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VOL. IV NO. 270 REGD. NO. DA 781 KARTIK 9, 1401 BS, DHAKA MONDAY OCTOBER 24, 1994 JAMADEOUL-AWAL 18, 1415 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 5.00

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JCD-Shibir clash in Khulna

One dies, 20 hurt

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 23: A leader of the pro-Jamaat Islami Chhatra Shibir was killed and at least 20 belonging to both the Shibir and the pro-BNP JCD were seriously injured in fierce gun battles that rocked the city today.

Abul Kashem Pathan, assistant general secretary of the Daulatpur Government Braja Lal (BL) College students' union, was gunned down by rival activists near the M M City College here in the morning.

Of the injured, four — Halim, Tarun, Iftekar and Rezaul, all reportedly JCD activists — were rushed to Dhaka at night after doctors at the local Sadar Hospital expressed their inability to provide necessary medical care for lack of expertise and equipment. The conditions of the four were very critical, doctors said.

Ten others, namely, Mithu, Masud, Manik, Bulbul, Zakir, Harun, Mohitosh, Jiban, Mohammad Halim and Ronny who all received bullet and shrapnel wounds, were admitted to the Sadar Hospital in serious state.

Pathan, a final year honours student, was hit by a bullet at around 11:40 am. He was rushed to the city's Gharib-e-Nawaz clinic where doctors declared him dead ten minutes later.

Witnesses said Pathan, who was acting general secretary of the BL College union since September 20 last year following the deaths of three union leaders including the vice president and secretary during a clash with Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal activists, was trying to lead a Shibir procession towards the City College where the admission test for newcomers was scheduled.

As the processionists attempted to enter the City College crackers exploded and guns rattled. Both sides fired indiscriminately from pipeguns, sawed-off rifles, and revolvers. The shooting and explosions continued for nearly an hour as panic stricken students and bystanders ran helter skelter for cover.

Initially, a few policemen posted in the area remained silent onlookers but as the fight intensified they swung into action with the arrival of reinforcements.

Other witnesses claimed both sides chased each other with hockey sticks on the City College campus and eventually the fighting escalated into a gun battle. The violence was a sequel to a clash between the rival students organisations at the BL College campus Saturday in See Page 12 Col 6

Isha murder: One more confesses to crime

By Staff Correspondent

Habibur Rahman Habib, one of the five teenagers accused of murdering schoolboy Ishiaq Ahmed Isha in the city Wednesday, made a confessional statement before a metropolitan magistrate yesterday admitting his involvement in the crime.

He is the second to confess following the admission Saturday by his accomplice and fellow mastermind Zahidul Islam Prince.

The judicial statement over Habib, a 17-year-old auto workshop apprentice, was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

A businessman, Mohammad Sofed, part owner of Kabir Electronics at the Dhaka Stadium market, who was arrested Saturday for buying some goods stolen from Isha's flat by the murders, also made his confessional statement in the Dhaka Magistracy and was sent to jail yesterday.

The three other youths See Page 12 Col 7

Dialogue continues in 'cordial atmosphere'

By Staff Correspondent

The third round of the dialogue between the ruling party and the Opposition in Parliament was held yesterday with both the sides still sticking to their respective stances on the way of holding free and fair elections.

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leader and Chief Whip of Parliament Khandker Delwar Hossain and Awami League (AL) leader and Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Mohammad Nasim, in a joint statement, said the discussions were going on in a 'cordial atmosphere'.

The statement was issued while the talks continued at the Cabinet Room of the Sangsad Bhaban.

Prof. Badruddoza Chowdhury of the BNP and Abus Samad Azad of the Awami League led the ruling party and the opposition teams respectively at the dialogue.

Yesterday's session of the talks began at 6:45 pm and was adjourned at 11:20pm. The fourth will be held at 6:30 this evening.

Four members of the ruling party delegation — Whip Ashraf Hossain, Wing Commander (Retd.) Hamidullah, Major (Retd.) Kamrul Islam and Rezaul Karim — took part in the discussion, while Suranjit Sengupta, Salauddin Quader Chowdhury, Maulana Obaidul Huq and non-MP presidium member of the Awami League Abdul Jalil spoke on behalf of the Opposition.

