OCTOBER 10-11.1999

VATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MENTAL HEALTH

Med: Mental Health Act. Bangladesh

enue: CIRDAP Auditorium (Chamelt House), !/ Topkhana

Road, Dhaka

NSTITUTE OF MENTAL HEALTHORESEARCH DHAVE

# What's on today . . . .

Rally: The Directorate of Family Planning will hold a rally to mark 'Day of six billion'. Chief guest: Salah Uddin Yusuf, Minister for Health and Family Welfare. Venue: From National Museum to Jatiya Press Club. Time: 7.00 am.

National workshop: USC Canada-Bangladesh in collaboration with Adolescent Development Forum-Bangladesh will hold the concluding day of its national workshop on 'Adolescent development and Gender'. Venue: VHSS/USCC-B compound. Agargaon. Sher-e-Bangla Nagar. Time: 9.30 am.

Film show: Swaborni will screen five movies on the third day of its Millennium Films show. The movies are The Great Expectation, Never Been Kissed, Runaway Bride, Species-2 and Saving Private Ryan. Venue: The Public Library auditorium. Time: 9.30 am, 12.00 noon, 2.30 pm, 5.15 pm and 7.00 pm.

Discussion meeting: Supreme Court Bar Association will hold a discussion meeting on 'Intellectual Property Rights Law'. Venue: Association auditorium. Time: 10.30 am.

Seminar: Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CESTI ) of Alliance Française de Dhaka will hold a seminar on 'Geotextiles, technical textiles and the new biotechnology used in the textile industries'. Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi. Time: 11.00 am.

Seminar: UNICEF in collaboration with Alliance Francaise de Dhaka will present a photo exhibition followed by a seminar on 'Acid Violence'. The photographs are by MAP photo agency. Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka. Time: 2.00 pm.

Launching ceremony: The launching ceremony of a CD on Nazrul Geeti Pathohara Pakhi by Ferdous Ara will be held. Venue: Begum Sufia Kamal auditorium, National Museum. Time: 5.00 pm.

Reception: UCC will hold accord a reception to its meritorious HSC '99 candidates. Chief guest: Rafiqul Islam, Minister. Venue: ICMA Bhaban auditorium. Time:



Inauguration: The inauguration ceremony of 'International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction Day'99 (IDNDR Day) will be held. Chief guest: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. Venue: Osmani Memorial Hall auditorium. Time: 10.00 am.

Lecture: Bangladesh College of Physicians and Surgeons (BCPS) will hold two lectures on 'Vesicovaginal Fistula' and 'Recent Changes in the Management of Lymphoma'. Venue: BCPS auditorium. Mohakhali. Time: 11.00 am and 12.10 pm.

# Weather

# No change in temperature

Light rain or thundershowers may occur at one or two places over Chittagong division and weather may remain mainly dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Met office said day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. The country's highest temperature yesterday at 34.4 degree

Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest 21.5 degree Celsius at Srimongal The sun sets in the capital today at 5.35 pm and rises tomorrow

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

City/Town Humidity in Temperature in Celsius percentage Min Morning Evening Dhaka 24.0 Chittagong 24.5 77 Rajshahi 25.0 Khulna 25.4 33.5 24.2 Barisal Sylhet 23.0 33.8 Cox's Bazar 23.6

# HERE and THERE

Shahidullah and general secre-

tary Mojibur Rahman also

The gathering was presided

over by Sheikh Russell Birth

Anniversary Observance

Committee president Mah-

Sandhani

Chancellor of Chittagong Uni-

versity (CU) Prof Abdul Man-

nan today commended the role

of blood donating organisation

"Sandhani" in survival of the

poor, helpless and dying pa-

integrate themselves in such

social welfare and humane ac-

ing a blood donation pro-

gramme at the university Cen-

tral Students Union cafeteria

here. Rover Scouts, university

unit and Sandhani, Chittagong

Medical College unit jointly or-

of Physical Department of the

university and leader trainer of

Bangladesh Rover Scouts, ASM

Zahrul Hossain, the function

was addressed, among others.

by Rover Scouts leader of CU

Mohammad Ruhul Amin,

President of Chittagong Sand-

hani Mohammad Khalidur

1390 tonnes of

rice for hill

districts for FEP

government has allocated 857

metric tons of rice and 533

metric tons of wheat for distri-

bution among students of 50

primary schools in 25 thanas of

three hill districts - Ranga-

mati. Khagrachhari and Ban-

darban - during the current

been allocated by the govern-

ment under the Food for Edu-

rice and wheat are as follows:

Bandarban — seven thanas

and 14 unions - 151 mt rice

and 99 mt wheat, Rangamati

10 thanas and 20 unions —

343 mt rice and 214 mt wheat

and Khagrachhari - eight

thanas and 16 unions - 355

Kibria returns

Kibria returned home yesterday

after attending the Board of

Governors' annual meeting of

World Bank and IMF in Wash-

ber of seminars in New York

and Boston and had meetings

with expatriate Bangladeshis

and the investors of the USA

Kibria also attended a num-

ington, reports UNB.

during his visit.

Finance Minister Shah AMS

mt rice and 222 mt wheat.

The rice and wheat have

The district-wise allocation of

year, reports BSS.

cation Programme (FEP).

BANDARBAN, Oct 11: The

Rahman and Zahidul Islam.

Presided over by the Director

ganised the programme.

He said this while inaugurat-

tivities, reports BSS.

tients and asked the students to

CHITTAGONG, Oct 11: Vice-

spoke on the occasion.

mudus Samad.

#### Kazi Aref Parishad

Kazi Aref Parishad, a sociopolitical organisation formed in memory of valiant freedom fighter Kazi Aref Ahmed yesterday launched its journey with the commitment to materialise the unfinished tasks of the freedom fighter, reports BSS.

Kazi Aref was brutally assassinated by unidentified gunmen on February 16 this year while he was addressing a public rally at his home district Kushtia.

The 103-member parishad. with Architect Mazharul Islam as the convenor, was declared at a function held at the Jatiya Press Club here this afternoon. Water Resources Minister

Abdur Razzak, Fisheries and Livestock Minister ASM Abdur Rab, Awami League Presidium Member Dr Mohammad Selim. MP, and widow of Kazi Aref Rowshon Jahan Sathi spoke on the occasion.

The parishad demanded proper investigation and early trial of the killers who assassinated the uncompromising leader at the end of his campaign against fundamentalism and bigotry. Presided over by Bidhan

Chandra Sen the function was also addressed, among others, by Shamsul Arefin, Major (retd) Ziauddin, Dilip Barua, Bimal Bishwas, Shamsunnahar Siddique, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Pankaj Bhattacharia, Ajoy Roy and Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury.

#### Rusell Jatiya Shishu Kishore Parishad

Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif yesterday demanded immediate execution of the verdict of the trial of murder of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Russel and others, reports BSS.

lnaugurating a rally in observance of the 35th birth anniversary of Sheikh Russell the youngest son of the Bangabandhu. Mayor Hanif said the countrymen are united to demand the implementation of the verdict.

The rally, organised by the Russell Jatiya Shishu Kishore Parishad, started from the Shishu Academy and Rounded

off at the Jatiya Press Club. Mayor Hanif gave a detailed account of the steps being taken by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to ensure that no child in future suffer the same fate as that of Russell, starve to death

or dies due lack of treatment. Akhtaruzzaman, MP. City Awami League leader Monir Hossain Khan, MA Mannan Kachi, Motiur Rahman Moti, Jubo League leader Jahangir Kabir Nanok, president of Russell Smriti Parishad KM

#### Khaleda, Ershad out to protect Bangabandhu's killers: Hanif

President of city unit of Awami League and Mayor of Dhaka Mohammad Hanif yesterday said the Khaleda-Ershad duo and its clique were now frantically trying to protect the killers of Bangabandhu through their ill-devised conspiracies and by creating terror and anarchy throughout the country, reports BSS.

"They have already been rejected by the people and now they are devising a blue-print against the nation with the help of their collaborators, the antiliberation forces," he said. adding the bomb attacks in Khulna as well as in Janakantha office, Mirpur and Bakshibazar in Dhaka have links with that blue-print.

Presiding over the executive committee meeting of the city Awami League at its office, Mohammad Hanif strongly condemned the heinous bomb attacks and said such anti-people designs of creating unstable situation in the peaceful atmosphere in the country would never help them.

