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DSE MARKET

DSE price index	2637.34
Market capital Tk	18839.84 cr
Transactions in volume	1.63 lakh
Transactions in value Tk	6.14 cr

CSE MARKET

CSE price index	1315.91
Market capital Tk	15488.75 cr
Transactions in volume	15705
Transactions in value Tk	5947057

NEWS BRIEFS

SAARC law confce in city from Dec 27

The three-day Fifth SAARC Law Conference begins in the city Dec 27. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to inaugurate the conference at the International Conference Centre. Chief justices of the SAARC region, judges, lawyers, academicians and international legal experts from home and abroad will attend the conference, reports BSS.

Zamir made envoy to Italy

The government has appointed Muhammad Zamir, at present Additional Foreign Secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Italy, it was officially announced yesterday, reports BSS.

Dr Gill new Indian CEC

NEW DELHI, Dec 11: Election Commissioner Dr M S Gill, was today appointed the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC), it was officially announced here. Dr Gill, a former agriculture secretary, would replace T N Seshan who retires today. Dr Gill was appointed election commissioner on September 30, 1993 along with GVG Krishnamurti to broad-base the constitutional authority, reports PTI.

JS team calls on Lok Sabha Speaker

NEW DELHI, Dec 11: A high-powered team of Bangladesh members of Parliament and senior officials led by Suranjit Sengupta, MP, called on Lok Sabha Speaker P A Sangma, here today, reports PTI.

Women held with heroin in city

Police arrested a woman and recovered 90 grams of heroin from her house at Atish Dipankar Road in Subjibagh thana in the city yesterday. Acting on a tip-off, DB police raided the house at 35, Atish Dipankar Road and nabbed Hena Begum alias Mina (35) and seized the contraband. Police said Mina was a ring leader of an organised group of heroin traders, reports UNB.

Promotion

Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs M Akmal Hossain has been promoted as Secretary of the same Ministry, said an official handout yesterday, reports UNB.

Hasina-Gowda formal talks begin

Dhaka, Delhi sign long-term water-sharing accord today

From M Anwarul Huq

NEW DELHI, Dec 11: Bangladesh and India are expected to sign a long-term Ganges water-sharing agreement tomorrow ending a two-decade old dispute on the issue between the two countries, officials concerned said here today. The duration of the 'historic' agreement is likely to be 30 years, they added.

The accord is likely to carry provisions for a periodic review after every five years. It will be a comprehensive document having around 130 clauses. Officials said that the quantum of water could not be specified now

and some last minute changes were likely in this regard. But it is likely to be more than that under the 1977 Accord, they further added. A joint monitoring committee would also be set up as part of the agreement. The flow of water that Bangladesh is going to get will be determined in 15 cycles of 10-day period for a total of 150 days, covering the five-month dry season beginning on January 1.

A guaranteed flow for the 10-day leanest period of end April, which is marked by critically low flow, will be ensured.

Bangladesh sources added. Bangladesh officials, who are now here with the PM said that the accord would enable the country to go for a long term water resources management policy.

It would also enable the country to take up a water usage policy, expand irrigation facilities, help regenerate the dead rivers like Goral and Arial Kha, they noted.

Crucial donor support for undertaking the Ganges barrage project for multipurpose water usage could also be sought after the signing of the proposed long

term accord, the officials said.

BSS adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart, H D Deve Gowda, at their formal talks here this evening discussed the draft treaty, a Bangladesh spokesman said.

Held at the Hyderabad bhaban, the talks between the two prime ministers, lasted more than an hour during which both sides discussed the 'entire gamut' of bilateral relations between the two neighbours.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources

See Page 12 Col 8

Reception at Rastrapati Bhaban

NEW DELHI, Dec 11: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina was today accorded a ceremonial reception at the Rastrapati Bhaban, reports BSS.

