

## Sanitation for half the population by '95 : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday spelt out the resolve of her government to bring the entire nation under a sanitation system, reports UNB.

She said at least 50 per cent people will be brought under a sanitation system by 1995 through vigorous government efforts with the help of the Unicef, other international development agencies and NGOs.

The Prime Minister was inaugurating the National Sanitation Week - 1994 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium in the city. The week is being observed under the joint auspices of the Department of Public Health Engineering and Unicef.

She said that about two third people of the country were still beyond any proper sanitation system and stressed the need for bringing them within the system.

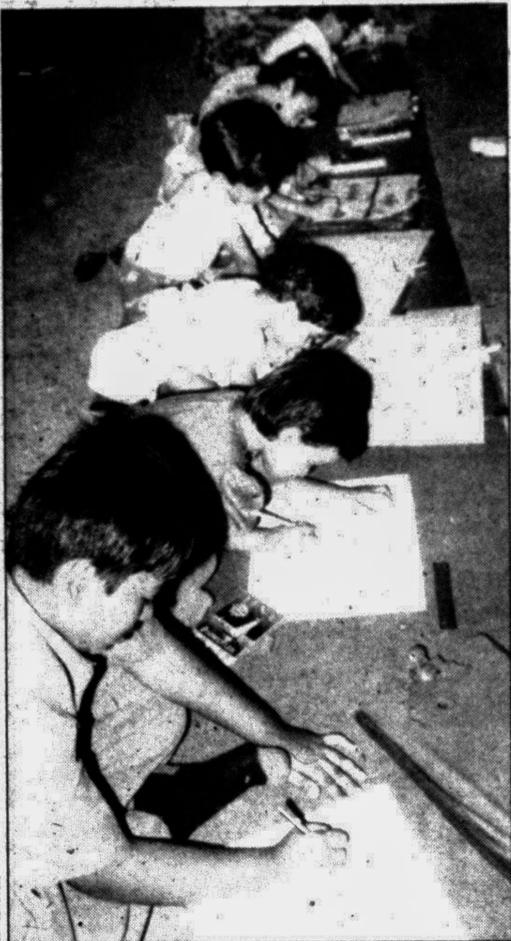
The Prime Minister said proper sanitation and supply of safe drinking water were imperative for the development of public health. The object of the sanitation week is to create awareness among the people for inspiring them to use hygienic latrines, she added.

She pointed out that 94 per cent people were getting safe drinking water while sanitation coverage is only 35 per cent. "We want to increase sanitation facility to 50 per cent by 1995 and 80 per cent by the year 2000."

Besides the government, the Prime Minister said, the people's representatives, local government councils, cooperative societies and non-government voluntary organisations could play a vital role in the implementation of the sanitation programmes.

Addressing the function, Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Abdul Hye said nearly 750 children below the age of five-year die everyday from diarrhoeal diseases in the country.

Unicef representative in Bangladesh Rolf C. Carriere said by having half of all households using sanitary latrines by 1995, Bangladesh is well on the way to achieving universal coverage for the safe disposal of human excreta.



A painting competition for children was arranged to mark the 40th founding anniversary of the Jatitya Press Club at the club auditorium yesterday. The national institution turns 40 tomorrow. — Star photo

## Salman Rahman tells press FBCCI sectt will be strengthened

By Staff Correspondent

The newly elected president of the FBCCI, Salman F Rahman, yesterday said that his first priority would be to strengthen the FBCCI secretariat to enable the Federation to play a more active role in representing the interests of the country's business community.

"I am going to the federation with a dream to enable the business community to change [the economic fate of] society and we will do all that is needed to be done," he pledged at a post election press briefing in a local hotel.

To strengthen the secretariat, he added, his immediate task would be to raise the necessary funds of around two to three crore taka within the next few months.

Rahman, a leading industrialist and the vice chairman of the Beximco Group, polled 221 votes in Monday's elections while his nearest rival, Redwan Ahmed, MP, got 123 votes.

"I am very very happy and pleased as I worked very hard for it. I went to the voters with a specific programme and asked the voters to vote for the candidates of their choice. But I also requested them to select an able candidate because the federation's role is increasingly becoming more important under a free market economy," he said. "I am very grateful to the business community and the voters for electing me with such an overwhelming majority."

