the Speaker to have told them

that he would talk to the gov-

ernment leaders on the matter.

the Speaker of the four-point

agreement with the government

and sought his help in its im-

plementation. "We also told

him of the government's dis-

criminatory attitude -- allow-

ing Ershad, accused in several

cases, to join the parliament

session while barring two BNP

lawmakers, KM Obaidur Rah-

man and Alamgir Kabir, from

opposition agitators, ministers'

"untrue" and "provocative"

statements on the floor of the

House were some other issues

discussed, he said. "The

Speaker assured us of his ef-

forts, within his jurisdiction, to

joined the session at 6.50 pm.

But Khaleda Zia, who stayed at

her Parliament office for quite

Speaker referred to all the is-

sues the party had been using to

agitate against the government.

On the much-talked-about har-

tal issue, it said hartal is a

in the opposition, observed har-

tal for 173 days, the memoran-

dum alleged the government de-

ployed notorious criminals

against the BNP workers when-

ever the party observed any

hartal. "Thus the country is

being pushed towards an un-

warranted anarchy."

Recalling that the AL, while

BNP's memorandum to the

sometime, did not attend.

Later, BNP lawmakers

address the issues."

democratic right.

Ruling party's attack on the

doing the same," he noted.

Delwar said they reminded



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Prime Minister's directive

Draw up post-flood projects very fast

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked officials to take an integrated rural development programme, reports UNB.

"Take projects in the villages in line with the concept of Ashrayan programme for generating employment and ensuring all other development cen-tring the rural areas," she told officials of the LGRD and Coop-

eratives Ministry. Reviewing the activities on post-flood rehabilitation programmes of the ministry at the secretariat, the prime minister also asked them to draw up and approve post-flood projects very fast for getting speedy help from the donors.

She said massive response had been received from the donors for post-flood rehabilitauon works and the assistance would be coming soon after completion of the project pro-

About the uplift of rural areas following the concept of Ashrayan project, she directed them to take up education, employment generation and health and sanitation programmes for the welfare of the villagers.

Hasina also suggested the cooperative system in the rural areas be reinforced for poverty alleviation and giving a boost to the rural economy.

She asked the officials for taking special care in maintaining cleanliness, ensuring safe drinking water and speedy garbage disposal

Hasina told them to undertake special drives to combat mosquito menace in the urban areas, particularly in the capital city, and to take measures to contain spread of diseases by maintaining hygienic environment.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, in the review meeting, hoped that the flood-stricken people would also be able to recoup the losses caused by the floods as they could successfully combat the calamity with the united efforts

Local Government Division Secretary Hasnat Abdul Hye apprised the prime minister of the post-flood activities and said a Tk 11.27 crore project had been taken urgently for protection and maintenance of

roads, bridges and culverts. He said under the Public Health Engineering Depart-ment 65,876 tubewells were repaired in immediate flood-time rehabilitation schemes, 29,014 elevated and 27,887 tubewells installed, while 2,476 latrines

were set up. Dhaka WASA has spent Tk 3.89 crore for the rehabilitation of deep tubewells and repair of the power sub-stations and drainage system, Abdul Hye

For post-flood rehabilitation the government has allocated Tk 78 crore for various projects of the division, and the government is getting Tk 218.45 crore from the foreign donors, the secretary informed.

The donors also made commitment for Tk 72 crore for the repair of damaged roads in the capital and the government also got aid pledges from the World Bank, SIDA, German FWP, Japan and other donor countries and agencies.

Rural Development and Cooperatives Secretary Ahbab Ahmad said 75 lakh members are working under the 145,000 cooperative societies.

He said Tk 300 crore had been allocated for micro-credit to the affected farmers and other groups through the cooperatives and Tk 88.87 crore distributed among the affected

Ahbab Ahmad said among the cooperative farmers Tk 100 crore would be distributed for producing post-flood crops and that steps had been taken to sanction another tranche of Tk 150 crore for disbursement.

For rehabilitation of the affected poor and for income-generating works upto October, Tk 82.13 crore has been distributed. Under the rural livelihood programme, a Tk 316 crore project will be imple-mented, he said.

BNP leaders and activists marching towards Sangsad Bhaban in the city yesterday.

BNP march: Memo to Speaker

At Bangla Motor point, an

iron-fence barricade, backed by

several hundreds of riot and

armed policemen, was put on.

