

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

We proudly announce the launching of *Star Literature*, a special 2-page section devoted to literary events of the country. It will contain write-ups of famous authors and writers, including interviews, articles, short stories, poems etc. This special section will be published every Saturday, starting tomorrow, and hopefully will fulfil the needs of literature loving people of Bangladesh.

Do not miss *The Daily Star* literary supplement. Book your copy with your hawk today.

— Editor

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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**CEC leaves for Ghana Monday**  
Chief Election Commissioner Mohammed Abu Hena will leave for Ghana on Monday as a member of Commonwealth Observation Group to observe the presidential and parliamentary elections in the Republic of Ghana on December 7. The 14-member group will be led by Governor General of New Zealand, Paul Reeves, said a press release, reports UNB.

**BJMC to export jute to Syria**

Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) has received an order to supply 40,000 tonnes of jute worth Taka 114 crore to Syria, a BJMC press release said yesterday. BJMC won the order through an international competition. This is the single biggest agreement of jute export from Bangladesh, reports BSS.

**36 forged notes of Tk 500 recovered**

CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: A special team of Chandgaon police recovered 36 counterfeit 500-taka notes and stamps of different universities and boards from a house at Mohra under Chandgaon thana here today. Police said they also arrested three persons in this connection. The arrested are Anil Baran Majumdar, M Farid and Mosharaf, reports BSS.

**One arrested with arms in Jessore**

From Our Correspondent  
JESSORE, Nov 21: Police arrested one miscreant from village Baliaghata of Kotwali thana in the district and recovered two country-made guns from his possession today. Acting on tip-off, police raided the village and arrested Alam, 20, with arms, police said. A case has been lodged.

**IU halls raided**

From Our Correspondent  
KUSHTIA, Nov 21: Police raided the Saddam Hossain and the Zia Halls of Islamic University in the early hours of Tuesday but no illegal arms could be recovered.

## Alam removed, Sarkar new BB Governor

by Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Bank Governor Khorshed Alam was removed yesterday and replaced by Lutfar Rahman Sarkar, according to an official announcement.

Meanwhile, a section of officials and employees gheraoed the outgoing Governor's office yesterday demanding enhancement of their pay-scales.

"I do not want to make any comment," Khorshed Alam told *The Daily Star* when asked about the termination of his contractual service which was due to expire on December 19.

On the demands of the employees and officials, he said, "I can not do it instantly."

Some 100 people went to the Governor's office in the morning and tried to clear the pay-scale files. The agitation had been continuing for the last three days, said an official of the Bank.

"Police later rescued the



Lutfar Rahman Sarkar

Governor and other senior officials at around 2 pm," he said.

UNB adds: Lutfar Rahman Sarkar, a career banker who was lately Managing Director of the Prime Bank, took over the charges of the highest post of the central bank at around Noon yesterday.

In a press conference at the ministry, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria announced the appointment of the new governor, but he would not say why the former governor was removed hurriedly — only a few weeks before expiry of his contract.

According to an official announcement, Alam was relieved of his duties as Bangladesh Bank Governor as the government terminated his contractual service, due to expire next month.

As per provisions of the contractual service, the government can terminate any person in such services on a month's notice or remove him or her immediately just giving one month's salary and other benefits.

Sarkar previously held the

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**Viscera report**

### Tigers at Zoo died due to poisoning

By Staff Correspondent

The death of three Royal Bengal tigers at the Dhaka Zoo early this month was due to poisoning, according to the viscera report of the Central Animal Disease Investigation Laboratory.

Besides, the four-year-old tiger cab died of suffocation for over eating of meat, it said.

The chief scientific officer of the laboratory, in a letter to the curator of the Zoo on Wednesday, said that they had sent the specimen of the viscera of the dead tigers to the Public Health Institute for chemical test to be re-assured about the cause of the death.

Meanwhile, the Detective Branch (DB) of police has started an investigation into the mysterious death of the four tigers between November 9 and 13 and a jungle cat on November 17, according to a se-

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**Borrowing up: Forex reserve \$ 1.87 b**

### Economy in good shape, says Finance Minister

Borrowing by the government marked a rise in recent months owing to various factors, otherwise the economy is in good shape and the targeted GDP growth rate would be achieved, the finance minister said, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference at his ministry yesterday, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria said the overall economy is in a very healthy condition and "I strongly believe that the target growth rate of 5.5 per cent would be exceeded."