The BNP representatives once again expressed their commitments to introduction of a fool-proof electoral system, but felt that a stronger Election Commission was enough to ensure free and fair elections.

Criticising the Opposition-proposed caretaker government for holding polls, they See Page 12 Col 1

Abahani-MSC clash today

Sports Reporter

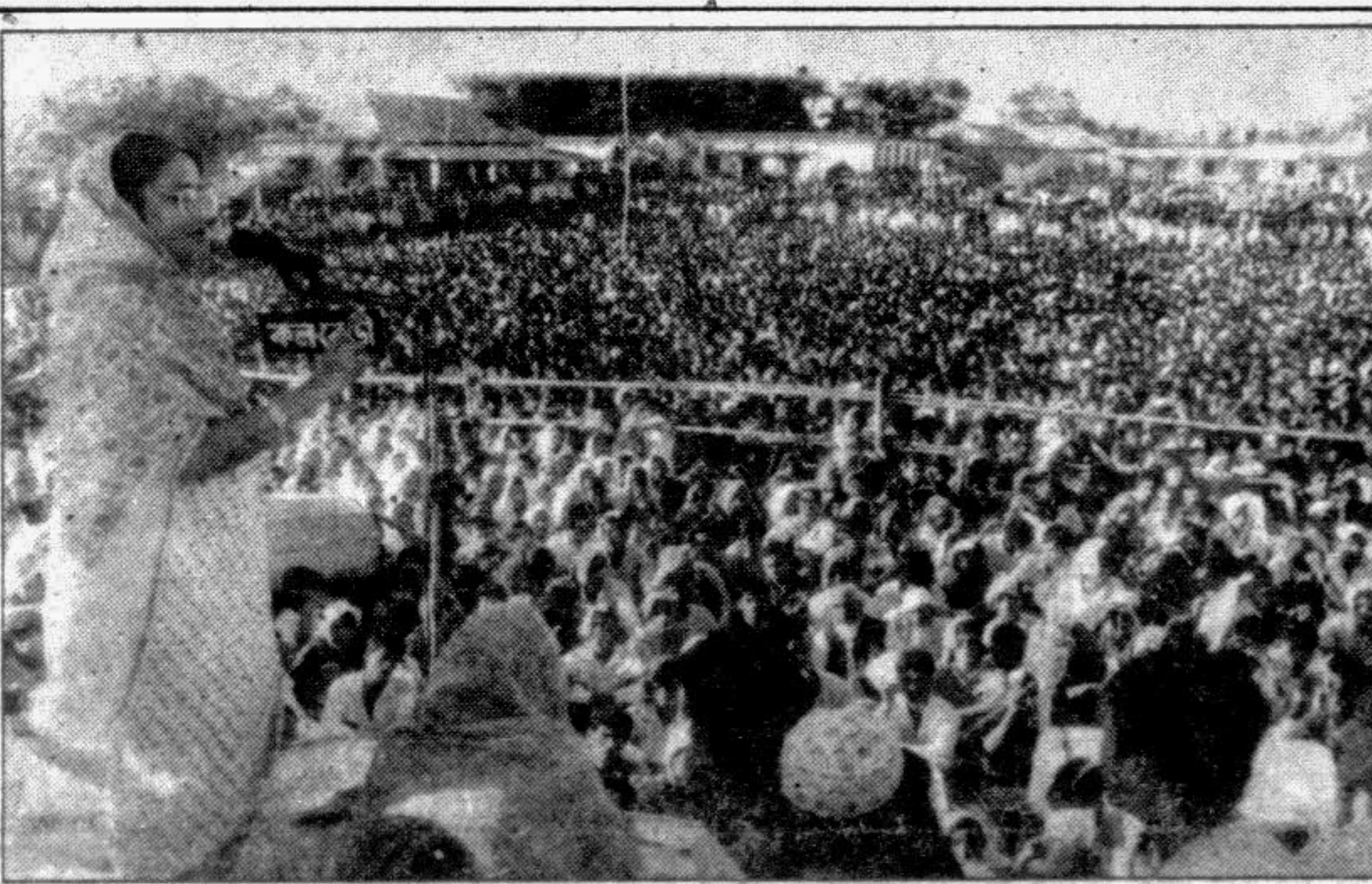
The 1994 domestic football season comes to a virtual end today with new champions Abahani Krira Chakra and last year's winners Mohammedan Sporting Club matching up for the 38th time at the Dhaka Stadium. The prestigious tie kicks off at 5:30 pm.

