

Dutch ministry official due today

By Staff Correspondent
Frans A. Engering, Director General of the Ministry of Economic Affairs, The Netherlands, is due to arrive in the city today on a four-day visit.

The visit is expected to strengthen the economic relations between Bangladesh and the Netherlands.

The Netherlands is one of the first countries to recognise Bangladesh. The Dutch Embassy in Dhaka was established in early 72.

Two die in Sylhet road mishap

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Oct 30: Two persons were killed in separate road accidents here today and yesterday.

Rizul Begum, 18, of village Sadipur of Kulaura thana, travelling on a rickshaw, was knocked down and crushed under the wheels of a speeding passenger bus at the Bhartakholia area of Sylhet town at about 10 this morning.

The other accident took place between the Julai and Satpari bridges on the Sylhet-Zakiganj road.

Abdul Maleque, 15, of village Daba Dharanir Mati of Dighirpat union under Kanakhat thana died when a hit and run microbus crushed him.

Talks rules

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General Abdus Salam Talukdar had divulged the contents of Saturday's meeting between the government and Opposition delegations.

Kibria, in his complaint, cited reported disclosures of Saturday's proceedings appearing in a section of the vernacular dailies which quoted Salam Talukdar.

The parties involved in the Commonwealth-mediated dialogue to end the country's present political impasse are not supposed to disclose anything about the tone and tenor of the discussions to the media.

However, Sir Ninian is learnt to have issued a letter to the BNP pointsmen and Deputy Leader of Parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury seeking a clarification relating to Kibria's complaint.

Admitting the issue of Sir Ninian's letter, a BNP negotiator told The Daily Star last night on condition of anonymity, that Prof Chowdhury would meet the Commonwealth envoy sometime today. Salam Talukdar is likely to accompany Prof Chowdhury to personally explain his position.

AL, JP, Jamaat

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Ats gathering at the Bangabandhu Avenue near the South Gate of the Baitul Mukarram at 3 pm. Central leaders including Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Moudud Ahmed will address the meeting.

The Jamaat-e-Islami will stage its rally at the North Gate of the Baitul Mukarram at 3:30 pm. Jamaat leaders Abbas Ali Khan and Maulana Matinur Rahman Nizami MP will address the rally.

Jute gutted

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electric cable inside a godown around 8:15 pm.

Within minutes the fire spread across three godowns in a row having a stock of 50,000 maunds (18.66 lakh kg) of jute.

Power sector

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equipment and temporary shutdown of the power stations for regular maintenance on alternative basis.

Consumption of power at four peak hours during the evening reach 1900 mw, causing loadshedding at times. The demand during the rest of 20 hours varies from 1100 mw to 1300 mw.

With the present consumption rate, setting up private power stations will mean the government has to provide significant amount in subsidy on power or charge the subscribers at almost double the present rate, some PDB men indicated.

They suggested setting up of plants under suppliers' credit should be the only alternative for a Third World country like Bangladesh. "Bangladesh is not yet ready for setting up private power plants," said one of the PDB officials.

The government already provides substantial subsidy on gas, which is even below its economic cost, to the PDB for generating power.

The PDB generates a unit of electricity at Tk 2.30 and sells it at Tk 1.60.

Meghna-Gumti Bridge opens tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Direct road link between the capital and the port city of Chittagong is being established tomorrow with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia opening the 1.41 km bridge over the Meghna-Gumti rivers at Daudkandi.

It will now take just four hours to reach Chittagong from Dhaka by road since there will be no ferry service in the 257 km long route.

Begum Zia will be the first to cross the bridge in a motorcade, opening the bridge to traffic.

Construction of the Tk 312.94 crore bridge has been completed 16 months ahead of schedule. Begum Zia had laid its foundation stone on September 3, 1991.

