

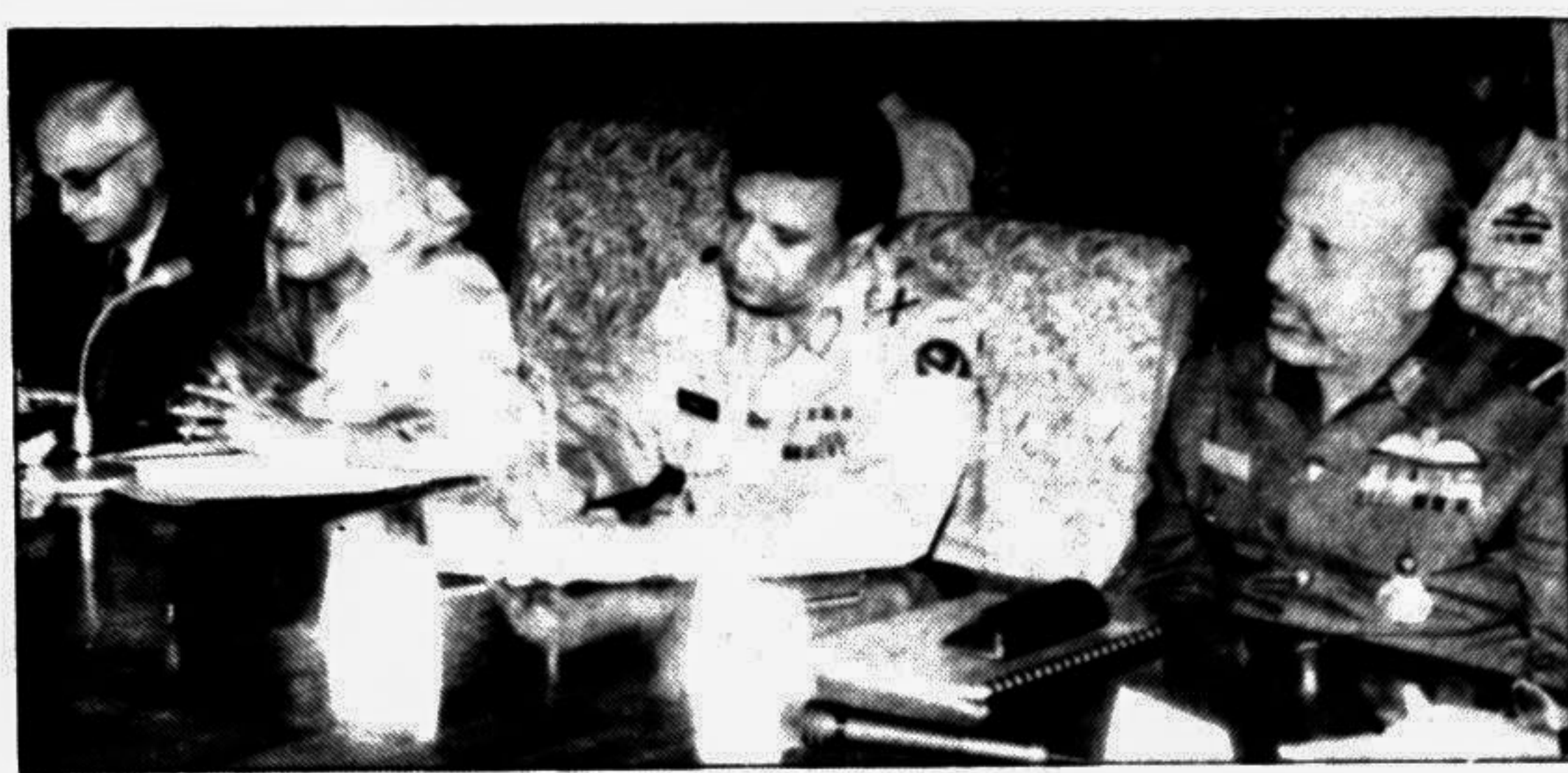
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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the senior officials and departmental heads of the Defence Ministry at Ganabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

PM tells Defence Ministry officials Coordination among govt depts needed to bring dynamism

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the Defence Ministry officials to discharge their duties with hard labour, sincerity and honesty to overcome the prevailing inertia in the administration, reports UNB.

