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The Daily Star

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Inside Today

Article

Prime Minister's First Hundred Days

Column: Enchiridion by Waliur Rahman Page 4

Focus

The Internet: What's in it for Bangladesh? Page 5

International

US Congress okays tough immigration package

Women beaten up on Kabul streets for 'improper dress' Page 8

Business

SAARC workshop on R&D activities inaugurated: Rapid industrialisation a matter of survival, says Tofael

DSE index continues to rise Pages 6, 7

DSE MARKET

DSE price index	1665.59
Market capital Tk	11653.39 cr
Transactions in volume	529546
Transactions in value Tk	14.94 cr

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Thanks Mr Bell, for Your Wonderful Invention Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

No plan to raise fuel price

The government has no plan to increase fuel price, an official announcement said here yesterday. The announcement followed press reports that the price of petrol might shoot up, reports UNB.

Arsenic pollution: Probe body formed

The government has formed a five-member committee to investigate the alleged arsenic contamination through the electric poles used by Rural Electrification Board (REB), an official announcement said here yesterday. The committee will conduct scientific tests if the chemically treated poles have any link with the arsenic contamination and give its report within next one month, reports BSS.

Armed attack on BNP leader

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 29: A local BNP leader was critically injured in an armed attack at Shajadpur thana today. Police said a group of miscreants attacked BNP leader Advocate Abdul Hakim, 40, at 7 in the morning. He was admitted to Sadar Hospital. BNP leaders alleged that the activists of ruling Awami League attacked Abdul Hakim, reports UNB.

2850 more return from UAE

About 2,850 deported workers were flown back home from the United Arab Emirates in last 18 hours till 6pm yesterday. Immigration officials at the Zia International Airport said the illegal immigrants were carried to Dhaka by Biman Bangladesh Airlines and some other foreign airlines, reports UNB.

Probe body on 2nd Buriganga bridge

A five-member enquiry committee has been formed by the Ministry of Communication to look into the causes how a caisson of the under-construction second Buriganga bridge at Babu Bazar under water. The committee, which comprises representative of BUET, will also examine whether it would have any impact on the construction of the bridge, reports BSS.

7-member JS Task Force announced

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced formation of the Parliamentary Task Force putting due emphasis on strengthening support services of parliament to make it a centre of all activities, reports BSS.

"We must increase efficiency of the Parliament Secretariat, equip it with modern technology so that it can provide support and services necessary for proper and effective functioning of parliament," she said while announcing the names of the Task Force at the Jatiya Sangsad Bhavan in the city.

With Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rashid Chowdhury in the chair, the function was also addressed by Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah. UNDP's Assistant Administrator Rafuddin Ahmed and M. K. Arwar MP on behalf of Leader of the Opposition in parliament.

Secretary of the Parliament Secretariat Abul Hasem gave the address of welcome.

The seven-member task force announced by the Prime Minister is headed by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. Other members are Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, adviser to the Prime Minister on Parliamentary Affairs, Suranjit Sengupta, Opposition Chief Whip Khondker Delwar Hussain, Khondker Kamal Ibne Yousuf MP, Nargis Ara Huq MP and Sabita Begum MP.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has supported preparation of the assessment report and also is coordinating activities of all development partners in strengthening the Bangladesh Parliament.

The function was attended by Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Advocate Abdul Hamid, ministers, MPs, diplomats, rep-

resentatives of development partners and senior government officials.

Announcing the formation of the Task Force, the Prime Minister stressed the need for proper training of staff members and officers in their respective fields. "Some sort of orientation and training is also necessary for the members of parliament, particularly the newly-elected ones," she said.

In this respect, she referred to the needs assessment report and said the measures already recommended would have to be undertaken without any delay to achieve the goals.

She referred to the present government's firm commitment to make parliament the centre of all activities for smooth running of the government and expressed her belief that both Treasury and Opposition benches should have only

Govt politicising health sector, says Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has accused the present government of politicising the health sector.

The Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad was addressing a delegation of doctors at her Minto Road official residence.

The delegation, led by representatives of the Doctors' Association of Bangladesh (DAB) met her to exchange views on the present situation in the health sector in particular and overall situation in the country in general.

Prof. Abdur Rashid, president, and Dr. Azizul Haq, secretary general of the DAB, led the delegation. Other office bearers of the DAB were also present.

"The BNP had governed the country for five years as a people's government without politicising the administration," she told the delegation.

See Page 12 Col 5

BNP may announce fresh agitation programme today

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party will stage demonstration in the city today as part of its countrywide agitation programmes.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan is scheduled to address a rally, organised by the BNP city unit, in front of the Jatiya Press Club at 4 pm this afternoon.

