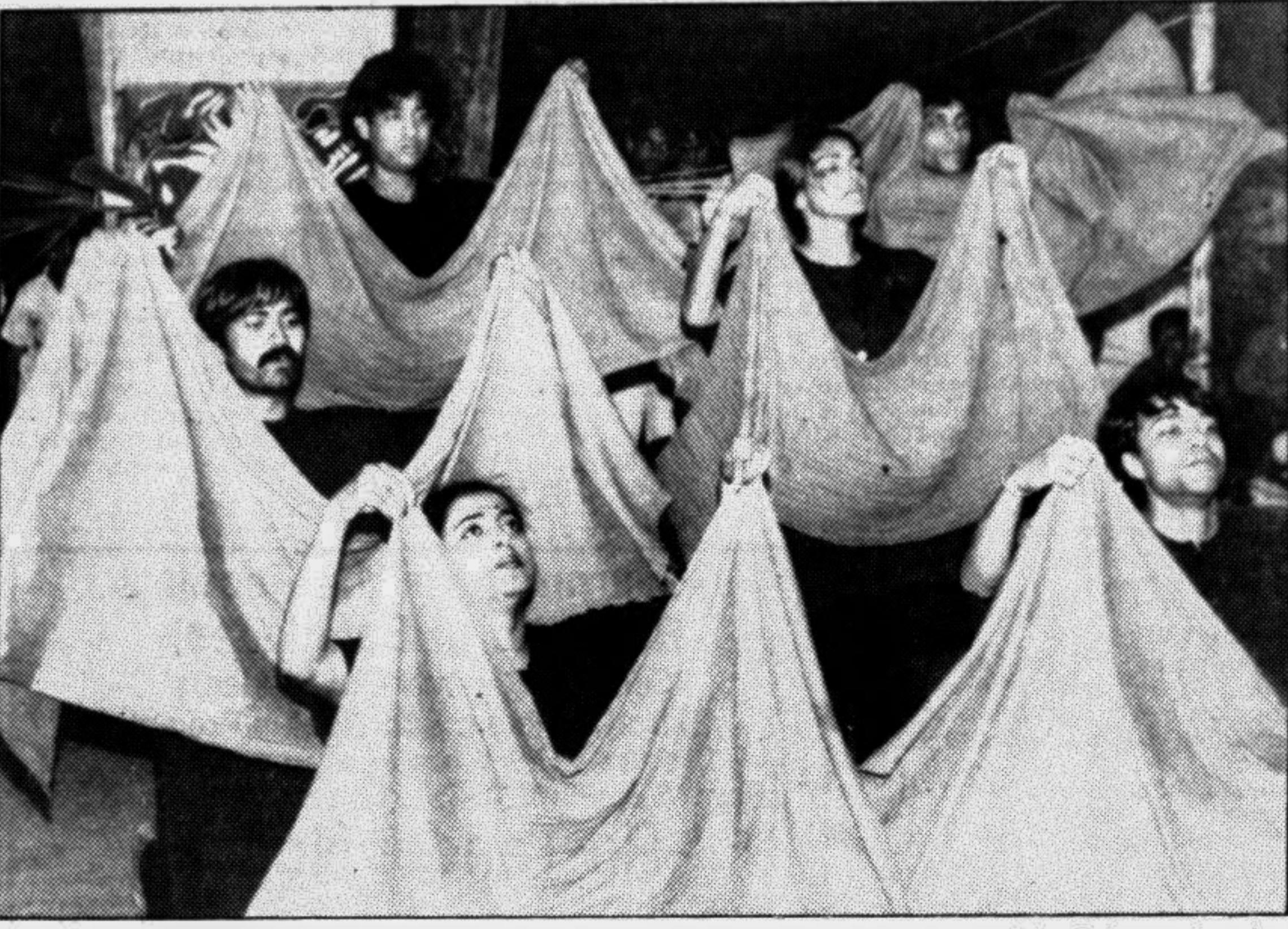


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The World on Time



Sequence of the drama 'Haye Bangla, Haye Behula' staged at the Public Library in the city yesterday on the concluding day of the Bengali Cultural Festival 1403. — Star photo

Govt to evaluate performance of pry school teachers

Education Minister A S H K Sadique yesterday said the government has taken up plans to introduce a programme to evaluate the performance of the primary school teachers, respectively.

