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# Silver Jubilee of Victory Day



BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan addressing a rally organised by JASSAS in front of party's central office in the city yesterday marking the Silver Jubilee of Independence. — Star photo

sons," said Arma Goon, the grand daughter of Shaheed Dhirendranath Dutt, who was the first to demand Bangla as the state language of Pakistan.

Kohinoor Hossain, wife of Shaheed Moazzem Hossain, and Mehna Guha Thakurata, daughter of Shaheed Tirimoy Guha Thakurata, also recalled the memories of the liberation war.

Dr. Jahanara Rabbi presided over the meeting.

The relatives of the martyrs burst into tears while describing their experiences.

At another reminiscence meeting on "Women in the Liberation War" organised by Muktiuddher Chetana Monch at the TSC crossing, Food, Agriculture, Relief and Disaster Management Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury urged the people to unite for building "Sonar Bangla" as dream by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Women freedom fighters Maleka Begum, Mamta Begum, Roushan Jahan Shanti, Padma Rahman, Kalyani Ghosh, Dr Kazi Tamanna and Rehana Begum also addressed the meeting. Dr Nurunnahar Faizunnessa presided.

Matia Chowdhury said, Ziaur Rahman only read out the declaration of independence on behalf of Bangabandhu. She said, a quarter was trying to create confusion among the new generations regarding the declaration of independence.

On the sixth day of the silver jubilee festival of independence, the Joy Bangla Sanskritik Oikya Jote organised a discussion meeting on "Ranagane Bir Bangalee." Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya was in the chair.

M R Akter Mukul, Kabari Sarwar, Fazul Haq, Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and Salauddin Badal participated in the discussion meeting followed by a cultural function.

A ten-day long exhibition of photographs taken by Swapon Chowdhury during the Liberation War was inaugurated at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium yesterday marking the Silver Jubilee of the Victory Day.

Poet Shamsur Rahman inaugurated the exhibition. The exhibition will remain open from 2 to 7 pm everyday up to 16 December.

A discussion meeting on the



Sequence of a dance organised by the Joy Bangla Sangskritik Jote at Ramna Batamul in the city yesterday marking the Silver Jubilee of Independence. — Star photo

exhibition was addressed by, among others, Wahidul Haque, Swapon Chowdhury and Colonel (ret'd) Nuruzzaman.

BSS adds: Speaker of the Jatiya Sangsad Humayun Rashed Chowdhury yesterday said "we did not join the liberation war at the call of any Major but it was Bangabandhu who received the mandate of the people in the 1971 election.

Inaugurating a ten-day traditional Muktiuddher Bijoy Mela (victory fair) at the Outer Stadium and its adjoining areas in Chittagong, the Speaker said many important facts on the Liberation War are revealing which have been concealed

## BCL factions

was admitted to Kumudini Hospital in Mirzapur with gunshot wounds.

The reason behind the clash, that lasted for more than two hours and spread to almost all parts of the town, could not be known immediately.

However, locals and concerned sources said that the trouble began following a conflict between two groups at a council session of the district Awami League, held at Bhashani Hall in Akur Takur Para in the town.

Several cocktails were exploded and gunshots were fired during the sporadic violence that sparked off within 200 yards of Bhashani Hall at around 12:30 pm, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, five of the injured were taken to Kumudini Hospital and eight were admitted to Tangal Hospital, official sources said. Three of the injured were identified as Mosharrif Hossain, Mohindra Mohon and Motaleb Hossain, they said.

A large number of policemen were deployed in the town following the incident.

## Mannan Bhuiyan

wall thana unit of city BNP, marking the Silver Jubilee of Victory in the Liberation War.

The BNP leader said Ziaur Rahman (then Major Zia) had given a sense of direction to the bewildered nation by proclaiming independence at a time when Awami League leaders fled to India following the crackdown by Pakistani occupation forces on the unarmed people of the country.

People fought the war responding to his (Zia's) call, Bhuiyan said. Liberation war is a matter of pride for the whole nation and it earned the nation honour among the world people, he noted. Except a handful of elements, all the citizens of the country participated in the war directly or indirectly, he said. But, he regretted, history of the war was now being 'distorted'.

