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East Timor 90 pc voters cast ballots

DILI, Aug 30: Throngs of East Timorese defied threats of violence to cast their ballots today in a UN-supervised referendum on possible independence, after decades of Indonesian rule, reports AP.

UN officials hailed the huge, peaceful turnout. They estimated that 90 per cent of registered voters cast ballots.

"The eagle of liberty has spread its wings over the people of East Timor, UN envoy Jamsheed Marker said in the provincial capital of Dili. He refused to speculate on the outcome, but said the voting was free and fair. The United Nations says it will need seven days to count and verify votes.

Optimistic, independence supporters predicted that the enormous turnout meant success for their cause, allowing East Timor to break completely with Indonesia.

A UN report says, a locally recruited member of the UN team supervising East Timor's referendum was killed on his way home from a polling station today.

Joel Lopez Gomes was stabbed and killed outside the polling station in Atsabe in Ermera province after voting ended, the UN spokesman's office said.

Jamaat, IOJ bring out processions

By Staff Correspondent

Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and Islami Oikya Jote brought out two separate processions in the city yesterday protesting the governments decision to provide corridor facility to India in the name of transit and demanding immediate resignation of the present Awami League government.

They also demanded stopping conspiracy against Islam and madrasa education.

Terming the Awami League government as 'anti-state' 'anti-independence' and working against the spirit of Islam the leaders of the two political parties called upon the people to unite and start a one point movement to bring down the present government.

Jamaat-e-Islami brought out a big procession led by its amir Prof. Golam Azam from Muktangan, near the zero point of the city and paraded the main thoroughfares chanting different anti-government slogans.

The procession ended at Maghbazar crossing after parading through Bijoynagar, Kakrail, Shantinagar and Mouchak.

Addressing a meeting at Muktangan before the procession started Golam Azam said "You will not be able to give space in the jail if you want to stop the movement through oppression", pointing to the governments persecution of the opposition. He alleged that the government was arresting opposition activists from every where.

He also criticised the government for enacting the anti-terrorism law, the main objective of which according to him is to increase repression on the opposition.

The rally was also addressed by Jamaat-e-Islami secretary general Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami, city amir A T M Azharul Islami, Mohammad Quamaruzzaman and other party leaders.

Islami Oikya Jote brought out its procession from the nearby Paltan crossing from in front of Hotel Kastury. The procession was followed by a rally which was presided over by its chairman Shaikhul Hadith Moulana Azizul Haq.

The procession paraded through Baitul Mukarram north gate, Dainik Bangla, Fakirpool, Nayapaltan, Kakrail, Shanti Nagar and ended at Malibagh crossing.

BOC rejoinder

From page 1

Bangladesh personally appeared before the Enquiry Committee whenever asked for. We reiterate that there is nothing pending with the BOC Bangladesh in terms of providing information/document to the committee.

The Daily Star adds: During a press conference at the health ministry yesterday, this correspondent asked Health Minister Salauddin Yusuf about the committee report.

The minister referred the matter to Nargis Makhduma, who heads the probe body.

In view of the rejoinder, Nargis Makhduma, reiterated that BOC Bangladesh was not cooperating with the committee and the delay was solely due to BOC's non-cooperation.

She also mentioned that some documents regarding technical design of the oxygen tank were pending with BOC.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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Uzbeks on the attack against Nepal during yesterday's Bangabandhu Cup clash.

— Star photo

Fate forces Nepal out

By Sports Reporter

Nepal made their exit from the 2nd Bangabandhu Cup International Football Tournament when they conceded a lone-goal defeat to Uzbekistan at the floodlit Sher-e Bangla National Stadium at Mirpur yesterday.

But the booters from the Himalayan Kingdom were not disgraced in their brief but very significant appearance in Dhaka ahead of the SAF Games. They may have been undone by an early first-half goal from Uzbek forward Nestarov Igor, but the spirited Nepalese were the psychological victors against their rated Asian neighbours. And had a little luck been on their side the result could have been the other way round.

The Nepalese, certainly the better team on the field, struck the crosspiece twice and then fought in vain against a stubborn Uzbek custodian Sheykin Yuriy, who kept his huffing and puffing side aloft with a number of spectacular saves. Sheykin was later declared the man-of-the-match for his magnificent performance under the bar.

The second successive defeat for Nepal, who went down fighting 1-2 against Ghana in the opening Group C match last Saturday, also means that they return home empty-handed. But their tremendous performance in both the matches should give them renewed confidence ahead

of the SAF Games, due in Kathmandu later this month.

Although Nepal departs with pride and dignity, the Uzbeks will need some monumental effort to stay afloat in the title race when they take on the Ghanaian Olympic team in the group championship match on September 2.

The combined First Division XI from Uzbekistan was a disappointing lot in the opening match. They got the much-needed goal from their first positive attack in the 14th minute with Igor side-footing a low cross from medio Yuldashev Artur.

