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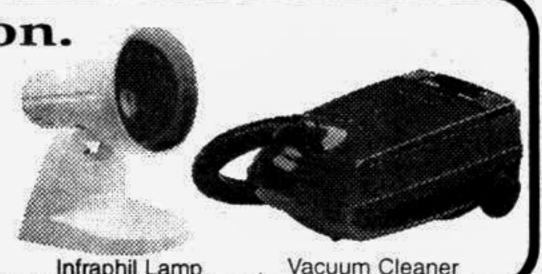
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UPDF, Hill Students Council creating anarchy: Larma

KHAGRACHHARI, Apr 24: PCJSS leader Shantu Larma today accused United People's Democratic Front and Hill Students Council of creating anarchy and terrorism under the patronisation of a "certain quarter," reports UNB.

"They are disrupting peace, development and stability in the CHT," he told newsmen at his temporary residence after a whirlwind tour of Rangamati and Bandarban.

Shantu Larma who signed the CHT peace accord with the government in December 1997 said if the government makes sincere efforts, these anti-social activities in the CHT could be contained. His remarks came two days

after a clash between supporters of the PCJSS and UPDF and Hill Students Council in Khagrachhari, leaving two people Shantu Larma said these

terrorists groups killed many villagers in the past and are getting patronisation from extreme nationalist and fundamentalist forces.

About his takeover as the chairman of the Regional Council, Shantu Larma said he had talked to the people of three hill districts of Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban. "The people of those areas have stressed the need for taking over the charge of the Regional Council," he said However, he hastened to add

that the common people are worried over non-implementation of the peace accord. They are skeptical of whether all the provisions of the accord would be implemented on my assumption of the Regional Council of-Asked about his possible

Naogaon Varsity College closed sine die NAOGAON, Apr 24: Naogaon

 University College has been declared closed sine die today following an untoward incident centering admission to the first year BA honours class, reports

emergency meeting of the authorities soon after the inci-Witnesses said, a group of

unruly students attacked the office of the principal and ransacked it in the morning.

College units of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal separately brought out processions protesting alleged irregularities in the admission. Unruly students also as-

saulted the principal, said college sources.

Terrorists From Page 1

Ali of the same village and looted cash and other valuables at gun point.

As the inmates cried for help, the villagers rushed to the spot and encircled the dacoits.

In the face of stiff resistance, the dacoits opened fire on the villagers, leaving 10 people in-

takeover on May 2 as reported in the press, Shantu Larma said these are baseless and imaginary reports.

"But if legal provisions are amended and a congenial atmosphere is created, we will not hesitate to take over the responsibility," said the PCJSS

In reply to a question, he said how could I repose trust in the government when it took one year to remove 10 army camps and 16 months to release

Shantu Larma returned to Khagrachhari today after his two-week campaign seeking public opinion in the three hill districts on the question of taking over the charge of the Regional Council.

Newsman assaulted by docs at DMCH A medical correspondent

was assaulted by three doctors at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) yesterday, reports

Police and witnesses said they assaulted Bakibillah, medical reporter of the daily Sangbad, following a report published in the daily on April 22. The report said the three doctors did not attend a patient even seven hours after he was brought to the hospital on April

Witnesses said doctors Wahed, Ratan, Pias and their associates caught Bakibillah in front of Ward No 29 of DMCH and took him to casualty ward near operation theatre. The beat him up and snatched money and wristwatch from

Terrorists, police trade fire in Khulna

KHULNA, Apr 24: Police and terrorists exchanged gunshots in east Baghmara area of the Police said the incident took

rushed there on receipt of an information from the local people about the attack of the terror-As police reached the spot,

Nobody was reported hurt

Demonstrations From Page 1

The government has failed to ensure basic needs, including electricity, water and gas, check price hike of essentials and ensure security of life and property of the commonman, he

join the May 3 mass procession in the capital led by Begum Khaleda Zia. Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami

Oikya Jote also staged separate demonstrations in Purana Paltan area.

city early today, reports UNB. place at about 1 am when police The decision was taken at an

terrorists opened fire on them. Police retaliated with three rounds of gunshots and chased

during the 30-minute skirmish.

for mid-term election immedi-

He asked the city dwellers to

Basu: Consensus PM gressive effort to be reinstalled. From Page 1

supported the United Front government without joining the coalition. But the governments headed by H D Dewe Gowda and Inder Kumar Gujral lasted less than a year each as the Congress Party withdrew sup-

Today, lawmakers from several parties charged that Congress Party was making offers of money and jobs for support. Sonia denied the allega-

Vajpayee's BJP, acting as caretaker is mounting an ag-

JCD march

From Page 1 tary Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu in a statement yesterday urged the JCD leaders and workers to make today's programme a suc-

UNB adds: Police have imposed a ban on holding any demonstration or rally and carrying any arms or harmful article in and around the Prime Minister's Office today.