He rather asked the opposition to join the politics of consensus by responding positively to the call of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, and helping her government to build Bangladesh a peaceful and prosperous country as being cherished by the nation.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by the city AL leaders Reazuddin Ahmed. Monir Hussain Khan, Abdul Awal Siddiqi, Fazlur Rahman Mallick, Dr Iskander Mirza. Aktarul Alam, Advocate Kamrul Islam, Foyez Uddin Mia, Shaikh Bazlur Rahman, Mahmudunnabi, Abdul Huq Sabuj, M A Quader, Dr Abdus Salam, Abdul Gaffar and Kazi Abdul

#### Monazatuddin Memorial Prize handed over

Chairman of the Law Commission Justice Kemaluddin Hussain yesterday handed over the "Charon Sangbadik Monazatuddin Memorial Prize 98' to Rafiqul Islam Montu, roving correspondent of The Daily Manobjamin, at a simple ceremony at the National Press Club, reports BSS.

For his series report on the life of coastal people of Patuakhali, Montu was awarded the prize after the name of noted roving journalist Monazatuddin Ahmed, who died on December 29, 1995 in a tragic ferry accident while collecting information for a news item.

Presided over by President of the Sangsad and noted journalist Santosh Gupta, the function was addressed by Chairman of the Board of Directors of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) Prof Arefin Siddique, Editor of The Daily Manobjamin Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Associate Professor of Bangladesh Open University Moloy Bhoumik and the prize recipient Rafiqul Islam Montu.

Santosh Gupta said Monazatuddin brought about a change in mufassil journalism and broke its traditional pat-

Prof Siddique said journalism was not a mere profession for Monazatuddin, he took it as a mission. He said through his writings, he became a noted personality in this field.

#### Newspaper office attacked in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent KHULNA. Oct 11: The office of Dainik Janmabhumi came under attack by a group of unidentified miscreants this evening.

The miscreants exploded hand bombs and fired shots during the attack. They also caused extensive damage to the newspaper office. Dainik Janmabhumi is one

of the local dailies playing a vital role in covering series of stories on Ershad Shikdar.

# Robbers loot bus passengers

MYMENSINGH, Oct 11: Robbers looted money and valuables from a Dhaka bound bus passengers, including an ASP, at gunpoint and then managed to escape at Habirbari under Bhaluka thana Sunday night reports UNB.

The uniform in a brief case of ASP Abdul Malek taken away by the robbers was later recovered by the police but the wireless set was still missing.

## The concluding session of the two-day national workshop in observance of the World Mental Health Day was held in the city yesterday. 'Quader Siddiqui betrayed ideals of Bangabandhu'

BASHAIL (Tangail), Oct 11: Home Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said that Quader Siddiqui had not only betrayed with the ideals of Bangbanddhu and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina but also disloyal to the people of Sakhipur and Bashail, reports

"Ideology is the best asset in the life of a political leader." he said while addressing a meeting at Kauljani Nawsheria High School premises here.

Presided over by local Awami League leader S M Suhrawardy, the meeting was addressed, among others, by general secretary of Krishak League Harun-or-Rashid Hawlader, eminent freedom fighter and local Awami League leader Shawkot Momen Shahjahan, Bashail thana Awami League president Abdul Kahleque, focal union parishad chairman Mohammad Shahjhan, district Krishak League president Harmuj Ali, BSc and vice president of Shahdat Karotia College, Shohel Hazari.

Mohammad Nasim said the people of this constituency had elected Quader Siddiqui as a member of parliament in 1996

by voting the Awami League. He said they also expressed their solidarity with the ideals of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujubur Rahman and the able leadership of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the elections. But now, Siddiqui is attacking the Prime Minister personally, he

The AL organising secretary said Siddiqui is talking to the same line of the beneficiaries of the killers of Bangabandhu.

"I was confined in the specific cell of Dhaka Central Jail for several times by the then General Zia, Ershad and Khaleda Zia. where four national leaders were killed on November 3, 1975 but did not leave the ideology of Bangabandhu and Awami League,' Mohammad Nasim said. Nasim said a leader cannot

stay with the people by betraying with his party and leaders. Referring to the up coming by election, the home minister said. If the Awami League candidate was defeated, the killers would win.

He urged the people of the constituency to reply the misdeeds of Quader Siddiqui by ballot in the coming elections.