Apart from its traditional spicy flavour, the clash of the local giants has very little to contribute as far as this year's league honours are concerned.

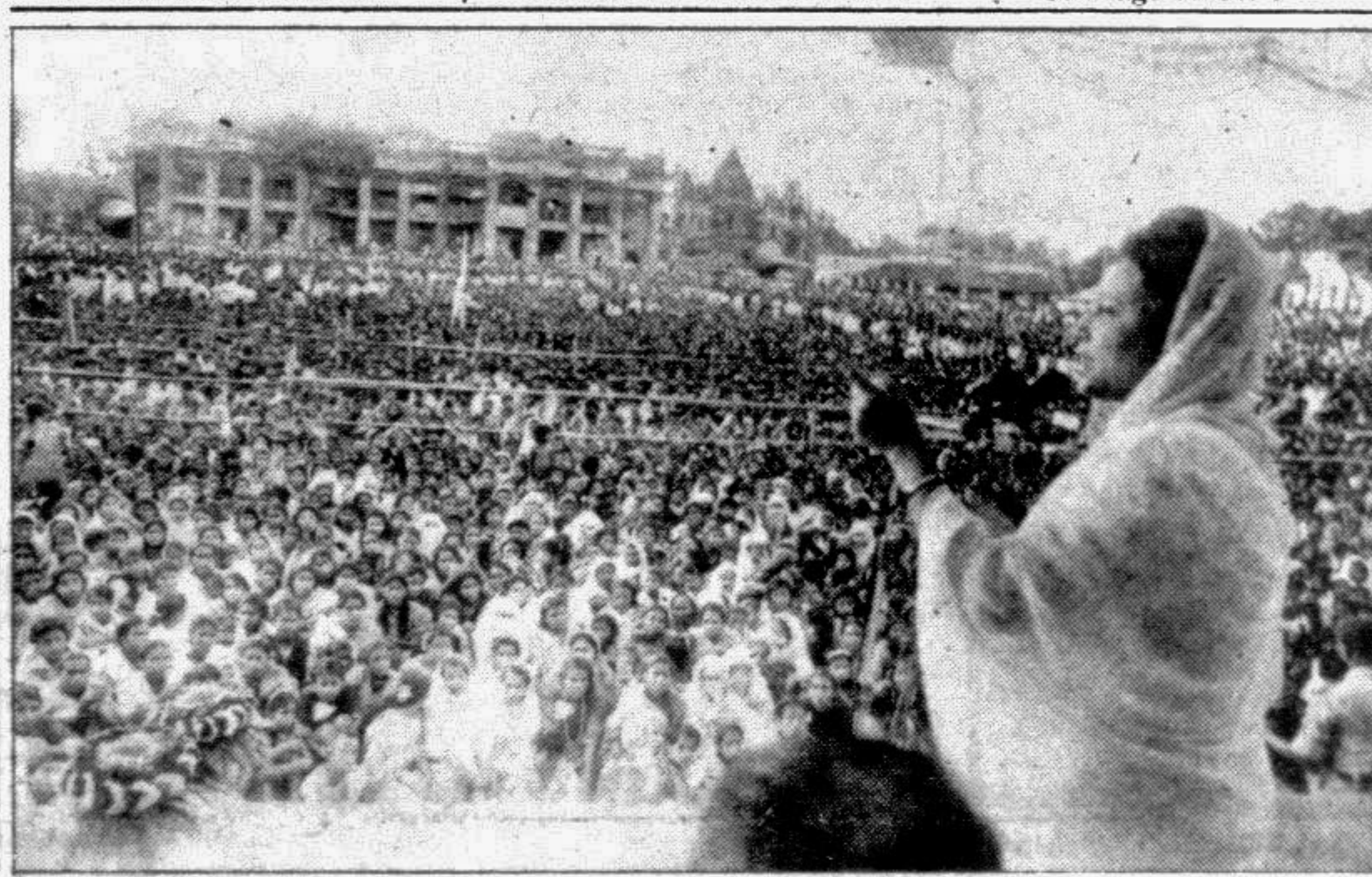
For Mohammedans it's now a question of breaking the jinx against their traditional foes, who have maintained a clean slate in the two teams' league confrontations since 1987.

