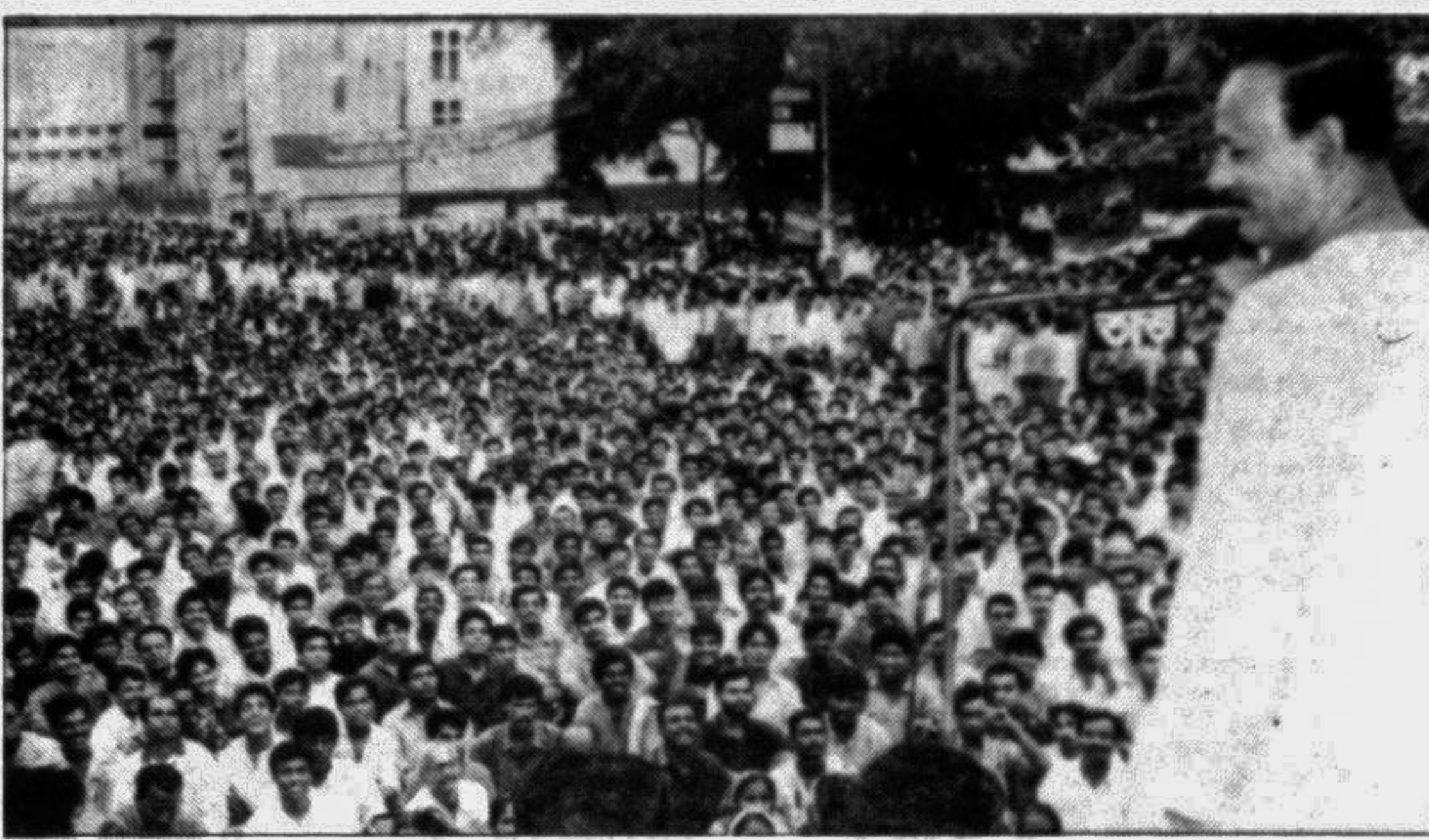


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BNP general secretary Abdul Mannan addressing a public meeting in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday. — Star photo

BNP to resist polls

From Page 1

"The ruling Awami League not only rigged the by-polls, but also rigged the elections of college students' unions including that of the Government Titumir College." People of the country will not spare this government unless it shuns the practice of vote-rigging.

