

## Inside Today

### Article

#### "A Recognised Palestinian State..." — President Chirac

Column : Spotlight on Middle East  
by Muslehuddin Ahmad  
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### International

Regional conference on Afghan crisis begins in Tehran today

67,000 illegal immigrants deported from US during 1996 fiscal year  
Page 5

### Business

British diplomat asks local businessmen to correct Bangladesh's image abroad to lure investment

DSE index posts 136-point rise  
Pages 6, 7

### DSE MARKET

DSE price index	2464.47
Market capital Tk	17430.82 cr
Transactions in volume	741712
Transactions in value Tk	27.71 cr

### Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains one page supplement on the National Day of Turkey  
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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Deputy Speaker meets President

Deputy Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid made a courtesy call on President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. The Deputy Speaker stayed with the President for some time, reports BSS.

### Hartal observed at Hossainpur

KISHOREGANJ, Oct 28: All-Party Student Sangram Committee of Hossainpur Degree College enforced a daylong hartal at Hossainpur thana demanding setting up of an examination centre there. Sources said, the hartal was observed peacefully but vehicular traffic went off the road and shops kept their shutters down during the hartal hours.

### Signing of draft policy on AIDS tomorrow

The presentation and signing ceremony of the Draft National Policy on HIV/AIDS/STD related issues, have been shifted from 5 pm to 11 am tomorrow at Hotel Purbani due to unavoidable circumstances. Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yousuf will attend the programme as chief guest, reports UNB.

### One killed in road accident

By Staff Correspondent  
An unidentified man aged about 30 was killed when a bus hit him on Airport Road in the city yesterday morning. The Bhuapur bound passenger bus hit the man when the driver of the vehicle lost control of it at about 6:45am. He died on the spot, police said. The bus was seized by the Cantonment police, but the driver fled away, police added. The body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

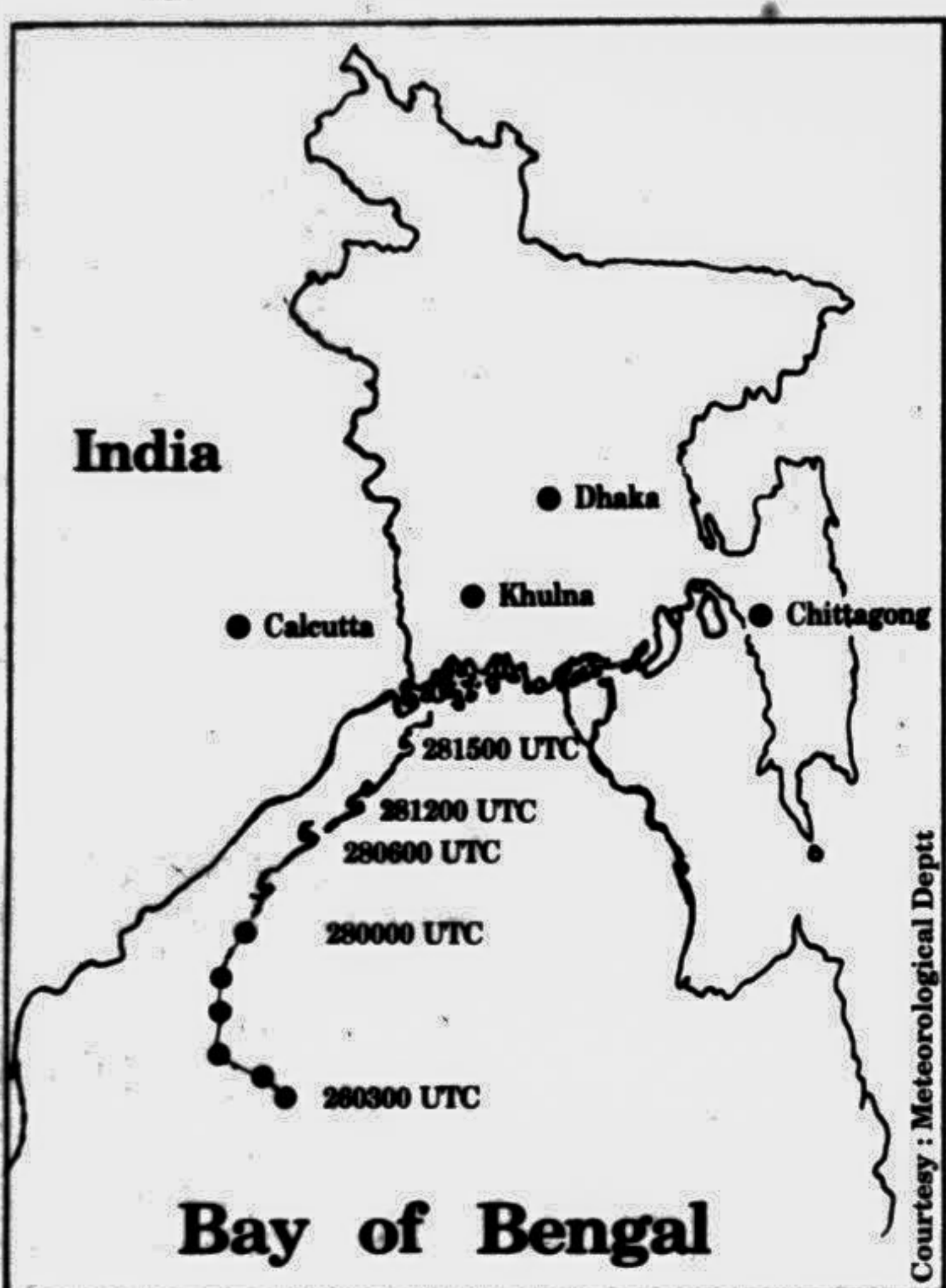
### Kashmir CM's Dy security chief killed

