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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	3406.88
Market capital Tk	24843.51 cr
Transactions in volume	383841
Transactions in value Tk	21.74 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1664.52
Market capital Tk	18860.20 cr
Transactions in volume	149345
Transactions in value Tk	6.69 cr

NEWS BRIEFS

JS session resumes today

By Staff Correspondent
The second session of the seventh Jatiya Sangsad resumes after a six-day recess at 4.15 this afternoon. The session was adjourned on November 12 last.

Speaker calls on President

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. Talking to the speaker, President Shahabuddin stressed the importance of harmonious relation among the members of Parliament belonging to different political parties. The speaker apprised the President of the process of work of the Parliamentary Task Force and other related matters. President Shahabuddin appreciated the objectives of the task force, reports UNB.

ALPP meets tomorrow

A meeting of the Awami League Parliamentary Party (ALPP) will be held tomorrow. The meeting will be held at 11.30 am at the Sangsad Bhavan, with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, reports BSS.

Samad Azad returns home

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad returned home yesterday after a ten-day visit to New Delhi and Rome. During his visit to Delhi Azad held extensive discussion with the Indian leadership on bilateral and other matters of mutual interest, reports ESS.

Biman's Barisal flight from Nov 24

BARISAL, Nov 18: Biman Bangladesh Airlines will resume its flight on Dhaka-Barisal-Dhaka route on November 24 a Biman press release said here today. Taking off from Dhaka at 2:20 pm, the Biman flight will reach Barisal's Rahmatpur Airport at 2:50 pm. It will leave Barisal Airport at 3:52 pm, the release added. This will be one-a-week service every Sunday, reports BSS.

Phensidyl recovered: 2 arrested in C'tg

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Nov 18: Police recovered 1000 bottles of Phensidyl syrup from a shop at Lohagara bus stand last night. Acting on a tip-off, police raided the shop and recovered the contraband items. The persons identified as Abdul Khaleque and Alamgir were also arrested in this connection.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a joint press conference concluding the World Food Summit at the FAO headquarters in Rome on Sunday. —AFP/UNB photo

PM urges rich states in Rome Invest, help with high technology

ROME, Nov 18: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has appealed to the developed world to extend their cooperation for improving the quality of life in the developing countries, reports UNB.

"Besides the direct food assistance, they can help the developing countries with high technology and investment in different sectors that will help develop the living standard of the people of the hungry world," she told a joint press conference at the FAO headquarters on Sunday.

Six Vice-Chairmen of the World Food Summit replied to queries from newsmen at the conference on the concluding day of the World Food Summit. Cuban President Fidel Castro, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi and FAO Director General Jacques Diouf were present.

Prime Minister Hasina, who represented as Vice-Chairman for the Asia Pacific region, said the developed nations possibly

do not know the word "hunger" but the developing countries realise what the "hunger" is.

She called the World Food Summit very important for the low-income and food-deficit countries and said there were ample scope for the developed nations to extend their hand of cooperation to the developing ones.

Replying to a question, the Prime Minister said the developed world can come up with assistance to the developing countries in many more ways, including with high technology and investment.

To another question about the development of women in Bangladesh, Hasina said women's development is imperative for the overall development of the country.

Fifty per cent of Bangladesh's population are women, she said, adding that they could be useful in various developmental works, particularly in the field of agriculture.

Angry policemen hurl brickbats inside camp

By Staff Correspondent

A section of policemen at the Rajarbagh Police Line became agitated and hurled brickbats on the tin-shed barracks on Sunday night as news spread that a senior police official had caught two constables red-handed while they were allegedly taking bribe earlier in the night, according to official sources yesterday.

The two constables were reportedly caught by the DC Traffic when they were allegedly taking bribe from a person in a car on the Mirpur Road at about midnight Sunday night, the sources added.

They returned to the Rajarbagh Police Line and informed their colleagues about the incident which sparked off angry reaction.

Senior police officials brought the situation under control. A departmental inquiry has been started, the sources added.

