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Indian actresses Bappi Lahiri and Hema Malini addressing a press conference at a city hotel yesterday. — Star photo

## General students hail

From Page 1

"Ban on student politics will not bring any good." He, however, said that the present trend of student politics could be changed to curb campus terrorism.

"Student politics should be made more student-oriented. Chhatra League is trying to change the present trend of student politics," he said.

He suggested that the course curriculum at all levels including the universities should be changed and designed in such way that can involve the student in studies.

ABM Mosarrat Hossain, DU unit president of JCD also rejected the suggestion.

## Major parties

From Page 1

Awami League and opposition Jatiya Party made cautious remarks on the sensitive issue while a top leader of BNP said that his party was yet to decide on the matter.

However, Mayor of Dhaka and city AL President Mohammad Hanif and Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Matur Rahman Nizami welcomed the President's suggestion.

In a statement Hanif said, "This is very timely appeal from the President for stopping terrorism."

The Mayor also requested all political parties to come forward with realistic approach to implement the President's suggestion.

Nizami in his statement said that the President had echoed the sincere wishes of the whole nation as regards student politics.

The Jamaat leader also urged the government and the opposition parties to reach a consensus on a moratorium on student politics to free the educational campuses from terrorism.

"The proposal is not bad," AL president member Amir Hossain Amu told The Daily Star without elaborating.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP said that his party would issue a written reaction to the President's suggestion today after discussing the issue at the party forum. He, however, declined to pass any comment on the issue.

Jatiya Party Secretary General and Communications Minister, Anwar Hossain Manju said that he shared the President's feelings but failed to understand the purpose.

## Tribunals

From Page 1

sonable period.

Considering the inordinate delay in the disposal of the petitions, the Election Commission had proposed the formation of special tribunals at the divisional level to exclusively deal with the election disputes, the sources added.

## Malaysians

From Page 1

plan to force foreign workers who marry Malaysian women to leave the country, the New Straits Times reported Sunday.

Wanting representative Ms Ramlah Abbas said this would result in many women especially Muslim women, becoming "widows."

"The government must also reconsider calls by certain quarters to ask Malaysian women who married foreigners to leave the country with their husbands," she said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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# The Daily Star

Democracy Watch survey

## 37 pc happy over govt performance

Thirty-seven per cent of the respondents have said they are satisfied with the performance of the first 100 days of the Awami League government, reports BBS.

Announcing the results of the survey conducted by the "Democracy Watch" at a press conference yesterday, the organisers said that 43 per cent of them said it was average while 14 per cent were not satisfied.

The survey was conducted in nine major cities of Dhaka, Chittagong, Comilla, Sylhet, Mymensingh, Bogra, Rajshahi, Pirojpur and Barisal on October 1 and 2 on completion of Awami League's 100 days in power.

The allegation of the opposition that the television coverage of the parliament session was not neutral was rejected by a narrow margin — 44 per cent said it was neutral while 43 per cent disagreed.

## Prokrichi-BCS leaders meet Hasina

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government would not take time in adopting people-oriented decisions, but the administration needs to be dynamic for implementing those in order to keep pace with the fast-moving world, reports UNB.

"The decisions will not be implemented in time if you do not become active and dynamic," she said asking government officials to work sincerely for the interest of the people, utilise every moment for people's welfare.

Addressing the members of Prokrichi-BCS Central Coordinating Council, the Prime Minister said her party had got chance to serve the nation after long 21 years and the government wanted to utilise every second for the advancement of the people.

About the demands of Prokrichi-BCS, the forum of non administrative officials, the Prime Minister said the government had taken various steps which will help solve their problems.

The council chairman, Engineer MAK Azad, secretary general agriculturist Dr Abdur Razzak, and its leaders Khalil Ahmed and Engr Nurul Huda also spoke on the occasion.

The Prokrichi-BCS leaders placed demands to the Prime Minister, urging removal of anomalies in the pay scale and promotion and easing the bureaucratic tangles.

## Habiganj-2 bypolls

From Page 1

sioner A R Siddiky tonight said that a peaceful situation was prevailing in the constituency.

Meanwhile, the District Electoral Enquiry Committee headed by a sub-judge has so far received five complaints of election code violations from contesting candidates. However, all the complaints were disposed of through mutual talks and understanding.

District Election Officer Misbahuddin Ahmed told The Daily Star that a total of 67 polls observers would monitor the bypolls.

