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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a reception accorded to her by Scotland Awami League at the Meadow Bank Stadium in Edinburgh on Monday. —PID photo

Bangabandhu murder

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on security duty of President Sheikh Mujib, named Major Dalim, Major Rashid, Major Farooq, Major Huda and Major Noor as killers of the father of the nation.

The PW-33 was introduced before the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court by Chief Special PP advocate Serajul Haq and Special PP advocate Ramjan Ali Khan.

President among other prosecution lawyers were Mosharaf Hossain Kajal, Sahara Khatun, Nurul Islam Sujan, Kamru Islam and M. Towhidul Islam Bahar.

Earlier, cross-examination of PW-32 Sajedul Haq was completed after the court of Judge Kazi Golam Rasul resumed at its special ejash at Nazimuddin Road in the morning.

He was examined by TM Ak-

Khaleda

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sign policies are kept in others' hands, Begum Zia said, the independence and sovereignty of the country will be meaningless.

"At this moment, no freedom fighter should sit idle. They must come forward to save the people and independence and sovereignty of the country."

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said the country had been flooded with all types of Indian goods. There is no market or shop in the country where there is no Indian goods.

She said Indian goods had also come in the past, but under some rules. Now the government has opened all the borders and Indian commodities are coming without any hindrance.

"Today, they (government) are jeopardising our language, culture, nationalism and the spirit of liberation war in a planned way to please India and to leave our country," Begum Zia told the FFs.

Expressing her full confidence, the former Prime Minister said no freedom fighter who directly fought in the war would allow anyone to give an inch of land of the country to others.

"If anyone wants to get the country enmeshed to India, one will be identified as neo-rak-jakar. No true freedom fighter will allow it," she said.

UP polls

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no alternative to launching a mass movement against the 'fascist and stooge' government that has proved a failure in all spheres of national life. Otherwise, he said the country would be destroyed. He urged all patriotic, nationalist and democratic-loving people to unite under the leadership of BNP chief Khaleda Zia.

The BNP secretary general also blamed the government for what he said, making the Jatiya Sangsad inoperative through denial of the Opposition members' right to speak for the people. But the ruling party members were dishing out untrue statements against the Opposition leader and others for hours together, he alleged.

Criticising the failure in forming parliamentary standing committees even in 17 months after the elections, he pointed out that there was no transparency in the government due to absence of the parliamentary bodies.

Mannan Bhuiyan was also critical of the government for 'police attacks' on BNP's street processions and rallies, proposed treaty on the CHT, staggered implementation of the new pay scale, sufferings of the farmers due to low price of agricultural products and high price of agri inputs and price hike of essentials.

Earlier, a group of leaders and workers of Awami League and Jatiya Party from Banorpara in Pirojpur district joined the BNP. The function was addressed by, among others, BNP leaders Shahidul Haq Jamil, Moazzem Hossain Alal, Emranul Haq Prince, Abul Hasan Bani, Md Aftab Hossain and Mannan Haq Nannu.

Times-Bangla Trust

Process of privatisation finalised

The government has finalised the process to privatise four newspapers and magazines run by the Times-Bangla Trust, reports UNB.

The newspapers and magazines — Dainik Bangla, Bangladesh Times, weekly Bichitra and fortnightly Ananda Bichitra — would soon be handed over to private ownership through the Privatisation Board after paying the dues of journalists, officials, press workers and employees.

Arrangements have been made for paying all dues of newsmen and other employees of the trust at a time within a week under the Fifth Wage Board Award along with an opportunity to go on voluntary retirement by October 30, said an official handout yesterday.

It said on the one hand government's continued patronisation and poor management, irregularities and corruption on the other hand pushed the trust-run organisations into severe mismanagement, making them losing enterprises.

According to an estimate, government ads worth Tk 19 crore were given to the Dainik Bangla and the Bangladesh Times during 1988-89 to 1996-97.

Despite the government support, the newspapers bankrupted instead of standing on their own feet. The loan of Times-Bangla presently stood at Tk 14 crore.

UK investors

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vestors we have offered a package of incentives which include foreign ownership, protection against expropriation, tax-holidays, repatriation of capital and profits, and others," she told the meeting.

Bangladesh abounds with natural resources like oil, gas and coal, said the prime minister, adding that her government has been adopting pragmatic policies for exploration and utilisation of these resources.

A British Company, Cairn Energy, discovered large gas reserves — offshore and onshore in Bangladesh. This has generated a lot of interest in oil and gas exploration in the country, she said.

She said investment, particularly in energy sector, was on the rise. "We need investment in various sectors like port development, export-processing zones, textiles, food processing and leather goods."

Hasina said the government had set up a Private Sector Infrastructure Development Company, with assistance from donors, to accelerate the development of physical and economic infrastructures on which growth is to be based.

When contacted Sultan later told The Daily Star that while on way to the airport, he had requested the Biman officials twice by telephone so that he could avail the flight. He was assured by the Biman officials that he would be accommodated at Chittagong was over by that time.

He said his check-in was completed and he was ready for boarding by 11:52 am. But he was not taken in despite their assurances. He later lodged a written complaint to the Biman management urging for investigation into the departure of the flight without him. He strongly refuted any wrongdoing by his companions.

When contacted Biman officials told The Daily Star that while on way to the airport, he had requested the Biman officials twice by telephone so that he could avail the flight. He was assured by the Biman officials that he would be accommodated at Chittagong was over by that time.

Secretariat

From Page 1
Alam group was held near the Finance Ministry.

Meanwhile, president and general secretary respectively of Bangladesh Jatiya Biddyo Sramik Karmachari Union Kazi Habibur Rahman and Mohammad Zafir Hasan condemned the 'police action' and 'attacks' by a section of employees on the Secretariat employees waging a movement for revision of the pay scale.

In a joint statement, they demanded a pay scale compatible with the consumer price index.

He said that Biman officials also informed him about yesterday's accident at the airport over some passengers' making delay in reaching the airport thereby missing a Chittagong-bound flight. "The Biman flight left Dhaka as per schedule and those who reached late failed to avail the flight," he added.

Bangabandhu murder

Farooq's appeal for staying proceedings rejected

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday refused Syed Farooq Rahman's application for staying further proceedings of Bangabandhu Murder Case till disposal of the appeals against the judgement of the writ petition regarding Indemnity Repeal Act, 1996, reported BSS.

One of the accused in Bangabandhu Murder Case Syed Farooq Rahman filed an application for staying all further proceedings of the trial of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family murder case until the hearing of his appeal, now pending in the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court after hearing both the sides rejected Farooq's application.

The trial of Bangabandhu Murder Case is in progress before the Sessions Judge Court, Dhaka.

Barrister Korban Ali and Mrs Azra Ali advocate-on-record appeared for the petitioners.

Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan and Sharifuddin Chakladar advocate-on-record opposed the prayer of stay for the state.

Malaysian DPM postpones visit

By Staff Correspondent

Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim who was scheduled to pay an official visit to Bangladesh from November 9 to 11, has postponed the visit, according to diplomatic sources.

In a communication to the government, he regretted that his visit would have to be rescheduled "due to unforeseen developments."

Anwar Ibrahim is now on a visit to Indonesia.

BM College students union polls postponed

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Oct 28: The students union election of Government BM University College has been postponed today due to unavoidable circumstance, according to a notice issued by the principal of the college, classes will remain suspended till December 4.

Resident students of the college were asked to leave their respective dormitories by 5 pm today.

The notice came just four days ahead of the election of BM University College Students' Union (BUCSU). The election was scheduled for November 2.

Despite the government support, the newspapers bankrupted instead of standing on their own feet. The loan of Times-Bangla presently stood at Tk 14 crore.

UK investors

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Strike at Mongla port continues

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Oct 28: Stevedores refrained from gang-booking for the third consecutive day today although the dock workers agreed to resume work unconditionally.

The dock workers agreed to resume work after a meeting at the DC's office called by the Acting Chairman of the Mongla Port Authority on Monday.

sources said.

3 extortionists held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Detective Branch (DB) of police arrested a fugitive wanted in 25 cases and two of his accomplices from the city's Mirpur area yesterday.

The DB team arrested Gazi Liakat, 35, from Mirpur Section 2 during a raid. Later, acting on Liakat's confession, police arrested Iqbal, 25, and Mohammad Ali, 28.

Police said Liakat and his accomplices were involved in extorting money from transport owners and rich people of the city and Keraniganj area.

3 brothers to die for killing sister in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Oct 28: The Additional District and Sessions Judge Kushtia, today sentenced three brothers to death for killing their sister.

The judge, Alhaj Md Ainal Huq, after examining witnesses, found Sarwaruddin, Sharabuddin and Samruddin guilty of murdering their sister Sabera Khatun on February 9, 1994 for personal interest.

The accused hails from village Kakiladaha of Mirpur thana.

After the incident, the victim's husband, Shariful Islam, filed a case with Mirpur thana.

The case was conducted by APP on behalf of the state while advocate Anwar Hossain appeared for the accused.

Dacoity in a city house

By Staff Correspondent

Dacoits robbed gold ornaments worth Tk 68,000 and a licensed gun from the Dhanmondi residence of a legal adviser and an engineer of PWD in the city in the early hours of yesterday.

The case was filed with the fourth Assistant Judge's Court.

The former prime minister was represented by about 100 lawyers led by Advocate Sanaullah Mia, who sought further time. The District Judge said he would give order on their prayer later. There was a noisy scene as almost all the defence lawyers prayed for time together.

The next hearing was earlier scheduled for November 11 in the Court of the Fourth Assistant Judge.

The case was filed by a group of lawyers led by Advocate S M Nazrul Islam and Advocate Abu Bakar Farhad.

CHT council

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four writ petitions.

If there is any natural calamity, the elections should be deferred and held within the next 60 days, the court said.

There had been flash floods and storms in the hill districts that delayed the elections.

But the Parbatty Chittagong Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), during peace talks with the National Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT), opposed election of the councils.

They want a Regional Council, replacing the district councils.

Meanwhile, the NCCHT has finalised the draft for an accord to end the decades-old insurgency in the CHT by the military wing of PCJSS at the next meeting with PCJSS on November 16 in Dhaka.

The draft is likely to be sent to the PCJSS soon with amendments they have sought to the draft agreed upon by both sides at their last meeting on September 14-17 in Dhaka.

It is awaiting approval by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when she returns from Britain on October 31, the sources said.

US envoy: Gas reserves

From Page 1

day," mentioning that "the political conflicts during 1994-96 did affect the economy."

He observed, "A potential for vast investments in the energy and power sectors, a prospect of more rapid economic growth and, most importantly, job creation — is a far cry from the situation my predecessor, David Merrill, faced during his tenure here."

Holzman said, "I understand that most Bangladeshi political parties at one time or another — and sometimes together in a united front — have invoked hartals. I am told that in the colonial era, hartals were a consensus measure reserved for those occasions when no other method of seeking redress appeared to offer hope. They were a