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Father, daughter killed in road accident

By DMC Correspondent

A young man and his daughter were killed while his wife and son seriously injured in a road accident on Tipu Sultan Road in the old part of the city yesterday.

In another accident, a housewife was killed on Kuril Biswa Road under Cantonment thana.

According to Police, Mojibur Rahman, 35, and his daughter Moyna, 5, were killed when a speeding truck hit the rickshaw at about 4:30 pm in which they were travelling. Moyna died on the spot while her father succumbed to his injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Tk 3 cr land revenue outstanding with Dhaka Zoo

By Staff Correspondent

More than Tk three crore in land revenue is outstanding with the Dhaka Zoo.

Officials there said that the backlog was created as the National Board of Revenue (NBR) imposed high industrial rate on the zoo which could not pay this from its budget.

Since the imposition of taxes on government institutions in 1979, we could not pay the land revenue as the zoo was categorised by the NBR as an industry, subjecting us to payment of Tk 125 per decimal of land. But there has never been any provision for land revenue in the budget of the Zoo," said an official.

The official, requesting anonymity, said that the Zoo was an educational and recreational facility and numerous relevant activities were taking place there everyday. "We cannot understand why we have to pay taxes as an industry. Land revenue for non-industrial premises in the city's fixed at Tk 22 per decimal," he added.

Following reminders from the NBR, the Zoo authorities have recently written to the higher echelons seeking exemption from such payment.

Mojibar's wife, Nasma Begum, 25, and his son Manik, 2, were under treatment at the DMCH till last night. Residents of Nandipara under Shabujghathana in the city, they were going to Sadarghat to catch a launch for Barguna.

Police later arrested Siraj, the driver of the truck, and seized the vehicle. A case has been filed with Sutrapur thana.

In the other accident a housewife, Hazera Khatun, 24, was killed when a truck ran over her on Kuril Biswa Road at noon. Wife of one Md Billal Hossain, she was returning home with her child from school.

Police arrested the truck driver, Shahid Khan, 38, and seized the vehicle. A case has been filed with Cantonment thana, police said.

Group of eight developing countries soon

Eight developing countries have decided to form a group called Developing-8 or D-8 under a cooperative mechanism for creating a common platform of cooperation for their socio-economic development, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a ministerial level meeting of the eight countries — Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey — held in Istanbul on January 4 to shape up the D-8 being launched at the initiative of Turkish Prime Minister Nemetin Erbakan.

The meeting decided that the organisation, which would cover some 800 million people with huge pool of natural resources and manpower, would strictly follow an open-door policy.

The meeting resolved to recommend the respective governments of the eight countries to convene a summit meeting of heads of state or government in Istanbul within the first half of 1997.

Vacuum Cleaner Compact & ultra light. Philips logo and product image.

Confce on regional cooperation ends in Kathmandu Conducive atmosphere for integrated dev of eastern Himalayan rivers

KATHMANDU, Jan 12: Participants of the two-day dissemination conference on regional cooperation in harnessing eastern Himalayan rivers today observed that the door had been opened for future negotiations on water resource development with the current conducive atmosphere and political goodwill among the countries concerned, reports BSS.

They said the Mahakali treaty between India and Nepal and the Ganges water sharing agreement between Bangladesh and India were breakthroughs setting the general framework and principles for broader future cooperation in harnessing waters of the region.

After two days' intense deliberations on various common issues on January 10 and 11, a joint statement was published here today where it was observed that the water resource development should enunciate the principles of cost benefit

sharing for the integrated development of the region. Nepalese Water Resources Minister Pashupati Shumsher JB Rana inaugurated the conference while Foreign Minister Prakash Chandra Lohani addressed the concluding session here yesterday. Bangladesh Unnayan Parishad (BUP), Centre for Policy Research (CPR) of New Delhi and Institute of Integrated Development Studies (IIDS) of Kathmandu jointly organised the conference.

