Bidding for gas, oil blocks

round of negotiations

The negotiation committee

on the second round block bidding for oil and gas exploration

yesterday concluded its first

round of discussions with dif-

ferent foreign companies, mak-

the high-powered investment

committee of the government

comprising four secretaries.

The investment committee

would give the next directives to

begin the second round of nego-

tions would not allow the gov-

ernment to complete the bid-

ding process within the pre-set

deadline of December 15, nego-

ing of a single production

sharing contract (PSC) with any

foreign oil and gas company within December 15," said a

government expert. "The nego-

tiation committee has hardly

made any progress in the nego-

ding for exploration in 12

blocks of the country started in

June 15 amid much enthusi-

asm. But it has slowed down due

to lack of transparency in the

negotiation process. Twenty

foreign companies and BAPEX

— the exploration unit of the

Petrobangla — are participating

most died down as the big com-

panies like Mobil. Chevron.

totally left out of the negotia-

tion process. Even BAPEX was

ner Cairn were called three

times for negotiations but the

talks ended without any out-

come. Shell-Cairn joint venture

was offered blocks 5 and 10 as

against their proposal for six

blocks. Shell has not so far ac-

cepted the offer saying that it

did not come to Bangladesh to

negotiate blocks but proposals.

The negotiation committee

has so far offered Block-9 to an

Irish company, Tullow, on the

Muggers

From Page 1

The attackers stabbed Rah-

near the BDR Gate at about

man and took away a gold

chain worth about Tk 9,000.

share certificates worth about

Tk 2.5 lakh and Tk 30,000 in

help, petrol police rushed to the

seene and arrested one of the al-

leged muggers, identified as

Anwar Hossain, with the help

managed to flee on the auto-

rickshaw. Rahman sustained

minor injury in his leg. He took

Dhanmondi thana in connec-

Monument

From Page 1

Kibria, State Minister for

Planning Mohiuddin Khan

Alamgir and Principal Secre-

tary to the PM Dr. Abdus Samad

board are Dr Jamilur Reza

Chowdhury, Begum Zakir

Akhtar Chowdhury, architects

Rabiul Hussain, Shamsul

Wares, Khaleda Rashid, and S A

K Masud Ahmad, Eng. Mo-

hammad Siddiq Ullah, artist

Hashem Khan and Dr Muntasir

Other members of the jury

A case was lodged with

first aid from a local clinic.

tion with the incident.

Other members of the gang

After the victim shouted for

10:30 am.

cash from him.

of local people.

were present.

Mamun.

Oil giant Shell and its part-

not called at the negotiations.

Texaco and Petronas have been

Now the enthusiasm has al-

The second round block bid-

"There is no chance of sign-

tiation experts said.

tiations yet.

in the bidding.

The present pace of negotia-

tiations.

It will now place a report to

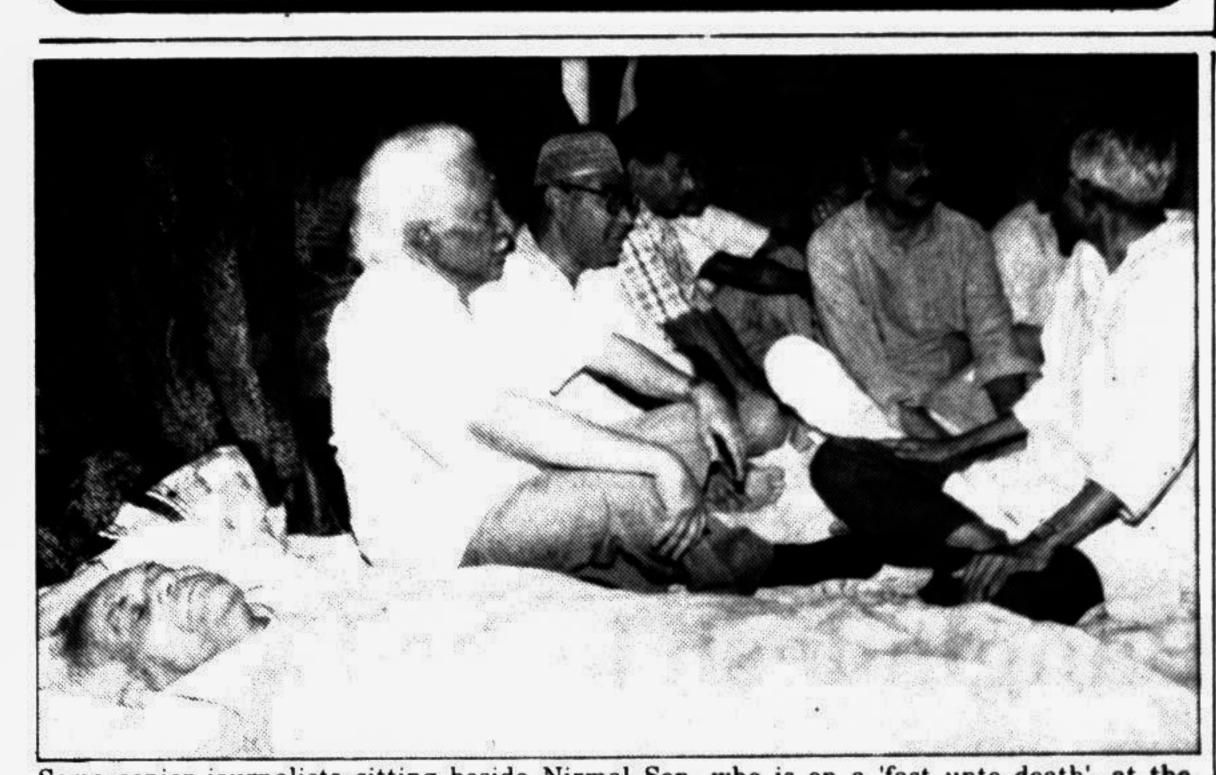
ing little progress, sources said.

