

BLUE DART EXPRESS LIMITED

PLEASE CONTACT: Bangladesh Air Express Int'l Ltd.
For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9883927, 9130647, 894213, DEPZ 9338931
Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108 Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N'Ganj, Tel: 9714336

For Documents Door to Door delivery To 248 Destinations in INDIA

Ideal gift for any occasion.

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official license of Philips Electronics NV for lighting products, radio and TV sets
Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg: 716353, 723578
Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

PHILIPS

Backed by Guarantee
Let's make things better.

Rice Cooker Dry Iron

Korean investors lodge series of complaints

South Korean investors yesterday complained that frequent power failures and cumbersome customs and banking procedures are the major constraints they are facing in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

They informed the Board of Investment (BOI) of their problems during a meeting with its Executive Chairman Farooq Sobhan in the morning.

They said frequent power failures are causing a serious impact on the operation of the factories.

The investors suggested that at least one day's notice be served to the factories so that they can take necessary measures during loadshedding.

The entrepreneurs also urged the authorities to allow duty-free import of generators until uninterrupted power supply is ensured.

BOI organised the meeting in the city as part of the effort to build up the country's image and to attract foreign investment. Korean Ambassador to Bangladesh Tae Kyu Han and BEPA member Saifuddin Ahmed were present at the meeting.

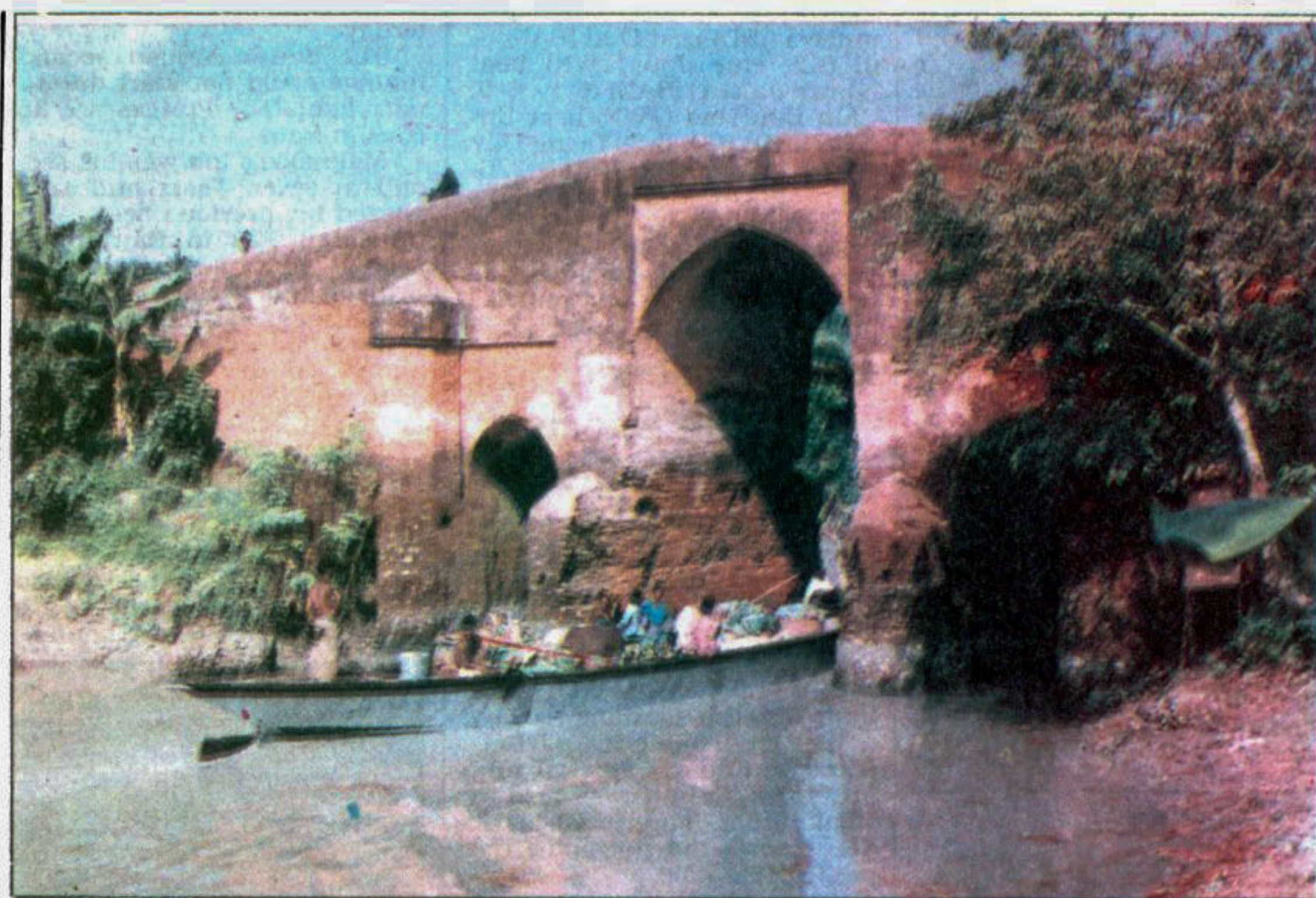
The Korean entrepreneurs emphasised the need for round-the-clock customs service, particularly at ZIA, to avoid undue delay in supply of orders or receiving raw materials.

