

What's on today....

Reception to PM: The Krishibid Institution will accord a reception to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on her receiving the Ceres Gold Medal awarded by the Food and Agriculture Organisation. Venue: Krishibid Institution premises, Farmgate. Time: 4 pm.

Seminar on Int'l Relations: CESTI of Alliance Française de Dhaka and International Relations Department of Dhaka University have jointly organised a seminar on 'Middle East Peace Process'. Keynote paper: Selim el Sayegh, a French scholar on International Negotiations. Venue: Cafeteria of Alliance Française. Time: 3:30 pm.

CDRB seminar: Centre for Development Research, Bangladesh has organised a seminar on 'American Culture in the Late 90s: Monica and Beyond'. Keynote speaker: Dr Peter J Bertocci, Professor of Anthropology Department, Oakland University, USA and Research Fellow of AIBS. Chief guest: John S Kincannon, Director, USIS, Dhaka. Venue: WVA auditorium, Road No: 27 (Old), Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 pm.

Discussion on Child Rights: A discussion meeting on 'Rights deprived child' will be held as part of the Child Rights Week and World Child Day celebration programmes, organised jointly by Bangladesh Shishu Academy and Ministry of Women and Child Affairs. A prize giving ceremony and cultural programme will follow the discussion. Keynote speaker: Baby Moudud, Acting Editor of Shaptahik Bichitra. Venue: Academy auditorium. Time: 4:30 pm.

Inauguration ceremony: The inauguration of a Bengali newspaper Megharta on the web will be held. Venue: Pathshala, 16 Shukrabad, Panthapath. Time: 3:00 pm.

Discussion meeting: The central committee of Bangladesh College-University Teachers Federation will hold a discussion meeting on occasion of World Teacher's Day. Venue: Ideal College premises. Time: 4:00 pm.

Multi-cultural evening: Anando, a cultural organisation will hold a cultural show by tribal communities of the country. Venue: Russian Cultural Centre, House No. 510, Road No 7, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:30 pm.

Open discussion: Biswa Shahitya Kendra will hold an open discussion on Abul Karim's book on poetry Jatra. Venue: Kendra premises at 14, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue. Time: 6:30 pm.

Prize distribution programme: Chalachitram Film Society in association with Goethe Institut will hold the prize distribution ceremony of the Chalachitram-Prothom Alo Essay Competition '99. Charlie Chaplin's Modern Times will be screened at the end of the ceremony. Venue: Goethe Institut, Rd No 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:30 pm.

..... and tomorrow

BISS roundtable: Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies (BISS) in collaboration with the German embassy will begin a two-day roundtable on 'Development Policy on the threshold of Year 2000'. Chief guest: Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries. Venue: BISS auditorium. Time: 10:00 am.

Public Debate: Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association will hold a public debate on Draft Bill for Protecting Open Spaces of Cities. Chief Guest: Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, Minister for Housing and Public Works. Venue: CIDRAP auditorium. Time: 4:00 pm.

Discussion meeting: Bangladesh Shishu Academy will hold a discussion meeting on 'Children involved in domestic work'. It will be followed by a cultural show. Venue: Academy premises. Time: 4:30 pm.

Discussion meeting: Bangladesh-China Friendship Association will hold a discussion meeting followed by a cultural programme in celebration of the golden jubilee of China. Venue: Hotel Furbani. Time: 5:00 pm.

Weather

Light rain forecast

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met office said.

It also forecast that rainfall activity may decrease in the subsequent two days while south-west monsoon may withdraw from across the country within the next five days.

Country's highest temperature yesterday was recorded at 34.7 degree Celsius at Srimongal and the lowest 22.6 degrees at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:42 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:52 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	32.7	24.7
Chittagong	33.4	24.6
Rajshahi	33.0	25.4
Khulna	33.5	25.0
Barisal	34.0	25.5
Sylhet	34.0	25.0
Cox's Bazar	-	24.1

Among others, chairman of the MPA Nazmul Hossain and Shihabuddin Ahmed Sirajul Islam took part in the discussion.

BUDNA
Chittagong chapter of Bangladesh Unemployed Diploma Nurses Association (BUDNA) elected a 21-member executive committee at its general meeting held at Chittagong Nurses' Institute in Chittagong recently, reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Kanchan Bala Marma, member of the association.

