch offices or subsidiary companies set up by the established commercial or industrial institutions can take a maximum of 30,000 US dollars per year from the country to meet their working expenditure. The audited accounts of the offices would also have to be sent to the BB regularly, on

the basis of which the bank would be able to decide how much money can be taken for those offices in future.

The latest BB order also removed the requirement of prior permission or approval for remitting foreign exchange as subscription or royalty to foreign newspapers and news agencies by the local newspapers or periodicals and payment of royalty and technical fees by the private sector companies to foreign private

The bank also withdrew its control on issuance of cash in currencies other than the US dollar, opening of LCs for payment of pre-shipment inspection fees and issuance of guarantees in foreign currencies.

The circular authorised the foreign exchange dealers to make advance payment on be half of the clients for import of books, journals and life saving drugs not exceeding 2500 US

According to a circular issued by the BB in 1992, the exporters were enjoying the quota facility for retention of 5-10 per cent foreign exchange of the total export value. Since the 'C' typed industries of the Export Processing Zones (EPZs) are Bangladeshi and 100 per cent export-oriented, the BB, in its circular yesterday, also extended the quota facility to them

Such pistols carry paper blanks and are normally used to start races at athletic meets. DCC polls diary



By Staff Correspondent

With only two days left for the elections, campaigners of different mayoral and ward commissioner candidates have become almost hysterical. They have increased the frequency of knocking of different doors and soliciting votes in favour of their candidates.

But in Maghbazar, the canvassers have become so desperate that they are literally falling at the feet of the voters. "I opened the door and was

frightened to see so many young people," a housewife said yesterday.

"The boys gave me some pamphlets, informed me of my voter number and then fell at my feet, saying Mother, please pray for our candidate!"

A slogan chanted from a procession brought out by the supporters of the 'pineapple' candidate said: "Jata tipo, tata rash, er naam anarash" -meaning. 'The more you squeeze, the more juice you get, because this is called a pineapple!

Anybody keen to squeeze the pineapple candidate?

An appeal of the Jamaat candidate, painted on a wall in Maghbazar, makes no promise but only says: "Vote for Godfearing Azhar Bhai".

A sentimental appeal of the Jatiya Party candidate to the voters, written in large letters on a wall near the Bangla College in Mirpur says: "Accept the salam (greetings) of 'captive' Ershad, vote for Col (retd) Malek!"

Agargaon slums

From Page 1 Col 5 face forced eviction.

The notice said the Prime Minister is going to inaugurate the 17th National Science and Technology Week central exhibition on February 2 at the museum in Agargaon. It also added that ministers and other dignitaries are also to be present on the occasion.

"It is being ordered that all houses, shops another structures constructed illegally on government land on both sides of the street starting from the Agargaon main road upto the Science Museum, be removed by January 30," the notice said. "Or else, steps will be taken to remove them by the police

Three hundred copies of the eviction notice were distributed among the slum dwellers of the

BSRS

From Page 1 Col 4 however, 45.

The BSRS has so far sold out 20 projects which failed to repay the loans. The activities of the corpo-

ration as a development financing institution came to a halt in March, 1985 when the Asian Development Bank (ADB) stopped further financing of projects because of poor performance in loan recovery.

Later, in 1990, the ADB agreed to lift the embargo on condition the BSRS would be privatised and would start operation as a commercial bank.

The Midnight File Rao, Benazir won't meet SYDNEY, Jan 26: A man ran out of a crowd and fired two blanks from a starter's pistol at

at Davos

ISLAMABAD, Jan 26: The Prime Minister, P. V Narasimha Rao and his Pakistani counterpart, Benazir Bhutto will not meet at the economic conference at Davos in Switzerland due to overlapping schedules. Pakistani Foreign Secretary. Shahrayar Khan said today. "When Rao will arrive at Davos, our prime minister will have left the place on Jan 31." Khan told a press briefing here, reports PTI.

CIA spies arrested in Libya

SIRTE, Libya, Jan 26: Muammar Gaddafi said Libya had arrested spies working for the US Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) and he warned that any traitor, including Muslim militants, would be cut in pieces by the Libyan people. Libya's leader whose remarks were carried by Libyan media today, gave no details as to the identity number of the alleged spies, but said they had spread false rumours on behalf of the CIA, reports Reuter.

Hasina may attend breakfast prayer in US Feb 2-4

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina is expected to leave for the United States on February 1 to attend the National Breakfast Prayer at the invitation of the Congressional Executive Committee of the US Congress, reports UNB.

On behalf of the US Congress. Chairman of the Congressional Executive Committee Senator Howell Heslin has sent the letter of invitation to

President Bill Clinton and Mrs. Clinton, and senior members of the Executive, Judicial and Legislative branches of the US will attend the Breakfast Prayer to be held on February 3 at the Hotel Hilton in Washington.

Shab-e-Barat From Page 1 Col 8

the city dwellers to desist from blasting fire crackers for maintaining the sanctity of the holy occasion.

In a message on the eve of Shab-e-Barat, President Abdur Rahman Biswas laid stress on following the ideals of justice and truth of Islam for achieving peace and stability in every society all over the world.

Extending greetings to all, President Biswas said that on this sacred night "We would invoke the blessings of Allah for national progress and prosper-

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in a separate message on the eve of Shab-e-Barat called upon the Muslims to invoke divine blessings for the peace and prosperity of the national and the Muslim ummah.

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in her message conveyed greetings to the countrymen and world Muslims.

She said, "Shab-e-Barat, the night of fortune, comes every year with immense blessings of the Almighty Allah

Hajj may begin May 19

Arrangements have been made to send pilgrims to Makkah under the government management to perform Haii an official handout said yesterday, reports UNB.

The Haji will begin May 19 subject to the sighting of the

Persons intending to perform Hajj outside government management may also go to Makkah procuring visas from the Saudi Embassy in Dhaka.

The government has fixed the total expenditure for one pilgrim at Tk 83, 815 this year against last year's fees of Tk 85.375. This year fees on pilgrims pass. Hajj booklets. health examination and the meningitis injection have been exempted.

Rejoinder

By Staff Correspondent Shield Limited, a private security service company, yesterday contradicted part of a report published in The Daily Star on Wednesday and clarified that the company was never withdrawn from the services at Zia International Airport (ZIA) because of poor performance.

Shield was appointed last year at ZIA for a short period and purely on trial basis', the rejoinder said yesterday.

DMP bans carrying of weapons

The Metropolitan Police Commissioner of Dhaka -has imposed ban on carrying all kinds of firearms explosives, swords, knives and other lethal weapons from the midnight of January 28 to the midnight of February 1.

A DMP press release said here yesterday, reports BSS.

The order was issued with a view to ensuring public security and maintaining law and order during the city corporation elections under the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Ordinance.

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