PM returns today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will return home today after ending a five-day visit to Rome, reports UNB.

Hasina led the Bangladesh delegation in the World Food Summit held at the Italian capital. She left Dhaka early Thursday.

The Prime Minister addressed the Food Summit at the FAO headquarters and also chaired a plenary session.

During her stay in Rome, she exchanged views with a number of head of states and governments, and met some Italian investors inviting them to invest in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister is due to arrive Dhaka by a Biman flight at 11.30 am.

Alleged rape of disabled girl: Policeman held

From Staff Correspondent
KHULNA, Nov 18: Constable Gopal Chandra Shil has been arrested and sent to jail for allegedly raping a disabled girl.

He was earlier suspended and closed in the police lines. A case under section 376 BPC has been filed against him.

The city JCD brought out a procession demanding dismissal of the constable from service.

One held for torturing maid

By Staff Correspondent
One person was arrested on charges of torturing and abusing a 12-year-old maid at his house at Indira Road in the city late Sunday night.

Tejgaon police, action on a tip off, raided the house of Intiaz, arrested him and rescued the girl, Fatema.

According to police, one Shamsuddin Ahmed of West Razabazar had brought Fatema from Sylhet a few months ago to work as a maid.

But after some time, Intiaz reportedly lured Fatema, took her to his house and forced her to stay as maid, police said adding the man had kept the girl in the kitchen under lock and key and sexually abused her.

Formation of JS bodies during current session uncertain

By Nurul Kabir

Formation of the parliamentary standing committees on various ministries during the current session of Jatiya Sangsad has become uncertain mainly because of the ongoing dispute between the ruling Awami League and the main opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party.

Two identical appeals by Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami on the issue appear to be another obstacle to constitution of the bodies. Both requested review of the understanding that the Treasury and the Opposition benches would share membership of the parliamentary bodies in proportion to their respective strength in the House.

In two separate appeals to the Speaker on Saturday, JP and Jamaat sought review of the idea on the ground that if it is implemented, the question of their representation in various important bodies would be ignored, JS Secretariat sources said.

Besides, the last meeting of the JS Business Advisory Committee decided that if no emergency situation arose, the current session of the Sangsad would be prorogued on November 21. The session resumes today.

The ruling party had earlier hinted that as per the Rules of Procedure of the Sangsad, some 30 standing bodies would be formed, with the non-minister MPs heading those, during the current session. Prior to formation of the committees, it was supposed to propose an amendment to the JS Rules of Procedure seeking that non-

minister MPs head the bodies with the ministers concerned as ex-officio members and that the number of members of the committees be raised to 12 from 10.

The Standing Committee on Rules of Procedure, comprising representatives from all the parliamentary parties and groups, had almost finalised the draft of the amendments.

The dispute over distribution of membership of the committees concerned among the Treasury and the Opposition benches had ended with the former recently conceding to the BNP demand that the parliamentary parties and groups would have representation in the committees in proportion to their respective

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be made effective," a member of the BNP standing committee said.

BNP has been abstaining from attending Parliament session to press its 10-point demand, including 'adequate opportunity' for the Opposition to speak in the House.

The President gave a patient hearing to the Leader of the Opposition during the two-hour discussion from 8:10 pm and assured the latter that he would discuss the issue with Sheikh Hasina after her return from Rome, sources both in BNP and at the Bangabhaban said.

Hasina is scheduled to return this morning.

BNP leaders who accompanied Begum Zia included Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, Saifur Rahman, Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Obaidur Rahman, Oli Ahmed, Salauddin Kader Chowdhury and Morshed Khan.

Talking to this Correspondent, a member of the BNP delegation said that the policy makers of the party had earlier

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11 shot in Amin Bazar gunfight

SAVAR, Nov 18: Some 11 people including a police constable received bullet injuries in a gunfight between rival groups at a market in Amin Bazar here Sunday night, reports UNB.

Police constable Hossain Ali, 30, was admitted to Rajarbagh Police Hospital in Dhaka and the other injured were sent to local clinics.