#### Poetry Night at Alliance Francaise on Oct 15

The Alliance Française de Dhaka will hold the '5th Poetry Night' at its premises on October 15 at 7.00 pm in its auditorium, says a press release. The objective of the 'Poetry

Night' at the Alliance Francaise is to encourage and allow the enhancement of poetry. The programme will have no limitations. Self-composed poems or pieces by famous poets can be recited and the poetry can be in Bangla, or in any other language. Poetries can be classical. folk, prose-like [Goddyo-Kabital, or any other sort. The Poetry Night also includes music and dance. People will come to enjoy an evening with a difference, listening to or performing poetry. There will be free entrance to the evening. Eager participants are re-

quested to register at reception of Alliance Française de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Rd, Road 3 (corner house), Dhanmondi R/A.

#### 2 robbers held in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, Oct 11: Two robbers were arrested and arms and ammunitions were recovered from their possession at village Kumroboaria in Sadar thana of the district on Thursday, reports BSS.

According to police sources, a contingent of police led by SP Khan Sayeed Hasan and OC Jhenidah thana Abdul Gaffar raided an abandoned quarter of a family welfare clinic at village Kumrobaria on Thursday night and arrested alleged dacoits Mansur Ali and Srikrishna. Other dacoits managed

Police recovered three local guns, one foreign gun, one shutter gun, seven rounds of bullets and a Chinese axe from their possession.

## One killed in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Oct 11: A man in a newspaper carrier from Dhaka died when the vehicle banged on a standing truck at Batildhoa, Belabo, early this morning, reports UNB. Abdul Hye, 45, of village

Bhati Krishnanagar who was sitting on the front seat died on the spot. The injured driver of the pickup van bound for Bhairab managed to escape.

The police said the body of Hye was sent to the morgue for autopsy and the van seized.



Minister of State for Women and Children Affairs Professor Zinnatun Nessa Talukder inaugurated the newly constructed floor of the Bangladesh Police Nari Kallyan Samity at the city's Baro Maghbazar area

yesterday. Acting Secretary of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs Dr Tahmina Hossain and Inspector General of Police A Y B I Siddiqui were present as the special guests at the function. President of the Samity Rehana Siddique presided.

# 50-bed private hospital opens in Chakaria

CHAKARIA. Oct 11: Zam Zam Hospital, constructed at an expenditure of about Taka one and a half crore under private initiative at Cheringa, headquarters of Chakaria thana under Cox's Bazar district, was inaugurated yesterday, reports

Khatib of Chittagong Shahi Jam-E-Masjid Maulana Sayyid Anwar Hossain Taher Jaberi Al-Madani inaugurated the 50bed new hospital at a function held in the hospital premises with eminent physician Dr Mahbub Kamal in the chair. Former MP Azizur Rahman Chowdhury was present at the function as the special guest. The function was addressed.

among others, by ex-MP Enamul Huq Manju, Dr S M Showkat Osman, journalist Nazir Ahmad, local Awami League leaders Anwar Hossain. Ziauddin Chowdhury, Maulana Abdul Hai and AR Aziz. The 50-bed Zam Zam Hospi-

tal with outdoor treatment facilities is the first of its kind in Cox's Bazar district. The sponsors of the hospital have fixed minimum consulting fee and hospital charges with a view to helping the poorer people get medical treatment.

The hospital is equipped with almost all modern treatment facilities including X-Ray. Eco-Cardiography, computerised ECG, endoscopy ETC it will be developed into a 100-bed hospital soon, said Enamul Huq Manju, vice chairman of the hospital managing commit-

### Tribal girl abducted from Bagaichhari

RANGAMATI, Oct 11: A tribal girl was reportedly abducted from Adharmanik in Bagaichhari thana on Friday last allegedly for refusal of a marriage proposal, reports

The girl was identified as Jeni Chakma, 16, daughter of Mrinal Kanti Chakma of Adharmanik in Bagaichhari thana.

According to Baghaichhari thana police sources, one Sunil Kanti Chakma, 24, of same village proposed to marry Jeni. Being refused he allegedly kidnapped Jeni on Friday last while she was working in a Jhoom hut nearby her house.