The newly elected officers bearers of executive committee are - President - Suraiya Begum, general secretary - M Arif Hossain, organising secretary - A MM Jahangir and treasurer - Nandita Mondal.

The meeting in a resolution thanked the government for appointing 4000 nurses in hospitals and clinics. It called for appointing 2000 more nurses in hospital and clinics.

ISO
Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Ministry of Shipping Col (ret'd) Shawkat Ali yesterday said the government was pledge-bound to implement the objectives of the International Shipping Organisation (ISO) by maintaining safe navigation and pollution-free sea environment, reports BSS.

He said this while addressing as the chief guest the inaugural function of the workshop titled 'Sea transport of Bangladesh in the next millennium' in the auditorium of the Mongla Port Authority (MPA) in Khulna to mark the World Maritime Day.

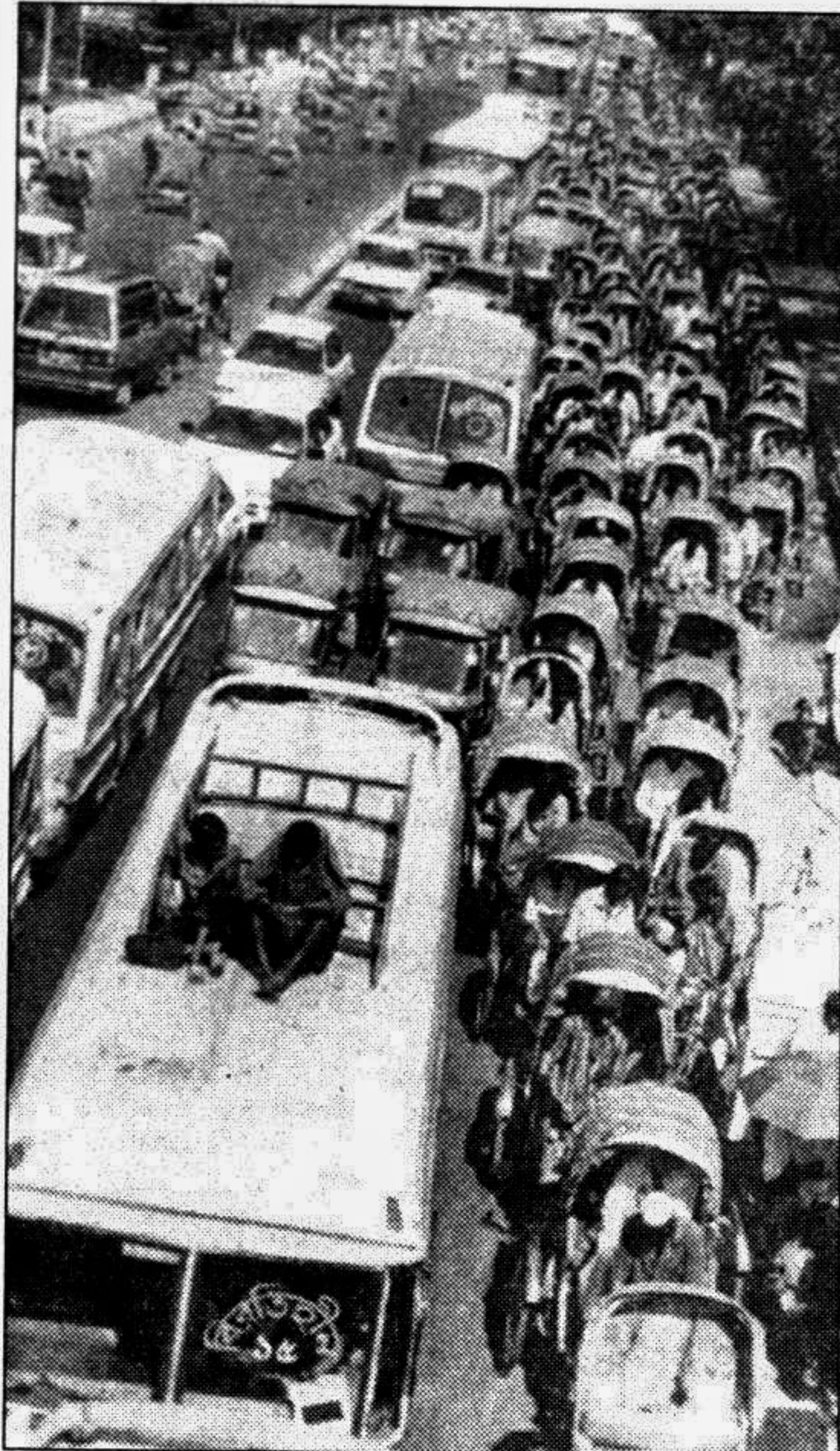
Abdul Malek, Director General, Department of Shipping, presided over the function while parliament member Mir Sakawat Ali Daru addressed it as the special guest. Chief Engineer of the Marine Academy Sazid Hossain presented the keynote paper at the workshop.