BUP's chairman Dr Quazi Kholiqzaman Ahmed, CPR's Ramashwami R Iyer and IIDS's Dr. Mohan Man Sainju led delegations of respective countries which included economists, social scientists, politicians, journalists and government officials.

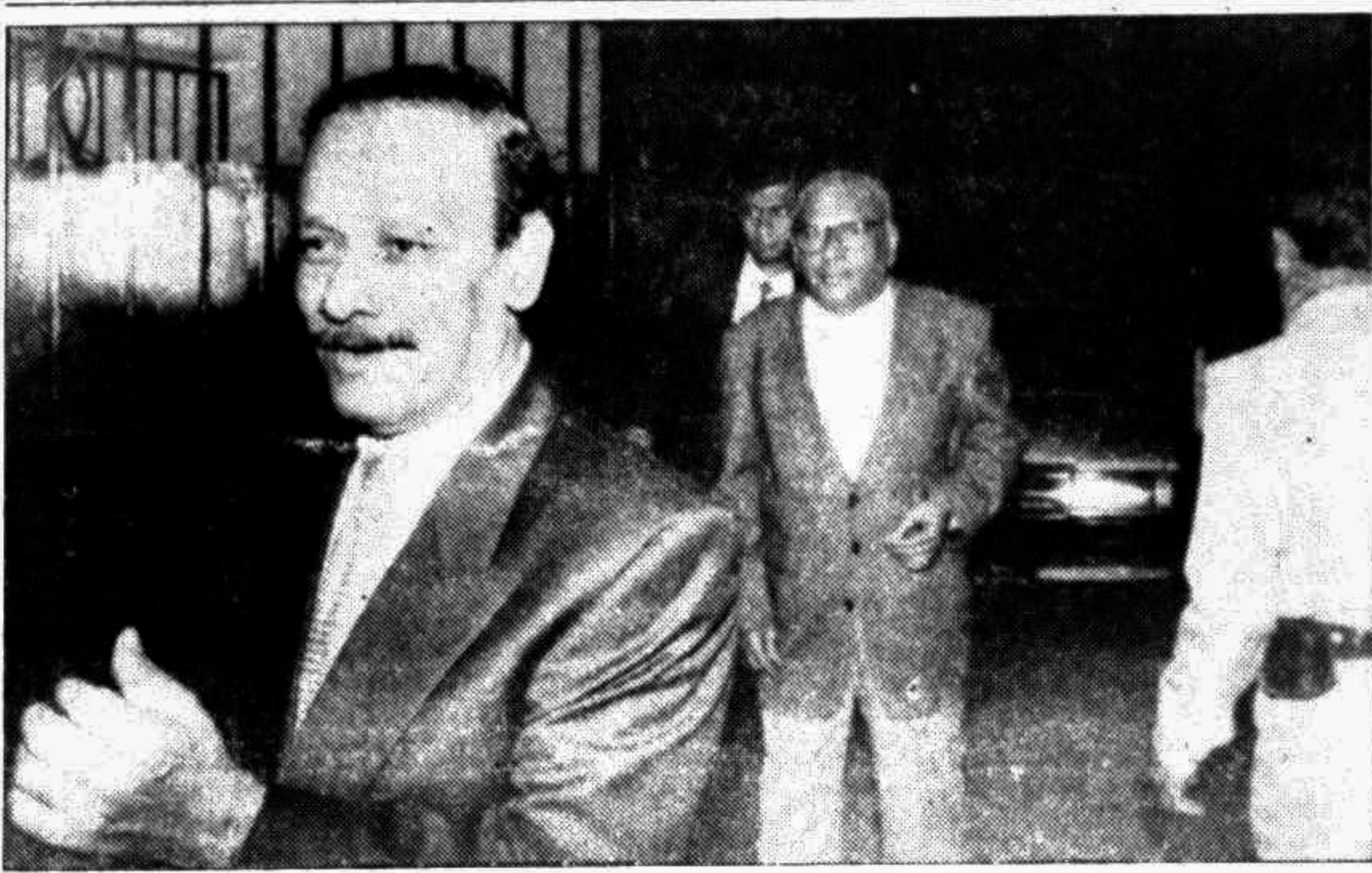
The participants said Bangladesh, India and Nepal must act in unison to attract capital for investment in infrastruc-

ture water resource projects as the two treaties were expected to have positive implications for the integrated development of the eastern Himalayan rivers.

