

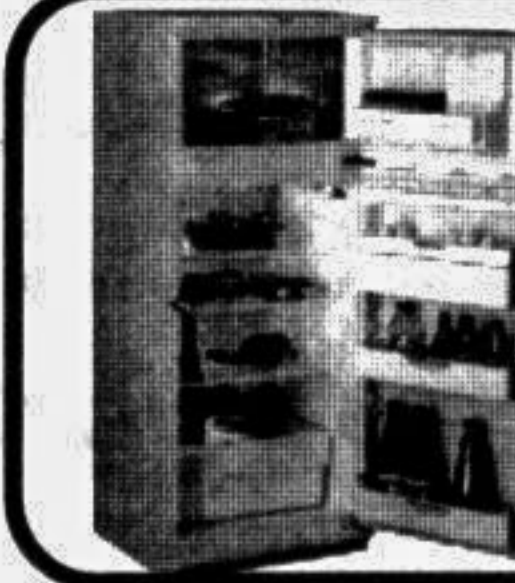


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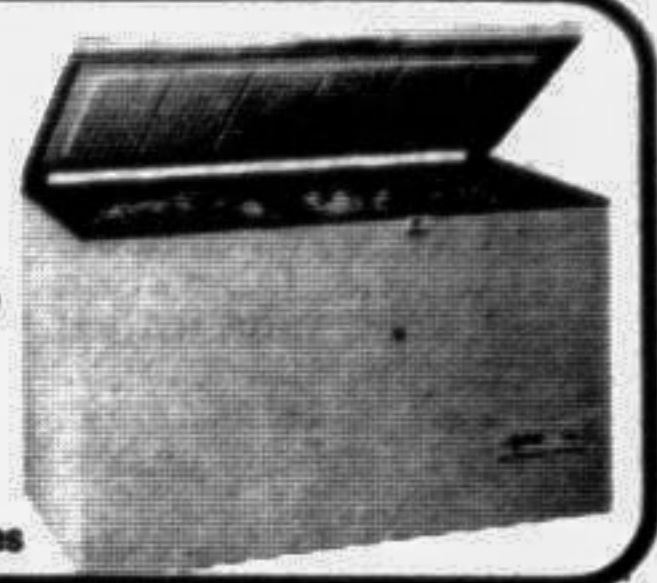


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## One shot dead, 70 more arrested in Karachi

KARACHI, Nov 2: Paramilitary troops and police searched door to door today arresting at least 70 people believed to be behind the violence wracking this southern port city, report agencies.