SRINAGAR, Oct 28: Kashmiri Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah's deputy security chief was killed and another person critically injured when militants opened fire in this summer capital late today, police said. A police spokesman said, Muslim militants opened fire on the convoy of Shahbaz Ahmed, Deputy Police Chief, responsible for Abdullah's security, killing him and injuring his driver, reports AFP.

## Tidal surge inundates south-western coast

# Cyclone hits Sundarbans

By Shehab Ahmed with correspondents Monaem Khan, Aroop Talukder, Amanullah and Nurul Alam



The cyclonic storm that brewed in the North Bay off a deep depression began pounding the south-western coast of the country around mid-night last night. The Sundarbans bore the brunt of the storm that also whipped up surges five to seven feet above the astronomical tide, Meteorological Department said at 12:55 am.

Heavy rains accompanying the storm roaring over the Sundarbans, however, weakened its thrust. But the weathermen were worried about the surges due to the aftereffect of the full moon on Saturday that was likely to raise the surge above the normal astronomical tide of 10-12 feet.

The core of the cyclone had a speed of 65 km per hour, rising to 75 km in gust and under its impact five to seven feet of storm surge, above the normal astronomical tide, was likely to inundate low lying areas of the coastal belt. Storm Warning Centre sources said.

Earlier, the authorities evacuated thousands of people from coastal areas and offshore islands.

As the storm rolled ahead in a north easterly direction, it triggered heavy rains all over the country yesterday, disrupting normal life.

The cyclone is likely to peter away towards West Bengal after lashing parts of the Sundarbans in Bangladesh and some districts in Khulna region, weathermen said. It will

release heavy showers before weakening. Earlier, Radio and Television had broadcast warning signal number five to alert people in the coastal belt. Authorities in the capital held an emergency meeting with Food Agriculture and Disaster Management Minister Matia Chowdhury in the chair to review preparedness to meet the emergency.

Our Khulna correspondent Amanullah said three children, including a 52-day old baby were buried alive at Naihata village in Rupsha when their mud-walled house collapsed, melting under heavy rains that pelted the coastal district yesterday. Their mother was seriously wounded, police reported.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent Moneem Khan reported that high winds and a fiery sea surged four feet above-normal tide, and water rushed through Water Development Board's embankment at Haritala and Jaiakhalia areas under Dhalghata union, reports BSS.

