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## Rome summit to focus on malnutrition

ROME, Nov 10: A hundred heads of state and government are to meet in Rome this week for a UN World Food Summit aimed at halving the scourge of malnutrition by the beginning of the 21st century, reports AFP.

The summit comes as more than a million refugees are in danger of starvation along the Zaire-Rwanda border and while malnutrition plagues Iraq and Cuba due to international embargoes.

But leaders here will be not imposing concrete measures, raising money or setting up new institutions.

Kay Killings worth, the summit's Secretary General, told reporters that the UN gathering would rather be adopting a global strategy to prevent such problems developing in the future.

There will be two main resolutions, the first a "Rome declaration" proclaiming that every- one is entitled to adequate amounts of healthy and nutri- tive food.

The second will be an action plan to reduce by half, over the next two decades, the number of

people suffering from malnutri- tion. This figure is currently at 841 million people worldwide.

A pre-summit report said that without an extra effort "in the normal course of events un- dernutrition in the developing countries would continue, affect- ing some 680 million per- sons, or 12 per cent of their to- tal population in the year 2010."

The summit, organized by the United Nations' food and agriculture organization (FAO), will begin Wednesday and be the largest gathering of heads of state and government ever in Italy.

It is to open with an inaugu- ral message from Pope John Paul II, followed by speeches by Italian President Luigi Scalfaro, UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and FAO Director General Jacques Diouf.

The heads of state and gov- ernment will address the sum- mit from Friday to Sunday but no list has been made available for security reasons. Cuban President Fidel Castro is ex- pected to attend.

## PM hands over Independence Day Award

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday handed over the 'Independence Day Award' for 1995 to three recipients who didn't take it earlier, reports UNB.

Abdullah Al Muti Sharfuddin, Ferdousy Rahman and Abdul Karim Sahitya Bisharad (posthumous) got the award at a function at the Prime Minister's office yesterday morning.

Grand-daughter of Abdul Karim received the award on behalf of the late Sahitya Bisharad.

Seven national personalities got the highest national award for the year 1995 for their contribution in respective fields. Four of them received it at this year's Independence Day function.

## Quake rocks Shanghai

BEIJING, Nov 10: Shanghai residents were urged to stay calm today following a strong earthquake that shook waters off China's largest city Saturday night, reports AP.

The magnitude 6.1 quake struck late Saturday night in the southern Yellow Sea, about 200 kilometres east of the city.

## Bomb blast at Moscow cemetery kills 10

MOSCOW, Nov 10: A power- ful explosion during a memo- rial ceremony Sunday at a Moscow cemetery killed 10 people and wounded about 70 oth- ers in what appeared to be a gangland struggle for power, police and news agencies re- ported, reports AP.

The blast came during a graveside memorial service for Mikhail Likhodey, the chair- man of an Afghan veterans fund who was murdered two years ago, the Interfax news agency said.

Likhodey had been killed by a bomb blast in the entrance to his Moscow apartment house. His wife and bodyguards were wounded in the assault by un- known assailants.

## Food-for-edn programme

No proof of allegation received, JS told

No specific proof has yet been received about the allega- tion of misappropriation of rice and wheat under the food-for- education programme, Educa- tion Minister A S H K Sadek told the Jatiya Sangsad yester- day, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Jalaluddin Talukder (AL-Ne- trakona), the minister said no cases have so far been filed in this regard.

Sadek said there were some allegations about the misap- propriation of rice and wheat under the food-for-education programme. Some allegations, he added, have been investigated while others are under investigation.

Likhodey was the chairman of the Afghan War Invalids' Fund and had been locked in a dispute with Valery Radchikov, another veteran, over leader- ship of the fund. Radchikov was seriously wounded recently as the result of an assassination attempt, Interfax said.

The veterans' organization provides medical and social services to the nearly 14,000 wounded veterans of the Soviet Union's 10-year war with Afghanistan.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said Sunday's blast took place as a burial procession was passing near the Likhodey tomb.

A police spokeswoman, Ly- dia Laguzkina, said prelimi- nary reports showed that 10 people were killed in the blast, but could provide no further details.