They drew attention of the officials to the lengthy procedures for customs clearance of goods imported for factories outside EPZ.

Regarding banking problems, the entrepreneurs said private banks accept pro-forma invoices for 90-day usance basis back-to-back letter of credits (L/Cs). But most of the semi-government and government banks accept only on 120-day usance basis back-to-back L/Cs. They suggested that 90-day usance terms of the L/Cs should be accepted.

They said many L/C opening banks often hold documents for more than a week, in some cases for longer than 30 days, without informing L/C advising banks.

The Korean entrepreneurs also complained about non-payment of export bills on due date, non-payment of interest as per the terms of pro-forma invoice and L/C and failure to comply with the central bank regulations.



A boat passing through a Mughal-built bridge at Abdullahpur in Tongibari thana of Munshiganj. The 16th century brick-made bridge is in need of repair. It is protected as an archaeological monument.

Donors' meet on CHT in city Feb 23

The government has convened a meeting of the donors in Dhaka on February 23 to apprise them of the development plans for the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) in view of the landmark peace accord.

Official sources told BSS yesterday that proposals for short, medium and long-term development plans involving over Tk 2000 crore are expected to be presented at the meeting to be held at the NEC building of the Planning Commission.

The meeting has been convened at the request of the donors seeking to extend cooperation to the development activities in CHT. They asked the government to come up with specific proposals of development plans where assistance is needed, they said.

Earlier, Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria sought financial assistance to initiate development activities in CHT at a meeting with the development community on December 4.

The Planning Commission constituted a planning cell to chalk out massive development programmes in the CHT. The Economic Relations Division (ERD) in a letter on December 22, last year the Special Affairs Division to formulate a 100 million dollars project proposal for undertaking short-term development activities in the CHT on an emergency basis.

Taka 2,149.17 crore will be spent to implement the activities under short, medium and long-term development plans, a senior official of the Planning Commission involved in formulating development plans for CHT said.

Rape of slum girl in city: 2 accused still at large

Two of the four persons accused in the rape of a nine-year-old girl in city's Kawran Bazar area Thursday night were still at large till yesterday.

Police said they raided different parts of the city but failed to arrest the two identified as Nantu and Murad, residents of a slum beside Panthapath in Kawran Bazar area.

Meanwhile, the young girl was released from the safe custody of Tejaon thana yesterday afternoon. She was handed over to her mother following a medical test at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) after more than three days.

The arrested two — Hossain and Jewel — were sent to the Dhaka central Jail after the court rejected a remand prayer of Tejaon police.

Meanwhile, following the incident, two representatives of a women's organisation, Samulita Nari Samaj, met the victim at Tejaon thana custody and her mother at Kawran Bazar.

Quoting the mother, a Nari Samaj press release said last night that the girl was attacked when she was returning to her house after buying betel-leaf for her elder sister at about 8 pm.

The owner of the house, where the girl's family resides, called her when she reached Purnima Cinema Hall. The man lured the girl offering her a packet of birani. Then she was forced to lie on the ground and three men rotationally raped her. Another person was standing with a stick at the time.

543 Shantibahinimen

From page 1

munition to security forces in the presence of Task Force on Repatriation Chairman Dipankar Talukder, MP and Bir Bahadur, MP.

Major Pele formally handed over his gun to the Home Minister at 11.30 am. The Home Minister in return presented a bouquet of white roses to the Shantibahini leader. The Home Minister flew in there this morning by helicopter from Dhaka.

Huge crowds thronged at the school ground today to witness the surrender of Shantibahinimen and some crowds jostled with police at the ground over accommodation crisis.

Today's arms surrender programme was very brief as the ceremonial formalities with cultural functions were dropped.

Officials said the Shantibahinimen who surrendered today would stay in the transit camp tonight and leave for their respective home tomorrow.

UNB adds from Khagrachhari: After receiving the gun from the Shantibahini commander Pele, the Home Minister hugged him.

The minister then released a bunch of balloons tied with a festoon written "Let peace be permanent".

The minister later inspected the deposited arms and shook hands. He talked to the insurgents, who sat together at a designated place of the ground wearing bottle green Shantibahini uniform.

Talking to them, the minister said, "I am happy that you have come back. Now go back to your home and lead a normal and peaceful family life. The government will do everything possible for you."

Later Major Pele told UNB, "I am happy that I have returned to normal life. I will now dedicate to the development and prosperity of Chittagong Hill Tracts as well as the whole country."

The third phase of arms surrender will be held at Dighinala on February 22 and the fourth and last one at Dudakhari on February 28.

Extradition of Chetia

From page 1

A M Mahmudur Rahman and Justice Zakir Ahmed Sunday heard the writ petition on the question of issuance of *rule nisi* Sunday and yesterday by an order rejected the same on the grounds of *locus standi* and *primum*.

The court also observed that mere publication of a news item containing the remarks of the Foreign Minister that Anup Chetia's extradition is under process, cannot be the basis of such a writ petition.

Soon after pronouncement of the order Saiful Islam, writ petitioner told The Daily Star that he would prefer an appeal against the HC order before the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court.

The HC held that Section 1 of the Extradition Act and Section 2 (f) of the Special Powers Act, 1974 enable the government to hand over or to send back Anup Chetia to his country of origin i.e. India.

The writ petitioner as the Secretary General of Bangladesh Human Rights Commission has no *locus standi* to file the writ petition, the HC observed.

Anup Chetia, a national from Assam province of India, was arrested by the police from his rented house at Mohamudpur in the city on December 21, 1997.

It was stated in the writ petition that as the petitioner's party is leading the liberation struggle of the Assamese people, he has been charged with treason by the Indian authorities and having found no other alternative he had to sneak to Bangladesh to save his life.

It was claimed in the petition that Arabinda Rajkhowa, Chairman of the ULFA, by a letter requested the petitioner to provide Anup Chetia necessary legal assistance.

Dr Aktar Hamid along with advocate S N Goswami moved for the writ petitioner, while Attorney General K S Nabi with Additional Attorney General A W Bhuiyan, Deputy Attorney General Barrister Nikhilesh Dutta and Obaidur Rahman opposed the petition.

Rule upon BB, others

From page 1

Bank while Iqbal Ahmed and M A Qasim are directors of AB Bank.

The AB Bank served notices on them to pay Tk 120.64 crore within two months as four Beximco companies had defaulted to repay one instalment of Tk 12.72 crore due on December 31, 1997.

Earlier, these four directors of the banks had filed a writ petition Sunday challenging the notice by the AB Bank through the BB.

Barrister Rafiqul Huq moved the petition.

Barrister Rokonuddin Mahmud appearing for AB Bank sought the court's permission to present his argument before a stay order in case a *rule nisi* was issued and the court accepted his plea.

When Barrister Rafiqul Huq rose to present his argument, he found that he had not annexed a letter of Bangladesh Bank to the case papers. As such he prayed for adjournment of hearing till next day, which was accepted by the court.

Meanwhile, when the AB Bank came to know that Barrister Rafiqul Huq is moving the petition as a senior counsel, the bank issued a letter to Barrister Huq on the same day requesting him not to appear against them. The AB Bank reasoned that since Barrister Rafiqul Huq is a legal adviser of the bank on a retainer basis, and the impugned order is the notice of AB Bank, he should not represent the petitioners.

The same letter also told Barrister Rafiqul Huq that the above mentioned letter of the Bangladesh Bank issued on February 4, 1998, was given to

BNP demonstration

From page 1

denied the attack on BNP leaders and workers at a meeting in Muladi thana of Barisal and imposition of Section 144 there on Sunday.

He accused the government of curbing constitutional rights of the people by preventing them from holding meetings.

"The ruling party is trying to revive the BKSAL system in the country by resorting to repressive acts against its political opponents," the BNP leader further alleged.

Gunshots at DU

From page 1

10:30 am, witnesses said.

Supporters of the rival group, the mainstream JCD, brickbatted and chased the processionists when they reached near Jasmuddin Hall. Zakir group activists then entered Zia Hall and started firing shots, witnesses said.

Their rivals responded with gunshots and cocktail explosions from Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall and Jasmuddin Hall.