The areas that will come under the ban include the road from Mohakhali crossing to Bangla Motor via Old Airport, from the west end of Bangla Motor Link Road up to SAARC fountain, from the east end of Panthapath up to Farmgate via Green Road crossing, from Shyamoli Cinema Hall to Dhanmondi Road No 27 (Old), Bijoy Sarani, from the east end of Indira Road up to west end of Manik Mia Avenue.

"As time is passing by, horse trading has begun," spokesman Mathur told reporters. "The Congress people are experts in horse trading and that is what this delay has resulted in." Reuter adds: India faced its

third election in as many years today as last-ditch efforts to form a government appeared to reach a stalemate. The Congress Party, strug-

gling to find allies, repeated its demand to form a minority government with outside sup-

But some of those it wooed reiterated their desire for a deal allowing one of them to lead a new government.

Opinion built up in favour of early elections, although the mood indicated that neither the defeated BJP nor the main opposition Congress were likely to

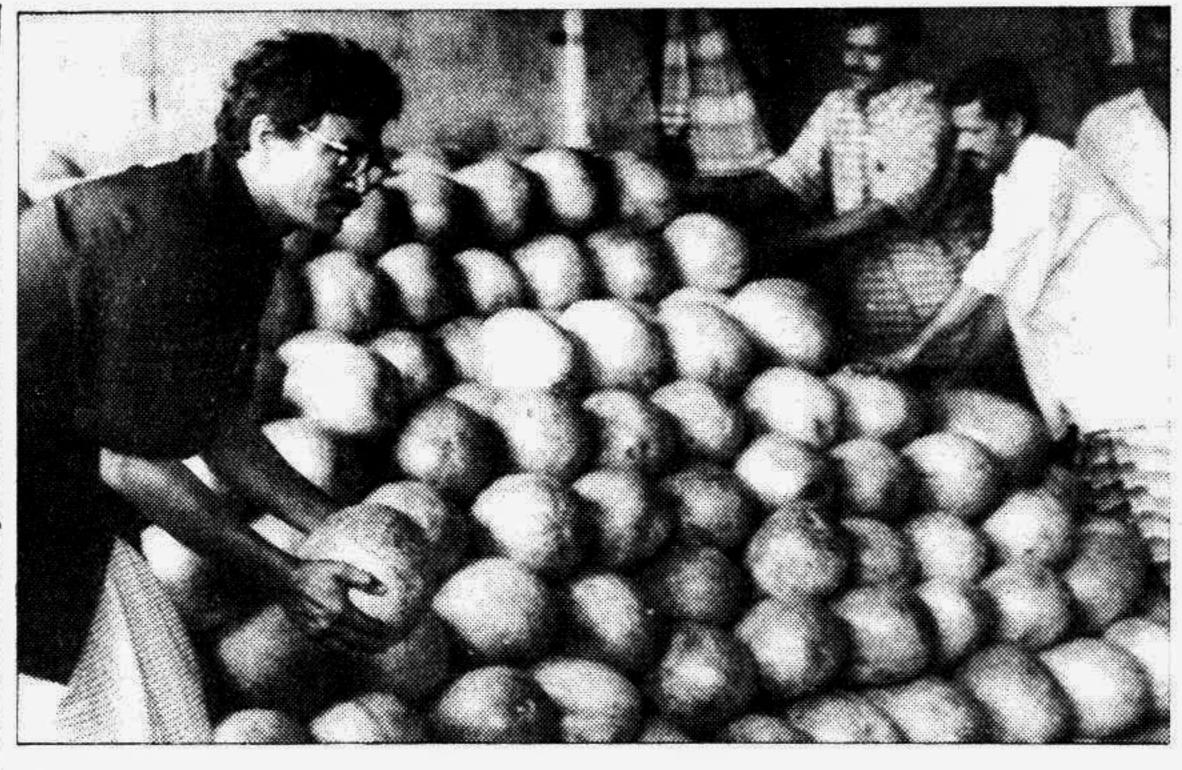
"The country is election fatigued and coalition fatigued," senior Congress leader Kamal Nath told Reuters.