Moheshkhali thana at 6 pm  
See Page 12 Col 1

## Govt won't internationalise Ganges issue: Hasina

NEW YORK, Oct 28: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a press conference here yesterday said that encouraging response was received from the foreign investors for making investment in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

On the Ganges water-sharing with India, Hasina said her government did not want to internationalise the issue when bilateral negotiations were on.

She said progress was being made to resolve the issue through discussion with India and pointed out that in the past, the issue had been raised in international fora but nothing could be achieved in realising the share.

"We will try bilaterally and if that fails, we'll raise the issue at the SAARC forum," she said and mentioned the ministerial level meeting between the two countries on the issue.

Responding to the demands of the expatriates, the Prime Minister said the government would take steps to enroll the

names of the expatriates in the voters' list, to turn the existing Sonali Exchange in New York into a full-fledged bank and to stop harassment by the Customs at Dhaka airport.

She informed that an inquiry committee has been formed to probe into the alleged murder of Bangladesh-born British citizen Suruj Mia by Customs people in Dhaka airport.

Earlier, the Prime Minister called upon the non-resident Bangladeshis (NRBs) to come forward to invest in Bangladesh and help in national development.

"After a long struggle, we have achieved the voting rights of the people, now my objective is to work for economic prosperity of the country," she told a mass reception here.

Addressing the reception given in her honour by expatriate Bangladeshis in New York, the Prime Minister urged them to cooperate her government in achieving the goal

Listing various steps taken by her four-month-old government, she said, "We want to use every moment to work in the interest of the country and its people."

Attended by more than 2,000 Bangladeshis living in New York, the reception was organised by the mass reception committee at a local hotel. It was presided over by the US branch Awami League president M Nurul Islam Anu.

At the reception, one minute's silence was observed as a mark of respect to the assassinated father of the nation and others killed on August 15, 1975. The four top Awami League leaders killed in jail on November 3, 1975, the martyrs of the liberation war and those killed in different democratic struggle.

The Prime Minister, in her nearly one-hour speech, explained the policies of her government in building the country's economy and giving

## Hardly any trade restriction, PM tells investors

NEW YORK, Oct 28: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said here today that her government wanted to be decisive and remove bureaucratic road-blocks and foot-dragging to encourage foreign investment in Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Addressing the fund managers and portfolio investors of the United States at a hotel here, she said, "We have in place very liberal trade and investment policies. There are hardly any trade restriction. Tariff rates are being rationalised and have been declining across the board and are among the lowest in the region."

She explained the very attractive and competitive incentive packages to promote both direct and portfolio investment.

She told the investors that

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## Dhaka announces candidature for UNSC seat

NEW YORK, Oct 28: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during her first visit to the United Nations to address the 51st session of UN General Assembly announced here today the candidature of Bangladesh for a non-permanent seat of the Security Council for the term 2000 to 2001, reports BSS.

The election for this will take place at the General Assembly session in 1999. Sheikh Hasina particularly noted Bangladesh's active role at the United Nations and its various agencies, especially in the area of peace-keeping and development activities.

## Abduction of Kalpana

Probe body records witnesses' statements

From Morshed Ali Khan  
RANGAMATI, Oct 28: The three member enquiry committee for probing the abduction of Kalpana Chakma started recording statements of the witnesses and others at Rangamati Circuit House yesterday. The committee headed by Justice M A Jallil includes Shakhawat Hossen. Includes  
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## Series of charges against govt

# BNP threatens agitation for mid-term polls

Main opposition BNP is planning to announce a shadow cabinet shortly in conformity with the parliamentary system to ensure check and balance of government activities.

"We are already working as a shadow cabinet and a formal announcement is under active consideration," BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told UNB yesterday.

