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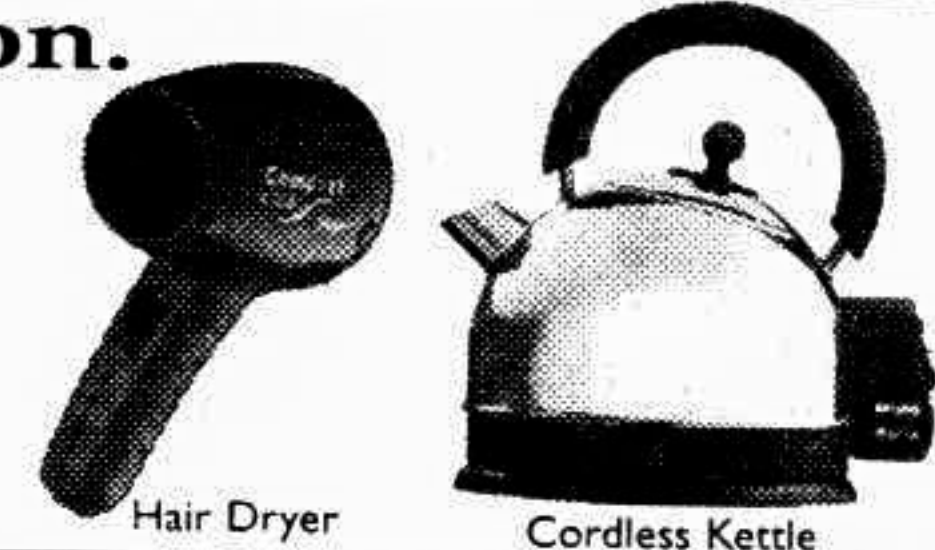
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## Cancel certificates of 'JU rapists': Memo to VC

By JU Correspondent

Gonotantik Chhatra Oikya (GCO) has demanded cancellation of studentship and certificates of the students who were found guilty of rape on the campus.

Submitting a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University yesterday, GCO also renewed their long-standing demand to file criminal cases against the culprits in accordance with the law of the land.

"Authorities' enthusiastic role to take examinations of the rapists further reflects their pro-rapist character," the memorandum said adding, "Authorities' decision to suspend expulsion order of a rapist for his 'good manners' is also unjust, biased and motivated."

Earlier, GCO brought out a procession on the campus protesting authorities' 'enthusiastic endeavour' to take examinations of the confirmed and identified rapists.

Later, at a rally, GCO leaders threatened of greater agitation programmes if the authorities continue to take examinations of the culprits.

They also warned of 'dire consequences' if their demands for cancellation of studentship and certificates of the rapists are not met immediately.

## Ijtima begins

From Page 1

The government has taken special measures for ensuring security and maintaining smooth traffic around the Ijtima.

Additional police forces were brought from other districts and deployed at every crossing leading to Tongi.

Medical centres have been set up for providing medical treatment to the devotees.

Besides, different non-government and voluntary organisations have set up temporary clinics and medical camps at different corners of the ground for giving emergency treatment to the devotees.

Hundreds of makeshift hotels, restaurants and shops have also been installed.

Tongi pourashava and Gazipur district police also set up temporary camps for providing necessary assistance to the devotees.

## Ravi Shankar to be awarded Bharat Ratna

NEW DELHI, Jan 30: Classical musician and composer Ravi Shankar, who has popularised Indian music across the world meshing it with Western strains, will be honoured with India's highest civilian honour, the presidential palace announced today, reports AP.

A statement by President K R Narayanan's spokesman said Shankar will be awarded the Bharat Ratna. It did not give details.

Shankar, 78, who lives mostly in Encinitas, near San Diego, California, plays the sitar, a centuries-old, wooden, lute-like instrument with a long neck, a double layer of strings and a resonating gourd.

His name is always prefaced in India with pandit, a Hindi word meaning 'the all-knowing'.

## Nat'l policy for newspaper industry soon

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday announced that the government would frame a national policy for newspaper industry to help flourish the Fourth Estate with more responsibility and objectivity in journalism, reports UNB.

"Newspaper is the mirror of a society and newsmen must maintain truth and objectivity in writing news," she said opening the biennial conference of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) at the National Press Club.

The Prime Minister regretted that a handful of newspapers and journalists were making false, distorted and motivated news stories misguiding society while majority newsmen working hard to present the facts.

