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The Daily Star

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No plague cases in Bangladesh

By Staff Correspondent

The National Anti-Plague Committee last night said there were no plague cases in Bangladesh.

All Bangladeshis now living in plague-stricken India were also safe, it said.

The announcements came after a late night meeting of the committee in Dhaka, the second of the day, which reviewed the latest situation in the country and various measures taken to prevent the epidemic from entering the country.

Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, Deputy Leader of the House, presided over the meeting.

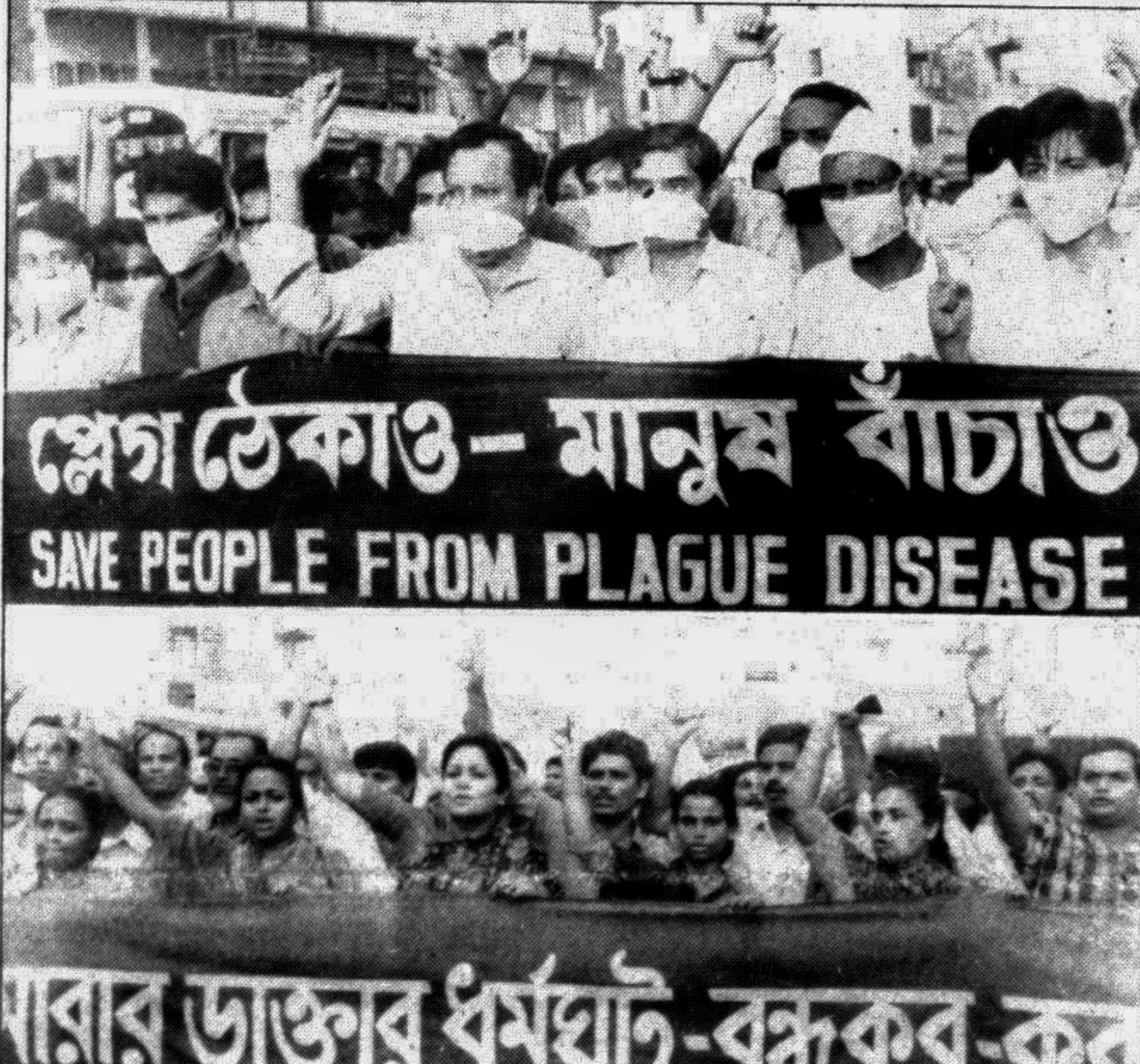
A number of ministers, MPs, high civil and military officials were present.

