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## Army, BDR to be deployed for fair by-polls: CEC

KHULNA, Aug 31: Strong contingents of army police, Ansar and BDR will be deployed on September 3 to police the parliamentary byelections scheduled for September 5, reports UNB.

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena informed a meeting at the Deputy Commissioner's office here today of the Election Commission decision, aimed at ensuring fool-proof security in the byelections in 15 constituencies.

He said the measure had been taken as the EC took the byelection as a challenge because it is different from the June 12 general election.

The polls is going to be held under a political government while the Election Commission is working independently, the Chief Election Commissioner said elaborating on the difference.

The EC has put a ban on carrying of all kinds of arms in the voting areas from September 3 midnight to Sept 7 midnight

and movement of all kinds of vehicles - motor-cycle, jeep, microbus, car, taxi and autorickshaw - from September 3 midnight to Sept 6 midnight.

Abu Hena urged the political leaders and workers to abide by the election code of conduct for strengthening democratic values.

He stressed the importance of cooperation of different political parties despite the administrative measures in holding a free and fair election.

The CEC hoped that law and order would be maintained in the election areas and directed the officials not to arrest or harass anyone intentionally.

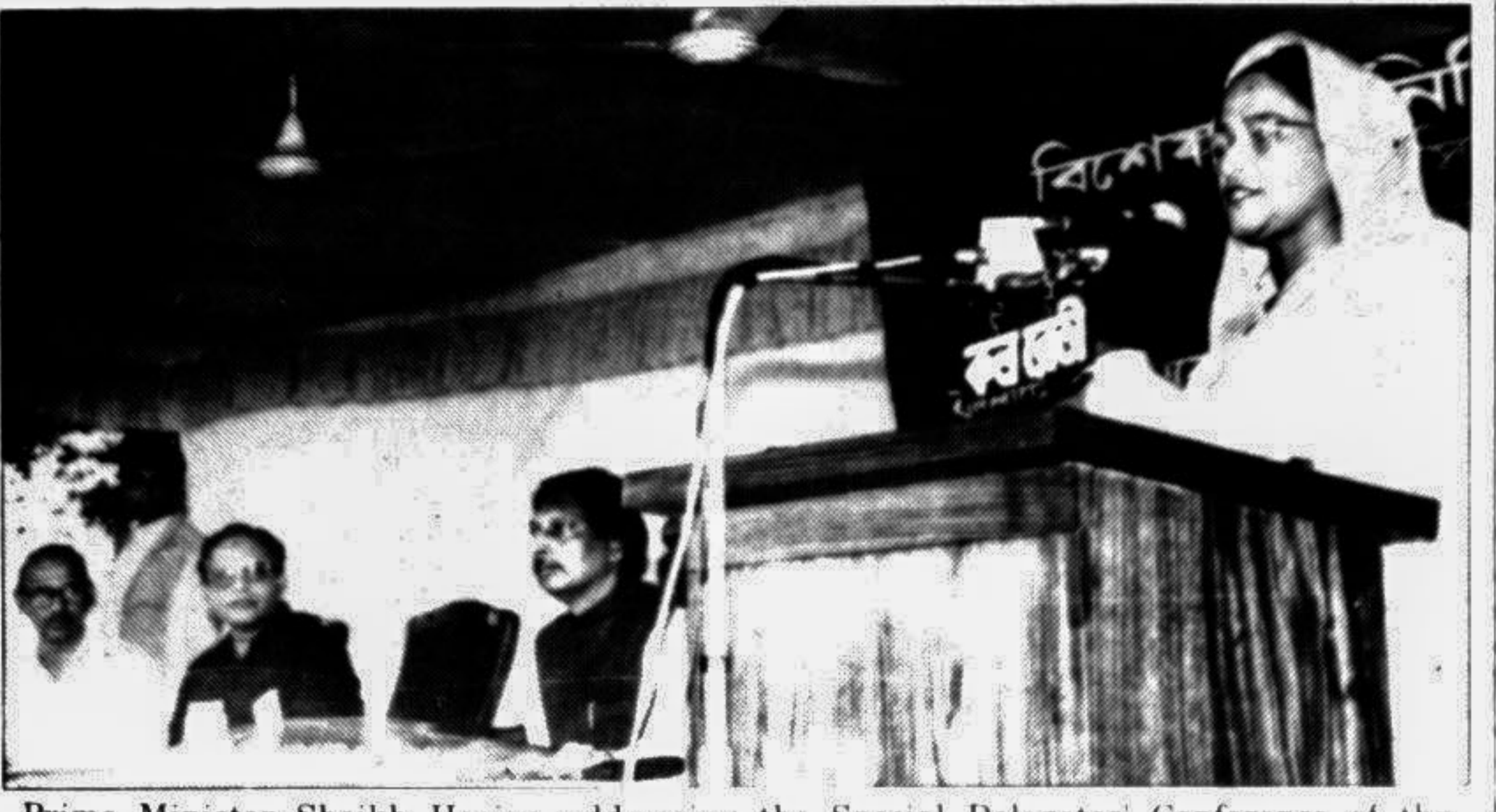
The meeting, presided over by Divisional Commissioner M Shamsul Alam, was also attended by MPs Talukder Abdul Khaleque and Ady Nurul Haq, DIG of Khulna Range Ashraf Huda, DC Irefkhar Ahmed and police commissioners, police super, election officials and TNOs from Khulna and Bagherhat districts, local elite and journalists.