He brushed aside suggestions that the rivalry with the other presidential candidates would continue. "It is not a political situation here — that we are in power and they are in the opposition. My opponents are all successful businessmen and there is absolutely no question of rivalry here."

Rahman also defended himself against allegations that he would not be within the reach of ordinary members of the federation as he is a successful, elite businessman. "I am a successful person and as such I am also a responsible person. In order to discharge the responsibility vested in me I will do everything that is needed and to do that I have to remain within reach. Otherwise, I will fail and I am not a person who takes failure very easily."

Asked how he is going to remove the existing rift between the association group and the chamber group, Rahman, while noting that he is a former MCCI president and has also been involved in at least 13 trade associations, said: "In my eyes there is no fundamental difference between the two groups, we are all businessmen. I admit there is a rift between the two groups and this I feel must be resolved. Hopefully, we will be able to do that in the greater interest of the business community."

Responding to another question, he said it is not correct to term the FBCCI as an elitist organisation. "As the federation did not have a strong organisational base it could not fulfill the expectations of the member organisations and the smaller ones have felt the effect more than larger organisations."

Asked if he would face any problem in working with the

political parties as 'ope of the presidential candidates is a ruling party MP while another is a former MP of the largest opposition party, he replied in the negative. "The election was totally on a non-political basis. It was not run across party lines. Businessmen from both sides supported me," he said. "I will have no problem in working with the present government, which is definitely very pro-private sector."

He said that the primary thing which the business community seeks from the government is to create and enabling environment for the development of the private sector. "The federation's role will be to help the government in creating such an environment."

Asked if he is concerned about the court order for maintaining a status quo regarding the FBCCI elections, which was issued on Saturday, Rahman said: "I have not seen a copy of the court order yet. But frankly, I am not worried about it as the voter turnout was unbelievably high, almost 98 per cent, and this shows the interest of the voters."

The elections, he noted, were held in a free and fair manner in an atmosphere of goodwill and cooperation. "I am confident that if [the court order] won't be much of a problem."

**New accord**  
From Page 1 Col 7

several years to allow inspections of two suspected nuclear waste sites.

The West fears the sites are being used to store nuclear waste that would prove Pyongyang has been secretly developing a weapons capability. North Korea maintains the sites are for conventional military uses and so are off limits to international checks, which could be a coverup for spying.

The agreement builds on one reached in August in which North Korea offered to open up its nuclear facilities to international inspection and scrap its outdated atomic energy programme.

**Wheat**  
From Page 1 Col 8

made available for the same programme last year.

The wheat grants for the FFW and the TR were from the government's own resources since foreign assistance for these two programmes were not available.

The FFW programme faced a similar wheat shortage last year due to sudden withdrawal of 1.20,000 tonnes of wheat by the US organisation CARE. The government had sanctioned 50,000 tonnes to meet the deficit, but failed to fill up the gap that year.

According to official sources, the total food budget of the Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief for the current fiscal year has also been curtailed. Some 840,000 tonnes have been sanctioned for various relief and rehabilitation programmes this year, which was 873,550 tonnes last year.

Besides the FFW and the TR, other schemes under different authorities are mostly implemented with food aid provided by the foreign donors.

## Recount shows Tariqul won JS Jessore-3 polls

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, October 18: In the recounting of ballots by the Election Commission in the Jessore 3 parliamentary constituency, BNP candidate Tariqul Islam, at present minister for Posts and Telecommunications, was declared the winner.

The recounting revealed that Tariqul Islam had actually secured 277 more votes than his rival, Awami League candidate Advocate Roushan Ali, according to local EC sources.

Earlier, after the Jatitya Sangsad elections held in February, 1991 the AL candidate was declared elected securing 56,683 votes while Tariqul Islam's tally was shown as 56,586.

A case was filed by Tariqul Islam alleging vote rigging by the AL candidate.

Acting on a court order, the recounting was completed on Monday last.

Senior Counsel TH Khan appeared for Tariqul Islam. Mentionably, Advocate Roushan Ali died on August 19 and the constituency was declared vacant. The Election Commission had even fixed November 15 as the date for by-elections. But following the declaration of Tariqul Islam as the winner after the court-ordered recount, lawyers here informed The Daily Star that there would now be no by-election.

