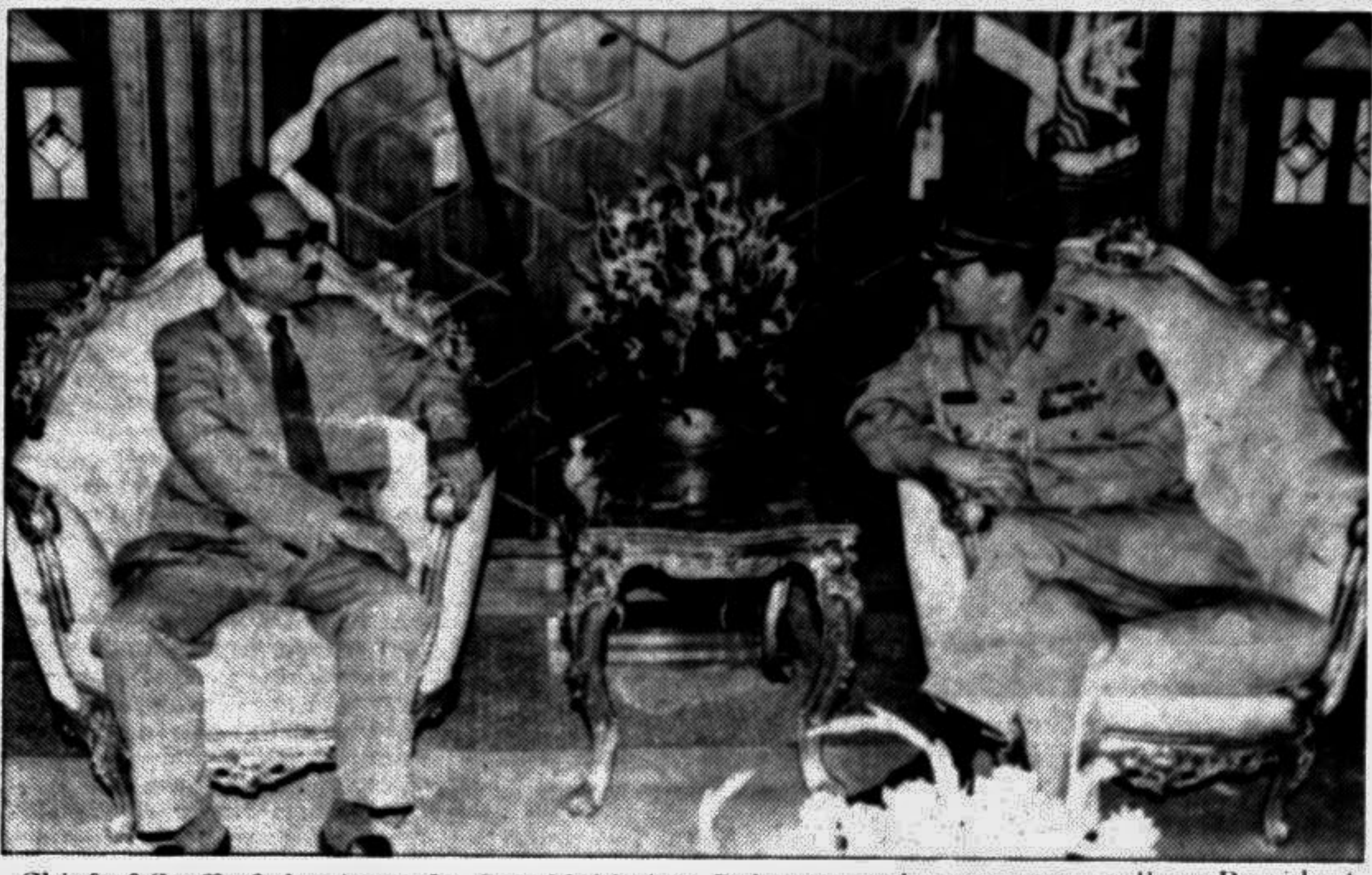


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Chief of Staff of the Army Lt Gen Mahbubur Rahman made a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

### PM assures necessary help Workers can invest money after 'golden handshake'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government was utilising every moment positively to clear the mess created during the last 21 years, reports BSS.

"We have given the main thrust on poverty alleviation as the last 21 years' non-governance, corruption and mismanagement have put the nation into a state of uncertainty," she said while exchanging views with leaders of Communist Kendro at her office in the city.

