

## What's on today....

**Memorial meeting:** A memorial meeting will be held to mark the 10th death anniversary of Dr Md Ibrahim, founder of BIRDEM. Venue: BIRDEM auditorium (2nd floor), Shahbagh. Time: 11.00 am.

**Film Show:** Three German films *Man of Straw*, *The Bridge* and *Comedian Harmonists* will be screened on the second day of German Film Week 99. Organiser: German Embassy. Venue: Goethe Institut, House no 10, Road no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 2.00 pm, 4.30 pm and 7.00 pm.

**Silver Jubilee programme:** A programme will be held to mark the silver jubilee programme of the Finance and Banking Department of Dhaka University. Venue: Conference room of DU Business Faculty. Time: 3.00 pm.

**Film show:** Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Pare* will be screened. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 3.00 pm, 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

## ..... and tomorrow

**Exchange of views meet:** Ain O Unnayan Sangstha will hold an exchange of views meet with journalists on the topic of creating awareness about empowerment of women. Venue: Sangstha premises at 78 New Airport Road (third floor), Tejgaon. Time: 10.00 am.

**Film Show:** Three German films *The Marks of Stones*, *Faust* and *Tadellöser & Wolf* will be screened on the third day of German Film Week 99. Organiser: German Embassy. Venue: Goethe Institut, House no 10, Road no 9, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 2.00 pm, 4.30 pm and 7.00 pm.

**Film show:** Tanvir Mokammel's *Chitra Nadir Pare* will be screened. Venue: Public Library auditorium. Time: 3.00 pm, 5.00 pm and 7.00 pm.

**Seminar:** Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CESTI) of Alliance Française de Dhaka will hold a seminar on 'headache and its diagnostic strategy in the next millennium'. Venue: Sasakawa auditorium, ICDDR,B Cholera Hospital, Mohakhali. Time: 3.00 pm.

**Inauguration:** Chinese revolution Golden Jubilee Celebration Committee will hold the inauguration of the programmes for celebration of the occasion. Venue: Engineers Institute auditorium. Time: 4.00 pm.

## Weather

### Dry weather likely

Light rain may occur at one or two places over Chittagong divisions and weather is likely to remain dry with partly cloudy sky elsewhere over the country till 6 pm today, reports UNB. Slight rise in day temperature is expected over the country during the period, Met Office said.

The country's highest temperature 34.2 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Hatiya and the lowest 23.0 degree Celsius at Rangpur.

The sun sets in the capital today at 5:25 pm and rises tomorrow at 6:01 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	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.7	24.7	64	77
Chittagong	34.1	25.5	85	81
Rajshahi	31.8	24.7	76	85
Khulna	33.3	25.4	80	78
Barisal	33.0	25.4	83	-
Sylhet	31.7	23.9	73	80
Cox's Bazar	33.8	25.0	77	86

## HERE and THERE

### Midas Mini Mart

The fourth unit of MIDAS MINI MART — a sales and display centre of readymade garments, saree, boutique, handicraft and gift items, home made frozen snacks, bonsai plants, etc at 61, Shiddeswari, Dhaka was inaugurated by Tofail Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries recently, says a press release.

The function was presided over by Rokia A Rahman, member, MIDAS Board of Directors. Dr Mohammad Farasuddin, Governor, Bangladesh Bank, Dr H B M Iqbal, MP, Karen L Casper, Representative of The Asia Foundation and Abdul Karim, Managing Director, MIDAS were also present on the occasion and addressed the gathering.

The MINI MART is managed by a group of women entrepreneurs. MIDAS provides financial, technical and managerial assistance to micro and small enterprises, specially those sponsored by women.

### NID

A NID campaign involving public representatives like UP chairmen and members and religious leaders will be launched for finding out the dropout children who are not immunised against polio, reports UNB.

The recommendation came from the NID National Steering Committee meeting at the Health Ministry yesterday.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf told the meeting that the government was firmly committed to building a polio-free Bangladesh by year 2000.

State Minister for Health and Family Welfare Prof Dr M Amanullah, DGs of Health Services and Family Planning, WHO representatives and other senior officials were present.

The meeting emphasised the need for intensifying polio-eradication activities and strengthening management system.

It took a decision to hold a review meeting next January for evaluation of the achievement.

The meeting urged the authorities concerned to launch an extensive publicity in this regard.

### BAGSAP

A 51-member executive committee of the Bangladesh Public Employees Federation (BAGSAP) has been formed with Sultan Alam Malik and Md Nasir Uddin as its president and secretary general respectively, says a press release.