He observed that achieving another 1.5 per cent growth in the GDP would not be impossible if the investments in private and public sectors take place. Export growth is satisfactory and reforms can be carried out.

"It's a combined effort of so many forces," he said, adding an increased production in the agriculture sector and rapid investment in the industrial sector could achieve a 7 per cent

growth rate within a short period of time.

But he noted that the borrowing by the government is "slightly high" which is likely to be corrected at the end of the fiscal year. He said government borrowing rose to Tk 411 crore during July-September period compared to Tk 120 crore during the corresponding period of the last fiscal (1994-95).

Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan said increased allocation in the ADP, shortfall in revenue collection and debt service liabilities, and reduced sale of foodgrains from the godowns were the main causes of the borrowings.

"We hope towards the end of the year this situation will be changed," said Dr Khan who assisted the minister in the news conference.

Kibria said inflation which

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### Prof Salam dead

ISLAMABAD, Nov 21: Pakistan's only Nobel Prize winner, Theoretical Physicist Abdus Salam, died in England today, relatives in Islamabad said.

His brother, Abdul Wahab, told Reuters that Salam, 70, died in the early hours at his Oxford home and that his body would be brought back to Pakistan on Saturday for burial.

Salam, who won a Nobel Prize for his work in particle

### Queen Sophia arrives today

Queen Sophia of Spain arrives in the city today on a six-day visit to Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The Spanish Queen, who is visiting Bangladesh as the President of Queen Sophia Foundation, will see a number of projects of Grameen Bank and their operations and activities.

She is expected to call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Queen Sophia will cochair the Micro-Credit Summit to be held in Washington next February. They are expected to exchange views on importance of micro-credit in poverty alleviation.

The visit will provide further impetus to the existing cordial relations between Bangladesh and Spain.

Bangladesh will shortly open a resident mission in Madrid, capital of Spain.

### Hasina-Khaleda brief conversation

By Staff Correspondent  
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia had a brief conversation while sitting side by side at a function held at the Senakunja in Dhaka Cantonment in observance of the Armed Forces Day yesterday.

The chief of the ruling Awami League and that of the main opposition BNP exchanged pleasantries and talked for some time, sources close to them said.

Details could not be known.

### AL leader shot dead in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a leader of the Awami League at Lelang village under Fatikchhari thana last night, police said.

Abul Kalam, vice president of the Lelang union unit of Awami League was kidnapped by the gunmen who later killed him after taking him to a lonely place, police said.

Police recovered the body this morning.

The Chittagong district Awami League has blamed the Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) for the killing. The ICS has denied the allegation.

### Jubo Dal leader murdered in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, Nov 21: The vice president of the city unit of Jubo Dal S M Nasir was murdered by some unidentified assailants at the jail gate this morning. The City Jubo Dal and JCD have called a half day hartal on Saturday to protest the killing.

Eye witnesses said, five youngmen attacked him after exploding bombs. He succumbed to his injuries the Sadar hospital.

Police said, the killing is the result of previous enmity.

The JCD and the Jubodal have blamed the BCL for the killing. But BCL has denied the charge.

### Hunt in Tripura for alleged killers of Bangabandhu

Star Monitor  
Police in the north-eastern Indian state of Tripura are conducting a manhunt to nab two Bangladeshi nationals, accused of the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

According to a BBC report monitored in Dhaka last night, police officials in Tripura were suspecting that two former

## No trading held on DSE floor for lack of quorum

Trading on the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) floor could not take place yesterday for lack of quorum of stockbrokers following Wednesday's trouble, reports UNB.

Official of the bourse said there had been no sufficient buy or sale order to the DSE members for transaction yesterday due to the disturbance outside the exchange on Wednesday.

Ahmed Iqbal Hasan, Vice-chairman of the DSE, also told UNB that trading would take place on Saturday as the members received substantial orders for executing on the first day of the week.