While for Abahani today's match will decide if they can maintain their unbeaten run in this year's championship.

Of the 38 meetings in the league so far, Mohammedans and Abahani have won 12 matches apiece while the rest were either drawn or abandoned.



Awami League chief and leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina speaking at a public meeting at Shakhipur in Shariatpur district yesterday.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a huge public meeting at Puthia Degree College ground in Rajshahi district yesterday. — PID photo

Dhaka-N'ganj bus service suspended following clash

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, Oct 23: The bus service between Narayanganj and Dhaka remained suspended from midnight last night following clashes between a group of motor vehicle mechanics and local people of North Isdair area of the town.

A few buses, however, resumed plying on the route this evening.

The clashes left at least 12 persons including a woman injured. A motor mechanic Osman, who was seriously injured was sent to the Chest Diseases Hospital in Dhaka while Sagar, his mother Amena Khatun, and brother Akhter Kibria and another automobile worker were admitted to the Narayanganj Hospital.

See Page 12 Col 1

NEWS BRIEFS

Dhaka-Pretoia diplomatic ties
 Bangladesh and South Africa have established diplomatic relations at the level of high commissioner, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in the city yesterday. Bangladesh government, it said, would soon open a resident mission in the South African capital of Pretoria. The Foreign Ministry said this would pave the way for expansion of bilateral cooperation in various fields including trade, commerce, investments, culture and sports, reports BSS.

3 held with arms in Ctg
 CHITTAGONG, Oct 23: Port police arrested three alleged miscreants and recovered one gun and four bullet from their possession from Chota Bridge of Nintala here last night, police said today. Acting on a secret information, a police squad rounded up the miscreants. Local people also assisted the police, reports BSS.

One killed in road mishap
 MAGURA, Oct 23: A passenger was killed and eight others were injured when a tempo fell into a roadside ditch while trying to overtake a bullock cart at Jagla on Magura-Arpara road today. Nimal Chandra Biswas, 40, a Mohor in the district court, succumbed to his injuries at Magura General Hospital at 11 am. UNB.

Students clash in Sylhet
From Our Correspondent
 SYLHET, Oct 23: Three students were injured in a clash between the activists of the Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal and Bangladesh Chhatra League (S-P) on the Sylhet Government College campus today. They also exchanged fire during the clash.

Pak customs seize 79 kg of heroin
 KARACHI, Oct 23: Pakistani customs authorities said today they had arrested four Africans and seized from them about 79 kg of heroin, which they estimated had a street value of 17 million US dollar in the West. The four were arrested at Karachi airport. Reuter.

Copenhagen summit

Dhaka can play a vital role, UN agencies say

By Staff Correspondent

Heads of different UN Agencies in Bangladesh have expressed the view that Dhaka, in the context of the seven-nation SAARC, could play a leadership role at the World Summit for Social Development in Copenhagen in March next in eradicating poverty.

They also lauded the country's efforts for promoting a strong political commitment towards poverty alleviation and putting the issue top on the agenda of the Summit.

The heads of the UN organisations were discussing various aspects of the forthcoming summit with senior media representatives over a luncheon yesterday.

The meet-the-press was organised on the eve of the 49th United Nations Day to be observed worldwide today.

Eimi Watanabe, Resident Representative of the UN Development Programme (UNDP), noted that the Social Development Summit provide the opportunity to grapple with the challenges of poverty alleviation, job creation and social integration.

To actively participate, the government of Bangladesh has already formed two inter-ministerial committees on the World Summit — the Working Committee for preparatory and organisational work, and the Drafting Committee for academic support and preparation of a country paper, she said.

A number of leading NGOs of the country are also organising preparatory activities for the meet which include formulation of national social development agenda.