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**PHILIPS**



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the Special Delegates' Conference of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) at the Jatiya Press Club premises yesterday. — Star photo

## PM: Objective criticism

From Page 1

ing the premises of the Jatiya Press Club members belonging to the other faction of the BFUJ chanted slogans in protest calling the conference illegal because, according to them, the fact that arranged it was not legal.

However, after inaugurating the conference, Sheikh Hasina entered the cafeteria inside the club and exchanged pleasantries with the leaders of the other faction. She enquired about their grievances.

A large number of journalists in the city and delegates representing affiliated unions in Chittagong, Khulna, Jessore, Bogra, Mymensingh and Rajshahi attended the conference.

At the inaugural session the Prime Minister handed over a cheque for Tk one lakh to Jafar Saadik Subona, eldest son of late illustrious journalist Monajuddin.

In her 15-minute speech the Prime Minister also recalled with deep gratitude the great role played by renowned journalists like Moulana Akram Khan, Tofazzal Hussain Manik Mia, Abdus Salam, Zahur Hussain Chowdhury, Sirajuddin Hussain, Shahidullah Kaiser and S M Ali.

Terming newspaper as the Fourth State, Sheikh Hasina said people like to see objective projection of the society in the newspapers.

The Prime Minister said, "we have taken steps to reorganize the Fifth Wage Board and are giving special care so that the board places its recommendations within the stipulated period. Soon after the placement, we will announce the Wage Board Award without any delay."

For the interim period, she said, a 30 per cent dearness allowance (DA) has been declared and the government is taking

steps for its implementation in all newspapers.

"I know it very well that journalists are exposed to financial insolvency. They become victim to accidents, their is a profession full of risks. In many cases, sick newsmen can't even get good treatment because of want of money," said Hasina while announcing the grant of 20 lakh for journalists' welfare fund.

In this regard the Prime Minister recalled that her slain father Bangabandhu had also visited the Jatiya Press Club upon an invitation from newsmen 24 years back. Sheikh Hasina said the Father of the Nation allocated the land for the club and he wanted to take some steps for the welfare of journalists but couldn't fulfill his desire.

Journalists face repression in collecting news and taking photographs, said Hasina. She cited an example of the incident on June 21, 1992 when a large number of reporters and photojournalists faced police repression at the Jatiya Press Club. The then government did not publish the report of the probe body that enquired into that incident and did not try the persons responsible, said the Prime Minister.

She said that her government would make public the probe report and implement its recommendations.

"The government has constituted a Law Commission and the Commission will, of course, take steps so that no journalist is victimized," said Sheikh Hasina.

She said, special emphasis would be laid on development of professional quality in journalism and for that matter the Press Institute would be developed further so that it could play more effective role in training up young journalists.

Responding to the various demands, Prof. Abu Sayeed said, "right now, the Prime Minister has instructed me to take note of the problems you talked about and take steps to solve those."

The state minister said that the present government believed in full press freedom as ensured by Article 39 of the Constitution and added, "unlike previous regimes this government don't issue midnight press advises in phone calls to paper offices."

"We are well aware of your problems and are confident that all problems can be solved through dialogue and understanding. Rivalry and division can bring no good," said the state minister.

Earlier, leaders of the affiliated unions of BFUJ expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for attending the function. Two female journalists received the Prime Minister and the State Minister with bouquets.

They urged the prime minister to solve various problems including that of housing, faced by newsmen. Those who addressed briefly include: President, Dhaka Union of Journalists, Abul Kalam Azad, President, Chittagong Union of Journalists, Akhter-un-Nabi, President, Khulna Union of Journalists, Ayub Hussain, President, Jessore Union of Journalists, Shah Kiron Kumar Kachi, President, Bogra Union of Journalists, Md Abdul Matin, President, Mymensingh Union of Journalists, Kazi Yasir and Vice President of Rajshahi Union of Journalists, Principal Abdur Razzak.