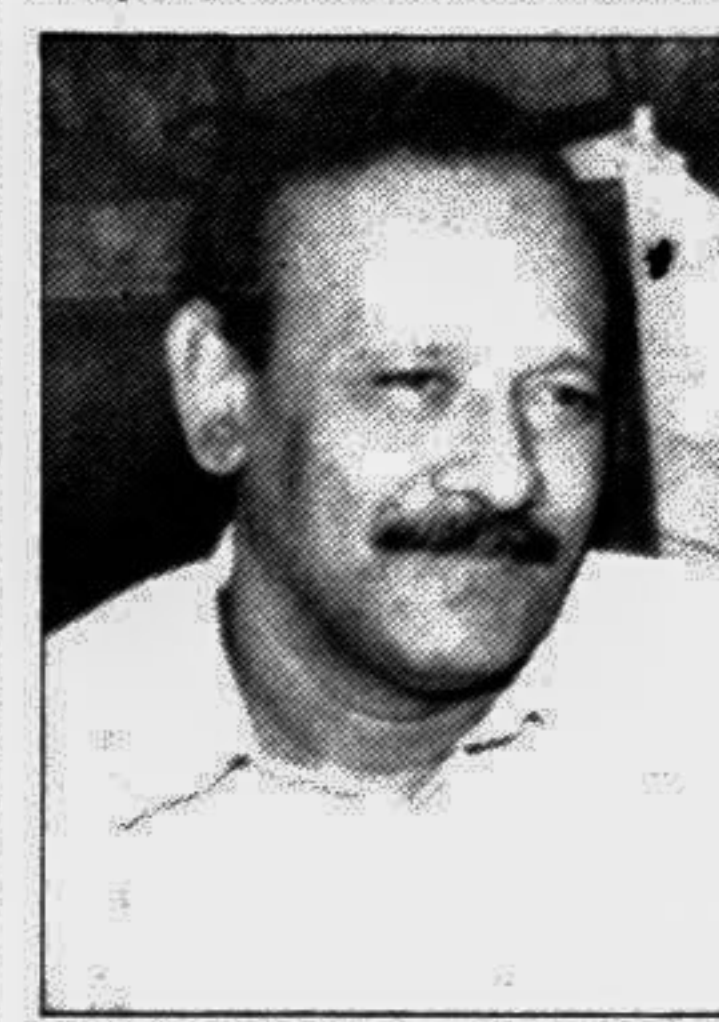
In an exclusive interview at the party central office, Bhutan

focused on the country's political scenario, ruling party's 'hostile' attitude and failures in domestic and foreign policy and flashed BNP's future strategy.

Bhuiyan brought a series of charges against the Awami League government with a note of warning that if it does not change its attitude towards the opposition, BNP would be forced to start agitation to oust the government for a mid term election.

He complained that the BNP was not being allowed to play as a responsible opposition in the Parliament because of partisan outlook of the Speaker and obstruction from the Treasury bench in discussing various national issues.

In reply to a question, the BNP Secretary General set several conditions for making Parliament effective and functional — the Speaker must be neutral as custodian of the House, there should be enough scope of discussing all important national issues, proper representation of opposition in the parliamentary standing committees and inclusion of opposition MPs in the committees on consultation with the opposition parties.



Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan

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## Indo-Bangla water talks begin today

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak left Dhaka last night for New Delhi to resume talks on sharing of the Ganges water, reports UNB.

Razzak will lead a five-member delegation at the talks beginning today. The Indian side will be led by Indian Water Resource Minister Janeswar Misra.

The three-day meeting will discuss the quantum of the Ganges water to be shared by Bangladesh and India during the lean period as well as prepare ground for an agreement expected to be signed in December.

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## India starts issuing overland visas to Bangladeshis for Nepal visit

KATHMANDU, Oct 28: India has for the first time issued two-day overland visas to Bangladeshi tourists or business people travelling overland to Nepal, a foreign ministry sources said today, reports AFP.

The source said the Indian embassy in Dhaka has begun issuing the visas for the crossing at Pailanki, the frontier in India's West Bengal state adjoining Kakadbhitta in Nepal, 400 kilometers southeast of Kathmandu.

"Hitherto, Bangladeshi tourists had to travel to Nepal only by air via Calcutta in India, but that discouraged low-income and middle class Bangladeshi tourists from visiting Nepal," said Bijen Shrestha, a travel agency general manager.

The new system will undoubtedly increase the number of Bangladeshi tourists to Nepal, Shrestha said.

## Death in custody

## Petition case filed with CMM

Star Report  
A 'petition case' has been filed with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) accusing five police men for the murder of Soem Mahmud Tuhin in the custody of Motiheel police.

Tuhin's elder brother Shaheen Mahmud filed the case yesterday.

