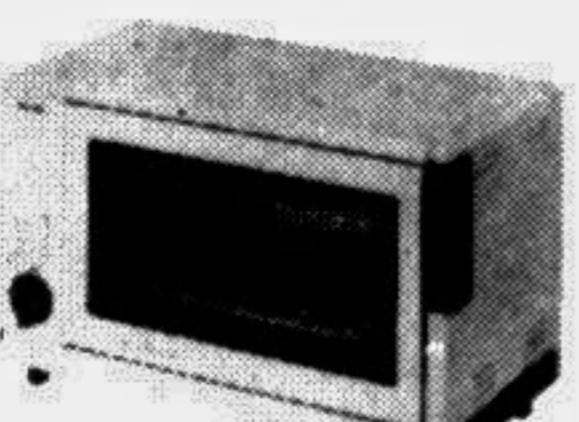


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PHILIPS

President tells BAF officials in Jessore

Dhaka against all sorts of arms race, aggression

JESSORE, Dec 7: President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday said Bangladesh would continue to oppose all sorts of arms race, including nuclear arms race, report agencies.

"We believe in the policy of good neighbourly and friendly relations and malice to none. We are against all sorts of aggression..." the President said.

President Shahabuddin was addressing Bangladesh Air Force (BAF) officials and cadets at the passing out ceremony marking the commissioning of the 37th GD(P), first short GD(P) and 41st Ground Branch cadets at BAF Academy at Base Matirur Rahman here.

The President said Bangladesh is determined to eradicate poverty and raise the living standard of the commoners. "But amid all limitations, we have created an efficient defence system to safeguard our sovereignty and protect dignity as a respected nation," he said.

He said gradual steps were taken for modernisation of the defence systems while different

pragmatic steps were taken for creating a strong and expanded air force.

The President said sophisticated equipment would be added soon to BAF and air defence system would be strengthened to boost efficiency of the air force.

The President urged the BAF personnel to be ready for supreme sacrifices in the interest of the nation. He advised them to adopt new knowledge and skills using scopes created by free flow of information across the world.

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Jamal Uddin Ahmed and Air Officer Commanding of the BAF Base Matirur Rahman, who is also the Commandant of the BAF Academy, received the President on his arrival at the parade ground in a ceremonial motorcade.

President Shahabuddin reviewed the smartly turned out parade and took the salute at the impressive marchpast. He also distributed flying badges among the flight cadets and

other awards and decorations.

Flight Cadet Under Officer Adnan Makid (GD(P)) was adjudged the best all round Flight Cadet and was awarded the coveted Sword of Honour. Flight Cadet Wing Under Officer Muhammed Mamunur Rashid (GD(P)) was awarded the Osmani Gold Medal for his feat in Academic Training.

Flight Cadet Under Officer Muhammed Tajuddin (GD(P)) got the Commandant's Trophy for his outstanding performance in General Service Training in the GD(P) branch.

Flight Cadet Sergeant Muhammed Ali (GD(P)) was awarded the Best Flight Cadet's trophy securing top position among the Flight Cadets in the No. 1 Short GD(P) Course and Cadet Sergeant Muhammed Asadur Rashid got the Chief of the Air Staff's trophy while he won the top position in the Ground Branch Training. No 1 Squadron was given the BAF Academy colour for their best overall performance.

B'baria clash

From Page 1
stadium but were stopped by police near Brahmanbaria college.

Being interrupted by police, they tried to hold their scheduled programme at the Brahmanbaria college ground. As their programme started, the students and teachers of the Madrasah attacked them with lethal weapons.

Police lobbed about 100 rounds of teargas shells and used rubber bullets to bring the situation under control.

Of the injured, 42 were admitted to the Brahmanbaria Sadar Hospital while the injured 25 policemen were admitted to the police hospital. The injured included an ASP.

Two people, injured critically, were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. The anti-NGO group also set fire to a local NGO office and a motor bike during the four-hour long clash.

The teachers and students of the Madrasah at a press conference later in the evening called a dawn-to-dusk hartal today protesting what they said the partisan role of the police during the clash.

The teachers and students of the Madrasah at a press conference later in the evening called a dawn-to-dusk hartal today protesting what they said the partisan role of the police during the clash.

These assertions relate directly to the rule of law in Bangladesh and to your costs of doing business."

The US envoy also pointed to toll raised by police from truckdrivers, as reported in The Daily Star, and said such "rent-seeking" raises business costs directly and makes Bangladesh less competitive in a world economy.