Newsmen from outside Dhaka expressed resentment that wage board award is not implemented in most of the newspapers in districts. As a remedy, they suggested for giving a 50 per cent quota of public advertisements to district level newspapers.

## BDR-BSF talks today

Border talks between the Bangladesh Rifles and Border Security Force of India will be held today in Khulna. Deputy Director General of BDR Brigadier Muhammad Abdur Rab will lead a nine member Bangladesh delegation at the talks while IG of North/South Bengal Frontier of BSF RN Bhattacharyya, will lead the ten member Indian team, reports BSS.

## Hasina meets Kabir, Jahir

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday met journalist leaders including Amanullah Kabir, Zahurul Huq and express secretary to the former prime minister Mozammel Huq at the National Press Club, reports BSS.

## Fish Fortnight begins today

Fish Fortnight '96, organized by the Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock, begins in the country today with a commitment to increase production for achieving self-sufficiency in fish, reports UNB.

## Six children rescued from madman

SAVAR, Aug 31: Six children allegedly kidnapped by a madman, rescued by police, were handed over to local police, reports UNB.

## CID for taking Rocky on remand again

The second remand prayer made by the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) for further interrogation of Rocky, the main accused in the case filed by Tareq's father following the disappearance of his son, was heard in the Munshiganj Court yesterday.

The court will give its decision on Sept 7, according to police sources.

Rakib Mohammad Fakrul alias Rocky, son of former deputy minister Fakhrul Islam Munshi, is the main accused in the complaint lodged with Gazaria thana by Tareq's father Mohammad Abul Kashem, Chairman of South East Bank and Managing Director of Mutual Group of Companies.

Moinuddin Kashem alias Tareq, a BBA student of North South University, has been missing since the night of August 14, he, along with Rocky and a girl reportedly visited the Meghna ferry ghat in the early morning.

The case related to Tareq's missing filed with the Gazaria thana, was transferred to the CID on August 21. Earlier, the CID had taken Rocky on remand for three days on August 25.

Police said that they were yet to trace the whereabouts or the body of missing Tareq.

## New UN resident coordinator presents credentials

The newly appointed UN resident coordinator and UNDP representative in Bangladesh David E Lockwood presenting his credentials to Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his office yesterday. — PID photo



Newly appointed UN Resident Coordinator and UNDP Resident Representative in Bangladesh David E Lockwood presenting his credentials to Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his office yesterday. — PID photo

## Private EPZ Bill '96 placed in JS

A Bill was placed in Parliament last night seeking establishment of export processing zones (EPZs) in the private sector to encourage export industries, reports UNB.

Introducing the Private Export Processing Zone Bill 1996, Industries and Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed said it seeks to allow private investors, both foreign and local, to set up exclusive zones for export industries.

Tofael said a Korean business establishment, Youngon Company, has sought 2100 acres of land to create a special EPZ where Tk 10,000 crore will be invested over the next 10 years, employing some one lakh people.

Besides, he said, the new government during its two months in office, received investment commitment of 1050 million US dollar from foreign investors that reflects the urgency of the establishment of EPZs.

Earlier, BNP lawmaker and former Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam opposed the introduction of the Bill, saying they welcome the Bill but it is being introduced in a hurry.

## Discussion in Sangsad AL, BNP blame each other for Eden College incident

Government and Opposition leaders in Parliament yesterday incriminated each other for last week's clashes at the Eden Girls University College which was closed after the violence that left several students injured, reports UNB.

Deputy Leader of the House Zillur Rahman called it a part of the "pre-planned conspiracy" to create unrest in educational institutions, including the Dhaka University, Dhaka and Barisal Medical Colleges, and Eden Girls University College, to discredit Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government.

"Despite our utmost efforts, we could not stop violence on campus due to provocation by a leader of a particular party," Quoting news reports, he said JCD workers first attacked Chhatra League workers at the Eden College.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition prof Badruddoza Chowdhury contradicted, saying Chhatra League workers led by a woman MP attacked the JCD workers and ransacked 50 rooms in the college hostel, leaving at least 70 students injured.

Some Chhatra League workers putting on well entrenched college compound and joined the attacks on students, he told the House.

Chowdhury said the attack was pre-planned and demanded that the reported involvement of a woman MP in the incident should be investigated. "It's true that a leader of a particular party instigated terrorism on the campus, but that leader does not belong to the BNP."

Initiating the debate, BNP leader MK Anwar described the Eden College incident as savage and said this would not bring good for the ruling party.