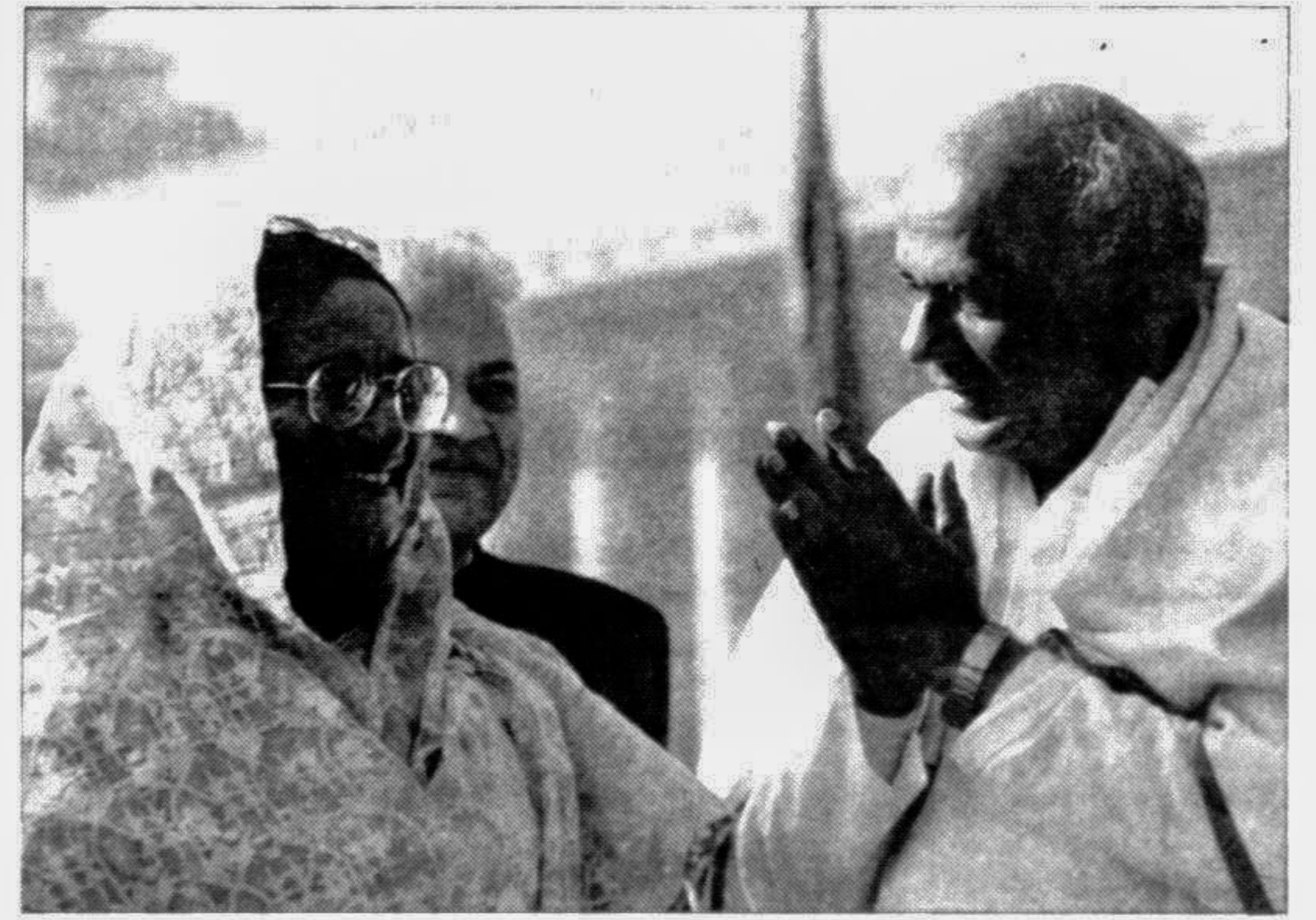
Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda received the Bangladeshi leader as she arrived the Rastrapati Bhaban from the Palam Airport in a motorcade.

The Prime Minister was taken to a tastefully decorated dais from where she took salute of the smartly turned out contingent drawn from the three services. She also inspected the guard.

The Indian Prime Minister then introduced his cabinet colleagues and high officials to her. The Bangladeshi leader also introduced her entourage members to her counterpart.

Later talking to the awaiting journalists the Prime Minister said the sharing of the Ganges water between the two countries would be settled by tomorrow. 'I came to India at the invitation

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina being received by her Indian counterpart H D Deve Gowda at the Rastrapati Bhaban (presidential palace) yesterday. —AFP/UNB photo



An exhibition of photographs on the War of Liberation by Shafiqul Islam Swapan at the Fine Arts Institute, Dhaka University, yesterday. — Star photo

Festive mood all around

Colourful programmes launched by more socio-cultural organisations marking the Silver Jubilee of Victory Day added to the festive atmosphere in the city yesterday.

The Sammilito Sangskritik Jote started its week-long cultural functions in six stages in the university area and at the Central Shaheed Minar.