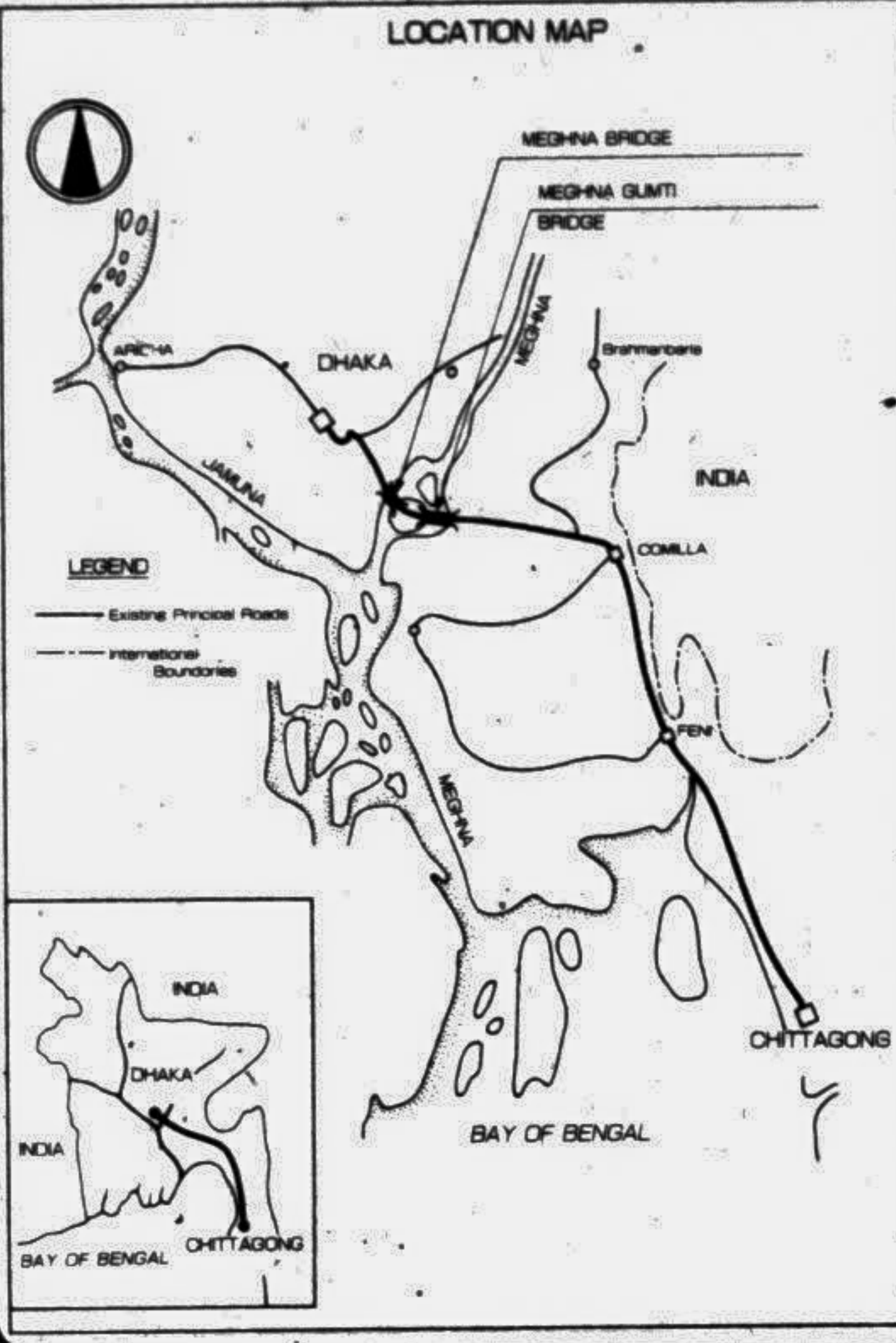
Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, MP,

President of Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians Association and Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Association, will also be present at the inaugural ceremony.

Japanese firm Obayashi Corporation constructed the bridge with the help of 562,000 workers and 33 engineers.

The average daily traffic over the bridge has been estimated at 4,757 vehicles during the current year which will continue to rise.