Witnesses said the rival groups, reportedly entangled in phensidyl smuggling, initially exchanged hot-words over the possession of a room at the Borobazar at 11 am and later locked in a gunfight, leaving eleven wounded.

Police said, constable Hossain was injured when a contingent of police from Amin Bazar Police outpost rushed the scene to bring the situation under control. However, he was rescued by the Savar police.

More than 50 rounds of gunshots and crackers were blasted in the gunfight.

Later, police arrested six people in this connection. They are: Dalim Mia, 30, Anwar Hossain, 35, Selim Hossain, 28, Lal Mia, 22, Nayeem Chowdhury, 31, and Yusuf Ali, 40.

President's initiative likely to resolve impasse

By Staff Correspondent

President Shahabuddin Ahmed is likely to take an initiative to resolve the impasse arising out of the ongoing dispute between the ruling Awami League and the main Opposition Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), a highly placed source at the Bangabhaban told The Daily Star last night.

The hint of a possible presidential initiative came when Shahabuddin was talking with Begum Khaleda Zia, Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and BNP chief, at the Bangabhaban.

Expressing the hope that the Treasury and the Opposition benches in the Sangsad would work together for the people, the President told Begum Zia that he would discuss the matter with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the sources said.

A 10-member BNP delegation led by Begum Zia met the President and explained the reasons behind the present stalemate, sources in the party highcommand said. Begum Zia also handed over a memorandum to the President and explained how parliament would

be made effective," a member of the BNP standing committee said.

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AL renews call for dialogue, BNP iterates demand

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Awami League has reiterated its invitation to the main opposition BNP to sit for a dialogue for ending the impasse arising out of the latter's abstention from attending the current session of Jatiya Sangsad.

Contacts between the two sides resumed yesterday after a lapse of three days, sources in both the parties said.

No progress was, however, made in fresh telephonic talks between Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser Suranjit Sengupta and BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. The latter repeated his party's pre-conditions including acceptance of its 10-point demand, the sources added.

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SAARC economic confce begins in Delhi today

A multidimensional SAARC Economic Coordination Conference (SAECO) begins in New Delhi today, reports UNB.

Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda will inaugurate the three-day conference, jointly organised by SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) and Federation of Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FCCI).

Indian Minister for External Affairs I K Gujral will present the keynote address in the conference, according to a message received here yesterday.

SCCI President Salman F Rahman will chair the inaugural function.

A 13 member delegation from Bangladesh will attend the conference.

All but US back Ghali's second term in office

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 18: The Security Council began closed-door consultations today on nominating a Secretary-General with US Ambassador Madeleine Albright under instructions to block a second term for Boutros Boutros-Ghali, reports Reuter.

One Council member said during a process that almost all his colleagues, except Albright, had backed Boutros-Ghali's candidacy.

But Britain, while expressing support for the incumbent Secretary-General, said the situation had changed in view of the US stance, while Italy spoke of some sort of compromise term instead of the usual five years, he said.

Boutros-Ghali's current term expires on December 31. Albright's spokesman, James Rubin, told reporters: "She has received written instructions from Washington to oppose Boutros-Ghali's candidacy should it be put forward... during the course of today or tomorrow."

Lt Col Mohiuddin arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Lt Col Mohiuddin was arrested by the CID yesterday in connection with the August 15, 1975 killing, according to official sources.

Mohiuddin was earlier attached and put under the custody of Military Intelligence, according to reports.

College student killed in truck accident

A college student was killed when a truck ran over him in Uttara, hospital sources said, reports BSS.

Mizanur Rahman, 16, reportedly a first year student of Tongi College, was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck at Azampur, Uttara, at around 12.30 pm.

He was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries.

His body was sent to DMCH morgue for autopsy.

