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Review body on Pay Commission Report yet to submit its recommendations

By Special Correspondent

The seven-member review committee on the Pay Commission Report could not submit its recommendations till Tuesday, the last day for submitting it to the government.

According to official sources, it could not be formally submitted as the member-secretary of the committee, Dr M A Samad, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, is out of the country. He is expected to return home on Saturday.

The Committee, headed by Cabinet Secretary Ataul Huq, was formed on June 23 to review the recommendations by the Pay Commission headed by former Cabinet Secretary Mujibul Huq. It was scheduled to submit the report by September 30.

The Pay Commission suggested Page 12 Col 3

PM sanctions Tk 35 lakh for celebrating Durga Puja

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has sanctioned Tk 35 lakh from her special fund for Hindu Community of the country for celebrating Durga Puja, reports UNB.

The fund will be distributed among puja committees throughout the country with the advice of Hindu Religious Welfare Trust and in accordance with the number of Hindu population in each district under the supervision of respective DCs.

In the past, this amount did not exceed Tk 25 lakh from the See Page 12 Col 6

MOU with India on cultural exchange programme signed

NEW DELHI, Oct 1: Bangladesh and India signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on the cultural and academic exchange programme between the two countries here last night, reports BSS.

The secretary-in-charge of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs of Bangladesh, Syed Yusuf Hossain, and his Indian counterpart, BP Singh signed the MOU for the period 1997-99 on behalf of their respective governments.

See Page 12 Col 6

Barisal Kotwali thana OC suspended

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 1: Sheikh Abdul Mannan, OC of Barisal Kotwali thana was put under suspension last night following an alleged violation of a teenage girl by an ASI of the same thana on September 15 while escorting her, to Daudkandi of Comilla district. He was replaced by senior SI Mainuddin.

Departmental actions were also taken against 9 other police personnel of Kotwali thana in connection with the same incident. They are ASI Abdus Satter, SI Abdus Samad, ASI Mainuddin, SI Yunus, SI Khamlet, SI Alamgir, SI Kalam, SI Ramzan, SI Ayub and SI Barak.

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PSCs for 12 exploration blocks by Dec likely

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

The authorities are hoping to hand international oil companies seeking exploration rights in Bangladesh contracts by December after negotiations with technically-responsive bidders. The talks are expected to begin in less than two weeks.

Energy Minister M Noor Uddin Khan said his ministry was looking into reports from the Petrobangla evaluation committee and would form another committee with a representative from the ministry by the middle of this month to conduct negotiations towards signing production sharing contracts (PSCs).

A total of 21 IOCs (International Oil Companies), including several top companies which are known as Oil Majors, are seeking to undertake exploration activities on 12 blocks out of 15 on offer in this

second round of bidding. This is the first time Bangladesh invited multiple offers for a block.

Bangladesh is divided into 23 blocks, out of which eight have gone to different explorers who signed PSCs during the first round of bidding, which considered one single offer at a time.

As the current round of bidding significantly differs from the first, problems and issues are also different and, in some cases, difficult for officials involved in making decisions.

Multiple offers which came under four major criteria — work programme, bank guarantee, experience, financial capability — for one block are being classified in three categories.

The officials, who are giving maximum weightage to work programme, plan to call com-

panies one by one according to the classification to discuss profit-sharing formula, which is "negotiable" according to bid documents.

But worries centre around work programme as some of the companies have offered drilling programmes, which are "too ambitious" and "cannot be implemented", a ministry source said.

For instance, one company, small and without proven track record, has offered to drill 10 wells in three years, something that even world's top companies have not matched.

"Merely stating that a company will drill a huge number of wells is not enough. This statement has to be backed up by bank guarantee, technical expertise, track record and the profit-split," a ministry official See Page 12 Col 4

Azad holds talks with Inderfurth, Richardson US considering writing off debt under PL-480

Bangladesh has requested the US government to take steps for the cancellation of debts under PL-480, reports UNB.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad made the request when US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Karl S Inderfurth called on him at his hotel suite in New York on Tuesday morning.

Inderfurth said Bangladesh's request in this regard is under active consideration of the US government, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

Azad is in New York to attend the UN General Assembly session.

During the meeting, Azad and Inderfurth discussed a wide variety of issues, including US investment opportunities in Bangladesh.

The US Assistant Secretary of State emphasised further improving the bilateral ties and said they want closer political and economic relation with Bangladesh.

He also stressed the need for See Page 12 Col 1

Probe into alleged rape in DC's room starts today

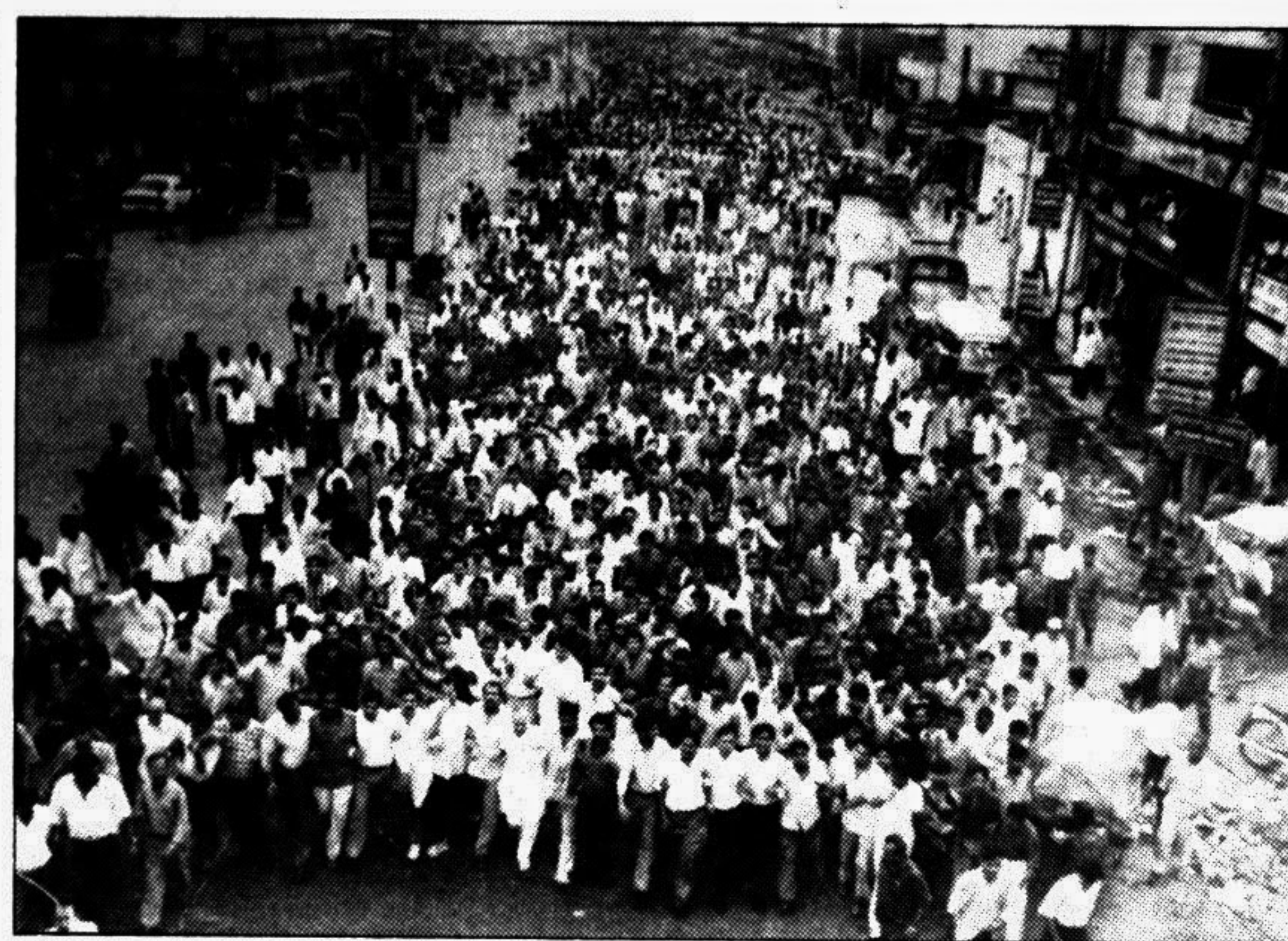
From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Oct 1: The Additional Deputy Commissioner, Pabna, who heads the enquiry committee investigating the September 13 incident of alleged rape of a girl in the DC's chamber, has directed five local journalists including The Daily Star correspondent to appear before the enquiry committee tomorrow at 10 am.