"You should not keep your image hostage in the hands of a few newspapers which are damaging your reputation by running false and motivated stories," she told the journalists.

Hasina called for elevating Bangladesh journalism to international standards so that the newspapers here could stand up to the challenges of the new millennium round the corner.

Pointing out government plans for upgrading standard of the profession she said a Tk 5 crore project had been undertaken to modernise the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) with quality training programmes for rural journalists who project most part of the country along with its problems and prospects.

Referring to various demands placed by the BFUJ including implementation of the Wage Board award, the Prime Minister advised the union leaders to settle those through negotiation with newspaper owners. She, however, said steps had been taken for meeting the housing needs of journalists.

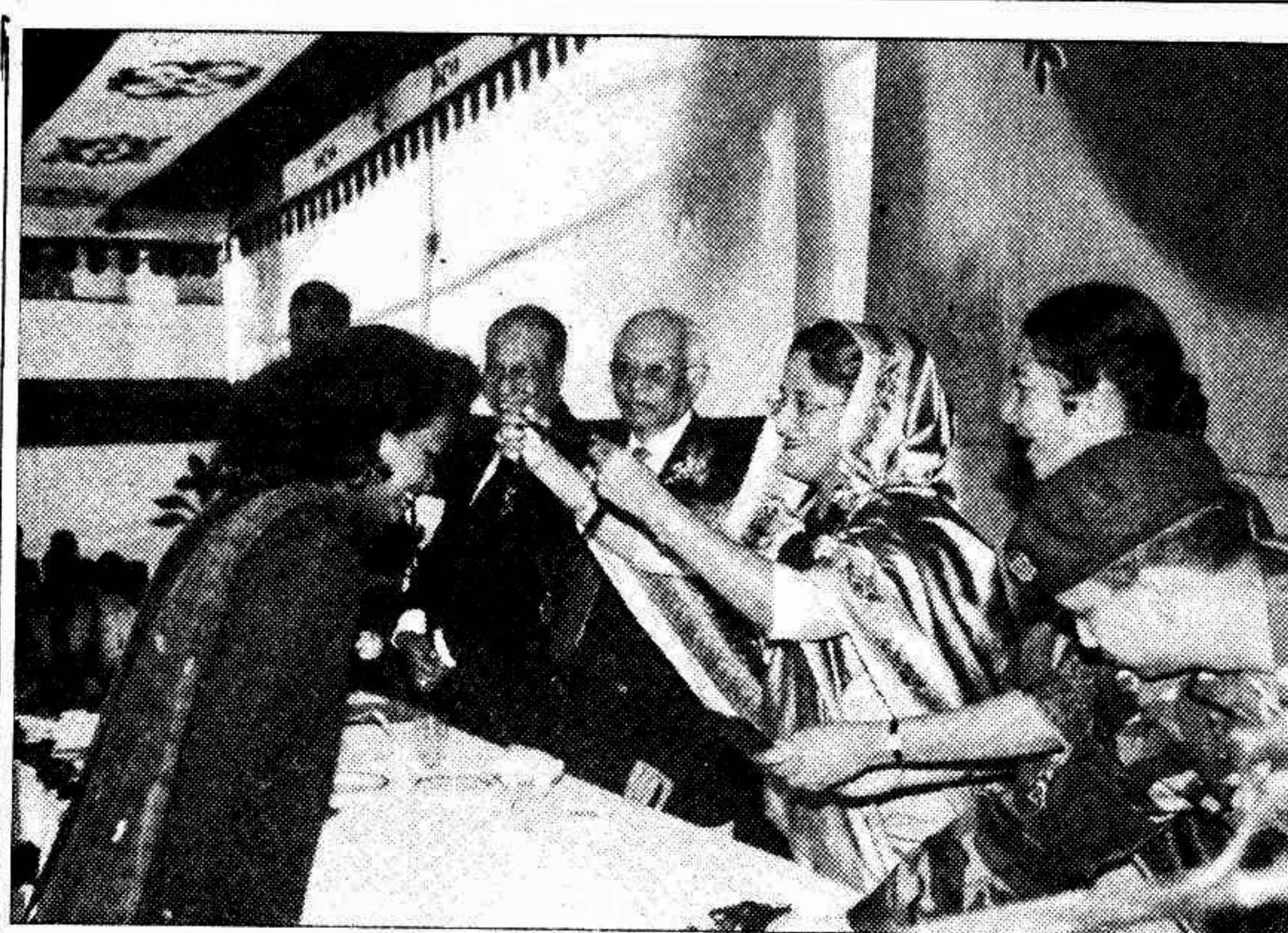
Outgoing BFUJ president Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury presided over the opening session which was also addressed by State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed and union leaders Abul Kalam Azad, Anjan Kumar Sen, Mokbul Hossain Minto, Shah Kiron Kumar Kochi, Pradip Bhattacharya, Md. Zahid Hossain, Qamaruzzaman Helal, Kazi Yasin and Suva Rahman. DUJ general secretary Azizul Islam Bhuiyan conducted the function.