The by-election is being held following the death of Awami League MP Sharifuddin Ahmed. He had won the seat in the June 12 general elections defeating his nearest rival BNP's Zakaria Khan Chowdhury by 16,839 votes. Ahmed had secured 51,369 votes.

There are four contestants in the race. They are: Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Advisor Suranjit Sengupta of ruling Awami League, former minister Sirajul Hussain Khan

But 49 per cent interviewees said government and Awami League are getting excessive coverage in other TV programmes while 39 per cent disagreed and 12 per cent said they do not know.

The survey further said that 52 per cent of the respondents were satisfied with the performance of the Awami League MPs in parliament, 36 per cent were not satisfied and 12 per cent said they do not know.

Seventy per cent interviewees consider Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as father of the nation, 23 per cent disagreed and the remaining seven per cent were in confusion, the survey said.

Tarekul Hassan Chapal, supervisor of the opinion poll, said that 10,406 respondents participated in the face-to-face interview — 69 per cent of them were men and 31 per cent women.

Seven per cent of the interviewees were not literate, 3 per cent had primary education, 42 per cent had higher secondary education and 38 per cent had higher education, Chapal said.

Taleya Rahman, Executive Director and Shafiq Rahman, Director of Democracy Watch, also spoke on the occasion.

## Bankruptcy Act

From Page 1

the loan amount, then the defaulter will be declared a bankrupt.

According to the new Act, a bankrupt will not be entitled to any fresh loan from any bank until he repays the amount, or the court changes its decision.

He will also not be qualified to become a member of the parliament.

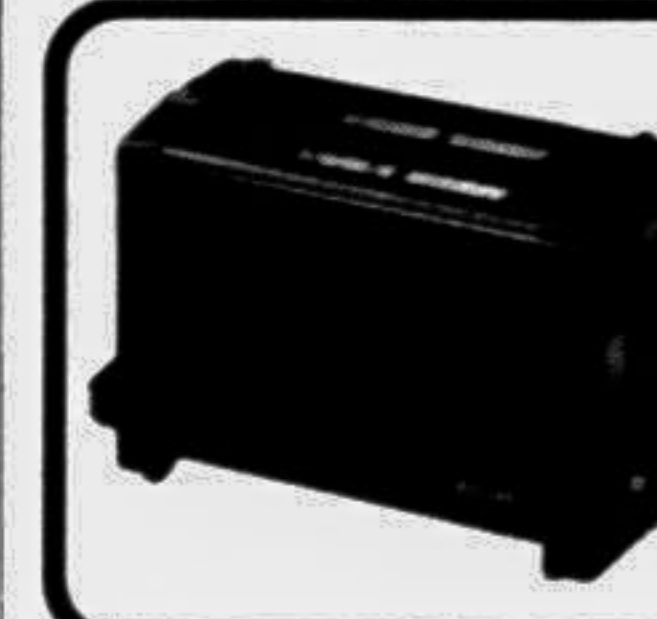
The Bankruptcy Act, the "most comprehensive one" till date, was drafted in four years in the light of the US Bankruptcy Act and the Singaporean law.

Drafted by national and international experts on banking and experts from the Ministry of Finance and Ministry of Law, it was finalised six months ago.

According to the new Act, appeals against decisions of the court can only be made to the Supreme Court and High Court divisions.

Ministers and state ministers in charge of different ministries attended the Cabinet meeting. Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries concerned were present.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina presided over the meeting.



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PHILIPS

## Private sector power house in a remote village

From Abu Sayed

THANARHAT. (Noakhali) Oct 14: When night falls on this remote village off Noakhali coast, it does not now plunge into darkness. It now boasts of electricity, thanks to an enterprising villager.

Having installed his own power plant, Abdur Rahim has turned his Thanarhat village into one of the few villages in Bangladesh that have electricity. Most of Bangladesh's 75,000 villages go without electricity.

Villagers at Thanarhat in Sudharam thana are excited. "I thought I'll never see electricity in our small village in my life time. Rahim has made our dream come true," said a 60-year-old resident.

Rahim's power house has two generators, one with seven kilowatt hour capacity and the other with five kilowatt. He keeps the generators open from 6 in the evening to 10 at night. A consumer is charged six takas every day for a 60 watt bulb, five takas for a 40 watt bulb and three takas for running television. His consumers are happy with the tariff. Rahim has managed about 100 connections through his makeshift transmission lines.