A joint walkathon will be organised today by the Federation. See Page 12 Col 6

People has lost trust in BNP: Hasina

SHAKHIPUR, Shariatpur.
 Oct 23: Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina today said the people lost trust in the BNP government because of "rampant corruption, vote robbery and terrorism", reports UNB.

She demanded parliamentary election under a neutral caretaker authority to establish a responsible government to resolve the basic problems of people and revitalise national economy.

"People would not feel safe to vote under the present government... A neutral caretaker government is the only alternative," Hasina told a public meeting at Islamia School ground here this afternoon on the last day of her 4-day tour of southern districts.

She also addressed a rally at Goshairhat in the district.

The Awami League President alleged widespread corruption, terrorism and said the ruling party's failure to fulfil its election pledges has compelled the people to raise the demand for caretaker government.

She said unemployment, illiteracy and poverty were plaguing the nation. Awami League has taken up plans to remove illiteracy, one of the major problems facing the country, Hasina said.

FBCCI call 'Stop protests that hinder progress'

By Staff Correspondent

The outgoing President of the FBCCI Mahbubur Rahman has repeated his call for an end to the 'most severely damaging medium of protest' like general strikes.

"I have come out in public on the issue of general strikes and industrial action and the public support to this stand has been most encouraging. I hope with this initiation by the business community, the country will be able to avoid this most severely damaging medium of protest while democracy prevails", Mahbubur Rahman said at a press briefing yesterday at the Federation Bhaban in the city yesterday.

He said this type of political programme "affects our competitiveness, disrupts our export commitments, damages our image and diverts our trade to our competitors bringing impoverishment to our people and bankruptcy to our entrepreneurs".

Describing the achievements of the FBCCI during his tenure, Mahbubur Rahman said significant progress was made in bringing about an enabling atmosphere for private sector. See Page 12 Col 3

PM tells meeting in Rajshahi BNP wants to solve issues thru' talks

PUTHIA (Rajshahi), Oct 23:
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said BNP does not like conflict and wants to resolve problems through discussion as it believes in peace and development, reports UNB.

But she made it clear that her party cannot "bow to any injustice and would always stand against injustice."

Begum Zia told a mammoth public meeting at Puthia College in the district this afternoon that some people and parties were creating issues to jeopardise the government's development efforts.

The Prime Minister called upon all to guard against them and said BNP had set examples of holding fair elections during its rule. She cited City Corporation and UP elections as well as different parliamentary by-elections.

"BNP concedes defeat even if it comes while it is in power. We have proved it. But they never do it," Begum Zia said.

Criticising the Opposition, Begum Zia said they were raising those issues to cover up their past failures.

The BNP stands for production and development, so there is no alternative to BNP in the country, she said and urged the people to uphold the politics of food and clothes, not destruction.

The Prime Minister recalled that people had sacrificed a lot in nine years of struggle for the restoration of democracy in the country and now it is the duty of all to maintain the hard-earned democracy.

"Bangladesh is no longer a 'bottomless basket' she said adding "A country in the grip of famine has now near food autarky," she also assured the people that there is a huge food stock and there would be See Page 12 Col 8

AIDS patient dies in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Oct 23: The patient carrying AIDS virus died of heart attack at his village home at Tajpur under Purba Muria union of Begunbazar thana early today.

The Civil Surgeon when contacted, told the correspondent to night that the patient was scheduled to be brought to the Sylhet MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital today for HIV test but he died at 2 am.

Abdul Matin, 25, son of late Ibrahim Ali, went to Dubai on August 1 this year. But he was deported from there on October 8 after he was found carrying AIDS virus. Prof M A Khaled, ex-principal of the Osmani Medical College, also found him carrying the AIDS virus.

He was buried at his village this afternoon.

Israel urges PLO to join crackdown on Hamas

CAIRO, Oct 23: Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres today said Israel would honour its peace accord with the Palestinians, but he urged the PLO to crack down on Muslim radicals trying to wreck the agreement, reports AP.

Peres arrived here for talks with PLO officials and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak as peace talks with the Palestinians were threatened by deadly attacks on Israelis by the PLO's opponents.