Mentioning delays in judicial delivery process, Holzman said: "Experts have told me that there is a backlog of over 200,000 court cases."

The US Ambassador offered his government's readiness to support Bangladesh's efforts to improve the workings of the police and the court, and to strengthen the role of the judiciary.

Holzman, however, acknowledged the opposition's right to express its views "freely and openly" and said it should be taken into account in any effort to rid this country of the scourge of shutdowns.

He observed that the rule of law and respect for individual rights are in the best interest of business because they form the necessary bedrock for long-term economic growth.

Underlining the need for an independent judiciary, Holzman said: "Independent judiciary is the most important mean of assuring that governmental power is not used for partisan ends."

The proposed independent human rights commission, if established, could serve as an impartial third party in resolving the inevitable disputes between the government and the opposition, he said.

Protection of human rights and a climate for doing business go together, the envoy said. "No nation that disregards rule of law and ignores individual rights can prosper in the long run."

Quoting the World Development Report 1997, Holzman said entrepreneurs believe the higher a government's credibility with the private sector, the more will be private investment.

Hajj expenses

From Page 1

A high powered pre-Hajj policy formulation meeting of the Religious Affairs Ministry earlier recommended the total Hajj expense as Tk 80,400 with an estimated plane fare of Tk 36,000.

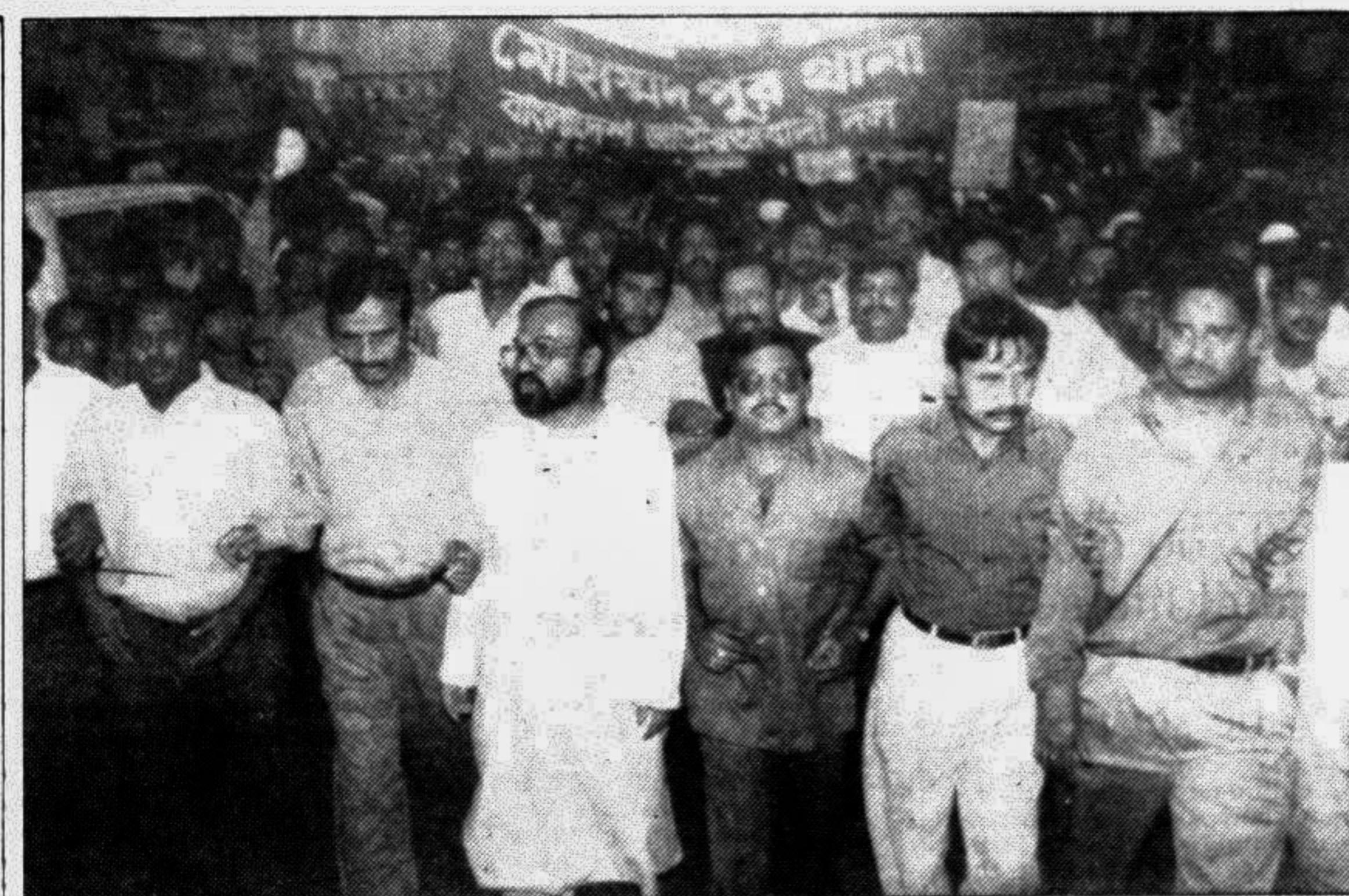
But the Cabinet fixed the air fare as Tk 40,000.