"A stagnation has been created in various tiers of the administration due to political instability and want of integrated and coordinated efforts after 1975", she said addressing high officials and heads of departments of the Defence Ministry at the Ganabhaban Complex at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

"Coordination is necessary among the activities of various government departments and agencies for bringing dynamism eliminating the stagnation," Hasina said.

Referring to the approval of the new Rules of Business for implementing and executing government policies under parliamentary system, the Prime Minister said all have to work relentlessly to materialise the dreams of father of the nation to bring smiles to the faces of the distressed, helpless and neglected millions.

Hasina said: Although we

42 Palestinians killed in clashes with Israelis

NETZARIM, Gaza Strip, Sept 26: Yasser Arafat's security forces battled Israeli troops throughout the West Bank and Gaza Strip today and thousands of Palestinians attacked a Jewish holy site and two isolated settlements, reports AP.

At least 37 Palestinians and 10 Israelis were killed Thursday in clashes that within hours escalated from stone-throwing demonstrations into widespread shooting.

That brought the number of Palestinians killed to 42 in two days. At least 400 Palestinians and 32 Israelis were wounded.

"It's a picture of war," Israel's army radio said of the worst fighting since a 1993 peace accord ended six years of Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation of the territories.

Faced with a major security crisis, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu cut short a European trip to head back to Israel, but not before calling Arafat from Germany to demand that he contain the violence.

Netanyahu was to hold an emergency Cabinet meeting tonight. Israel TV's Second Channel reported that he would also meet with Arafat later today.

Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said he had ordered more troops into the West Bank and Gaza, along with tanks and helicopters.

Hundreds of Palestinians

WB: New power plant

From Page 1

Talking to UNB, the Washington-based official said he had only read in newspapers about the ongoing debate in Bangladesh as to whether the country should import power from its neighbouring country or not.

"My initial reaction is that both in the short term and the long term, basically Bangladesh's power needs should be met through domestic development of its gas resources and construction of power plants in Bangladesh," he said.

Ljung also noted that India, from which a move reportedly is underway to import power, itself was still struggling with its very rapidly growing demand for electricity and building new plants to meet the domestic requirement.

"I find it somewhat surprising that some officials in India feel that they have excess power

Directive to solve problems of families of martyred

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her door would remain always open to the family members of the martyrs of the War of Liberation, reports BSS.

She was talking to the members of the "Shaheed Paribar Sangram Parishad" who called on her at her office.

Parishad president Abu Musa Mohammad Masduzzaman, son of Shaheed Prof A N M Moniruzzaman of the Dhaka University, parishad general secretary Mohammad Mosharraf Hossain, son of Shaheed Ahmed Ali, a general employee of the Dhaka University and Beter and TV artist and mother of Shaheed Muzaffar Uddin Ahmed, a student, Satera Begum apprised the Prime Minister of various problems being faced by the members of the parishad.

While assuring to solve their problems, the Prime Minister directed the persons concerned on the spot to take necessary steps to resolve their genuine problems.

The Prime Minister made it clear that the general amnesty declared by the Father of the Nation did not cover the killers and war criminals and the persons against whom there were specific charges and cases. "It was Ziaur Rahman who through 5th amendment of the Constitution and many other laws gave them relief from their charges," she said.

BNP out to destroy democracy: AL

Bangladesh Awami League yesterday urged the people to cooperate with the government in frustrating the conspiracies being hatched against the country's hard earned democracy, reports UNB.

The call came from a meeting of the party's Central Working Committee secretaries held with acting General Secretary Abdul Jalil in the chair.

The meeting said after the threats from BNP leadership to "kill" Sheikh Hasina it had become clear to the people that they were out to destroy democracy by unleashing terrorism.