This is the second Japan-Bangladesh friendship bridge for which the Japanese government gave a Tk 257 crore grant. The Japan-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge-1 over the Meghna was opened to traffic on June 30, 1990.



Tk 50cr credit scheme for unemployed youths soon

Youth and Sports Ministry has decided to open a credit scheme for the unemployed youths, reports UNB.

A total of Tk 50 crore will be provided to them through the Directorate of Youths Development under the proposed 'Youth Loan Project', said State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain yesterday.

Addressing a press conference at the ministry on the eve of Youth Day tomorrow, Sadeque Hossain said the government was trying to build a self-reliant generation by providing training, loan and other facilities for the youths.

He said the Youth Loan Project had been sent to the Planning Commission for approval and hoped that it could be launched within six months.

"Any unemployed youth who is able to give a good project plan will get the loan direct from the Directorate without hitting any snags," he asserted.

The government has also decided to expand the ongoing training programmes in different parts of the country and is trying to introduce two new

programmes — one for the illiterate youths and other for the educated — he said.

The illiterate youths will be provided with general education and different vocational, trade, health and family planning trainings while the educated youths will be attached with computer processing and data entry programme through satellite system, he informed.



Sadeque Hossain

BGMEA

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ers were willing to meet their pledge to eliminate child labour but they apprehended that such action would bring the retrenched children only miseries unless opportunities to provide them education and other facilities were not created first. They might be pushed into adopting more demanding ways for earning their livelihood and may even take to crimes.

On this humanitarian consideration the BGMEA noted that the organisation would reassess its earlier commitment.

The Unicef, UCEP, GSS and AAFLI, on the other hand, suggested that a more comprehensive programme should be taken up to provide professional education facilities for displaced children and other services to reduce the risk that dismissed children might be placed abruptly into a more difficult situation.

According to this suggestion, the BGMEA president agreed to postpone its deadline until a more professional schooling system and other measures were taken for the affected children.

The GSS, UCEP, Unicef, ILO and AAFLI agreed to strongly support the BGMEA in its determination to progressively eliminate child labour and that the process would begin in the near future, a press release said.

Nasim

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tisan, caretaker government headed by a neutral person.

Regarding the press briefing rules for the dialogue, Nasim said there was an agreement between the government and the Opposition that nothing about the dialogue or talks beyond the joint statement would be disclosed to the press.

But, he said, BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar had Saturday leaked their proposal to newspapers "in violation of the agreement".

Earlier, Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina had a meeting with the leaders of the opposition parties and groups at her Parliament office yesterday afternoon. It discussed the latest development following the ruling party's proposal and also the Opposition's next strategy.

According to meeting sources, Hasina requested her opposition colleagues to prepare for resigning from Parliament to mount pressure on the government to meet the demand for a non-partisan caretaker administration.

The meeting was attended by Mohiuddin Ahmed, Begum Sajeda Chaudhury, Tofael Ahmed, Sudhanshu Shekhar Haider of Awami League, Maudud Ahmed and Anwar Hossain Manju of Jatiya Party, Sheikh Ansar Ali of Jamaat-e-Islami, Suranjit Sengupta of Ganotantri Party and Salahuddin Quader of the NDP.



The visiting Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians Association president and former Japanese Foreign Minister Hiroshi Mitsuzuka called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Japan to provide fund for Rly (subway) in Dhaka

Japan has agreed to carry out feasibility study and provide fund for constructing underground railway (subway) in Dhaka to ease the capital's traffic congestion, reports UNB.

The Japanese authorities are also ready to offer training and different courses of study to Bangladesh to see the subway in Japan and have practical and on-the-ground experience thereon.

The agreement came in a meeting between a three-member Japanese delegation headed by Hiroshi Mitsuzuka, president of the Japan-Bangladesh Parliamentarians Association (JBPA), and Communications Minister Oli Ahmed in the city yesterday.