Among others, BNP leaders Sadek Hossain Khoka, Mojibur Rahman and Hossain Mollah also spoke on the occasion.

Sadek Hossain Khoka called for taking a fresh vow to protect the independence and sovereignty under the leadership of BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia.

## Delhi summit

After her arrival at Delhi airport she will go to Jaipur and from there to Ameer by helicopter to pray at the mazar of Hazrat Maimuddin Chisti (RA). She will return to Jaipur the same day and make a night halt at Rambagh Palace Hotel there.

On the morning of Dec 11, Sheikh Hasina will return to Delhi where she will be received by Deve Gowda. She will be staying at the Rastrapati Bhaban.

A number of leading Indian leaders are likely to call on the Bangladesh premier on December 11. They will include External Affairs Minister I K Gujral, Leader of the Opposition in the Indian Parliament Atal Bihari Bajpayee, General Secretary of CPM Harkisansingh Surjit, Congress President Sitaram Kesri and former external affairs minister and chairman of the Congress Foreign Affairs committee Pranab Mukherjee, the sources said.

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# PM tells officers assoc

## Decision on restructuring BADC after commission's report

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that her government would take decision on reorganisation of Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC) on the basis of existing reality as well as humanitarian consideration, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister said that the commission on agricultural affairs constituted by the government was also given the task in its terms and references to suggest pragmatic measures regarding reorganisation and role of this vitally important national organisation.

Addressing the members of a delegation of BADC Officers Association Coordination Council, who called on the Prime

## 4 DESA staff assaulted in city

Four employees including an engineer of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) were assaulted by two young men at Laboratory Road in the city's Dhanmondi area yesterday when they went to cut an illegal connection, reports BSS.

Police said when Sub-Assistant Engineer Shaikh Hasanul Haque and three other employees went to 67 Laboratory Road at about 12:30 pm to disconnect an illegal line of electricity, the young men prevented them. At one stage, they beat up the DESA staff.

The DESA employees were given first aid in a nearby clinic.

A case has been registered with Dhanmondi Police Station. One Akram Hossain was arrested in this connection.

## 2 injured as muggers open fire in Sylhet

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 7: Two persons sustained bullet injuries when armed muggers opened fire while escaping here this morning. Three of the muggers were caught redhanded while three others escaped.

Forkan Ali, a businessman from Bhadeswar bazar of Golapganj thana was on his way to Kalighat bazar at 10 am. Six muggers riding two motorbikes swooped on him and tried to snatch Tk 75,000 from him. Some pedestrians tried to gherao the muggers, but they opened fire.

## One falls from 1st floor, dies

A construction worker was killed after falling from the first floor of an under-construction building in the city's Shyamoli Adabar area yesterday, reports UNB.

Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said Ashraf Ali, aged 40, received severe wounds as he fell from the incomplete building at Uttara.

He was then admitted to DMCH where the attending doctors declared him dead.

## 9 promoted

From Page 1

ligious Affairs, and Aminul Haq Chowdhury, acting secretary of the Cultural Affairs Ministry, have been promoted as Secretaries of their respective ministries.

A K M Nazmul Ahsan, acting member of the Planning Commission, was promoted as member of the Commission.

Besides, Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Chairman Abdus Samad, BCSR member Abul Kalam Azad, Chittagong Hill Tracts Development Board vice-chairman Baharuddin Ahmad, Director General of Environment Department Syed Ashraf Hossain, Joint Secretary of the Cabinet Division Mohammad Idris Ali and Joint Secretary of the Information Ministry Faruquddin Ahmed have been promoted as additional secretaries.

# Tory lawmaker withdraws support

## UK faces first minority govt in 17 years

LONDON, Dec 7: Britain today faced its first minority government in 17 years after a Conservative lawmaker withdrew his support for the ruling party in parliament, reports Reuter.

Prime Minister John Major's wafer-thin majority was effectively wiped out when right-winger Sir John Gort launched his protest over a hospital closure in his London constituency.

Friday's bombshell ended a grim week for Major when splits were revealed all the way to the top of the government over Britain's role in the European Union.

Major, who has to call a general election by next May, faces another rough ride next week with a two-day parliamentary debate that will offer a perfect opportunity for right-wing lawmakers to fuel their mutiny over Europe.