Presided by city BNP chief Mir Shaukat Ali, the rally was also addressed by, among other BNP leaders, Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, MP; Tariqul Islam, Mirza Abbas, Amanullah Aman, MP; Goyeshwar Roy, Zafrul Hassan and JCD president Shahiduddin Choudhury Anny.

About the reported government move to file corruption cases against BNP chief and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Mannan Bhuiyan argued that no case could be lodged against her on charge of illegal expenditure for decoration at the former PM's residence as, he said, the PM was not supposed to oversee the matter. "The officials and employees concerned were to deal with the issue," he remarked.

Regarding the planned case against Begum Zia's son Tareq Rahman, Bhuiyan said the bank that sanctioned loans to him (Tareq) was keeping mum on the issue while the government was active.

"These are examples of politics of revenge," he said and advised the ruling party to give up the practice and devote itself to national development.

Commenting on the AL government's performance, the former minister said that during its last three months' rule, the government had raised electricity charge by 25 per cent and the prices of flour and pulses. "The country could have wit-

nessed a '74-like situation if we did not ensure sufficient stock of rice," he said.

Opposing the government plan to import power from India, the BNP leader viewed that new power plants could be installed and the inoperative ones could be renovated with the cost of importing power. "India may set up another Farakka-like barrage on the plea of generating extra power provided Bangladesh goes for power import from that country," he noted.

Bhuiyan also blamed the government for "completing the process of turning the country into a vassal state of India."

Addressing the rally, the former energy minister Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain said that during their regime India's proposal for import of power from that country was only examined. "But no talks were held between the two countries on the matter."

Former minister Tariqul Islam said that during its nearly four months' rule, this government has established itself as an opponent of the people.

Former mayor of the city Mirza Abbas warned that the killing of and repression on his partymen would not go unaccounted. He also criticised the present mayor, Mohammad Hanif, for his failure to resolve the problems facing the city dwellers.

Goyeshwar Roy demanded of the government to realise due share of the Ganges waters or quit power.

Shahiduddin Choudhury Anny protested President Shahabuddin Ahmed's suggestion for a moratorium on student politics saying "student politics is our fundamental right."

Power generation

From Page 1

crease by at least 20 per cent, Petrobangla said.

Power Generation is also being partially hampered in the Siddhirganj Power Station, Haripur Power Plant, Ghoshal Power Plant and Ashuganj Power Plant due to limitations of the gas transmission line and other problems.

The Petrobangla experts had earlier forecast the gas supply shortage in Chittagong region and the government initiated the World Bank-financed Ashuganj-Bakhrabad (AB) pipeline project to connect the Bakhrabad system with the Ashuganj system in 1994. The Ashuganj system can provide surplus gas extracted by Titas and Jalalabad gas fields.

However, the Australian contractor of the AB Pipeline Project failed to conduct the task and installed only 2 km pipeline instead of 59 km. The work on the project resumed again and the Petrobangla expects that the pipeline will be completed by April next year.

The Bakhrabad and Feni gasfields are now supplying 152 million cubic feet of gas daily. Of this, KAFCO is buying 54 mcf gas, CUFL 47 mcf, KPM 7 mcf and other sectors are buying 30 mcf gas. The authorities are capable of supplying only the remaining 14 mcf gas to different power plants. Of this, 10 mcf gas is consumed by the 60 MW Shikabaha power station and 4.5 mcf gas is consumed by Haripur power station during peak hours. However, the Bakhrabad system cannot provide 40 mcf gas required by the Razuan power plant daily.

In order to improve power generation, the Petrobangla recommends that gas supplies to KAFCO and CUFL should be cut at least by 20 per cent till the completion of the AB Pipeline. Although the country has surplus gas production in the

Titas and Jalalabad gasfields, due to limitation of the Ashuganj pipeline, the authorities are unable to provide 12 mcf gas to Siddhirganj Power Plant, 18 mcf to Haripur Power Plant and 25 mcf to the Ghoshal Power Plant. In addition, due to other problems of the Power Development Board, the Ashuganj power plant is unable to utilize 140 mcf gas daily.

The Petrobangla said that currently one gas well is being drilled at Kailashatila and another well is being rehabilitated. When these steps are completed in December next, the Kailashatila gasfields would produce additional 55 mcf gas.