Moreover, possibilities of Japanese assistance in the form of grants and loans were also discussed for construction of Bhairab Bridge over the Meghna, Paksey Road Bridge, Dhaleshwari second Bridge, five small bridges between Kanchpur and Daudkandi, Saikata Road (Marine Drive) along the seabeach from Cox's Bazar to Teknaf and a tunnel under the Karnaphuli riverbed. The Japanese delegation agreed to consider the propos-

als sympathetically and take up to the appropriate authorities.

Oli Ahmed expressed thanks and gratitude for the assistance so far provided by Japan in road and bridge sector, particularly in Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge, the physical construction works of which started on October 16, and Meghna-Gumti Bridge which will be opened to traffic next Tuesday.

College girl dies in city mishap

By DMCH Correspondent

A college girl died in a road accident in the city's Sonargon Road yesterday morning.

Shilpi Sarkar, an intermediate student of the Lalmita Women's College, was going to college from her Malibagh residence by a rickshaw around 9 in the morning.

Witnesses said Shilpi fell from the rickshaw when it was hit by an auto-rickshaw and immediately a speeding bus smashed her on the spot.

Shilpi was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doctors on emergency duty declared her dead.

Ershad's trial: Defence cross-examines PW-2

G K S M Shahjahan Amin, a retired joint secretary, yesterday told the Special Judge's Court trying deposed president H M Ershad in the Japanese relief boat purchase case that the Relief Ministry did not take the initiative to procure the boats, reports BSS.

The ERD (Economic Relations Division) might have initiated it, Amin, prosecution witness (PW-2) in the Special Case No 19 of 1993 said during cross-examination.

Answering a defence query, Amin said secretaries of the Ministry of Relief and the ERD had correspondence in writing on the possibility of procuring relief boats in the light of the devastating floods in the country in 1988. He, however, did not say anything whether the Defence Ministry was involved in any manner in the procurement of the boats.

Amin served as a joint secretary in the Ministry of Relief when the boats were procured from Japan under a debt relief grant.

Deposed president Ershad and a Japanese national (being tried in absentia) are the accused in this case.

The prosecution alleged that the former president had abused his official position in the purchased deal causing the state to suffer a loss of about Tk 33 crore.

The PW-2 stated that a proposal to procure emergency shallow-draft boats and setting up of disaster preparedness centre was put forward by the Marubeni Corporation, the firm which eventually supplied the boats.

When asked by Yusuf Hossain Humayun, Ershad's defence counsel, PW-2 admitted the receipt of recommendation from the President's Secretariat on procurement of the boats. He also mentioned that the recommendations were actually made by Ershad himself.

Amin was the convenor of the five-member committee formed to finalise the specifications of the boats to be purchased.

During testimony given last month, Amin said the committee had received three specifications, including the one by Marubeni, which he said was actually given to the Relief Secretary by Ershad.

During the cross-examination, Amin said although Kinshu Mataichi was the lowest bidder, the boat contract was given to Marubeni Corporation. He confirmed the defence's assertion that an enquiry carried out by the Bangladesh embassy in Tokyo

had disproved the claim of Mataichi that Toyo Engineering, a supplier Mataichi had named to build the boats, was in fact a ship-builder. He, however, stated that Mataichi, though not possessing any shipyard facilities, had arrangements with some shipyards.

The cross-examinations remained incomplete when the hearing was adjourned till today.

Former minister Mahbubur Rahman, who was present in the court as an attorney of the accused was, however, seen talking with Ershad who was sitting in the dock during almost the entire period of cross-examination.

White House

From Page 1 Col 5

plane crashed into the lawn and the wreckage tumbled into the White House just below the President's quarters.

Duran was later charged with unlawful possession of a firearm and damaging government property, a secret service spokesman said today.

Authorities say Duran, a 26-year-old hotel worker, let loose a stream of bullets from an SKS Chinese-made semi-automatic rifle through the iron gates of the White House Saturday afternoon.

A spokesman for the secret service, the agency that guards the President, said Duran would be arraigned on Monday before a US magistrate.

Depression over Bay

The depression over south-west Bay and adjoining west central Bay moved slightly northwards, concentrated into a deep depression over the same area and was centred at 6 pm yesterday about 1390 kilometres southwest of Mongla port, reports UNB.