Replying to a question, he said that the Calcutta port's interest would be kept in mind. Chairman of the Calcutta Port Trust Dr Bikram Sarkar, was also present during Haider's meeting with the state's chief secretary.

Haider was scheduled to meet the Chief Minister, Jyoti Basu, at his residence before leaving for Delhi.

## Budget may be passed today

From Page 1

of the ruling party MPs sprang on their feet to raise a hue and cry against giving him (BNP MP) the floor.

Akhtaruzzaman's voice almost drowned in the shoutings by the treasury bench members. Some of them told the Chair that they did not want to hear a member who had insulted the Speaker.

Demanding the Chair's protection, the BNP legislator said the ruling party MPs were trying to curb his constitutional right to speak in the House.

The Deputy Speaker then gave floor to Sharif Khasruzzaman, one of the protesting ruling party MPs. Making an observation that Akhtaruzzaman should be expelled from the House, and the Sangsad Bhaban area as well by the Speaker for his alleged misdeeds, Khasruzzaman said, "Due to his indecent behaviour with the Speaker, we, the members of Parliament, have been exposed to a situation where we are compelled to hide our faces from the electorate."

In the evening session, Education Minister A S H K Sadek refused to accept an allegation by a BNP member that government officials, in violation of service rules, had engaged themselves in politics last March by addressing AL-sponsored public rallies from the 'Janata Manchha'.

Shahidul Islam, a lawmaker, said the government should take steps so that the public servants cannot address people from BNP-sponsored 'Mancha' in future. "It is necessary for the sake of the nation, for discipline of government officials."

Replying to the BNP legislator, the Education Minister said: "We do not think that the public servants had indulged in politics. As conscious citizens, they rather came forward to save the state machinery from a possible destruction."

Claiming that the government of Sheikh Hasina did not believe in politicisation of the administration, the minister further said the servants of the republic would not need to involve themselves in politics of any kind. "If that happens, the government will take necessary steps," the minister added.

The House also witnessed an unscheduled debate over the recent clashes between the supporters of Awami League-backed Chhatra League and BNP-backed Chhatra Dal at the Eden Girls' College.

Deputy Leader of Parliament and ruling party general secretary Zillur Rahman, Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, and M K Anwar of the BNP took part in the debate. During the debate, the AL and BNP leaders accused each other of patronising terrorism in the educational institutions including the Eden College.

Speaker Chowdhury adjourned the House at 10:26 pm to resume again at 10:00 this morning.

## No classes held

From Page 1

educational institutions in the country on August 25.

The pro-BNP student body brought out a huge procession on the DU campus yesterday in support of its strike and held a rally at the Aparajeya Bangla.

The rally was addressed by Nasir Uddin Pintu, Habibunnabi Sohail, Monwar Hossain Rana, Mosarrat Hossain and Monir Hossain and other leaders of the organisation.

UNB adds: Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA) has expressed grave concern over the deterioration of law and order due to the stay of outsiders on the DU campus.

In a joint statement yesterday DUTA president Prof A T M Zahurul Haq and general secretary Dr A A M S Arefin Siddique urged all concerned, including the university authorities, to restore congenial academic atmosphere by establishing law and order in the residential halls.

## Samad Azad seeks Opposition's help to realise assets from Pakistan

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday sought the Opposition's cooperation in realising the share of assets from Pakistan and solving the unsettled issues between the two countries, reports BSS.

Responding to a cut motion moved by BNP member Gautam Chakrabarty (Tangail), he said during the last 21 years the nation had expected government initiatives in this regard. The then opposition Awami League, he said, had also wanted to discuss the issue in the fifth Parliament.

The foreign minister mentioned that during the severe flood in the then East Pakistan in 1970, different countries had donated Taka 200 crore for the flood affected people. But during the independence war that money was shifted to Pakistan.

Azad said during the recent visit of Pakistani foreign secretary in Dhaka, Bangladesh had raised the issue.

"I seek cooperation of the opposition to strengthen our efforts in realising all dues from Pakistan," he said.

## 4 killed, 20 hurt in road accident

SAVAR, Aug 31: Four people were killed and 20 injured, 10 of them critically, in a fatal accident on the Dhaka-Aricha highway today, reports UNB.

Police said a Dhaka-bound minibus from Manikganj collided head on with a Savar-bound microbus of Ganashasthya Kendera near Chhalepur bridge at about noon.

The driver of the microbus, Dipak, 30, and three passengers of the minibus died on the spot. One of the three was identified as Razzak 15.

The deadbodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy and the critically injured 10 were admitted to different clinics in Dhaka.