The option of Congress propping up a "Third Front" government headed by veteran Jyoti Basu of the Communist Party of India-Marxist (CPI-M) emerged again but the communists seemed to be in two minds on the issue.

Basu said the party's power-ful politburo would meet tomorrow to decide whether to put his name forward to head a "Third Front" government. But party general secretary Harkishan Singh Surject said the question of a Basu-led government "does not arise."

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Watermelon from Khan Shama area in Dinajpur selling at Tk 2000 to 4000 per one hundred at the city's Batamtoli Wholesale Market. - Star photo

Khaleda From Page 1

leaders under the Special Powers Act and put them in jails for

She said Newton has been kept in jail for the last six months. He was released three times under court order, but was arrested all the three times from jail gate. Besides, Newton was tortured both mentally and physically while on police remand for 41 days during the six months.

"Ishak Sarker's father died a few days back. He got the shock of his father's death inside the dark room of jail," Begum Zia said. Recalling the glorious role of

the student community, the BNP chief said student politics is not a crime, instead students have the right to do politics like other citizens and this is a democratic right. But the Awami League gov-

ernment is arresting opposition leaders and activists as well as the student leaders indiscriminately and imprisoning them for long. She said the Awami League

had committed to repeal the Special Powers Act, but after coming to power, started abusing the black law against political opponents. The government arrested

unspecified number of BNP and its front organisations leaders and activists under the SPA in last three years. Even the opposition activists were being arrested at jail gate after the High Court ordered their release. "This clearly proved that the Awami League government does not even care court verdict," she added.

The opposition leader said AL never believes in rule of law because they believe in party rule. Overall law and order in the country has deteriorated seriously and administration has collapsed due to politicisation.

"People are loosing respect for laws, because the government itself violates laws, Begum Zia said. She asked the government to respect for laws. stop of politicisation, filing of false cases and repression on BNP and other opposition parties' supporters under the SPA.

7 DU students

From Page 1 Later at an emergency meet-

ing, the DU authorities temporarily expelled A B M Zakir Hossain, third year student of Economics, Sahidul Islam, Honours examinee of Islamic Studies, Md Jamaluddin and Khijir Hayat Khan Tipu, Honours examinees of Sociology, Mehedi Hasan, third year student of Management, Noman and Khokan of Mohsin Hall and Zahurul Haq Hall respectively.

According to a DU press release, the authorities also formed a three-member committee headed by Pro-VC Prof Sahadat Ali to probe the incident. The other members are Proctor Dr A K M Nur-un-Nabi and Provost of Surya Sen Hall A F M Yusuf Haider.

A case has been filed with Ramna thana in this regard. police said.

Urban poverty declines From Page 1

tors (such as morbidity rate) are

possibly even worse than in rural areas. Issue of devolution of Dhaka

City Corporation for handling the mounting problem in respect to basic social services to the ever growing urban population was discussed by the participants after the paper was presented at a dialogue held at the office of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) yesterday. The way out from the current problem seems to lie in three-

pronged strategy, mainly: a) to promote decentralised urbanisation, (development of secondary town) and rural growth centres, reducing the pressures on urban megapolis such as Dhaka.

b) to encourage the development of rural structure for the generation of additional rural employment and c) to develop modern means of communication such as ac-

cess to telephone and electronic media in rural areas to better inform the rural inhabitants about urban condition. The findings on growth income revealed that the growth in monthly income was very high for the self-employed

group engaged in economic activities in the private sector People involved in trade and business and in renting properties, as well as the professionals (doctors engineers, lawyers and others) had a growth in

Rival groups clash in city

Two pedestrians were injured during clashes between two rival groups of Mugdapara and Mandapara in Sobujbagh thana yesterday, reports UNB. The trouble ensued with

spreading of news of beating up a man of Mugdapara by people of neighbouring Mandapara at Hospital sources said Ismail

Hossain, 45, a grocery shop-

owner of Mandapara, was in-

jured seriously when rivals at-

Transport strike in Khagrachhari April 26-27

tacked him.

