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Body to formulate nat'l information policy soon: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said steps will be taken to formulate a proper national information policy, reports UNB.

Responding to a demand of BCS Information Cadre Service officials, who called on the Prime Minister at her office in the morning, Hasina said a committee will be formed soon for formulating the information policy.

She called upon the information officers to apprise the government of various problems people are facing besides informing the people of various welfare steps of the government.

"Main policy of the government is to work for the people and to build up the country," she told the delegation of officials.

The Prime Minister said her government is trying hard to bring in foreign investment for achieving economic emancipation. "All will be benefited if the country gets stronger economically," she said and called for working hard for the development of the country.

Responding to another demand of the cadre officials, the Prime Minister assured that her government would consider the officials for their promotion and postings.

She stressed the need for proper training for improving the efficiency of the officials and assured them of all possible government help in this regard.

The Prime Minister announced donation of Taka five lakh for the welfare fund of the BCS (Information) Cadre Association and Taka one lakh for Kazi Saifunnahar, Deputy Director of Mass Communication, who is suffering from serious ailment.

President of the Association and Director General of Mass Communication Syed Suja Uddin Ahmed and its General Secretary Md Abu Abdullah led the 31-member delegation.

Tk 90,000 looted from govt office in city

By Staff Correspondent

An unidentified gang allegedly drugged the security guards and looted Tk 90,000 in cash and some valuable goods from a government office at Green Road in the city late Tuesday night.

Police said, the security personnel guarding the Agricultural Statistics wing of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics became unconscious after taking the food given by two unidentified persons at around 9 pm.

Later, the gang allegedly broke open the doors to enter the four storied office building at 5, Green Corner in Green Road. They looted the money and some office goods, police said quoting the FIR filed with the Dhanmondi thana by a Deputy Director of the office.

The guards identified as Javed Ali, 50, Abdur Rasul, 45, Md Siddique 30, and Abdul Kader, 55, were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Employees of BTC agent robbed of Tk 4.6 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

A group of youngsters looted Tk 4.6 lakh in cash at gun point from two employees of an agent of Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC) near the Sonali Bank branch at Jinjira yesterday morning, according to police.

Witnesses reported one pedestrian also received bullet injury during the incident. However, police failed to confirm it.

According to Keraniganj Police, a group of youngsters used a trawler to cross the Buriganga river. They then way laid and robbed the two BTC agents, Muslim and Selim, at around 9:45 am yesterday.

A case registered in this regard also mentioned that the youngsters used firearms and fled the area, on board — the same vessel.

Following the incident, two persons, Babul and Jahangir, were arrested, said police, adding that the owner of the trawler, Nannu, was also interrogated and his vessel taken into police custody.

MC College VP granted bail

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 4: The Vice-president of the Sylhet MC College Students Union Abdul Hanif Kutu was released on bail today. He was in the jail hajat for over two months.

Kutu, also a lessee of a sand quarry of the Luckatoorah tea garden areas was arrested with 15 other BCL activists on October 1 following an untoward incident between the labourers of the tea garden and a group of BCL workers. Twelve others were released on bail earlier.

Husband stabs wife to death

By Staff Correspondent

One person stabbed his wife to death and injured his son-in-law at Nawabganj Lane under Lalbagh thana in the city Tuesday.

Rabeya Begum, 40, sustained fatal injuries in her abdomen when her husband, Nurul Islam, aged around 50, attacked her with a scissor during a row in their residence Tuesday midnight.

A mother of four children Rabeya succumbed to her injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) at about 11 am yesterday, police said.

Their son-in-law Mizanur Rahman, 30, injured while trying to resist Nurul from attacking his mother-in-law, was under treatment at the DMCH, police and hospital sources said.

Shahabuddin Ahmed, son of Nurul filed a case against his father who fled shortly after the incident, Lalbagh thana police said.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately. However, police said, Nurul had family feud for a long time, and he often used to stay out of home.

Once a small trader, Nurul was unemployed, police said. The body of Rabeya was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

3 incidents of mugging

By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched money and valuables worth more than Tk one lakh in three incidents in and around the city yesterday.

A gang of about five armed persons intercepted a microbus near the Kanchpur bridge at about 4 am and snatched Tk 30 thousand after stabbing five persons travelling in the microbus. The injured were taken to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

They all were coming to the city from Feni to see off one of their relatives at the Airport.