The leaders of Communist Kendro led by its chairman Ajoy Ray, expressed their all-out support and cooperation to the government's efforts to build Bangladesh as a progressive and democratic country where communal harmony will exist.

The leaders also put forward several suggestions and proposals regarding the country's education system, anti-terrorism drive and protection of the interests of farmers and workers.

Sheikh Hasina said the government had built a buffer stock of fertiliser, started procurement of rice and jute, and allocated Taka 100 crore as subsidy for the agriculture sector to uphold the interest of the farmers.

Explaining her government's plan for welfare of the workers, she said the workers, who quit their jobs through golden handshake, could accumulate their money to float a project of their own or buy government's industry under the disinvestment process.

"We will help them if these workers put their money together and establish a profitable concern either as a limited company or a cooperative venture," she said.

In this respect, the Prime Minister called upon the trade unions to mobilise the workers with money achieved through 'golden handshake' and invest it in a positive way.

She also said that these workers used to get their money on instalments during the BNP rule, but "we have given responsibility to four ministers to give away such money at a time so that these workers can use their money in a profitable way."

### Sangu-1 gas well Hectic lobbying for MOU with a third company

By Sharier Khan

Hectic lobbying is on by a US company for involvement as an assignee of a British company, Cairn plc, in developing the Sangu-1 gas well, sources in the Energy Ministry said.

The company, Brown and Roots, a sister organisation of oil giant Halliburton headed by former US defence secretary Dick Cheney, is reportedly trying to influence the officials concerned for convincing the government to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding during the upcoming visit of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to New York.

According to the sources, any MOU with this third company regarding this well would be "uncalled for" and "extraneous" since the government already has Production Sharing Contracts (PSCs) with its assigner the Cairn.

The Cairn struck gas in Sangu-1 well in the Bay of Bengal, 35 km off Chittagong in January last year. The gas field has an estimated reserve of over one trillion cubic feet of gas. It has planned an investment of 200 million US dollars for development of the Sangu-1 well and made an agreement with Brown and Roots making it its assignee. Under the agreement, Brown and Roots will invest 100 million US dollars and conduct 25 per cent of the development work of the well.

Brown and Roots later sought permission of the government to work as an assignee of the Cairn.

On September 20 last, Dick Cheney, Chief of Halliburton, the parent organisation of Brown and Roots, visited Dhaka and met the Prime Minister.

Sources disclosed that Brown and Roots was seeking "extra security" for its investment and was trying to influence the Energy Ministry to finalise a Gas Purchase Sales Agreement (GPSA) as soon as possible. The sources added that a GPSA could not be finalised before finalisation of the Sangu well development plan, expected in December.

The GPSA would determine, among other things, the rate at which the oil company will sell gas to Bangladesh government and the quantity. But the issues are yet to be agreed upon.

The sources claimed that a group of lobbyists are now trying to 'confuse' some important members of the Prime Minister's entourage by stressing "over importance" on the 100 million dollar involvement of Brown and Roots.

One source pointed out that the lobbyists were trying to arrange a meeting between Dick Cheney and the Prime Minister in New York and signing of a MOU.

A highly placed source in the Energy Ministry, however, said that no such arrangement will be signed. The Prime Minister will not hold an "official meeting" with the chief of a company, even if he is a former US defence secretary, he said.

He also said that there could be no separate agreement between the government and an "assignee company" since the "assigner" was, by agreement, responsible to the government regarding the hydrocarbon exploration.

The government has, however, almost finalised a GPSA for another US company, Occidental after eight months of minute review. The source said that the Occidental, which is scheduled to begin drilling a well in Sylhet in the coming winter, never sought any "extra security" from the government for its investment like that of Brown and Roots.

### Habiganj-2 bypolls

From Page 1

ership, by all possibilities, will get support of the local BNP in the by-elections," an office bearer of the JP told this correspondent Tuesday night.

A section of the local BNP supporters have reportedly started working for the JP candidate.

With no candidate of their own, the supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami have also no reason to vote for AL this time, the JP office-bearer observed. "With a strong support base of the JP, combined with tacit support of the BNP activists, Sirajul Hossain Khan has a fair chance to win the by-elections," he said.

A central leader of the Jamaat, however, said that the party issued no directive to vote for any particular candidate. "We have left the issue to the conscience of our activists and supporters there," the Jamaat leader said.