A case was filed with Savar police.

## Flood

From Page 1

sharp rise in water levels in Padma and Mohananda.

Some new areas in Paba and Godagari thanas under Rajshahi districts have been flooded. Cracks have developed in the town-protection embankment at Rajshahi city point.

In Nawabganj Pourashava, five out of nine wards have gone under flood water and road link with Rajshahi have already been snapped.

Our Kushtia correspondent adds: The situation in six thanas of the district have worsened following rise in water levels in the Ganges and Gorai.

Eight unions in Daulatpur, three in Bheramara, two each in Ruirpur and Kumarkhali thanas have been submerged by flood water.

About 15000 people of these thanas have been marooned.

## Contractor killed

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of one Sheikh Abul Hossain. He sustained fatal injuries when the gang attacked him with sharp weapons near his residence at about 11 am, said local people.

Ayub was immediately taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he died at around 12:30 pm.

The body was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. The details about the incident could not be known immediately.

When contacted, Mirpur police, however, said last night that they did not receive any complaint in this regard.

## Khaleda

From Page 1

Powers Act of 1974 to harass their political opponents.

The government was losing popularity within only two months, Begum Zia said adding that the Prime Minister could not enter into the Bogra town in the face of public protest.

She criticised the ruling party for unleashing terrorism in the medical colleges and at the Dhaka University, and attacking the female students of Eden University College on Thursday and Friday.

The election rallies were addressed by Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury MP, Golam Akbar Khandaker, BNP candidate for Chittagong-1 M A Jinnah and Rehana Akhter Ranu.

Party leaders Abdullah Al Noman, Syed Najibul Bashir Majibhandari, Begum Shamsunnahar Khawaja Ahsanullah, Ehsanul Kabir and Kamruzzaman Ratan accompanied the BNP chairperson.

Earlier, in the morning, Begum Zia visited Mirsarai thana health complex to see the BNP workers injured by some terrorists at Banglabazar and Sufiabazar of Friday.

Nine BNP workers - Manan, Nursafa, Bahar, Akram, Kabir, Alauddin, Jafurullah, Salmar and Rabul - were attacked while they were returning from Begum Zia's meetings.

Begum Zia was expected to return to the capital late in the night, party sources said.

## General holiday in voting areas

General holiday have been announced on September 5 of 15 constituencies where by-election will be held on the day, reports UNB.

The closure was announced to facilitate government and non-government officials and employees in casting their votes, says an official handout.

## DSE price index

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those of 44 suffered losses while 5 remained unchanged.

Expressing happiness over the recent development of the share market, DSE chairman Imtiaz Hossen said that the market reached a 'respectable position' which would be more attractive to local and foreign investors.

He said two major factors caused the sudden rise in the price index and market capitalisation. These are, entry of two new companies with high paid-up capital and price hike of the shares of Shinepukur Holdings Ltd.

The newly enlisted companies are Altex Ltd and Dhaka Fisheries Ltd.

Imtiaz Hossen further said that although share prices of a number of companies witnessed significant rise during the recent period but still there are some underpriced companies particularly in textile sector.

The capital market in the country would boom further if political stability continues, he said.

## One killed in Jhalakathi

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 31: One person was killed by a group of people at Beltala village under Khatla thana of Jhalakathi district this noon as a sequel to a conflict over land ownership, Abdul Hakim Sikder, 52, died on the spot when the group armed with lethal weapons attacked him in his crop land, according to police and witnesses.

A case has been filed against 16 people. Police has arrested Nazem Bepari, 60, in this connection.

## Parliament tidbits

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Shortly afterwards, she completed the preparation and put the 'khili' into her mouth and started chewing it.

Refuting BNP lawmaker M K Anwar's allegation that drug-addiction caused clashes at the Eden Girls University College, Home Minister Rafiqul Islam told the House, "So far my knowledge goes, drug-addiction did not cause the clashes." The minister however sought 'such information' from him, if he had any.

Speaking on his cut-motion on the 'Takkhal', BNP legislator Abdul Mannan said in a lighter vein "Whenever we speak of 'Takkhal', we remember the 'Bakshal'."

It task force

From Page 1

tranche totalling 100 million dollars of the total credit due to the delay in implementing the reform programme.

On the closure of more jute mills, the government is arguing that the world demand for Bangladeshi jute goods has been showing upward trend with increasing demand and further closure of public mills at this stage will have adverse effect on the country's economy and share of international jute trade.

But it is now being planned that the ministry of jute would provide names of at least two to three jute mills to the Privatisation Board for advertisement by October 30 this year for privatisation, the sources added.