Star Report

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Some senior journalists sitting beside Nirmal Sen, who is on a 'fast unto death', at the — Star photo Jatiya Press Club yesterday.

TB patients to receive medicines free of cost

By Staff Correspondent

The government is committed to combat tuberculosis on a priority basis and give medicines free of cost as it kills more people than other diseases in Bangladesh, Health and Family Welfare Minister Salauddin Yusuf said here yesterday.

He made the statement at a press conference marking the release of an evaluation report on the success of the Direct Observed Treatment, Short-course (DOTS) method of treating tuberculosis.

The report was prepared by a team comprising WHO representatives and national and international TB experts. The team visited nearly 100 TB control centres spread over six administrative divisions.

According to the report Bangladesh is achieving the "highest documented cure rates", compared to any other country in the world. "By using DOTS strategy. Bangladesh has been achieving a cure rate which is twice as high as those reported in many countries with far greater resources," it

Unesco DG

From Page 1

lence into a culture of reason peace and tolerance. Describing universities as "watch towers he said, higher education must be based on merit and free from political influence." Putting emphasis on "global-

ity rather than globalisation. the Unesco DG said, what is important today is to try to know others, their beliefs and their identity. "We have to make it visible

to the people that 18 per cent of the people are enjoying 80 per cent of the resources of the world, he said.

"Only if we can make it visible, war imposition and violence will disappear".

Earlier, Vice Chancellor of the University Prof A K Azad Chowdhury conferred the degree on Federico Mayor on behalf of the Chancellor of the

University at a function at the TSC auditorium. Prof Mayor entered the TSC auditorium in a convocation procession led by the Vice

Chancellor. Prof Azad Chowdhury in his

address said that only material progress would not be sufficient to bring peace, prosperity and happiness. Human values must prevail and there should be intellectual development alongside technological innovations, he said.

याटकः।

saline

"The review team gives high marks to Bangladesh for implementing the five main elements of the DOTS strategy." said Dr W Hardjotanojo, WHO representative in Bangladesh.

"Political commitment, drug supplies, microscopy services, monitoring system, and the direct observation treatment were found to be functioning effectively, with a few exceptions."

He called Bangladesh "a model for the entire world" in combating tuberculosis using the DOTS device.

"Recent estimate suggests that 2.3 per cent of the population of Bangladesh becomes infected with tuberculosis every year, and about 3,00,000 people progress to develop the disease annually," the review report says adding: "Fifty per cent of these have infectious pulmonary tuberculosis, and continue to spread the disease."

Nearly 80 per cent of patients are cured in areas where DOTS is used, the report said. The DOTS method of treat-

ment was introduced in four thanas of the country four years ago. Presently, 363 thanas are covered by the method. Of the 363 thanas, 131 are covered by the BRAC, an NGO based in

When his attention was drawn to a report that half of the country's population might have been infected with the tuberculosis bacteria. Dr Ahsan Ali, Director of Micro-Bacterial Disease Control (MBDC) project said infection and the disease are not the same. "A person is not necessarily destined to develop the disease if he is infected. Human bodies have internal resistance to many bacteria. Treatment is available for both the infection and the disease.'

CHT talks

From Page 1 Minar in the city.

The Mayor of Chittagong and a member of the NCCHT ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury will lead a rally at Chittagong city today in support of the peace effort. Similar rallies will also be

organised at Rangamati, Bandarban and Khagrachhari by different organisations today.

Talking to UNB at his Khagrachhari residence Liaison Committee convenor Hangsadhaja Chakma said if a consensus on all the points could be reached, an agreement might be signed.

আর্থিক ও ব্যাংকিং সমস্যাবলী আলোচনা ও

সমাধানের পত্না নিধারণের জন্য সাধারণ সভা

১৯৯৫ সালে ৩৫ দিন বন্দর বন্ধ ও অবরোধ, অসহযোগ আন্দোলনসহ ১৭০ দিন হরতাল,

১৯৯৭ সালে ২৫ দিন বন্দর বন্ধ থাকা এবং ৮ দিন হরতালের কারণে সৃষ্ট ষ্টকলটসহ, জাতীয় ও

আন্তর্জাতিক ষড়যন্ত্রের শিকার অর্থনীতির চালিকাশক্তি রপ্তানিমূখী পোশাক শিল্পকে নিশ্চিত

ধ্বংসের হাত থেকে রক্ষাকল্পে বিরাজমান আর্থিক ও ব্যাংকিং সমস্যাবলী আলোচনা ও

সমাধানের পন্থা নির্ধারণের জন্য সমিতির সম্মানিত সদস্যদের এক সাধারণ সভা আগামী

বিজ্ঞিএমইএ'র সকল সম্মানিত সদস্যদের উক্ত সভায় উপস্থিত থেকে ধ্বংসোনাুখ পোশাক

২৯শে নভেম্বর, ১৯৯৭ সকাল ৯ ঘটিকায় সোনারগাঁও হোটেল, বলরুম-এ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

বাংলাদেশ পোশাক প্রস্তুতকারক ও রপ্তানীকারক সমিতি

৭-৯ কাওরান বাজার, বিটিএমসি ভবন, ঢাকা

Nirmal Sen given IV

By Staff Correspondent Nirmal Sen, a senior columnist of the country, was given intravenous saline dips by doctors yesterday afternoon as his condition deteriorated on the third day of his 'fast unto death.

An ambulance was kept ready since Monday. Oxygen cylinders were brought in yesterday. The civil surgeon of Dhaka along with some other doctors are monitoring his health constantly. His personal physician was also attending.

Nirmal Sen declined the civil surgeon's request to be shifted to hospital when his pulses started fluctuating. Doctors began administering him intravenous saline dips at 3 pm when his condition deteriorated.

Meanwhile, in the early hours of yesterday, a number of plainclothes persons, carrying walkie-talkies, came to "investigate" his condition. They said they were doctors but retreated when their identity was chal-

He was joined by former presidents of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists Kamal Lohani, Gias Kamal Choudhury, Syed Zafar, Syed Abdul Kahhar and Reazuddin Ahmed, who observed a token fast on the day at his bedside.

A stream of visitors, friends and wellwishers, political leaders and activist yesterday visited the veteran journalist, now in his sixties.

Among others who visited him included Nirmul committee leaders Hasan Imam and Shahriar Kabir, K G Mustafa Editor of Mukta Kantha, Mahfuz Anam Editor of The Daily Star, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury, Prof Alauddin Al-Azad, Dr Ahmed Kamal, Murshed Ali, Coordinator, Left Front, Shamsul Islam, MP and former Information Minister. Kazi Zafar Ahmed, a former prime minister, Prasit B Khisa, President. Pahari Gano Parishad, Ms Shamoli Nasrin Chowdhury, Principal, Udayan School, Kazi Aref Ahmed and Mainuddin Khan Badal of JSD. Major General (rtd) Majidul Huq, a former minister, and Chashi Nazrul Islam, a film maker.

City Mayor Mohammad Hanif also visited him at about

Stabbed to death From Page 1

Paikpara-Namapara area of the town. The other arrested accused are: Arab Ali, Abul Kashem. Noor Hossain, Arif Hossain Baaki, Awlad Hossain and Baset, all aged between 25 and 30 years.

From Page 1 'nominees'

parties think.

Accordingly, the MPs, along

'nominees' The contending parties are also "preparing to face each other" on the election days, fearing outbreak of violence during balloting. Meanwhile, pre-election violence has also been reported som different parts of the country.

A meeting of the BNP Standing Committee last night discussed various aspects of the forthcoming polls and stressed the need for giving all back-up

Thakur and Shah Moazzem

criticised many policies of

Bangabandhu at a tea-party at

enthusiastic and vocal in the

criticism episode and Mush-

taque criticised different poli-

cies of Bangabandhu mali-

was also attended by Mush-

taque, Thakur, Ali Ashraf MP

and Chashi. He himself at-

tended it as the president of

Comilla district unit of Awami

said, Major Rashid, Major Fa-

rook, Major Shahrier and few

other army officers came there

During the conference, he

Shah Moazzem was very

Mushtaque's village home.

support to "preferred" candidates. Chaired by party chief Begum Zia, the meeting also decided to give instruction to local leaders and workers to resist any move by the ruling party to rig the polls.

Top AL leaders in the cabinet process.

But BNP leaders including party MPs have been engaged in the UP election, Begum Zia, now visiting districts is discussing the UP polls with local leaders while also making public statement warning the government against any kind of mal-

BNP meets again today to decide

Little progress in first first day of negotiations. It was

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PHILIPS

UP election

CEC exchanges views with AL, BNP leaders

Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena yesterday stressed the neutrality of the election officers and total support of the political parties for holding the coming Union Parishad elections in free and fair manner, reports

Hena was exchanging views with the leaders of Bangladesh Awami League when they called on him in the morning and later with the leaders of BNP in the afternoon.

Election Commissioners Abidur Rahman and Mushtaq Ahmed Chowdhury were present at the meetings.

The BNP leaders who met the chief election commissioner included M K Anwar, MP, Barrister Aminul Huq. MP. MA Mannan, MP, Hafizuddin Ahmed, Bir Bikram, MP, while the Awami League leaders were Joint Secretary Mozaffar Hossain Paltu and office secretary Advocate Abdul Mannan Khan

Indian team of JRC due in Rangpur today RANGPUR, Nov 25: A four-

member Indian team of Joint River Commission (JRC) headed by R N Mondal, chairman, North Bengal Flood Control Commission, Jalpaiguri arrives here tomorrow, reports

The team will enter the Bangladesh territory by road through Burimari border and will go straight to Dahagram and Angorpota enclaves to see for themselves the Teesta River flood protection work by Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB). The team will conduct a sur-

vey across two-kilometre portion of the river Teesta at Kaliganj point under Dimla thana. A four-member Bangladesh

team headed by Aftab Alam Ansary. Chief Engineer of Teesta Barrage Project, wil hold talks with the Indian delegation..

PM: Sadia

From Page 1

gence to her treatment. Minutes before the Prime Minister straight drove to Hamzarbagh, army and fire brigade men recovered a body of a woman from under the debris of the house, raising the death toll to 18. More bodies might have been there, officials and rescuers apprehended. Sheikh Hasina also visited

Chittagong Medical College Hospital to see those injured in the tremor and a colony of Amin Jute Mills where a fire broke out Sunday night affecting some 1,100 families. Later, talking to newsmen at

Chittagong Airport, the Prime Minister called upon all to take precautionary measures while building houses to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

"Please never build a threestorey building after getting the approval of a two-storey building so that we do not have to lose an innocent girl like Sadia," she said.

Sheikh Hasina also laid emphasis on mass awareness in this regard, mentioning that many people from kutcha houses had taken shelter at that building during Friday's tre-

The Prime Minister said immediate steps will be taken to make the lone Richter Scale functional and set up a casualty department and an intensive care unit in the CMCH.

Sadia: Case From Page 1

probe the death of Sadia and to find out the lapses and negligence of doctors concerned at Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the civil surgeon in providing treatment to Sa-District administration

sources said the two committees had started the investigation in this regard.

Bazlul Huda, Major Noor, Ma-

jor Rashed Chowdhury, Major

Aziz Pasha and other members

PM opens PHE Bhaban

'Steps taken to expand local govt instts up to grassroots level'

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has taken initiatives to expand the local government institutions up to the grassroots level to ensure people's partici-pation in the development activities, reports UNB.