The Awami League candidate and his active supporters are also aware of the situation. "The JP candidate and his workers are trying to turn the by-elections into a race between Awami League versus others," Sengupta told The Daily Star adding, "I do not think the JP plan will eventually work."

A ruling party MP from Sylhet division, who is working hard for his party candidate, hoped that the BNP base would ultimately split and a significant section of the BNP supporters would be voting for Sengupta.

However, with his party already in power, Sengupta is likely to enjoy some "additional support" of the electorate. Besides, he is in a position to

### FBCCI elections: Harun announces 15-member panel

By Staff Correspondent

Yusuf Abdullah Harun, one of two candidates for the post of president of the Federation of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI), has announced his 15-member panel for the October 17 election.

Latifur Rahman, former president of MCCI the other candidate for the post of president, is expected to announce his panel soon.

The 15-member panel of Yusuf Harun includes Rajab Sharif of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI), Md Jahangir Akhand Sahim, President, Chandpur Chamber, Abdur Razzak Khan, President, Jessore Chamber, S M Najrul Islam, President, Khulna Chamber, Mohammad Ali Sarkar, President, Rajshahi Chamber, M A Munim, President, Sylhet Chamber, M Rezaul Malek, President, Barisal Chamber, Md Rafiqul Islam, President, Dinajpur Chamber, Mir Nasser Hussain, President, Faridpur Chamber, A K M Shamsuddoha, President, Kishoreganj Chamber, Dewan Sultan Ahmed, President, Laxmipur Chamber, A K M Shamsuddin, President, Mymensingh Chamber, Abdul Wahed, President, Nababganj Chamber, Nazimur Rahman, representative of Rajbari Chamber, Gulam Mostofa, President of Rangpur Chamber.

### Hasina: Ctg

From Page 1

of the port city for economic reasons, she said all offices concerned would be set up there to turn it into a real commercial capital.

Sheikh Hasina told the CCC Mayor and the commissioners that her government started its journey with a deficit of 45,000 metric tons of food, chaotic administration and serious law-and-order situation.

In last 110 days," Hasina said, "the government has taken steps to streamline the administration, law and order and other problems inherited from the previous government."

She said the main objective of her government is to make a happy and prosperous Bangladesh by alleviating poverty.

Responding to the demands for giving magisterial status and power to the ward commissioners, Hasina said the LGRD Ministry had been directed to look into it.

Mayor Mohiuddin Chowdhury, pointing out various problems like loadshedding of power, water crisis, destruction of hill, urged the Prime Minister to take remedial measures.

The Mayor also put up a proposal for expansion of the city to 120 square kilometres from 50 square km.

LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman, State Minister for Labour and Manpower Abdul Mannan and National Professor Dr Nurul Islam also spoke on the occasion.

### Tale of shoes

From Page 1

complaints against members of the law-enforcing agency in a public hearing dubbed "Open House Day".

Milon told the DMP Commissioner that he was arrested in a case in the last week of August. Police kept the shoes outside while taking him into lockup. "I was assured return of the shoes, but I am yet to get those despite repeated knocks," he said.

The DMP Commissioner was learnt to have directed Deputy Commissioner (East) Nayeem Ahmed to look into the matter.

### Appointment cancelled

The Ministry of Education yesterday cancelled the appointment of Professor Altaf Hossain as pro-Vice-Chancellor of the Rajshahi University, says an official handout.

### Rao : Worst moment

From Page 1

Hindu radicals who made disputable claim that it occupied ground holy to Hindus. Muslims are 12 per cent of India's 970 million people and are an important vote bank.

Rao's arrest and release on bail is the beginning of more trouble for him and the Congress Party.

Rao faces three criminal cases— a) He is charged with asking an Indian diplomat based in New York in 1989 to authenticate what he allegedly knew were false documents that aimed at defaming Vishwanath Pratap Singh, who was Prime Minister in 1989 for 11 months. b) The \$100,000, 13-year-old criminal cheating case. c) A London-based Indian businessman claims to have paid \$100,000 bribe to Chandraswami, a widely known influence peddler and close to Rao, in the hope of winning a government contract to supply newsprint. The businessman, Lakshubhai Patkah, has accused Rao, who was foreign minister at the time, of

## Ruling party has snatched voting right: Mannan

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the ruling party snatched people's voting right which was restored through the sacrifice of martyrs, including Jehad, who fought against the then autocratic, reports UNB.