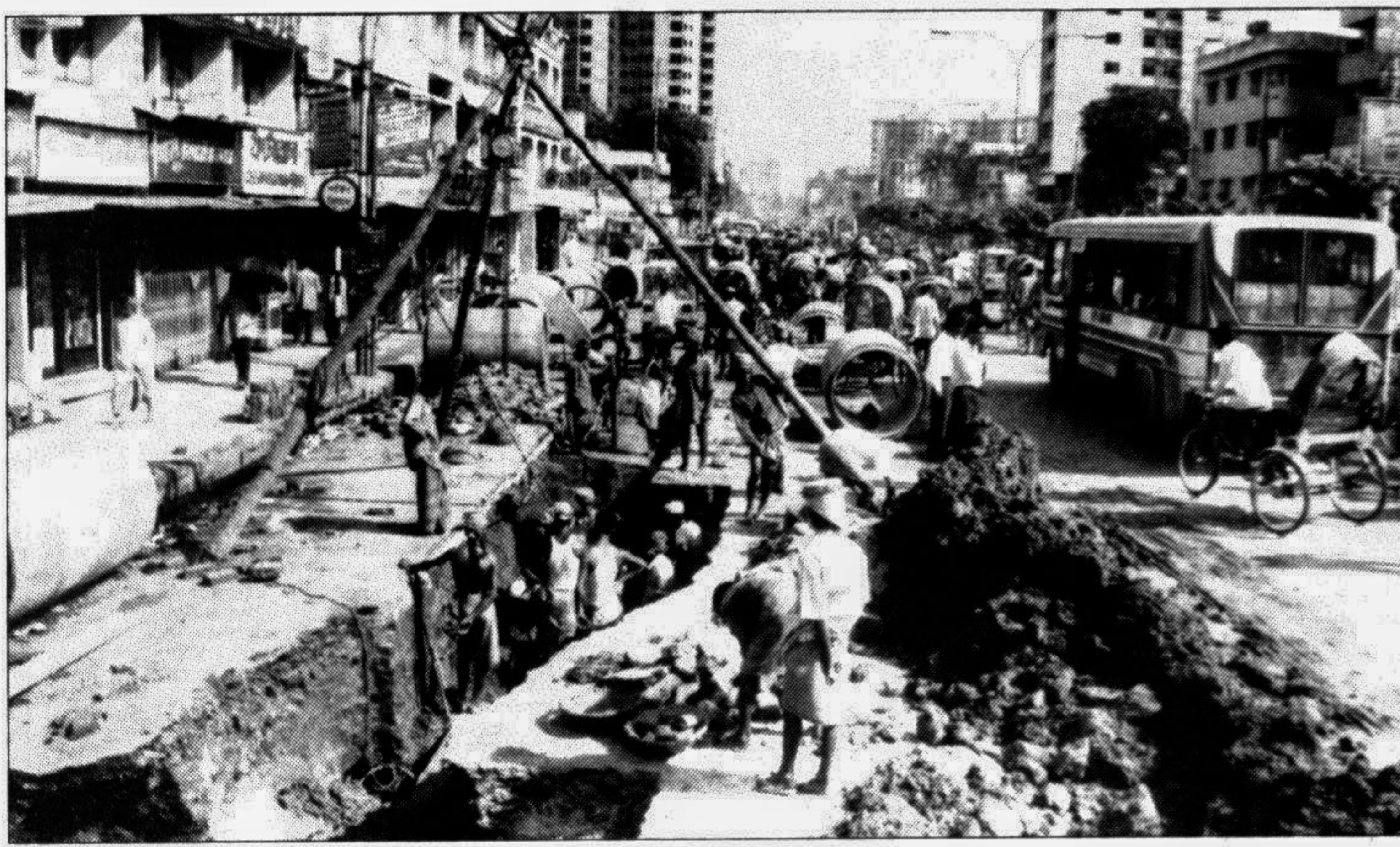
Gunmen shot dead a retired army officer today, police said. Bilal Ahmed, a retired colonel, was attacked by unknown assailants in the city's main business centre in the Saddar area.

Police said armed men flagged Ahmed's car, ordered him to step out and then shot him dead with a single bullet fired at point blank range.

The killing of the 48-year-old ex-army officer, who was serving as security manager in a luxury hotel in the city, came three days after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif imposed direct federal rule in Sindh to curb lawlessness in the provincial capital Karachi.

Sharif accused his former coalition partners in the provincial government — the Muttahida Qaumi Movement — of harbouring the killers of Hakim Saeed, a prominent physician and vocal critic of the MQM.

In Karachi for a high level meeting today, Sharif told reporters that the arrests were not targeting any particular group



WEAVING WOES! Work on an underground drain by Dhaka WASA on the city's busy Siddeswari Road has made traffic a terrible experience for commuters.

## 90 held for hoarding salt in India

NEW DELHI, Nov 2: For weeks, an onion shortage caused tears across India. Now traders are rubbing salt in the wound, reports AP.

Police today arrested 90 traders for hoarding salt and selling it at jacked-up prices. The government said raids on shops and factories would continue.

But a huge scramble for salt was on across the country as panicky consumers bought enough salt to last months, heeding rumours that it would disappear from the markets the same way onions have in recent weeks.

The traders were detained under the Essential Commodities Act, which forbids hoarding of listed goods.

"I bought 10 kilograms, now there should not be any problem," said Balwinder Shukla, an executive at a management school, who rushed to the local supermarket in the New Delhi suburb of Noida. Shukla's family usually consumes a kilogram (2.2 pounds) per month.

A shortage of onions which resulted in a jump in prices from eight rupees a kilogram to as high as 100 rupees a kilogram in some towns has been blamed on poor crops and hoarding by unscrupulous wholesalers.

Panic buying of salt forced up prices from 2.50 rupees a kilogram to as high as 50 rupees a kilogram.

Thousands of angry consumers stormed warehouses and shops across northern India over the weekend in search of hoarded onions, salt and potatoes.

Over 11 million metric tons of salt is produced each year in India, one of the largest sources

## Dhaka to host D-8 summit in Mar '99

Dhaka will host the second D-8 summit in the first week of March next year. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said, reports UNB.

Azad, who went to Turkey to attend its 75th National Day celebration, had talks with his counterpart in Istanbul on this matter.

Addressing a press briefing at the Foreign Office, the Foreign Minister said Turkey has agreed to join the summit in March.