KHAGRACHHARI, Apr 24: Transport owners and workers of the district have called for strike on Monday and Tuesday (April 26-27) protesting terrorism and collection of illegal tolls by musclemen, reports

A joint meeting of the leaders of transport owners and workers today announced that no vehicle will ply on any roads of the district during the twoday strike. It also demanded repair of

dilapidated roads and bridges connecting Khagrachhari with Rangamati, Chittagong and Feni for the safety of the passengers and compensation for the vehicles damaged by the ter-

monthly income of more than ten per cent per year, while those engaged in service and in

various types of manual labourbased occupations had a modest increase in their real incomes.

Participants at the dialogue organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) called for concerted efforts to control environmental pollution, increase water and sanitation coverage and to take steps for effective management of solid wastes for the Dhaka city dwellers. Executive Chairman of CPD

Professor Rehman Sobhan, Senior Research Fellow of BIDS Dr Binayak Sen, CPD Research Director Dr Mustafizur Rahman, Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud, Zahed H Khan of World Bank and Managing Director of WASA Dr Khandakar Azharul Haq participated in the dia-

Agitation disrupts services at Gano Shasthya

By Staff Correspondent Services disrupted at the Gano Shasthya City Hospital yesterday morning resumed in the afternoon following a negotiated settlement between some agitating nurses and the management. The disruption was due to

ing 'misbehaviour' of Dr. Zafarullah Chowdhury with some of their colleagues. Zafarullah is chairman of the trust that runs the hospital The nurses also lodged a general diary (GD) with Dhanmondi thana yesterday morn-

nurses' refusal to work, protest-

ing. Following negotiations, they withdrew the GD in the afternoon. Earlier, the problem arose when Dr Zafarullah rebuked two on-duty nurses for watch-

ing television at 7:00 am on April 20. "Yes, I could not help getting furious when I saw that two of the three on-duty nurses of a ward were watching television. instead of attending patients". he said."You see, we do not al-

low personal attendants of any

patient at the hospital. So the

services of nurses, specially in

the morning, are very essen-

ntial for patients." However, 'humiliated' by Zafarullah's reaction, the nurses concerned left the place. Later, they along with some other colleagues, made an 'appeal' to the hospital management Thursday afternoon 'for justice'. They gave a 48hour ultimatum to resolve is-

sue. The deadline was supposed to expire yesterday afternoon. But the nurses decided yesterday morning that they would not work if the problem was not resolved 'right at that moment'. But the management said that they would discuss the is-

The issue was then settled at about noon through discussions between the nurses and the management. The nurses withdrew the GD.

sue in the afternoon.

No arrest yet

By Staff Correspondent Police could not arrest any of the killers of Khokon, an al-

leged criminal in city's Gopibagh area, till last night. Rabiul Islam Khokon, an accused in a number of cases and an alleged drug trader of Gopibagh area, was shot and then stabbed to death by a gang of five Friday noon.

the victim, lodged a murder case with Motijheel thana late Friday night accusing Asif, leader of the victim's rival group in the area, and four others.

Meanwhile, Motijheel police arrested two persons — identi-fied as Bacchu and Monir — in connection with looting a jewellery shop. A group of young men, who brought out a procession protesting the killing looted the shop at R K Mission Road soon after the killing.

Businessmen observe hartal at Khalishpur

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA, Apr 24: Businessmen observed a half-day hartal at Khalishpur today. All shops remained closed

during the hartal.

protesting extortion, muggings, rapes and terrorism at Khalishpur Industrial Area. The businessmen have also accused police of harbouring

criminals, including extortion-

The hartal was called

Girl raped, killed in Khulna From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 24: A young girl was raped and killed early this morning at her house at Senpara under Daulatpur thana, police said.

She was identified as Rabeya Begum, 19. The body was recovered by police at noon today. The body bore several stab marks.

13 Bangladeshis

From Page 1 The intruders fled away as

BDR personnel rushed to the spot from a nearby border post. Both BDR and BSF strengthened their vigilance in the frontier. A tense situation was prevailing in the area. Meanwhile, a BOP level flag

meeting between BDR and BSF

was held this morning, but the

outcome of the meeting could

not be known immediately. Bangladesh Water Development Board started constructing a sluice gate last year to protect vast areas of the district from flooding caused by onrush

of hill waters from India. But BSF forced to stop construction in April last year. The work restarted again in January this year after a series of bilateral talks.

Shafi murder

From Page 1 mand several times.