To overcome the qualitative and infrastructural problems of the primary education sector, a number of steps have already been taken, he said while speaking at a dialogue on the occasion of publication of an "Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development."

Organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), the discussion was participated by policy-makers of the government, academics, officials, and representatives of different donor agencies and NGOs.

Speaking on the CPD study on primary education, conducted by Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, the minister said the government now plans to spend more for this sector as the Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission report recommended that 60 per cent of the total education budget should go to the primary education sector.

At present, there is no effective system for evaluating the teachers' performances, he said.

adding the government has planned to introduce an evaluation procedure instead of the existing routine monitoring system.

He told the function that due to several socio-economic problems the standard of quality of teachers could not be ensured, while the non-government teachers could not be provided training for lack of infrastructural facilities.

But the government has taken decision to introduce a crash programme for their training though it is not sufficient for achieving the goal, he said.

Sadique said that a high-powered committee was working on the overall problems of the primary education sector and the government would decide its policies on the sector after receiving the recommendations.

In his study, Prof Muzaffar Ahmed, a renowned economist, suggested that if the foundation of our education has to be strong we need to pay more attention to the quality of the educators and the quality of teaching materials besides improving the physical environment for curricular and co-curricular activities with a more creative and innovative bias."

The study noted that the enrollment particularly, the enrollment of female students have increased and rate of drop-out have reduced in the recent period.

But the standard of education could not be ensured as desired as according to conventional standard, about 50 per cent of students achieve minimum competence securing only 30 per cent marks in all subjects, the study said.

Rehman Sobhan, who chaired the function, said the objective of the CPD study is to review the problems and achievements in different sectors from a non-partisan angle and the CPD study reports will be made available to the country's policy-makers including the MPs for necessary action.

Former member of the Planning Commission Kazi Faizur Rahman, member of the commission Kazi Shamsul Alam, senior research fellow of BIDS Mahmud Alam, UNESCO representative Dr Ansar Ali Khan, Shamsi Hossain of GSS, Monika Malakar of SIDA and Anwarul Haq of Primary Education Department also spoke on the occasion.

Restaurant worker killed in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Apr 12: A restaurant worker was killed by his colleague at West Motlibari Raigat area in Double-mooring thana here today, reports UNB.

Police said Rusal, 20, an employee of Mehrab hotel, was killed by one of his colleague at 6:30 this morning following an altercation at the hotel.

The body was sent to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy and none was arrested in this connection. However, the accused was absconding.

City AL extended meet today

By Our Correspondent

An extended meeting of the Dhaka city unit of Awami League will be held at the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue at 6 pm today.

Flights

From Page 1

receive their relations from the Gulf countries.

30 injured in Khagrachhari clash

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 12: At least 30 persons were injured during a clash between two groups of tribals and non-tribals today in Maizchhari bazaar area under Mohalchhari thana of Khagrachhari hill district.

Of the injured, four persons were brought to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital while the rest were admitted to the local hospital.

Police said the trouble began at around noon centring the beating up of a non-tribal pickpocket at the bazaar by some tribal people.

The incident angered a group of non-tribals that led to a two-hour-long clash with the tribals, police added.

Police rushed to the spot to bring the situation under control.

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Pre-budget consultation

Kibria exchanges views with NGO representatives

As part of pre-budget consultation, Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday exchanged views with the representatives of non-governmental organisations on a wide range of budgetary measures, reports UNB.

Issues like poverty alleviation, eradicating illiteracy, mother and child health-care, family planning, and rehabilitation of slum dwellers and river-erosion-affected people came up for discussion.

Besides, strengthening of the local government institutions, environment conservation, drainage and river excavation, and flourishment of silk industry were discussed and recommendations put forward.

Kibria said as the NGOs are playing an important role in the country's development, opinion of their leaders is of great significance in formulating a people-oriented budget.

The NGO leaders thanked the finance minister for giving them a chance to express their opinion in the budget-making process.

They stressed the need for proper allocation in different sectors for the solution of different problems.

Terming the present relations between the government and the NGOs as supportive, Kibria said the recommendations

Biman reaches Jeddah with 1000 Hajj pilgrims

A Biman Bangladesh Airlines flight carrying about 1,000 Bangladeshi Hajj pilgrims safely reached Jeddah amidst transport strike by officers and employees of Indian Civil Aviation, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports UNB.