In another incident, an unidentified gang stabbed one Abu Bakar, 45, at Nilkhet near New Market and took away Tk 40 thousand from him last night.

Besides, garments trader, Jamal Hossain 30, was mugged to Tk 30 thousand at Azampur under Uttara thana at around 9:30 am.

Role of public sector

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tion process of the government, the Prime Minister said the trade and industrial policies have already been greatly liberalised keeping conformity with the commitment of the free market economy.

The hindrances in the field of import have been removed and the rate of tariff and excise have been rationalised, she said adding the industrial sector has been made open for foreign investment.

The foreign currency regulations have been relaxed and policy for handling over public enterprises to the private sector is being implemented gradually, she said.

Hasina said effective measures have been taken for timely implementation of the foreign aided projects and to make proper utilisation of fund committed by the donors.

A number of reformative measures have already been taken in financial sectors, she said, adding that necessary steps had been taken to encourage the private sector to invest in the field of power generation.

Referring to the agriculture sector, she said development of agriculture and the peasant is the precondition for development of the country and the present government had taken significant steps to remove existing stagnancy in the agro-sector and giving a boost in productivity.

The government is committed to successful completion of

reforms in the field of education, health, population control, industries, commerce and finance, said the Prime Minister.

Addressing the session, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria said all investment for development will go in vain if the government mechanism does not work properly. The government is working and trying to achieve the success," he added.

He said the government is taking various reform measures, but many reforms could not taken into the ground for the lack of consensus among all elements.

The government is also to reform the civil administration, Kibria said, adding the government works when the civil servants work. The reforms should be made at the level of the society according to the need of the time, it should not always come down from the top.

World Bank South Asia region director Mieso Nishimizu said to establish a dynamic government system, the government should shift its gears "from a bureaucracy to a culture of quality and service."

She said the government should shift its emphasis from focus on inputs to outcome and results, from government that controls to one that steers and leaves to others the rowing the boat, from government that guarantees jobs to one where the customers guarantees them.



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Strong winds sweep coast of Andhra

HYDERABAD, Dec 4: Authorities today evacuated more than 300,000 people to safety in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh as a powerful cyclone, moving towards its coast, claimed its first two victims, reports Reuter.

Officials in the state capital Hyderabad said one person was killed in a house collapse and the other was crushed under an uprooted tree as strong winds swept the coast ahead of the storm.

Meteorological officials said the storm, with gale force winds of up to 180 kmph was moving in a northwesterly direction in the Bay of Bengal towards the coast.

They said the cyclone was expected to cross land between Ongole town and Kakinaada port at about 2.00 am on Thursday.

Officials said the cyclone, which was earlier expected to hit Andhra Pradesh around noon, had slowed down in its advance.

"It is quite worrying that it is slowing down... it seems to be intensifying further," said JVM Naidu, director of the Cyclone Warning Centre at Visakhapatnam Port.

AL activist shot dead in Feni

FENI, Dec 4: An Awami League worker was shot dead and a Jubo League worker injured by unknown assailants near Lashkar Bazar in Sadar thana on Tuesday night, reports UNB.

The dead, identified as Nur Nabi, 45, of Shibpur village in Sadar thana, was a joint convener of Bhuiyarchat unit Bangabandhu Parishad.

Police said Nur Nabi and Jubo League worker Nuruddin, 28, came under gunfire at about 10:30 pm when they were returning home after attending a party meeting at Lashkar Bazar. Nur Nabi died on the spot.

Nuruddin, who received bullet injury in his left leg, was admitted to Sadar Hospital.

The body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

Postponement of exams Some students ransack teachers' rooms at JU

By JU Correspondent

A group of agitated students ransacked the office rooms of some teachers of the Economics Department, Jahangirnagar University (JU), yesterday protesting the rescheduling of examinations.

Third year (Hons) students of Economics Department under the session 1991-92 demonstrated on the campus and submitted a memorandum to the acting Vice Chancellor, Prof Alauddin Ahmed, protesting the postponement of their final examinations for the third time.

Share certificates, cash stolen from CID staff recovered

Police arrested one young man and recovered Tk 1,20,000 in cash and share certificates worth about Tk 800,000 from his possession at Paridas Road in the city in the early hours of yesterday, reports BSS.