With today's demonstration and rally, the current phase of BNP's agitation programme will draw to an end. A fresh agitation programme is likely to be announced from the rally, party sources said.

The BNP has been staging protest against, what it said, terrorism unleashed by the ruling party, vote rigging in the September 5 by-polls in Lalximpur-2 and Chittagong-1

constituencies, and arrest, harassment and filing of false cases against BNP workers.

Its demands include issuing of identity card for every voter and resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner for his alleged failure to hold free and fair polls.

Earlier, BNP had announced a programme to gherao the Election Commission (EC) Secretariat and issued a seven-day ultimatum till September 17 for resignation of the CEC. On September 18, it announced the current countrywide agitation programme that ends today.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet adds: The Sylhet unit of BNP will hold a public meeting at the Court-point today as part of its programme for the divisional headquarters.

Hopes for Arafat-Netanyahu talks fade

Israel reopens tunnel defying UN call



Israeli security forces take position at the exit of the tunnel on the first day of its opening for tourists yesterday in Jerusalem near the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. — AFP/UNB photo

JERUSALEM, Sept 29: Hopes for a quick Israel-Palestinian summit to save the peace process faded today as Israel defiantly reopened an archaeological tunnel that sparked the worst ever clashes between the two sides and threatened to roll back signed peace agreements, reports AFP.

Ignoring appeals from Palestinian leaders and the UN call to close the tunnel after four days of fighting between Israeli troops and Palestinians left 79 dead, authorities began letting tourists into the site this morning following a two-day break for a Jewish holiday.

Dozens of riot police were deployed at the tunnel's new exit into the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem's old city to prevent any new violence by Palestinians who say the passage, which runs near the sacred Al-Aqsa Mosque, profanes Islamic holy sites.

Palestinian youths threw some stones in the direction of the exit, slightly hurting one policeman.

The tunnel's reopening dealt

See also page 8

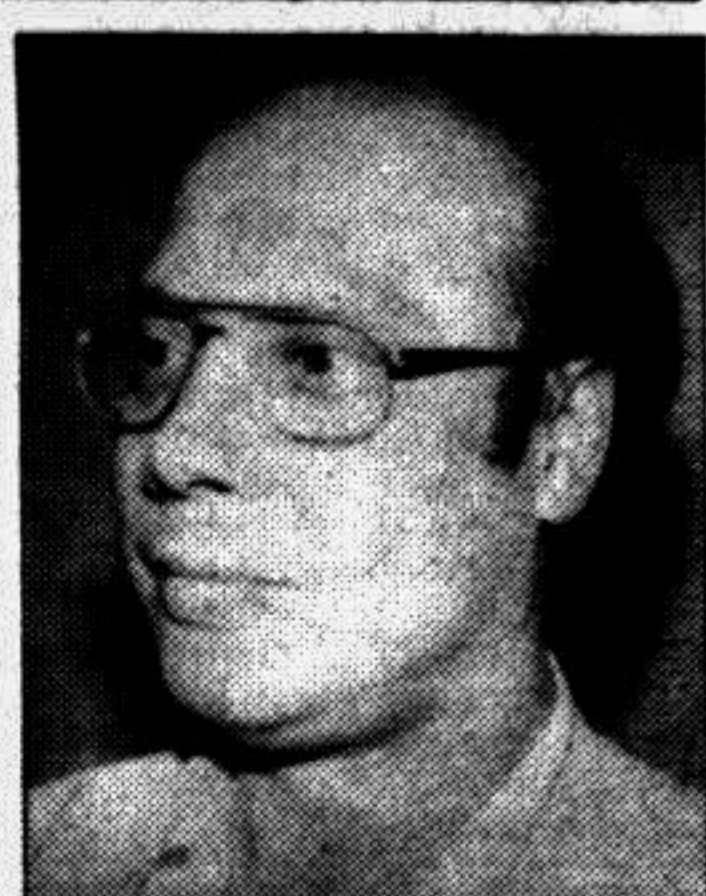
a new blow to intensive diplomatic efforts to arrange a summit meeting between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

US President Bill Clinton today said that Netanyahu and Arafat had agreed to meet in Washington Tuesday to resolve the latest crisis in the Arab-Israeli peace process, according to a report.

King Hussein of Jordan has also accepted the invitation, and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was considering attending, Clinton said.