## Interns

From Page 1

tion. They also pointed out that poor budget, inadequate logistics, staff and accommodation facilities at medical institutions were seriously hampering the academic atmosphere.

They added that there was no proper mechanism to ensure the standard of education. Till introduction of Quality Assurance Body (QAB) recently, there was no proper mechanism to evaluate the training of intern doctors, they said.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina gives away a silver jubilee medal to an outstanding student at a function of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University yesterday. — PID photo

## PM urges political parties Join hands to remove campus violence

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon all political parties to come forward in eliminating campus violence and restoring congenial academic atmosphere, reports UNB.

"It is not possible for us alone to remove campus violence if other political parties patronise the terrorists," she said and urged all political parties to help free the campuses from terrorism.

The Prime Minister was addressing a silver jubilee function of Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University in the afternoon.

She said terrorism can be totally removed with the cooperation of all parties.

"We could restore peaceful atmosphere at the Dhaka University as we had taken action against the terrorists irrespective of political parties," she said, adding that the terrorists have no party.

The Prime Minister said a balanced development of the country is not possible keeping women, half of the population, neglected.

The government has already taken steps for the development of women and also for their education, she told the gathering of former and present students of Shamsunnahar Hall.

Hasina said her government has taken steps for empowerment of women at the grassroots level and mentioned the participation of women in the Union Parishad elections.

About the performance of women in offices, she said women have proved their efficiency, sincerity and highest order of honesty at their working places.

Education Minister A S H K Sadique, Dhaka University Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury and Provost of the Hall Prof Sultana Safi also spoke on the occasion.

Later, the Prime Minister distributed medals among the students of the hall for their best performance in education, culture and sports.

A memorial medal and stipend will be given every year after the name of Shamsunnahar Mahmud. The hall was named after her for her contribution to the spread of women education.

The best residential student of the hall will get the memorial medal and a student attached to the hall will get Tk 10,000 as yearly stipend.

Daughter-in-law of late Shamsunnahar, Khaleda Begum, announced the introduction of the medal and the stipend.

## JCD procession protesting PM's visit

By DU Correspondent

Activists of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), student wing of opposition BNP, brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday covering their faces with black cloths protesting Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's visit there.

Sheikh Hasina went to the campus in the afternoon to inaugurate the silver jubilee festival of Shamsunnahar Hall of the university.

The processionists paraded the Arts Building area and later held a rally at the Aparajeo Bangla.

At the rally, the JCD leaders said that Sheikh Hasina, also chief of ruling Awami League, lost her moral right to come to the campus as AL's student wing Chhatra League, allegedly captured all the residential halls of the university ousting JCD activists.

They also condemned the attack on Amanullah Aman, a BNP MP, during the country-wide hartal on Tuesday.

They also demanded immediate release of all the arrested leaders and workers of JCD including its general secretary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu.

Among others, JCD president Habib-UN-Nabi Sohel, Manir Hossain, Mustafizul Islam, Mamun, Sultan Salauddin Tuku, Laten Jerin Khan and Mamun Hassan addressed the rally.

Chhatra League brought out a procession on the campus hailing Prime Minister's visit to the campus.

## Arrested 9

From Page 1

tacked on the poet.

The other group of eight, which includes two foreigners, has been under a five-day remand since Tuesday last. The rest one -- identified as Ifthikar Haider alias Rinku -- is likely to be brought to Dhaka from Barisal within a couple of days, police said.

On the basis of statements of the remanded persons, JIC has been searching for some more people in different parts of the country, sources in the JIC claimed.

The JIC is likely to record the judicial statements of two or three of the group of nine under Section 164 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, the sources said.

This group of nine were placed on remand for ten days in two phases. However, it could not be confirmed whether JIC would seek further remand of the nine today.

## PM under fire

From Page 1

Bhuiyan said. The BSCBA president also urged the PM to "refrain from making such false and indecent remarks on the judiciary and the learned judges."