The committee was formed at the biennial council of the organisation held in the city on Saturday.

The council in a resolution demanded of the government to meet its 16-point demand, otherwise, they warned, they would

## Ban on 16 còs

From page 1

16 companies last month. The allegation against these companies was the presence of forged scrips in the market.

To scrutinise their share certificates, the CSE and CSE asked these companies to complete their book closure immediately.

The association of the listed companies demanded withdrawal of the ban saying that such actions without discussing with the stakeholders had created panic in the market.

They held a meeting few days back with the SEC and demanded withdrawal of the ban to bring back confidence among the investors.

It has also asked the 16 companies to complete their book closure for the sake of a fake certificate-free market.

Responding to the directive of the DSE and CSE and the request of the Association, the companies started book closure immediately. "Most of them are about to complete the requirement to check and recheck the availability of fake shares," said a leader of the Association.

## Used syringes

From page 1

manufactured 'sterile non-toxic pyrogen-free syringes', was detected recently.

But on inspection by Drug Administration (DA) officials, the factory was found lacking 'sterility and leak testing' facilities— a must for packing of disposable syringes.

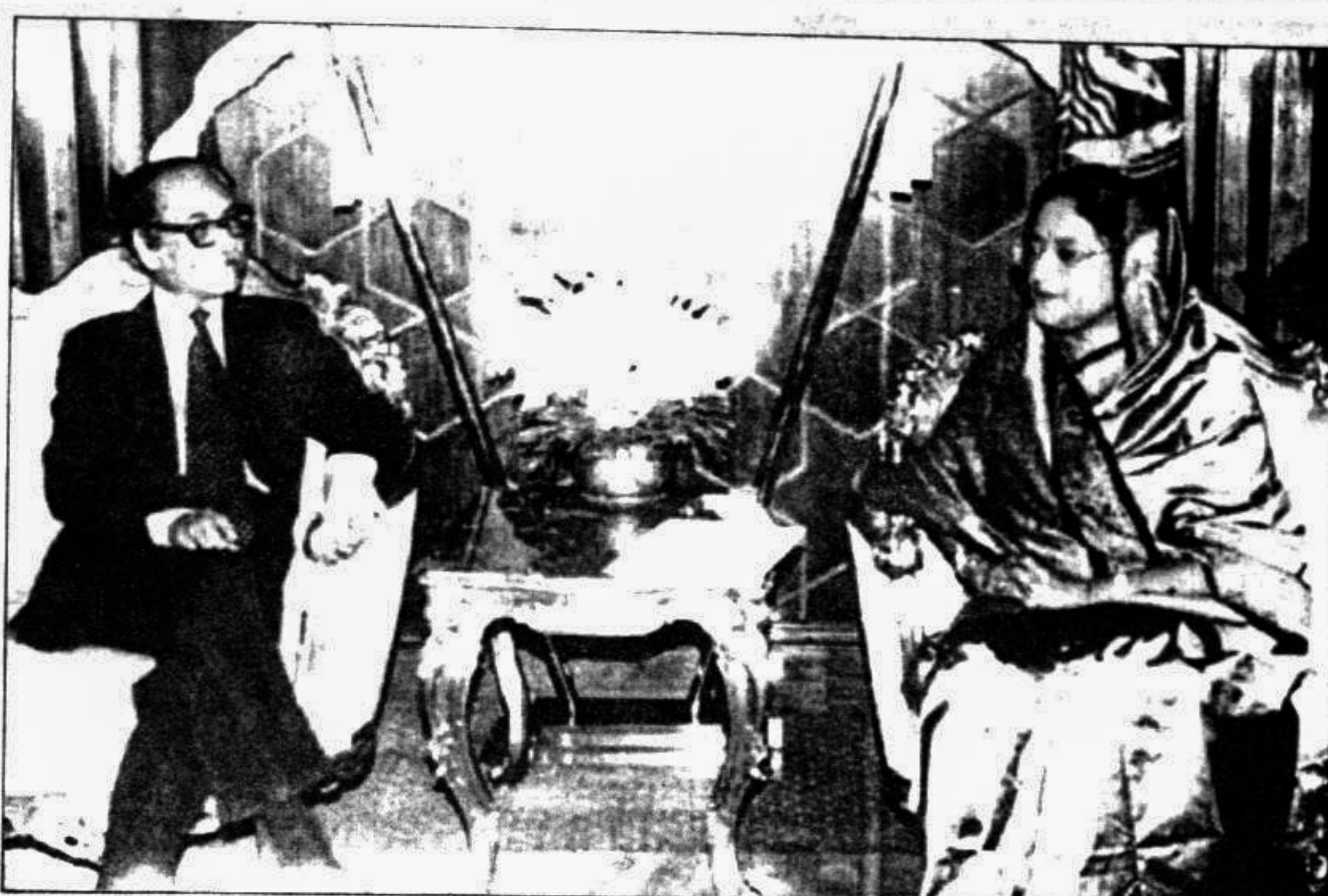
When contacted, Director of DA Dr Abdul Malek said, "Since we do not have any control over such trade, we are really unable to check this."