The enquiry committee was formed by the DC earlier. The notice served on the Pabna Correspondent of The Daily Star (bearing Memo No Establishment/532) on September 30 stated that investigation would start on October 2 at 10 am in the office of the Collector on the basis of the news item published in the newspaper on September 29 under the heading "Rape in the DC's office room."

"You are requested to appear before the enquiry committee along with proofs for the news item," says the notice.

The notice was signed by Mohammad Masud Elahi additional deputy commissioner See Page 12 Col 2



BNP staged a protest march in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Khaleda asks partymen Make Oct 5 programme a success

By Staff Correspondent

BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia plans to go for a 'visit-district' programme with the objective of taking up 'all local issues, be it against the administration or relating to party affairs.'

The programme is expected to begin with the end of the rainy season.

Begum Zia disclosed her plan during a close-door meeting with party MPs from Chittagong division today at her Minto Road official residence in the city. The meeting lasted for about one and a half hours. Her programme will begin with visits to districts in Chittagong division, meeting sources said.

Mobilising public opinion against government's "tyranny", highlighting specific 'acts of repression' on party members, sinking intra-party conflicts and revamping the party units are the main objectives of her planned trips, sources close to her said.

See Page 12 Col 3

BNP stages protest march in city

By Staff Correspondent

Several thousand workers of the major opposition BNP yesterday marched through city streets for nearly three km, under strict vigilance by riot police.

The procession started from the Naya Paltan party central office and terminated at Bangla Motor crossing. No untoward incident took place during the march.

BNP organised the demonstration to protest the ban on street rallies in the city, government "repression" on the opposition, enhanced prices of petroleum products, removal of the floating bridge leading to late president Ziaur Rahman's mazar, "conspiracy" on GHT, "deterioration" of law and order and "destruction" of the national economy.

The demonstration was held peacefully yesterday, following a series of police-BNP clashes over holding of meetings and rallies on the city streets since Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) banned street meetings early last month.

BNP complained to the President against 'police action' See Page 12 Col 7

against its programmes on streets and the President had a meeting with the home minister and the city mayor on the issue.

Since 4 pm yesterday, BNP leaders and workers started assembling on the Inner Circular Road in front of the party central office by sneaking through police barricades at both ends of the road.

Amid police restriction on processions towards the BNP office, several thousand workers managed to gather at the spot through different ways. At about 5 pm, the gathering turned into a procession and started its march towards Kakrail.

Riot police allowed the processionists to come across the barricade at Bijoy Nagar point but followed it up to Bangla Motor crossing. Police barricade was also put up on the other end of Inner Circular Road, Fakir Pool point. Besides, police were also deployed on all lanes leading to BNP office.

The procession was led by BNP Secretary General Abdul See Page 12 Col 7

\$80m ADB loan for capital market development

Bangladesh will receive 80 million US dollars as loan from the Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the Capital Market Development Programme undertaken to revitalise the country's stock market, reports UNB.

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) to this effect was signed yesterday between Bangladesh and the ADB in Manila, according to a message received in the city.