### 15 killed in road accident in Azad Kashmir

MUZAFFARABAD, Pakistanadministered Kashmir, Oct 11 At least 15 people were 15 killed and more than 50 injured today when a passenger bus plunged into a ravine in Pakistanadministered Kashmir, police said, reports AFP. The overcrowded bus was

heading for the state capital, Muzaffarabad, from a nearby village when the driver lost control while negotiating a sharp turn on the mountainous road, they said. The vehicle, belonging to a

private transport company, went hurtling 150 metres (500 feet) into the ravine, about eight km east of here, the police said. The driver was among the injured. The dead included an infant

and five women, a police official said, adding 24 of the injured, some of them in critical condition, were admitted to a military hospital in Muaffarabad.

#### **Diplomats** Will they continue?

From page 1

ers were also not available for

comment. Law Minister Abdul

Matin Khasru said he had just

received the text of the verdict

and was not in a position to of-

fer comments about their fu-

Chowdhury told BBC radio last

night that he had nothing to say

about the EC verdict. "I should

not have any opinion on the

verdict. The Election Commi-

ssion has done its constitu-

tional duty. It has done what it

the issue, the Speaker said his

decision on a point of order

raised by BNP in the House was

on two specific points. "I said

the two MPs did not resign from

their party nor did they violate

their party whipping in the

House. Since they were not

found guilty on the two points. I

said they did not violate article

70 of the Constitution. But I was

not supposed to speak on the

spirit of the article." The BBC

reached the Speaker, now in

Alauddin and Swapan

joined Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina's so-called government

of national consensus as the

state minister for water re-

sources and the deputy minister

for industries respectively in

soon as news about their join-

ing the government spread. The

party said in public statements

the two had been expelled hours

charged the two MPs with cross-

ing the floor and therefore

asked the Speaker to refer the

matters to the Election

Commission for vacating their

seats. As the Speaker ruled

against the BNP plea, the mat-

ter went to the Supreme Court

which ordered the Speaker to

refer it to EC for settling the

League and contest the by-elec-

tion to the seat I have vacated.

I'll meet the prime minister and

other senior leaders of the rul-

ing party shortly to discuss the

plan," Swapan told The Daily

opposition allegations that the

EC was not neutral and that it

was influenced by the govern-

as a deputy minister in the

Hasina government, Swapan

said, "It totally depends on the

prime minister ... I've not yet

received any indication from

The deputy minister said he

would go to his constituency in

Serajganj today to prepare for

Guenter Blobel

A typical mammalian cell

contains about a billion protein

molecules. Some are building

blocks for the cell, while other

act as enzymes, encouraging

chemical reactions. The pro-

teins are continually being de-

stroyed and replaced, so newly

made proteins must find their

molecular biology at the

Karolinska Institute in Stock-

holm, dramatised the impor-

tance of the signals Blobel dis-

covered by displaying an aerial

body who lands in this mash-

mash of houses or streets would

"Without an address, any-

Klass Kaerre, another

Karolinska professor, said Blo-

bel's research laid the basis for

using biotechnology to produce

drugs like insulin, growth hor-

mone and a substance used dur-

ing chemotherapy that helps

the production of bone marrow.

in physics and chemistry are to

be announced tomorrow, fol-

lowed by economics Wednesday

and the peace prize Friday. All

the prize announcements are in

Stockholm, except for the peace

prize, which is announced in

Sweden will present the litera-

ture, science and economic

prizes, this year worth 7.9 mil-

lion kronor (960,000 dollars)

on Dec 10, the anniversary of

Swedish industrialist Alfred

Nobel's death in 1896. The peace

prize will be presented on the

IRRI to extend

cooperation

Institute (IRRI) will expand its

cooperation in inventing High

Yielding Variety (HYV) of rice in

IRRI Dr William G Padolina

gave the assurance when he met

with Food and Agriculture Min-

ister Motia Chowdhury at her

office yesterday, said an offi-

operation of IRRI in inventing

new HYV paddy considering the

climatic condition of different

regions of Bangladesh, soil cat-

egory, height of land, salinity

BDR-BSF

kidnapping of Bangladeshis by

BSF increased recently, the of-

From page 1

Bangladesh and India share

It has already raised barbed

4156 km of land border. India is

planning to raise barbed wire

fences along 935 km border,

wire fences along 541 km. These

are along the borders of Ja-

malpur - 105 km, Kurigram -

102.5 km, Sylhet - 62 km,

Thakurgaon - 50 km, Ne-

The minister sought the co-

Bangladesh, reports UNB.

International Rice Research

Deputy Director General of

King Carl XVI Gustaf of

Oslo, Norway

same day in Oslo.

cial handout.

and drought.

ficials said.

they said.

Winners of the Nobel Prize

Ralf Pettersson, professor of

way to their proper posts.

picture of New York City.

get lost," Pettersson said.

From page 1

the by-election.

signals work.

her about my ministerial job."

Asked if he would continue

He said the judgement belied

Star yesterday evening.

"I'll soon join the Awami

The opposition party

before they were sworn in.

BNP expelled both of them as

Germany, by phone.

February last year.

dispute.

ment.

Reminded of his ruling on

has thought right."

Speaker Humayun Rasheed

From page 1

Tofail told the meeting that the opposition leader was operating on a single agenda to dislodge the government by any means. "But it is not possible to unseat an elected government by putting up demands since there are accepted norms and constitutional means."

Moreover, he said, removal of any elected government before expiry of its term is tantamount to disregard for the popular verdict.

Tofail said as soon as the opposition leader announced

the oust-government agitation. subversive acts were unleashed across the country. "There is a similitude between the opposition's oust-government movement and the acts of sabotage." He alleged that the opposition was out to create unrest in

the country. But Awami League enjoys the support of the people at grassroots level, he said. "So, Awami League government cannot be removed through an undemocratic movement." The Industries Minister ex-

pressed his surprise before the diplomats as to how a democratic government elected by the people could be overthrown. "The opposition leader does not go to parliament. On the

other hand, the Prime Minister is ensuring transparency and accountability of the government by participating in all activities in the parliament," he He said all issues raised by

the opposition to discuss in parliament were accepted and discussed on the floor of the House. "Even, four issues raised by the opposition were discussed on a single day.

Tofail told the diplomats that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina implemented massive development programmes in the country in last three years

and four months. According to a UNCTAD report, the highest volume of foreign investments found destination in Bangladesh among the Asian countries last year. he said. Tofail also cited observa-

tions by US Assistant Secretary of State that as per the present trend of advancement. Bangladesh would emerge as a middle-income country by year State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury

said the government wants to

#### institutionalise the democracy earned with blood. Khaleda

From page 1

about this evil design, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament said. She referred to the explosion of bombs at a mosque in Khulna and planting of bombs at mosques at Mirpur and Bakshibazar and at the Daily Janakantha office in the city.

The government is getting these done in a planned way with the motive to justify introduction of the so-called People's Security Act, foil the one-point movement and divert people's attention, she said. About Election Commission's verdict on floor-crossing by two BNP MPs. Khaleda said

the issue could have been easily resolved in parliament by the Speaker much earlier. But the government made unnecessary On "Indian aggression", the BNP chief said without any provocation, the BSF aunching attacks Bangladesh's borders frequently, killing innocent peo-

property and occupying lands. But this subservient government is even incapable of lodging formal protest. "There is no alternative but to oust the Awami League government to protect our lands

ple and BDR jawans, looting

from Indian aggression". She called upon the people to observe the October 21 hartal and future programmes of the Opposition to expedite fall of the government.

Later, a procession was brought out from Paltan Maidan . Led by Khaleda, it marched through Gulisthan, Nawabpur, English Road, Nayabazar, North-South Road, Siddique Bazar, Zero Point and Topkhana areas and terminated in front of Jatiya Press

The processionists wore black badges and carried black flags to protest Indian aggression and killing of people and BDR men by BSF. The meeting was also ad-

dressed by party leaders Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Sadek Hossain Khoka.

#### Power tariff

From page 1

favoured a tariff hike of 12 poisha per unit back in July. The government decided to increase it by five poisha every three months. Power tariff was increased

as the government had increased the price of gas —the main raw material for power generation -back in December last. Gas price was increased to Tk 56 per unit (one thousand cubic feet) from Tk 47.6 at that

Besides, devaluation of taka was also considered for the tariff hike. PDB has a huge burden of foreign debt repayment and devaluation of taka reduced its income in terms of dollars. The government had ac-

cepted late in 1996 the ADB

prescribed formula to increase or adjust power tariff every six months, considering gas price and devaluation of taka. Accordingly, it had increased power tariff by 18.5 per cent in 1997-98. However, it did not strictly follow the ADB formula and so did not increase the tariff every six months.