"It is a rumour that the DSE authorities have suspended trading on the floor in protest against Wednesday's developments," he said over phone. "We'll keep open the market Saturday as usual."

Iqbal Hasan further informed that the DSE members would also receive buy and sale order on Friday, the weekly holiday in the bourse.

Trading was very thin in a one-hour transaction on Wednesday as the operators in the kerb market went wild seeing for transaction yesterday due to the disturbance outside the exchange on Wednesday.

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### Turnover at CSE falls sharply

From Staff Correspondent  
CHITTAGONG, Nov 21: A bearish trend prevails at the country's second bourse in the port city leading to a sharp decrease in turnover during the last few days.

According to sources in Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) and market operators, a reduction in share trading for

ing prices of shares falling for the previous four days.

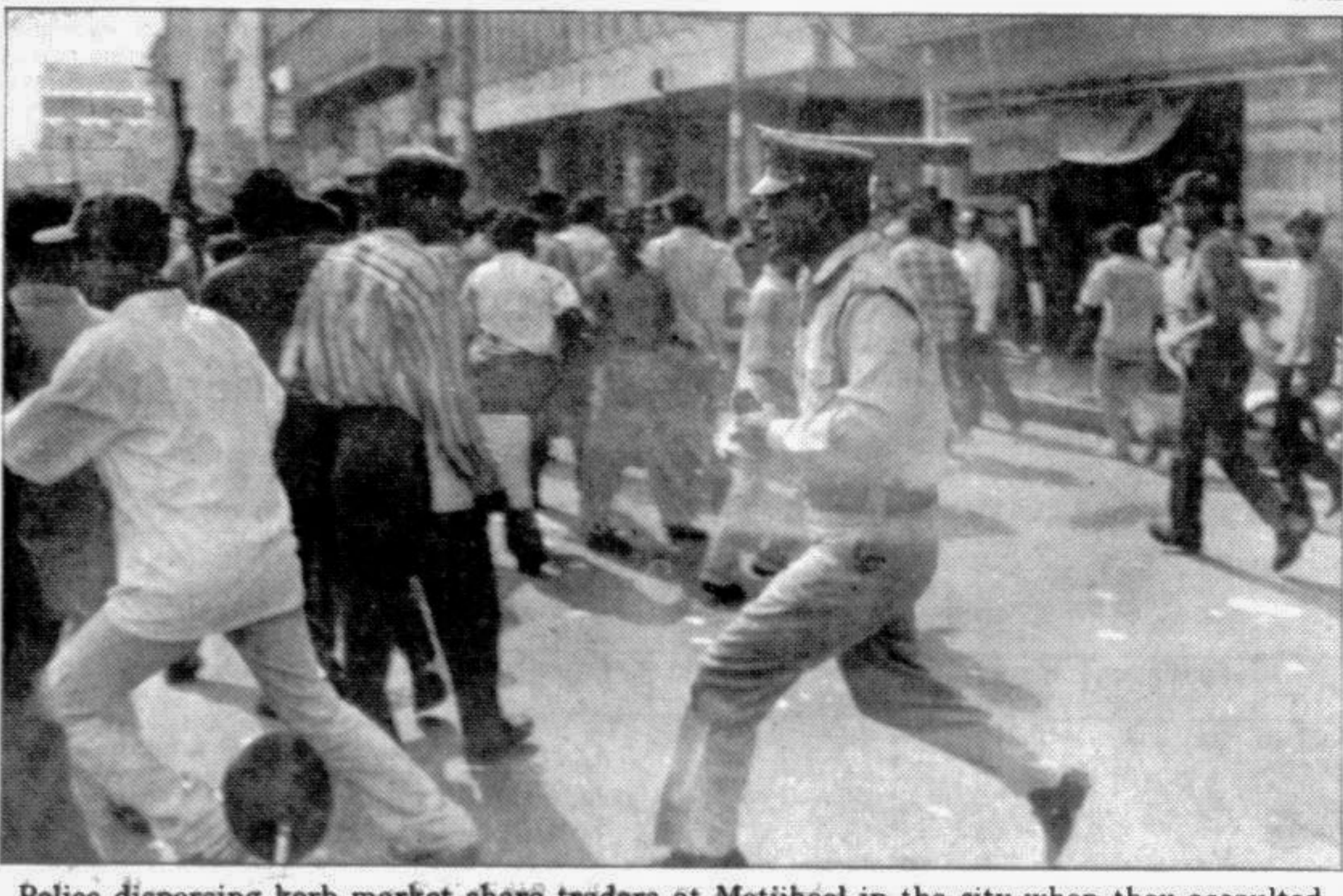
Meanwhile, an emergency meeting of the DSE Council, the highest decision-making body of the country's oldest bourse, yesterday reviewed the recent development in and outside the trading floor.