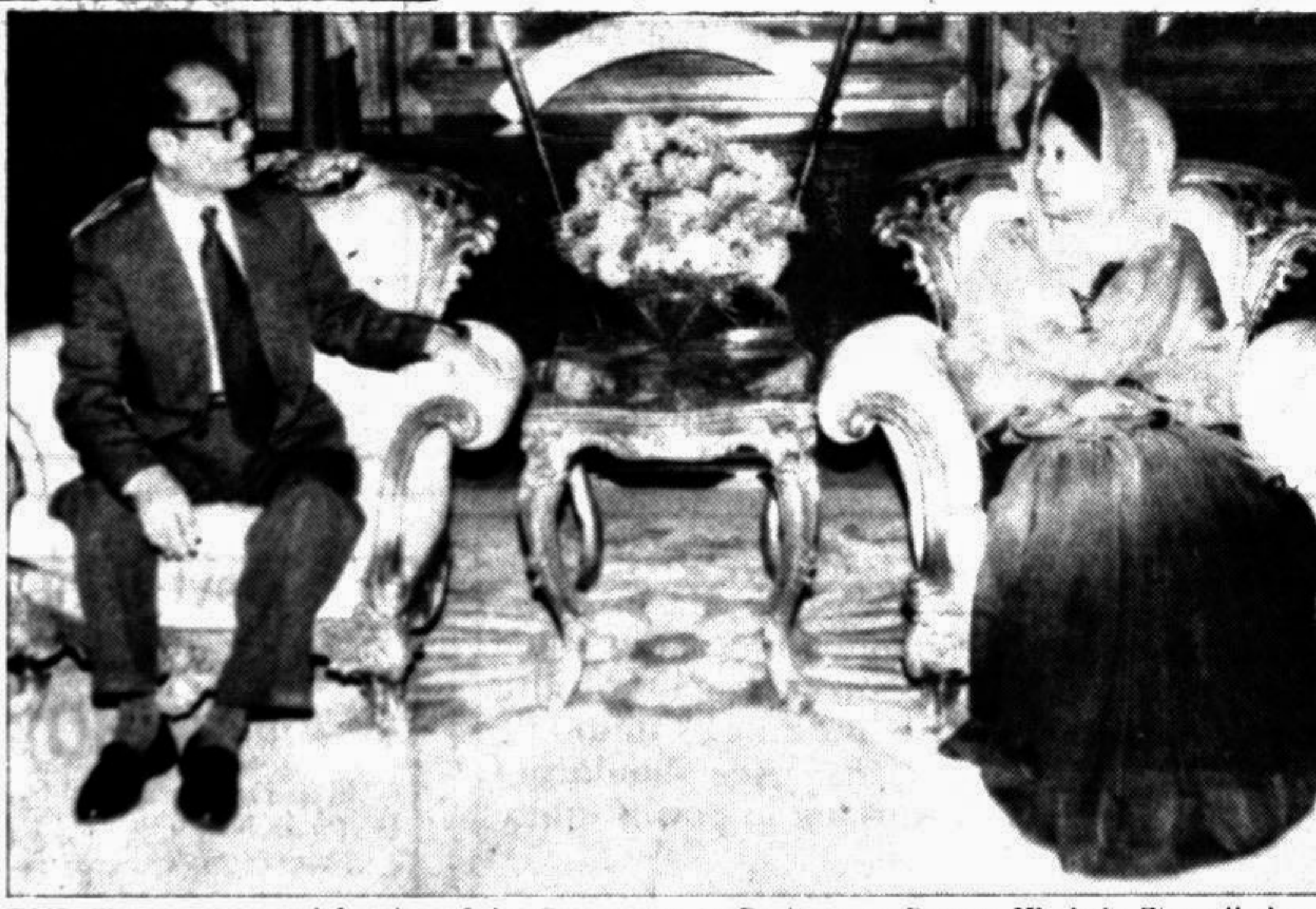
Interne doctors continue strike at RMCH

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Nov 18: The interne doctors of the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital continued to abstain from their duties for the seventh consecutive day today.

They are on strike for an indefinite period demanding removal of the director of the hospital and arrest of the persons who allegedly attacked the doctors and students on November 12.