The deep depression is likely to intensify further and move in a west northwesterly direction.

Maximum sustained wind within 48 kilometres of the depression centre is about 50 kilometre per hour rising to 60 kph in gust or squall.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to lower distant cautionary signal number 1 but instead hoist distant warning signal number 2.

All fishing boats and trawlers over deep sea and north Bay have been advised to come close to the coast and proceed with caution.

Japanese help

From Page 1 Col 4

advancement, said the Japanese lawmaker when he called on the Prime Minister at her office yesterday.

He recalled Begum Zia's recent visit to Japan and said it further strengthened relationship between the two countries.

Hiroshi Mitsuzuka expressed his gratitude to Begum Zia on behalf of the government and people of Japan for Bangladesh's support to Japan in securing a UN Security Council seat.

Referring to Japan-Bangladesh 2nd Friendship Bridge on the Meghna-Gumti river, Mitsuzuka said the people would be benefited by the bridge and it was a long-cherished dream of this region's people.

"The bridge will stand as a symbol of Japan-Bangladesh friendship," he observed.

The member of the House of the Representatives observed that the bilateral relations between Japan and Bangladesh were developing day by day.

Shahjadpur College closed as JCD, BCL clash

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 30: Shahjadpur Government College was closed today for two days after the Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) activists clashed on the campus, injuring at least nine, reports UNB.

Police said the clash began on the campus when the Chhatra Dal activists brought out a procession at 11 this morning and stormed the residence of a BCL leader nearby.

The JCD activists allegedly stoned and ransacked the residence of Mostaque Hossain near the TNO office and injured him and other workers.

Other BCL activists rushed in and locked in the fighting. Three crackers were exploded during the trouble which lasted nearly half an hour until police intervened.

The injured were admitted to the Potazi Health Complex.

Tension had gripped the campus since Saturday following a clash between the two student groups which left several people injured.

Tariqul

From Page 1 Col 8

the Jessore-3 seat in 1991 and subsequently filed a case with the Election Tribunal challenging the results. The tribunal, however, dismissed the case on October 22, the day Tariqul filed nomination papers for the by-polls in the JS seat.

With the announcement of Tariqul being elected from the Jessore-3 constituency, voting for the by-election, which was to be held November 15, has now become redundant.

With the completion of the Jessore-3 by-election, the number of such polls for the present Jatiya Sangsad has risen to 19.

The fifth JS will also require another by-election to the Sherpur-3 seat as its MP Dr Sirajul Haq of BNP had died in a road accident recently.

Gopalganj clash

From Page 1 Col 4

DC at around 10.30.

Police then resorted to lathicharge, lobbed tear gas shells and also fired rubber bullets to disperse the agitated processionists.

During the clashes that continued for hours, the students assaulted the OC, who was on duty, and also set his motorbike afire.

Later, a rally was held in the town protesting the police action. Leaders and supporters of different political parties, student groups and other organisations attended the rally. Local pourashaba chairman Asmat Ali presided over the rally addressed by local Awami League leader Md Abdullah and leader Sheikh Moniruzzaman.

The rally called a hartal here with immediate effect and a half-day hartal tomorrow protesting the police action.

The rally also decided that a memorandum will be handed over to the district authorities.

The Midnight File

Strike paralyses Kashmir: 22 killed overnight

NEW DELHI, Oct 30: At least 22 people died overnight in Kashmir as a protest strike against the slaying of a Muslim rebel leader by Indian troops paralysed life in the northern Indian valley, the Press Trust of India (PTI) said today. It said 12 of the 22 people killed were Muslim rebels shot dead by Indian soldiers in separate gunbattles during the past 24 hours in Kashmir, the country's only Muslim-majority state, reports AFP.