Fareea Lara Foundation
A series of programmes were held by Fareea Lara Foundation in observation of the first death anniversary of the young pilot, says a press release.

The foundation held an open camp for poor ENT patients at Rajendrapur. State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr M Amanullah inaugurated the camp as the chief guest.

A discussion meeting titled 'Cessna-150 accident: Related Points' was held at the National Museum auditorium. Minister for Environment and Forests Begum Sajeda Chowdhury was present as the chief guest at the meeting.

The programmes ended with the distribution of prizes to winners of the children's art competition held in Lara's memory. Lara's mother Selina Hossain a renowned litterateur, gave out the prizes to the winners.



Traffic jams in the metropolitan area are going from bad to worse everyday. This picture was taken from the road between Ramna Park and Matshya Bhaban at 10.00 am yesterday. —Star photo

Seminar on transshipment in Boston

Guard against false propaganda: Kibria

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria asked expatriate Bangladesh community to guard against false and misleading propaganda on the transshipment issue on which the opposition kicked up a storm, reports UNB.

Speaking as chief guest at a seminar entitled 'Transshipment and Regional Cooperation in Trade and Commerce' in Boston, America, on Sunday, he explained a government decision to consider a proposal for allowing transshipment of Indian goods through Bangladesh territory.

The Finance Minister narrated the background of the transit and transshipment issues and pointed out that it was General Zia's Government that had signed the transit agreement with India in 1980.

Ershad renewed the agreement and then Begum Zia, too, did so in 1993, a message received here yesterday quoted Kibria to have told the expatriates.

"Is it not the height of inconsistency for Begum Zia to speak against an agreement which was signed by her husband and renewed by herself," he asked.

The Finance Minister said Begum Zia got exposed to the

whole nation for her "unprincipled politics" and this is why all her efforts to whip up public sentiments against the government "failed miserably".

Organised by the New England Chapter of Bangladesh Awami League, the seminar was also addressed, among others, by Yusuf Chowdhury, Dr Abul Hasnat, Dr Benoy Paul, Dr Barman das Basu, Monir Hossain and Mustain Billah.

BJUJ, DUJ condole death of Mir Nurul Islam

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) yesterday condole the death of Senior Assistant Editor of Daily Mukto Kanto, Mir Nurul Islam, reports BSS.

In a joint statement, BFUJ President Abul Kalam Azad and Secretary General Akhter Ahmed Khan, and DUJ President Altaf Mahmud and General Secretary Abdul Jalil Bhuiyan expressed deep shock at the death of Mir Nurul Islam.

They prayed for peace of the departed soul and expressed sympathy for the bereaved family.

The journalist leaders, at the same time, expressed annoyance that the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases did not provide ambulance to transfer the journalist to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). It was reported that DMCH authorities advised the relatives of late Nurul Islam to take him to other hospitals, they said.

The journalist leaders urged the head of the government to take the matter into her notice and demanded exemplary punishment to the persons responsible for the such negligence.

Anwar Zahid granted bail
By Court Correspondent

BNP leader Anwar Zahid, who was arrested on the night of August 30 for his alleged involvement in the incident of attack on the Janakantha building, was granted bail by the Metropolitan Sessions Judges Court, Dhaka yesterday.

Zahid was detained at the Dhaka Central Jail for one month from August 31.

Three cases were filed with police regarding the attack on Janakantha Bhaban on August 30. Earlier, Zahid got bail in two of the cases on September 5. Zahid is likely to be released from Dhaka Central Jail today.

Anniversary of MA Rashid's death

The 11th death anniversary of former secretary, Ministry of Religious Affairs, AL-Hajj MA Rashid will be observed today, says a press release.

A milad mahfil will be held after Magrib prayers at his son's residence at Gulshan.