The meeting decided to gear up the activities of the secretaries ahead of the party's national council scheduled for December.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Shamsur Rahman Khan, Mozaffar Hossain Paltu, Syed Fazlul Huq, Prof Abu Sayeed MP, Mamtaz Hossain, Dr Mostafa Jalal Mohtuddin, HN Ashkur Rahman MP, Begum Iy Rahman, Abdul Mannan, Siddique Rouf Khan, Advocate Sahara Khatun and Alamgir Kumkum.

Snatching

From Page 1

chain and cash, also was admitted to the hospital with splinter injuries.

Aziz came under attack by a gang of four muggers in front of Gendaria School at about 7:45 pm while going home by a rickshaw from his shop at Rajdhani Super Market.

The snatchers exploded several bombs and a splinter hit Aziz. But hearing the explosion, police rushed the spot and chased the snatchers.

When the miscreants tried to throw bomb, police retaliated by firing. A bullet hit the throat of Khalil. He was admitted to DMCH under police custody.

In another incident, a group of miscreants snatched some 100 pieces of jeans trousers near Al Matin Hotel in the city's Chankarpool area.

The proprietor of Robin Fashion at Jonaki Super Market became victim of the snatchers while going to the area at about 4:30 pm to send the trousers to Khulna by truck. He received first aid at the DMCH.

Meanwhile, a female official of BSCIC was robbed of gold chain in front of Bangladesh Bank in the Motijheel area in the morning.

The snatchers attacked Halima Akhter when she was going to her office at about 8 am. The bandits exploded several bombs to create panic among the pedestrians.

Separate cases were filed with police.

Chairman denies link but says REB probing alleged pollution from poles

By Staff Correspondent

Chairman of Rural Electrification Board (REB) Brig (ret'd) Md Enamul Haq said yesterday that arsenic-treated electric poles used for distribution of electricity in the rural areas could never cause arsenic pollution.

Yet, REB has begun an investigation in the affected areas to make sure that there was no link between the recently reported arsenic contamination of sub-soil water in many districts of the country and the REB-installed 1.25 million arsenic-treated poles in 17,000 villages of the country, he told a press conference in the city yesterday.

The REB chairman said the wooden electrical poles are treated with arsenic to make them durable and toxic to insects or fungus but this chemical is totally unable to interact with water or soil.

In 1995, REB had conducted a study on the impact of the poles on nature but it found nothing harmful, he said. But this time, if the ministry concerned allocates funds for bringing a foreign expert we can check whether arsenic pollution could really be caused by these poles and if these were responsible for arsenic contamination in different areas including Bagerhat, Chandpur, Satkhira, Narayanganj and Faridpur, he added.

"We do not have any REB network in Narayanganj. Our programme in Faridpur has not started yet," the REB chairman said in this connection.

The press conference was also addressed by, among others, Member of Palli Biddu

8-hr token hunger strike demanding trial of killers of Bangabandhu

A section of cultural activists, intellectuals, professionals and politicians yesterday observed an eight-hour token hunger strike in the city to press their various demands, including trial of the killers of Bangabandhu, reports UNB.

Joy Bangla Sanskritik Oikya Jote arranged the fasting in front of the Jatiya Press Club from 10 am.

Their demands also include declaration of the Indemnity Ordinance promulgation day as the black day, repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance, trial of the killers of Bangabandhu and his family members and those involved in the jail killings.

During the hunger strike, a good number of political leaders addressed a brief gathering and expressed solidarity with the demands of the jote.

The threat came from a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club in morning, said a press release.

Their demands include upgrading the college into a full-fledged institute under Dhaka University with Masters Degree courses and introducing BCS Textile Cadre.

Among others student representatives, Sohail, Sawpan, Jalal and Sawkat were present at the press conference.

Textile students' ultimatum

Students of Bangladesh College of Textile Technology yesterday threatened to go for an all out movement if their demands were not met by this month, reports UNB.

The threat came from a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club in morning, said a press release.