Referring to import of such items, he said, "We proposed bringing such import under strict control. There has been some progress in this regard. Talks on the issue between the health and the commerce ministries would soon take place for an immediate solution to the problem."

Dr Malek also said, "Once we have the authority to control such trade, I believe the problem would be solved to a large extent."

A microbiologist said, "Presence of any bacteria or fungi in a syringe not disinfected can be fatal. The micro-organisms that are pushed along with the liquid in the vein of a patient may cause deadly reaction and may even lead to death."

Plastic syringes are usually made from polypropylene and polyethylene plastic and are marketed as 'sterile packaged' items. Any leak is likely to attract micro-organisms which may have 'deadly consequences', experts say.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

## Home Minister pleased with law & order in Faridpur

FARIDPUR, Oct 24: Home, Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim today said political neutrality and strong determination of the law enforcers paved the way for the success of the campaign to establish law and order in the south western districts, reports BSS.

"The minimum expectation of commonman from a democracy is security of life and property and it is a matter of pride for the government that people in southwestern districts can now sleep in peace," the home minister said.

Mohammad Nasim was addressing a law and order coordination conference of Faridpur region in the conference hall of the deputy commissioner.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury, Inspector General of Police AYBI Siddiqui, Dhaka Divisional Commissioner Nizamuddin Ahmed, Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and Police Superintendents (SPs) of Faridpur, Rajbari, Madaripur, Shariatpur and Gopalganj, Awami League leader Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain and Chairman of Faridpur Municipality Mohammad Hasibul Hasan Lablu, among others, addressed the conference.

The home minister said that the law and order in Faridpur region is satisfactory but the government agencies, police and local district administration should be vigilant about possible infiltration of branded terrorists from the neighbouring Khulna and Barisal region.

He also said that security is a prerequisite for achieving economic prosperity, political stability and success of democratic polity.

Mohammad Nasim said the administration and police should be transparent and accountable for their activities. He urged the people to assist police in introducing community policing system and urged them not to give shelter to any terrorists.

The home minister said the criminals and terrorists should be dealt with severely but police should be cautious during interactions with law-abiding citizens.

Mohammad Nasim said the terrorists and anti-social elements have only one option — that is surrendering before the lawful authority.

Referring to a press report about accountability of the lower-tier of judiciary, the

minister said, we should try our level best to protect the dignity of the law-abiding common people. But, he said, it should be monitored whether any branded criminal gets release using subtle loopholes of the judicial system.

Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak suggested that the police in Faridpur region give more emphasis on community policing along with routine patrol in the highways and riverways to bring qualitative change in the law and order situation.

Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury said police patrol at Daulatdia Ghat area should be enhanced as this river port is serving as the gateway to the southern districts.

Chairman of Faridpur Municipality Mohammad Hasibul Hasan said though law and order is comparatively better in Faridpur region, recently some branded terrorists from adjoining Jessore and Khulna districts have taken shelter in the town and adjacent villages.

He urged the authorities to take immediate action against the marked terrorist groups like 'Jahangir and Shahin groups' that created panic in the public life.

## Border talks

From page 1

lay exchange of enclaves, the officials pointed out.

In the last DG level meeting between BDR and BSF in New Delhi, when exchange of enclaves was raised on the ground that the Indian parliament ratified the agreement long ago, the Indian side said that they would seek opinion of their government on the issue.

There are 111 Bangladesh enclaves covering over 17,258 acres of land on the Indian side of the border and 51 Indian enclaves covering 7083.52 acres on the Bangladesh side.

Bangladesh will gain over 10,000 acres of land if the enclaves are exchanged, the officials said.

There are 6.5 km undemarcated border and 35.5 km demarcated border without pillars.

As per the decisions of the last meeting, demarcation of the undemarcated border and fixing of pillars in the demarcated areas were to be completed by May this year.

## EC: UZ polls

From page 1

polls to four city corporations expires on December 27.