He has also requested the D-8 Secretary General to communicate Bangladesh's intention to six other member states of the new economic bloc.

If all agree, the summit will be held in the first week of March, he said.

## BOI expects another \$1b FDI in next 12 months

The Board of Investment (BOI) expects fresh foreign direct investment (FDI) of one billion US dollar in next 12 months in addition to more than 2 billion dollar the country attracted in the last two financial years.

BOI executive chairman Farooq Sobhan said this to a visiting Danish delegation on mixed credit programme yesterday while briefing them about the investment scenario in Bangladesh.

He also requested the D-8 Secretary General to communicate Bangladesh's intention to six other member states of the new economic bloc.

Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) president R. Maksud Khan, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) president Laila R. Kabir, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) president Sharif Alza Hossain and a representative of FBCCI were present.

The delegation, led by Chairperson of Danish Board of Mixed Credit Anne Grethe Foss, is here to explore areas of development and industrial financing.

It will meet business people, bankers and government officials today at Sonargaon Hotel to exchange ideas on investment and credit opportunities.

Power generation, oil and

## BNP, allies

From Page 1

bution of VGF cards in the flood-hit areas, withdrawal of cases against Khaleda Zia and others and release of party leaders including KM Obaidur Rahman and Alamgir Kabir.

They are also demanding punishment to the persons allegedly involved in some recent incidents of rape at the Jahangirnagar University.

As part of their campaign, BNP and its allies are due to stage demonstrations across the country tomorrow.

In Dhaka, the main opposition party will bring out a procession from the Paltan Maidan at 4 pm, said a release. Other parties including Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatia Party (Z-M) will also organise similar programmes on the day.

Acting Secretary General of BNP Ashraf Hossain in a statement last night urged the party units across the country to organise processions and rallies in their respective areas tomorrow.

BNP will also hold a public meeting at 3 pm on November 7 in observance of the 'National Revolution and Solidarity Day'. Khaleda Zia is scheduled to deliver a 'very important speech' at the meeting from where a fresh course of agitation is likely to be announced, party sources said.

## Passports

From Page 1

Such remarks on a passport creates problem for applicants when they seek visa from other countries.

The Foreign Secretary hoped that the diplomatic missions in Dhaka would respond positively to the request.

## Anwar's trial

From Page 1

tion, did not wear the neck brace he had sported during previous court appearances. He had said he was assaulted by police on his first night in custody, 18 days after Mahathir fired him.

Paul began hearing arguments today about four counts of corruption. Anwar will be tried later for one more charge of abuse of power and five illegal sex acts.

Mahathir, 72, said he fired his deputy on moral grounds because homosexual acts are illegal in Muslim-majority Malaysia.

More than 100 reporters and international observers hoping to watch the legal proceedings milled about outside the court building. The High Court faces Independence Square, where several pro-Anwar protests have taken place.

Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch were among the groups that sent representatives to the trial.

Anwar will totally monitor his trial to examine the nature and basis of evidence brought against him and to assess the proceedings in light of international standards on fair trial," said Amnesty's Mark Daly.

Although the judge dismissed pleas by the defence to accord special status to observers, representatives of some rights groups were allowed to sit in the public gallery.

Anwar faces a maximum of 14 years in prison for each of the corruption charges linked to his alleged abuse of power during his tenure from 1993 until his dismissal Sept 2.

Each illegal sex charge is punishable by 20 years in prison and a whipping with a rattan cane.

## Prices go up

From Page 1

Surveying the market prices of 81 essentials in October, the CAB found that prices of 44 items have shot up, 24 marked slight fall while 13 remained unchanged.

The average price of rice has fallen by 4.39 per cent while those of wheat and flour by 0.24 per cent per kg.

But price of fish rose by 44.42 per cent, egg by 11.42 per cent, meat 7.84 per cent, vegetables 5.92 per cent, spices 3.68 per cent and pulses 1.98 per cent per kg.

Besides the absence of government steps against dishonest traders, the CAB pointed out that want of seed, fear of crop loss and smuggling of some essentials into India added to the recent price hike.

Giving an instance of price hike in city's Rayerbazar market, it said only six pieces of green chillies were sold for one taka while a medium size onion cost Tk 1.21 and a brinjal Tk 2.25.

## PCJSS

From Page 1

light-tipped despite proceedings from journalists, only saying "We discussed implementation of the accord and we would sit again tonight."

