

What's on today.....

Education fair: An education fair will be held as part of the week long programmes to mark the Literacy for Elders Week. A musical programme and street drama will also be held on the occasion. Venue: National Museum and Bahadur Shah Park respectively. Time 3:30 pm-8:00 pm and 4:00 pm-6:00 pm respectively.

Public dialogue: British Council in association with Centre for Alternatives and The Daily Star will hold a dialogue on "Children and Security — from adult's perspective," the last in a two-part series. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 3:00 pm-7:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Workshop: DFID, UK in association with the government will inaugurate the workshop on a portfolio project on "Organisational Review — Ministry of Commerce". An exchange of opinion views meeting titled "Prospect of revitalising the share markets in Bangladesh." Venue: Federal conference room, Federation Bhaban, 60 Motijheel C/A. Time: 10:00 am and 3:30 pm respectively.

Seminar: A seminar on "Human Resources Development and Continuing Education" will be held as part of the weeklong programmes to mark the Literacy for Elders Week. Venue: National Museum auditorium. Time: 10:00 am.

Catalogue show: Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) in cooperation with the US embassy will inaugurate its two-day long catalogue show on "Pollution prevention and control". Chief guest: Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries. Venue: DCCI auditorium. Time: 10:00 am.

Weather

Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers with temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Chittagong, Barisal and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Dhaka and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may rise slightly across the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 34.2 degree Celsius at Rajshahi and the lowest 24.2 degrees at Srimangal.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.12 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.42 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius	Humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	33.4	27.0
Chittagong	33.0	26.2
Rajshahi	34.2	26.4
Khulna	33.5	26.0
Barisal	33.0	26.5
Sylhet	31.7	25.0
Cox's Bazar	32.9	25.5



Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqi, pro-Vice Chancellor of the North South University addressing the orientation programme.

NSU welcomes freshers

North South University (NSU) held an orientation programme for the fresher of fall semester 1999 at its campus yesterday. Prof Hafiz GA Siddiqi, the pro-Vice Chancellor of the university welcomed the new students, says a press release.

Congratulating the students for their success in the very competitive admission test Prof Siddiqi said that approximately one in four who appeared in the test has been accepted for admission in this semester. He said NSU academic environment is very different from other universities in the country.

One murdered in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Sept 5: One person was brutally killed in broad daylight at Augariapara in Chapainawabganj municipality area last morning.

The victim was identified as Kabir of the same village. Police said that the killing was a sequel to previous enmity.

'Shanti Nibash' in Bagerhat soon

BAGERHAT, Sept 5: As part of government's commitment to ensure safe dwelling houses for the elderly destitute people, the second Shanti Nibash of the country is going to be built in Fakirhat thana of the district soon, reports UNB.

Officials at the local Social Welfare office said works on the Tk 1.5 crore Fakirhat project would begin this month. They said some 100 semi-pucca rooms would be constructed on the compound of Fakirhat Orphanage to accommodate 60 destitute old men and 40 women.

Paper presentation

Noted dentist Dr Arup Ratan Chowdhury has presented a scientific paper at the 4th World Diabetes Congress of the West Pacific held recently in Sydney. His paper was on the relationship of diabetes with antioxidants and vitamins, said a press release.

Dr Chowdhury presented paper on the subject with a Japanese researcher. Researchers from 40 countries presented papers at the conference.

Chief Whip

BNP trying to create anarchy

BARISAL, Sept 5: Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasanat Abdullah has said the BNP is trying to create anarchy in the name of movement before signing of the transshipment treaty as they could not get out of the politics of falsehood and conspiracy, reports BSS.

Addressing a meeting arranged on the occasion of loan distribution among marginal weavers under weaving Board at Agolghara thana of the district on Friday, Abdullah said the BNP led four-party opposition has no programmes relating to the welfare of the people.

The BNP is trying to grab power through any means and by plotting against the elected Awami League government.