Militants' bid to disrupt Kashmir polls

ANANTNAG (India), Oct 4: Making good their threat to disrupt polls in Kashmir, separatist militants triggered a series of explosions in the lone parliamentary constituency that was voting today, leaving one dead and 20 wounded, reports AP.

Repolling or delayed voting is also scheduled in some states on Tuesday, Wednesday and Oct 28, although counting begins Wednesday and results are expected this week.

Two explosions in Pampore, 35 kilometers south of the regional capital, Srinagar, injured nine other policemen and two polling agents who were supervising voting.

AL activists

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Premises. Police and witnesses said more than one thousand people appeared in front of the court premises at about 4:15 p.m. yesterday and tried to enter the court house.

Police stopped them at the court gate the latter clashed with police. To bring the situation under control, police resorted to 'lathi' charge and lobbed tear gas shells and fired rubber bullets to disperse them. The clash continued till 4:45 p.m. leaving at least 20 people including four policemen injured.

The mob then damaged at least five vehicles and ransacked about ten shops in the area.

The injured were identified as Abdur Rahim, Sarwar Jahan, and Habibur Rahman, who were admitted to local clinics with injuries who were released after being given first-aid.

Additional police forces were deployed in and around the area after the incident.

A case has been lodged with Narayanji Sadar thana in this connection. Police picked up 34 people from the spot, on charges of involvement with the incident.

Shikdar's wife

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CMM's Court in connection with 'Panna Murder Case' on October 6.

The DC further said the latest medical report issued on Saturday (October 2) showed that the victim is alright.

A KMP source said detectives are investigating the issuance of 'false' medical certificates by senior superintendent of Jessore Central Jail Mohammad Jahangir Hossain declaring Ershad Shikdar physically unfit for movement. The certificates were issued to prevent taking Shikdar on remand in Khulna, the source added.

Another source said the IGP will send a 20-member team to Khulna on October 6 for questioning Ershad and his associates arrested so far.

They are the new faces in the 25-member team selected from Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions after the DfG, Khulna Range, Lutful Kabir withdrew names of 20 police officers on Thursday last.

The new police officers to be sent by the IGP will quiz Ershad in batches of five or more during the remand. Five officers of KMP will join the team.

The DC (Headquarters) told this correspondent today that none of the twenty police officers had even served in any position in the KMP. So, the question of their having links with Ershad Shikdar does not arise at all.

Meanwhile, one Chhilara Khanam on Thursday filed a General Diary with Pabna Sadar thana against Ershad Shikdar, sources said.

Chhilara is elder sister of Syed Monirul Islam, a leading businessman of Khulna and leader of city Awami League, and wife of a senior official of the judiciary posted in Pabna.

Monirul Islam was severely injured in armed attack allegedly by Ershad Shikdar and his associates in the ice factory at Skidghat on May 19 this year. Jubo League leader Khalid Hossain died during the attack.

Chhilara Begum wants to add some information about Ershad Shikdar to help Khulna police in connection with the case filed earlier regarding attempt on Monir Hossain, said the OC of Pabna Sadar thana when contacted over phone this evening.

NGOs want

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senatives of 39 NGOs including ADAB, BRAC, PRIP Trust and CSKS.

The NGO leaders were told at the meeting that the government wanted eviction of slums from the city in phases and that a survey would be conducted before further eviction, the sources added.

The NGO leaders told the DG that they were working in the slums with government permission and donors' commitments and that they would not accept any 'unilateral' decision to stop their activities. Many of the projects would continue for years, they told the meeting.

Abdul Matin, Treasurer of ADAB who participated in the meeting told The Daily Star that they also requested the government for their representation in the recently formed Committee for Eviction and Rehabilitation of Slum Dwellers.

A total of 59 NGOs have given Tk 178 crore as micro credit to 187,742 families and have Tk 72 crore health, sanitation and education projects in the city slums, Matin said.

A letter from the Prime Minister's office to ADAB through the NGO Affairs Bureau on September 27 asked the NGOs to stop their activities in city slums and cooperate with the government in rehabilitating the slum dwellers back to their villages.

PM: Cabinet

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will have representatives from relevant ministries and concerned trade bodies.

The Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has been calling for the formation of such a body long since.

However, the State Minister for Textile told the cabinet meeting that his ministry was not consulted before placing the proposal.

The state minister also asserted that his ministry was directly related to the garments sector, and that it had a lot of scope for improving the proposal.