The BNP marchers, aided by

those of other parties who had

reached the spot earlier.

demonstrated for quite some-

time, shouting anti-govern-

ment slogans on their arrival

were found using powerful

lights to detect trouble-mongers

in the violent crowd and at the

Sangsad Bhaban, Khaleda Zia

thanked the marchers and ad-

vised them to go back home

peacefully. "Our agitation is to

protect the country and its peo-

ple. Today's march has proved

it once again that we believe in

peaceful agitation", she said

urging the partymen to join the

November 23 hunger strike at

drove to the Sangsad Bhaban

while other party leaders.

mostly MPs, also reached there

by different modes of transport.

tion Prof. Badruddoza Choud-

hury led a BNP delegation to the

Speaker's office at 6.20 pm and

handed over a four-page memo-

randum to him. The BNP dele-

gation comprising its senior

MPs and three non-MP leaders

had a 33-minute discussion

with Speaker Humayun Rashid

Chief Whip of the Opposition

Khandakar Delwar Hossain

told the waiting reporters that

their discussion ranged from

the government repression on

the street to its maltreatment of

the opposition members in the

tervention in the affairs, espe-

cially those related to the run-

ning of the Sangsad, and urged

him to make the parliament

more effective through his neu-

tral role," he said and quoted

"We sought the Speaker's in-

Emerging from the meeting.

Deputy Leader of the Opposi-

Then the opposition leader

Before starting for the

At that stage, policemen

there at 5.30 pm.

adjacent buildings.

Paltan Maidan.

Choudhury.

CU Syndicate

From CU Correspondent

members

CHITTAGONG, Nov 16: Dr Ershad Kamal of Economics and Dr Abdul Motaleb of Microbiology departments have been elected Syndicate members of Chittagong University from associate professors and lecturers respectively.

Four candidates from two panels - Awami League-backed Pink Panel and BNP-Jamaat backed White Panel - contested the poll. However, Pink Panel candidates bagged the two post The election was held at Science Faculty Gallery from 9 am

to 12 am. The election was conducted by a 3-member election commission headed by Prof Mahbub-ul-Haque Majumder, Registrar of the university.

3 trawlers with smuggled salt seized

CHITTAGONG, Nov 16: A patrol boat of Bangladesh Navy today seized 3 trawlers loaded with salt and arrested 22 people from outer anchorage of the port, reports UNB.

Official sources said BNS Shapla chased the trawlers for two hours early this morning and caught them with 222 met ric tons of unrefined salt. The smugglers brought the

salt from Myanmar and were going to Chandpur.

2 women feared killed in septic tank collapse

By Staff Correspondent

Two women were feared killed yesterday afternoon when an abandoned septic tank at the Chest Disease Hospital premises collapsed due to weight of earth heaped on it from a nearby underconstruction building.

The two construction workers were identified as - Aziron, 30, and Johura, 25, police said. Witnesses and local people also said that the two of 27 workers at the site has been missing since the incident.

A portion of earth heaped about 15 feet high suddenly collapsed and went under the tank at about 4 pm, fire sources added. Aziron and Johura were on top of the pile of earth at that Fire Service and Civil De-

fence members along with construction workers were conducting the rescue operation till filing of this report late last

President From Page 1

emain as a stigma in our na-

tional life. "As the trial of the Jail Killing Case has just began, there is nothing much to be said about this," he said. "But cul-

prits need to be put on trial for

the sake of rule of law and the

law should take its own course.' President Shahabuddin paid glowing tributes to the memory of the four national leaders -Sved Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, M Monsur Ali and A H M Quamaruzzaman, and prayed for the salvation of their departed soul.

Addressing the function, Syeda Zohra Tajuddin underscored the need for finding the motive behind the jail killing and said that without uncovering the motive, political conspiracy will increase in the country.

She accused certain opposi-

tion parties of hatching con-

spiracy over the verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case when it was being widely acclaimed in the world. Abdur Razzak said the killings of Bangabandhu and

the four leaders were closely linked. He said, the killers had struck with the aim of destabil-

ising the country's political situation, foisting autocracy over democracy and foiling the spirit of the War of Liberation. Referring to the verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case,

Razzak said it will ease the efforts to establish rule of law. consolidate democracy and accelerate development in the country. Mohammad Nasim said the

killers of Bangabandhu had made the four leaders as the next target because of their successful leadership in the War of Liberation in absence of the father of the nation.

The labourers were engaged in digging earth and heaping those on the dilapidated septic tank inside the premises of the

hospital at Mahakhali. Some of the labourers, including Aziron and Johura, were dumping earth on the abandoned septic tank, about 15 feet deep. Gulshan police, at about 11:30 pm, said there officials

were on the spot. According to them the bodies of the victims were yet to be recovered. Maulana Bhasani's

22nd anniversary of death today The nation will pay homage

to Maulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhasani on the 22nd death anniversary of the leader of the oppressed, reports APB. Different socio-cultural and

political organisations have taken elaborate programmes to mark the day.

The programmes include Khatm-e-Quran, Mazar Ziarat, Munajat for the salvation of the departed soul and distribution of sweetmeat and visit to the Mazar of the late leader

At Santosh, disciples and political followers of Moulana Bhasani will join in the day's programme. Publications on the life and work of the late leader will be put on display at an exhibition there.

Khaleda From Page 1

escaped," she said adding, "Where is security of commonman while the Opposition Leader and the MPs are not safe? It's now evident that there is no government in the coun-In her 20-minute-speech she

delivered from her jeep, Khaleda Zia also blasted the government for "prevailing anarchism" in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, "spiraling" prices of essentials, "failure and corruption" in the post-flood management, imposing Tk 300 crore fresh taxes on the flood-ravaged nation, rapes at Jahangirnagar University and Dhaka College, attack on the Badrunnessa Women's College students and "conspiracy" against the country's power system.

Correction Bangladesh Agricultural Re-

search Council (BARC) is considering to support bio-technology projects, said Dr Ferdousi Begum, Executive Director of DEBTEC. Referring to a Daily Star report published on Sunday, she said, she did not say BARC was impassive. It is rather considering to support her project to help spread the technology to rural poor and women, she said.

Bill to mobilise Tk 200 cr

From Page 1

prolonged flooding in the last monsoon slowed down the revenue collection as economic activities remained stalled for two months. Referring to food imports to

replenish the stock, Kibria said the government would need some Tk 790 crore to buy 10 lakh metric tonnes of foodgrain. Apart from this, Tk 1027

crore is required for food distribution in the form of VGF, GR and Food for Works to feed the poor. Besides, 15 lakh metric tonnes of food are expected

from external aid while 10 lakh tonnes would be imported in the private sector. "None has died from starvation as the government took emergency measures to arrange food," Kibria said. Assuring

that there is adequate stock of food, he dismissed the fears of famine. He said Tk 619 crore is needed for post-flood rehabili-

tation while Tk 158 crore had already been spent from the contingency fund. The opposition lawmakers argued that if the external flood

aid was sufficient, as claimed

by the government, then what necessitated imposition of fresh taxes on the people. They alleged that the surcharges imposed through an ordinance sidetracking the parliament reflected the "auto-

Dr Moyeen Khan called the Bill unusual and asked what the government would do with "This Tk 300 crore" when the post-flood rehabilitation would

cratic" mentality of the gov-

ernment.

require a big chunk of Tk 15,000 crore.

Abdul Mannan said it would have been nice if the government could stop unproductive expenditure without imposing fresh taxes.

Dr Rustam Ali Farazi said the government cannot impose such taxes through ordinance as per relevant article of the Constitution that envisages that a new tax cannot be imposed without parliament's approval.

The House rejected the opposition's amendments and passed the Bill by voice vote.

4 oil companies donate \$1m for postflood rehabilitation

By Staff Correspondent

Four multinational oil and gas companies operating in the country have donated I million US dollars to CARE Bangladesh and the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,B) for flood relief and rehabilitation in the country.

Cairn Energy PLC. Occidental Oil and Gas, Shell and Unocal Corporation pooled the funds to help Bangladesh recover quickly from this year's catastrophic flooding, said member of the Board of Trustees, ICDDR.B. Major General (retd) MR Choudhury at a press conference in the city yesterday.

Promotion From Page 1 Rashid Khan replaces him in

Bangla Motor crossing from

where separate delegations

went to the Speaker's chamber

remained vigilant at Paltan

Maidan well before the BNP

leaders and workers had started

Before Khaleda Zia's arrival

arriving there at around 3 pm.

at 4 pm, her party's top leaders

including some 40 MPs turned

up. By then, several thousand

people reached the venue where

a BNP rally came under attack

began with recitation from the

holy Quran. Khaleda Zia ad-

dressed the gathering after the

party's city unit chief Sadek

Hossain Khoka, MP spoke,

blasting the government for

rally at the same place. He also

warned of dire consequences

had the Nov 7 incidents oc-

march at 4.50 pm, the opposi-

tion leader asked her partymen

to carry out the programme

peacefully and guard against

any trouble-mongers who she

said might have been in the

here also. Remain alert and

catch if you find any. We'll try

such terrorist under the law of

curity van ahead, Khaleda Zia

started leading the marchers.

followed by riot policemen.

Amid full-throated slogans by

the workers, she passed through

the Noor Hossain Square, the

Purana Paltan crossing, the

Jativa Press Club, Matsya Bha-

ban and Shahbagh points to

reach the Bangla Motor cross-

ing. At places on her way, the

BNP chief waived at the crowd

along the streets. Riot and

armed policemen were deployed

at different points of the pro-

cessions' routes.

the land", she said.

"Terrorists may be planted

Riding on a jeep, with her se-

Just before the start of the

"foiling" their November

At 4.20 pm, the programme

on November 7.

curred again.

Contingents of riot police

to submit their memoranda.

Dhirajkumar Nath, JS, shipping ministry has been appointed Director General of Bangladesh Management Institute. Shakhawat Hossain, a JS (OSD) in establishment ministry has been appointed Director of Government Employees Welfare Directorate. Mizanur Rahman, formerly commercial counselor, Bangladesh embassy in Washington, has been promoted as JS and made OSD in establishment ministry.

Shakhwat Hossain, JS (OSD) in

establishment ministry has

ministry as a JS.

been transferred to agriculture

the agriculture ministry.

gouged out

By Staff Correspondent A gang of criminals gouged out the eyes of a young man at Dhania in the city Sunday

Babul, 25, was returning home to Jinjira from a relative's house at Dhania at about 9:30 pm when the gang, numbering four, caught and dragged him inside an underconstruction building and gouged out his eyes after beating him, his relatives said. He is under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The reason behind the attack

Young man's eyes

could not be known.

Formulate policy, set up bio-tech cell to reduce dietary gaps in calorie, Prof. Dr MA Quaderi, Islamic

From Page 1 applications like maker aided selection (MAS) and transformation for improvement of cro- pecies. Production of "our own na-

tional resources" (flora and

fauna) and protection of our own wild seeds/germplasms. * In the health sector, the application of biochemistry and biotechnology can be broadly divided into two areas -- diag-

nostic and therapeutic. Based

on the present perspectives for economically viable biotechnology projects. An inventory of resource persons (both national and international) and organisations should be prepared and practi-cal steps should be taken to de-velop collaboration among

Develop improved oil, pulse, vegetable and fruit seeds

(vitamins and minerals) and thus provide the nation with a balanced food basket and reduce the prevalence of different forms of malnutrition among the population particularly among mothers and children. An international centre be established to promote research on the above crops to achieve the above goal. Editor Mahfuz Anam mod-

protein and micro-nutrients

erated the round-table meeting at the seminar room of Bio-Chemistry Department of Dhaka University. Prominent among those who took part in the day-long pro-

gramme were: Dhaka Univer-Research Division, BIRDEM). sity vice chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury, BCSIR chairman Prof. M Moshihuzzman, Bangabandhu Medical University vice-chancellor **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

University vice-chancellor Prof. M Qaisuddin, DU Centre for Biomedical Research Director Prof. Kamaluddin Ahmed. Dr Ahmed A Azad (senior scientist, CSIRD division of Molecular Science, Australia). Dr Ziauddin Ahmed (DU microbiology teacher), Prof. Haseena Khan (DU bio-chemistry teacher), Prof. Khondkar Abdur Rahim (chairman of bio-chemistry department at DU), Prof. M Anwar Hossain (DU biochemistry teacher), Prof. Harun KM Yusuf (DU biochemistry teacher), Dr Abdur Razzak chief Scientific officer, BRAC) and Dr AK Azad Khan (director,

Earlier, the symposium told the scientists to get prepared for the challenges of the new cen-

The DU vice-chancellor opened the National Sympo-sium styled Biochemistry and Biotechnology in National Development -- Meeting the Challenge's of 21st Century.

Proper use and exploitation of biochemistry and biotechnology can bring about tremendous results in invention of new

Dr. Ahmed Azad, an eminent biochemist based in Australia. told the seminar that use of manpower should be the key to development. "As a 'clever' country Bangladesh can use its biggest resource -- its people."
The DU vice-chancellor said

has already fallen behind but it is not too late," he said.

Prof Qaisuddin, president of Bangladesh Biochemical Society and IU VC, said biotechnology and biochemistry brought about remarkable changes in agriculture and medicine.

lution in the realm of agriculture," he said. (Details of the conference



HOTEL ABAKASH 83-88, Mohakhali C/A Dhaka-1212

Phone: 607085-88, 871109, 881548 Fax: 880-2-871150

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the next millennium would be an age of biotechnology. "The nation which would be able to use this technology would gain most in achieving economic progress and emancipation of the lot of the common man. "Unfortunately Bangladesh

He sought patronage from the government and also from the private sectors to further development of biochemistry and biotechnology.

"Development of improved varieties of cereals, better varieties of fruits and vegetables will prepare a ground for revo-

will be published later)