After meeting the Mubarak, Peres said Israel's peace agreement with Jordan, to be signed next week, will not distract the Israeli government from its relations with the Palestinians.

"We shall keep to the word and the spirit of our agreement with the Palestinians," he told reporters. "We shall remain concerned with the economic situation in Gaza and Jericho."

But Peres, who was to meet later with a delegation headed by chief PLO negotiator Nabil Shaath, also urged the Palestinians to join Israel in cracking down on radical opponents of the peace process.

Stop-and-go talks between the PLO and Israel were temporarily suspended last Wednesday after a bus bombing in Tel Aviv killed more than 20 people. The radical Muslim group Hamas claimed responsibility for the blast.

Hamas said on Saturday it would blow up buildings in Tel Aviv if Israel destroyed Arab homes.

Meanwhile, Israeli Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin today said he accepted in principle negotiations with Hamas. See Page 12 Col 7

Clinton begins four-day Mideast tour today

WASHINGTON, Oct 23:
 President Clinton is leaving for the Middle East tomorrow to show support for those seeking peace, the US ambassador to the United Nations said today, reports Reuter.

Clinton's trip was planned because he wants to be seen "standing by the people who are standing up for Middle East peace," Madeleine Albright said on NBC's "meet the press" programme. "It's very important to keep the momentum going."

Asked if Clinton's visit to Damascus was meant to pay homage to a country the United States has branded as a sponsor of terrorism and a source of illicit drugs, Albright said Clinton wished to focus on the peace process. "Syria is a very important piece" of the peace puzzle, she said.

Clinton will make a four-day trip to six countries, including a visit to Syria. His first stop is Cairo where he will meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and Yasser Arafat, Chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Wednesday.

Later that day he is to travel to the border between Jordan and Israel to witness the signing of a peace accord reached by the two countries last week and then fly to Amman to address the Jordanian parliament.

Meanwhile, Jordan's powerful Islamic Action Front Party, strident opponent of US policies, said today its deputies would boycott Clinton's address to parliament.

The front, with 16 deputies, is the largest political party in the 80-seat house, dominated by centrists who See Page 12 Col 7

Press Note 'Some reports on drought are exaggerated'

The government yesterday said a section of newspapers had been exaggerating reports on the drought situation in the northern districts, reports UNB.

It also alleged that the newspapers did not give proper coverage of the government's relief measures in the region.

It said such reports were politically motivated, confusing and designed to tarnish the image of the government.

In a Press Note the govt said it had undertaken necessary measures to mitigate the sufferings of the people as soon as the drought erupted in the northern districts.

The Prime Minister herself visited the drought-hit districts and appointed one minister. See Page 12 Col 2

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড
 ঢাকা।

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডে কর অবকাশের আবেদন প্রত্যাহানের প্রেক্ষিতে রিভিউ পিটিশন দাখিল ও ইহার নিষ্পত্তি সংক্রান্ত বিষয়ে নিম্নরূপ সময়সীমা নির্ধারণ করা হইয়াছে:

(ক) কর অবকাশের আবেদন প্রত্যাহানের আদেশ পাঞ্জির তারিখ হইতে ৯০ (নব্বই) দিনের মধ্যে রিভিউ পিটিশন দাখিল করিতে হইবে।

(খ) রিভিউ পিটিশন দাখিলের তারিখ হইতে ৬০ (ষাট) দিনের মধ্যে রিভিউ পিটিশন বোর্ড কর্তৃক নিষ্পত্তি হইবে।

তবে যে সকল রিভিউ পিটিশন এই আদেশ জারীর পূর্বে দাখিল করা হইয়াছে ঐ সকল রিভিউ পিটিশন নিষ্পত্তির ক্ষেত্রে উপরোক্ত (ক) ও (খ) এর সিদ্ধান্ত প্রযোজ্য হইবে না। ঐ সকল রিভিউ পিটিশন বোর্ডের প্রশাসনিক আদেশটি জারীর ৬০ (ষাট) দিনের মধ্যে নিষ্পত্তি করা হইবে। সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলকে উপরোক্ত সময়সীমা অনুসরণ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হইল।

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জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড