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Traffic jam on the street in front of Rajuk Bhaban during the public meeting of Awami League at the nearby Outer Stadium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

PM: Meeting venues

From Page 1

ernment structures in the country. She claimed that prices of paddy and rice remained steady even at this period of the year when people in the northern parts of the country usually had experienced famine in the past.

Listing some new programmes being taken up by her government, the Prime Minister said, "Our main aim is to bring economic freedom of the people."

She spelt out a plan to organise rural unemployed youths under co-operatives and lease out "unutilized lands and derelict ponds" to them for doing income generating work.

She also mentioned 'family saving scheme', 'employment bank' and allowance for elderly people. She also said that housing arrangements for the cyclone-hit coastal people and micro credit facilities for the landless would be made.

Turning to commuters' problems in the capital, Hasina said, the state-run BRTC will procure 200 double-deck buses soon.

Admitting that the people were facing problems due to power failure, the Prime Minister said, "You may have to suffer for some time more as you know, during BNP regime some 7,000 crore taka was not utilized in the power sector in a proper way. Now, we are trying to set up new power plants in the country."

Sheikh Hasina also said that new pay scales for government employees would be implemented in phases as it would require a huge amount of money. She, however, assured

Bangabandhu murder

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artillery guns were installed near Rd No 32 on the day of the incident.

The witness, at first, replied in the affirmative, but denied it the next moment. At this, the defence counsel, expressed his doubt that the witness was being prompted by signals from the prosecution desk.

He then prayed to the court that the witness should not be allowed any contact with the prosecution desk when the court was adjourned for 10 minutes soon after.

The court asked the witness to sit inside the court room during the break.

As the court rose again after the break, Altaf Hossain, the public prosecutor, wanted to know the reason for the order.

The defence lawyers then pressed upon the court to ask the witness whether the order of the court was obeyed or not.

District and Sessions Judge Kazi Golam Rasul observed that it was desired of the prosecution lawyers not to brief the witness during the break. Discussions with the witness should be completed before he arrives at the witness box and it would not be proper to have such discussions during cross-examination, the judge said.

The court, however, does not mean that the witness has been briefed or is being briefed during the break, he added.

Later, at one point, some defence lawyers were seen putting up a shield between the prosecution desk and the witness. Some senior lawyers of both sides were seen having heated exchange of words during that time.

The judge expressed his dissatisfaction over the incident and said that the members of the bar should be respectable with each other.

When a defence lawyer asked

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Int'l Day for Elderly

From Page 1

man and one woman. In the afternoon, the Bangladesh Association for the Aged will organise a discussion at its head office. State Minister for Social Welfare and Women Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain will be the chief guest.

The Resource Integration Centre (RIC) will arrange a rally which will start from in front of Osmany Auditorium at 9 am. RIC will also arrange a visit to the Mirpur Zoo for the elderly people under its Elderly Rehabilitation Programme today.

Bangladesh Association for the Aged yesterday held a press conference at its head office at Agargaon in the city.

Addressing the conference the association president Dr Enamul Huq said more awareness should be created among the people about the problems of the aged who constitute nearly six per cent of the country's population.

He said anyone above 55, irrespective of caste and creed, can be a member of the association, but one can have the voting right after two years of membership.

At present, the association has a total of 1000 members across the country in three categories — general, life and associate. It has 22 branches in the greater district HOs to serve the 70 lakh elderly people of the country.

On development programmes of the association, Dr Huq said the government has allocated Tk 9 crore for the

construction of its own building at Agargaon.

Of this, Tk 2.35 crore was spent for constructing the four-storey head office building while Tk 1.40 crore will be spent for procuring furniture and medical equipment.

Another Tk 35 lakh, sanctioned by the government, will be spent for the construction of buildings to house five divisional branches, he added.

FM attends UNGA session

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad has attended the 52nd session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on Monday, reports BSS.

Samad is leading the 20-member Bangladesh delegation to the current UN General Assembly session which began on September 16.

Earlier on his arrival in New York, Samad was received at the airport by Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah MP and Whip Md Abdus Shahid MP. Bangladesh permanent representative to the UN Anwarul Karim Chowdhury and officials of the mission were present.

Foreign Minister is scheduled to make a statement at the General Assembly today, a message from New York said yesterday.

During his stay in New York, Samad Azad is expected to hold bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of a number of countries.

4 city Sramik Dal workers arrested with arms

Police arrested four activists of Sramik Dal along with sophisticated arms and ammunition when they tried to capture the Fulbaria bus terminal on Monday evening, reports UNB.

The recovered arms and ammunition were an automatic Chinese sub-machine gun, a USA-made modern pistol and 79 round bullets, police said yesterday.

A police team had taken position in the area after receiving information that supporters of two Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal leaders — Sultan Reza and Nasir — are gathering there to capture the terminal.

The police all on a sudden raided the rooftop of the terminal and caught Sanjiddul Hasan alias Imon, 27, Kajal Ahmed, 27, Jahangir Alam, 25, and Abdul Halim.

Police also recovered the automatic Chinese SMG loaded with 28 round bullets and the USA-made pistol loaded with seven bullets from their possession.

On the basis of their confessional statements, the team later recovered 39 round bullets from a club room of the bus terminal from where thousands of taka is collected as toll everyday.

Local Government Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, Youth and Sports Secretary A S M Shahjahan, Land Secretary Muhammad Omar Farooq and senior officials of the ministries were present.

Media coverage on Diana sets record

LONDON, Sept 30: The death of Diana, Princess of Wales, generated more newspaper coverage in Britain than even the most dramatic events of World War II and set a media record, according to a press cuttings agency, reports AFP.

The assassination of US President John Kennedy and the shooting of John Lennon "pale into insignificance" in terms of column inches in the press, said Durrants Press Cuttings, which monitors nearly 200,000 newspapers and magazines a year.

No other subject in the agency's archives, which go back to 1880, compared with the coverage devoted to Diana's death, funeral and subsequent stories.

"The nearest one can get to this level of media exposure takes us back to the 1940s and the Second World War," said the agency's managing director Tony Law.

"But not even the major events of the period — the outbreak of war, Dunkirk, V Day — achieved anywhere near the press coverage devoted to Diana," he said.

The chairman congratulated Sheikh Hasina for her dynamic role in initiating the peace process. They also lauded the leadership of Sheikh Hasina as she could find solution to a problem which could not be solved so long.

They also narrated some local problems and the Prime Minister assured all possible help to remove those.

Awami League presidium members Amir Hossain Amu, and Abdul Jalil, Kalparanjan Chakma, MP and Chairman of the task force, Dipankar Talukder, MP, and Bir Bahadur, MP, were present.

The chairmen present were Samiran Dewan of Khagrachari, Ching Qu Roaza of Rangamati and Thoang Cha Prue Mastar of Bandarban.

Raozan plant

From Page 1

shedding during the last few days was between 150 mw to 200 mw. Only a couple of weeks earlier the amount of loadshedding was between 300 mw and 450 mw.

Each of the two units of the Raozan power plant requires 50 million cubic feet of gas per day while the total supply of gas to Chittagong is currently about 190 mcmd. This supply needs to be increased by at least 50 mcmd to ensure functioning of both the plants, the sources said.

"Even if there was enough gas supply, both the 210 mw units would not have generated more than 300 mw power because the present transmission lines connecting Chittagong with the national grid cannot transmit more than 150 mw — 160 mw," said a source.

"The demand for power in Chittagong is around 360 mw, therefore, if both the Raozan units produced power, the excess power could not be transmitted to other areas of the country," he explained.

PDB needs about 11 million cf gas per hour for power generation by some 35 gas-run units in the country.

Barber the best counsellor

HYDERABAD, Sept 30: Health authorities in a southern Indian state have announced a new weapon in their fight against population growth — 55,000 village barbers, reports AFP.

Officials in Andhra Pradesh hope the hairdressers will be able to convince their clients to use condoms in an attempt to stop the spread of Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS).

C B Venkataraman, Andhra Pradesh's commissioner of family welfare, said on Tuesday the state government planned to install condom vending machines in barber shops, cigarette shops and grocery stores in 27,000 villages.

Ranga Rao, state director of family welfare, said hairdressers were ideal for dispensing advice.

"On average in rural India, men spend about 30 minutes with their barber." So he is the best person to provide advice and counselling.

"The barbers are enthusiastic about the idea. They said they do not need any wages and are willing to take it up as a social work."

JU Shibir worker hurt in attack

SAVAR, Sept 30: A Chhatra Shibir activist of Jahangirnagar University was critically injured in an attack by general students on the campus today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Mukul, a master's degree student of Physics Department, came under attack in front of the university's central library at 12:30 pm as Shibir activists have been declared persona non grata on the campus.

Later, Proctor of the University Prof Asfar Ahmed rescued Mukul.

5 jailed for keeping illegal arms

CHITTAGONG, Sept 30: Additional District and Sessions Judge (Arms and Explosives) Golam Murtuza in a verdict today sentenced one person to 17 years' rigorous imprisonment (RI) and four others to seven years each for possessing illegal arms and ammunition, reports BSS.

The case in brief is that Fatikchhari police acting on secret information arrested one person with one cut-rifle loaded with a bullet and four others with four live gun cartridges each inside the Lelang Union Parishad office three years ago, a press release of the APP said.

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TU leader alleges bribery

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union, it has no representation in the unofficial CBA (Central Bargaining Agent). The DCC Karmachari Sangshad, having 3,962 members, is the most influential of all the unions and acts as the CBA.

Talking to this correspondent in his well-furnished office room at the car park section of the Nagar Bhaban, Mia Shahabuddin Bachchu, president of the Karmachari Sangshad, claimed "Our members come from all sections of the DCC and in the past we successfully led several movements. So we automatically qualify to act as the CBA."

When asked why they did not support the scavengers and the Sramik Karmachari Union's applications to the Labour Directorate for permission to hold CBA election, Shafi Ahmed, cultural secretary of the Karmachari Sangshad, replied, "This Sangshad was elected on May 14 and we are yet to discuss the matter among the unions. We also do not think it necessary to have an official CBA at the moment."

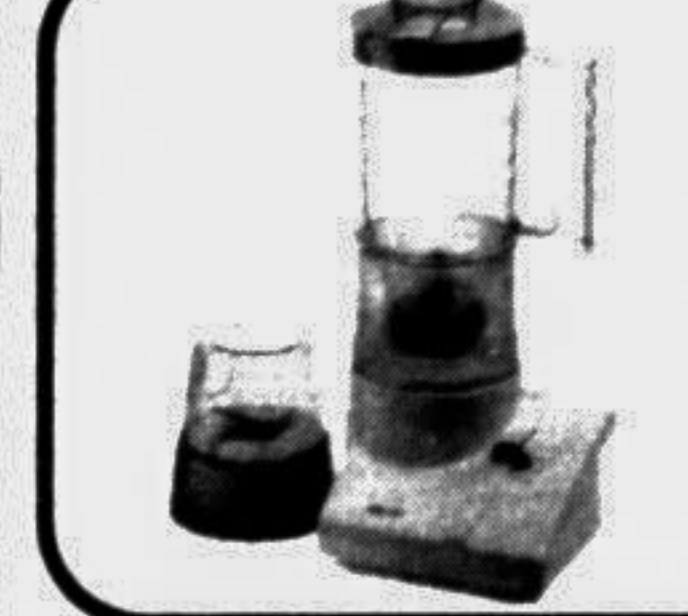
The Kamachari Sangshad

leaders said that they were now fighting for introduction of pension schemes for all employees of the four city corporations of the country. The Mayor has approved the proposal and it is now lying with the LGRD Ministry for final approval," said S M Ali Akbar, joint secretary of the Sangshad.

When asked why the union leaders were at the union office when they were supposed to attend their respective desks at the Nagar Bhaban, Syed Anisuzzaman, Sangshad's treasurer said that after the 25-member union body was elected, there was a resolution that these officials would attend the union office after 1 pm everyday. "We have to hear the problems of our colleagues," he said.

Anisuzzaman however admitted that neither the Mayor nor any senior official of the DCC was involved in adoption of the resolution.

The Pribahan Chalak Sramik Union having over 500 members and operating from Syedabad area, was launched because they thought they were



Blender with mill

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Body to probe alleged rape in DC's room

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Sept 30: A two-member enquiry committee headed by Masud Elahi, Additional Deputy Commissioner (General), Pabna, has been formed by the Deputy Commissioner for investigating the incident of alleged violation of a girl in the DC's office room on September 13.

The Deputy Commissioner also transferred two more employees of the Nezarat Section of the Collectorate yesterday suspecting their involvement in the incident.

When contacted over telephone, DC Mahbubur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday evening that neither the alleged victim nor anybody on her behalf lodged any written complaint so far regarding the incident. Police also did not receive any complaint. But, he said he ascertained the incident and ordered the actions.

Meanwhile, the incident has sparked off sharp reaction among the people in the town. Begum Zannatul Ferdous MP, Rafiqul Alam Bakul MP, Advocate Amad Hossain ex-MP and member of Bangladesh Bar Council, Maqbul Hossain Shantu ex-MP and Mrs Mira Ray local unit President of Bangladesh Mahila Parishad have issued separate statements demanding judicial inquiry and punishment of those involved in the incident.

Barister M Amirul Islam president-elect of the SAARC Law Forum, will lead the Bangladesh delegation at the three-day conference.

The theme for the conference this year is: SAARC — the legacies and challenges.

Barrister Islam, who was elected president of the forum at the fifth SAARC Law Conference in Delhi in June last, will take over from the incumbent president K K Venu Gopal, a senior advocate of the Supreme Court of India, at the concluding day.

SAARC Law Confce from Friday

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Durga puja from Oct 7: Mahalaya today

Mahanagar Sarbojanin Puja Committee has taken up an elaborate programme to celebrate Durga puja, the greatest religious festival of the Hindu community, reports BSS.

The 'Mahalaya', marking the advent of Goddess Durga, will be celebrated today throughout the country. A cultural programme will also be held at 6:30 am at the Dhakeswari Mandir premises on the day.

The five-day festival begins on October 7 with 'Sasthi Adhibas' and 'Mahasaptami' falls on the next day.