Rahim is an example how effective the private initiative in the power sector could be. But successive governments in Bangladesh had ignored the fact,

pushing the country lower in the list of nations with lowest per capita electricity consumption. The power sector is limping with old and outdated installations and shortage of funds.

At about 80 kilowatt hours a year Bangladesh is among the lowest in developing countries in terms of electricity generated per capita, according to a World Bank estimate.

When most countries in the world are enjoying surplus power, Bangladesh's electricity network can serve barely 14 per cent of the population. Situation in the rural areas is miserable. Less than five per cent of rural population get electricity.

This scanty supply is again not without interruption. Load shedding is a part of life with the minister in-charge admitting that the outage has now reached up to 400 megawatt in peak hour.

The World Bank says, on current usage pattern, each one per cent growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) requires a 2.0 to 2.5 per cent rise in power supply. Thus a GDP growth rate of 7 per cent which Bangladesh is aiming by next year requires a corresponding growth in power generation of at least 14 per cent a year.

The previous government targeted the year 2000 when all

in the country will get electricity. To achieve it, country needs an additional 12,000 megawatt of electricity and nearly 400,000 kilometers of transmission line. The ambition requires huge investment to get fulfilled.

Foreign capital in the sector is the only available answer. "Laws restricting foreigners in the sector must go," said Dr Jamilur Reza Chowdhury who was with the caretaker government as adviser in-charge of energy ministry.

About a dozen foreign firms, some of them internationally reputed, are awaiting decisions from the authorities on power generation for more than a year.

But additional generation needs time. Officials in the ministry of energy said generation from a new plant was unlikely before 1998 if it was set up even this month.

Patronisation of intelligent people like Abdur Rahim is what the government can do in the meantime. Entrepreneurs like him can be supported with credit and fiscal benefit to set up such micro power stations. Industries could be allowed to run their own generators.

Because it's the electricity which indicates a nation's progress.

— News network feature

## Seminar on water, environment in Delhi from today

A 15-member delegation led by Dr Kazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, Chairman of Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, left Dhaka last night for New Delhi to attend a seminar on "Water and environment" beginning today, reports BSS.

The three-day seminar has been arranged jointly by Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad, Dhaka, Centre for Policy Dialogue, New Delhi and the Institute of International Development Studies, Kathmandu.

The delegation members include water experts, politicians, and journalists.

Hasanul Haq Inu, general secretary of the Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal and leader of Left Democratic Front, also left the city yesterday evening for New Delhi to attend the seminar.

## AL-BNP clash in Jhenidah: 35 hurt

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Oct 14: At least 35 persons were injured in a clash between the activists of Awami League and BNP at village Dekkhin, Kastasagra in Sadar thana this morning.

According to eyewitnesses and police, the activists of the two groups fought each other with lethal weapons following the sale of a disputed land.

## Meat seller killed in Patuakhali

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 14: One Babul, 35, a meat seller, was killed by some youths in the Patuakhali town at about 11 am today.

Police and witnesses said Babul was came under attack by a group of youths when he was returning home from his shop in the Newmarket. Injured Babul was rushed to hospital where doctors declared him dead.

## Power policy

From Page 1

only 'one window'—the power cell, set up earlier.

The investors will have to depend on their income from sale of power to retrieve their investments, make profit and repayment of loans. The government will not be responsible for any of these.

A tariff structure will be chalked out based on 'capacity charge' and 'energy charge' on which all proposals for investment will be evaluated.

Standard Implementation Agreement, Power Purchase Agreement, and Fuel Supply Agreement will be formulated to make effective and quick negotiations between the investors and the government.

Steps will be taken to formulate 'bid package' for tendering and evaluation of bids under Build Own Operate (BOO) modality.

The government will determine the type of fuel to be used in any power project. After signing of an agreement with a company, the government will ensure the supply of the fuel.

The government will impose an independent SRO if a decision is taken to provide extra financial benefit to the private power generation companies.

BSS adds: Ministers, state ministers in-charge of different ministries, cabinet secretary, principal secretary to the Prime Minister and secretaries concerned were present at the meeting chaired by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

## CBA leaders allege repression for opposing power import from India

The CBA of the Power Development Board (PDB) accused the authorities of perpetrating repression on union leaders as they are opposing import of electricity from India, reports UNB.