The flight, that failed to communicate with the Indian Civil Aviation authorities due to the strike, was delayed and finally left Dhaka for Jeddah on Friday.

It was also carrying a parliamentary delegation, led by Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. Other members of the delegation are: State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam and Forest and Environment Minister Syed Sajeda Chowdhury.

Syrian Vice President, FM leave ZIA

Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Shahrahi left Zia International Airport yesterday afternoon after a day's stop over forced by Indian air traffic controllers' strike, reports UNB.

The two Syrian leaders were on their way back home from China but the aircraft carrying them could not land in New Delhi to refuel due to the strike.

Parul, mother of two, sustained serious burn injuries on April 7 when two terrorists set fire to her body at her house beside the town protection embankment in Mohammadpur, police said.

Daughter of one Abdul Khalequ, Parul, 24, died at the DMCH Friday afternoon, hospital sources said.

Meanwhile, Home Minister Rafigul Islam visited the house yesterday afternoon and announced a reward of Tk 30,000 for information leading to the arrest of the accused, according to a senior police official.

The police official said last night the terrorists Hasan and Babul attacked Parul as they failed to rape her. Police were hunting the terrorists. The Sammilita Nari Samaj (SNS) protested the killing of Parul. It demanded exemplary punishment of the persons involved in the incident.

The SNS will hold a protest rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club on April 15, said a press release.

Poet Sufia Kamal advised to take complete rest

Doctors have advised Poet Sufia Kamal to take complete bed-rest for three more months, a family source said yesterday, reports BSS.

A panel of doctors, after a thorough check-up over the weekend, said the 86-year-old poet is yet to gain enough strength to attend public functions and meet people personally.

Poet Sufia Kamal is suffering from arthritis, blood pressure irregularities and insomnia besides her old-age complications.

The poet has been bed-ridden since November last year.

Spl Economic Zone

From Page 1

fiscal incentives and other facilities.

The study team has identified the area for the first SEZ on the southern bank of Karnaphuli in around 275 hectares of land.

The development and construction cost of the proposed SEZ has been estimated 82 million US dollars, and land acquisition cost 3.45 million dollars.

The development and construction cost should be met with 30 per cent equity and 70 per cent long-term loan.

The long-term loan may be arranged from Asian Development Bank (ADB), Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECEF) of Japan and local banks, the report suggested.

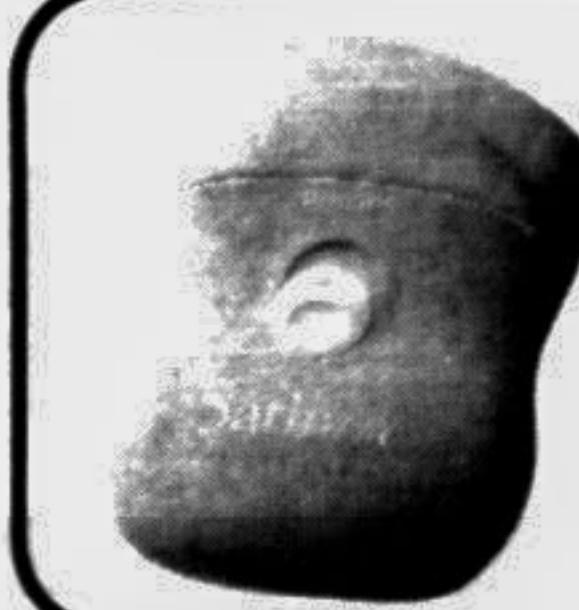
Major development components of the plan are: overall infrastructural development of the metropolitan area, including creation of a new industrial city on the southern bank of Karnaphuli.

The plan also includes construction of new crossing over the Karnaphuli, a new deep sea harbour with modern container-handling facilities and a new modern international airport.

The study team has identified four Special Industrial Development Regions (SIDR) — Chittagong, Dhaka, Sylhet and Khulna — and suggested enactment of a law for establishing Special Economic Zones.

With the SIDR, the study team suggested, SEZs should be established with high-quality physical environment where investment will be encouraged with attractive fiscal and non-

political incentives.



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JCD-BCL clash at Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent

JHENIDAH, Apr 12: Two policemen were seriously injured during a clash between the activists of the Bangladesh Chhatra League and the Jatiyabadi Chhatra Dal here this evening.

