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PHILIPS

Preparations for arms laying ceremony on

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Jan 27: Preparations are underway for the arms surrender by 600 Shantibahinim to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at a ceremony on February 10 at Khagrachari, official sources said.

The preparatory committee headed by Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma held its meeting today at the Chittagong circuit house and decided to take all necessary measures for holding the arms surrender at the Khagrachari stadium.

The meeting was attended by Divisional Commissioner of Chittagong Shakawat Hossain and other high officials of the government.

Five sub-committees were formed to make the function a colourful one, said Kalpa Ranjan Chakma while talking to this correspondent after the meeting.

He said the surrendering of arms would begin from 11 am on February 10 and the Shantibahinim would reach Khagrachari through different

points.

After the surrendering of arms, the Shantibahinim would be given cash amounting to Tk 50,000 each, he said, adding that they would be allowed to stay at the transit camp at Khagrachari before leaving for their respective homes.

All foreign diplomats staying in Bangladesh, ministers, secretaries, press, opposition leaders and dignitaries would be invited to attend the function, the minister said.

The budget for the function is now being finalised, he said replying to a question.

Some cultural troupes from the three hill districts and other parts of the country, would be brought for various cultural programmes on the occasion, the minister informed.

Another follow-up meeting of the preparatory committee will be held at Khagrachari on February 4, which is likely to be attended by the Home Minister, he informed.

Frenzied shopping

From page 1
with the traffic in gridlock and shoppers finding it difficult even to move on pavements and streets. Home-bound people rushing to Sadarghat, Kamalpur and Saidpur terminals added to the chaos.

On the streets, traffic police, aided by extra police force and guards hired by shopping malls, tried in vain to maintain order.

Smokes from autorickshaws, liberally clouding the gridlock of traffic, made the shoppers life miserable.

But nothing could deter Fazlu Mia and his family of four children. They were out, shopping in the Gulistan area, before rushing home to Patuakhali.

City fathers seemed to have ignored the invasion of the sidewalks by the vendors in their thousands.

The pavements seemed to have drawn the maximum number of buyers.

Despite the chaos, people streamed to Bangabazar, a bazaar hunting paradise for shoppers and known for stock lots. Attraction of a Levi's jeans at a bargain of Tk 300 and a 'Van

It venture air cargo handling service from Mar

Air Cargo Handling Service, a joint venture of a local company and USA Aviation Service, will begin operation in March this year, reports UNB.

The service, first of its kind in civil aviation sector in Bangladesh, intends to develop the air cargo handling system in Dhaka and other international airports.

A signing ceremony to inaugurate the service between Bisimillah Airlines of Bangladesh and Ogden Aviation Services Company Limited of USA was held at a city hotel yesterday.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engineer Mosharraf Hossain inaugurated the joint venture programme as chief guest.

Ogden Aviation invested 25 million US dollars in the tie-up project taken under the policies of privatisation being pursued by the government, according to a PID handout.

DU terrorists

From page 1
two rival factions of BCL, mainly over the submission of tender and establishing supremacy in the halls.

An activist of BCL was stabbed following the trouble between the two groups which control most of the DU residential halls.

Police said that in line with the government directive, they raided two BCL-dominated halls and arrested five of its activists, including two outsiders, on Monday.

Following fresh directive, the police action will continue and new steps will be taken against the terrorists, irrespective of party affiliations," said a senior police official.