A Government spokesman told The Daily Star that test results confirmed that the Bangladeshi citizens who were hospitalised in Dhaka Thursday on suspicion of carrying the germ were free from the plague.

However, some doctors said that the two Bangladeshis detained at Zia airport after being sent back from Dubai Thursday morning, would have to wait some more days to have their results absolutely confirmed.

The national committee, at its meeting, also decided to set up monitoring cells at all district headquarters with the civil surgeons in charge.

It also advised those who



A procession demanding steps to save the people from the threat of plague (top) and another procession demanding withdrawal of the indefinite doctors' strike (bottom) were brought out in the city yesterday.

Two out of 20 plague victims in Delhi die

NEW DELHI, Sept 30: The number of suspected plague cases shot up by more than 100 in the Indian capital today as authorities grappled to control the disease which has claimed 52 lives across the country, reports AFP.

The spurt in suspected cases of pneumonic plague came after the deaths of two plague sufferers in New Delhi reported earlier today, the first outside western India.

Delhi Chief Minister Madan Lal Khurana said 20 of the 121 people hospitalised as of today with symptoms of plague were suffering from the disease.

The federal government asserted it would stamp out plague, which has affected more than 1,500 others within 10 days, and appealed to foreign airlines not to shun India as tourists here faced almost no risk of infection.

In Britain, doctors said eight people who recently visited India had shown plague-like symptoms. Three were cleared while diagnostic results were pending from the five others.

Procession against doctors' strike attacked in city

By Staff Correspondent

A procession protesting the doctors' strike was attacked allegedly by some doctors in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday evening, witnesses said.

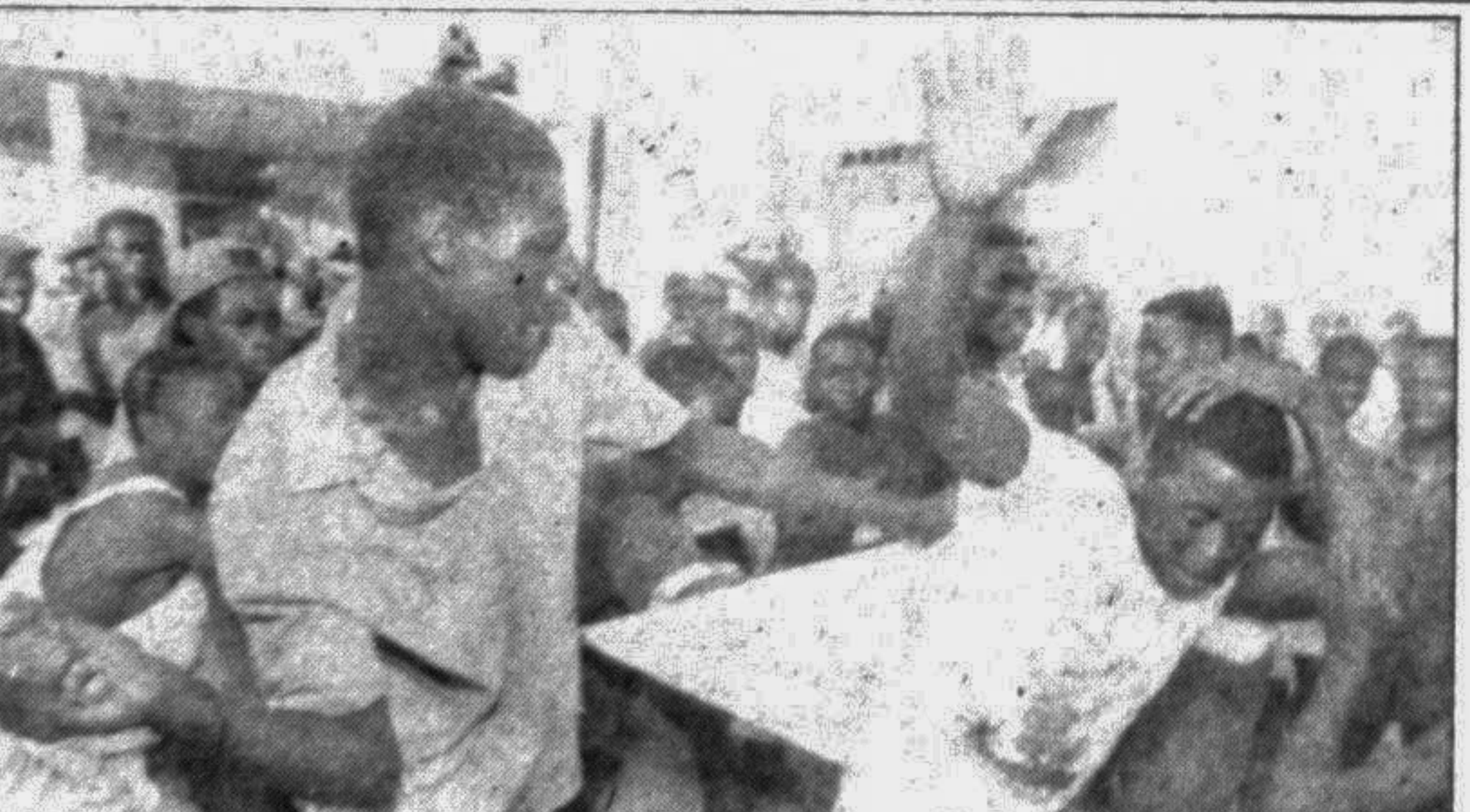
The Paribar Parikalpana Peshajibi Kendriya Samannay Parishad (PPPKSP) brought out the procession in the city.