Terry Dicks, one of the so-called "Euro-sceptics" who wants Major to rule out British entry into a single European currency and abandon his "wait and see" policy, launched a savage attack on the prime minister.

Threatening to quit the ruling party, Dicks said: "I don't want to be on a ship like the Titanic where the helmsman can't

## Governing body of DSCSC meets

The ninth annual meeting of the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) governing body was held at the college premises at Mirpur with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, reports UNB.

Curricular and extra-curricular activities including different development projects of the highest level of military learning in Bangladesh came up for discussion in the meeting.

The DSCSC runs command and staff courses for officers of the three services. Besides Bangladeshi student-officers, overseas student-officers also attend courses of the college.

Presently 119 student-officers, including 26 from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Indonesia, China, Turkey, Nigeria, the USA, Saudi Arabia and Malaysia, are undergoing the 21st Army, the 15th Navy and the 17th Air Staff Courses.

## ASI killed, 5 others injured in road accident

From Our Correspondent

NATORE, Dec 8: One police officer was killed and five others were injured when a police patrol vehicle rammed a truck at Ghudara on the Natore-Rajshahi highway in the early hours of Saturday, according to police.

Ehsanul Haq, Assistant Sub-Inspector of Baroigram thana, died on the spot and the five others were seriously injured when the police vehicle hit the truck parked near the Ghudara bridge, 18 km from Natore, at around 1:30 am Saturday, police said.

## School girl 'kidnapped' in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 7: A schoolgirl was allegedly kidnapped by a gang of miscreants from Haildir village under Anwara thana this afternoon.

Jyotsna Aktar, 13, a student of class seven, was abducted while she was returning home from school at 1 pm.

The kidnapers came by a jeep, the family sources said adding, they have informed the police.

Police said efforts were on to rescue the victim. A case was filed with Anwara thana.

## Leg tendons of Khulna BCL activist cut

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Dec 7: The tendons of the legs of BCL activist, Monirul Islam, were allegedly cut by three youngmen while he was returning home at Daulatpur from the Khulna town today.

He was admitted to the sadar hospital in critical condition.

## Four arrested for snatching Tk 4 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

Four people were arrested yesterday in connection with snatching of Tk 4.6 lakh in Keraniganj on Thursday.

Keraniganj police during raids in Bashabo and Postagola areas in the city yesterday arrested the four and recovered over Tk one lakh, sources said quoting police.

A group of youths snatched Tk 4.6 lakh, at gunpoint, from two employees of a local agent of the Bangladesh Tobacco Company near the Sonali Bank branch at Jinjira under Keraniganj thana on Thursday morning, according to reports.