Interfax said police were on the scene investigating the ex- plosion, along with officers of the Federal Security Service and the procurator general's of- fice.

## Biman's flight to Barisal suspended

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Nov 10: Bangla- desh Biman's scheduled ATP flight to Barisal was suspended today.

According to Biman's winter schedule the flight on the Dhaka-Barisal route was scheduled to operate every Sunday from November 3.

Last Sunday, the Biman's district manager here said that the ATP flights would be regular from today. But this flight was also suspended. No reason was given for the suspension.

## Noor Hossain Day observed

Different student organisa- tions yesterday observed Shaheed Noor Hossain Day, re- ports UNB.

On this day in 1987, Noor Hossain was shot dead while participating in an anti-auto- cratic movement.

Pro-Awami League Chhatra League, at a rally in front of Aporajya Bangla, demanded arrest and exemplary punish- ment to the killers of Noor Hossain.

The BCL leaders also de- manded arrest of those respon- sible for the killings of two Agricultural University stu- dents by armed outsiders on Saturday.

It has decided to bring out anti-terrorism processions and hold rallies in every thana sadar on Tuesday and on the university campus and district sadar on Wednesday.

To mark the day, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya and Chhatra Federation brought out separate proces- sions and held rallies.

Meanwhile, BSD Convenor Khalequzzaman yesterday de- manded trial of former President Hossain Muhammad Ershad for imposing martial law in the country violating the Constitution.

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## Govt has betrayed with blood of Noor Hossain: BNP

BNP General Secretary Ab- dul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday accused the government of bet- raying with the blood of Sha- heed Noor Hossain by making an entente with his killers in the name of consensus, reports UNB.

"It's not only a betrayal with the sacrifices of martyrs, but also deception with democra- cy," he said at a discussion meeting at the BNP office in ob- servance of Shaheed Noor Hossain Day.

The BNP leader observed that Noor Hossain's dream was to establish a democratic atmo- sphere free from tyranny of au- tocracy. His sacrifice had in- tensified the anti-autocratic movement and accelerated the fall of the Ershad regime in 1990, he added.

Mannan Bhuiyan said the martyrs' dream was realised through the ouster of autocratic Ershad and in the aftermath of a free and fair election in 1991.

But immediately after BNP's democratic government took over, he said, the AL along with defeated forces endeavoured to destabilise the democratic or- der.

## One arrested for 'torturing' two children in city

By Staff Correspondent

One person was arrested for allegedly torturing two children at East Nakhapara under Tejgaon thana in the city yester- day.

Nasir Parvez alias Sajal, 5, son of Nannu Bhuiyan and Al- Amin, 7, son of Selim Miah, were severely assaulted when they entered a house at about 2 pm, said a relative of Sajal.

The relative alleged that the wife of the owner of the house, their daughter and son-in-law tortured the children with hot iron rods when the two climbed the first floor of the four-storey building. The inmates of the house said they beat the chil- dren suspecting they had en- tered the house to steal goods from the under-construction fifth floor of the building.

Quoting the parents of the children, the police said, the two were playing on the road and later entered the house ob- viously with no ill motive.

Police from Tejgaon thana rushed to the spot and held the son-in-law of the owner of the house.

## Kidnapped

From Page 1  
Detectives, however, could know the whereabouts of Ollur Rahman.

The police squad had to pass through some deep forest to rescue Ollur Rahman. The victim was found at an agricultural farm at Gaichha.

The arrested are Iqbal alias Iqbalulla, Farid Ahmad, Jewel and Babichu Chowdhury.

## PM leaves for

From Page 1  
Minister Abdus Samad Azad and Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan.

The summit, which will fo- cus on the global food situation and securing commitment of the world leaders at the highest political level to adopt mea- sures for eradicating hunger and malnutrition that afflict millions of people in the de- veloping world, is expected to be attended by about 70 heads of state or government.

The Prime Minister will ad- dress the meet on November 16. On the sidelines of the summit, she will have bilateral meet- ings with many world leaders.

## Tidbits

From Page 1  
uttered some excess words. I've demanded resignation of the Home Minister. It has not been fair. I hereby withdraw this."