BNP denies

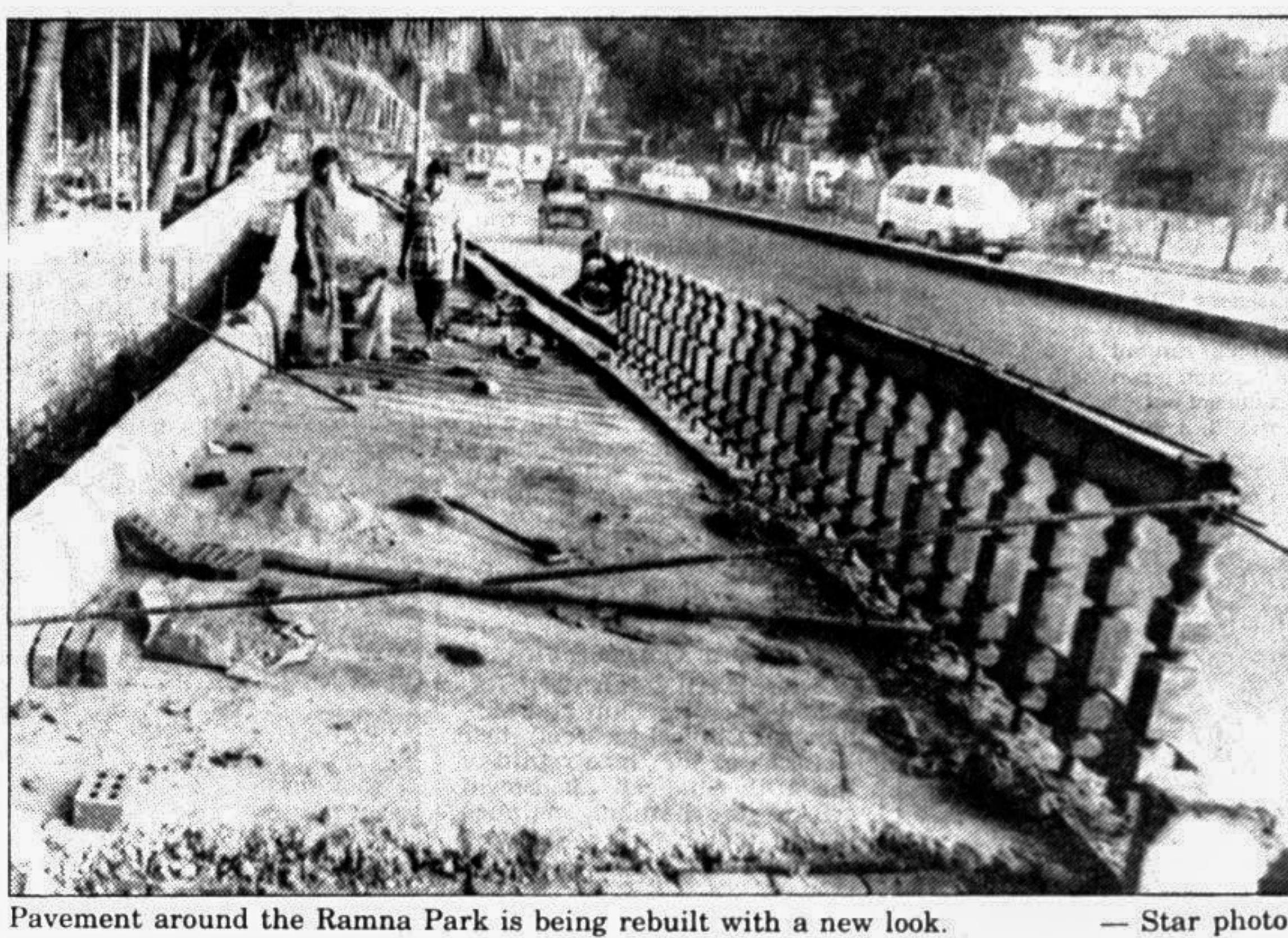
From page 1
Parliament session.

"It was a routine courtesy call," Bhuiyan added.

Press reports said the BNP leaders had handed over the list of its MPs and other leaders who have been victimised by "political" cases and other acts of "government repression."

The BNP leaders also reportedly cited the incidents of "human rights violation" during the Awami League rule.

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Pavement around the Ramna Park is being rebuilt with a new look. — Star photo

Clinton nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, Jan 27: US President Bill Clinton has been nominated for the 1998 Nobel Peace Prize for his efforts to protect world peace and promote democracy, three Norwegian legislators announced today.

Clinton, embroiled in a sex scandal in the United States, was nominated by members of the right-wing Party of Progress, one of the largest blocs in Norway's Parliament.

Throughout his presidency he has been a guarantor and friend of peace," the lawmakers said in a statement.

They praised Clinton for helping end the war in former Yugoslavia and for standing up to "despots who want to repress human rights and democracy's rules of play."

One of the legislators, Vidar Kleppe, said by telephone that they made the decision to nominate Clinton in December, before his current problems.

The nomination deadline for this year's peace prize is January 31, although the Oslo-based awards committee usually accepts nominations postmarked by then. The committee refuses to release the names of nominees, usually 120-130 each year, or comment on candidates.

57 missing as ship sinks off Sumatra

JAKARTA, Jan 27: At least 57 people were missing after a passenger ship sank in heavy seas on the weekend off Riau on Sumatra Island, a maritime official and a news report said today.

The plane then crashed and caught fire before all the passengers could be evacuated, said the officials speaking on condition of anonymity.

Twenty people, including one Italian, were injured in the accident, said the TV and radio reports.

The reports said the plane, carrying 41 passengers and four crew members, had been scheduled to fly to Kyaukphyu.

Prices of rice

From page 1
Prices of soyabean oil increased by Tk 4.5 a litre. It was selling at Tk 53-54 against its previous price of Tk 48-49.

One kg of sugar was selling at Tk 33 to Tk 36 against its previous price of Tk 31-32.

According to Suara Pembaruan, two of those rescued were women.

It quoted officials on Sumatra as saying the ship sank in big seas and strong winds during a voyage between local ports on the eastern coast of the island.