He declined to comment on his reported refusal to accept the RC on the issue of three members from the settlers' quota.

"RC is not the main issue here," said Larma, who has been nominated interim RC chairman.

But he urged reporters not to make further queries, while ducking them frantically in front of his room.

## Silent protest

From Page 1

Anisuzzaman, Anisur Rahman, Sufia Ahmed, Mozaffar Ahmed, Rashid Haider, Jamil Chowdhury, F.R. Mahmud Hasan, Maleka Begum, Rokeya Rahman Kabir, Kalim Sharaf, Faiz Ahmed, Farida Hasan, Mridul Kanti Chakrabarty and Rezwan Chowdhury Bannya.

## Three caught cooking up hijack story

CHITTAGONG, Nov 2: Police picked up three employees of a private firm after they allegedly gave a fabricated account that Tk 5.90 lakh was snatched from them in the city's Sholoshahar area today, reports APB.

The arrested were identified as cashier Saiful Islam, security staff Abul Bashar and car driver Mujibur Rahman of Meghna Engineering Workshop at Bayzid Bostami Road.

The three reported to police that five muggers coming in an autorickshaw had snatched Tk 5.90 lakh from them intercepting their car at Sholoshahar level crossing after blasting crackers at about 11.45 am.

They were returning to their office after withdrawing the money from a foreign bank in the city's Agrabad commercial area, they said.

But, police, on suspicion, charged the three and recovered over Tk 4 lakh hidden in different places of their body. Later, on interrogation, they told police that the miscreants had snatched the rest of the amount.

## 7 get life term for murder in Sylhet

SYLHET, Nov 2: A court here handed five people life imprisonment in absentia on Sunday in a murder case, reports UNB.

The convicted are Utu, Abdur Rab, Mohit, Sakan and Azim. According to prosecution, in brief, Abdul Karim of Malgaon in Fenchuganj thana went out of his house on January 10, 1995 to attend an invitation of his neighbour. His beheaded body was recovered from a tea garden on the following day.

A case was filed against six people and police after investigation submitted chargesheet against them.

After examining the witnesses and records, the Additional Sessions Judge Rabul Hasan sentenced the accused acquitting the other man.

Another report from Feni adds: Two people were given life imprisonment and fined Tk 3,000 each, in default, to serve six months more in jail for murdering a school teacher here.

## DSE polls

From Page 1

cording to an open lottery on Saturday.

"The retiring members are Ahsanul Islam, Kazi Feroz Rashid, Dewan Suhel Azal, Jahangir Kabir Chowdhury," according to a DSE press release.

The chairman of the election commission could not be reached for comment after repeated attempts yesterday.

Sources said this was the outcome of a meeting of some stalwarts of DSE yesterday.

Those supporting the move said a legal adviser had been consulted prior to taking this decision. "The legal adviser said that the election commission has the authority to do this," according to one of the council members supporting the move.

However, two other council members who spoke on condition of anonymity contradicted the view. "This was a clear violation of the existing laws," said one.

"The Articles of Association does not permit it. If no volunteer is found, then there is a provision of force retirement through lottery. The Election Commission had earlier announced the names of the retiring persons following the lottery."

"They could only hold a second lottery if there were an appeal against the lottery. Since there were no such complaints there was also no scope. They cannot change names of retiring persons bypassing the Article," said another.

"On Sunday, some DSE powerbrokers collected signatures of the existing council members for a statement that they want Rakibur Rahman to continue as chairman for a second term," he said.

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## Weathermen predict cyclone this month

By Special Correspondent

At least one or two depressions may turn into a cyclone in the Bay of Bengal sometime this month, a long range forecast by the Meteorological Department said yesterday.

A mild winter is expected in the northern and central region of the country from the second week of this month.

After reviewing last month's weather pattern, a panel of experts who prepared the monthly forecast, said the number of rainy days in the month may be slightly above average.

Dhaka division is likely to have 015-020 mm rainfall this month against 011 mm normal average (na). Chittagong division — 040 mm-050 mm against 046 mm na. Sylhet division — 025-030 mm against 031 mm na. Rajshahi division — 010-015 mm against 012 mm na. Khulna division — 020-030 mm against 027 mm na and Barisal division — 040-050 mm against 056 mm na.

Last month, the average rainfall except in Khulna and Barisal was inconsistent with the forecast.

The rainfall of 141 mm and 151 mm in Khulna and Barisal were below the na of 146 mm and 234 mm. In Dhaka division it was 067 mm against 167 mm na. 126mm in Chittagong against 213 mm na. 095 mm in Sylhet against 197 mm na and 274 mm in Rajshahi against 132 mm na.

But the number of rainy days, lows in the North Bay and departure of the monsoon were as per the forecast. There were more rainy days than the na except in Dhaka division where it was consistent with the na of nine days.

Rajshahi division had abnormal rainfall last month and it rained less elsewhere because most of the cloud formation had passed through the north-western region, the experts noted.

## FM to visit three countries, leaves today

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad leaves here today on a 10-day trip to Thailand, Japan and Myanmar, reports UNB.

"It's a business like trip," he told newsmen at a press briefing at the Foreign Office yesterday afternoon.

In Thailand, the Foreign Minister will hold official talks with his counterpart and attend the meeting of the Joint Economic Cooperation (JEC) of which he is the co-chairman.

Replying to a question, Azad said extradition of Major (ret'd) Bazul Huda, a prime accused in the Bangladesh murder case and the Jail Killing Case, would be discussed with the Thai authorities.

On his wayback, he will visit Myanmar. The issue of the repatriation of remaining Rohingya refugees would come up for discussion with the Myanmar authorities.

A border agreement between Bangladesh and Myanmar is likely to be signed during the Foreign Minister's visit.

## Raped sisters now under Legal Aid Trust custody

CHITTAGONG, Nov 2: Bangladesh Legal Aid Trust has brought the two sisters, who were violated in Raazan thana, under its custody, reports UNB.

The Chittagong unit of the Trust brought the two sisters under its custody as they were produced before the court today. They were raped by terrorists in front of their father at Dewanpur on October 18 and 19.

Meanwhile, police arrested two persons — Moammad Rashed and Mohammad Dulal from Kaptai road in Chandraghona in this connection.

## Jubo Dal

From Page 1

Minto Road official residence of BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia in the evening to enable the army to pay their last respect.

Khaleda Zia saw Ali's body and stood in solemn silence for a minute. Former MP of Sharsha Mofizul Hassan Tripti then described the story of the Juba Dal leader's murder by the "AL terrorists". Later, the BNP chief consoled Korb Ali, the brother of the victim, and assured him of trial of the killers after ousting the AL government.

Preparations were on last night to send Shawaq Ali's body to his home in Sharsha where his *namaj-e-janaza* would be held at 10 this morning, said a party press release.

Meanwhile, BNP leaders from Jessore — Tariqul Islam, Khaledur Rahman Tito and Mofizul Hassan Tripti — in a joint statement demanded arrest and trial of the killers.

## Charges

From Page 1

5. Directing the officers to ask the woman to give a written public statement denying sex with him.

The five charges of sexual misconduct are:

1. Committing sodomy with a man in April 1994.
2. Committing sodomy with a second man in May 1994.
3. Committing sodomy with a third man in April 1998.
4. Committing sodomy with a fourth man in March 1993.
5. Committing sodomy with a fifth man in December 1992.

Each corruption charge carries a maximum sentence of 14 years in jail and a fine of 20,000 ringgit (\$265 dollar). Each sodomy charge is punishable with a maximum penalty of 20 years in jail and whipping.

## Water policy

From Page 1

massive participation of people for maximum utilisation of the resources.

The policy dwells on issues of water basin management, planning and management of water resources, water rights and allocation public and private involvement, water supply and sanitation, water and agriculture, water and industry, water and fisheries and wild life, water and navigation, water for hydro-power and recreation, water for the environment, economic and financial management, research and information management, stakeholders participation, institutional policy and legislative frame work.

The PM said that the four national leaders who were the leading members of the Mujibnagar Government were killed as per a blue print. "The Jail Killing which followed the saddest assassination of the Father of the Nation on August 15 the same year was a part of the continued deep-rooted conspiracy to rob the Bangalis of leadership," the PM said.

"There is no alternative to tolerance for achieving the progress of democracy and establishing rule of law. It is an established truth world-wide to run a country with mandate of

## \$ 235m IIFC

From Page 1

Projects in road and high-way, telecommunications, port and power sectors, among others, are to get priority in getting finance from the company.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: "It will be a government owned company, while experts from home and abroad would work under it," said a cabinet source.

According to cabinet sources, the main job of the experts would be to advise the government as well as the potential investors as to whether a particular investment would be viable for the parties concerned.

"The company is expected to start functioning in a couple of months."