The branches of the banks concerned have been requested to accept the Hajj money without waiting for any notification from the head offices in this regard.

If necessary, the branch managers of the banks may contact the Hajj Office by telephone (896574 and 896570).

Meanwhile, the Cabinet in its meeting yesterday also endorsed a proposal to raise the honorarium of the Public Service Commission chairman and members.

Ministers and State Ministers of different ministries attended the meeting. Cabinet Secretary, Principal Secretary, the PM and other secretaries were present.



BNP city unit brought out a procession in the capital yesterday as part of the 'Demonstration Day'.

— Star photo

BNP, allies warn at rallies

Massive protests soon to pull down govt

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition activists yesterday staged demonstrations in the city to press for a mid-term election and to protest price hike of essentials and "governmental atrocities".

Several thousands leaders and activists of BNP and its front organisations brought out a huge procession that started from BNP's city unit office at Nayabazar Yusuf Market at about 4:50 pm and paraded different city streets.

BNP-led Seven Party Alliance also held demonstrations across the country as part of the 'Demonstration Day' to protest "price hike of essential commodities, gas price hike, imposition of Tk 300 crore additional tax, deterioration of law and order, increase of rape and murder, politicisation of administration, corruption, repression on opposition and government's failures in different sectors".

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Khaleda Zia had announced the agitation programme at a day-long mass hunger strike in the capital on December 2. Yesterday's programme passed off peacefully.

BNP, Jamaat-e-Islami, Jatiya Party (Z-M), Jagpa, Democratic League, Progressive Nationalist Party and National Democratic Alliance organised protest rallies and processions in all district and thana headquarters throughout the country.

At the rallies, the opposition leaders said they would make sure this "autocratic and subservient" government falls soon through massive street protest.

They said there is no alternative to holding mid-term election as the Awami League government has failed to run the country.

The leaders said it has become very difficult for commonmen, particularly for the working class and fixed income group to live due to abnormal price increase of all essential items, including rice, onion, oil and pulse.

They called upon the people to join in the current movement to expedite the fall of the government to protect the independence and sovereignty of the country as well as save the nation and democracy.

Prior to the procession, BNP city convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka briefly addressed the gathering where he warned of launching a mass movement if

APB adds: Acting upon a written complaint to the DU

said, though the Chief Election Commissioner issued statements urging all concerned to abide by the code of conduct, but unfortunately the ruling party did not pay any heed to it and continued to violate the code.

The complainant, a student of M A final year of Public Administration, said that a teacher of International Relations Department molested her in his room on November 29.

AL complaint

From Page 1

Bera and Sujanagar thanas and gave life-threat to the OCs.

A general diary has been lodged with each of the police stations as such incidents are also violation of code of conduct, it said.

The Awami League alleged that another BNP MP Harun-Rashid Khan Munnu distributed sarees and lungis worth Tk 500,000 among voters at Talarchar in Bera thana yesterday, saying that this is a straight violation of the election code of conduct.

Besides, it said, BNP leaders Patal, Amanullah Aran MP and Rajshahi Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu "mobilised identified terrorists" from Dhaka and other places, and assembled them in Bera and Sujanagar to disrupt law and order and the by-election.

Awami League sought appropriate actions against the BNP leaders who violated the election code of conduct.

"This (sending of observers) will, no doubt, help promote the democratic process to which we both are committed," Bhuiyan claimed.

He alleged that the ruling party men attacked BNP central leaders and MP's who went to the constituency to work for the BNP candidate. Even, they attacked the residence of local BNP leader Abdul Latif Master in Sujanagar, but police did not take any action against the culprits, he claimed.

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