Banking Division Secretary Syed Amir-ul Mulk initiated the MOU on behalf of Bangladesh government, finalising the draft loan agreement.

The aim of the Capital Market Development Programme is to strengthen market regulation and supervision, develop the capital market infrastructure and modernise capital market support facilities.

It also aimed at increasing the limited supply of securities to the market, developing institutional sources of capital to raise demand for securities, and strengthening policy coordination over matters likely to affect or affecting the capital market.

DSE members likely to amend Articles of Assoc at EGM today

By M Shamsur Rahman

Aiming to bring transparency and boost investors' confidence, the Dhaka Stock Exchange is expected to amend its Articles of Association at an extra-ordinary general meeting today in order to restructure the management of the bourse, DSE sources said.

The amendments are designed to create provisions for separating the DSE management from the policy-making 12-member DSE Council and appointing a Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the sources added. The planned changes would also increase the number of Council members to 16.

The proposed amendments would need support from two-thirds of the general members. An SEC source said that the DSE will appoint or remove the CEO with the consent of the regulatory agency.

According to the planned changes, the Council will give policy guidelines, and the CEO See Page 12 Col 4

BATEXPO '97 begins in city today

Star Business Report

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) hopes that a lot of foreign buyers would participate in the Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposition, BATEXPO '97, beginning here today.

BATEXPO, the biggest garments exhibition in the country, will be inaugurated by prime minister Sheikh Hasina at hotel Sonargaon in the morning.

The closing ceremony of the three-day exhibition will be addressed by Leader of the Opposition.

See Page 12 Col 5

10 more bodies of fishermen recovered

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 1: Ten more bodies of missing fishermen were recovered from the Bay of Bengal near Kuakata and Sonarchar area today and the day before.

They had been missing since Friday midnight.



FOR A CHANGE: A beaming Muktiyoddha captain Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib (R) shares the glory along with his team-mates after receiving the Mahanagari Cup from Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday. — Star photo

Muktiyoddha lift Mahanagari Cup

Sports Report

Muktiyoddha Sangsad Krira Chakra gave a desired twist in the tradition of local football when they lifted the Shamsuddin Spinning Mahanagari Cup title with a lone goal win over aspirants Mohammedan Sporting Club in the final at the Mirpur Stadium yesterday.

With only a few thousand spectators around, the triumph of the all-red team over country's one of the two most crowd-pulling outfit was a compliment from their workmanlike winger Rakib Hasan, who headed home a 75th minute flag-kick off media Masud Rana. The win put an end to a quite monotonous battle for glory between the two local giants — Mohammedan and Abhan.

It was Muktiyoddha's second title triumph in the domestic football since their elevation to the top flight way back in 1994 when they won the Federation Cup. But since then the emerging third force remained in the wilderness despite enjoying the services of a host of national players.

Ignoring the boisterous presence of the boisterous presence See Page 12 Col 1

PW-18 tells court We were ordered to resist Rakkhi Bahini

By Staff Correspondent

The eighteenth prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case said yesterday that he was among the Second Field Artillery troops deployed at the Mirpur Road to resist the Rakkhi Bahini on August 15, 1975 when Bangabandhu and his family members were killed.

Havildar Gunner (retd) Mohammad Abu Taher, who belonged to the Papa Battery of the Regiment, during his deposition in the court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka also said he had also participated in the night training on August 14, 1975 at Balurghat in the then New Airport area.

Before being posted with Artillery guns along the Mirpur Road near Dhanmandhi in the night of August 14, 1975, the troops were addressed by Capt Jahangir. "We will have to carry out a special assignment. We will have to check the Rakkhi Bahini," Capt Jahangir told the See Page 12 Col 6

troops, the PW-18 said. Maj Muhiuddin was also present on the occasion, he added.

"On arrival at the barrack on August 15, 1975, I came to know from discussions with soldiers that Bangabandhu, Abdur Rab Serniabat and Sheikh Moni were killed along with their family members."