The Cabinet also had a discussion on the proposed agriculture policy of the government and asked the agriculture minister to have some discussion on certain related issues with a few ministries including the ministry of environment and accommodate their suggestions, said the cabinet sources.

## Nov 8 verdict

From Page 1

sidering overall situation," home secretary Safiur Rahman told UNB over telephone yesterday.

He said it is the responsibility of the government to ensure security of all and maintain the law and order situation in the country.

The special security measures will be adopted from today that coincide observance of the Jail Killing Day.

A senior police official said they will keep a close watch on programmes of opposition political parties on November 7. Special security measures in the capital have been planned for November 8.

BNP and its allies are set to hold public meetings in the city on November 7 in observance of the Revolutionary and National Solidarity Day that marked Ziaur Rahman's taking over of power.

Overt and covert security guards were being deployed in sensitive areas and institutions including diplomatic enclave, residences of the foreign diplomats, airports, railway stations, bus terminals, certain hotels, television and radio stations, residence of the judge, plaintiff, prosecution lawyers and witnesses of the Bangladesh murder case.

Police sources said their vigilant teams are keeping a close watch on some areas and movements of certain persons and their residents.

There were a number of separate and joint meetings of the Detective Branch, Special Branch and NSI for planning and execution of the security measures.

The source said lists of potential trouble mongers were prepared and their movements will be monitored.

## Robot's hand

From Page 1

performed more than 20,000 open-heart by-pass surgeries world wide over 99 per cent success rate, said, "Robot-assisted surgery would cost about 25 per cent less. It would also involve a shorter stay in hospital."

"Continuous research here at Escort aims to introduce patient-friendly surgeries and reduced costs."

Dr. Trehan is the recipient of over 20 awards in recognition of his outstanding contribution to medical research, teaching and community service.

"Bangladeshi surgeons have a great deal of scope for training in the latest advances in the robotic surgeries. We are ready to train Bangladeshi doctors here at Escorts for transferring this technology."

"We propose to set up a satellite centre of Escorts in Dhaka by the end of this year for training doctors there and Medical Services. We have already given our consent to a memorandum of understanding to be signed with a hospital in Dhaka very shortly."

"The idea is to share technologies. The robot-assisted surgery was introduced in the West very recently. So we are not behind. In fact, Bangladeshi surgeons would get opportunities for such technology transfer through SAARC cardiac society."

## This day 23 years ago

From Page 1

graves of the four leaders. The party will also organise *mitad mahfil*, offer *fateha* and special prayers.

The Jail Killing Case, filed on the next day of the incident, was revived when Awami League returned to power in 1996 after 21 years.

The CID submitted charge sheet in the case after about two years of investigation, accusing 23 people. Among them, 19 have also been charged in the Bangladesh Murder Case, the judgement of which is scheduled to be delivered on November 8.

Of those chargesheeted in the Jail Killing Case, seven are at the Dhaka Central Jail, two are dead and the rest 14 — all former military personnel — are absconding.

The two dead are former President Khandaker Mush-taque Ahmed and former secretary Mahbubul Alam Chashi.

The 21 chargesheeted accused sent up for trial are: 1) KM Obaidur Rahman, 2) Shah Moazzam Hussain, 3) Nurul Islam Manjur, 4) Taheruddin (Thakur), 5) Lt Col (dismissed) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, 6) Maj (ret'd) Bazul Huda, 7) Lt Col (ret'd) SHMB Noor Chowdhury, 8) Lt Col (relieved) Shariful Huq Dalim, 9) Lt Col (ret'd) Aziz Pasha, 10) Lt Col (dismissed) Farukur Rahman, 11) Lt Col (dismissed) Sultan Shahrari Khan, 12) Lt Col (relieved) AM Rashed Chowdhury, 13) Maj (relieved) SKM Mahiuddin, 14) Risalder (ret'd) Muslemuddin, 15) Capt (ret'd) Abdul Majed, 16) Maj (relieved) Ahmed Sharful Hussain, 17) Maj (ret'd) Khairuz-zaman, 18) Capt (relieved) Kismet Hashim, 19) Capt (ret'd) Najmul Hussain Ansar, 20) Dafadar Marfat Ali Shah, 21) LD Abul Hashem Mirdha.

In a message on the occasion, President Shahabuddin Ahmed has made a fervent appeal to develop tolerance among the political parties for establishing rule of law and institutionalising democracy in the country.

"There is no alternative to tolerance for achieving the progress of democracy and establishing rule of law. It is an established truth world-wide to run a country with mandate of