Motijheel police said Mohammad Jasin (30), a resident of Motijheel AGB Colony, was arrested on charge of stealing the share certificates and cash money from one Joydul Abedin. Joydul is an employee of the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) headquarters at Malibagh and also a resident of the colony.

A case was registered with Motijheel police in this connection.

Waste

From Page 1

per, 0.5 per cent glass, 0.5 per cent metal, one per cent plastic, five per cent textile, eleven per cent grass, twenty five per cent food waste, 30 per cent ash or soil and the remaining rest are other elements.

A very negligible quantity of garbage is recycled by the Tokals in a very unscientific way which can be hazardous to public health, an official of the engineering department of the DCC said. "A plastic can which earlier contained toxic chemical is melted to make a container for, say, oil," he said.

Experts said that compost system of waste management in our country had a good potential. Although a biogas plant was set up near Syedabad in the city in 1992 at a cost of about Tk 1.5 lakh, the plant is now abandoned due to lack of expert manpower.

Meanwhile, a Canadian firm formally asked the DCC yesterday to provide it with necessary data explore the possibility of setting up of an electricity generating plant from the city's waste.

HC urged to set guidelines for free press

By SC Correspondent

Shafiq Rehman, Editor of the weekly Jai Jai Din, in his contempt case yesterday sought some guidelines for a free press from the High Court.

Filing an affidavit in the Court he submitted that in the editorial published in the weekly under the headline 'In-giter Adalat' he did not intend to express disrespect to the subordinate judiciary or any department of the justice of the state.

"It should have in any way conveyed such a meaning, or may be so construed, the Opposition-party has no hesitation in submitting that he is genuinely sorry and to express remorse," he submitted in his affidavit.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Moazzam Haque and Justice Md Abdul Matin after hearing both the parties fixed December 10 for judgment.

Earlier, the same bench issued a suo moto rule nisi on Shafiq Rehman to show cause as to why he should not be punished for contempt in respect of the editorial of the Jai Jai Din, in the issue of November 12.

The editorial comment was set out regarding granting of bail by courts, comprising the subordinate judiciary, to former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad in a number of cases.

"This Hon'ble Court may be pleased to lay down some guidelines for the future in order to

Suhrawardy

From Page 1

lishing rule of law and parliamentary democracy.

He said Suhrawardy's political wisdom, strength of character and undaunted leadership were incomparable and can still be followed in democratic advancement.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said the best way of showing respect to a leader like Hossain Shaheed Suhrawardy was to lead the country towards progress with concerted efforts.

"We would like to go ahead with that trend of politics what the great leader (Suhrawardy) had handed over to the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman," the Prime Minister pointed out.

Suhrawardy Jatiya Smriti Parishad and Bangladesh National Personalities Research Centre (BNPRC) will jointly arrange a discussion on the life of Suhrawardy at his mazar at 8 am today.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman will attend the meeting as chief guest while Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak will be present as special guest.

Another discussion will be organised by Shaheed Suhrawardy Smriti Sangsad at the Jatiya Press Club at 3 pm.

Among others, former Chief Justice Badrul Haider Chowdhury, Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, Dr Kamal Hossain, Prof Shamsul Huda Harun and Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan will address the meeting.

DSE Index

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The investors urged reintroduction of loan disbursement facility through ICB, immediate instruction to ICB to buy adequate shares, bringing transparency to Dhaka Stock Exchange and halt to harassment by the DSE members, legal action against the corrupt stock exchange officials and members responsible for jack-

ing up share prices and creating crisis in the capital market, stopping involvement of stock officials in the share business, suspension of issuing new IPOs and overall protection of small investors.

The lock-in period for foreign investors was withdrawn because we saw that foreign investors did not have that much investment here which can cause a huge slide like that in the Mexico share market," he noted.

The SEC imposed circuit-breakers twice, the first one by 10 per cent and second one by 5 per cent, when the market was rising sharply. In one week, the All Share Price Index of the DSE rose by nearly 1000 points, the Minister noted.

"This was unnatural as no share is so much worth this rise. It was obvious that this situation will not last and an overnight slide would destabilise the market. Therefore, the SEC imposed the circuit breaker," he added.

The Minister denied any interference in market operations. But the government had withdrawn bank loan facilities against share certificates in order to discourage further growth of the price index.

"We then restored that facility to overcome the stagnation in the market," he said terming this action as "flexibility of the government."

enable a free press to play its part in ventilating public opinion and the deeply felt views of citizens on vital issues affecting their lives and society and the proper functioning of democratic institutions including an independent judiciary," he submitted.

In support of constructive criticism of the court the contemnor referred some decisions of Lord Denning and Lord Atkin of the United Kingdom, Justice Krishna Iyer of India, views of the US judges and the opinions of former Chief Justice and now the President, Shahabuddin Ahmed, former Chief Justice MH Rahman and the sitting Chief Justice ATM Afzal.

Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed and Dr Kamal Hossain assisted by Advocate Subrata Chowdhury and Adilur Rahman Khan moved for Shafiq Rehman.

DAG Kaiseruddin appearing on behalf of the state submitted that in criticizing the courts the authors should be careful.

2 kidnapped boys rescued in Rangamati, 6 held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 4: Police rescued two abducted school boys today from Betchhari village under Kaokali thana of Rangamati hill district and arrested their alleged kidnappers.

The boys, Yasin Shohel, 10, and Javed 9, were abducted three days ago from Hathazari thana area. The kidnappers had demanded ransom of Taka ten lakh from their guardians, police said.

Acting on a tip-off, police arrested Md Jasim and Abu Taher from the town here and as per their confession, police today raided the Betchhari village and rescued the victims. Police also arrested four others, including Badal, Nure Alam, Md Ahsar and Raju, in this connection.

JS Sectt

From Page 1

pointed" him further. "Because, it seems clearly that the Speaker is least bothered about resolving the problem."

Requested to explain, the Opposition Chief Whip said: "In my letter, I drew the attention of the Speaker to the problem, but he did not even feel to reply himself."

His attention was drawn to the fact that the letter said the Speaker would look into the problem if any Opposition law maker had any objection to work in a committee. "Is not it funny that everytime they will unilaterally announce the name of our MPs and members of parliamentary bodies, and then offer a scope for withdrawing from the committees?"

"Is not it embarrassing for a BNP legislator if the party leadership wants to replace him with another member after his name is already announced by the Speaker," he further asked?

"On top of all, even if the Speaker enjoys the sole authority to announce the Petition Committee and the Library Committee, he is obliged under a certain rule of the JS Rules of Procedure to take the consent of the MP concerned before including him or her name in a JS body," the Opposition Chief Whip said. "I do not have any reason to believe that the Speaker or the secretary in-charge are unaware of the rule."

Replying to another question, the Opposition Chief Whip said that he was preparing for giving a "befitting" reply to the letter of the JS secretary in charge.

Kibria: Stock market

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he said while briefing about rationale of the recent steps of the SEC.

"The lock-in period for foreign investors was withdrawn because we saw that foreign investors did not have that much investment here which can cause a huge slide like that in the Mexico share market," he noted.

The SEC imposed circuit-breakers twice, the first one by 10 per cent and second one by 5 per cent, when the market was rising sharply. In one week, the All Share Price Index of the DSE rose by nearly 1000 points, the Minister noted.

"This was unnatural as no share is so much worth this rise. It was obvious that this situation will not last and an overnight slide would destabilise the market. Therefore, the SEC imposed the circuit breaker," he added.

The Minister denied any interference in market operations. But the government had withdrawn bank loan facilities against share certificates in order to discourage further growth of the price index.

"We then restored that facility to overcome the stagnation in the market," he said terming this action as "flexibility of the government."

Silver Jubilee of Victory Day



Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Badruddoza Chowdhury speaking at a discussion meeting in the city yesterday organised by BNP in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Victory Day. — Star photo

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independence and reading out the declaration of independence on behalf of someone is completely different, he said.

Ziaur Rahman crossed the Kalurghat bridge by March 25. On the night of March 25, the Awami League leaders of Chittagong announced the declaration of independence given by Bangabandhu," he said.

Chittagong AL leader Abdul Hannan read out from the Kalurghat Radio station the declaration of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu, the minister said.

"I then requested AL leaders to arrange an announcement on behalf of the armed forces, declaring that the Armed Forces had joined the War of Liberation with the people of Bangladesh," he said.

"Crossing the Kalurghat bridge, AL leaders then requested Ziaur Rahman and he declared himself the Head of the State in his announcement of March 27. AK Khan then phoned me to enquire who Ziaur Rahman was as Zia had no connection with the political leaders," the minister added.

Major Rafiq said he then convinced the AL leaders that Zia was known to him and somehow, Zia had made a mistake in his announcement.

"On March 28, Zia read out the declaration of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu. The script was prepared by the leaders," he said.

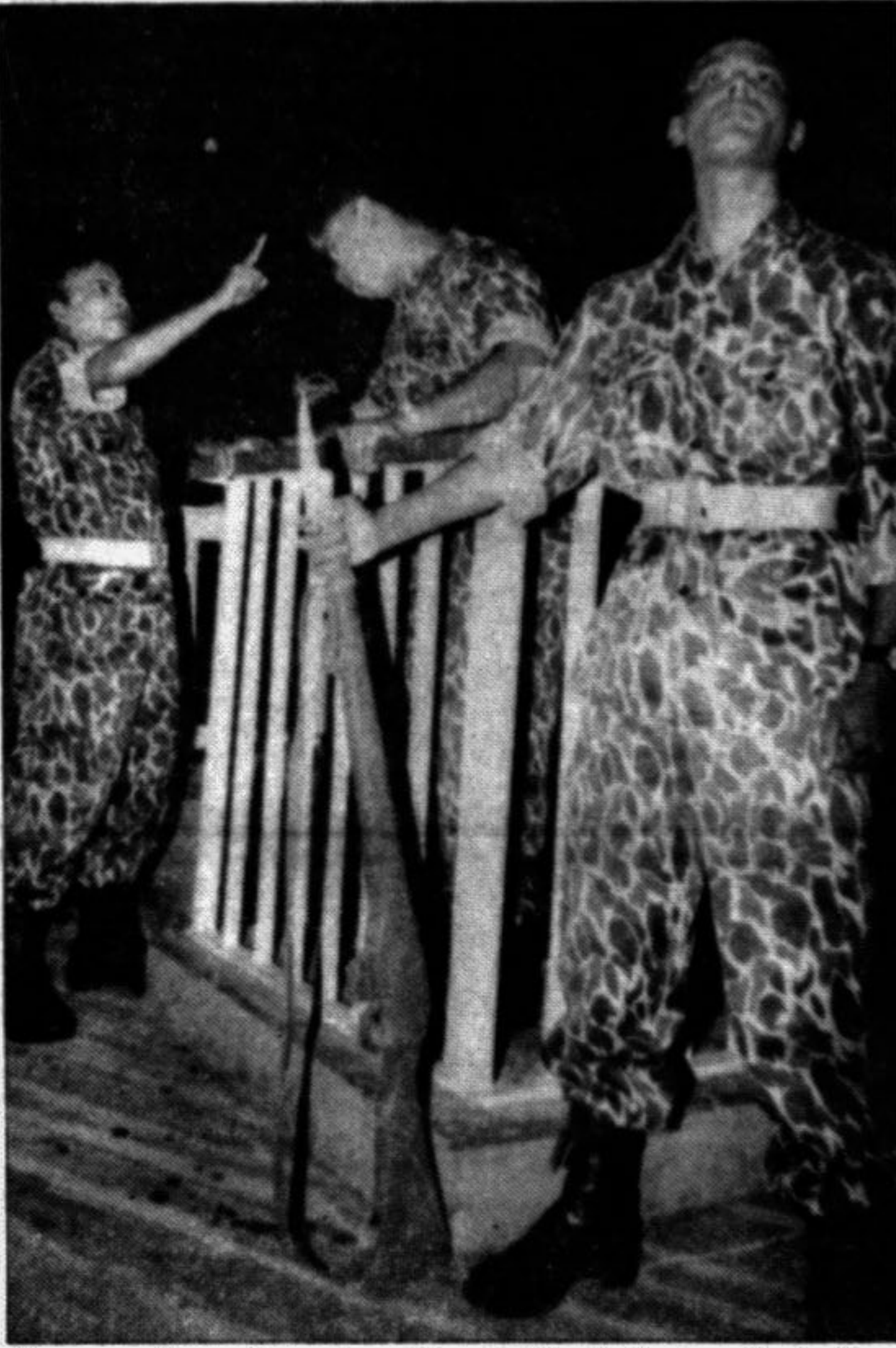
Presided over by Major General Shafulah, the reminiscence meeting was also addressed by State Minister for Land Rashed Mosarraf, MA Siddique, BU, and Abu Osman.