## Madonna wants to have a baby



LONDON, Oct 18: Madonna desperately wants to have a baby. The raunchy singer also says in an interview she may have struck it lucky and found her perfect partner at last, reports Reuters.

The BBC, releasing brief advance extracts today of the television interview which will be aired on Sunday night, mentioned no names when referring to Madonna's new man.

It also kept under wraps Madonna's exact quotes about the plans for her love life. All it would reveal was that men normally feel threatened and undermined by her.

"At the age of 36, Madonna tells of her passionate desire to find a partner and start a family," the BBC says of Madonna's interview, conducted in Paris with the comedienne Ruby Wax.

Madonna said she regretted the breakup of many love affairs, particularly with screen heart throb Warren Beatty.

## 5th Amendment desecrates Constitution : Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the Constitution was desecrated by incorporating the 5th Amendment that gave protection to the "self-confessed killers" of country's founding President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and members of his family, reports UNB.

Speaking at a function at the Engineers' Institute marking the 30th anniversary of birth of Sheikh Russel who was killed in the August 15 military coup, Hasina said there is no precedent in the history of civilisation that self-confessed killers were exempted from trial by the Constitution.

"Why I will be deprived of seeking justice from the court of law? Why I will not be allowed to seek trial of the killers of my innocent brother?" she said in an emotion-choked voice. "I leave the question to the conscience of the people."

The Awami League chief asked the people to remain ever alert against recurrence of such tragic incident in the country. "We want peace, we want the return of normal life in society. I am ready to sacrifice my blood for peace."

Hasina alleged the ruling quarters had banished all democratic values. "We want to

bring an end to this."

She suggested that steps should be taken to rehabilitate the slum-children known as tokai by giving them technical education and jobs.

The AL President recommended the proposal made by the Russel Shishu-Kishore Parishad to set up an institute in the name of Russel, her youngest brother. She said that the new generation should know the correct history of the Bengali nation and its heroes.

Presided over by Raqibur Rahman, President of the Parishad, the function was addressed by Razia Matin Chowdhury, Suman and Nabila Ali.

Hasina distributed prizes among the students who made outstanding results in this year's SSC examination.

Meanwhile, Hasina yesterday protested the bomb attack on the residence of Abdur Razzak MP and blamed government for it.

She demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those involved in "the bomb attack on Razzak's residence."

Several home-made bombs were hurled at the Dhanmndi residence of Razzak on Monday night. He was unhurt.

## Shifting of Dhaka Court demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Several thousand lawyers of the Dhaka Bar Association plan to go for an action programme to press home their demand for shifting the court buildings to 'convenient and accessible areas.'

"We have already started a signature campaign which will be followed by other actions including processions, rallies, sit-ins and gherao," said Abdus Sabur, general secretary of the Dhaka Bar Association.

He said the Dhaka Bar currently has more than 6,000 members who have been practising in about 60 courts located in the older part of the capital. More than 25,000 people frequent the court premises every day in connection with cases and other businesses.

"It takes almost two hours to reach the court from Gulistan because of traffic jams. Moreover, the court areas have become very congested and unhygienic," he complained.

The situation will worsen within the next few years as some 500 to 600 new lawyers are getting enrolled every year," he pointed out.

The Dhaka Bar general secretary alleged that Bar Council member Golam Morshed died from suffocation in an overcrowded and small court room last August.

"This atmosphere is reducing our longevity," he added.

Supporting the contention of the Bar secretary, Assistant Attorney General Syed Abu Kausar told The Daily Star that a decision was almost finalised in 1979 to shift the court buildings to the Gulistan area where the Osmani Uddyan, Nagar Bhaban, Rail Bhaban and Police Bhaban are located.

That decision was not implemented for unknown reasons.

He said, every body, irrespective of party affiliation, supports the demand for shifting the Dhaka Court to a more convenient place.

Mujibur Rahman, a member of the Bar, said the government is earning huge revenues from these courts. So, the authorities should respond positively to the demand of the members of this profession.