The Chief Whip said the government has taken pragmatic steps to flourish weaving industry. He distributed checks worth Tk 4.8 lakh among 48 weavers.

Presided over by District Commissioner Md Alauddin, the meeting was also addressed, among others, by Divisional Commissioner Yahia Mollah, Member of the Weaving Board Ashadul Haq and Awami League leader Talukdar Md Yunus.

Later, the Chief Whip distributed cheques among unemployed youths at Chadshi under Gouranadi thana.

Housewife murdered after gang rape in Jessore

JESSORE, Sept 5: Unidentified miscreants raped and killed a young housewife at village Sreekanonagar in Kotwali thana Thursday, reports UNB.

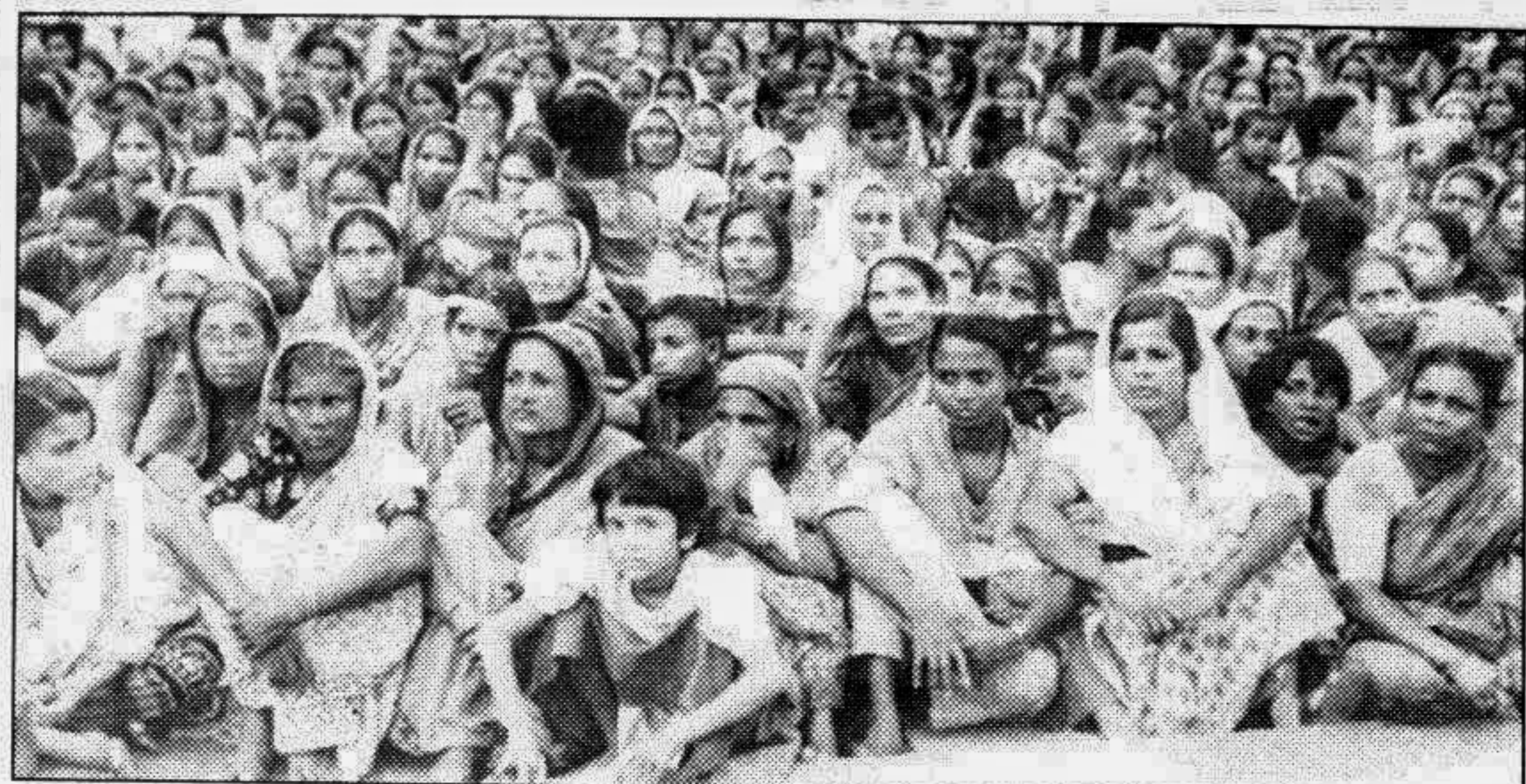
Police said the rapists picked up the victim, wife of one Shariful Islam and a worker of CARE, at gunpoint when she came out of their house to use the outdoor toilet at about 9 pm.

