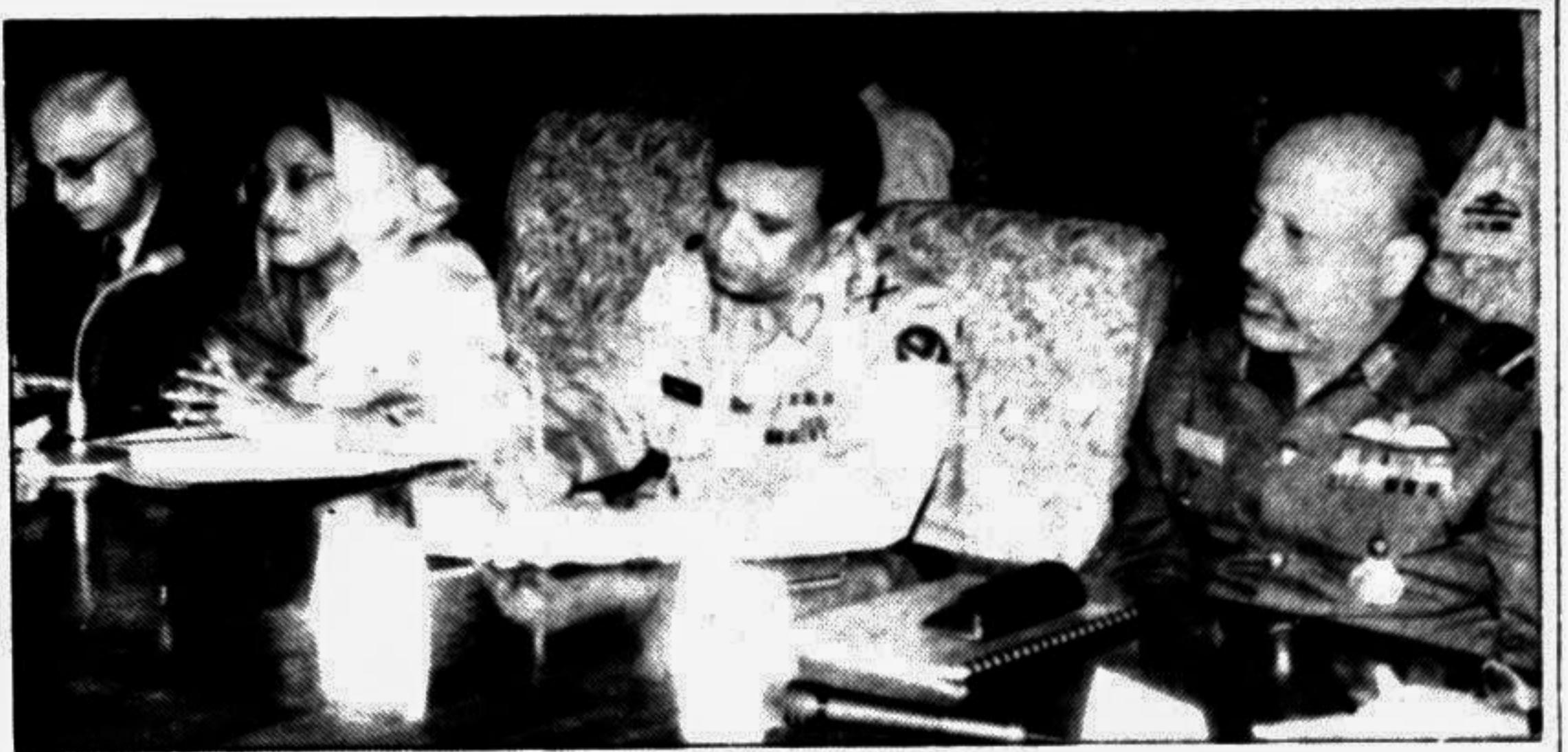


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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the senior officials and departmental heads of the Defence Ministry at Ganabhaban yesterday.

— 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 implementation 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 UNB.

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 today and demanding 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 Rabin 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.

Lijng also noted that India, from which a move reportedly is underway to import power, 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

**Editor : Mahfuz Anam**

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**The Daily Star**

## Chairman denies link but says REB probing alleged pollution from poles

By Staff Correspondent

Chairman of Rural Electrification Board (REB) Brig (rtd) 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 those 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 Feni, he added.

REB also imports these poles from USA, Canada, Finland, Australia, Norway, Philippines and Malaysia, he added.

REB Consultant Jim Ford said that the same type of poles was widely in use in USA as well as in many other developed countries.

The CCA treatment was invented in India in 1933 and ever since many researches were conducted concerning CCA treated woods, he said, adding scientists found that it did not contaminate water or soil with arsenic.

The present government

shoulder 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.

**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.

**ZIA**

From Page 1

arrived around 6am, had to stay at the airport even till 1:30 pm.

However, a senior officials of Bangladesh Biman said, the problem at present was acute as a large number of flights from the Gulf were landing at the airport carrying Bangladeshi nationals from the United Arab Emirates.

It was learnt from the airport sources that five flights of different airlines, including Bangladesh Biman, Gulf Air and KLM landed at ZIA in three hours from 6 am yesterday.

During the time, the number of loaders in three conveyor belts at the arrival lounge was even less than usual, sources said alleging that some Biman employees at the airport often did not perform their duties.

**New Market**

From Page 1

nesses said, Traffic movement on the busy Mirpur road came to a half at the time, witnesses said adding that the incident created panic in the whole area.

Police lobbed several tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

A case was lodged with Dhamundi thana in this regard. However, none was arrested till last night, police added.

**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 (rtd) Sultan Shahriar Rashid Khan.

Another accused, Col (rtd) 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 (rtd) 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 fill the plan for developing the port city into a commercial capital. Mir Nasir demanded withdrawal of the order.



## Policy on CHT issue to be announced soon: Razzak

By Staff Correspondent

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 depose a high official to monitor whether the human rights as 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 Rashed Khan Menon expressed his apprehension at the delay in solving the CHT problem. He called upon the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity and its armed wing Shantibhumi to join the main-stream national politics.

The inaugural session was also addressed by Hasanul Haq Inu of JSD, Anu Mohammad of Ganotantrik Biplobi Jote, Mostafa Faruq of BSS (Jaman) and Farida Akhtar of Samilita Nari Samaj.

**RU staff observe strike**

From RU Correspondent

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

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.

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**Jubo League**

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## 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

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 meeting said 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 this 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 handout 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 the Mayor had proposed the formation of a Dhaka Metropolitan Government to coordinate the development work of different service organisation in the city.

The move to form such a committee comes after the Mayor had proposed the formation of a Dhaka Metropolitan Government to coordinate the development work of different service organisation in the city.

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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 a delegation of Bangladesh recently visited India. The objective of the government in this regard was limited, it said.

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