Their demands include upgrading the college into a full-fledged institute under Dhaka University with Masters Degree courses and introducing BCS Textile Cadre.

Among others student representatives, Sohail, Sawpan, Jalal and Sawkat were present at the press conference.

Handout on power

From Page 1

Bangladesh for meeting its shortfall, it could be raised for the consideration of the cabinet after reviewing it thoroughly, it added.

In this light and in the context of the letter of the Power Development Board on October 10, 1995, some decisions taken on the approval of Dr Hossain were conveyed to the Power Development Board.

The board's decisions gave no objection to the Power Development Board for holding discussion with the Power Grid Corporation of India without any commitment of the Bangladesh government and the Power Development Board had permitted the Board for undertaking feasibility and technical study in this respect.

In its technical study, the Power Development Board was asked to give an idea on the construction of grid sub-centre, installation of metering system and other relevant matters. The board was also asked to submit report for the consideration of the Bangladesh government after completion of the feasibility and technical study, the hand-out said.

In the light of a letter of Power Ministry on October 22, 1995, the board in a letter on November 20, 1995 invited a delegation of the Power Grid Corporation to come to Dhaka in December, 1995. Later, the Power Grid Corporation in letters on April 16, 1996 and July 11, 1996 requested to fix the place and time for discussion as per previous proposal, it said.

The handout said during the recent visit of the Bangladesh Foreign Secretary to New Delhi, the concerned officials of Power Grid Corporation of India and Energy Ministry of India raised, among others things, the matter of using the electricity by Bangladesh from the surplus electricity of West Bengal and Meghalaya states.

The officials also invited a delegation to visit India to study the feasibility of the matter, it said. On the basis of it, a delegation of Bangladesh recently visited India. The objective of the government in this regard was limited, it said.

The purpose of the visit was

RU gunfight

From Page 1

sources said. There was no report of any death till writing of this report tonight.

Police have barricaded the whole campus and the situation as they said is now under control. When contacted the police super could not give details of the incident.

UNB adds: Seriously wounded are: Mujibar Rahman, Harun, Kalam, Mahmud, Jahangir, Aminul Islam, Abdul Bari, Abdul Hannan, Farhad, Ibrahim Hossain, Nurul Islam and Tajul Islam. All but Harun are said to be Shibir men of the university unit.

The Vice-Chancellor of the university, now staying in Kushtia town, was not available on his home telephone for comment on the IU crisis.

In the afternoon, the BCL IU unit held rally in Sekhpara Bazar where they held the VC responsible for the incident. Shibir at a rally on the campus, however, described the incident as part of BCL blueprint of unleashing violence across the country.

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Train accident Punitive action against officials responsible underway

By Govinda Shil

Punitive action against some officials found responsible for the September 15 train accident is underway. Communications Minister, Anwar Hossain Manju has said.

He said that the enquiry committee report was not enough to find out the reasons of the disastrous accident. "We are waiting for another report that will be prepared by the General Inspector of the Bangladesh Railway," he added.

Talking to The Daily Star on Monday, he said, thorough overhaul of railway tracks and other rolling stocks were needed but sufficient funds were not available. "We are now trying to secure funds," he noted.

The communications minister also pointed out that a large number of slums along the BR railway tracks and some flee markets in the city were posing threats to safe movement of trains.

Meanwhile, some experts of the Railway noted that many of the railway engines and equipment have become obsolete while others have become unusable due to lack of maintenance.

They said that emphasis should be placed on making the post of General Inspector of Bangladesh Railway (GIBR) more effective.

5 Dy AGs, 12 AAGs appointed

The President has appointed five Deputy Attorneys General and 12 Assistant Attorneys General, an official announcement said yesterday, reports BSS.

Newly appointed Deputy Attorneys General are: Barrister Nihilish Datta, Khademul Islam Chowdhury, Mohammad Montazuddin Ahmed, Lasker Fakhr Uddin Ahmed and K M Saifuddin Ahmed.