Prices of potato, tomato and onion were stable at Tk 7.8, 30-32 and Tk 24-28 respectively.

Meat sellers were charging Tk 80 for one kg of beef and Tk 140 for mutton.

Bribe

From page 1
let the cab driver go after he offered him Tk 20.

At one stage, the constable allegedly bit the hand of the driver. However, the constable denied the allegation against him to the Officer-in-Charge of Cantonment thana.

Cantonment police immediately rushed to the spot and informed the incident to the senior traffic police officials who later withdrew the constable from duty.

A general dairy was lodged with Cantonment thana in this regard. Later, in the evening the Home Minister visited the thana and inquired about the proceedings of the case.

I think it's possible, of course," she said. "I've seen him take his tie off and seen him

Communist factions clash in Nepal: 24 hurt

KATHMANDU, Jan 27: Clashes between two factions of Nepal's communist opposition party at its national congress venue today left 24 injured, according to state radio, reports AFP.

The NCP-UML is split into two factions, the majority faction led by party general secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal and the minority group led by the party's joint secretary General Bam Dev Gautam.

The dissident youth group led by the ANFSU president Narayan Shrestha hurled stones at riot police guarding the meeting venue.

Among the 24 injured NCP-UML activists, one was said to be in serious condition.



Bharatiya Janata Party's prime ministerial candidate, Atal Bihari Vajpayee filling up his nomination form in Lucknow yesterday. He will contest the Lok Sabha elections from the Lucknow constituency. —AP/UNB photo

BJP: Coalition

From page 1
bai adds: Shiv Sena will field former Chief Election Commissioner TN Seshan from one of the three seats remaining with it in Maharashtra and the seat would be decided within a day or two, Sena chief Bal Thackeray said today.

Seshan will contest from Maharashtra. Thackeray told a news conference, putting at rest speculations on whether Seshan would contest from somewhere outside the state.

"We have two to three seats with us, and will file Seshan from one of them," Thackeray said.

Navy ships were searching for the missing, the paper said.

Purnomo, an officer at the National Search and Rescue Agency, told The Associated Press that an unconfirmed report said as many as 110 might have been on board, meaning as many as 87 might be missing.

He could not provide further details.

According to Suara Pembaruan, two of those rescued were women.

It quoted officials on Sumatra as saying the ship sank in big seas and strong winds during a voyage between local ports on the eastern coast of the island.

We have two to three seats with us, and will file Seshan from one of them," Thackeray said.

When contacted, KMP Commissioner Kazi Nazrul Islam said steps were being taken to keep the situation under control.

Whitehead added that the grand jury did not ask him to testify. Reacting to questions about the group's reputation for Clinton bashing, Whitehead said that "it's not propaganda" and that it was crucial to "go to the facts" in the case.

She said she has been asked why she did not appear more upset. "I've just been through this so many times," she said. "We've been accused of everything, including murder."

"It's not being numb so much as being very experienced in the unfortunate mean-spiritedness of American politics right now."

When "Today" show host Matt Lauer began, "Where's there's smoke...." she quickly

A report from Jerusalem says, Monica Lewinsky believes

someone. "His behaviour, his treatment of people, will certainly explain all of this."

Clinton, in his public statements, and Ms. Lewinsky, in her deposition, said they did not have sexual relations. But Ms. Lewinsky described such a relationship with him in taped conversations with a friend and has also said privately that she was urged to lie about it.

Mrs. Clinton spoke for this evening's State of the Union speech to Congress and the nation, and after Ms. Lewinsky's lawyer submitted a formal proposal to Whitewater investigators detailing the testimony she would offer in return for immunity from prosecution.

The special office set up by Congress to investigate high officials has been looking into Clinton's business dealings in Arkansas and allegations of a White House coverup, among other matters, since August 1994. Its inquiry was expanded last week to include the Lewinsky matter.

Mrs. Clinton said it was possible her husband gave gifts to former White House intern Ms. Lewinsky but said that is true it is because he is gregarious and giving to everyone he meets.

"I think it's possible, of course," she said. "I've seen him take his tie off and seen him

finished. "There's no fire."

The interview was Mrs. Clinton's most detailed response to the allegations since they emerged so explosively last week. On Monday, she stayed silent on the matter during a pair of appearances in New York that centered on children.

AFP adds: A conservative group helping Paula Jones in her sexual harassment case against Clinton today submitted documents to a grand jury probing the scandal.

Speaking to reporters after spending some 20 minutes inside the courtroom here, John Whitehead, chief of the Rutherford Institute, confirmed that he had submitted the documents but declined to discuss their content.

Whitehead added that the grand jury did not ask him to testify. Reacting to questions about the group's reputation for Clinton bashing, Whitehead said that "it's not propaganda" and that it was crucial to "go to the facts" in the case.

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