"We have to evaluate the contribution of Jehad and others and also think whether their dreams are materialised or not," he said addressing a discussion organised to mark Shaheed Jehad Day at the BCIC auditorium in the city yesterday.

Shaheed Jehad Day, the 6th death anniversary of Nazir Uddin Jehad, was observed yesterday. A student of Ullapara Ali Akbar College, Jehad was shot dead in the city's Motijheel area during the democratic movement in 1990.

Leader of the Opposition and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia was scheduled to attend the meeting as chief guest. But owing to sickness, she could not attend the discussion organised by Shaheed Jehad Smriti Parisad, a non-political organisation.

Mannan Bhuiyan said Jehad had sacrificed his life for the cause of democracy and establishing people's right to franchise, which was snatched by the then autocratic ruler. The present government has done the same thing, he alleged.

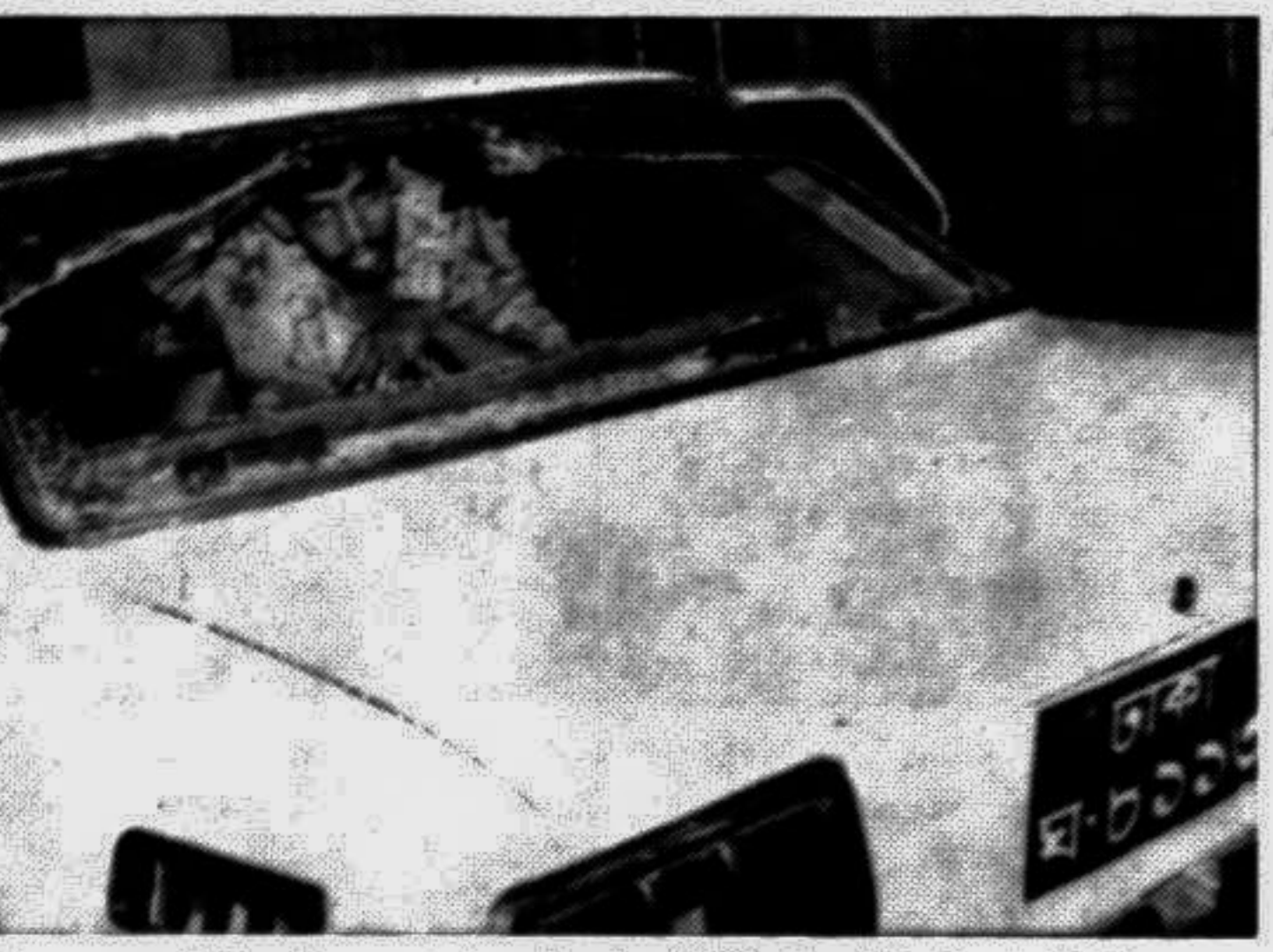
Charging the ruling Awami League with failure to curb terrorism and corruption, he said: "They are perpetrating repression on innocent BNP workers to hide the real terrorists being patronised by themselves."