Thanking the Chair on get- ting the floor, Treasury bench member Panna Kaiser told the Deputy Speaker, "After much efforts, I've been able to draw your kind attention."

But the Deputy Speaker protested her remark saying, "Not at all, you tried to get the floor earlier."

In an apparent bid to show his liberal attitude towards the woman MPs, the Chair then said, "Is there any other female member seeking to speak?"

The Chair's offer prompted another Treasury bench woman lawmaker, Segufa Yasmin, to stand up, taking advantage of the offer.

The Deputy Speaker also caused laughter in the House by correcting State Minister for Social Welfare and Women's Affairs Dr. Mozammel Hossain to call a female member 'Sadasya' not 'Sadasya'.

Just before the start of yester- day's sitting, jailed Jatiya Party Chief H M Ershad was seen talking to Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed. Ershad then moved to Suranjit Sengupta who offered a hand-shake to the former president.

Moments later, the JP leader was seen denying Sengupta's offer by trying to remove his hand from the grip of Sengupta, elected in the recently held by- election in Habiganj defeating his JP rival. However, a prompt Sengupta caught Ershad by his hand. At this stage, both the lawmakers were found laugh- ing.

## Indemnity Bill

From Page 1

first President Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members and top- pled his government in a mili- tary putsch on August 15 of the same year.

The text of the Bill said: "This Act will be identified as 'The Indemnity (Repeal) Act, 1996.' It proposes annulment of 'The Indemnity Ordinance, 1975' and all acts under cover of this ordinance."

Abdul Matin Khasru said that it was necessary to repeal the Ordinance and hence the Bill was introduced to preserve the right to ensure rule of law in the country.

"The Indemnity Ordinance of 1975 is contrary to basic hu- man rights and fundamental rights, and to the rule of law as envisaged in the Constitution," he added.

## BNP stays out

From Page 1

B Choudhury also parried queries from reporters beyond the two-page resolution.

Afterwards, Maulana Delwar Hossain Saidee, leader of Jamaat-e-Islami's three mem- ber Parliamentary Party, along with Maulana Shamsur Rah- man met the BNP leaders at the Sangsad Bhavan office of the Leader of the Opposition.

Saidee, however, said: "we are in the House. We shall take a decision at a meeting of our party tomorrow, taking stock of the political situation."

The BNPPP resolution are: Despite massive conspiracies and a rigged election, we decided to play a constructive role in Parliament as Opposition to continue the constitutional and democratic process.

2. The ruling party wants to keep the Opposition in Parlia- ment only to legalise its activi- ties. But it is obstructing the Opposition in a planned way from playing a constructive role in favour of the people and for the sake of democracy.

3. Ministers and ruling party members are personally attack- ing the Opposition by making one-sided and motivated state- ments with untrue and confus- ing information. On the other hand, opposition members are being deprived of their right to give reply to those baseless al- legations.

The ruling party is making Parliament ineffective by uni- laterally accepting or rejecting call-attention notices. It is not providing scope for discussing issues of national importance like gas, water, sharing, transit and power import from India.

No action was taken after some treasury bench members delivered provocative state- ments attacking the religious sentiments of majority people.

When Opposition raised the issue quoting press reports, it was rejected in the name of Rules of Procedure. But when the Prime Minister read out a 30-page untrue quotation from newspaper reports, she was not interrupted.

Most of the parliamentary committees are yet to be consti- tuted. A few committees have been formed without propor- tional representation of the Op- position. Therefore, the com- mittees have become ineffec- tive.

4. Section 300, 274 and other rules of the Rules of Procedure are misused by the ruling party, depriving the Opposition MPs their right to reply. A long letter of the Prime Minister's Press Secretary was allowed to be read out in the House, but the

letter of former Vice-Chancel- lor of Dhaka University to the Speaker was not read out.

5. Bangladesh Television is being operated under the con- trol of ruling party and the gov- ernment. It has been broadcast- ing untrue, partial and dis- torted facts and speeches to confuse the people. The BTV is highlighting the statements of ruling party MPs while ignor- ing that of Opposition mem- bers.