In an interview published today in an Israeli newspaper, Arafat insisted that a meeting with Netanyahu "depends on closing the tunnel and fixing a

See Page 12 Col 1



Prof Azad new DU VC

By DU Correspondent
Prof Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury, Dean of the Faculty of Pharmacy, has been appointed Vice Chancellor of the Dhaka University. Chancellor of the university, President Abdur Rahman

Profile on page-2

Biswas made the new appointment under Section 11(2) of the Dhaka University Order 1973, according to a government notification issued yesterday.

Prof. Chowdhury will take over as the 22nd Vice Chancellor. See Page 12 Col 4

Shantibahini extends truce till Oct 31

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 29: The Shantibahini has agreed to extend the truce in the Chittagong Hill Tracts till October 31, sources concerned said.

The on-going cease-fire is due to expire tomorrow. The extension of cease-fire was unilaterally announced on behalf of the Shantibahini by the Parbatya Chittagong Gono Sanghati Samity today at Khagrachhari as the government side did not send any letter to them asking for extension, the sources added.

Earlier, the government side used to make the ceasefire proposals to the Shantibahini leaders through the liaison committee.

Our correspondent from Khagrachhari reports that the announcement was made by PCJSS in a press release issued today. It said that the truce was extended "Considering the desire for peace by the people of the Chittagong Hill Tracts and, hoping the present government would soon start dialogue for a lasting solution to the long-standing CHT problems".

ZIA gold haul: One more businessman arrested

Detective Branch of Police yesterday arrested another businessman for his alleged involvement in the gold smuggling case, reports UNB.

The businessman Manjur, was arrested from Columbia Market at M ohakhali in the city and later brought to DB office. He will be produced before the court to day, police said.

The DB officers are interrogating another businessman, arrested in this connection, Abdul A wal Fawari on police remand. Trading licence was arrested on Friday and brought on remand for four days.

Customs officials seized about 3.67 maunds of gold on September 21 at ZIA in the biggest ever haul of the contraband in the country.

The smuggled gold in 1,175 bars, each weighing 10 tolas, was found in packets of electronic goods despatched by Plymouth Trading Incorporated at Bridge Road in Singapore to an untraced business firm at Gulshan in the city.

Officials at Bangladesh Biman said its country manager in Singapore has been asked to investigate about the firm that despatched the gold. Earlier, police sought cooperation of Biman in this regard.

37 high-ranking army officers promoted

Thirty-seven high-ranking officers of Bangladesh Army got promotions last week. Probe News Agency reported yesterday.

Quoting official sources the news agency said, 11 Colonels were promoted to the rank of Brigadiers while 26 Lt. Colonels became Colonels. Some important transfers were also made within the Armed Forces, it said.

Director General of Ansar and Village Defence Party (VDP) Major General Muhammad Anwarul Kabir Talukdar has been transferred as GOC, 86 Division in Rangpur. Colonel Alauddin Mohammad Abdul Oudud has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier and made Commander of the 46 Independent Brigade in Dhaka. Colonel Tarique Ahmed Siddique has been promoted to the rank of Brigadier and appointed Defence Secretary to the Prime Minister.

'BAC can summon VIPs, but not a section of bureaucrats'

By Mizan Ali

The Bureau of Anti-Corruption (BAC) is empowered to call VIPs at its offices to probe corruption charges against them but it cannot do so in case of certain sections of bureaucrats official sources said.

As per Sub-section 3 of the Anti-Corruption Act of 1957, BAC officials are authorised to investigate any offence that comes to the notice of the government. They are also empowered to search any place, seize documents and arrest any person who commit offence.