The BSCBA president's statement was faxed to The Daily Star yesterday. "An organised group has recently launched a vigorous campaign against the judiciary to mount pressure on it with an ill motive bringing false allegations against process of justice."

Referring to his petition to the CJ on December 2 last year, Bhuiyan said, "I urged the CJ to take legal action for contempt of court and interference in the independence of judiciary against the persons who make false statements against the judiciary and the judges."

"My firm believe is that the CJ and the highest court would not have come under attack from the chief of the government if the CJ would have taken legal action following my prayer at that time," the BSCBA president said.

Bhuiyan hoped that "the people irrespective of party affiliation and lawyers would extend about co-operation to any step by the highest court of the land to save the independence of judiciary and establish rule of law."

## Accidents kill 2 Ijtima devotees

By Staff Correspondent

Two devotees were killed and two others injured in three separate road accidents on the Dhaka-Mymensingh highway at Tongi yesterday.

Abdul Majid, 50, of Harikola under Kishoreganj district died when a speeding truck hit him at the Millgate area in the morning. The victim was crossing the road. His body was sent to Gazipur Sadar Hospital for autopsy.

In another accident, an unidentified man aged about 40 was crushed under the wheels of a bus while getting down from it at Tongi yesterday afternoon. The victim came here to attend the Ijtima.

Two motor cyclists -- John, 18, and Sohel, 20, were also injured in a road accident in the Board Bazar area at Tongi yesterday afternoon.

## Ctg BCL leader shot dead

CHITTAGONG, Jan 30: A leader of Fatikchhari thana unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) was kidnapped and gunned down Friday night by some terrorists, reports UNB. Police said, a group of terrorists picked up BCL leader Abul Bashir, 30, from his home in village Paindang and took him to Rangamati village.

## Lalkhan

From Page 1

madrasah. He said about twenty lakh alevs and students are studying Islam in over ten thousand madrasahs in the country.

Such 'false propaganda' are creating panic and threatening madrasah education.

He also questioned the credibility of the 'confessional' statements of arrested persons in Dhaka, supplied to the press by police.

A teacher of the madrasah, Maulana Ashraf Ali Nizam-puri, who was present in the press conference, said, "Our madrasah is located near the police line. Why we were not caught earlier had we been involved in arms training?"

He said the madrasah is run with funds collected from local sources and Bangladeshi expatriates in Middle East countries.

Principal of the Lalkhan Bazar Madrasah Mufli Ezzarul Islam who is also a Senior Vice-president of Nazame Islam party and coordinator of Chittagong unit of Islamic Oikya Jote, is now in Saudi Arabia, he said. Every year during Ramadan, the principal goes there to collect *jakat* money, for the madrasah, he said.

## Business leaders

From Page 1

leaders of the trade associations who had issued a press statement a few weeks back were expected to take part in the planned meeting. The leaders of the Chittagong Chamber will also be invited, he added.

Another business leader questioned the efficacy of the government's plan to keep the offices open on weekly holiday if the opposition parties call hartals on workday.

In my view, the problem of hartal cannot be dealt with on ad-hoc basis. We need a long-term solution," he said. "How a 96-hour hartal would be adjusted," he questioned.

He said both public and private sectors would face 'serious problems' in their business planning if the authorities shift weekly holiday.

Leaders of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), the apex trade body, are scheduled to meet President Shahabuddin Ahmed on February 11.

FBCI president Abdul Awal Minto told APB that he would make an appeal to the President to take initiative for resolving conflicts between the political parties.

It could bring a positive result since the President was elected unopposed in Parliament," he said, adding that they were also planning to sit with representatives of the donor countries before meeting the President.

He said they were not going to take any initiative for a dialogue between the government and opposition, but made their position on the hartal issue known to both sides.

## Vajpayee

From Page 1

later to wish him support while a party colleague said Vajpayee, 72, was fasting 'since early in the morning'.

"It is meant to promote communal peace and brotherhood in the country," said Vijay Goel, a confidant of the Prime Minister and a leader of his Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP).

Vajpayee, who heads a 10-month-old coalition government, has been criticised for failing to take a strong stand against Hindu militants accused of attacking the Christian minority in recent months.

In well-publicised appeals earlier in the week, the Prime Minister said he intended to emulate Mahatma Gandhi -- who often fasted during the Indian independence struggle -- to appeal for peace.