Convinced by the argument, the Prime Minister asked the Industries minister to withdraw his proposal for the time being and place it before the cabinet again after consulting the ministries of Textile and Finance.

The PM also asked the ministry of industries to resolve problems relating to supply of geos plants - the main ingredient of producing newspaper - to the Khulna Newsprint Mills, in consultation with the Forest Ministry.

The forest department authorities have recently sought government's permission for a stoppage of supply of geos plants to the mills, if the latter failed to pay the arrears bills totalling Tk 13 crore immediately.

The cabinet also resolved that the forest department would continue to supply the plants until the ministries concerned found an amicable solution to the problem.

Garbage

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have doubled as garbage of some areas are being dumped on the streets. The 160 ordinary trucks are too busy elsewhere to clear the rubbish in those places.

They said DCC is at least 30 short of the required number of ordinary trucks to clear the garbage off bins and streets in the city.

"How can we cope with such poor resources to keep the city clean at least to an acceptable level?" wondered an official.

The city generates some 4,000 tonnes of garbage everyday and with all its available resources the Conservancy Department is able to clear about 2,800 tonnes, some 70 per cent of the wastes.

Janaza

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Saifur Rahman and Jamaat leader Mohammad Kamaruzaman attended the janaza.

Later, BNP leaders and activists wearing black badge brought out a mourning procession that ended in front of Jatiya Press Club after parading GPO, Paltan and Tophkhana roads.

Addressing a gathering after the janaza, city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka announced a nationwide demonstration on Thursday.

He said BNP and its front organisations will jointly hold rallies and bring out processions across the country to press home the demands for trial of the killers of Bidyut Talukder and compensation for his family.

SAF soccer

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wing with midfielder Anwar crossing the ball to forward Mizanur Rahman, who beat his marker with a header but not the Nepalese goalkeeper.

In the 12th minute Alfaz broke the home defence from the left but ran into a hopeless acute angle.

After surviving those close calls, Nepal went all out and produced as many as four good chances. But all their creative works went in vain in the face of some brilliant keeping from national custodian Biplab Bhattacharjee.

Inspired by Biplab's magnificent form, the forwards cornered their opponents in their own half with a series of attacks in the last five minutes before the lemon break. The 'duck' was finally broken by Alfaz, who scored his first goal of the tournament at the stroke of the short whistle.

In the second session, the speedy Nepalese made a brilliant rally and earned as many as nine corners. But their efforts came to naught, as Bangladesh played defensively with a six-man fort that was well supported by the midfield.

Fortune favoured Bangladesh at least once when Nepal forward Hari Khadka's shot from close range returned from the cross piece.

The match was stopped for two minutes when an unruly section of the home crowd started throwing stones and water bottles to a linesman, perhaps for raising his flag against their will. Timely move by the security personnel helped to resume the match.

Nepal crown prince Dipendra Bir Bikram Shah Dev witnessed the final and gave away the medals to the players.

Yellow cards: Hasan Al-Mamun, Jewel Rana (Bangladesh) and Kumar Thapa (Nepal).

TEAMS

Bangladesh: Biplab, Hasan Al-Mamun, Nazmul Islam, Jewel Rana, Faraz Ahmed, Matinur Rahman, Iqbal Hossain, Anwar Hossain (Sourav Raju), Monwar Hossain, Alfaz Ahmed (Rajani Kanta Barman) and Mizanur Rahman Dawn (Shahajuddin Tipu).

Nepal: Binod Kharel, Rakesh Shrestha, Sunil Tuladhar, Dev Narayan, Basanta Thapa, Kumar Thapa, Basanta Gauchan, Hari Khadka, Naresh Joshi, Dilip Ram Sharma (Bal Gopal Maharjan) and Anil Subba (Deepak Amatya).

Referee: Vijay Rahman (Singapore)

Analysis: BNP's politics

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subsequent events have.

As the AL emerged victorious in the BNP spoke of 'unprecedented rigging' in the elections and identified the Election Commission as 'totally partisan'. It demanded repolling in 111 constituencies while the Commission announced repolling in 123 centres involving 27 seats.

But election observers from home and abroad termed the 1996 polls 'completely fair'.

BNP's initial charges were mainly against the AL and the latter administration headed by Justice Mohammad Habibur Rahman. But the party pointed its gun at the CEC soon after the first phase of by-elections to 15 constituencies, vacated by those who had won more than one seats, took place roughly three months after the general elections.