The miscreants gang raped and slaughtered her in a nearby field.

On being informed by locals, police recovered the body and sent it to hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was also filed.

Another report says: Villagers caught a woman trying to pick up a one-year-old girl from Noapara Bazar in Abhoynagar thana Saturday.

Villagers said they nabbed Selima, 30, when she tried to pick up the baby seeing her father busy in shopping. She was handed over to police.



Sammilito Samajik Andolon held a rally demanding an end to eviction of slums and rehabilitation of slum dwellers at the central Shaheed Minar premises in the city yesterday.

In Rajshahi, C'nawabganj, Natore

Tk 194cr agri loan disbursed during last fiscal

RAJSHAHI, Sept 5: A five-day training course on "financing agricultural and rural development" organised by Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) began today at the local branch of Bangladesh Bank.

Thirty high-ranking officers from different commercial banks and other financial institutions are attending the training course.

Speakers at the inaugural function stressed the need for proper distribution of loans among the farmers and others for boosting agricultural production and rural development with the objective to help make Bangladesh a prosperous country.

They also urged the participants "to understand the rural economic environment in order to appreciate the need and importance of the project and programme approach to agricultural and rural development" so that the country could march ahead.

An official source told BSS that over Taka one hundred ninety-four crore agricultural loan had been disbursed in Rajshahi, Chapainawabganj, Natore, Pabna, Kushtia and Meherpur during the last fiscal year for boosting agricultural production. The banks also re-

covered loan amounting Taka over one hundred sixtyone crore during the period.

The sources said the banks disbursed over Taka three thousand one hundred thirty crore for boosting agricultural production in the country during the last three years from 1996 and recovered loans amounting Taka three thousand two hundred ninety three crore during

the period.

The banks also distributed over Taka one hundred fifty-two crore till June 30, 1998 under self-reliant loan programme among the people of 1,063 unions under 136 thanas of 39 districts in the country, the source said adding the main objective of the loan programme was to make them self-reliant in all sectors.

Adult Literacy Week begins

'Literacy rate has gone up by 11pc since '96'

Education Minister ASHK Sadique yesterday said the rate of literacy went up to 58 per cent this year from 47 per cent in 1996 by dint of coordinated and sincere efforts of the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports BSS.

He said the present government, as part of its commitment to drive out illiteracy from the country in 10 years, would now be able to achieve total success much ahead of the deadline since some epoch-making programmes were being implemented both by the government and the NGOs, in the field of education throughout the country.

"We have targeted 62 per cent achievement in literacy by next year and total literacy by the year 2006 but our present pace of success speaks of fulfilling our aim much earlier," he said while inaugurating the "Adult Literacy Week" marking the International Literacy Day on September 8.

State Minister for Primary and Mass Education Satish Chandra Roy and Secretary of the Primary and Mass Education Division of the Education Ministry Dr Sa'adat Hussain were special guests on the occasion.

Besides, Director General of

the Non-Formal Education Directorate Khandker Shahidul Islam, former secretary Kazi Azhar Ali and Rasheda K Chowdhury of "Ganasakharata Abhijan" spoke on the occasion.

Sadique said the present government since 1996 has been implementing the country's largest-ever project in the education sector with the aim to drive out illiteracy from the country within the year 2006.