He said the court is now 106 year old. During the period, Dhaka city has changed enormously. So, this old part of the capital cannot afford the pressure of such a crowd in the court areas, Mujib added.

He also said that the people will be happy if the court buildings are shifted to a spacious zone free from noise and traffic jams and pollution.

## Schoolboys

From Page 1 Col 8

Kurmitola High School, backed by local people, blocked the VIP road at a point only a few yards from the Khilkhet police outpost for the second consecutive day.

They had staged a similar blockade at the same place briefly Monday evening.

Police, however, swooped on the students and passersby with batons, injuring about a dozen of them.

Students and local people alleged the police went into action quite unnecessarily, well after a senior journalist present on the spot had successfully convinced the students — with an assurance to highlight their genuine grievance — to lift the siege and depart peacefully.

Local people and students complained that routine loadshedding from 6 pm to 10 pm almost every night had made the lives of the inhabitants in the Khilkhet, Biswa Road and Kuratola areas miserable. It had especially affected the students of the area whose final examinations are due shortly, prompting them to opt for such demonstration.

The protest was aimed at only drawing the attention of the electricity department and concerned authorities to their plight, the students said.

They said, despite repeated pleas to the electricity authorities, there was no sign of redressal.

In the end, Inspector Shahidullah, the officer in charge of Cantonment thana, within whose jurisdiction the incident happened, displayed good sense and helped diffuse a potentially volatile situation by apologising for the police excess. He also ordered the immediate release of two students and four passersby who were picked up by the police.

An unconditional apology was also tendered to the journalist concerned who helped in tactfully tackling the agitating students.

## Kutubdia tragedy

From Page 1 Col 7

No case had been lodged in connection with the boat capsizing till the filing of this report at nine last night.

Meanwhile, two government committees have started recording the statements of witnesses from the Kutubdia channel area.

The search for more bodies continued for the third day yesterday. The Deputy Commissioner again visited the spot today.

## The Midnight File

### Russian PM resigns

MOSCOW, Oct 18: Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin has submitted his resignation, a Moscow radio station reported tonight quoting sources close to President Boris Yeltsin. Chernomyrdin cited health reasons, said the report by Echo Moscow, reports AP.

### Israel, PLO resume talks

CAIRO, Oct 18: Israel and the PLO today resumed autonomy talks here a week after Israel suspended negotiations in the wake of a hostage crisis. The talks in a Cairo hotel were centred on elections to a future Palestinian Autonomy Council to run civilian affairs in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. "Each party will put forward its suggestions," said Hanneh Jushurun, spokeswoman for the Israeli delegation, reports AFP.

## Charles, Diana

From Page 1 Col 5

Highgrove to burn all the wedding gifts neither of them wanted, the book said.

Morton's book was not due to appear until November 15 and a London newspaper accused Voici of having stolen the manuscript.

Charles wanted to delay the divorce until after the death of his grandmother Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, fearing it would cause her considerable pain. But in the end, he agreed to an earlier date, according to the magazine.

The magazine said Morton's book depicts both Charles and Diana as preoccupied with their image and in constant fear of being snooped on by one another. It said they were

in constant battle with each other since their 1992 separation, with the future care of the children the main topic of contention.

Diana at one point threatened to snatch the children and flee to Australia because she was aware that under the law she had no legal right to them, according to Voici.

"I am the biggest prostitute in the world," Diana is quoted as saying in the book, in describing her official role.

A report from London says: Buckingham Palace said today that Prince Charles and Princess Diana had no plans to divorce.

### Share prices

From Page 1 Col 4

which showed losses Sunday registered significant gains yesterday. Only Beximco Ltd and Beximco Fisheries shares remained steady on the two days.

The number of issues of the companies traded yesterday also increased remarkably. The increases were as follows: Beximco Fisheries — from 680 to 2260; Beximco Knitting — from 1580 to 1920; B. Pharma — from 50 to 150; B. Synthetics — from 760 to 3160; and Beximco Ltd from 5300 to 7500.

The number of issues of Beximco Infusion traded yesterday was 40, while not a single issue of this company was traded on the previous day.