When the procession reached opposite to the Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) office some people started hurling bricks at the procession at around 4:30 pm. The processionists also retaliated with stones and bricks.

No serious injuries on either side were reported in the ten-minute brick-battling.

Earlier, the PPPKSP held a protest rally at the Janasankhya Bhaban which demanded legal action against the BMA, which had called the indefinite strike from September 21.

The rally presided over by Mohammad Faruk was addressed by Ziauddin Ahmed Khan, Md Majbar Rahman.



A man pointed out by the crowd as being an 'attache', or an armed paramilitary policeman, is beaten by Haitians in downtown Port-au-Prince Thursday. Meanwhile, celebrations to mark the return of an ally of exiled President Jean Bertrand Aristide were marred by a hand-grenade attack, which killed at least three and injured 50.

40-day Opposition programmes begin today

By Staff Correspondent

The three mainstream opposition parties — the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami — demanding elections under caretaker government, begin a 40-day agitation programme today.

Identical programmes were announced by the leaders of these parties from separate public rallies in the city Thursday.

The programmes of the AL and the JP will culminate in the staging of an indefinite sit-in before the Prime Minister's Secretariat on November 9 while the Jamaat supporters will march towards the same venue the same day.

Today, all three parties will observe a nationwide 'protest



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the biggest-ever public meeting at the Circuit House ground in Khulna yesterday.

Hasina accuses PM of misusing state media

Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina, yesterday accused Prime Minister Begum Zia of misusing government media to propagate lies in a Goebellian way, reports UNB.

In a statement, Hasina referred to the Prime Minister's announcement of Chittagong as a Commercial Capital at a public meeting there on September 28 and said, "No one has heard her announcing Chittagong as a commercial capital."

She said newspapers have rightly published reports questioning the veracity of the announcement, she said.

Hasina alleged that the PM used the BSS, radio and television to say so in the same manner as she did to "falsify the truth of shooting at me in a train compartment at the Ishurdi railway station."

"By resorting to such brazen lies and false propaganda, Begum Khaleda Zia put at shame the lies of the Hitler era. It is obvious that her ways are highly immoral and anti-democratic, which clearly amount to abuse of power."

This has forfeited the credibility of the government media, including the radio, television and BSS, now captive in her hands and she must not be allowed to worsen it any further, Hasina said.

Foundation of Rupsha Bridge by Dec: PM

KHULNA, Sept 30: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today announced that the foundation stone of a long-cherished bridge over the Rupsha river here would be laid by the year-end, report agencies.

"An Export Processing Zone (EPZ) will also be set up at Mongla," she declared amid thunderous applause at a mammoth public meeting at the Khulna Circuit House premises this afternoon.

Begum Zia said necessary preparations have been taken and funds mobilised to construct the Rupsha bridge, an election pledge of the ruling BNP. She expressed her determination to lay its foundation stone by next December.

Thousands of people — men, women and children — from far-flung areas of the division attended the meeting.

The PM said: "This division was neglected by the past autocratic regime. The BNP government has already spent Tk 55 crore for the development of the division while the autocratic regime had spent only Tk 12 crore."