They said that the present conducive atmosphere and political goodwill must be sustained with a proper understanding of ground realities accompanied with adequate reciprocity and mutuality between and among the co-basin partners.

Termining the participation of politicians and mediators in the conference as a success, it was observed that these involvements and interaction would help enhance regional cooperation in all possible ways.

The question of sharing of the Teesta river water and of the Bramaputra, the largest river in the sub-continent, also came up for discussion.



BNP leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and MK Anwar coming out of Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury's Dhanmondi residence after talks with him last night. — Star photo

Resist evil design to hold bypolls: Mannan

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday said the government is speaking of understanding and dialogue with the Opposition, but their activities are in fact vindictive and provocative, reports UNB.

"The government is doing this with a dangerous, ill motive," he alleged and called upon the countrymen to remain alert in this regard.

The BNP leader was addressing a joint meeting of the Dhaka City BNP and its front organisations at the party central office.

Bhuiyan said the people would resist the threat of holding by-elections after passing 90 working days of Parliament, keeping main Opposition BNP outside the House through conspiracy. "This evil desire of the ruling party would not be allowed to be fulfilled, he added.

The BNP secretary general strongly protested and denounced the dismantling of the bailey bridge over the Crescent Lake on way to the mazar of late President Ziaur Rahman. "This makes clear the government's meanness and slyness," he said.

Through such heinous acts, he said, the government could not stop the people from visiting the mazar of Shaheed Zia who is "immortal and always a source of inspiration for all patriotic people."

Bhuiyan said Awami League's tradition, once they go to power, is to establish BAKSAL by destroying all opposition parties. Some people are still talking of BAKSAL, but "we will not allow them to materialise that dream," he said.

The meeting, attended by leaders of the Dhaka City BNP and presidents, general secretaries, convenors and joint convenors of its front organisations, discussed various aspects of celebrating the birth anniversary of Ziaur Rahman on January 19.

It also urged the government to meet the party's 10-point demand and arrest and put on trial the killers of Bhola Jubo Dal leader Alamgir.

The meeting was attended by Mirza Abbas, Nazrul Islam Khan, Sadeq Hossain Khoka MP, Salahuddin Ahmed, Shamsuzzaman Dudu MP, Mahbub Alam Tara, Redwan Ahmed, Kazi Abul Bashar, Mesbahuddin Sabu, Rezaudoula Chowdhury, Shahid Uddin Chowdhury Annie and Maulana Rafiqul Islam Armani.

Major: Bilateral ties

Britain due within a few months. Major smiled and said. "The issue did not cross my mind" and added "individuals and groups vote by their own choice."

In the joint press conference, Sheikh Hasina read out a one-page written text in which she mentioned the 'successful outcome' of the British Prime Minister's visit.

She said that during the talks, the British Premier mentioned that investors from his country are keen to invest in Bangladesh. Major, she said, also acclaimed the pioneering role of Bangladesh in evolving micro-credit for the purpose of poverty alleviation.

Hasina referred to the signing of the agreement between Petro-Bangla and Cairn Energy, Holland Sea Search and Halliburton Brown and Root Ltd. on sale and purchase of gas.

She said she was looking forward to attending the Commonwealth summit in Edinburgh next October and added "I am sure, it will be extremely productive."

The Bangladesh Prime Minister expressed the hope that both Bangladesh and Britain can contribute significantly towards revitalising the Commonwealth.

Sheikh Hasina stated that while reviewing bilateral relations, she recalled with gratitude the support extended by the British government, political leadership and people of Britain during our War of Liberation.