The BNP Secretary General claimed that his party tried its best to materialise the dreams

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The car of the Superintendent of Dhaka Medical College hostel was damaged by some students yesterday. — Star photo

## Save Dhaka campaign

From Page 1

The schools which will participate in the motivation programmes today are: Nababpur Government High School, Kaptanbazar; Dhaka Collegiate School, Sadarghat; Karatitola Government Primary School, Karatitola; Millat High School, Bangsal; Hamadia High School, Armanitola; Islania High School, Suarighat; Armanitola Government School, Armanitola; BDR High School, Pilkhana; Chinna Mukta Scout Group, Palasy; Palasy Government Primary School, Palasy; Engineering University School, BUET, Dhanshiri Mukta Dal, Dhalpur; Udayan Bidyalay, Dhaka University; Dhaka Badr High School, Bijnayagar; Kadamtola East Basabo High School, Basabo; Bangladesh Protibandhi Foundation, Malbagh; Ideal Government Primary School, Motijheel; Motijheel Government Boys' High School, Motijheel; Bowani High School, Demra; Government Science College, Tejgaon; BG Press High School, Tejgaon; Rayerbazar High School, Rayerbazar; Nakhhalpara Hossain Ali High School, Nakhhalpara; Tejgaon Government High School, Tejgaon; West Dhanmondi Yusuf High School, Dhanmondi; Mohammadpur Government Primary School, Mohammadpur; Bengali Medium High School, Mohammadpur; Lalmatia Government Primary School, Lalmatia; Kamarpura High School, Agar-

## BCL-JCD clash leaves 10 hurt in Jhalakathi

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 10: At least 10 activists of BCL and JCD were injured, three of them seriously, in a clash between the two groups at College Road of Jhalakathi district at around noon today.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted when the two processions of BCL and JCD were crossing each other at the College Road.

They exploded cocktails and used lethal weapons during the hour-long clash, witnesses said.

BCL activists Apu, 23, Raj, 22 and Babul, were seriously injured.

Police picked up one Mahiuddin, a BCL activist, with two 'randao's' from the spot.

## Heavy fighting in north of Kabul

KABUL, Oct 10: Afghanistan's Islamic Taliban militia appears to have suffered further reverses at the hands of ousted government military chief Ahmad Shah Masood in fighting in the Salang Pass north of Kabul, witnesses said today, reports UNB.

The witnesses said the sound of heavy fighting was apparent just north of Jabal-ol-Siraj, a town at the foot of the Hindu Kush mountains through which the steep-sided pass leads.

"It was very close to Jabal-ol-Siraj," said one traveller, who asked not to be identified.

On Wednesday, the front line was about 15 km north of Jabal-ol-Siraj, witnesses said.

## BCL activists 'misbehave' with SM Hall Provost

By Staff Correspondent

Some activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League allegedly misbehaved with the provost and the house tutors of the Salimullah Hall of Dhaka University Wednesday night.

According to the sources at the hall, the BCL activists abused the provost and the house tutors who were with him when they found some outsiders in room no. 77 and asked them to leave the hall.

At one stage, the BCL activists chanted slogans and asked him to resign, the sources alleged.

The provost then left the hall with his house tutors and informed the Vice Chancellor of the incident.

The VC advised the provost to take action against those involved in the incident.

Hall sources said, some outsiders had been staying in the hall. They are disturbing the normal life in the hall, the residents alleged.

The provost at a meeting with the house tutors yesterday decided to issue show-cause notice to the students involved.

## Freedom Party activist held

From Page 1

A Freedom Party activist was arrested from Minto Road area in the city on Wednesday night, reports UNB.