She said her party believes in the politics of development and production, and the government laid emphasis on infrastructural development by

PM addresses rally at Manik Mia Avenue today

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at Manik Mia Avenue in the capital today at 3 pm.

The city unit of the ruling party has organised the meeting to drum up public support for the continuation of the democratic process and the government's development activities and to protest 'destructive activities' by the opposition.

Dhaka city chief of the BNP and Food Minister Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shawqat Ali will chair the meeting. Besides, ministers and central leaders of the ruling party will also address it.

The ruling party programme is being held two days after the mainstream opposition parties announced their fresh course of action at separate rallies in the city.

Meanwhile, BNP branches at the city's 80 wards yesterday organised rallies and processions to campaign for today's public meeting.

BMA seeks support from BNP, AL

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Medical Association (BMA) is seeking political support from the ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League (AL) for the implementation of the doctors' 21-point charter of demands.

The BMA leaders yesterday afternoon met BNP joint secretary and Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his residence. Through him they urged the Prime Minister to meet their demands.

At a press conference, the BMA expressed its resentment at Thursday's government press note and expressed its determination to continue the strike, which began on September 21, until the demands were met.

Hinting at bringing the private practitioners within the ambit of the current strike, BMA president Dr MA Majed said, "We do not want to increase the suffering of people, but the government is forcing us to take that path (strike)."

"If we knew of a better alternative to make the govern-

Protect Munshiganj from erosion: Hasina

TUNGBARI, (Munshiganj), Sept 30: Opposition Leader Sheikh Hasina today branded the BNP government 'corrupt and callous,' and said it can not alleviate the miseries of the people, reports UNB.

The government's indecision and indifference has not only deepened crisis at the national level but also caused immense sufferings to the commonman, she told a cross-section of people in the Padma-eroded areas of Munshiganj district in the afternoon.

Hasina, visiting the far-flung areas of Dighirbari, Hashail and Bangla Bazar unions, affected heavily by the erosion of the river Padma, said thousands of poor people have lost their lands and homesteads in the river and become pauper due to the government's apathy towards their plight.

The Awami League chief said Tk 19 crore has been sanctioned to protect Munshiganj but no anti-erosion measure was taken by the government. She called for formulating a pragmatic plan to protect Munshiganj from erosion.

Hundreds of men, women

Four of a family killed in road accident

By Staff Correspondent

Five people — four of them from a family — were killed and over 20 others injured in a major road accident near the Bhabar Char bus stand on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway under Munshiganj district yesterday evening.

All five, who dived on the spot, were in a car that was crumpled after being squeezed between a Chittagong Dhaka bus and a truck. Passengers of the bus, which skidded after impact and plunged into a roadside ditch, were injured.

According to witnesses, the tragedy occurred around 7 pm when the car coming from Chandpur reportedly tried to overtake the bus and collided

Foreign fishing boats impounded

BAGERHAT, Sept 30: Bangladesh Navy ship Padma impounded five more foreign fishing boats and arrested 65 crew-member from near the Hiron Point today. The boats were engaged in catching fish well inside the territorial waters of Bangladesh, according to an ISPR press release, reports BSS.

Sarbaharaman held in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Sept 30: Police arrested a suspected Sarbahara Partyman last night and recovered a pipe gun and ammunition from his possession. Azhar Mridha, 22, a member of Kamrul group was arrested from Mollahpur village under Agajhinda thana and was taken for interrogation, police said.

UN lifts sanctions US troops take over state TV, radio in Haiti

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Sept 30: US soldiers took over state TV and radio and guarded intersections downtown Friday to try to maintain order during a pro-democracy march on the third anniversary of the overthrow of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, reports AP.

The Americans met no resistance during the predawn takeovers to silence the anti-American mouthpieces of the Haitian military coup leaders.

Hundreds of Haitians cheered on the Americans at both state TV and state radio headquarters. Employees of the state TV were told to leave and not to come into work Friday, and switchboards were flooded with callers offering praise.

said 1st Lt. Clinton Trussell, who led the 28-member American unit that took over state TV.

"They're saying, 'Good. Finally the Haitian people will get the truth,'" Trussell told The Associated Press. The Haitians outside the TV installation, shadowed by two giant white satellites, were shouting: "Power to the people."

The stations had accused the Americans of killing people in a grenade explosion and shooting Thursday that broke up a pro-democracy march. American troops were posted along main streets downtown.

প্লেগ সম্পর্কে জানুন

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