He said the Taka 682 crore project named "Project-4" was being implemented with government's own funds throughout the country and at least seven districts have been totally rid of illiteracy so far.

"We have started the project in a coordinated way, irrespective of party and opinion, and I hope we will succeed in our mission much ahead of 2006 if the pace of such coordinated efforts continues in the greater national interest," he said.

The minister said country's people had now realised the importance of education and that is why such extraordinary success could be achieved in only three years. "But the greater task is to make people skilled manpower and the government has already launched the post-literacy drive in that regard," he said.

President calls for collective efforts to address health problems

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday called for collective efforts to address the health related problems in the South East Asia region, reports BSS.

"The region shares a number of endemic health related problems which need to be addressed through collective efforts of the neighbouring countries," he said in a message on the occasion of the 52nd Regional Committee Meeting of the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Bangladesh.

He said the meeting is an excellent opportunity for the members of the regional committee to exchange views among themselves.

He said the WHO and other development partners have been extending support and co-operation in effective execution of the country's health care programme.

In another message Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed her belief that the WHO would further strengthen its support and assistance to the member states in the fight against disease and disability, specially those in South East Asia.

In a message on the occasion of the 52nd Regional Committee Meeting of South East Asia of WHO, the prime minister said she was happy to learn that the meeting is being organised in Dhaka.

"We acknowledge the contribution of WHO for its technical and material support in this regard," she added and wished all success of the meeting.

One crushed under wheels of truck in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Sept 5: One person was crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck on a road below the overbridge at Fakirhat under Doublemooring thana here today, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Javed 26, son of Mohammad Islam of West Goshaldanga under the same thana. The body was sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Police said, a city bound truck ran over Javed when he was crossing the road. Police seized the truck, but the driver escaped from the scene.

A case was filed in this connection with Doublemooring police.

Two held with counterfeit notes in Satkhira

SATKHIRA, Sept 5: Two people were arrested with counterfeit notes of Taka 100 denomination on August 27 at Sonabaria Bazar under Kalaroa thana of the district, reports BSS.

The arrested persons were identified as Nayon Gazi, 35, and Khorshed Alam, 20 of village Sonabaria.

Police sources said, Nayon bought some goods from the shop of one Hamid Member at Sonabaria Bazar and gave him a note of 100 taka. The shopkeeper, being suspicious about the note, caught Nayon with the help of other shopkeepers and handed him over to police. Acting on his confession police arrested one Khorshed Alam and recovered three 100-taka denomination counterfeit notes from his possession.

Smuggled fruits worth Tk 11.39 lakh seized

JESSORE, Sept 5: BIR jwans seized a truckload of Indian fruits and arrested two people in this connection from Dharmotola crossing in the town Thursday, reports UNB.

Acting on a tip-off, the BDR men halted the truck at the crossing and arrested Rubel, 22, and Fanto, 20, with the Indian fruits worth Tk 11.39 lakh. The arrested were handed over to police.

Another report adds: Narcotics control Department seized 700 gm of dried hemp and 15 litres of rectified spirit from a shop at Babubazar in the town Friday.

Being informed by locals, police raided the bazar and arrested Delwar Hossain, said to be a member of an organised group of international drug racketeers.

Acting on his confessional statements, police later recovered the hemp and spirits from the shop of one Jamal Hossain.

18 return after completing jail terms in India

THAKURGAON, Sept 5: Indian border guards sent back 18 Bangladeshis through Sonapatia frontier in Atwari thana of Panchagarh district on Friday night upon completion of their jail terms in India, reports UNB.

Fourteen of the returnees were identified as Sufa, Kalua, Krishna Kanta, Nazrul Islam and Satu Mohammad of Thakurgaon district while Anil Barman, Biren Barman, Noor Islam, Mannan, Ashraf, Joyuddin, Ismail and Hanif of Panchagarh district and Subal of Dinajpur district.

