

Whirlpool HOME APPLIANCES USA Refrigerator Transcom Electronics Limited

The Daily Star

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA, BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN, MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE OF DIFFERENT TYPES. NIRMAL INTERNATIONAL LTD.

VOL. VIII NO. 292 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: http://www.dailystarnews.com AGRAHAYAN 1,1405 BS DHAKA SUNDAY NOVEMBER 15, 1998 RAJAB 24, 1419 HIJRI 16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

US ban on 300 Indian, Pak govt agencies, pvt companies

WASHINGTON, Nov 14: The US government on Friday imposed sanctions on more than 300 Indian and Pakistani government agencies and private companies for their alleged nuclear ties, report agencies.

Under the sanctions, the targeted agencies and companies would be barred from buying US goods, announced the US Commerce Department.

Today's announcement specifies Indian and Pakistani entities believed to have been involved in Indian or Pakistani nuclear, missile, and military programmes, the department said in a statement.

The United States imposed sanctions on India and Pakistan after the two countries raced nuclear tests in May in defiance of an international ban on nuclear tests signed by other nations.

But the United States scaled back the sanctions when it found they were hurting US farmers.

Among those listed for the sanctions in India were the Defence Research and Development Organisation in New Delhi, the Department of Energy and the Indian Institute of Science, the Fertiliser Corp and India Rare Earths Ltd.

Among those in Pakistan were Pakistan Ordnance Factories as well as the People's Steel Mills. (Details on page 9)

3 diplomats may be retained on contracts

By M Anwarul Haq

Three senior diplomats who are due to retire shortly are being given extension on contract basis, sources said yesterday.

They will be re-appointed initially for one year.

Files of three of them are learnt to be under "active consideration" at the Prime Minister's office. They are: High Commissioner to India Shafi Sami, Principal of Foreign Services Academy Anwar Hashim and ambassador to Belgium and the European Union Khairul Anam.

Khairul Anam is due to retire on December 9. Shafi Sami on January 27, and Anwar Hashim on January 8. The three, holding the rank of secretary, will continue in their present positions "for the time being", the sources said.

The re-appointment of senior diplomats would be taking place in the backdrop of two years' extension of service of Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman. In the last 27 years, Mustafizur Rahman is the first. See Page 12 Col 8

Deep depression over Bay

The depression over West Central Bay and adjoining South Bay moved slightly North-westwards and concentrated into a deep depression over the same area, said a Met Office special bulletin yesterday, reports UNB.

It was concentrated about 1080 km South-west of Chittagong Port and 1000 km South-west of Khulna town at 6 pm yesterday and is likely to intensify further and move in a north-westerly direction.

Maximum sustained wind within 48 km of the depression centre is about 50 kilometre per hour rising to 60 kph in gust or squalls. Sea will remain moderate.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to hoist Distant Warning Signal number two.

Inside Today

Article

The Iraq Crisis Flares up Again

Column: Connecting the Dots by Dr AR Choudhury Page 4

Focus

Wrong end of the telescope view of the US mid-term elections Page 5

Business

Special prosecutors' refusal to handle share scam cases: Ministry seeks SEC advice on next move

US, Japan still poles apart on APEC tariff cuts

DSE, CSE price quotations Pages 6, 7, 8

'5th and 7th amendments are ultra vires the Constitution'

The Daily Star Public Debate told

By Staff Correspondent

Barrister Amirul Islam, one of those who drafted Bangladesh's Constitution, believes the Fifth and Seventh amendments to the Constitution that ratified the martial law regulations of two military regimes have no legal basis.

Claiming that ratifications were violative of Article 7 of the Constitution, Barrister Islam said yesterday: "According to the Article all powers in the Republic are supposed to be exercised and effected under, and by the authority of the Constitution. But how could the martial law regulations, which were not made and effected under the Constitutional authorities, be ratified in Parliament?"

The barrister made the observations yesterday afternoon at The Daily Star's Public Dialogue styled 'Twenty-six Years of Our Constitution and Bangladesh Today'.

Others who spoke on the occasion included Dr. Kamal Hossain, Suranjit Sengupta - all framers of the Constitution - and Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed and Dr. M Zahir. The dialogue took place in the British Council auditorium.

However, glorifying Article 11 of the Constitution, Amirul

Islam said that it clearly defined the democratic nature of the state and gave clear directives that all levels of administration will be run by the elected representatives of the people. In this regard, he criticised those who allowed the bureaucrats to scrutinise the Local Government Commission report prepared by a committee comprising parliament members.

Commenting on the proposed Upazila Parishad Bill, 1998, the barrister said its content is inconsistent with the spirit of both the Constitution and the LGC Commission.

He also criticised the judiciary for its "failure to safeguard some basic principles of the Constitution on some occasions in the past".

The Daily Star editor Mahfuz Anam who moderated the 'public dialogue' said what is most important now is to devise the ways of implementing the fundamental rights guaranteed to the citizens, instead of dwelling on the past.

However, Dr. Kamal Hossain believes that the state's constitution has practically been reduced to a mere lifeless document, with the citizens still de-

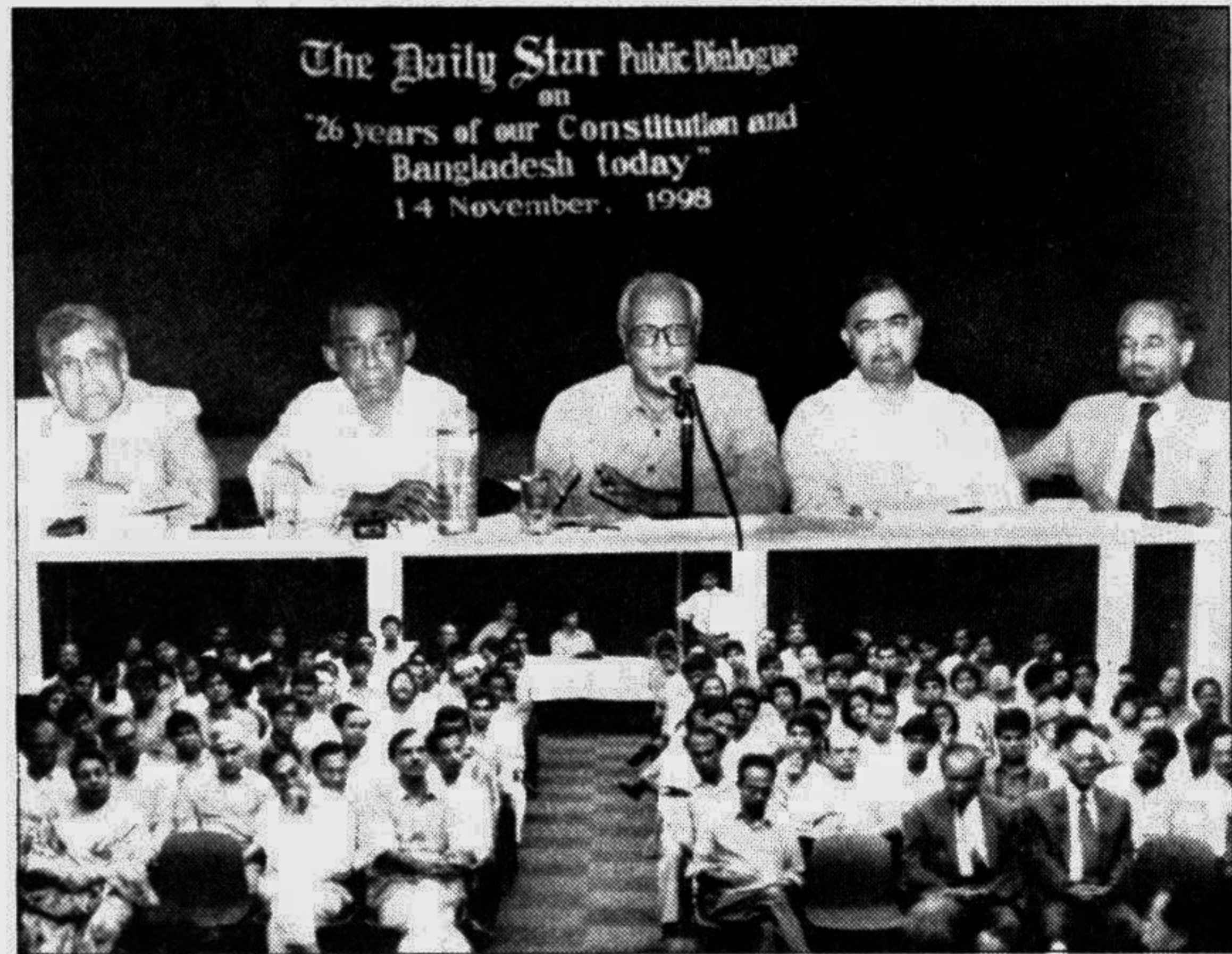
prived, especially, of certain social, political and economic rights.

According to Dr. Hossain, who was the chairman of the 34-member Constitution Drafting Committee in 1972, effective government efforts to ensure the fundamental rights of the citizens could turn the Constitution into a living document for them.

Quoting a South African scholar who termed constitution "the auto-biography of a nation", Kamal Hossain said, "Our Constitution was the embodiment of dreams and aspirations of a struggling people that went through bitter experiences of political and economic deprivation under the extra-constitutional powers. While drafting the Constitution, we therefore incorporated clauses that would ensure all these rights, including equal opportunity of the citizens."

Dr. Hossain also said the budgetary allocations of the governments still show that the social sectors are ignored while unproductive sectors are financed heavily. It would not help implement the spirit of the Constitution.

See Page 12 Col 1



Barrister Ishtiaque Ahmed (middle) speaks at The Daily Star Public Dialogue yesterday while (from left) Dr M Zahir, Suranjit Sengupta, Dr. Kamal Hossain, Barrister Amirul Islam listen. Below is a partial view of the audience at the British Council. — Star photo

Iraq bows to threat

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 14: UN chief Kofi Annan intends to send humanitarian workers back to Iraq, following the Iraqi leadership's decision to resume cooperation with weapons inspectors, a UN spokesman said today, reports UNB.

In Baghdad, UN envoy Prakash Shah said the Iraqi leadership sent a letter to Kofi Annan allowing the work of inspectors from the UN Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency at suspected weapons sites to resume.

"No conditions have been mentioned in this letter," Shah said at a news conference at the UN headquarters in Baghdad. "The main point of the letter... is that the leadership of Iraq has decided to resume working with the Special Commission and the International Atomic Energy Agency and to allow them to perform their normal duties."

Shah spoke minutes after

conveying the letter signed by Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz to Annan. He said all Security Council members would receive copies.

In New York, Annan said he received the letter from Iraq's UN ambassador, Nizar Hamdoun, and "I think it's positive."

When the Security Council meets later today Annan said, they will have this letter before them. They will decide what next to do.

The Iraqi decision could defuse the crisis over arms inspections that led to threatened American attacks on Iraq and a buildup of US military forces in the Gulf.

Sanctions were imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which spurred the Gulf War. Under the cease-fire that ended Gulf War in 1991, sanctions cannot be lifted until UN weapons inspectors certify that Iraq has been disarmed.

Meanwhile, the US military buildup in the Gulf is continuing despite the Iraq decision.

"The situation is not changed. We're continuing to deploy forces to the Gulf," Pentagon spokesman William Darley told AFP.

US B-52 bombers have left the United States and should arrive in the island of Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean Sunday, Darley said.

The Pentagon is in the process of "discharging the orders given by the President," Darley said.

Darley added that he does not rule out new developments in the course of day.

When fully deployed, the US military buildup — the fifth in the region since the end of the Gulf War — is set to involve some 44,000 soldiers, sailors, aviators and support personnel from the army, navy, air force and marines.

Another report says, the Kuwaiti army went on heightened alert today as a "precautionary measure."

"We are in permanent, full See Page 12 Col 3

BNP march toward JS tomorrow

The opposition BNP will start its march towards Parliament at 3 pm tomorrow from Paltan Maidan in the city in protest against the price-hike of essentials, deterioration of law and order and the incidents of rape on Jahangirnagar University campus, reports UNB.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will lead the march, said a press release.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of BNP and its front organisations held at the party's central office yesterday morning. BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan presided over the meeting.

Different aspects of preparation of the march towards Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban was discussed at the meeting and Bhuiyan called upon all the party members to make it a success.

See Page 12 Col 6

DMP bans processions on some city streets

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has banned all types of processions on a number of city streets and around the Sangsad Bhaban "in view of the existing situation".

Opposition BNP is scheduled to march towards parliament on Monday.

A DMP statement said the prohibitory orders on processions, demonstrations and carrying of explosives will be effective from midnight tonight to ensure holding of the 11th session of the seventh parliament. But it did not explain the 'existing situation'.

BNP last week announced the programme after its rally at Paltan Maidan on November 7 was foiled by unidentified elements.

It said that its leaders and MPs would lead a procession towards parliament to protest what it said recent imposition of taxes and duties, price hike of essentials, repression on it's ac-

tivists and disruption of the Paltan rally.

The BNP procession will begin from Paltan Maidan at 3 p.m. on Monday.

The ban will be in addition to normal restriction around parliament when it is in session. The roads that come under the fresh prohibitory orders are:

Bangla Motor crossing to old airport point on Mymensingh Road, western side of Bangla Motor crossing to SAARC fountain crossing, eastern point of Panthapath, Green Road link to Farm Gate, Shaymoli Cinema hall to Dhanmondi road no 27 (old), Agargaon link road, Shishu Mela crossing and upto old Nine Division crossing, Bjoy Sarani Parjatan crossing, Eastern side of Indira Road to western side of Manik Mia Avenue and all the roads and alleys in the protected areas near the Sangsad Bhaban.

Somalian citizen arrested at Dhaka Cantt

By Staff Correspondent

A Somalian citizen was arrested from Dhaka Cantonment yesterday by Military Police (MP) allegedly for illegal stay in Bangladesh.

Identified as Mohammad Aden alias Abdul Karim, 30, the Somalian was stopped by the MP as he tried to cross Jahangir Gate of the Cantonment at about 9:30 am.

Cantonment police said Aden was handed over to them at around noon and would be produced in court today.

Interrogated by the MP, Aden said he was on his way to the Cantonment residence of Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia to see her, police added.

The arrested said he has been in Bangladesh for the last six years and is a student of the Islamic University in Kushtia but failed to show any document in support of his claims.

He also told police that he was staying in a rented house in the city's Jhigatola area but could not confirm it till the filing of this report last night.

2 shot dead as AL, BNP clash in Jessore

JESSORE, Nov 14: Two people were killed and 20 injured, three of them critically, in a fierce fight between local Awami League and BNP activists at village Digidana in Jhikorgachha thana today, witnesses said, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as AL activist Alauddin, 29, son of Ali Biswas, and BNP's Moshir Rahman, 34.

Police said the clash erupted at about 8 am after Alauddin and his associates killed Moshir in a field near Bakra Bazar in the village.

As the news spread, the Moshir group of about 50 people rushed there and attacked the rival Alauddin group with firearms. Alauddin was shot down on the spot.

The two sides traded gunshots and exploded crackers during the clash.

Both the bodies were sent to Jessore General Hospital for autopsy. Soleman, Mussa and Anis suffered serious injuries, who, along with other injured people, were admitted to local health complex.

Bangabandhu murder

Appeal against verdict in HC within 2 days

Defence Lawyers in the Bangabandhu Murder Case will appeal to the High Court within two days against the conviction and award of death penalty to 15 former army officers by the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge, reports UNB.

Of the 15 convicts, four of them are now in the condemned cell of Dhaka Central Jail while 11 others remained fugitives. Advocate Khan Salfur Rahman, the counsel for Lt Col (ret'd) Syed Farooqur Rahman, is likely to file the appeal petition on behalf of Farooq and Lt Col (ret'd) Muhiuddin Ahmed.

Advocate T M Akbar had appeared for Muhiuddin in the lower court.

Maj (ret'd) Bazul Huda, who was tried in absentia and later extradited from Thailand on See Page 12 Col 6

Biotechnology can be 'a magic lamp' for farmers, rural women

By Special Correspondent



Dr Ferdousi Begum, executive director of DEVTEC, shows use of biotechnology growing orchids. A bottle holds 80 plants. — Star photo

Bio-technology can revolutionise the country's agriculture, helping farmers obtain better seeds and plants and increase production at less cost, a plant biotechnologist says.

"Bangladesh needs about 150,000 tonnes of potato seeds annually of which about 10,000 tonnes are imported and the rest produced by farmers. In the process, they damage the seeds and compromise the quality which affect production", Dr Ferdousi Begum, Executive Director of Development of Biotechnology and Environmental Conservation Centre (DEVTEC) told newsmen yesterday.

She said if the potato farmers receive training on developing seeds using biotechnology, it would cut losses and help increase production. The technology is simple, even women can be trained to use it, she added.

Vietnam used this technology. See Page 12 Col 7



Clinton to pay Paula \$850,000

WASHINGTON, Nov 14: President Bill Clinton has agreed to pay Paula Jones \$850,000 dollar to drop her sexual harassment lawsuit — with no apology or admission of guilt — ending the four-year legal battle that spurred the impeachment proceedings against him, reports AP.

See Page 12 Col 3

Sonia, Basu share concern over BJP bid to 'destroy' secularism

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: When Congress President Sonia Gandhi and veteran CPI (M) leader Jyoti Basu came together on the same platform for the first time here yesterday evening, it was one of the biggest political events in India in recent months confirming a significant pointer: Growing proximity of forces opposed to Bharatiya Janata Party in the backdrop of widening differences between India's ruling party and its allies.

The occasion of Sonia Gandhi and Jyoti Basu sharing the same dais was the lecture delivered by the West Bengal Chief Minister on "India and the Challenges of the 21st Century" at the invitation of Jawaharlar Nehru Memorial Trust.

This was the first time the two leaders were seen on the same dais since both managed to bring their respective parties round to soften their stand towards each other in recent times seeking to put up a com-

mon front against the BJP. On the dais yesterday, Sonia and Basu shared concern over the rise of BJP and what they described as attempts to "destroy" secularism and Cultural plurality of India.

In her introductory speech, the Congress chief said "it is the struggle to protect and cherish our plurality, whether one is in government or outside, that constitutes the heart of our political agenda."

Basu in his lecture said "the attempt to impose a false concept of Hindu nationalism" would tear India's national fabric. Sonia Gandhi appeared pleased when Basu commended her manner of high-lighting the "threat" to India's tradition of eclecticism and tolerance.

The bonhomie between the Congress and the CPI (M) was so intense at the function yesterday that it tended to push into the background, if not rub off, the differences between them which was reflected in Basu's

unsparing criticism of the Congress' policies during the last 50 years.

The West Bengal Chief Minister summed up the significance of the function when he said "it is a healthy political development that I was invited to give the lecture by the organisers who knew fully well that my views may not be in line with theirs."

Basu was more to the point in indicating the shape of possible political alignments to come after the November 25 assembly elections in four Indian states when he asserted "what we need is to mobilise the broad left, democratic and secular forces to expose the bankruptcy of the present dispensation in Delhi."

Sonia Gandhi and Jyoti Basu sharing the same platform came at a time when the run up to the assembly elections in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Delhi and Mizoram has seen BJP's allies moving away from

the saffron party to keep their options open for future course depending on the outcome of the hustings.

The beginning in the latest round of differences between was made when BJP and its allies Samata Party, Trinamool Congress and Lok Shakti failed to put up common candidates against the Congress in the four states. It was followed by Trinamool Congress leader Mamata Banerjee's pulling out of the coordination committee of BJP and its allies accusing the Vajpayee government of failing to take timely measures to check spiralling prices of essential commodities.

In yet another move seen by political analysts as Trinamool Congress' attempt to distance itself from the BJP, Mamata Banerjee announced her party's decision to observe "Black Day" on December 8 to register its protest against the demolition of the Babri Mosque six years ago.

Six more private banks likely

By M Shamsur Rahman

More private banks are coming. A committee has found six proposals viable after scrutinising 61 applications seeking permission to operate as scheduled banks.

Another two have been put on the waiting list.

The committee headed by the Bangladesh Bank governor shortlisted 23 out of the 61 applications. The six were chosen from among the 23.

Those recommended for banking license are the Premier Bank Ltd (lead sponsor Dr HBM Iqbal MP), First Security Bank Ltd (lead sponsor Engineer Salauddin Khan), Bangladesh Trade and Investment Bank Ltd (lead sponsor Akbar Uddin Ahmed, MD Eastern Engineering), Bengal Export Import Bank Ltd (lead sponsor Enamul Haq Chowdhury, MD of Energy-pack Ltd), Bank of Asia Ltd (lead sponsor A Rouf Chowdhury of Rangs) and BRAC Bank (sponsor FH Abed of BRAC).

The two banks on the waiting list are Bank One Ltd sponsored by Ashok Das Gupta and Merchant Bank International Ltd sponsored by Awami

Congress may oust BJP in New Delhi, Rajasthan

NEW DELHI, Nov 14: India's ruling Hindu nationalists face defeat in upcoming state elections, which analysts warn could spark fresh political realignments, two pre-poll surveys said today, reports AFP.

An opinion poll sponsored by a magazine said the main opposition Congress would oust the nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP, Indian People's Party) in New Delhi City and the northern state of Rajasthan.

The BJP would, however, dethrone the Congress in Madhya Pradesh, India's largest province in size, newspapers quoted the survey as saying, another survey also predicted a BJP defeat in New Delhi City.

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Daily Star and Bangladesh Biochemical Society will organise a national symposium to be followed by a Roundtable, on "Biochemistry and Biotechnology in National Development: Meeting the Challenges of 21st Century".

Venue : Teachers Students Centre (TSC), Dhaka University.

Time : 9 am to 7 pm (Day long)

Date : Monday, 16th November '98.

Eminent biotechnologists and Biochemists of the country will participate in the symposium, including the Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, Agricultural University, Bangabandhu Medical University, Islamic University etc.

All members of Biochemical Society, teachers and students of Universities are especially invited to join the symposium.

Members of the public are also invited to attend.