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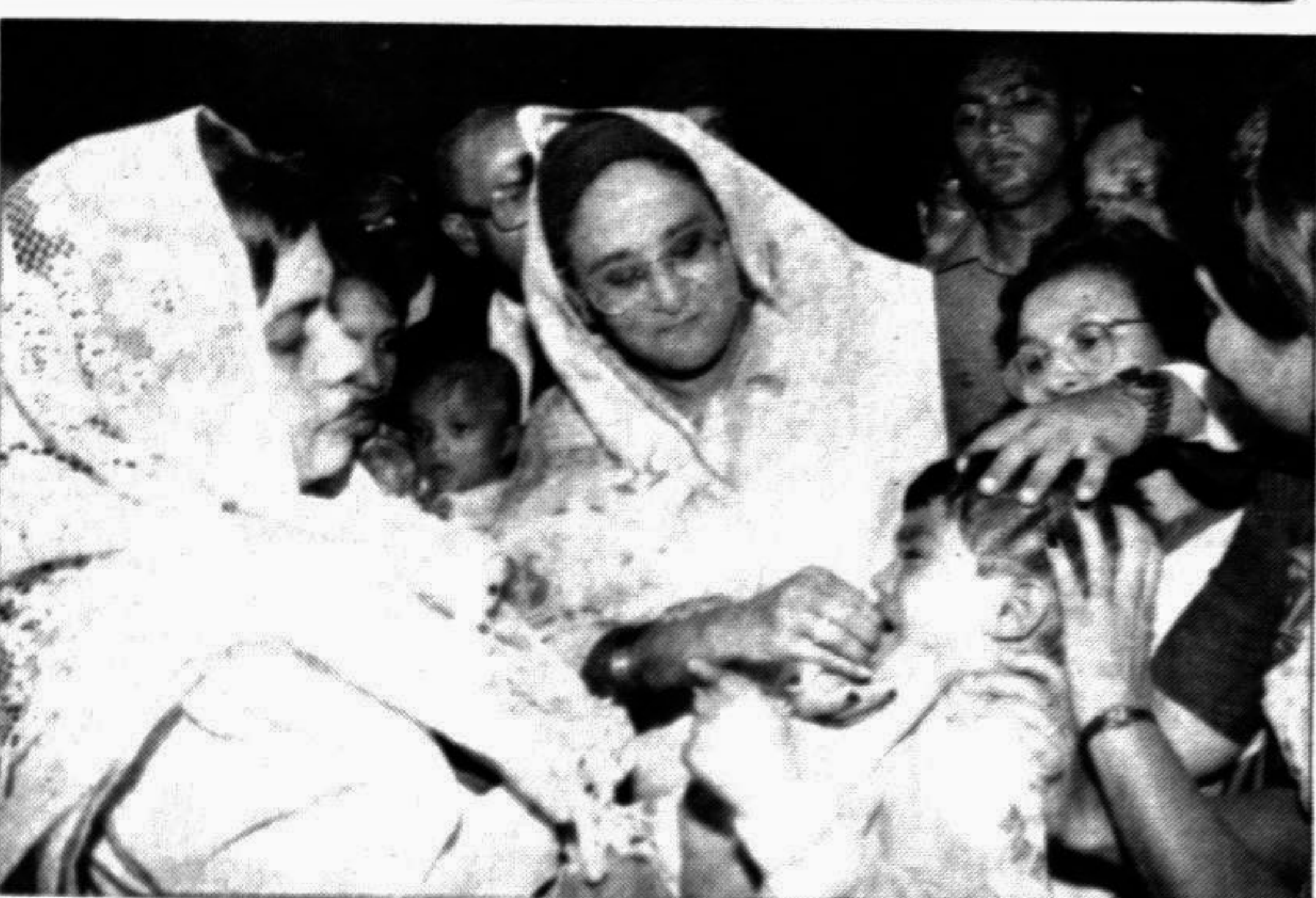
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Let's make things better

**PHILIPS**



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurating the Third National Immunisation Day by feeding a dose of Polio vaccine to a child at the Osmani Memorial auditorium in the city yesterday. — PID photo

## Killing of BCL leader at Tejgaon: One arrested

By Staff Correspondent

One person was arrested yesterday in connection with the killing of a pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) leader of the Tejgaon Polytechnic Institute last month.

Tejgaon police arrested Shafiqul Alam during a raid in the institute area in the afternoon, police said.

Ziaur Rahman Patwari, convener of the BCL unit at the institute, was gunned down near the campus on November 25, according to reports.

## Shab-e-Meraj today

The holy Shab-e-Meraj will be observed today with due religious fervour, an official hand-out said, reports BSS.

The government has urged the countrymen to observe the day with due solemnity. The Ministry of Religious Affairs has taken necessary steps to observe the day.

## PM's directive

From Page 1

wants to ensure that nobody in the country is bereft of proper food," he said.

Issues like planning and monitoring of food stock, state of food import and its price stabilisation, food policy and its budget were discussed in the briefing session.

Prime Minister's Principal Secretary Ataul Haq and the senior officials of the Food Ministry were present on the occasion.

## Agri growth

From Page 1

failure in credit management has mounted over the years," Dr Ashraf noted in his paper presented at the seminar.

"Agricultural credit needs are still met overwhelmingly by informal sources," he maintained. Due to lack of credit facilities, farmers could not adopt improved technology in farming and, therefore, the agricultural productivity was sharply declining.

## Jayalalitha

From Page 1

wrongdoing.

Since her All India Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIMDK) party was trounced in state elections in May, Jayalalitha, 48, has been charged in seven corruption cases ranging from foreign exchange to income tax violations.

Talking to reporters at the state police chief's office after her arrest in the state capital Madras, Jayalalitha said: "This is nothing but political victimisation."