The British Prime Minister and his wife Norma Major were later given a ceremonial send-off as they departed for Pakistan in the last leg of their three-nation tour.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina bade him farewell. Senior cabinet members, chiefs of the three services and senior officials were present. Two tiny tots presented the British premier with bouquets.

Impasse

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tainly meet the leaders of the ruling Awami League sometime today to convey the outcome of the talks.

Replying to a question, he said, the expected government-Opposition meeting will be held at the Parliament building. Details of the joint meeting will be sorted out after his talks with the ruling party, he added.

The Speaker, earlier on Saturday, had invited the BNP leaders for talks.

"It appeared to me that both sides are quite interested about full participation when the Parliament goes into session on January 15," he said.

"About other issues ranging from Speaker's role to effective running of the House, equal TV coverage, 'repression' on their workers, and also expressed their views about formation of different parliamentary committees", the Speaker said.

"I readily assured them of maintaining 'positive neutrality' and running of the House as per Rules of Procedure", Humayun Rashid Chowdhury said, which came up for discussion he said.

"For those I have to have talks with the ruling party representatives. Thereafter, both the parties will sort those out themselves through a direct dialogue", he said.

"We exchanged views on the overall political developments in the country", he added.

Asked about the possibility of BNP's joining a meeting of the JS Business Advisory Committee (BAC) which is scheduled for today, the Speaker said, "If necessary, I will talk to the Prime Minister or to other ruling party leaders for postponement of the BAC meeting. The BAC meeting can be shifted to 14th to facilitate BNP's joining."

"We had dinner and talks together. BNP leaders also expressed satisfaction about the quality of food offered", he said in a higher view.

Earlier, while coming out of the Speaker's residence, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told The Daily Star, "We had a nice dinner and had talks in a cordial atmosphere," Khandaker Delwar and M K Anwar also expressed the same sentiment.

Asked for details, the three BNP leaders said the Speaker will brief on the talks.

Constable beaten up in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 12: A constable, Ashraf Ali, sustained severe injuries when some unruly rickshawpullers beat him mercilessly here on Saturday.

He was attacked when he arrested a rickshawpuller for violating traffic rules. Ali was admitted to hospital in a critical condition.

BSF releases fisherman

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Jan 12: A Bangladeshi fisherman who was kidnapped by the Indian BSF four days ago was released last night. Shamsu Miah of village Maayakhal of Beani-bazar thana was kidnapped by some members of the BSF when he was fishing in the river Kushiara on Tuesday night.

Rakibul Huda

From Page 1

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APSU Shibir

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class and ongoing examinations have been suspended due to the strike called by Rajshahi University Teachers Association (RUTA) and the All-party Students Union demanding immediate removal of the Vice Chancellor, Prof M Yusuf Ali.

N'ganj: Jubo Dal leader

From Page 1

ransacked some shops and called a hartal in the town from morning to 2 pm tomorrow. Scores of bombs were blasted during the procession and panicked shopkeepers were seen pulling down their shutters.

According to police and witnesses, Raju and Bodu came under the attack when they were returning from the pourashaba office today.

Jubo Dal held some Awami League-backed people in Chashara area in the town responsible for the killing.

Meanwhile, most of the shops and markets were closed till late in the afternoon and a tense situation was prevailing in the town.

None was arrested and no case was lodged in this connection till this evening.