Apart from the goal, the substantial Uzbek team hardly created any positive move during the entire proceedings, where their superior physical build-up and the agility of Sheykin under the bar saved them from the animated Nepalese team.

Nepal drew first blood in the very fifth minute when Dev Narayan came up with a pile-driver from the edge of the box, but only to be denied by the metal work.

Nepal came close to scoring again in the 28th minute when their striker Naresh Joshi drove a powerful free kick from the left of the box, which Sheykin tipped over the bar for a corner.

Nepal accelerated the pace in the second half, leaving Uzbek-

istan back against the wall. But Sheykin, who fought a lone battle, was not ready to resign.

The tall Uzbek custodian came to his side's rescue again in the 66th minute when he fisted away a close-range shot from Hari Khadka for another corner. A never-say-die Sheykin clung on to yet another Hari shot four minutes later.

Sheykin committed the only blunder in the match when he was penalised by the Indian referee seven yards inside the box for overstepping. But he was quick to amend his blunder when he made a goal line save from a sure sifter.

Nepal got three more chances in the last ten minutes but all their attempts missed the mark one way or the other.

Yellow cards: Nestorov Igor (Uzbekistan), Sumit Tuladhar, Deepak Amatya and Dev Narayan (Nepal).

TEAMS

Uzbekistan: Sheykin, Gulmanov, Bagautdinov, Buntov, Sergey, Abduraimov (Ahmed-khodjaev), Almatov, Goldenko, Nestorov, Yuldashev (Monsurov) and Ataev (Turabekov).

Nepal: Upendra Man Singh, Rakesh Shrestha, Bal Gopal (S Shrestha), Sumit Tuladhar, Devnarayan, Basanta Gauchan, Basanta Thapa, Kumar Thapa, Hari Khadka and Naresh Joshi. Referee: Bablu Sundarraj (India).