"The reorganised local government framework will make contributions to successful implementation of the mass welfare programmes," she said while inaugurating the Public Health Engineering (PHE) Bhaban at Kakrail in the morning.

The five-storey PHE Bhaban was built at a cost of Tk 12.49 crore with financial assistance from Unicef, Danida, ADB and

Hasina said the government is determined to build a poverty-free nation by fulfiling the basic needs of the common

For this reason, we have taken massive programmes in almost all sectors of development and given proper importance to the protection of public health and development," she

Sheikh Hasina said a congenial working environment would be created in developing

Fresh threat to Star JU Correspondent By Staff Correspondent

A group of armed students of Jahangirnagar University (JU) gave threat to the life of the JU correspondent of The Daily Star following the publication of the report headlined "Star Correspondent assaulted at JU' in the newspaper yesterday. The group, equipped with

ethal weapons, came to the room of the Star Corespondent, Gobinda Bar, yesterday and asked him to leave the hall with his luggage 'at once'. They also warned him of dire consequences and threatened to kill him if the incident is reported in the newspapers. Later in the day, authorities

of Al Beruni Hall formed a probe committee headed by house tutor of the hall to investigate the incidents. Earlier, Gobinda received in-

jury in his head and face when the terrorists mercilessly beat him at the commonroom of Al-Beruni Hall on the JU campus Monday. JU authorities, including provost of the respective hall. Proctor and the Vice Chancellor were informed of the matter. Leaders of JU Journalists'

Association and President and Secretary of Savar Press Club Tuhin Khan and Javed Mostafa respectively condemned the incident and demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible.

Khaleda

From Page 1 "Repression and harassment on opposition activists are in-

creasing everyday," she added. Mentioning the planned Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) agreement with the tribal insurgents, Begum Zia said the 5,000 square miles of CHT, which is one-tenth of country's territory, are full of natural resources and geographically the Chittagong port is very vital.

the water supply and sanitation

She said Bangladesh has recently achieved success in supplying safe water to 97 per cent of the population in the rural areas, which is highest in South East Asia.

On the other hand, only 42 per cent of the population are under the rural sanitation system which is still lower than the expected level.

Therefore, Hasina said, the government has undertaken projects with its own funding for the development of the sanitation system. Under this programme, sanitary latrines will be constructed for poor people educational institutions. growth centres and mosques,

Manzoor murder

From Page 1 The defence counsels, upon

that their clients are innocent. The court fixed January 1 for trial of the case. The Jatiya Party office ren-

hearing the charge, claimed

ovation case also came up before the same court yesterday. All the accused — former President H M Ershad, former minister Mostafa Jamal Haider

and Abdur Rouf — were present

in the court. The verdict of the case, which was scheduled to be pronounced yesterday, has been fixed for tomorrow. Explaining the delay, the judge said, he could not complete the writing of the judgement.

RU clash From Page 1

Police and BDR men rushed to the campus at 2 am. Sensing police presence, the Shibir activists left all the dormitories except Zoha Hall.

When police tried to enter Shaheed Zoha Hall, the Shibir activists opened fire on them and exploded several bombs.

Seven policemen, including officer in-charge of Motihar thana Shamsuddin Ahmed and Sub-Inspector Abul Hashem were injured by bullets. Police also retaliated by firing and lobbed tear gas shells.

The injured policemen were later admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital.

The entire campus was rocked by gunshots and explosions at the dead of night. At about 3 am, the Shibir activists left the Zoha Hall and

police took control of it. In the morning, police raided four residential halls -S M Hall, Abdul Latif Hall, Zoha Hall and Amir Ali Hall and arrested 20 Shibir activists, including the General Secretary of ICS university unit

Moinul Hossain and recovered a pipegun from his possession. A tense situation is prevailing on the campus and students are leaving the dormitories fearing fresh clash.

Additional police and BDR forces have been deployed on the campus.