In his petition, Shaheen also alleged that three doctors of Forensic Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), in collusion with police, gave a false and incomplete report describing Tuhin's death as suicide, in a bid to conceal the murder.

Tuhin, 20, was found dead in the bathroom of Motiheel thana in the early hours of October 17. He was earlier picked up from near their residence at Khilgaon Bagicha area.

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## Sumon for joint war against Hindi culture

Sumon Chatteropadhyay, a pioneer of new trend Bangla songs, has vowed to launch a joint-war in West Bengal and Bangladesh against what he said the Hindi imperialism, reports UNB.

"Hindi has already tainted the culture of Bangladesh in India and I am concerned it may also intrude in a heavy way into

## Jamaat bid to storm Pak NA bldg

ISLAMABAD, Oct 28: Police and soldiers clenching their riot shields fought off at least 2,000 religious students waving the Quran and shouting 'God is great' as they tried to storm the Parliament building today, reports AP.

Police fired several hundred rounds of tear gas into the mob that had reached the white marble legislature building in the heart of Islamabad.

Qazi Hussein Ahmed, the leader of the demonstration organised to force Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to resign, was arrested. Several other leaders of the rightwing Islamic group, Jamaat-e-Islami or Party of Islam, also were arrested, including its deputy and member of Parliament, Ghafoor Ahmed.

Jamaat-e-Islami has accused Benazir's government of rampant corruption and mismanagement. Its chief, Qazi Hussein Ahmed earlier promised to overthrow Benazir and her left-leaning Pakistan People's Party with an Islamic revolution.

A huge cloud of tear gas smoke engulfed the demonstrators who pelted police with rocks and bricks.

Wearing white bandanas with the inscription 'God is Great', the students knelt in prayer several meters from the Parliament building before trying to storm it.

Police left them alone to pray before opening fire with salvo after salvo of tear gas.

Water tankers and armoured personnel carriers were deployed outside the building.

Benazir responded with stringent security controls in the federal capital.

The trouble today began earlier in the day when police heavily tear gassed hundreds of students belonging to Jamaat-e-Islami when they tried to gather at a busy market in the heart of Islamabad.

At least two police officers were injured earlier today when demonstrators encircled them, beat them and ripped the tear-gas guns from their hands.

## More funds for research on wind energy assured

By Staff Correspondent

Energy Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) Noor Uddin Khan has said the government gives 'high priority' to tapping all sources of energy including wind and will encourage private sector participation in the field to meet the power shortfall in the country.

Addressing a seminar on 'Wind Energy Study (WEST)' in the city yesterday the minister said that the government would provide more funds for research on wind energy and other renewable sources of energy and their use.

Findings on the prospects of wind energy in Bangladesh. Generation of power by wind turbines depends on high speed wind which is largely available in the 724 km coastline of the country, they said. India is already producing 732 MW power from wind, they noted. Under the WEST Project, detailed data on the speed and nature of wind in the coastline is being studied now to determine how much energy can be produced, they said.

Organised by the Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), the seminar was addressed by among others British High Commissioner in Bangladesh David C Walker, the Head of Economic Cooperation and Development of German Embassy, AMOD representative

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## Pragmatic policies sought for women's development

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting on Women and Poverty in the city yesterday urged the government to frame pragmatic policies for development of the womenfolk of the country.

A resolution adopted at the meeting demanded inclusion of women's development programmes in the government's macroeconomic policies and allocation of fifty per cent of the resources for those, collateral-free loan for poor women, introduction of a 'fair law of inheritance' and an end to repression on women.