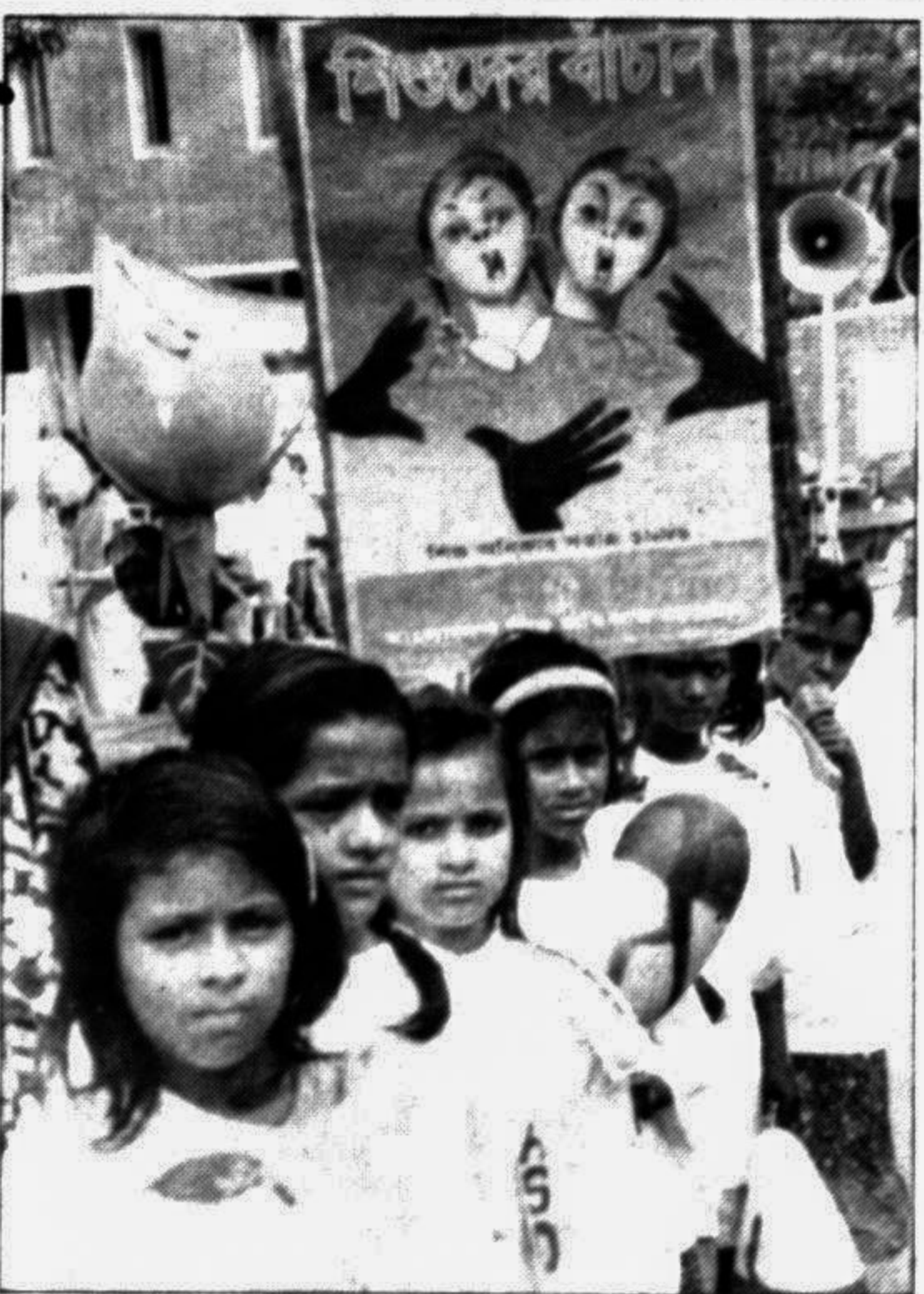
"The BAC was made to devote a lot from its original mandate," said an official, adding that this had weakened the functioning of the Bureau, he said.

DMC classes resume today

Classes of the Dhaka Medical College (DMC) resume today after a two-and-a-half-month of unscheduled closure, reports UNB.

The college was closed since die on August 14 following clashes between the activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal, the student wing of

See Page 12 Col 8



A colourful rally was brought out in the city yesterday marking the Children's Rights Week. — Star photo

Dhaka urges donors to keep up adequate flow of ODA

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria called upon the developed countries to maintain adequate flow of official assistance needed for poverty reduction and infrastructure development, reports UNB.

Private flows cannot be a substitute for official flows, he observed while briefing newsmen. In Washington on the outcome of the Commonwealth Finance Ministers' conference on Saturday, according to a message received in the city yesterday.

Kibria, who led a Bangladesh delegation at the recently held conference in Bermuda, was chosen as one of the five ministers to brief the international news media on the salient features of the meeting.

The group along with other members of the World Bank-International Monetary Fund (IMF) Group are now in the US capital to attend annual meeting of the Board of Governors of the two Bretton Woods institutions.

In his briefing, the Bangladesh finance minister

Two killed in Kushtia gunfight

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Sept 29: Two persons were killed and four others injured in a gunfight between two rival groups on Friday night.

The activists of the outlawed Biplobi Communist party and the JSD Gano Bahini were locked in the fight in village Sankardia under Sadar Thana. Siddiqat, 30, son of Nawab Ali Muzal of Alamdanga thana and Alauddin Ala, 35, of village

See Page 12 Col 3

observed that there were disturbing signs of a continuous decrease in the flow of concessional resources to the developing countries.