Besides, in order to utilise the Meghna gasfields, a pipeline is being installed connecting the gasfield with the AB pipeline. Once this is completed, it would be able to supply 20 mcf gas to the national grid.

Once the construction of AB pipeline is completed, an additional 75 mcf gas can be supplied to the Chittagong region.

The total gas production capacity of the country is 795 mcf daily but actual supply stands at 753 mcf. Of this, the power sector consumes 300 mcf, fertiliser factories 263 mcf and other sectors consume 190 mcf.

Hartal in Bandarban today

BANDARBAN, Oct 15: Bandarban Zila Gono Parishad, an organisation of non-tribals, has called for a dawn-to-dusk hartal here tomorrow, reports BSS.

Convener of the Parishad Osman Gani said the hartal has been called to protest, killing, kidnapping and toll extortion by the outlawed Shantibahini in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Curb smuggling with strong hand: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday urged the members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to curb smuggling with strong determination and courage and rise above all kinds of allurements, report agencies.

Addressing all rank and file officers, GCOs and soldiers at the Darbar Hall of BDR headquarters at Peelkhana, the prime minister described how smuggling was creating impediments to the expansion of indigenous mills and factories, establishment of new industries and govt efforts to alleviate poverty.

The prime minister was confident that it was possible to stop smuggling with the co-operation of the people and sincere efforts of the BDR.

She reminded the BDR members that they belonged to a nationally important organisation. "We want to build you up efficiently for helping in the

overall national development process besides guarding the frontiers," she said.

The prime minister said independence of a country depends on its geographical boundary and sovereignty and that is why Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman took steps to rebuild the border force in the war ravaged country.

Responding to the demands of the BDR jawans, Hasina announced raising of compensation money from Tk 50,000 to Tk one lakh for those who will be killed and Tk 50,000 for those who will be injured in discharging their professional duty.

Amidst clappings from the jawans, the prime minister also announced the increase of family ration from 20 per cent to 40 per cent.

Hasina also directed the authorities concerned to provide ration to the 60 injured freedom fighters of the BDR.

Row over coaching

Some teachers attack Ideal School principal

By Staff Correspondent

A group of teachers of the Motijheel Ideal School and College in the city attacked their principal on the campus yesterday, police and sources in the school said.

After the attack at 11 am, classes in the morning and day shifts were suspended. There will be no classes also today and tomorrow.

Hearing the news of the incident, more than two hundred guardians of the students rushed to the campus and brought out a protest procession. They paraded the city roads, police said.

The trouble reportedly began following the principal's decision preventing the teachers from coaching their students outside the school. The decision was taken to improve the standard of teaching in the school, said a senior teacher of the school last night.

There are about 5,000 students in the Ideal School and College.

Another 1500 tolas of gold seized from ship in Ctg: 2 held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: Another 1500 tolas of smuggled gold worth about Tk one crore were recovered, last night from the laundry room of feeder vessel Q C Teal anchored at MPB Jetty of Chittagong Port, officials said.

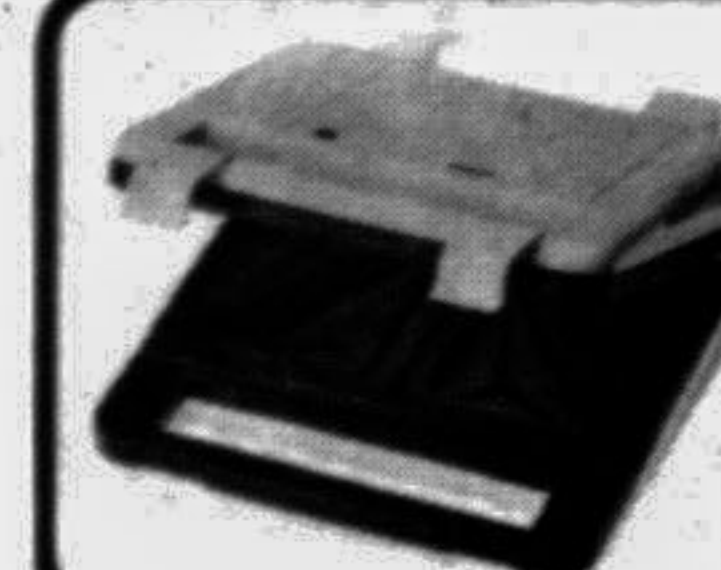
Customs officials, during a search in the ship, found the smuggled gold in 150 bars of 10 tolas each.