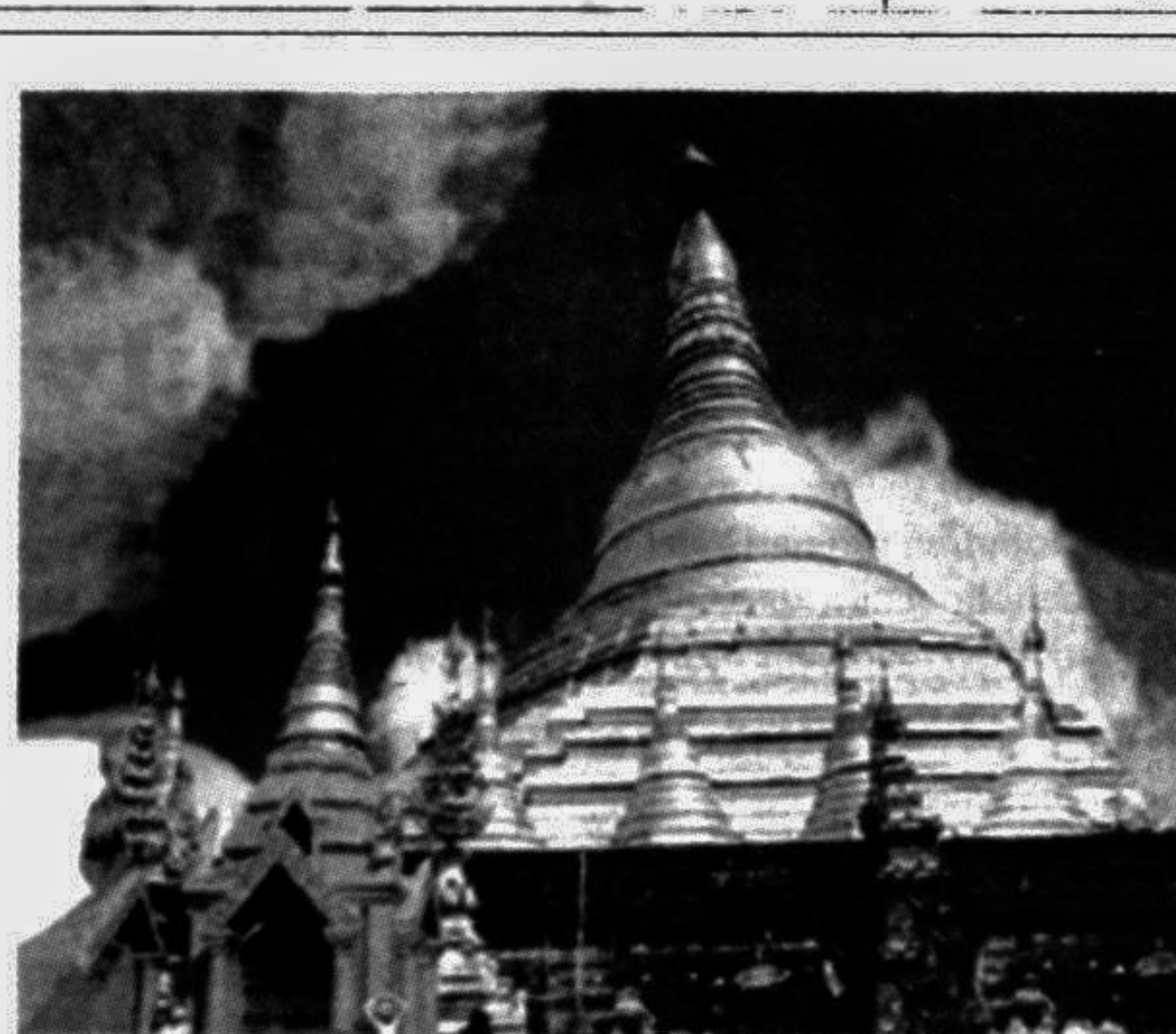
Renowned educationist and writer Neelima Ibrahim, Editor of the Bhoror Kajag Matruur Rahman, Salma Khan, Mahmuda Islam of the Women for Women and Roushan Jahan

were among others who spoke on the concluding day of the three-day discussions held at the Academy for Planning and Development. It was organised by Women for Women, a research and study circle.

The resolution suggested that women farmers be categorised separately and landless women be given priority in distribution of Khas land (government land). It also demanded trade unions rights for women workers and proper implementation of ILO Conventions.

Neelima Ibrahim said women should be vocal to realise their demands. "No rights can be realised without movement," she said the country receives

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## New horizon in NBL service...

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## Representative Office, Myanmar

42A, Komin Kochin Road, Bahan Township, Yangon, Myanmar

starts operation from today Tuesday, 29 October, '96.



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