Another discussion meeting was held at the Ramna Green on the third day of the silver jubilee programme, "Mujib Uzzal Roudhre," organised by the Joy Bangla Sanskritik Otkya Jote.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak addressed the meeting as chief guest. Artists Dr Enamul Haq, Jamaluddin Hossain, Jote convener Salauddin Badal, member secretaries Sheikh Abdul Kader, Kamal Azma Chowdhury and Kazi Aash, took part in the discussion. Advocate Gazul Haq presided.

Abdur Razzak in his speech said, "We did not achieve independence only through the war of nine months. We earned freedom through 23 long years of struggle under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman."

On the fourth day of the



A scene from the play 'Court Martial' staged at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday in celebration of the Silver Jubilee of the Victory Day. — Star photo

fortnight-long programme today a discussion meeting will be held at 3 pm at the same venue. LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman will be present as the chief guest.

On the fourth day of the week-long street drama programme, organised by Shomoy Sanskritik Ghostee at the Central Shaheed Minar, dramas were staged by Shomoy, Nattachakra, Udichi and Anushlon (Rajshahi).

In the reminiscence session, Dr Nilima Ibrahim, Ramendu Mojumdar and Arun Kumar Dey recalled their memories. Joyanta Chhatopadhyaya recited poems.

Meanwhile, Muktiyuddha Museum will host a concert of "Bichar Gan" at museum premises today at 5 pm.

Renowned folk singers Abdur Rashid Sarkar and Momtaz Begum will render songs at the programme.

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha will accord a reception to the women freedom fighters of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra and Gobra camp tomorrow at 10 am at the Shabbag crossing.

Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP, the founder of Gobra camp, will distribute certificates among the freedom fighters of the Camp while Sanjida Khatun will distribute certificates to the women members of Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra.

The reception programme will be followed by a night-long folk song concert, starting from 3 pm at the same venue.

PM goes to Delhi Monday

From Page 1

rying the draft of the proposed water sharing accord incorporating the "essential ingredients and requirements" of the agreement.

In a surprise development, Indian Prime Minister Deve Gowda is due to arrive in Calcutta today on a day-long trip.

Official sources in Calcutta reached over telephone said Deve Gowda's visit is to see critically ill Mother Teresa at a hospital. However, the Indian premier may be briefed by Jyoti Basu on his recent Dhaka visit, the sources said.

Jyoti Basu is also likely to be in Delhi on December 8 according to a pre-scheduled programme, the sources added.

Dr Ashim Das Gupta, West Bengal Finance Minister, who accompanied Basu during his Dhaka visit is scheduled to leave for Delhi later today in connection with the water accord.

Sources in Dhaka said that the stage was being finalised for the water agreement to be im-

Villagers block Sylhet-Tamabil road

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 4: Angry villagers put up barricade at Chiknagal on the Sylhet-Tamabil road this morning following the death of a person in a road accident.

Azruddin, 65, was run over by a speeding truck at about 11 am. Normal traffic on the road was restored after four hours.

Body to probe delay in construction of Ashuganj-Bakhrabad gas line

From Page 1

A three-member high-powered committee, led by Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, has been formed to investigate the causes of non-completion of Ashuganj-Bakhrabad gas line on time, an official handout said yesterday, reports BSS.

The committee will identify the persons responsible for the delay in the construction work. The Cabinet committee on finance and economic affairs, in an emergency meeting Tuesday, reviewed the situation created by the reduction of gas-pressure in the wells of Bakhrabad gas field and emission of water and sand along with the gas.

The meeting, chaired by Finance Minister S A M S Kibria, recommended reducing the production of gas to 100 million cubic feet per day.

N' Ganj clash

From Page 1

owned by one Samad near the rail station at Fatullah, Jahangir Alam, 27, who sustained serious injuries died on the way to Dhaka Medical College hospital.

The