"Maj Dalim, Maj Farook, Maj Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Maj Shahriar and other officers were involved in the killing."

"The night training" which were conducted prior to August 14, 1975 were held in the ground of the Second Field Artillery," the PW-18 said during his cross-examination adding that he did not remember whether such trainings were earlier conducted outside the ground.

"We were given training on operation of Artillery gun during that time," he said replying to a question from a defence See Page 12 Col 6

Focus on Biman's CBA Union leaders control duty roster, oppose fresh recruitment

By Masud Arif

Shortage of efficient professionals might create a 'big vacuum' at the higher and mid-level management of Bangladesh Biman, the airline's officials concerned feared. Besides, the service of the airline was often questioned as the CBA leaders 'control the roster duties' of the employees, undermining the officers' decisions, they said.

"For more than 12 years, we could not directly recruit bright people as officers due to opposition from the CBA," said a senior Biman official.

Biman is now facing a shortage of efficient officers needed by it to survive in the competitive international aviation market. It is alleged that leaders of the CBA and other unions are taking advantage of the situation.

More than 85 per cent posts of officers had been filled up by junior employees through departmental promotion although rules permit Biman to recruit 30 per cent officers directly through competitive ex-

aminations. Talking to The Daily Star, leaders of the present and former CBAs, however, denied the allegations.

"Biman management is mainly responsible for the problems faced by the airline as it could not take decision independently due to interference from the higher authorities over the years," alleged M A Kashem, president of Bangladesh Biman Employees Union (BBEU), the present CBA.

Former CBA leader and president of Bangladesh Biman Sramik Union (BBSU) Motahar Hossain, protesting direct recruitment of officers claimed that there was a pool of skilled and experienced people at junior level to run the airlines efficiently. BBSU led the CBA for about 12 years till 1996.

Termining the management's 'fear of vacuum' a propaganda, the BBSU leader alleged that the move for direct recruitment was aimed at depriving Biman's employees.

Biman sources said the sufferings of customers in getting tickets were often caused by CBA's influence over the reservation control desks of different international routes. The union leaders want to See Page 12 Col 4

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JP no more with AL govt: Ershad

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Oct 1: Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad has said his party is 'no more with Awami League government.'

"We extended support to Awami League to honour people's verdict. We hoped that it would work for the welfare of the people. But we are seeing that it is not sincere to fulfil its commitments," Ershad said while addressing a big public meeting at Shaheb Bazar in the city today.

He advised Awami League to "proceed in its own way." "We shall go in our own way."

He, however, said Jatiya Party will support good activities of Awami League. "At the same time, we shall obviously protest the misdeeds of the government," he said.

Organised by the local unit of Jatiya Party, the meeting was presided over by Nurunnabi Chand. Among others, Nazim Rahman Manzur, Sardar Amjad Hossain, Fazle Rabbi, Dr M A Matin and Monirul Islam Chowdhury addressed the meeting.

H M Ershad addressed a divisional conference of party representatives this morning, held at a local community centre. Sardar Amjad Hossain presided over the conference.

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- ২। সুতরাং, আগামী ১৫/১০/৯৭ইং তারিখের মধ্যে বকেয়াসহ সমুদয় কর এককালীন পরিশোধ করিয়া হাল (১৯৯৭-৯৮ সনের) ৪ (চার) কিস্তির করের উপর শতকরা ১০/- (দশ) টাকা হারে রিবেটের সুযোগ গ্রহণ করিয়া মহানগরীর উন্নয়নমূলক কাজে সহায়তাদান করার জন্য সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।
- ৩। রিবেটের এই সুযোগ সকল সরকারী, আধা সরকারী, স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান, ব্যক্তিমালিকানাধীনসহ সকল হোল্ডিং এর ক্ষেত্রে প্রযোজ্য।
- ৪। ১৫/১০/৯৭ইং তারিখের পর খেলাপী করদাতাদের বিরুদ্ধে আদালতে মামলা দায়ের করা হইবে।

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