Leaders of the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) Bangladesh Jatiya Bidyut Sramik Karmachari Union demanded unconditional withdrawal of show-cause notices served on its four leaders within 72 hours.

"Otherwise, we would be compelled to go for greater action programme," the CBA warned at a press conference at its Moulteel office yesterday.

The union is affiliated with the BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal.

The union has already called a demonstration day throughout the country on October 20. According to them, if their demand was not met, the action programme will be announced on the day.

Union general secretary M Zafrul Hasan at the news conference categorically said country's power crisis could be resolved through proper load management, but not importing electricity from India.

For this, he demanded immediate regeneration of 210 megawatt Raozan Power Plant. Power generation in the plant, according to him, remained suspended since August 28 due to shortage of gas.

The press conference was attended, among others, by union president Kazi Habibur Rahman, Vice-presidents Kazi Abdul Halim and Afaz Uddin and joint secretary M Gazi Bhuiyan.

## Khaleda

From Page 1

for the countrymen, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Begum Zia and the members of her entourage are now staying at a royal guest house near Makkah.

A large number of Bangladeshis residing in KSA went to the guest house to meet the BNP chairperson and former prime minister.

They apprised Begum Zia of an adverse situation they are now facing in some of the Middleastern countries, including Saudi Arabia.

Begum Zia, who began her tour of KSA on Sunday, is supposed to leave Makkah for Medina where she will offer Fataha at the mazar of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM).

## Security guard

From Page 1

of the industry, filed a case with Tejgaon thana in this connection in the early hours of yesterday, police said.

Shajahan, son of Sirajul Islam and Moshir Rahman, son of Fazlur Rahman hailed from Bishnupur and Haziganj thanas in Chandpur district, police said.

The IO visited the spot and questioned some persons of the factory yesterday but none was arrested till last night.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately. However, police suspected that the guard Saiful had conflict with Shajahan and Moshir. Besides, Saiful, a former army personnel who hailed from Ullipur, Kunggram, had suffered a mental disorder about a year ago, police added.

## 2 SM Hall students apologise

By DU Correspondent

The student leaders of the Salmullah Hall of Dhaka University — Nazrul Islam and Rezaul Huq — have apologised for their misbehaviour with the provost of the hall.

They were forgiven on condition that they would not take meals from the hall canteens free of cost nor give shelter to the outsiders.

Meanwhile, the Vice Chancellor, Prof Abdul Kalam Azad Chowdhury visited the Salmullah hall on Sunday night.

He visited the hall as part of the regular hall-visit programme he introduced recently. The Provost of the hall Prof Zia Shams and the house tutors were with him.

## Tejgaon College student commits suicide

By DMCH Correspondent

A college student reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself in his residence in the city's Siddique Bazar area on Sunday night.

The student was identified as Jamshed Hossain, 17, son of one Abdul Zabar. He was found hanging from a ceiling fan hook in his room at around 9 pm, police said. Family members rushed him to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the doctors declared him dead, hospital sources said.

Jamshed was a second year HSC student of Tejgaon College.

## Harun

From Page 1

ports, energy and power would be removed and the government would be pursued to simplify the procedures for foreign investment, he said.

He pledged that every initiative would be taken to rehabilitate the sick industries, problems of the chambers would be solved, necessary steps would be taken to strengthen and stabilise the capital market.

The FBCCI would be reorganised, a service centre would be opened in it, internet system would be made available for the use of private-sector people and a peaceful environment would be created improving the law-and-order situation, Harun said.

Panel candidates Rajib Sharif, Jahangir Alam Akhand, Abdur Razzak Khan, SM Nazrul Islam, Mohammad Ali Sarker, MA Mumin, Razaul Malik, Rafiqul Islam, Mir Nasir Hossain, AKM Shamsuddin, Dewan Sultan Ahmed, AKM Shamsuddin, Abdul Wahed, Nizabur Rahman and Golam Mostafa were present.

## JS session

From Page 1

from the executive wing of the state and repeal of the constitutional provisions that indemnified the killers of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, sources concerned said.

Subject to the approval of some amendments to the JS Rules of Procedure by the House, the session would also witness formation of several parliamentary standing bodies on some ministries. The Standing Committee on JS Rules of Procedure, comprising members from both the Treasury and the Opposition benches, has completed preparations for proposing some amendments before the House, the sources said.