At the Central Shaheed Minar, group songs were rendered by Kranti, Madhabilata and Udichi and tribal dance was performed by Dokua. Songs were rendered by Suman Mojumdar, Abida Sultana, Masudduzzaman Babu, Milli Afroz and Lili Islam. Kamal Lohani recalled the memories of 1971 in the reminiscence session.

In the Munir Chowdhury Monch at the Doel Chhatar, dramas were staged by Rajdhani Theatre, Sanglap Group Theatre, and Dhaka Theatre.

From the Zahir Raihan Monch, two films 'Abar Tora Manush Ha' and 'Sareng Bou' were screened.

In the Jalur Abidin Monch at the TSC crossing, 'boul'

25th V-Day

By Staff Correspondent

Songs were rendered by Shefali Ghosh, Sham Sunder Baisnab, Babul Baul, Motalab Dewan, Amena Akter, Siraj Boyati, Baul Mostafa Kamal, Arju Ali Boyati and Mohammad Nazim Sarker.

In the Jahannara Imam Monch at the Shahbag crossing, artists of different cultural groups recited poems while a book fair was opened at 4 pm at the Shahidullah Kaiser Monch. A cottage industry fair was also opened in front of the Bangla Academy.

A reminiscence meeting was held at the Muktiyoddha Monch yesterday afternoon. Organised by Muktiyoddha Sangsad Kendrio Command Council, the meeting was addressed by State Minister for Information Abu Sayed, general secretary of Bangladesh Workers Party Rashed Khan Menon, OBCR Dutt BU, Abdul Ahahad Chowdhury, and Mohammad Ali Chowdhury.

Abu Sayeed in his speech

emphasised the need to depict the true history of the Liberation War. He urged all concerned to come forward to build up the 'Sonar Bangla' as dreamt by the Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. A cultural function followed the reminiscence meeting.

On the second day of the week-long victory day programmes of Bangla Academy, Rabindra songs were rendered by renowned singers of the country.

Another reminiscence meeting was held at the Children's auditorium of the National Museum, presided over by Prof Mostafa Nurul Islam. The meeting was addressed by Home Minister Rafiqul Islam BU and Mahbub Uddin Ahmed.

The Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote organised at the Ramna Batamul a discussion meeting on 'The role of students, teachers, politicians, service holders, and cultural activists in the Liberation War of Bangladesh.'

Presided over by Prof Kabir Chowdhury, the meeting was

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First step towards resolving other issues: Gowda

Water accord stepping stone for greater cooperation: PM

NEW DELHI, Dec 11: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said tonight that the Ganges water sharing agreement, to be signed during her visit here, would be a momentous occasion in bilateral relations and a stepping stone for greater cooperation between Bangladesh and India, reports BSS.

Applauding the valuable support and understanding of her Indian counterpart, H D Deve Gowda, for reaching such an agreement, the Prime Minister said her country wanted to resolve this vexing issue once for all.

Addressing a banquet hosted by Deve Gowda in her honour, Sheikh Hasina laid importance on taking bold steps to forge a truly meaningful cooperation between the two countries.

Sheikh Hasina said there is no doubt about the existence of a firm political will among the present leaderships of the two neighbouring countries. 'I am particularly happy that the present government of India has reciprocated our determination to move ahead in our bilateral relations,' she added. She deeply appreciated the unwavering personal commitment of the Indian Prime Minister in this regard.

The Prime Minister said parallel to the efforts to consolidate bilateral relations, there are vast scopes for both the countries to enhance regional cooperation. 'In SAARC we have a forum to work together for improving the quality of life of our peoples through poverty alleviation,' she pointed out.

Speaking about the historical development of relationship between Bangladesh and India, the Prime Minister said, 'Father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was inspired by the vision of lasting peace, amity and good neighbourly relations between the two countries. The foundation of this policy was laid during his first official visit to India.'

Indeed, she said, it is only natural that Bangladesh and India remain the best of friends. Both can gain much from cooperation and collective efforts. 'We have immense potentials. From trade and commerce to joint venture initiatives to collective harnessing of common resources, windows of opportunities are awaiting to be

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Shab-e-Barat Dec 26

The holy Lailatul Barat (Shab-e-Barat) will be observed on Dec 26, a press release of Islamic Foundation Bangladesh said yesterday, reports BSS.

It said a meeting of National Moon-sighting Committee, held in the city yesterday, took an unanimous decision that 1417 Hizri month would start from Dec 13.