Chaired by DSE Chairman Imtiaz Husain, the meeting at the DSE Building observed that the incidents outside the floor had pushed the members into a sense of insecurity.

The meeting requested the government to provide security to the members and demanded that an enquiry be carried out into the developments in the capital market.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: The kerb market operators traded shares in front of the Dhaka Stock Exchange for

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Police dispersing kerb market share traders at Motijheel in the city when they assaulted a trader from Chittagong yesterday.

## PM likely to visit Delhi in first week of Dec

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to visit New Delhi in the first week of next month in quest of a lasting solution to the Ganges water sharing issue, highly placed officials said here yesterday, reports UNB.

The three day visit to India, first ever by Sheikh Hasina after her assumption of office of the Prime Minister, will take place at the invitation of Indian Prime Minister HD Deve Gowda.

During the visit, she will hold talks with the Indian Prime Minister on the water problem and other bilateral issues.

After the summit between the two heads of government, an agreement on sharing water

of the international river Ganges is likely to be signed late December.

Sheikh Hasina, during her just concluded visit to Rome, seized the opportunity to hold talks with her Indian counterpart, covering the water sharing issue and other bilateral matters.

West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, one of India's senior-most politicians, will arrive here on November 27 to discuss the issue with Bangladesh authorities, the sources indicated.

A three member Bangladesh expert committee of the Joint River Commission (JRC) is now in New Delhi to hold technical discussion with their Indian counterparts on water sharing.

### Towering inferno kills 45 in HK

HONG KONG, Nov 21: The confirmed death toll in a Hong Kong tower block blaze has risen to 45, a government spokeswoman said by telephone today, reports Reuters.

Rescue workers were still combing the devastated building for victims, a government statement said.

The inferno began on Wednesday evening and raged through the night, gutting seven of the building's 16 floors.

Some 300 firemen and 50 fire engines battled the blaze, which took almost 24 hours to quell.

Hong Kong's worst fire on record was in 1918 when 600 people were killed and 400 injured in a blaze at the Happy Valley race course on Hong Kong island.

## Poor facilities on Indian side hamper trade thru' Benapole

Nurul Alam, back from Calcutta

Business groups in India are complaining of lack of facilities at a key land trading post at bordering Haridaspur area of West Bengal, through which over 40 per cent of trans-border trade between India and Bangladesh is conducted, sources concerned said.

This correspondent, during a visit to Calcutta recently, was told that Bangladesh had up-graded facilities on its side but India had not, which led to a serious problem.

Consequently hundreds of trucks carrying various export materials from India regularly lined up at Haridaspur transit

point at Bongha township in West Bengal to pass into Bangladesh, witnesses said.

Most of the trucks have to remain stranded for days together due to the congestion at Haridaspur check-post in absence of adequate infrastructure on the Indian side, they added.

On the other side of the border, inside Bangladesh, lies Benapole check-post which is provided with required infrastructure.