Eye-witnesses said the clash started when some BCL activists reached the venue of JCD council session at 6:30 pm. Both the groups made chase and counter-chase. Later the dais of council meeting was ransacked allegedly by the BCL workers.

Judge Md Golam Rabban awarded life term to Fuljan Nesa, 60, and her son Atiar Rahman, 34, and five years imprisonment to Awal and Ayub. Two other accused, Samser and Abir, were acquitted.

The prosecution case in brief is that Sabina, 19, wife of Atiar was beaten to death at her husband's house at Balarampura village in the district on April 24, 1995. A UD case was lodged with the local thana in this connection. Later, the police getting post mortem report filed case against the convicted persons.

4 jailed for killing housewife in Magura

From Our Correspondent

MAGURA, Apr 12: The mother-in-law and husband of a housewife were sentenced to life term imprisonment for killing the housewife and two others were given five years' terms in a judgement by the Additional District and Sessions Judge's court here recently.

Judge Md Golam Rabban awarded life term to Fuljan Nesa, 60, and her son Atiar Rahman, 34, and five years imprisonment to Awal and Ayub. Two other accused, Samser and Abir, were acquitted.

The prosecution case in brief is that Sabina, 19, wife of Atiar was beaten to death at her husband's house at Balarampura village in the district on April 24, 1995. A UD case was lodged with the local thana in this connection. Later, the police getting post mortem report filed case against the convicted persons.

Baby beaten to death

By Staff Correspondent

A minor boy, reportedly assaulted by his father about two weeks ago, died in the city yesterday morning.

Joni, about one year old, was severely beaten by his father, Toyeb Ali, who also beat his mother, Rehana, in their house at Tejkunipara following a family feud. The boy succumbed to his injuries about 8 am.

Police and shifted to a place in Kamrangirchar a few days ago.

Labbagh police took the body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case has been filed.

PM: Govt firm

From Page 1

The standard of education, the Prime Minister said that her government would enunciate a modern education policy, based on science, technology and need of the hour in the light of the famous Dr Kudrat-e-Khuda Education Policy.

The Prime Minister, while speaking on her government's vow to eradicate the curse of illiteracy from the country, called upon the teachers to deploy the students in this noble task.

The Prime Minister urged the teachers to help her government streamline that education system as well as to stop leakage of question papers, copying in the examination halls and other illegal practices.

The Prime Minister also urged them to remain vigilant against the motives of those who wanted to fish in the troubled water through creating artificial issues by setting fires on college buildings, jute-godowns, disrupting examinations and fuelling illegal activities and patronising violence and terrorism.

Earlier, the federation leaders hailed the decision of the Prime Minister to relegate the responsibility of the chancellor to the President.

They extended total support to the Prime Minister in her efforts to build a prosperous hunger-free Bangladesh.

Earlier, one minute silence was observed as a mark of respect to the father of the nation.

Intense parleys

From Page 1

its leader.

But in a significant development several Congress lawmakers protested party chief Sitaram Keshri's decision to withdraw support to the coalition and triggering the crisis, Press Trust of India news agency reported.

About 150 Congress lawmakers of both houses of parliament have demanded a meeting of the party to fix responsibility for what they called "a blunder," PTI said.

Meanwhile, the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party — the largest group in Parliament — met to explore the possibility of coming to power.

"We have not been able to talk to any regional party" of the front, said BJP spokesman Sushma Swaraj. BJP was in power for 13 days last May, but could not find a majority.

President Sharra will now have to decide which group has the best chance to fashion a viable coalition.

But the numbers in parliament do not easily add up to a majority. The United Front has 178 members, the Congress 140 and the BNP and its allies 193 in the 545-member lower house. The government needs a majority of 272 seats.

The political uncertainty has worried trade groups that fear the momentum of the economic reforms will be lost.

"The fall of the government and the manner in which it has happened has caused deep sadness in the Indian industry", said Shekhar Datta, chief of the Confederation of Indian Industry, the largest trade body.

Other industrial and business organisations expressed similar views.

Today's newspapers were outraged by Congress chief Keshri's sudden withdrawal of support. In a front-page editorial, the mass-circulated Indian Express newspaper said his action was "crass, unthinking, irresponsible."

Ken