The two sides exchanged at least 50 gunshots and exploded some cocktails. None was, however, injured.

Police raided the three halls later. Witnesses said police entered Zia Hall at around 12:45 pm, allowing Zakir Hossain and his associate Mustafizul Islam Mamun enough time to leave the hall. The two went away with their firearms jumping a wall behind the hall.

Zakir Hossain, president of Zia Hall unit of JCD, and Mamun, General Secretary of Surya Sen Hall unit of JCD, were expelled from the organisation on Friday on charge of assaulting the joint-convenor of JCD DU unit, Selimuzzaman Selim and an activist of JCD.

Meanwhile, a tense situation was prevailing in the three JCD-dominated halls of the university. Campus sources said that activists of both the groups were preparing for fresh clashes.

The activists of Zakir group consolidated their position in Zia Hall while those of the mainstream JCD took position in Bangabandhu and Jasmuddin halls.

Hasibur's floor-crossing Speaker must send BNP complaint to EC within 30 days: Razzak Ali

By Staff Correspondent

Former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali has said that his successor Humayun Rashid Choudhury must send the BNP complaint on party lawmaker Hasibur Rahman Swapan's crossing the floor to the Election Commission within 30 days of receiving it.

Now a BNP lawmaker, Shaikh Razzak Ali, in a statement last night also contradicted what the incumbent speaker said in this regard while talking to a group of newsmen on Sunday.

Humayun Rashid Choudhury said his office was examining the legal status of Swapan's Jatiya Sangsad membership after he joined the government as a deputy minister. He also said he had two other options — communicate the matter to the EC or refer it to the President for a Supreme Court reference.

BNP wrote a letter to the Speaker on February 9 requesting him to take measures for the vacation of Swapan's seat for "crossing the floor".

The former Speaker said experts were surprised at the statement made by Humayun Rashid Choudhury.

Those having minimum knowledge about the Constitution know it for sure that the Election Commission, not the Speaker, is to decide on the issue. The Speaker can't send anything to the President for Supreme Court reference because the advisory role by the SC, the former Speaker said. "In cases, the President, if he desires, feels necessary and is advised by the Prime Minister, can seek SC reference."

Referring to Articles 66(4) and 66(5) of the Constitution, Razzak Ali said the Speaker can at best seek opinion of Swapan on BNP's allegation against him before sending it to the EC.

British diplomat

From page 1

about 7 am. He used a tie to hang himself.

Preliminary police investigation said the death was a case of suicide. However, the reason behind the alleged suicide could not be known immediately. The British diplomat resided with his wife and two children in the Gulshan residence.

Police said they were told that Dr Moorehead went to sleep in a separate room adjacent to the room where his wife and two children slept.

Two maids of the house first found the diplomat hanging when they came to work at about 7 am. They started screaming which awoke the other members of the family.

Dr Moorehead's body was kept at the mortuary of ICDDR,B at Mahakhali, police said, adding that they did not send it for autopsy as the British High Commission authorities brought a court order in this regard.

British High Commission officials were not available for comment. Gulshan police lodged an unnatural death case.

UNB adds: British High Commissioner David Walker informed the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate that it was a case of suicide after a physician of the High Commission, Dr H Carpenter, and another Bangladeshi doctor M A Zaman confirmed the death.

Indian polls violence

From page 1

Reports of ballot box snatching came in from a few places while a Bodo militant was shot dead by a paramilitary jawan in Assam. Barring a few minor incidents, balloting in Tripura also passed off peacefully.

In Jalandhar constituency in Punjab state, where Gujral is locked in a nine-cornered contest, the turnout of voters was 53 percent and polling went off smoothly.

Reports from Tamil Nadu, where 54 people were killed in serial bomb blasts in the last two days, nearly 50 percent voters cast votes for 13 of the 39 seats.

The first phase of polling would decide the electoral fortunes of 2200 candidates including those of Gujral, former premier H D Deve Gowda, Defence Minister and Samajwadi Party president Mulayam Singh Yadav, senior BJP leader Murlidhar Joshi, Bahujan Samaj Party leaders Kanhai Ram and Ms Mayawati.

Balloting for the remaining 321 parliamentary seats would be held on Feb 22, 23, 28 and March 7. Counting of votes would be taken up on March 2.

BSS adds: It was for the first time that an Indian President cast his vote in a general election when President K R Narayanan dropped his ballot paper at the Rashtrapati Bhavan complex.

The ace campaigner of Congress, Sonia Gandhi cast her vote at 'Nirman Bhavan' polling station in the morning.