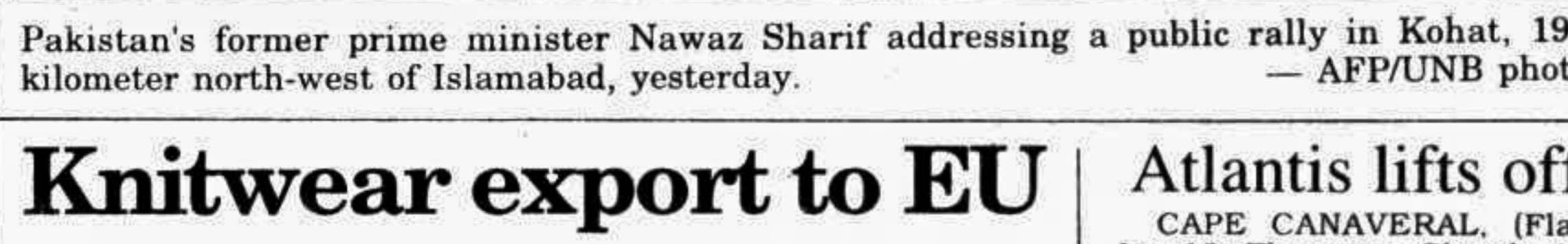
UNB adds: BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has strongly condemned the killing of Narayan-ganj Jubo Dal leader Mohammad Raju.

In a statement yesterday Mannan Bhuiyan blamed the "Awami terrorists" for the brutal killing and demanded immediate arrest and exemplary punishment of those responsible for the murder.

He apprehended that the country was again hurtling towards the 1972-95 regime as the ruling Awami League broke its past record of repression and torture on its political opponents.

In a separate statement, Mannan Bhuiyan expressed his deep anguish at the killing of Bhola int Jubo Dal leader Alamgir and demanded immediate arrest and trial of the killers.

He said the miscreants killed Alamgir on Saturday in broad daylight.



Pakistan's former prime minister Nawaz Sharif addressing a public rally in Kohat, 190 kilometer north-west of Islamabad, yesterday. — AFP/UNB photo

Knitwear export to EU

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for Schedule C items, EPB will investigate their validity, the sources noted.

The EC has estimated that its member states have lost between 30 and 50 million US dollars annually because of false certificate of origins issued by the EPB.

On the other hand, exporters from Nepal and Maldives have been lobbying against Bangladesh, the ministry sources said. These two countries had once used GSP facility taking false certificates although they do not have any backward linkage. But after the EC found out about their fraudulent practices they stopped taking advantage of GSP. Exports from Laos and Cambodia having faced similar problems are also lobbying against Bangladesh.

Atlantis lifts off

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. Jan 12: The space Shuttle Atlantis lifted off before dawn today, headed for its fifth rendezvous with Russia's Mir Space Station, reports Reuters.

The 2 billion dollar spaceship, with six astronauts aboard, roared off its Florida launch pad in a brilliant blaze of light at 4:27 am EST (0927 GMT).

Atlantis is due to dock with Mir on Tuesday night to pick up astronaut John Blaha, who has worked abroad the station since September, and drop off his replacement astronaut Jerry Linenger.

Linenger, a 41-year-old Navy Captain and medical doctor, is scheduled to spend four months on Mir, where he will perform more than 80 scientific experiments. Atlantis is due to return to the station in May to bring him home.

Shahbazzpur gas

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be disappointed. "This will highly discourage big multinational companies all over the world who are very keen to come to Bangladesh for hydrocarbon exploration," the source commented.

Besides Unocal, other multinational companies including Shell, Exxon Esso, Cairn and Occidental have also shown interest in developing Shahbazzpur gas field.

Cairn and Occidental have already begun exploration in other areas. Cairn has discovered a huge gas field in the Bay of Bengal last year.

Int'l workshop for CECs in Dhaka

April 7-10

By Staff Correspondent

The Commonwealth Secretariat and the Election Commission (EC) will jointly organise an international workshop for the Chief Election Commissioners of the Commonwealth countries in Dhaka from April 7 to 10 this year, sources at the EC said yesterday.

Chief Election Commissioners from ten countries in Asia will attend the workshop. The countries include India, the Maldives, Malaysia, Pakistan, Seychelles, Singapore and Sri Lanka.

The Commonwealth Secretariat will be represented in the workshop, by its Deputy Secretary General (political), K Srinivasan, a former Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh, EC sources said.

Observers from the ASEAN and SAARC countries will also attend the workshop, the first of its kind in Bangladesh.