He noted with concern that official development assistance (ODA) from the developed world to developing countries fell in real terms for the sixth consecutive year.

It is reported that ODA amounted to about 0.27 per cent of GNP of the OECD (Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development) countries — the lowest ratio since the United Nations adopted a target of 0.71 per cent in 1970.

"This decrease in the flow of resources has impeded the development of both physical and social infrastructure in most of the developing countries," the Bangladesh minister pointed out.

Consequently, he said, the expanding private capital flow bypassed much of the developing world. Only around 20 de-

See Page 12 Col 1

Arsenic pollution 'Use surface water, use alum in it'

Star Report

Use of surface water instead of ground water and use of alum in it by the people of arsenic affected areas have been suggested by a leading expert and researcher.

The suggestion was made by Professor M Mujibul Haq, Head of the Department of Skin and VD, Dhaka Medical College, while talking to The Daily Star yesterday.

Prof. Haq carried out a research in the arsenic affected areas of Chapainawabganj for three months.

Dr Haq said that arsenic problem had affected over 50 per cent people of Sadar thana in Chapainawabganj, where he carried out his study during January to March this year.

According to him, arsenic level in the area of his study was much more than the acceptable level as determined by the World Health Organisation. He strongly recommended alternative source of water. Dr Haq said, people were found striking tubewells within 10 feet of those sealed by the Public Health Engineering Department for arsenic contamination of water.

Journalist dies after receiving 'death threat'

A journalist died of cardiac arrest in the city yesterday allegedly after receiving "death threat" from a jewellery house over publication of a news item on the recent gold haul, reports UNB.

Chanchal Biswas, 39, News Editor of Dainik Sonali Barta, suffered heart attack while talking over phone at his office at about 4:50 pm as he was frightened due to the threat to his life, his colleagues said.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital where doctors declared him dead at about 5:30 pm, hospital sources said.

The daily yesterday published a news item created by News Media that police raided the residence of Kazi Siraj, MP, owner of "Amin Jewellers," in connection with the Tk 7.05 crore gold haul at Zia International Airport.

See Page 12 Col 3

Habiganj-2 by-election 100 magistrates for 115 polling centres

Election Commission has decided to take tough security measures to ensure a free and fair voting in October 15 Habiganj by-election, boycotted by the main opposition, reports UNB.

The decision was taken in a joint meeting of the Commission, administration and law-enforcing agencies at the EC Secretariat here yesterday, officials said.

CU Syndicate meets today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Sept 29: The Chittagong University Syndicate will meet tomorrow at 10 am to take decision on resumption of classes and holding the postponed examinations, official source said today.

The meeting is also expected to constitute a high-powered body to probe the allegations made by the two rival student organisations — Bangladesh Chhatra League and Chhatra Shibir, the sources added.

The decision to hold the Syndicate meeting was taken at a meeting of the university authorities and leaders of the two

See Page 12 Col 8

According to them, the meeting also decided to deploy extra security forces in some risky centres of the constituency comprising Chhatraganj and Baniachang thanas.

Some 100 magistrates will be deployed in 115 polling centres, while four Superintendents of Police will lead a total of 3,334 security personnel, officials said.

The security personnel include 1638 policemen, 1,100 ansars and 600 paramilitary BDR men. Besides, army troops will be deployed to assist them.

The break-up of police personnel is as follows: SPs-4, Additional SPs-2, Inspectors-20, Sub-Inspectors-162, Havildars-68 and constables-1482.

BSS adds: Election Commissioner Abdur Rahman urged the political parties and local leadership to extend their total cooperation to the members of the law enforcing agencies to make the by-election meaningful. Without their cooperation it is not possible to hold fair polls, he added.

Rahman stressed on taking tough actions by local administration and law enforcing agencies to check terrorism in polling area, recover illegal

See Page 12 Col 4

Taliban have great love for Islam : Pak FM

ISLAMABAD, Sept 29: Pakistan today welcomed the new Taliban government in Kabul saying it hoped the Islamic militia would provide clean and honest leadership they did elsewhere in Afghanistan, reports AFP.

Taliban leadership are 'men of piety' and have great love for Islam. Foreign Minister Sardar Asaf Ahmed Ali said in a statement.

Young man shot dead in city

By Staff Correspondent

One young man was shot dead and at least five others were injured when an unidentified gang opened fire near a market at Jurain under Demra thana in the city yesterday evening.

A rickshawpuller, Kalam, 25, who sustains a bullet injury died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 9:30 pm, hospital sources said.

See Page 12 Col 7