Pak army From Page 1

serve the best interest of the nation," it said, adding this image of the army "must not be tarnished by irresponsible state-

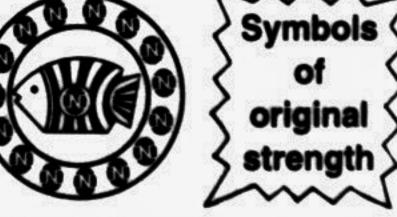
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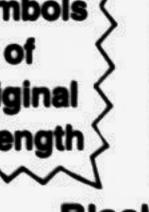
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The witness said in District Governor of Comilla. June/July, 1975, a conference শিল্পকে রক্ষাকল্পে সমাধানের পদ্মা নির্ধারণে সহায়তা করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা on Family Planning and Health The oath-taking was scheduled teacher of Comilla Victoria Colfor August 14/15, he said. was organised at Daudkandi lege from 1950 to 1970, said Ma-Madrassah premises, which

ciously, he said.

by an army jeep.

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submit their accounts report. After filing the report, the negotiation committee found that it had negative growth for the last Another small company. Pangaea, was offered block-8 and was asked to find a big

back-up its proposal. **Dutch company Maerks was** offered block-19 against its two proposals for blocks 19 and 20. Maerks said it would not accept one block and negotiation with it is still pending.

later offered Block-11. At the

same time, the government

took an initiative to find a big-

ger oil company as Tullow's

The committee has also of-

US company Enron was of-

Similarly negotiations with

US company Hondo, which

fered a small company, South

Asia (US), blocks 3 and 4. But

South Asia apparently with-drew from the bidding process.

fered blocks 6 and 3. The

sources said that negotiations

with Enron were progressing

the Triton-Unocal joint venture

were also progressing posi-

tively. They were offered block-

did not even file the bid docu-

ments properly, was offered

block-21 and was asked to

partner and bank guarantee to

positively.

three years.

partner in those two blocks.

"So far, the negotiation committee has discussed the bid proposals, but nothing has been discussed over production sharing or other aspects of the PSCs. Experience shows that a negotiation over a PSC actually takes at least five to six months. Therefore, it's impossible for anyone to comply with the December 15 deadline," said an

Save life of Nirmal Sen: Khaleda

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has expressed deep concern at the deteriorating health condition of veteran journalist Nirmal Sen, reports UNB. "No conscious person can

remain silent at the fasting of

an elderly personality like

Nirmal Sen," Begum Zia said in a statement from Jessore yesterday. She demanded of the government to save the life of Nirmal Sen by fulfilling the demands of the journalists and

SAARC Society

employees of the Times-Bangla

From Page 1 16th annual general meeting of

Bangladesh Cardiac Society "Existing facilities for treatment and research are inadequate. We should give importance to preventive measures. People should be informed about overweight, dietary habits, physical inactivity and hypertension," Abdul

Malek said. The Society will be a professional body devoted to raising the standard of investigation, treatment facilities and research. It will be of great help is

sharing experience, he said. "Unless we share knowledge, data and expertise, we cannot give better service," Dr Ashok Seth, a specialist from India said while talking to this correspondent at the conference.

AL, BNP campaign

"Protect your area", is the common instruction to MPs and local leaders from the hierarchy in the AL and BNP. Winning the UP polls will greatly help the MPs and aspirants, policy planners in both the

with local leaders, are passing hectic days in their respective areas, campaigning for their

are keeping away from the electioneering due to legal barriers but party MPs and other leaders have become involved in the

practice in the polls. The Standing Committee of

the party strategy for the upcoming elections. Bangabandhu Murder Case

After the conference, he said,

Mushtaque, Thakur, Major

Rashid, Major Farook, Major

Shahrier and other army offi-

cers left for Mushtaque's village home. He said he went back to Comilla from there. Prof Alam said receiving a call from his father he returned to Comilla on August 14 from Dhaka, where he came to take oath as the newly appointed

On August 15 morning, going back to Comilla, Prof Alam said, he heard the announcement of Major Dalim over radio that "Sheikh Mujib was killed and army took over power under the leadership of Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed."

He said in various ways he came to know that Major Rashid, Major Farook, Major Shahrier, Major Dalim, Major

of the army conspiring with Mushtaque, Thakur and Chashi brutally killed President and Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and his family members, Abdur Rab Serniabat and his family members and Sheikh Moni and his pregnant wife. After the deposition, Prof Khorshed Alam, who was a

jor Rashid, Taheruddin Thakur

and Major Dalim were his stu-

He then identified Taheruddin Thakur, Lt Col (dismissed) Syed Faroogur Rahman and Lt Col (retd) Sultan Shahrier Rashid Khan at the dock.

Judge Kazi Golam Rasul adjourned the trial proceedings until January 4.