Kerb marketmen

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clined to 1900.63 points from previous day's 2015.10 points. Market capitalisation of the bourse also fell by Tk 829.84 crore declining to Tk 13777.86 crore from Tk 14607.69 crore on the previous day.

Prices of 78 traded issues went down and only one issue gained while two remained unchanged.

As many as 1.55 lakh shares and debentures value at Tk 4.34 crore changed hands during the day.

Zia's mazar

From Page 1

partment began removing the northern section of the floating bridge at about 8 pm. Using heavy hammers and blow torches, they manage to split a section by 10:30 pm.

They took the part of the bridge to Kanchpur for repair, some workmen said. They said the repair was needed to prevent the northern section from sinking as it developed holes.

They later posted the "urgent notice" saying it was removed for "urgent repair".

UNB adds: The front organisations of opposition BNP have strongly protested the alleged dismantling of the bailey bridge over the Crescent Lake, connecting the mazar of President Ziaur Rahman.

In separate statements, leaders of DUCSU, Jubo Dal, Chhatra Dal and Krishak Dal said the wrecking of the bridge has proved the "meanness" of Awami League government.

They warned the government of vigorous street agitation if it failed to reinstall the bridge before the birth anniversary celebrations of President Ziaur Rahman.

Cargo handling stopped at Mongla

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Jan 12: The Mongla port stevedores have stopped loading and unloading of cargoes for an indefinite period in protest against what they said highhandedness of the dock workers.

The dock workers are reportedly demanding wages in violation of the agreement reached with the stevedores recently.

Rupsha Bridge

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Dhaka and Rajshahi at a cost of Tk 22.25 crore; Mosque-based Children and Mass Education Programme at a cost of Tk 37.50 crore; and Further Development of Four Medical College Hospitals at a cost of Tk 42.33 crore. These were also approved by the ministry.

The ECNEC also gave approval to projects of construction of Bangladesh High Commission complex in New Delhi at a cost of Tk 12.19 crore and construction of Bangladesh Embassy in Washington at a cost of Tk 18.50 crore.

Ministers for finance, education, water resources, commerce, agriculture, foreign affairs, health and family welfare, communications and shipping, and state ministers for fisheries and livestock, and religious affairs attended the meeting.

Cabinet secretary, principal secretary, governor of Bangladesh Bank, members of the Planning Commission, secretary to the Prime Minister, and secretaries were also present.

Ataul Haq

From Page 1

tary, Ministry of Information. Joint Secretary in the Banking Division, Rafiqul Alam, has been transferred to the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mohammad Shajahan Mian, news editor/special correspondent of Bangladesh Sangstha, has been appointed as minister (Press) at the Bangladesh Embassy in Washington on a contract for three years.

Ershad

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Parliament would discuss it in details, he added.

Asked to comment on the sub-regional grouping, he said "I have not yet studied it thoroughly", but it needs detailed discussions, he added.

HM Ershad also said that, he had appealed to the Prime Minister for immediate withdrawal of the 'false' cases lodged against the leaders and workers of the JP.

The Jatiya Party chairman reached Sylhet by the first flight of Biman at 12-50 pm, about three hours late than the scheduled time. From the airport, he straightened to the Circuit House where he stayed for some time. He then visited the mazars of the two great saints. From there he went to the residence of Sylhet district president of JP Abdul Mukit Khan MP and took his iftar there.

JP presidium member and Jatiya Aijnjib Federation president Yusuf Hossain Humayun accompanied Ershad during the tour.

Ershad also held a meeting with the district leaders at Mukit Khan's residence after iftar.

The JP chairman left Sylhet for Dhaka by the last flight of Biman at 9 pm, about two and a half hour late than the scheduled time.

According to a Jatiya Party press release in Dhaka, Ershad pledged to donate Taka seven and a half lakh for the development of Shahjalal's (RA) mazar complex.

Ershad said he got the amount as the honorarium as an MP. The past BNP regime did not allow him to draw the money, the press release quoted him as saying.