Secretary of the Religious Affairs Ministry and vice president of the National Moon-sighting Committee, A B M Abdus Shakur presided over the meeting.

Col Shahriar confesses in court

By Staff Correspondent

Col (ret'd) Shahriar Rashid Khan, one of the accused in the August 15 killing case of 1975, made a confessional statement in the court of Alzalur Rahman, Metropolitan Magistrate, yesterday, according to court sources.

He made the confessional statement when he was produced before the court after the end of his five-day remand. Shahriar is also allegedly involved in the November 3 killings in the Dhaka Central Jail.

The CID had taken him on remand on November 30 in connection with the Serinabat murder case, lodged with the Shahanara Begum, wife of Serinabat's son and chief whip, Abul Hasan Abdullah.

Col Rashid's garments factory attached

By Staff Correspondent

The court yesterday issued an order attaching a garments factory, People's garments, owned by Col (ret'd) Abdur Rashid Khandaker, said Gulshan police. An accused in the August 15 killing cases, Rashid has been absconding.

Mir Shawkat tells V-Day rally Zia as acting president proclaimed independence

By Staff Correspondent

BNP vice-chairman and a sector commander in the Liberation War Lt Gen (ret'd) Mir Shawkat Ali said yesterday that the then Major Ziaur Rahman, as 'Acting President and chief of the Armed Forces', proclaimed the independence and launching of the Liberation War from Kalurghat radio station on March 26, 1971.

In support of his contention, Mir Shawkat said Home Minister Maj (ret'd) Rafiqul Islam, who was also a sector commander, as admitted the 'fact' at a Silver Jubilee celebration programme recently.

'No sector commander can distort the history of the great war... no matter which party he belongs to,' he said while speaking at a public rally in the city.

Contradicting Awami

Tk 500 cr project for connecting JMB rail road okayed

The government has given the go-ahead signal to a Tk 500 crore project for the construction of a connecting railway road of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) from Joydebpur to Sirajganj, reports UNB.

The 97-kilometre rail road project was approved by the Executive Committee of the National Economic Council (ECNEC) meeting held yesterday with the alternate Chairman of ECNEC, Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, in the chair.

A part of the project cost, Tk 195 crore, will come as project aid. The other portion of the connecting road from Sirajganj to Parbatipur Dual Gauge will be approved later when proposals are received.

The ECNEC meeting also approved another five development projects with involvement of Tk 493.12 crore, including Tk 193.08 crore as project aids.

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All about Farakka & water-sharing

Star Report

Farakka Barrage on the Ganges is situated between Rajmahal and Bhogabangola in Murshidabad district in the Indian State of West Bengal. The barrage is 18 KM upstream from Bangladesh border.

At the verbal request of the then Indian Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Mujibur Rahman agreed to test-running of the Farakka Barrage.

The barrage became operational on April 21, 1975. A short term MOU was signed between Bangladesh and India on April 18, 1975.