The ruling party is using the state-owned television as a party medium and tarnishing the image of the Opposition be- fore the people as well as violat- ing the sovereignty of Parlia- ment. Therefore, neutrality of the Speaker is being questioned and the people are being de- prived of facts.

6. Country's law-and-order has been deteriorating alarm- ingly since the assumption of power by the present govern- ment. A reign of terror has been unleashed through killing, tor- ture, warrant, arrest, harass- ment on BNP leaders and work- ers. On an average, 4-5 people are being murdered everyday.

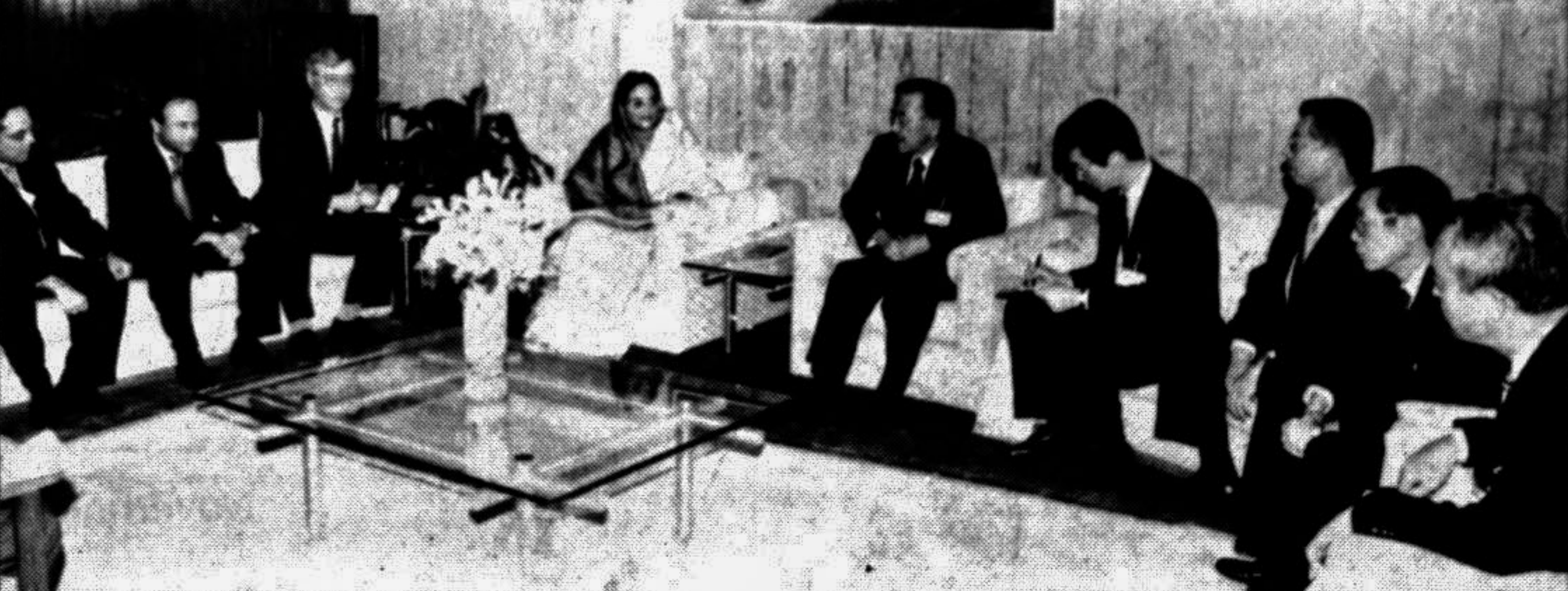
The entire nation remained hostage in the hands of ruling party terrorists. Even the Mem- bers of Parliament are not spared. The ruling party terror- ists made an attempt on BNP MP Dr Moyeen Khan at Mad- habdi in Narsingdi.

7. The present government has failed to keep the price of essentials within the buying capacity of common people and ensure fair price of agricultural produce including paddy, jute and sugarcane. The present gov- ernment wants to consolidate its power by sacrificing coun- try's interest and pursuing a policy of subservience to a big neighbouring country. The ruling party wants to make the Op- position handicapped.