Mahanagar Puja Committee will distribute 'mahaprashad' to the devotees on the day of 'Mahastami' on October 9. A cultural function will be held on the day of 'Mahanabami' on October 10 and a voluntary blood donation programme will be held on the day of 'Mahadashami' on October 11.

Besides, the historic 'Bijoya' procession will be brought out at 3 pm from the Dhakeswari Mandir.

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Shelling kills 18

From Page 1

On Saturday, when India's defence minister, Mulayam Singh Yadav, was in a nearby area to speak to soldiers, Pakistani troops fired several shells as he was making a speech. There were no reported injuries.

Jammu-Kashmir's chief minister, the top elected official, condemned the attack on civilians. "This exposes Pakistan's insincerity in normalising relations with India," said Farooq Abdullah.

The meeting between Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral of India and Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan was expected to accelerate peace negotiations that began in May. But the clashes across the disputed frontier could impair the talks that are already deadlocked over rival claims to Jammu-Kashmir, the only Muslim majority state in predominantly Hindu India.

India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars in the last 50 years over Kashmir. India accuses Pakistan of arming and training separatist rebels in Kashmir, a charge that Islamabad denies.

Another report says, India will lodge a strong diplomatic protest with Pakistan over the heavy firing today by Pakistani troops on a town in Kashmir.

Indian Foreign Secretary K Raghunath has summoned the Pakistani High Commissioner (ambassador) Qazi Ashraf Jehangir, to convey New Delhi's 'serious concern over the latest shelling,' an official spokesman said.

Promotion

From Page 1

tary of the same ministry. Mahbub Kabir, acting secretary of the Post and Telecommunications Ministry was made the secretary of the same ministry.

Saiful Islam, the acting secretary at the IMED was promoted to the rank of secretary at the same department.

Omar Faruk, who was the acting secretary at the Ministry of Land was made the secretary of the same ministry. Azad of the Land Appeal Board, was promoted as secretary retaining his position as chairman.

Muhammad Ahsan Ali Sarker, acting secretary of the Ministry of Labour and Manpower was promoted as secretary in the same ministry.

Brig Muhammad Obaidul Huq was appointed DG of the Directorate of Fire Service and Civil Defence on deputation replacing Brig Mahtabuddin, who was called back at the Ministry of Defence.

Mizanur Rahman, the deputy commissioner of Jhenidah was posted on deputation as the director (administration) of the Bangladesh Television.

Joint meeting

From Page 1

Zafar Ahmed, Mynuddin Bhaiyan and Shah Shaheed Sarwar, MP, Oli Akbar of Democratic League, Jagga's Rehena Prodan, Anisur Rahman and Sardar Shahjahan and PNP leaders Sheikh Shauqat Hossain Nilu, Mostafizur Rahman and Zahir Hossain Hakim attended the meeting.

The meeting also discussed the on-going agitation including today's demonstration in the city and the October 5 railroad blockade across the country.

Protesting the alleged torture on BNP leader Nazibul Bashar Maizbhandari in police custody, the meeting observed that the 'vindictive' government was revealing its 'fascist' character through oppression on its political opponents. It also demanded punishment of the persons responsible for torture on Maizbhandari and withdrawal of cases against him.

Alleging inhuman torture on the opposition leaders in jails, the meeting demanded immediate release of all arrested opposition leaders including Jagga president Shaiful Alam Prodan and withdrawal of the false cases filed against them.

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Bourses

From Page 1

day, according to a senior official of the SEC in Dhaka.

The Bangladesh Bank recently allowed the commercial banks to operate on Saturdays after repeated complaint by the country's business community that they are in problem due to the two-day weekend.

Meanwhile, the SEC abolished quotas for all categories, excepting that for the NRBs, with immediate effect, responding to the conditions set by the ADB for an 80 million-dollar credit.

Banking Secretary Syed Amir-ul-Mulk is now in Manila, the ADB's headquarters, to negotiate and initial the loan agreement which is likely to be effective shortly, official sources said.

Under the Capital Market Development Project, an overhauling of the stockmarket will be done to make it up-to-date, suiting the need of time, they said.

As per the new quota laws, quota at 10 per cent, out of the total amount of IPO, will be reserved for the NRBs and there will be no other quota for any categories of applicants.

The balance 90 per cent of the total amount of IPO is available for subscription by the applicants residing in Bangladesh for securities in following manner: seventy (70) per cent of the total amount of IPO available for the applicants applied for the minimum market lot worth Tk 5,000; and the balance 30 per cent is available for applicants other than those for minimum market lot.

Meanwhile, the DSE All Share Price Index dropped to 939.90 shedding 22 per cent in relatively higher trading compared to Monday, when the key index also experienced a slide of more than percentage points.

Out of the total 144 issues traded, 122 incurred loss, only 20 gained and two issues remained unchanged.

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