During yesterday's interrogation the two ADCs - Nuruzzaman and Khorshed - admitted that without informing the senior officials, some DB men of lower ranks conducted several operations.

CID interrogated Nuruzzaman between 10 am and 1:30 pm and the then ADC Khorshed till 3 pm. Nuruzzaman was transferred to Chuadanga recently.

The investigating officer of the case, Munshi Atikur Rah man and other senior officials of CID were present during the interrogation of the two senior officials. Meanwhile, Taher and

Sohrab — the drivers of Inspector Zia's private motor vehicles yesterday said that Shafi was well-known to them. Inspector Zia always claimed before the investigators that he did not know Shafi. His two drivers said yesterday that Shafi kept his microbus at Inspector Zia's residence several times. The decomposed body of

Jalal Ahmed Shafi was found in the rooftop water tank of Detective Branch office at Minto Road on March 25.

Gopibagh murder:

Haji Chan Miah, father of

lated issues," he said.

ruption and vested groups. The finance minister said

cies in line with our defence needs to protect national inter-

Heat wave kills 40 in India

ing temperatures hit several In-

Gujarat state in western India

in the past two days, PTI said.

vehicles in New Delhi. Today, the residents had no

television network reported. The heat spell continues until monsoon rains hit the coast of south India in June bringing respite. But it will be six weeks

before they reach the plains of

northern India.

sistance was in the pipeline which was "at different stages

of utilisation." Asked what was the rate of utilisation of the five billion dollars. Kibria replied, "It varies. It is not that the entire amount in the pipeline is unutilised. It remains in the pipeline because they (donors) impose specific conditions for

specific proposals."
"If we delay in fulfilling their conditions disbursement is delayed.

This is the main reason for a huge aid flow lying in the pipeline," the minister noted. Referring to the attitude of the donors at the Paris meeting, Kibria said that only development-related issues were discussed at the meet. "We did not discuss politics, but only development and development-re-

The development partners stressed on good governance and said it is crucial for making most of the reform programmes effective. They want the financial sector to be freed from cor-

that donors suggested reduction of defence budget for increasing investment in social sectors. He said the suggestion came particularly from Germany and "We will go by our own poli-

Kibria said that the development partners stressed the need for faster and more stringent financial sector reforms as

NEW DELHI, Apr 24: Scorch-

dian states, killing at least 40 people, Press Trust of India news agency said today, reports The worst hit was the eastern

coastal state of Orissa where 28

poor people died in the past

week with daytime temperature

soaring to 44 Celsius (111

Fahrenheit), PTI said. The coastal regions of the state also were the worst hit last year. Ten deaths were reported from the southern state of Andhra Pradesh and two in

People bear with frequent power outages and insufficient drinking water in most cities and towns during the summer. Last year, protesters came out on the streets and burned police

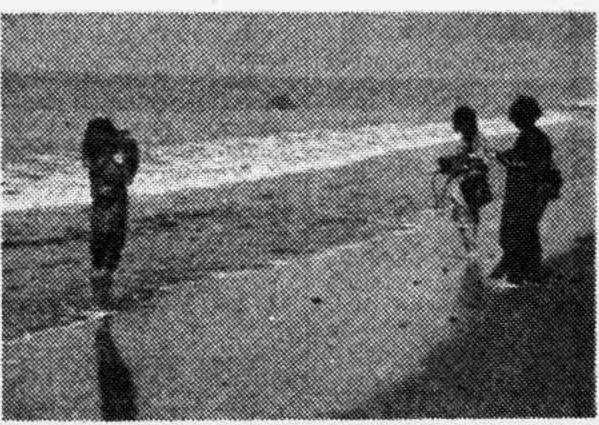
electricity in their homes in Patna, the capital of eastern Bihar state, for eight to nine hours because of laying of new transmission lines by state authorities in scorching heat, a

"The rest could not take part in the deliberations due to time constraint," he said.

party Hossain Mohammad Ershad held separate council session in the city last week.

politics'. Earlier, JP faced another split when Kazi Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzem Hossain held a council meeting and formed separate committee accusing Ershad of siding with the

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BP< Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation National Tourism Organization

Barriers at every step but who cares? From Page 1 The Dhaka City Corporation hearing that, the man apologet-ically said "Do not take the pic-Palashi bazar. But city fathers (DCC) does not seem to have any have thought it wise to set up a and construction materials. Peak hours mean a night-

ing and in front of Eastern Plaza and some other markets. which were permitted by Rajuk without any concern about traffic or parking facilities.

mare at Hatirpool Bazar cross-

Hatirpool Initially there had been one meat shop on the pavement at the crossing of Elephant Road and Central Road. But two more have just emerged. A testimony to this is the number of cattle behind the shops awaiting slaughter on the pavement.