Port police said the ship was detained and two of its crew, Abul Bashar and Md Delwar, were arrested today.

Md Jasim, who was arrested by port police as the carrier of smuggled gold yesterday, was placed on five days' remand for interrogation.

Meanwhile, Chittagong Port Authority today suspended Jasim from service under marine department of the port, official sources said.

Beside, port authority started an investigation.



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Let's make things better

PHILIPS

Suranjit elected

From Page 1

few polling centres in the two thanas concerned, they talked to the candidates during the voting, but received no complaints from any one. Besides, the EC had posted Additional Commissioner of Sylhet as an observer to the polls, and he also reported no irregularities in the by-elections," the CEC said.

Our correspondents Reaz Ahmed and Iqbal Siddiquee report from Habiganj: At least 12 persons were injured in a clash between activists of AL and JP near Joshkishori Primary School centre under Muradpur union of Baniachang thana at about 3:20 pm.

Sirajul Hossain Khan, who is also a former minister, demanded cancellation of the by-polls alleging widespread vote rigging by the AL.

Khan told newsmen last night that he would not contest any other election under the present government.

Suranjit Sengupta, however, refuted the allegations and termed the by-polls an ideal one.

"Both AL and JP sources alleged that their respective party workers were beaten by opponents at Muradpur yesterday afternoon."

Sirajul Hossain Khan said tonight that four of his party workers — Moti Mia, Manik Mia, Sajib and Maksud Ali — were admitted to Baniachang Hospital.

Suranjit Sengupta also alleged that some of his party workers were injured when attacked by JP activists at Muradpur.

Deputy Commissioner of Habiganj Iftikhar-e-Alam told The Daily Star that he had heard about clash at Muradpur but no case was filed by any party till 10 pm.

He said the election was held in a free and fair atmosphere and as the Returning Officer he had not received any written complaints till late tonight.

The JP candidate, however, claimed that he had lodged four complaints with the Returning Officer in writing.

JP workers also alleged stuffing of ballot boxes at Shuravi Shishu Niketan centre in Baniachang just before the

polling hour ended at 4 pm.

"I checked the allegations immediately but those were found totally wrong," said the DC.

He said that when results from 40 centres out of the 115 were received, the voters turnout stood at 69 per cent.

Voting began at 8 am and the process continued uninterrupted till four in the afternoon.

Voters, irrespective of age and sex, were seen exercising their franchise maintaining utmost discipline.

The Daily Star correspondents visited eight polling centres in Baniachang thana, one of the two thanas that constitute the Habiganj-2 constituency. The other thana is Ajmeerganj.

Presiding Officer at Baniachang Aliya Madrasa centre M A Taher told The Daily Star at 9 am that voting started peacefully at 8 am.

The JP candidate cast his vote at LR Govt High School centre at 9:40 am. Presiding Officer Harunur Rashid told newsmen that voting was being held peacefully.

Polling agents of the candidates at Chowdhuripa Primary School and Barabazar Primary School centres expressed satisfaction at the way voting was progressing till midday.

Suranjit Sengupta, who is also Parliamentary Affairs Advisor to the Prime Minister, claimed that yesterday's by-polls showed that free and fair election was being held under a democratically elected government.

Sengupta said, "We (Khan) did not contest to win, rather, he is trying to initiate a new polarisation in politics". He, however, did not explain.

The JP candidate told The Daily Star that dozens of centres were captured by 'AL hoodlums' and they had stuffed ballot boxes, closing the doors of the centres.

He alleged that at the centres in Doulatpur, Muradpur and Jatrapasha areas, "widespread vote rigging" took place and police, had to chase AL hooligans' who escaped boarding speedboats."

Package programme

From Page 1

healthy atmosphere.

The city corporation will soon supply two types of black bags to clear garbage of Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara areas. One bag will be used to remove decomposable organic garbage while the other for undecomposable garbage.