State Judge A Ramamurthy remanded the former movie star to judicial custody until December 21.

Jayalalitha quit films in 1982 after a successful acting career to become one of India's most powerful regional politicians.

She took over the AIMDK, a party representing low-caste Hindus and Tamil speakers, from her former co-star, matinee idol M G Ramachandran, after his death.

As chief minister, she built up a personality cult, erecting huge plywood cutouts of herself around Madras and proclaiming her development successes on giant hoardings during elections.

But disillusionment set in with what many Tamils saw as her extravagant lifestyle and increasingly autocratic manner.

More than half of the 27 members of her former cabinet face criminal or corruption cases.

Jayalalitha and Finance Minister P Chidambaram, who also comes from Tamil Nadu, have been engaged in a running political battle since 1993.

# PM: Help children

From Page 1

task with commitment to make observance of the National Immunisation Days a complete success.

Hasina welcomed the initiative to observe the day in the month of nation's great victory, aimed at eradicating polio from Bangladesh by the year 2000.

She said when the country will be free from polio, only then it will be relieved from the burden of expenses for treatment and prevention of the disease, enabling the nation to use its resources in a planned way for the prevention and treatment of other diseases.

She said the government is determined to ensure health for all by the year 2000 and it has taken all-out measures to achieve that target within a short span of time. "We've specific targets in the field of health and nutrition to achieve this."

The Prime Minister said Bangladesh is one of the signatories to the UN charter on children's rights and pledged-bound to protect the rights of children. Future of the nation, she added, depends on how well the children of a country are being brought up.

Hasina said that though efforts have been made to develop and discover new preventives and curatives in the world to

# Investors undeterred

From Page 1

ings from two companies," she added.

Some others in the queue nodded in approval that it was safe to try the luck on the primary market than the secondary market, running errand.

The sentiment was shared equally at the men's queue. Sayedur Rahman Khan, 46, who owns a tailoring business in Savar said he had failed in his previous 14 ventures to subscribe some IPOs. But that could not dampen his enthusiasm as he waited for his turn behind more than a dozen people.

Asked to comment on the current situation in the capital market, the tailor surprised us with his down-to-earth knowledge about the intricacies of the indexes.

"Yes it would have its ups and downs. That is normal. The winner takes all," said Khan. He, however, did not hesitate to ventilate his feelings against what he called the pirates manipulating the market, pushing aside the small fries like him. Khan also showed his annoyance against the government, accusing it of not doing much to tidy the market.

As we talked, an eager Delwar Hossain, 27, a clerk in a private firm, offered his frank observations. "Yes, it is a natural phenomenon of rise and fall in the share market. Ninety per cent of the people who bought shares in the market did it without knowing the thumb rule of the game," Hossain noted.

But he was critical about the role of the members of the Dhaka Stock Exchange. "Earlier, they used to treat us with a cup of tea. Now they have pasted signs saying no entry to new members. They do not advise clients on IPO formulas, distribute forms of new issues, hold money for periods longer than the scheduled time and declines to show the hawala (contract number). Hossain added to his repertoire of complaints against the market players.

He had so far invested in three IPOs and queued for BSRS shares with Taka 100,000.

The three are among the many who offered various comments, having the same tune.

Sources in the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) said that the BSRS was the last of the giants that offered their shares. Two companies who were on the waiting list of applicants had problems with

# DSE turnover

From Page 1

thorities of take necessary steps for improvement of the situation.

They demanded immediate government initiatives for protecting thousands of small investors from "total ruination."

Trading on the floor had started as usual at 10 am amid tight security keeping the main gate closed. But trading was closed as the situation outside the DSE building became volatile.

Speaking at the sit-in, a number of small investors stated their miseries due to sudden fall in share prices.

They demanded 100 per cent bank loans against share certificates, withdrawal of lock-in system and 50 per cent financial help to the account-holders of Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB).

They also demanded resignation of SEC Chairman and corrupt members of the DSE.

A small investor who had come from Narayananj said that he could not return home because he already lost 60 per cent of the money which he had invested.

Another kerk market traders burst into tears and said he could not provide treatment facilities to his ailing child as all his money has been stuck up in the share certificates and nobody was ready to buy those.