The leading trade body representing business groups in West Bengal has become vocal about the problem. It took up

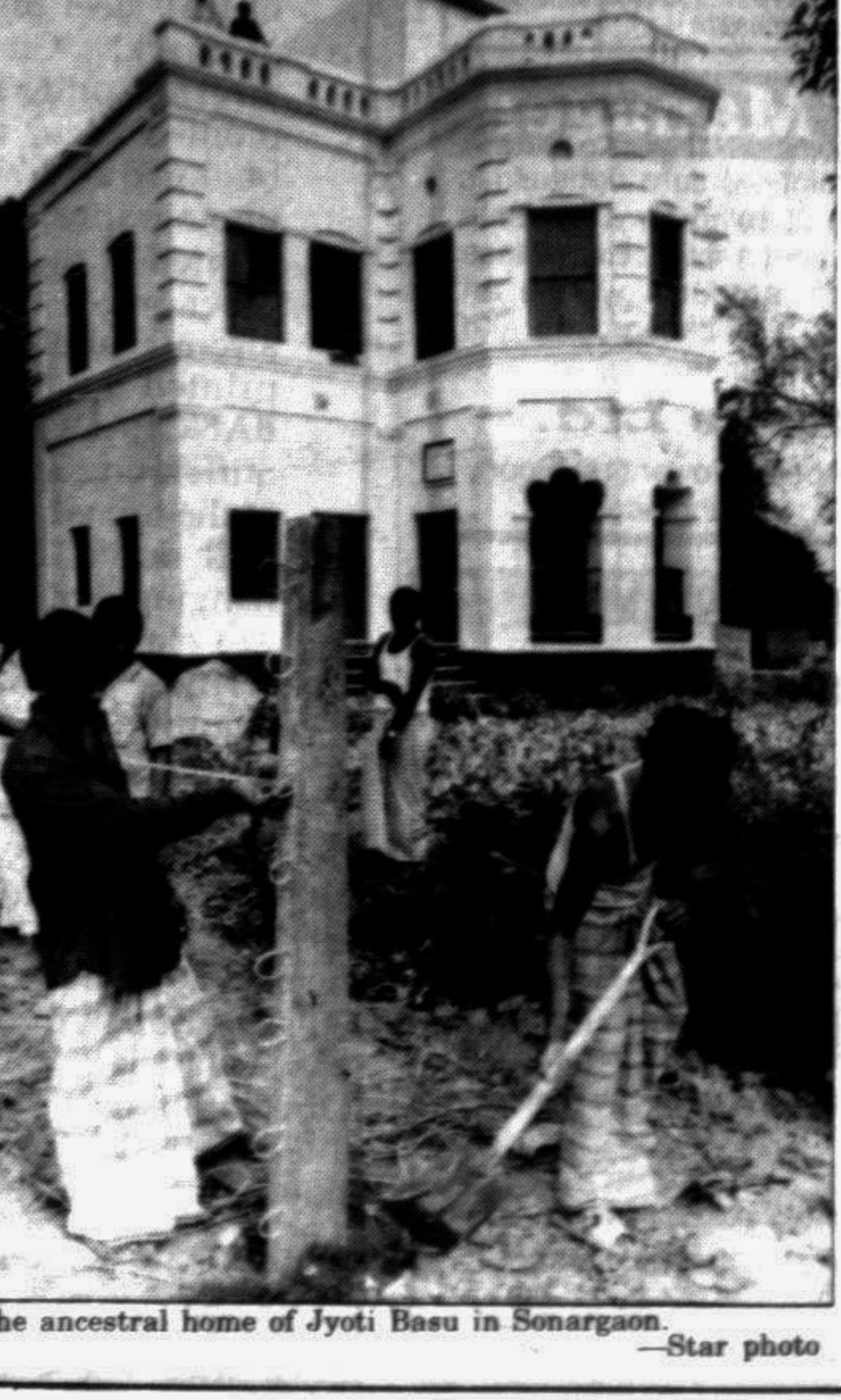
the issue with the Indian government, sources concerned said.

A spokesman of Bengal National Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BNCCI), DP Nag, told this correspondent "Our chamber urged the Indian government time and again for declaring Haridaspur transit post a landpost by developing its infrastructure to ease the backlog in transportation of import and export cargo between the two neighbouring countries."

He said the Chamber had suggested the Indian govern-

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## Jyoti Basu may spend a day in his ancestral home



From Shehab Ahmed  
BARADI (Sonargaon), Nov 21: Workmen are hurrying around to give a finishing touch to the renovation work of the ancestral home of West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu.