Israel reopens border crossings with Gaza tomorrow

CASABLANCA, (Morocco), Oct 30: Israel will begin reopening border crossings with the Gaza Strip from Tuesday, Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin said Sunday, but warned that he will do 'whatever needed' to contain violence by Palestinian militants. The Gaza Strip, from which 30,000 Palestinian labourers enter Israel daily to work, was closed after a bus bombing October 19 that killed 22 people, reports AP.

Hasina Swaran Singh dead

From Page 1 Col 8

tion of the BNP regime and election under a neutral caretaker government.

The Awami League president was addressing workers and employees of the Kalia Chapra Sugar Mills in Kishoreganj who came to meet her at 29 Minto Road in the afternoon.

Hasina alleged that mills and factories were being closed for wrong policy, inefficiency and corruption of the present government, causing sufferings to poor workers and employees.

There would not be any welfare of the people as long as this government holds on to power," she said and called for building united protest against the closure of mills and factories, re-trenchment of workers and repressive policy.

Earlier, labour leaders of the Kalia Chapra Mills apprised Hasina that sudden closure of the mills had made uncertain the fate of 30,000 sugarcane growers and 1,500 mills workers and employees.

Convenor of the Chinikal Sangram Parishad Matinur Rahman Chowdhury and Shaful Islam Sarkar of the Akhchashi Sangram Parishad also spoke on the occasion. They requested Hasina to take initiative to reopen the mills.

KLM flights

From Page 1 Col 5

Dhaka is the 155th destination of the KLM which has been operating in 80 countries.

The inaugural flight to Dhaka will carry, among others, deputy President of the KLM C Den Hartog, chief of air transport policy division of the directorate of civil aviation C Den Braven, former Netherlands ambassador to Bangladesh Henricus Gajentaan, President of Amsterdam airport Schiphol HNJ Smits, head of the department of Asia and Oceania in the foreign affairs ministry K Van Toorn and Director General of Foreign Economic Relations F A Engering.

A Dutch trade delegation will also arrive in Dhaka today.

KLM is one of the oldest airlines in the world which celebrated its 75th founding anniversary on October 7 this year. It has a fleet of 90 aircraft, having an average age of only four years.

The airlines has 24,000 staff worldwide. It maintains close business links with the Northwest Airlines of the USA in a total of 400 destinations.

After years of study and survey, the KLM has decided to operate in Bangladesh, considered by it a "potential market."

The flight was delayed by six and a half hours. The second left Zia International Airport on schedule at 8:40pm.

Airport sources said the flight was delayed because the Dhaka control tower had failed to receive a timely clearance.

Today, three flights are scheduled to depart for Calcutta at 11am, 6-15 pm and 8-10 pm.

Biman had suspended all its flights to India late last month following the plague scare.

The national carrier will resume its flights to Bombay November 9 while the New York flight would make its regular stopover in New Delhi from November 7. Biman sources added.

তাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এণ্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড

(পেট্রোবালার একটি সাবসিডিয়ারী কোম্পানী)

ফোন: ৮৬০৫৫০, ৮৬০৫৫১, ৮৬০৫৫২, ৮১৯৩৯৯, ৮১২১০৫-৪২

বিশেষ জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

আমন্ত্রিত সম্মানিত অতিথিবৃন্দসহ সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, আগামী ২রা নভেম্বর, ১৯৯৪/১৮ই কার্তিক, ১৪০১ শেরপুর জেলা শহরে অনুষ্ঠিতব্য তাস গ্যাস সরবরাহের উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠান অনিবার্য কারণ বশতঃ ৮ই নভেম্বর, ১৯৯৪/২৪শে কার্তিক, ১৪০১ রোজ মঙ্গলবার অনুষ্ঠিত হইবে। উদ্বোধনী অনুষ্ঠানের স্থান ও সময়সূচী অপরিবর্তিত থাকিবে। ০২ নভেম্বর '৯৪ এর আমন্ত্রণপত্র ০৮ নভেম্বর '৯৪ এর জন্য প্রযোজ্য হইবে।

"গাছ লাগান, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান"-প্রধানমন্ত্রী

তাস/জনসংযোগ-৫০/৯৪-৯৫

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