The new Assistant Attorneys General are — Mohammad Bazlur Rahman Chhana, Obaidul Hasan (Shaheen), Md Abdur Rouf Akhand, Sufia Khatoun, Golam Ashiq Rupak, Mohammad Mahbub Ali, Abu Mohammad Amin Uddin, Abul Kashem Rashid Ahmed, Mohammad Laikuzzaman, Mohammad Sajjad Ali Chowdhury, Abdur Rob, and ASM Rezaul Karim.

The President has also terminated the appointment of Deputy Attorneys General — Moazzem Hossain, A K Mojibur Rahman, Dewan Abul Mansur Mohammad Saizuzzaman, and Al Haj Shamsul Alam and Assistant Attorneys General — S A Hasan, Atafur Rahman, Syed Mokaddes Ali, Mohammad Abdul Hafiz, Meer Hasmat Ali, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Abdus Salam Mamun.

Hussain Uzzaman new Chief Editor of BSS

Hussain Uzzaman Chowdhury has been appointed Managing Director and Chief Editor of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), an official notification said.

Chowdhury joined journalism in the late fifties. His career in news agency journalism began in the early sixties when he joined the then Pakistan Press Association (PPA).

PPA was later renamed Pakistan Press International (PPI) to transmit news according to him and he was appointed its news editor.

After the liberation of Bangladesh, he joined BSS in early 1972 as a news editor and he functioned in that capacity till his appointment as the Managing Director and Chief Editor.

DESA postpones disconnecting power supply to AJM

The Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) has postponed its plan for disconnecting power supply to Adamjee Jute Mills following payment of Tk one crore as arrears bill, reports UNB.

The DESA on Monday gave an ultimatum to Adamjee Mills authorities to pay arrears bills of Tk 53.26 crore by 10 am yesterday.

Assistant Chief Engineer of DESA Mahbub Sarwar Kalnait told UNB that the Adamjee authorities had handed over a cheque of Tk one crore to DESA on Wednesday.

Earlier, a tripartite meeting of the Industries Ministry, DESA and Adamjee Mills authorities had decided that Adamjee Jute Mills would pay Tk one crore to DESA before the ultimatum to avoid disconnection.

The engineer informed that the Adamjee Jute Mills, which consumes power worth about Tk one crore a month, had not been paying outstanding bills for a long time.

Policy on CHT issue to be announced soon: Razzak

By Staff Correspondent

Recognition of ethnic minorities through constitutional amendments, a national consensus about a political dialogue, and a sincere initiative from the government could help resolve the crisis in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT).

These suggestions were put forward by different speakers on the first day of a two-day seminar and open dialogue on "CHT: Peace, Democracy and Self-Determination" that began at the German Cultural Centre in the city yesterday.

It was organised by the National Committee for Protection of Fundamental Rights in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Speaking at the seminar, the Water Resources Minister, also an Awami League Presidium member Abdur Razzaque MP, said the problems in the Hill Tracts were made complicated by rehabilitating Bangladeshis in the region.

The present government sincerely wants to solve the hill problem. But we have to ask a question, is there anybody who does not want a political solution to the problem? The minister said adding, "We were having official talks with India on this issue when all of a sudden the woodcutters were slain. Does it not put a stop to all peace process?" he asked.

Abdur Razzaque said, the country's constitution gives right to every citizen.

The minister appealed to all concerned to help the committees formed to probe the massacre of the woodcutters and the abduction of Kalpana Chakma.

The minister told the seminar that the government would soon announce its policy on the CHT issue considering it as a national and political problem.

The Editor of Bangla daily Bhorer Kagoj, Matur Rahman said the problem in the hill areas of Chittagong was the result of 'mistakes made by previous governments.'

"Now a deep-rooted suspicion has arisen. The only way out is through understanding and dialogue," he said.

The Attorney General, Barrister K S Nabi, in his speech said his office would depute a high official to monitor whether the human rights are enshrined in the Constitution are protected or not in CHT. If anything goes wrong, I will immediately inform the government," he said.