8. BNP is committed to keep- ing Parliament operative for the sake of continuity of the Constitution and democracy. But due to the partisan, one- sided, unconstitutional, un- democratic and indecent role of the Speaker and the ruling party members, it will not be possible for BNP to discharge its responsibility to the people despite its will and sincerity.

9. It is essential to solve the aforesaid problems for the sake of making the Parliament effec- tive. We think participation in the parliamentary proceedings is meaningless unless the prob- lems are resolved. So, it is not possible for us to be present in the House.

10. The meeting hopes that the Speaker and the ruling party will resolve the problems for the sake of the country and its people, paving the way of our participation in the parliamen- tary business.



A delegation of Bangladesh-Japan Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation led by its Chairman U Uwatoko called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Sangsad Bhavan office yesterday.

## Japanese team

From Page 1

firms and companies there. Be- sides, he said, they had positive and encouraging discussions with the executives and mem- bers of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Uwatoko said on their return home, they would report on the outcome of their visit to the Finance Minister of Japan who is also the President of Bangladesh-Japan Friendship Association.

The leader of the delegation further stressed the need for holding more seminars on in- vestment and more meetings of the Japan-Bangladesh Joint Committee for Commercial and Economic Cooperation.

The Prime Minister said her government would welcome the setting up of a Japanese export processing zone (EPZ) in Bangladesh. "We are prepared to provide all kinds of facilities for materialising such ventures by the Japanese entrepreneurs," she said.

The Prime Minister ex- pressed her earnest hope that Japan would come in a bigger way to invest in Bangladesh taking full advantage of the ex- isting investment-friendly conditions and other facilities being provided to the foreign investors.

Sheikh Fazul Karim Selim, MP, FBCCI President Yusuf Ab- dullah Harun, Secretary to Prime Minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir and Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Rashed Ahmed Chowdhury were also present on the occasion.

## UP election

From Page 1

The last union parishad elections had begun on January 22, 1992 and were held in phases over months. "The tenure of majority of the union parishads will expire between March and May next. So the elections to most of the parishads will be held during that period," an LGRD Ministry source said when asked about this.

The process of delimitation of the unions started in January this year in line with an amendment to Section 18 of the Local Government Union Parishad Ordinance 1983, made on July 22, 1993. The amendment provided that the number of wards in each union parishad should be increased to nine from three.

"Although the system of local government has existed in our country for hundreds of years in different names, this is for the first time that we have delimited the areas taking into consideration geographical contiguity, administrative convenience and distribution of population," the LGRD Ministry noted.

## PM outlines 4-pt objective

From Page 1

be made for alternative jobs and due wages of the workers of the disinvested industries.

UNB adds: Expressing dis- may over the opposition BNP's abstention from the House, Hasina said her government wanted to formulate the indus- trial policy with opinion from all including the opposition in parliament but unfortunately they remained absent from the parliamentary debate on this important subject.

The Prime Minister said representatives from all con- cerned sectors including the op- position BNP and trade union bodies have been inducted in the committee for framing the industrial policy.

The parliamentary debate on the industrial policy was fixed for today at the request of opposition BNP but they re- mained absent. More discus- sions on energy, law and order and foreign policy will be held in the House, she said.

Responding to BNP Chair- person Begum Zia's threat that she would not give any time to the government, Hasina asked, "what do they want? Do they want to drive the country to- wards killing and confronta- tion?"

Hasina said she would run the country as long as her gov- ernment enjoys people's man- date. Awami League came to power with people's electoral verdict. "We are ready to go back to the opposition side when we will fail to receive people's ver- dict for the next term."

The Leader of the House urged the Opposition to return to parliament Monday and join discussion on the national is- sues. She said opposition's views on national issues in- cluding industrial policy will be accommodated.

Referring to the slogan for consensus government, the Prime Minister said US Presi- dent Bill Clinton after reelec- tion also called for consensus in running the state affairs.