BDR sources said they were sentenced to various jail terms in West Bengal for illegal border crossing.

Khaleda leads march

From page 1 Begum Zia also addressed public meetings at Savar Bazar, Islampur Primary School ground under Dhanrai thana, Nayadingi under Sattaria thana, Manikganj Bus Stand, Bani-azuri under Gheor thana and at Aricha Ghat.

Hundreds of people cheered her at many points along the 85 km route. Several welcome arches were erected on the road, with banners reading "No transit to India".

The former prime minister said India had sought transit and other facilities when BNP was in power during 1976-82 and 1991-96. But BNP government never surrendered to India and accepted its hegemony, she said.

"So they (India) brought AL to power after they failed to get the facilities from BNP".

Begum Zia said the government decision to provide "corridor" facility to India in the name of transshipment will be "suicidal" because it will destroy the country's economy, industries and jeopardise internal security.

"India will move troops and military hardware using this facility to check independence movement in its North-Eastern states. We will lay down our lives but never give transit to India for the sake of our sovereignty, security peace".

The BNP chief claimed that since coming to power, the AL

government did not fulfil any of the election pledges it made to the people but signed agreements one after to serve India's interest.

She mentioned the Ganges Water Sharing Treaty and the CHT agreement and said, after giving "corridor", the AL government will give Chittagong port and gas to India.

Criticising the government for its "misrule", the Leader of the Opposition said the country is now in the grip of "terrorists, killers and bank dacoits".

"The country has to be freed from their grip to ensure security of life and property of the people and to safeguard the independence and sovereignty".

She called upon the people to join in the September 12 sit-in demonstration in front of the Secretariat and declared that the programme would be observed "peacefully and in a discipline manner".

Senior BNP leaders including Prof AGM Badrudozza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Shahjahan Siraj, Rajshahi City Corporation Mayor Mizanur Rahman Minu, Abdullah Al Noman, Selima Rahman, Mirza Abbas, Sadek Hossain Khoka, Fazlur Rahman Pata, Aminul Haq, Ziaur Rahman Khan, Joyal Abedin, Faruq and Dr Dewan Mohammad Salahuddin MP addressed the meetings.

Indian polls

From page 1

President KR Narayanan, Congress President Sonia Gandhi and the Chief Election Commissioner were among the early voters to exercise their franchise in different constituencies in the city.

A total of 97 candidates including Urban Development Minister Jagmohan and Finance Minister Manmohan Singh are in the fray.

Over 68,000 personnel including 5000 paramilitary jawans, were deployed in the capital. Rapid Action Force has been deployed in communally sensitive spots like the walled city.

BJP leader LK Advani who is the candidate for Gandhi Nagar Lok Sabha seat in Gujarat cast his vote for the State Assembly seat under still opposition as a Congress agent. The Congress agent raised the objection that Advani's father's name was not mentioned in the voter list.

AP adds: Heeding a boycott call by pro-independence groups, most Kashmiris stayed at home today.

Thousands of armed policemen and security guards patrolled the empty streets or fought with demonstrators shouting pro-independence slogans. In one village, a state legislator's guards opened fire on a crowd of hecklers, injuring five of them.

For a new Indian Parliament in the volatile Srinagar constituency around the state's summer capital, but polling was brisk, a 77 per cent turnout, in the neighboring Buddhist-dominated Ladakh constituency.

Voters said they stayed at home in Srinagar because they feared reprisals from the pro-independence All-Party Hurriyat Conference or the Jihad Council, comprising 14 guerrilla organizations.

Both issued the boycott call, saying the election will not help Kashmiris determine whether the Himalayan territory should remain part of India, be independent or join Islamic Pakistan.

Hasina

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tion of terrorism is not possible without the cooperation of the opposition parties."

Regarding the local demands, Hasina said though the people of Puthia and the greater Rajshahi region did not vote for Awami League, the government was not making any discrimination against them.