Meanwhile, the director of Health Education and Development of Health Manpower prof Nurul Anwar has met the hospital authorities, senior doctors, interne doctors, student leaders and class four employees separately in an effort to end the strike.



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. —PID photo

2 held for cutting genitals of husbands

By DMC Correspondent

Two wives cut the genitals of their husbands following family feuds in separate incidents in Lalbagh and Mohammadpur areas in the city yesterday.

Manjurul Alam, 30, of Islambagh under Lalbagh thana and Ali Noor, 26, of Beribandh slum in Mohammadpur, were under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) with severe injuries in their genitals, hospital sources said.

Both Alam and Noor might recover from this wounds, according to DMCH doctors.

Police arrested Alam's wife Banu, 25, from her residence at Islambagh in the morning and Noor's wife Ferdousi Begum, 22, from Mohammadpur area in

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Study on local govt system Upazila Parishad should be core body: UNDP

Star Report

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has suggested an autonomous and integrated local government system covering all key political and administrative units.

The UNDP, after a study on local government system in Bangladesh has recommended that Upazila should function as the core body for implementing national development programmes and the Zila Parishad should serve as training ground for politicians. There exists no elected bodies at thana and district levels now.

There should be reserved seats for the landless, women and other 'deprived groups' in

the local bodies, it said.

The Thana Nirbahi Officer, Additional Commissioner, Local Government and the Chief Executive at Pouroshava level should be made 'subservient to the councils of elected representatives', the UNDP suggested. The roles and responsibilities of the executives should be clearly defined, it said.

The research titled, 'Local Government in Bangladesh: An Agenda for Governance' started in mid-1994 and concluded in mid-1996. The study, conducted by a pool of 17 consultants recommended strategies and programmes for strengthening the

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Utsav, on first day

A 13-day Indian cultural programme began in the city yesterday with leading cultural personalities from the neighbouring country presenting superb performances, reports UNB.

Utsav — the India Festival 1996 was jointly inaugurated by Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and Indian Minister for Human Resources Development SR Bommai at the Osmani auditorium in the evening.

The Youth and Cultural Affairs Ministry organised the festival which includes classical music and dance, folk art, exhibition of contemporary art of 18 modern Indian women painters and sculptors, crafts exhibition and a writers' conference.

The festival is a reciprocal cultural event as Bangladesh had organised a similar festival in December 1994 and January 1995 in the Indian cities of Delhi, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Calcutta and Bhubaneswar.

State Minister for Youth and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Kader, Secretary of the Ministry Anisul Haque Chowdhury and Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka Deb Mukharji spoke at the inaugural function of the

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Pandit Jasraj, the classical music maestro enrapturing audience. —Star photo

Convicted politicians disqualified for polls

ISLAMABAD, Nov 18: Pakistan President Farooq Leghari issued an anti-corruption decree today under which convicted politicians can be disqualified for elections scheduled to take place on February 3, reports Reuter.

The law was aimed at cracking down on corruption by politicians and bureaucrats but excluded the president, members of judiciary and armed forces from its purview, caretaker government's Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Fakhruddin Ebrahim, told a news conference.

Pak anti-corruption decree

Nonetheless, he said military officers working in state-run corporations could be tried under the new ordinance.

The law is being introduced 13 days after Leghari dissolved the lower house of parliament and sacked Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto on disputed charges of corruption and misuse.

Offences triable under the decree could result in up to seven years' prison and five

years disqualification for public representatives to contest elections and termination of service for government officials, Ebrahim said. They are non-bailable.

Politicians would not be barred from contesting elections merely if there were cases pending against them, he said.

But the decree offers an amnesty from jail to all those in public office who declare their corrupt practices and re-

turn illegally earned property voluntarily within 10 days, Ebrahim said.

(Those making such declarations) will of course stand disqualified for five years if he is holder of a public office and if a bureaucrat he will cease to hold his post, Ebrahim said.

He said the law would be made applicable from December 31, 1985, when late military ruler General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq lifted martial law after 8-1/2 years, it would cover assets acquired through corrupt means, even if held under

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