"Very good" was the answer when a journalist asked her as to how was her election campaign during the last fortnight.

She remained silent when another journalist asked her whether she was going to be the prime minister. "I will answer all your questions" after the election, she told a journalist.

The elections are expected to produce a second hung parliament since 1996 in the world's largest democracy.

1 killed, 5 hurt as CEPZ factory roof collapses

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Feb 16: A construction worker died and four others were injured when the roof of an under-construction factory at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) collapsed this noon, police said.

The injured were admitted into the hospital.

The factory is being constructed at CEPZ under a joint venture between entrepreneurs of Bangladesh and China, police said.

BSS adds: Fire service and port police sources said the tragic incident occurred when around 10 construction workers were moulding and pouring concrete on an extended part of the roof of the building.

As they worked the shuddering suddenly collapsed and five of the workers fell to the ground.

One Sero Mullah, 30, died at the Navy Hospital while the rest four injured were rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Poetry festival begins today

By DU Correspondent

The 12th National Poetry Festival begins in the city today with the slogan "Poetry for Peace and Solidarity".

Poet Sufia Kamal will inaugurate the two-day festival at the TSC road island of the Dhaka University at 10 am.

This year the main stage of the festival has been erected at the Hakim Chhatter of the university at the southern corner of the University Central Library.

Loadshedding

From page 1

"The situation will be more or less the same as in the last year," said an official source. "But if we can ensure smooth operation of the large power plants of Ghorashal, Ashuganj and Razzan, we can maintain the loadshedding at a tolerable level of 200 mw."

He said although gas supply would improve from April as British company Cairn will provide gas from Sangu-1 well, power generation from the two 210 mw units of Razzan (420 mw in total) could not be enhanced beyond 300 mw due to absence of high capacity transmission line connecting the Chittagong region with the National Grid.

A plan to build a 230 kv line between Comilla and Hathazari at a cost of Tk 150 crore remains shelved due to lack of finance. If this line is built, it will be possible to maximise power supply from Razzan.

As regards, the four proposed barge-mounted power plants, only two agreements were signed between the PDB and private companies Wartsila and Smith Co-generation late last year. The two plants are likely to come into operation late this year, but sources pointed out that progress in this regard is still slow.

The fate of the remaining two plants is uncertain as the PDB has lost interest in the costly schemes.

The Meghnath power scheme suffered a delay of more than seven months due to PDB's indecision about the lowest bidder for it, US company AES.

The Haripur scheme for which the same company became the lowest bidder, is also suffering about 10 months' delay because of 'conflict' between the PDB and the Power Cell, which is supervising the Haripur scheme, sought an adviser from the PDB but the PDB refused to send any, the sources said.

Akheri Munajat

From page 1

Zubair, member of the Biswa Tablig Jamaat, Delhi.

And about 50 devotees from foreign countries attended the Jitma.

An estimated 10,000 women also took part in the Akheri Munajat, staying outside the Jitma ground on their own arrangements.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Cabinet members, leaders of different political parties and high civil and military officials also took part in the Munajat.

The President arrived at the Jitma pandal at 11 am and the Prime Minister at a special stage on the Bata Shoe factory premises, adjacent to the main venue, at 10:45 am.

Leading Islamic thinkers and scholars issued religious sermons delivered discourses at the Jitma in the last three days. Yesterday, Haji Abdul Mukit spoke after Fajr prayers and Moulana Shah spoke before the Akheri Munajat.

Dhaka city gave a holiday look yesterday as thousands of Muslim officials and employees attended the Munajat. The government had earlier granted optional holiday yesterday.

A scramble to reach the site and return to the capital clogged the airport road with vehicular traffic, from Tongi to Mohakhali, from morning till evening.

Bangladesh Railway introduced four special trains yesterday, named "Munajat", between Dhaka and Tongi to facilitate travel of the devotees from the capital.

BGMEA

BANGLADESH GARMENT MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION
BIMC BHARAN, 7-9 KAWRAN BAZAR, DHAKA.

EXTRA ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE

17 February, 1998

To : All Members of BGMEA

The Extra Ordinary General Meeting of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will be held today the 17 February '98 at 5 p.m. at Jalsha Ghar, Hotel Purbani International, Dhaka. The notice has already been sent by Courier Service and also published in the national dailies on 25 & 26 January '98. This is just a reminder.

You are cordially invited to attend.

By order of the Executive Committee.

M M Jahangir
Col M M Jahangir (Retd)
Secretary

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net.