"We are taking massive steps for the development of this region," she said, announcing that Puthia thana will be upgraded to a municipality.

Regarding the strengthening of local-government bodies, she said in the next phase Upazilla elections would be held in the country. She called upon the people to join the polls.

Puthia Thana Awami League President Abdus Sobhan presided over the meeting.

Earlier, the prime minister asked police officials to work sincerely for ensuring public security which is the main duty of the force.

"You will have to apply your power only to maintain law and order in society and ensure security," she said inspecting the passing parade of the 17th batch of assistant police superiors at Sarda Police Academy at Sarda, Rajshahi, yesterday.

She called upon the police officials to work to serve the people, saying that a member of the police cannot be a master of the people.

Emphasising friendly relations between police and the people, the prime minister told the function that the government has taken step for community police through a good cooperative relation between them.

The prime minister, however, said the police force have been doing a good job with limited manpower and facilities. "But their image often suffers due to unwanted acts and corruption by a section of the members."

The present government aims to establish a terrorism-free country, she said. For that reason the government directed the members of the police to work impartially and take stern action against the terrorists, she added.

Saifur

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not the ruling party. His observation evoked sharp protest from the front ranking leader Saifur Rahman. But, Lockwood in a statement Saturday stood by his remarks.

Saifur in his second statement said, "His (Lockwood's) controversial remarks and his stand are not only disgraceful for politicians of this country, but also for the people as a whole. This is unfortunate and irritating".

He added: "Any tussle between the government party and the opposition is completely our internal affair. And it is also our internal matter why opposition MPs did not attend the conference."

"A salaried official of UNDP has no right whatsoever to pass comments about it. It would have been better to express regret for his comments. But without doing so, he made an international organisation like UNDP controversial by his unwarranted comments."

TLO punished for collecting tolls during polls

Fisheries and Livestock Ministry, at the recommendation of the Election Commission, has taken punitive measures against Dr Zahedul Islam, Thana Livestock Officer of Baladangi, Thakurgaon, on charge of collecting tolls from the candidates filing nominations to contest the 1997 Union Parishad elections, reports BSS.

According to an Election Commission press release, Dr Islam was performing the responsibility of Returning Officer during the 1997 UP elections.

A departmental case under Election Officer (Special Provision) Act, 1991 and Government Employees (Discipline and Appeal) Guidelines, 1985 was filed against Dr Islam and charges of collection of tolls from those who submitted nomination papers were probed.

Under the punitive measures, the ministry has suspended promotion of Dr Islam for two years.

Farooq Sobhan

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straight fight with New Zealand Foreign Minister Don McKinnon for the post of Commonwealth Secretary General. Out of the 54 members, 53 except Tuvalu, would take part in the election when it takes place during the three-day Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) in South Africa's Durban from November 12 to 15.

Heads of delegations of the 53 countries would cast a single vote in secrecy. The current geographical grouping gives eight votes to Asian nations, 12 to Caribbean countries, 19 to African members, nine to Pacific islands, two to Mediterranean nations and four to the developed countries of the Commonwealth—UK, Canada, Australia and New Zealand.

Sobhan feels that his chances of winning the election are immensely bright because of the fact that he is the first Asian candidate to contest for the post and that 50 per cent of the Commonwealth members belong to the developing world.

Responding to questions, he said his 'victory could be secured' if Bangladesh took a move to get his candidature endorsed by at least a few states which would have a demonstration effect on other members.

Sobhan has already been given the rank and status of Special Envoy to the Prime Minister. In this capacity, he has already visited 35 Commonwealth countries at least once, seeking support and explaining his efficacy as a candidate. He intends to visit the other member-countries including Caribbean and African nations before the CHOGM.

The former foreign secretary, who is well known in international diplomatic circles and was once Chairman of the Group of 77 based in New York, noted that if he is elected, it would be Bangladesh's first victory in a globally recognised organisation.



Bangladesh Non-Govt Primary Teachers' Association observed a token hunger strike in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

— Star photo