The average power genera-tion cost of PDB stands at trakona - 41 km, Chuadanga 37.9 km, Srimangal - 32.5 km, Jessore - 25.1, Lalmanirhat - 23 around Tk 1.4 per unit while. km, Naogaon - 20 km, Satkhira the average transmission cost - 18.5 km, Phulbari - 17 km, is around Tk one. The average sale price of power is Tk 2.5 per Rangpur - 9 km and Kushtia 0.6

At Dr. Alauddin's official residence, those receiving phone calls could not say any? thing about the state minister's whereabouts.

But Swapan said he and Alauddin had the similar plans about joining the ruling party and contesting the by-polls to their vacant seats. The deputy minister said he had been in touch with his senior colleague.

Commenting on the EC verdict, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said it had been proved once again that "the Speaker is not neutral".

"The Speaker earlier ruled that the BNP MPs did not cross the floor by joining the government against the decision of the party they belonged to," he told the BBC radio last night. But Bhuiyan did not agree

with suggestion that the verdict proved EC's neutrality. Neutrality does not lie with such a judgement but in holding elections. None of the elections conducted by the present Election Commission was free and fair."

> Vajpayee From page 1

India by scrapping dozens of cumbersome rules and privatizing loss-making government factories.

The changes were hailed by free market supporters but were blamed by leftists and socialists for pushing up prices of food and increasing unemployment and poverty. Subsequent governments were too shortlived to extend the reforms.

Several industrial associations and international lending institutions have urged the government to continue the liber-

alization process. The president's letter to Vajpayee was a formality required before Vajpayee is sworn in as prime minister Wednesday and appoints a Cabinet. His alliance handed the main opposition Congress party its worst elec-toral defeat since independence 52 years ago in elections that ended a week ago.

Earlier, alliance coordinator George Fernandes, the defense minister in Vajpayee's caretaker government, gave the president a letter indicating the support of 274 legislators in the alliance. In addition, 29 lawmakers of the Telugu Desam Party have pledged support to the government.

Vajpayee's immediate task will be to persuade the Telugu Desam to join his government in order to ensure its stability. Chandrababu Naidu, the Telugu Desam leader, has been noncommittal so far, although he gave Vajpayee a letter promising support in crucial

parliamentary voting. Vajpayee wants all his supporters to be part of the government in order to minimize chances of losing power on a no-confidence motion.

4 Cong leaders From page 1

tion. To find out where we went wrong, what is to be done now." New Delhi city chief minister Shiela Dixit, considered a Sonia loyalist, spoke on simi-

lar lines. "Sonia Gandhi is leader of

the party. The four leaders who resigned at the weekend included three of the party's general secretaries -- Pranab Mukherjee. Ambika Soni and Oscar Fernandes -- as well as Congress leader in the upper house of parliament,

Mukherjee is considered a staunch Sonia supporter and a member of the small "coterie" which enjoys privileged access to the Congress president.

Manmohan Singh.

The election result was a major setback for Sonia, the widow of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi who took to politics only last year and was widely seen as the party's only vote-catcher.

Sonia is also facing muted suggestions from some Congress MPs that she should nominate someone else as opposition leader in the house, as she lacks vital experience in parliamentary procedure.

#### Reserved seats From page 1

Besides, the Cabinet also approved in principle another draft bill seeking to set up a national housing authority which, if established, 'will work for ensuring homes for people of all classes, especially of low and middle income groups'

#### Suspect held From page 1

ered from the Bakshibazar mosque of the Ahmadiya Muslim Jamaat on Sunday. On Friday, an explosive was recovered from a mosque at Mirpur and another from the Janakantha office.

Army explosive experts said the explosives recovered from the mosques were grenades and that recovered from the Janakantha office an anti-tank mine.

The two grenades recovered from the Bakshibazar mosque were demolished yesterday after keeping those under observation for 24 hours in the Aliya Madrassah filed, an ISPR press release said last night.

The explosives recovered from the Mirpur mosque and the Janakantha office were demolished on Saturday.

#### Illegal liquor From page 1

liquor, said a committee source, referring to the preliminary findings of the investigation. The special squad also arrested some men and women for

the guesthouses, the sources said without giving further de-The two other members of

their alleged illegal activities in

the three-member committee are police officers of SP rank.