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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

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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 Shawgat Ali, the rally was also addressed by among other BNP leaders. Dr Khandakar Mosharrif 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 Mosharrif 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 Siddhinganj Power Station. Haripur Power Plant, Ghorashal 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-Bakhra (AB) pipeline project to connect the Bakhra 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 55 km. The work on the project resumed again and the Petrobangla expects that the pipeline will be completed by April next year.

The Bakhra 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 Shikralba power station and 4.5 mcf gas is consumed by Haripur power station during peak hours. However, the Bakhra system cannot provide 40 mcf gas required by the Rauzan 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

Titas and Jalalabad gasfields, due to limitation of the Ashuganj pipeline, the authorities are unable to provide 12 mcf gas to Sidhinganj Power Plant, 18 mcf to Haripur Power Plant and 25 mcf to the Ghorashal 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 Kailashtha and another well is being rehabilitated. When these steps are completed in December next, the Kailashtha gasfields would produce additional 55 mcf gas daily.

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.

Convenor of the Parishad Osman Gani said the hartal was called to protest killing, kidnapping and toll extortions by the outlawed Shantibahini in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

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Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakruli, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-105. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

The Daily Star

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 allurement, report agencies.

Addressing all rank and file officers, GCOs and soldiers at the Darbar Hall of BDR headquarters at Peekhkhana, 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 cooperation 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 clapping 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.

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 15: Another 1500 totas 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 totas each.

Port police said the ship was detained and two of its crew, Abdul 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, officials sources said.

Beside, port authority started an investigation.

Reporters, photographers and television crews started gathering outside the hospital at midday in anticipation of the birth, but nobody got a look at mother or baby. They may have left the hospital before the announcement.

The baby, born at Good Samaritan Hospital, is the first child of Madonna Louise Veronica Ciccone, 38. The 30-year-old father is a personal trainer and boyfriend to the pop singer and actress.

Taher Thakur

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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

Khulna : Commercial city

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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, BIRPA.

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.

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.

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 a 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.

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

The Bureau is now planning file cases against the two BNP leaders shortly.

The sources said former Agriculture Minister Maj Gen (retired) Majed-ul-Haq misused 9-katha jeeps — Nissan Patrol Jeeps and Pajero Jeeps of Water Development Board in Dhaka and Khulna during the BNP rule.

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