Apart from the 1996 general elections, Abu Hena has so far presided over 21 parliamentary by-elections and the polls to Union Parishad and Panchayat Pourashavas. He is now preparing for three more parliamentary by-elections, the Upazila and mayoral elections.

In the 21 by-polls conducted till December last year, AL retained eight seats, BNP five and JP two. AL also won six seats, four of which were vacated by BNP and two by JP.

Results of the first phase by-elections to 15 seats prompted BNP to demand CEC's resignation for the first time. In the 15 by-polls, BNP lost to the AL in three seats -- two of them vacated by Khaleda and another by her party colleague M. Saifur Rahman.

Loss of the Khaleda-held seats also led BNP to announce that it would not contest any further election under the present CEC. The party 'laid siege' to the CEC headquarters asking Abu Hena to resign and demanding repolling in the two seats vacated by Khaleda.

BNP's defeat in the two seats at Chittagong and Laxmipur was nothing unexpected as the party nominees in the by-elections were not as popular as their leader Khaleda Zia. The AL candidate, Engineer Mosharraf Hossain, who returned from the Chittagong seat, was a close second to Khaleda in the original election. (Khaleda - 66,336 votes, Mosharraf - 62,040 votes).

In her Laxmipur seat, BNP nominee Moudud Ahmed lost to Harun-ur-Rashid of AL. The outcome was also quite expected as the party-hopping barrister had just rejoined his old party whose local activists were far from ready to accept the former JP leader as their representative.

Its one-point demand aside, BNP is therefore campaigning for the CEC's departure, party insiders say.

Until Abu Hena, the office of CEC had always been held by the Supreme Court judges. Hena replaced Justice A S K Sadeque who had to quit in the face of agitation by the then opposition party, AL. Justice Sadeque became a controversial after holding what was widely described as 'farical elections' in February, 1996.

BNP tells NDI men

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titude of the government.

The BNP members said despite repeated appeals for formation of Parliamentary Standing Committees, the government made inordinate delays and actually formed committees at the expense of two years' time of the BNP.

Although the committees were constituted much later, the ruling party never consulted BNP, the biggest opposition party in parliament prior to forming of the standing committees.

They also complained that the members of the parliamentary committees were not being allowed to work properly due to non co-operative attitude of the treasury bench members, and that decisions of the committees were also not being implemented.

BNP leaders stressed the need for proportionate representation and recasting of the committees and adequate authority for smooth functioning of the committees as well as giving democracy an institutional shape.

The BNP law-makers also made a number of suggestions to make the parliament effective and running the parliamentary system properly.

The BNP lawmakers mentioned that the ruling and opposition parties earlier signed agreements for making the parliament effective twice, but the government was yet to implement those.

The NDI officials called for a 'good connection between the parliament and the civil society' in the legislative process.

NDI delegation members, including President of the Legislative Council of Victoria Bruce Chamberlain, Director of Political Party programme Ivan Doherty, Resident Director in Dhaka Johan Hamles and Senior Programme Officer Makram Ouassif were present at the workshop.

On the BNP side, Opposition Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain, Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain, Barrister Nazmul Huda, M Shamsul Islam, MK Anwar, Abdul Mannan, Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, Joyal Abudhin Faruq, Amir Kashru Mahmud Chowdhury, Nazimuddin Alam, Afzal H Khan, Prof Rezaul Karim, Khanam Khatun, Kamaruzaman Prof Mohammad Abdullah and Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan took part in the discussions.

The NDI delegation on Saturday exclusively discussed various issues related to parliament with BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khondaker Delwar Hossain, M Moshad Khan and Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan.

World Teachers' Day today

Bangladesh teachers, along with their counterparts across the globe, will observe World Teachers Day today, reports BSS.

Bangladesh Federation of Teachers Association (BFTA) has directed all units of its component member organisations at district and thana levels to observe the day in a befitting manner.

The BFTA and member organisations will celebrate the adoption in Paris in 1996 of the UNESCO/ILO recommendations on the status of teachers. They will also express solidarity with the international teaching community.

Qulkhwani

Qulkhwani of former member of parliament Altaf Hossain Chowdhury will be held today after Ashur prayers at his residence, 16 Dilu Road, New Eskaton in the city, reports BSS.

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