The Workers Party Secretary General Rashid Khan Menon expressed his apprehension at the delay in solving the CHT problem. He called upon the Parbatya Chittagoram Jana Sanghati Samity and its armed wing Shantibahini to join the mainstream national politics.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Hasnain Haq Inu of JSD, Anu Mohammad of Ganotantrik Biplobi Jote, Mostafa Faruk of BSD (Jaman) and Farida Akhter of Sammilita Nari Samaj.

Kidnapping

From Page 1

two of the gang members with a letter written by Kamal went to the store in a motorcycle at around 10pm Wednesday and allegedly collected Tk one lakh, police said.

At around 11:30pm, they again tied the eyes of Kamal and left him on a road under Cantonment thana saying that they would go to the store Thursday noon and collect the rest Tk two lakh.

Kamal told police that the gang brought some street girls to the house and took arranged photographs, police said adding that the gang tried to blackmail Kamal.

Kamal informed Gulshan police about the incident at around midnight Wednesday. Plainclothed policemen kept vigil on the store from yesterday morning and held the four when they came to collect the money in the afternoon.

A case was lodged with Gulshan thana in this connection, police said.

RU staff observe strike

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY, Sept 26: The Officer-Employees Oikya Parishad (OEOP) enforced a day-long strike at Rajshahi University today protesting the action against three employees.

The university syndicate on Sept 24 made two officers OSD for their alleged corruption and suspended one employee for his misbehaviour.

Almost all offices remained closed due to the strike.

Juba League

From Page 1

Juba League

It may be mentioned that police caught Jahangir Alam when he was allegedly trying to mug some passers by at Ukilpara in Narayanganj on September 22 but he was later released under political pressure.

Two police officials from the Security Cell in the Home Ministry are now probing the incident. The Officer-in-Charge of Narayanganj Police Station has, meanwhile, been suspended.

Talks today

From Page 1

since 1988, resulting in serious water problem in Bangladesh.

The experts committee was constituted following official talks between Indian External Affairs Minister I K Gujral and Bangladesh Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azid in Dhaka on September 7 and West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu and Azid in Calcutta on September 17.

Both India and Bangladesh have reportedly agreed to sign an accord before the dry season begins next January. The Ganges-water issue is one of the major irritants in bilateral relations between Dhaka and New Delhi.

MR Khan

From Page 1

Five of the institutions which got licenses, had been in operation from as far back as 1981 under permission from the finance ministry and they had applied for licenses after the Financial Institution Act, 1993 had been formulated.

Meanwhile, the sources further contested the finance minister's claim that the government did not know the guidelines followed in giving license to the institutions. They said the Financial Institution Act, 1993 and the Financial Institution Rules, 1994 clearly laid down the guidelines for issuing license to non-banking financial institutions.

Furthermore, the sources pointed out, there is no provision that require the BB to inform the finance minister about issuance of such licenses. The BB governor can inform the ministry if he wishes to do so.

The sources close to the departmental committee said permission to the financial institutions were given to help flourish the money market in an open market economy.

Mushtaque

From Page 1

Metropolitan Magistrate yesterday allowed a second seven-day police remand for one of the accused of the jail-killing case, Col (ret'd) Sultan Shahar Rashid Khan.

Another accused, Col (ret'd) Syed Farooq Rahman, was sent back to Dhaka Central Jail on Tuesday after a marathon 32-day interrogation under police remand.

The two and Major (ret'd) Khairuzzaman were arrested by police on August 13, two days before the 21st anniversary of assassination of Bangabandhu.

Ctg customs

From Page 1

He pointed out that order for shifting the head office of the valuation department is contrary to the government's policy of decentralisation.

He also suggested for setting up a "Customs value assessment cell" at Chittagong Customs House if the valuation department is shifted, the release said.

Former mayor of Chittagong City Corporation and BNP international affairs secretary Mir Md Nasiruddin in a statement protested the order. In a statement he termed it a 'sort of conspiracy' to cripple Chittagong port and to foil the plan for developing the port city into a commercial capital. Mir Nasir demanded withdrawal of the order.