Slaughter house at

Business is so hectic that more than a dozen cattle are kept there always after the slaughter of a similar number on the pavement every morn-The butchers do not even bother to wash the blood be-

cause no body can walk on the

pavement. Nor there are any

law-keepers to see this.

headache about the situation. Nor it cares about the rubbish that litters the road, uncollected for days together. Stinking rubbish and building materials block traffic

at Hatirpool crossing. Rubbish strewn on Hatirpool crossing and building materials liberally scattered by the owner of a massive shopping complex virtually block the road to-

wards Mymensingh Road.

that side. They cannot use even the pavement on the other side which is occupied by vegetable and fruit vendors. · The result is a chronic traffic jam. Pedestrians compete with rickshaws and motor vehicles

There is no scope for pedes-

trians to use the pavement on

for space. The bazar on the pavement It is only one km from New Market, Kawran bazar and

kutcha bazar on a small space beside Sonargaon Road. Now the shopkeepers have taken over not only the pavement but also a considerable portion of the road, which is liberally doused with water from fish and vegetable shops. This has made things difficult for pedestrians and also created obstacle to smooth flow of traffic.

"We have leased the shops and the pavement from the DCC, a vegetable seller boasted. For keeping goods on the pavement, they have to make 'payment' to DCC officials and also pay Tk 20 daily to police foot patrol, said a shopkeeper on condition of anonymity.

DCC inspector at noon As The Daily Star photogra-

pher Amran Hossain took pictures of the rubbish near the bazar, a man on a motorbike with a walkie-talkie appeared there and demanded his identity and an explanation. On ture, our van is coming". But why at noon? Are you not supposed to clear those at night or at dawn? To these, there were no answer. The inspector said the shopkeepers and meat sellers are 'so strong' that DCC cannot take

any action. Construction material

and rubbish Any one willing to visit Eastern Plaza and other markets nearby should avoid it during the peak hours. The waiting

rickshaws, vehicles parked on

the pavement and the road, un-

cleared rubbish and building

materials keep half of the road

blocked, leaving barely any

space for a car to pass. And pedestrians are at the mercy of traffic as builders have not only stacked their materials on the road but also found the pavement a suitable place to straighten iron roads.

Kibria: More aid they felt that it could provide From Page 1

the needed thrust for progress in social sectors and poverty alleviation. He said that the donors took note of the dramatic improvement in the banking sector since 1996. "We hope indisci-

pline in the banking sector will

be a thing of the past. Kibria also stated that the donors praised government's efforts and the progress made in human resources development. extending education facilities, healthcare services and post flood rehabilitation measures.

Bangladesh has earned international recognition as the world leader in the field of micro-credit, he added. Criticising the 'negative' role of opposition political parties regarding foreign aid, Kib-

ria said, the people should be conscious about those politicians who want to do politics with food for the poor. "They wanted to create a negative attitude among the development partners by giving statements and staging demonstration in front of the meeting venue which was not a success.

he said. The government never appointed any lobbyist for mobilising aid, the minister told a questioner.

Bangladesh's prestige was

enhanced as its finance minis-

ter for the first time had the honour to preside over the Paris meeting, Kibria said. Asked about the rate of interest, ERD Secretary Dr Mashiur Rahman said some aid bear no interest while some

others have negligible interest

which is not beyond four per

Finance Secretary Dr Akbar Ali Khan, Director General of Primary Education Dr Sadat Hussain and Acting Chairman of the Board of Investment Zahid Hossain were present at the press conference.

Mizan, Manju From Page 1

announced within a couple of Representatives from 59 organisational districts out of 70,

addressed the council session.

With the council meeting of Mizan-Manju group, the split of Jatiya Party was final. Founder Chairman of the

Ershad took a tough stand against the Awami League government and joined hands with BNP and Jamaat in anti-government movement. While Anwar Hossain Manju, Communication Minister in the 'consensus government' of Awami League, stood for 'constructive

government. But later they returned to the mainstream.

PARJATAN'S OFF-SEASON OFFER FOR HOLIDAY MAKERS