Farakka Barrage at a glance

By Staff Correspondent

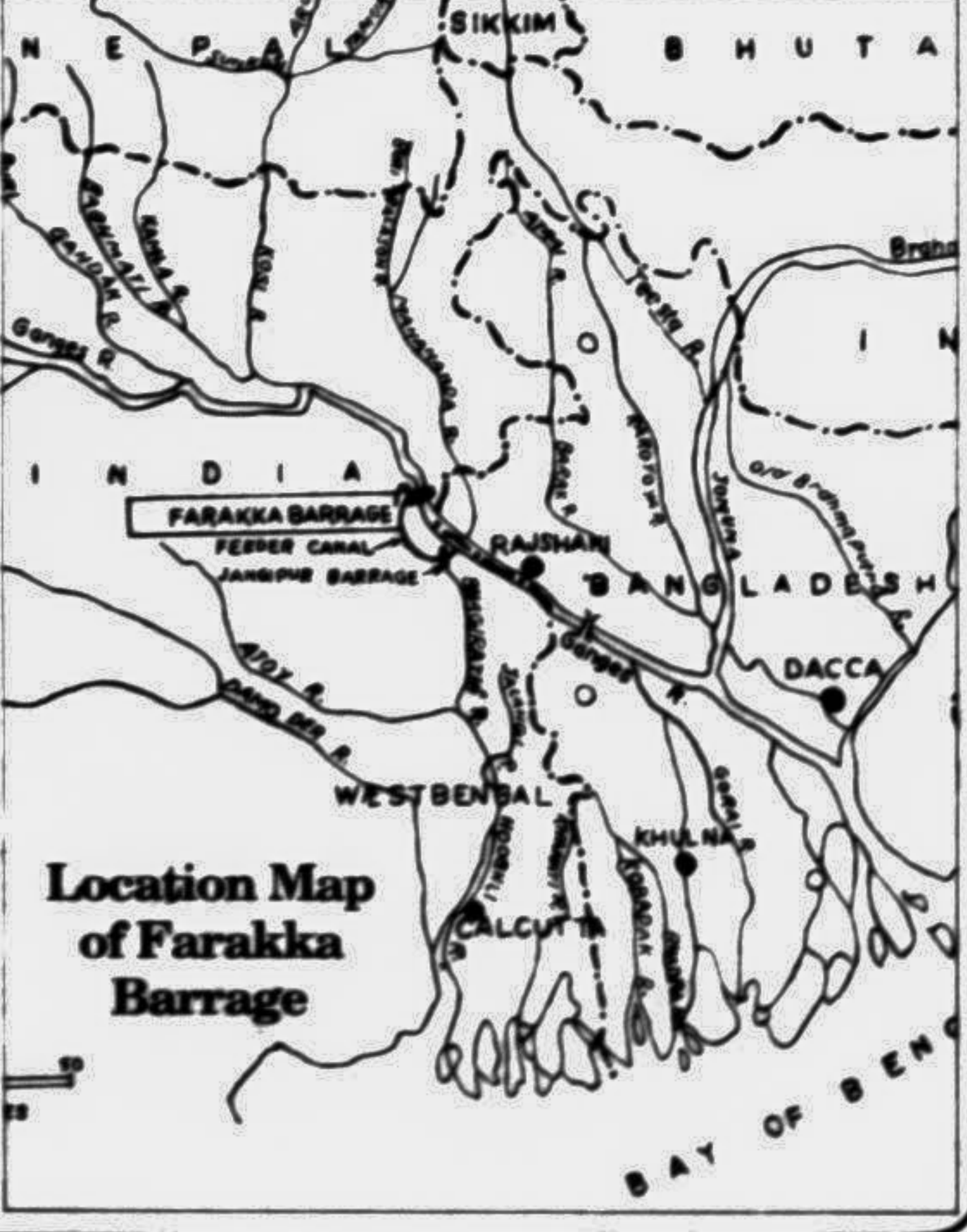
- * The length of the main barrage is (constructed with a length of) 2245 metre, height 23 metre, pond level 22 metre and it has a total of 109 gates.
- * The six-metre deep feeder canal of the barrage has a total length of 38.3 km and its width at the bottom is 150.88 metre.
- * Planning for the Farakka Barrage started in 1951 and construction work began on January 30, 1961. The barrage was completed in 1974.
- * Construction of the feeder canal began in 1971 and was completed in 1974.
- * The barrage was constructed at a cost of Indian Rs 156 crore and the feeder canal at Rs 44 crore. The whole project was completed at a cost of Rs 200 crore.

Farakka Long March took place on May 16, 1976 under the leadership of Moulana Bhashani to protest India's unilateral decision of withdrawing water at Farakka point.

Bangladesh raised the

Farakka issue with the United Nations on November 26, 1976. A consensus statement was adopted by the UN General Assembly and Bangladesh and India subsequently agreed to

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AI concern at police 'repression'

By Staff Correspondent

The Amnesty International (AI) has expressed concern over reported police repression on citizens and urged the government to investigate into such incidents of police violence.

The visiting chief of the Amnesty International, Ross Daniels urged the government to follow international human rights laws as regards prisoners in custody.

death, 12 of torture, seven of rape in police custody and 11 incidents of death in jail custody were reported during the period between July 1 and November 24 this year, Abbas Faiz, research officer of the AI for Asia and the Pacific, said at the press conference.

The information on violation of human rights in Bangladesh were gathered from published reports in national dailies, relatives of the victims, and in some cases, from the victims and witnesses, he said.

Political parties in Bangladesh, while in the opposition, defiantly criticise the

use of the Special Powers Act (SPA), observed Abbas Faiz. Although they term the SPA a black law, they retain it while in power, he noted.

Ershad granted bail in gold smuggling case

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday granted bail to former president H M Ershad in the gold smuggling case.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Badrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Md Hasan Amin granted the bail.

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