The arrested was identified as M Monir Hossain alias Mohsin, said a DMP press release yesterday.

Following his confessional statement, police later recovered an LG from his home at Andher Manik village in Kallakoir thana of Gazipur district.

## Judicial system

From Page 1

ment was pledge bound to bring about measures to improve upon the quality of the judicial system and ensure justice to all.

Criticising the legal education system in terms of both quality and content, the WB report said that judicial training facilities are equally poor.

The WB report further said: "Delays in administering justice result not only from overloaded courts, but also because the higher judiciary does a poor job of supervising the lower courts."

The judicial inefficiency also creates hurdles in carrying out commercial transactions besides raising problems in securing property and other assets and collecting overdue payments, the report said.

When asked on this issue, Khasru said that the government was trying to reform those laws that discouraged local and foreign investors and adversely affected the growth of the economy.

## BJP leading in UP state assembly polls

NEW DELHI, Oct 10: Continuing a voter preference for the right, a Hindu nationalist party took an early lead Thursday in elections for India's most populous and politically important state, reports AP.

The Bharatiya Janata Party was emerging as the single largest party, although it appeared it would fall short of a majority in the 425-seat Uttar Pradesh state assembly.

The Bharatiya Janata, or BJP, won 62 of the 185 seats declared by Thursday morning. The United Front coalition, which controls the federal government in New Delhi, was in second place with 44 seats.

Final results were expected to be announced early Friday in Lucknow, the state capital.

## Sonali Bank

From Page 1

that the National University rules provided for admission on the basis of marks and not on the basis of admission test.

But the students collecting forms from the Sonali Bank counter got agitated at this decision and ransacked the bank counter blasting several bombs and firing a few rounds of gunshots.

None was injured in the incident.

Daulatpur police rushed to the scene and brought the situation under control.

Later at a press conference at the Press Club here this evening, Chhatra League leaders blamed the JCD and Shibir activists for the incident.

The principal of the college, however, said some unruly students were responsible.

## DSE reimposes

From Page 1

should have considered the sentiment of operators in the korb market before issuing the notice.

As the market has been growing fast due to a mad spree of share buying by a new breed of investors, the authorities decided to put the brake again to protect the market from any possible shock.

The SEC sent a letter to the stock exchange today under the authority of Section 84 (4) of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance 1969, ordering the bourse to amend its trading rule for "public interest", the sources said.

"We have done what the SEC asked us to do ... if we do not agree to apply the circuit breaker, it is deemed to be adopted as per the rules," DSE Chairman Intiyaz Hussain told UNB, declining to make any further comment on the government's regulatory move.

A DSE release issued after the meeting, however, said "this is the first instance of imposition of an order on a self-regulatory stock market in Bangladesh."

The DSE had earlier introduced the circuit breaker, but suspended three months ago as the system led to corruption by taking the share trading outside the floor and created problems in its pricing, the sources said.

The main problem, they said, is short supply of scripts. No control mechanism will work except breeding corruption in either way of transactions, they added.

## Water treatment

From Page 1

ronment-friendly plan is the need of the time to save river from being polluted by industrial waste, human excreta, fungi, and metal compositions.

Dr Zahurul Islam, an associate professor at the Institute of Flood Control and Drainage Research (IFCDR) in the Engineering University, expressed grave concern at the rate of industrial waste disposal in river waters.

"If nothing can be done now to redress the problem, rivers will no more be able to digest all the waste," Dr Islam feared.

He told The Daily Star that in his opinion it would be wise to shift the intake point of CWTP further downstream of the Buriganga, where water is still relatively less polluted.

A highly placed source in the Department of Environment (DOE) said a number of attempts to relocate 220 tanneries from Hajirabagh to Savar, a city suburb, went in vain in the past due to reluctance of tannery owners.

BFLA president Rahmatullah, who is also a ruling party lawmaker, admitted that in the past tannery owners declined to shift their plants to Savar as the location was not ideal for export-led leather industry.

He said that during the rule of BNP, tannery owners had sought lands at Kancharpur by the river Shitalakkhya or at Daudkandi by the river Meghna. "A century water treatment plant at Hajirabagh can be an alternative solution", he added.

A delegation of tannery owners and finished leather exporters had a meeting with Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed on October 7, but no discussion on relocation of Hajirabagh tannery took place meeting sources said.