Police deployed at residence of Zafar Chy

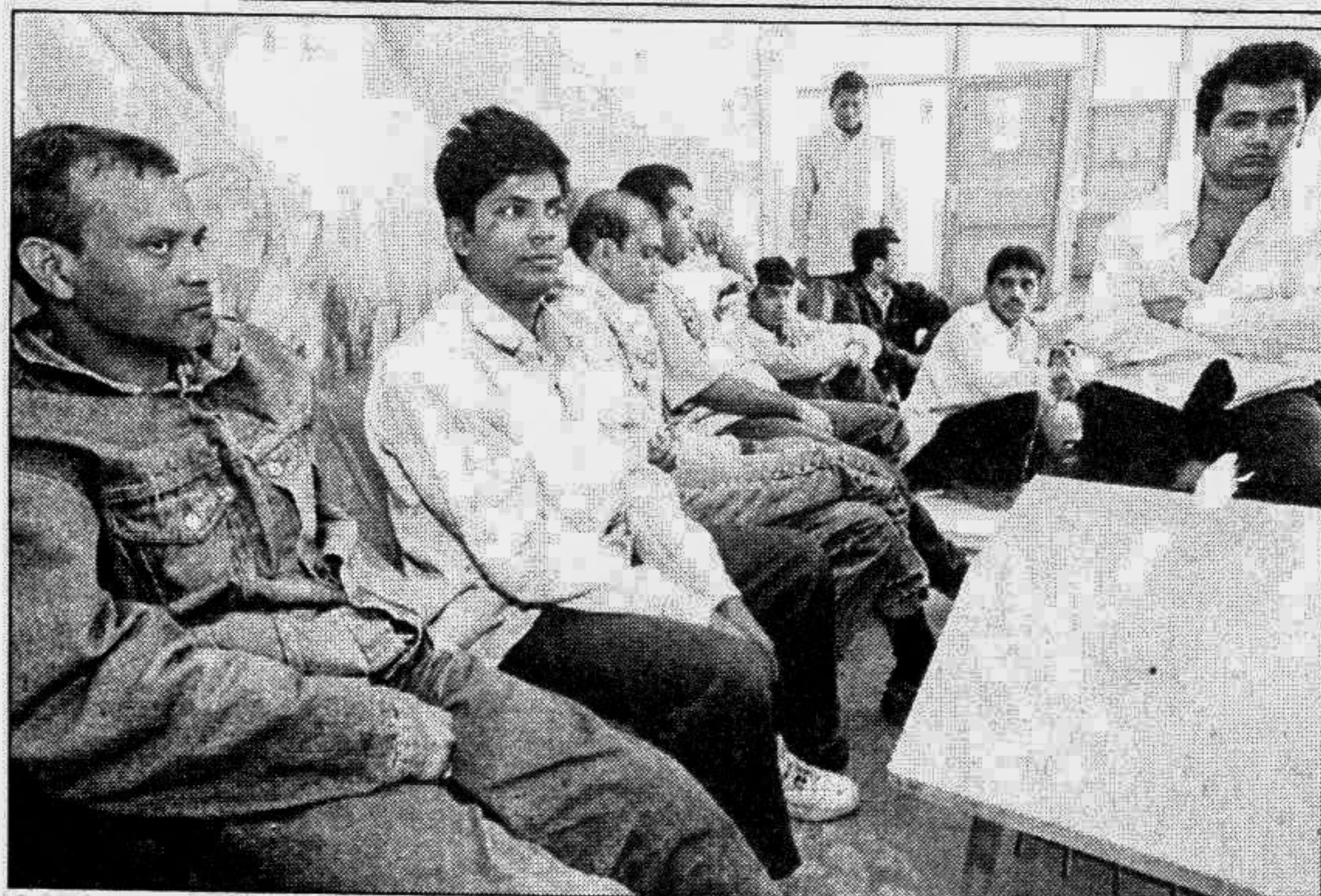
By Staff Correspondent

Police were deployed at the Gulshan residence of Zafar Ahmad Chowdhury, chairman of the United Commercial Bank Limited (UCBL) yesterday.

The move followed a general diary (GD) lodged by Chowdhury's wife Hasina Zafar who alleged that they were feeling insecure as 'we're being threatened with our lives by Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu for the last few days'.

She also alleged that some 25 to 30 people hired by Babu came to the entrance of her house boarding two microbuses and a jeep. They were carrying arms and mobile phones, she added.

"In addition to the deployment of two policemen at the residence of Mr Chowdhury, we also have asked the mobile police patrol in the area to keep constant vigil in the vicinity," an on-duty police officer at Gulshan thana said last night.



Bangladeshi immigrants sit and lie around in the local police station at Berettyiajalu, near Hajdu-Bihar County about 280 kilometres east of Budapest, close to the Hungarian-Romanian border Sunday. Thirty-six illegal immigrants arrived on board a Dutch truck from Romania and they were arrested by Hungarian border guards. — AFP photo

HC orders BB to probe UCBL incident

From page 1

the stay order, arguing that "it could cause a run on the bank and huge loss in terms of failure of economy and interest of depositors".

He said that the notice by the central bank was aimed at protecting interest of the shareholders and depositors and also to avoid systemic loss in the money market.

Zahir also pointed out that the petitioners had appealed for a week's time while on the other hand they filed case against the BB.

UCBL pleader

Barrister Amirul Islam, appearing for UCBL, said the court should uphold the role of BB since the matter was financial and that the central bank was the regulatory authority.

He said that the petitioners elaborately narrated the Thursday's incident in their petition before the court without telling the Bangladesh Bank.

"What was the urgency in coming before you? It is not that their fundamental rights have been violated. It is an institution which is trying to enforce its regulation," Islam said.

He said that there was no *prima-facie* case as no one's fundamental rights were violated and that there had not been any reason stated.

Referring to Dr Kamal Hossain's previous day's arguments, which appeared for the petitioners, Islam said that it was not a fight for fundamental rights. "Why should Dr Kamal Hossain deny BB's role and rights as regulatory authority? It has been given under the law and schemes of the Constitution."

He said that the central bank's duty is to prevent anything that is detrimental to the interest of the depositors. "Should Bangladesh Bank have allowed the disputed board to continue when questions had been raised about five of the directors?"

Islam said BB only served notices which were just the beginning of the process. "The order has not taken away anyone's liberty. It is a continuation of proceeding which would have followed personal hearing."

"It should be seen whether the notices have been given within the framework of law," Islam said.

At this stage of the argument, Murad Reza, another lawyer of the UCBL Bank, said



Dr Kamal Hossain and Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed come out the court with their client Zafar Chowdhury yesterday. — Star photo

he did not agree with his senior's submission. "I'm puzzled. I was not given any permission to give such submission," Reza said.

"Is it a game going on?" commented Justice K M Hasan of the two-judge bench after Reza's remarks.

Amirul Islam then said that he was arguing on "question of law which did not require permission".

Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed, appearing for the petitioners, said the court could always interfere for the sake of justice and in this particular case has done the right thing and should continue with the stay.

He also drew attention of the court to press reports which quoted the central bank Governor as saying that Akhtaruzzaman was not a director of UCBL.

He also said that there were also reports of Tk 60 crore withdrawal immediately after the incident.

Petitioners' lawyer

Dr Kamal Hossain, appearing for the petitioners, said that the court order staying the BB directives "saved the life of the bank by restoring the confidence of the depositors".

He said Bangladesh Bank had suspended the activities of the bank substituting the board



Akhtaruzzaman Chowdhury Babu with his lawyers at the High Court yesterday. — Star photo

by an executive director (ED) Mohiuddin Zahir Amin. He said that central bank's action showed that they had found fault with the board and that the ED was more efficient.

"If the ED had been more efficient then he would not have remained with Bangladesh Bank," he said.

"The action by BB did not help in restoring the confidence, rather made it shaky as

the ED was an outsider."

He also said that the central bank's order had allowed the directors to enter the bank and hold meeting without any problem.

He also questioned the basis on which the standing committee promptly issued the notice.

Dr Zahir then pointed out that the Bangladesh Bank merely substituted the board temporarily.

BNP founding anniversary tomorrow

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has taken elaborate programmes to mark its 21st founding anniversary tomorrow, reports UNB.

Discussion meetings, rallies, *milad mahfil* and cultural functions will be held on the day across the country, said a party press release.

The central programmes of the party include hoisting of national and party flags at the party central office, *ziarat* and offering of *fateha* at the mazar of late president Ziaur Rahman at 9 am and discussion meeting at the Engineers' Institution at 4 pm.

BNP chairperson Begum Khaleida Zia will attend the discussion as chief guest.

Party secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan urged the party units to observe the day in a befitting manner.

Hartal in Ramgati thana HQs today

LAXMIPUR, Aug 30: Local BNP has called a half-day hartal in Ramgati thana headquarters tomorrow protesting arrest of a local leader, reports UNB.

Police said they arrested Azad Uddin, chairman of Char Alexander Union Parishad, from his residence at dawn on charges of specific allegations.

He is also a leader of the local BNP.

42 BSCIC industrial estates

Repair of flood damaged infrastructures yet to start

By Rafiq Hasan

Repair of infrastructures at 42 BSCIC industrial estates damaged by last year's flood are yet to begin, causing tremendous suffering to the entrepreneurs.

Entrepreneurs along with local people at many of the estates even brought out processions demanding immediate repair of roads, culverts and restoration of electricity, gas and water supply which remained suspended since the flood, sources in the Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation here said.

Besides infrastructures at 42 out of 70 BSCIC estates, as many as 8,334 small and medium industrial units including some under-construction ones in those estates were affected by the flood. The under-construction estates include

One shot dead

From page 1

tal (DMCH) where the attending doctors pronounced him dead. The body was sent to DMCH for autopsy.

None was arrested and no case was filed till filing of this report.

Indian EC asks political parties

Refrain from comments on private lives

NEW DELHI, Aug 30: A day after the Congress lodged a complaint against BJP for launching personalised campaign against Sonia Gandhi, the Election Commission today asked all political parties and candidates to refrain from making "unverified allegations" and comments on the private lives of other candidates during electioneering as required under the model code of conduct, reports BSS.

In a release, the commission said it had received a number of complaints from recognised parties on "undesirable" comments on individual leaders and remarks on women made by some leaders of political parties during their election campaign.

AP adds: Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee chastised his own Cabinet ministers today for making "undignified"

comments about rival politicians Sonia Gandhi, including comparing her to Monica Lewinsky, who had an affair with US President Bill Clinton.

"Besides leaving a bad taste," Vajpayee said in a statement, such comments "have served to shift the focus away from the real issues in the coming elections."

"I especially disapprove of any remarks about the Congress president, Sonia Gandhi, that are or can be construed to be undignified," Vajpayee said.

The Election Commission earlier held a meeting here today to consider complaints from the Congress party and women's groups about comments Defence Minister George Fernandes and Information and Broadcasting Minister Pramod Mahajan made about Sonia last week.

submerged under water for long during the flood which caused serious damage to internal roads, culverts, buildings, drains and boundary walls. Electricity, gas and water connection lines were also badly damaged.

According to the survey conducted by a high powered committee, 5327 square metres of buildings, 2.05, 455 square metres of roads, 70745 metres of drains and culverts and 213 metres of electric lines were damaged.

Mugger beaten to death in Ctg

From Our Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Aug 30: One unidentified mugger was beaten to death by mob while trying to flee after snatching money in old Chakiali area under Chandraona thana here this afternoon.

The mugger, aged about 30, was a person who came out of a bank after drawing money at around 1.30 pm.

But hearing hue and cry mob caught the mugger and beat him mercilessly.

He died on way to hospital, police said.

Sec 144 imposed BNP protest rally at Sylhet town could not be held

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Aug 30: The protest meeting of Sylhet town unit of BNP could not be held at Tilagarh due to imposition of Section 144 on the area by the administration today.

However, a rally was held at Brahmanashon, protesting the killing of JCD activist Bakul Chandra Dhar with the town BNP president Ahea Reza Chowdhury in the chair.

The rally demanded immediate arrest of the killers.

The Sylhet district unit of JCD also held another protest meeting demanding arrest of the killers.

Meanwhile, additional police force has been deployed in the MC College and neighbouring areas today apprehending armed clash between the rival student organisations — JCD and BCL.

Activists of both the organisations chased each other today, said a police official.