As per the decision, the corporation will pick up those bags for removal. Later, this arrangement will be set in motion in other areas of the city. In certain areas of the city, contractors will be deployed to help remove those garbage.

The meeting underscored the necessity of cleaning underground drains as well as city surface drains on emergency basis.

The committee directed the WASA and the city corporation to complete their works as early as possible to remove water-logging.

WASA and the city corporation assured the meeting that they would be able to clear water-logging of the city by March 1997. New ponding areas will be created and the existing ones reformed as to clear out rain water from these areas on emergency basis.

The city corporation will provide required fund within one week to Desa to remove its electric lines from the point in front of PG Hospital. Similarly, DESA will complete the work for removing electric lines from Banani within one month. DESA will also complete similar works of removing electric lines within one month from Malibagh and Dainik Bangla crossing.

A decision to build an over-bridge at Jatrabari has been taken to ease out traffic jam. Dhaka city corporation identified six places for political parties to hold meetings and rallies so that such meetings do not create traffic jam in the city. The places designated for such meetings will be announced later.

In a bid to ease out traffic jam, a crash programme taken up in 1995-96 fiscal year to set up road-grill-divider from Mahakhal to PG Hospital, and road markings for pedestrians will have to be completed by December this year.

A decision was taken to form a sub-committee in coordination with BRTC, DMP and Dhaka city corporation to make Motijheel commercial area rickshaw-free right from its centre.

The meeting laid emphasis on short and long-term solution of the problems of water-logging, traffic jam and clearing of garbage.

The LGED minister announced that the committee would meet once a month. He hoped all concerned would work with dedication and sincerity to solve the problems in the city. He noted with satisfac-

tion that the first meeting of the committee had taken a number of decisions which would help achieve remarkable progress in solving the problems.

The last word of politics is service to people," he said. Keeping this objective in mind, the committee will continue its work.

The 15-member committee has been formed with the Minister for Local Government, Rural Development and Cooperatives Zillur Rahman as convener and city corporation Mayor Mohammad Hanif as joint-convener to coordinate these service-oriented activities of the government, semi-government had autonomous agencies.

The minister and the mayor will preside over meetings of the committee by turn.

Winter knocking

From Page 1

bitant prices.

Traditionally, November is considered to be the beginning of the winter season. The winter usually reaches its peak in mid-January and cold waves begin sweeping the country from mid-December, according to weather forecast officials. But the weather trend might vary due to natural reasons.

According to Met Office data, the country's all-time low temperature of 3.9 degree Celsius was recorded in Dinajpur on January 1, 1955. But there had been cold days also in other parts of the country but, weather men say, they have not been able to record the temperature as the Met Office does not have its office in all the places.

Located in the middle of Bangladesh, Dhaka experienced a very chilling day on February 18, 1953 when the Met Office recorded the lowest temperature of 4.5 degree Celsius.

Although the air signifies the advent of an early winter, temperatures in the next few days will continue to remain more or less the same as of now.

According to the Met office forecast for the next 24 hours beginning this morning, light rain or drizzle is likely at one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions and the weather is likely to remain mainly dry elsewhere over the country.

The day temperature is likely to remain nearly unchanged.

Rajshahi College

From Page 1

publication of the results of the Honours examination held about 10 months ago under the National University, re-introduction of the subsidiary system, establishment of regional offices in the divisional headquarters, and an increase in the number of seats and teachers.

Taher Thakur

From Page 1

placed on seven days remand the next day. Naik Mohammad Younus was arrested on October 7 and placed on seven days remand the same day, which was later extended for another four days.

Thakur, Osman and Yunus were arrested in connection with the killings of August 15, 1975. A case in this regard was lodged with the Dhanmondi thana on October 2 accusing 14 persons for the killings.

The police sources said that Thakur was also being interrogated in connection with the jail killing case of November 3, 1975.

However, the CID refused to give the exact number of people so far interrogated in connection with these two cases.



Indian artistes Bappi Lahiri (C) and Kavita Krishnamurti (R) performing at a concert at the Sonargaon Hotel yesterday on the occasion of the Tourism Month. Bombay film star Hema Malini (L) was also present. — Star photo

Student politics BNP reaction today

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) is yet to decide its stance on President Shahabuddin Ahmed's suggestion for a moratorium on student politics.