"I call upon the countrymen who are capable of fasting (also) to do so on January 30 to cleanse their body, mind and soul, as a homage to the Mahatma and to rededicate ourselves to build an India of his dreams," his appeal said.

## Buriganga dying

From Page 1

ganga. These industries discharge their untreated wastes directly into the river.

Reazuddin said that successive governments have carried out detailed and expensive studies to install a centralised effluent treatment plant at Hazaribagh. "This time also, the government has undertaken a study programme of the tanneries. But what we need without delay is the use of the old studies and installation of the centralised treatment plant."

Hazaribagh tanneries alone discharge around 6,000 cubic metres of deadly wastes into the river every day. The DoE report reveals that during 1996-1997, three-fourth length of the river have been observed to be under septic condition during January and May. In 1998, almost the entire length of the river of the river is under septic condition.

Chairman of POROSH AMA Muhith, who conducted the discussion, said that a combined citizens' effort was now required to save the life-line of the capital Dhaka. "No city has ever grown without a river by its side. To save Dhaka, we'll have to save the Buriganga," he said.

Dr Feroze Ahmed, professor of Civil Engineering at BUET, said like many other canals in the Buriganga may die physically and biologically. This river receives nearly 4,50,000 cubic metres of waste water a day only through three sources -- Hazaribagh tanneries, Dolai Khal and Pagla sewage treatment plant, he added.

The BUET professor said the present level of dissolved oxygen is much lower than the minimum dissolved oxygen -- 4 mg/l -- required for the survival of many species of fish and other aquatic life.

"A river contributes to the aesthetic beauty and quality of life in a city. In many cities of the world, the rivers are considered as blessings," he said.

The discussion was jointly organised by POROSH, CEN, BCAS, FEJB, BLAST, BELA and The Daily Star. Among others who spoke at the discussion were Naser Khan of POROSH, Syeda Munira Akhtar Khatun and Mohammad Tawfikur RAJUK and Mahfuz Anam of The Daily Star.

## Opposition to join JS

From Page 1

day. As the session resumes after a five-day break today, the parliament is likely to witness a different Opposition as the changed BNP-JP relations will have a bearing on the House business.

Until the last session, the members of JP used to back the government. Now that the JP chief Ershad has joined hands with BNP and expelled communications minister Anwar Hossain Manju from his party, MPs loyal to him will definitely play a different role.

However, the JP lawmakers who listened to the President defying Ershad's order will have own agenda to pursue. A total of 11 JP MPs followed Manju to attend the opening sitting of the current session.

The BNP-JP-Jamaat alliance may also raise such issues as police 'atrocities' during the January 26 hartal and the four-point demand of the opposition alliance.

Opposition lawmakers have

## Hartals

From Page 1

PM to take such a decision and "none will accept this type of shifting as planned by the Prime Minister".

"The government has been setting bad precedence one after another. The ruling party is digging its own grave by adopting ill strategies. The attitude of Awami League government gives the impression that it is still in the opposition... they (AL) have forgotten that they are in power and came to power over two and a half years ago," the BNP leader observed.

"A government cannot run on the basis of temporary arrangements. The government must take concrete decisions if the government really wants to shift the public holidays," said BNP Standing Committee member Moudud Ahmed.

He said the government can extend holidays through an administrative order, but cannot shift public holidays through sudden announcements.

Meanwhile, sources said, top level leaders and policy makers of BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-Islami and Islamic Oikya Jote have instructed the central liaison committee to closely monitor the government's steps and "formulate programmes one step ahead of the ruling party".

## Hasina

From Page 1

party election to 140 municipalities, unless their demands are met before going to the polls.

Responding to the opposition plea for Chief Election Commissioner's resignation, she said the Election Commission is working with full freedom, and the people got back their confidence in the voting system. Under the present Election Commission, BNP also won the by-elections in Manikganj and Barisal, she reminded.

Hasina said schedule for upazila elections would be announced shortly to complete decentralisation of the administration, allowing elected local bodies to contribute to the development of rural economy.

The present government, she said, has strengthened the local government institutions for overall rural uplift, which had Hasina said people want these local elections, but those who oppose want to concentrate power at the centre to accumulate wealth by abusing powers, she said criticising her opponents for their anti-election posture.

The prime minister said the opposition had no issue before them and their movement is not for serving people's interests. "Rather Bangabandhu's killers who were given death sentences are happy about the opposition movement since they know that they would be saved if the government is ousted."

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