The increases in per share price of Beximco and subsidiary companies are as follows: Beximco Fisheries — from Tk 235.00 to Tk 238.22; B. Knitting — from Tk 184.63 to Tk 186.84; B. Infusion — from Tk 526.00 to Tk 555.00; B. Pharma — from Tk 1410.00 to 1427.38; B. Synthetics — from Tk 209.00 to 218.07; and Beximco Ltd — from Tk 53:35 to Tk 54.45.

## Dialogue

From Page 1 Col 4

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina.

The opposing political camps are to hold the dialogue on the basis of the three-point agenda set earlier by the Commonwealth Secretary General Chief Emeke Anyaoku last month. The agenda includes the issue of strengthening of the Election Commission, debating the question of holding general elections under a caretaker government, and a code of conduct for the political leaders and activists.

After six days of hectic parleys, Sir Ninian succeeded in convincing the parties concerned to begin a dialogue with a view to resolving the impasse.

Meanwhile, sources close to both camps told The Daily Star that both the ruling party and the Opposition would finalise the list of their respective teams for the talks today.

## Commonwealth diplomats

From Page 1 Col 4

said most diplomats present stated they were keenly observing the political situation and offered their suggestions in some instances.

All diplomats talking to this correspondent informed that Sir Ninian, a former Governor General of Australia and seasoned negotiator, was 'very careful' in not disclosing what was happening, so far as the dialogue was concerned.

"Sir Ninian did not even brief us about the preliminary developments. He just sought our views on the situation," one envoy said.

Another told this correspondent that Sir Ninian welcomed 'hard analyses' from the envoys, particularly from those who were familiar with the Bangladesh political scene and who had been here for a long time 'for enlightening him in overcoming the present crisis'.

The British High Commissioner, Peter Fowler, when contacted, said: "We are very concerned about the crisis and are very supportive of Sir Ninian's efforts." He declined to elaborate.

Another diplomat said that Sir Ninian, when asked about

## Chakmas

From Page 1 Col 8

Bangladesh for conducting a total review of the rehabilitation process in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Accordingly, a delegation of Chakma refugee leaders, accompanied by Indian officials, may visit the CHT shortly to see for themselves the condition of returnees before starting the phase of homecoming.

Such visits were undertaken after the first phase of repatriation. A delegation led by Upendra Lal Chakma and another led by the Governor of Tripura Ramesh Bhandari visited Bangladesh before starting the second phase repatriation in August this year.

A total of 5,198 Chakma refugees belonging to 1028 families, out of over 50,000 who crossed over to India returned home in February and August.

Meanwhile, according to reports trickling in from across the border, the Home Ministry of India is scheduled to hold a meeting in New Delhi today to review the Chakma refugees situation.

Tripura State Minister for Home P M Saheed, Tripura Governor Ramesh Bhandari and other concerned officials were expected to attend the meeting, the reports said.

his possible departure schedule, replied he did not have one.

Most of the diplomats agreed the high tea meeting had ended on a positive note. "Everyone wished Sir Ninian success. Nobody was unduly pessimistic."

## FFs' body stages sit-in in city

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Action Council of the Bangladesh MuktiJoddha Kalyan Trust has begun a sit-in demonstration at the Swadhinata Bhaban premises in Moulheel since yesterday to protest the proposed handing over of the building to private ownership.

The council yesterday warned the authorities that if the government did not withdraw the decision, the freedom fighters would gherao the Ministry of Defence on Saturday next.

The sit-in was led by council convener Md Azizur Rahman and member secretary Khandker Abdul Karim

## Sub-judge

From Page 1 Col 5

granted the bail.

Court sources said one Abdul Hossain Talukder filed a case with the court of Sub-judge on September 1 challenging the appointment of four dealers for open market sales (OMS) by a committee headed by the DC. The plaintiff alleged that the appointment was unlawful.

Hearing the case, the learned Sub-judge asked the above defendants to show cause why the appointment should not be deemed illegal. He had also ordered that the status quo should be maintained regarding the appointment and asked the defendants to appear before the court.

The three defendants failed to appear before the court in disregard of the court order.

The Sub-judge thus passed a fresh order today, convicting the three for contempt of court.

The other accused in the case, Assistant Director of the Agricultural Department, Nurul Islam, duly appeared before the Sub-judge and was acquitted of the charges.

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