When contacted late last night, the BNP secretary general, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP said, they could not yet finalise their party position on the matter. He, however, told The Daily Star that his party would issue a statement on the matter today.

Mannan Bhuiyan had told this paper on Monday that the BNP would give its formal reaction to the President's proposal yesterday.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed made the suggestion for a moratorium on student politics at the educational institutions with a view to bringing an end to terrorism on the campus.

Meantime, the student fronts of major political parties, including the ruling Awami League and the main opposition BNP, had opposed the President's idea while the general students of Dhaka University, the country's highest seat of learning, welcomed the President's proposal.

Policeman beaten to death

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 15: A police constable Sahajahan, 37, was beaten to death allegedly by his cousin Hakim, 35, at Dudhal village under Bakerganj thana last night.

Police and witnesses said the killing was the result of a family feud.

The victim came home on leave for the marriage of his daughter.

Eight persons including Hakim and his son were arrested in connection with the murder.

Khulna: Commercial city

From Page 1

chairman of KDA, Commissioner of KMP, Chief Engineer, PDB, General Manager, T and T, Deputy Commissioner, Additional Chief Engineer, PWD, Superintendent Engineer, WDB, Civil Surgeon, Superintendent Engineer, Public Health Engineering, Director, Environment Directorate, Deputy Director, Social Welfare Department, and Assistant Director, BRTA.

KCC Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman thanked the Prime Minister for sanctioning Taka 20 crore as ADP grant for KCC which is higher than that of the last fiscal. "Please consider allocation of some more money from the reserve fund if our performance is commendable and if we really do some good jobs," he said.

Sheikh Rahman demanded due status for the city commissioners, and separate offices for the women commissioners.

He pointed out some other problems of the city and said, "There is no politics inside the City Corporation... we are working unitedly for the interest of the people."

The Prime Minister said the main objective of her government was to work for the economic emancipation of the people. "To achieve this objective, we need national consensus and coordinated thrust by all in all fields of economic activities," she said.

Turning back to Khulna city, the Prime Minister said her government was trying hard to bring dynamism in the economic activities of this city. "We have plan to set up EPZ in private sector in Khulna," she said adding, "We need power generation for the purpose. The government is inviting foreign investors or private entrepreneurs to set up a power generation plant in Khulna, she said adding there is also plan to import electricity from the neighbouring country. "But we have not taken any decision — we will import electricity subject to favourable terms and conditions and fair price," she added.

Mirza Azam MP

From Page 1

bundles of CI sheet during the rule of previous BNP government for distribution among 15 people affected by river erosion in Madarganj thana.

The District Bureau of Anti-Corruption filed a case against the eight, including the MP and some staffers of local Relief Office, charging them with misappropriating the relief material.

As the allegation was not proved in the court, Special Judge Abul Hossain Bepari in his verdict acquitted all the accused.

Minor girl killed in road accident

A minor girl was killed and her mother seriously wounded in an accident at Kamalapur in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

Sharmin Akhter, 4, died on the spot and her mother, Johra Khatun, sustained injuries when a bus of S Alam Paribahan was parking at its parking lot at about 7:45 in the morning.

Johra Khatun was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in critical condition. Autopsy of minor girl Sharmin was performed at the hospital morgue.

FBCCI polls

From Page 1

President and the Vice President are elected from the chamber and association groups alternately.

This year, the FBCCI President will be elected from the chamber group while the Vice President from the associations group for a 2-year term.

A triangular fight will take place for the vice-presidential post. The candidates are, Kazi Shafiqul Islam of Bangladesh Leather Goods and Manufacturers Association, Amin Laskar of Bangladesh Milk and Dairy Association, and M A Kamal of Bangladesh Paint Manufacturers Association.

According to the FBCCI election rules, the President and 15 executive committee members will be elected by direct votes of 254 members of the 56 chambers bodies of the country.

On the other hand, the vice-president and another 15 EC members will be elected by direct votes of the 659 voters of the 135 associations.

Twenty-nine candidates are contesting for the 15 executive committee memberships allotted for the chamber bodies. Besides, 50 candidates will vie for the posts of another 15 EC members from the association groups. Of them, 45 association leaders are contesting in separate panels under the leadership of three vice president candidates. The other 5 candidates are running as independents.