The Prime Minister again appealed to the opposition to come back and resolve all problems through discussion in the House. "We have fought and established people's voting rights... let us work together for people's right to food by waging struggle against poverty and hunger."

Tofael Ahmed said the gov- ernment has offered necessary facilities and taken historic de- cisions to attract investment, both foreign and local.

He said the year 1997 has been declared as the year of in- vestment and described the steps and measures which have already been taken for the in- terest of trade, industry and investment in the country.

In his lengthy deliberation, the minister sharply criticised the past BNP government

which, according to him, did nothing for the country's indus- trialisation although it often talked about the wave of devel- opment.

He also charged the BNP, which was absent in the House, with blocking the ways of for- eign investment in the country. "They have deserted the House when a high-powered Japanese delegation is visiting the coun- try," he said.

Emphasising on national consensus in formulating poli- cies of national importance, Tofael said the opposition should help the government to formulate industrial and pri- vatisation policies for the sake of the country.

"Let there be political stabili- ty, let there be consensus," he told the half-empty House. "The course you have chosen is not the right course," he said of the BNP's decision to boycott the House.

The minister informed parlia- ment that the government had reactivated the Privatisation Board, the Board of In- vestment and the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Au- thority (BEPZA) which, he said, had started delivering results.

Referring to the opening of the American Chamber and the French Chamber in the country, he noted that foreign investors were denied the right treatment during last five years.

Referring to the losses in the state-run textile mills during the last five years, he said the mills, which earned profit of Tk 26.91 crore in 1972-75 period, registered losses to the tune of Tk 41.3 crore over the last five years.

He proposed to constitute a committee, headed by a judge of the Supreme Court or High Court, to probe into the allega- tions of corruption during the BNP rule.

Pointing at the remark by former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia that the opposition could not give more time to the government party, Tofael asked what was their fault.

He said the past government had been "contemplating to purchase power from India" while it had signed the SAPTA accord which allowed commu- nication, transport, infrastruc- ture and transit system within the region.

Participating in the discus- sion, Jatiya Party chairman General H M Ershad said this poor country is totally a hostage to the trade unions. "Each and every sector is hostage to the trade unions, which is hindering develop- ment."

He termed the bureaucracy as one of the enemies in the way of development and urged the government to remove bureau- cratic complexities for the flourishing of industry and the development of the country. Ershad said Bangladesh is a

country where formulation of an industrial policy is very tough as the major opposition party already made a threat to oust the government which is only four months old.

The deposed president said that he had first taken the ini- tiative of privatisation and started denationalisation of the state-owned enterprises.

He urged the government to take bold steps in disinvesting the industries which were in- ccurring huge losses year after year.

"You (government) are carry- ing a legacy of the past. You must break it immediately," Ershad said and laid importance on improving the law and order situation and putting a halt to terrorism and extortion of tolls.

Referring to the issue of power import from India, the JP supreme suggested the gov- ernment to call a referendum to ascertain public opinion.

"Never take the high respon- sibility alone of importing power," he told the government. Delwar Hossain Saidee of Jamaat-e-Islami suggested to activate the country's foreign missions to attract investment and help the domestic com- panies in marketing their prod- ucts in the world markets.

He said import of power from India would be a suicidal step and international opinion would have to be mobilised to realise the due share of the Ganges water.

## Golaganj

From Page 1

among those who spoke at the meeting. The leaders of the transport workers' associations expressed their support for the hartal.

The demands include setting up a fractionation plant at the Kailashtha Gas Field and a gas turbine plant at Golaganj, stopping requisition of land in the name of Jalalabad Gas and job opportunities for the local people.

## Two die

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Gulshan thana police, quot- ing an FIR lodged in this con- nection by one Bablu, said that the two labourers fainted with a scream immediately after they got into the reservoir at about 8.30 am. They died on way to hospital, police said.

The two, sons of Motalab Khan of Char Kalkapur in Madaripur district, resided in Gulshan thana area. Police and DMCH sources suspected that the two brothers died after in- haling toxic gas which formed inside the reservoir.

An unnatural death case has been filed with Gulshan thana in this connection, police said.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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, Kakrai, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net