Basu, who is coming to Bangladesh on a visit later this month, has reportedly expressed his desire to spend a day in the house where he was born 80 years ago.

The house was built in 1901 (1329 Bangla year) on the banks of the Meghna when Baradi was a thriving village.

"It will be the second time when he visits us on November 27," Gulzar Ahmed, the young rickshawpuller who carried us to the mansion, said.

Although Gulzar did not see Basu during his first visit in 1988, he was all agog seeing so many visitors coming now.

Gulzar said it was Shahidullah, caretaker of the Basu residence, who had told neighbours about the visit of the West Bengal Chief Minister. Shahidullah's father Fakir Ahmed and mother Ayatunnessa had taken care of the young Basu.

Basu's father, Dr Nishikanata Basu and mother Hemlata Basu's names are engraved in a plaque at the back of the house, which was darkened by time as they set up their residence in Calcutta long before the British Raj ended in partition of the sub-continent in 1947.

Jyoti Basu had spent some time in this house during his first visit to Bangladesh in 1988.

A light pink has replaced the worn out darkened colours.

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### 5 terrorists hurt in gunfight with Ansars in city

Five alleged terrorists were seriously wounded in a gun battle with the Ansars in the Cantonment area in the city early yesterday, hospital sources said, reports BSS.

When some 20 miscreants attacked an Ansar camp at Parbaty Sarani of Basundhara under the Cantonment police station at around 3 am, the Ansars responded with gunshots. The gunfight ensued after one of the attackers was caught and later handed over to the police by the Ansars. The miscreants fired gunshots and exploded bombs during the clash.

Of the injured, three were identified as Khorshed Alam, 30, Jahidul Islam, 25, and Shahidullah, 27. They were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital and the other two were undergoing treatment at the Orthopaedic Hospital.

## Armed Forces pride of nation, says PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said her government is determined to present the countrymen with efficient and modern armed forces, reports BSS.

Addressing a reception at the Senakunja to mark the Armed Forces Day, she said the Bangladesh armed forces are the pride of the country.

The Prime Minister, who is also in charge of the Defence Ministry, said the Bengali members of the armed forces had snatched away the red sun of independence, fighting side by side with people at the call of the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman against the enemies.

The Prime Minister noted with satisfaction that the activities of the armed forces have become wide-spread. They have been playing a praiseworthy role in the disaster manage-

ment and other development activities, besides protection of the motherlands.

She said they have also a credible role in preserving the integrity as well as establishing peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

She said our armed forces have been discharging their duties with efficiency in preserving international peace as members of the UN peace-keeping forces. Besides, she said, they are also making significant contribution to the reconstruction of the friendly country, Kuwait.

The Prime Minister paid glowing tributes to the martyrs of the liberation war and expressed her profound sympathy to the members of the bereaved families on this day.

She urged all countrymen to forge a greater unity to fight

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## Benazir files amended petition, but her stand 'unchanged'

ISLAMABAD, Nov 21: Ousted Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto filed an amended petition in the Supreme Court today, challenging her dismissal, one of her lawyers said.

The court refused to accept Benazir's original petition on Tuesday, saying it contained frivolous and scandalous matter.

It gave Benazir 14 days to appeal against the rejection of the petition or to file an amended one.

Benazir's lawyer, Aitzaz Ahsan said he had filed an amended petition to save time instead of appealing. "Our stand

remains unchanged that there is nothing frivolous or scandalous in the petition," he told Reuters.

Ahsan said he had written a letter to the court registrar along with the amended petition to place on record Benazir's disagreement with the court's rejection of the original.

The first petition's 42 pages contained blistering criticism of Leghari for sacking his former political patron.

As this petition has been drafted in an argumentative manner... and contains frivolous, unnecessary and scandalous matter, it is not entertainable and is hereby re-

turned," the court said in a statement.

It said references to the President and Chief Justice should be made in proper language.

Ahsan contended in his letter that the petition had been drafted with due respect, but said he was refiled a modified version, omitting all the passages criticised by the court.

Meanwhile, President Leghari has appointed a former Supreme Court judge to head a new anti-corruption commission. AFP quoting officials said today.

Ghulam Mujaddid Mirza

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