The Commission would be able to hold elections only to three corporations on time as a case is still pending with the High Court on the delimitation of certain wards of the Dhaka City Corporation.

But there is a legal flexibility in holding elections to the 463 Upazila bodies. The latest amendment to the law governing the Upazila bodies says the EC would enjoy the authority to fix fresh date or dates for elections in case the polls are not held due to unavoidable reasons.

Meanwhile, Awami League has requested the EC to hold the municipal polls before the month of Ramadan on the Arabic calendar (Ramadan begins in the second week of November) and the Upazila polls after the Ramadan.

However, the mainstream opposition parties including the BNP have announced that they will boycott all elections under the present EC.

## Holidays

From page 1

also responsible for supplying electricity to some adjacent districts including Narayanganj, Munshiganj, Gazipur and Manikganj.

When asked how the total power shortage in the country could be only 84 MW when DESA alone claimed to have had a deficit of 100 MW, the on-duty official at the PDB Control Room said, "We asked them to shedding and if they say they had a deficit of 100 megawatt it was their calculation."

According to the Control Room sources, the PDB power plants were supposed to generate 2404 MW yesterday against the requirement of more than 2500 MW.

## 'Voyage of Discovery' to reach Sri Lanka soon

John Player Gold Leaf, the record-breaking 80ft racing yacht, will make its scheduled arrival in Sri Lanka this week, to complete yet another phase of its 170-day Voyage of Discovery that has so far taken it to 14 countries spread across three continents, says a press release.

"The tropical paradise of Sri Lanka, whose incredible association with history and culture remains unparalleled, has always fascinated the crew," said Joe Outred, Captain of the John Player Gold Leaf.

Before arriving in Sri Lanka, the boat will pause briefly for refueling at India's premier holiday destination, Goa.

In Dubai, its previous destination, the Voyage of Discovery was the focus of an unprecedented media attention and public interest. Arriving in the country at the start of the autumn, the crew was welcomed with a host of subcontinent-based cultural acts, including

Runa Laila and Alamgir (Bangladesh), Ibrar Ul Haq (Pakistan) and The Dhol Foundation (the United Kingdom).

Sailing in the Arabia Sea is not going to be an easy task, given the rough patch of weather in the area. "Reaching Sri Lanka well before the deadline has obviously been a great challenge to the crew," said Joe. "Fortunately, the winds have been helpful so far," he added.

The John Player Gold Leaf, an 80ft Maxi racing yacht, left London's Tower Bridge on Saturday June 19th bound for the Voyage of Discovery. The proposed 170-day voyage has seen the yacht skirting the coastlines of three continents through some of the world's most testing waters, including France, Italy, Egypt, Cyprus, Oman, Djibouti, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia and the UAE. The final leg of the route will take the journey south to Goa, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh and will end in the Bay of Bengal in mid-November.



The John Player Gold Leaf boat on the Voyage of Discovery.

## Sonia: Bofors arms scandal

From page 1

However, the CBI said proceedings against Rajiv had to be dropped as he was killed in 1991.

He had always denied any wrongdoing, although he lost power in 1989 when the opposition, accusing him of taking 60 million dollars in bribes, made the Bofors scandal the central theme of its electoral campaign.

The Asian Age quoted CBI sources as saying the agency "had plenty of evidence to prove that Quattrocchi, a close friend of the Gandhi family, had access to official machinery, which was used to strike the deal."

It said the misuse of an official hotline telephone restricted to the prime minister, ministers and senior bureaucrats by Quattrocchi was part of evidence collected by the CBI to nail him.

But a spokesman for Sonia Gandhi's Congress party, Kapil Saibal, said "there is no close relationship between the Gandhi family and Quattrocchi... the politics of persecution has started once again."

Sonia Gandhi had said the charges were "politically motivated" and the Congress party on Saturday in a statement ac-

cused the coalition government of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee of mounting a "political vendetta."

The party's top decision-making body, the Congress Working Committee, charged the government in a resolution with "denigrating" the memory of Rajiv Gandhi and warned of serious consequences.

"With no evidence to substantiate the charge against Rajiv Gandhi, the name of the former prime minister has been dragged in. This smacks of political vendetta."

Vajpayee's government dismissed the accusation.

"The objective behind the chargesheet in the Bofors case is to unearth the truth and not to denigrate any individual or political party," a government spokesman said.

Venkiah Naidu, a spokesman of Vajpayee's BJP party, the single largest party in the parliament, said "the law will take its own course and guilty will be punished."

"In fact, the chargesheet was long overdue. Even the Congress president in the recent election campaign had challenged the government to file a chargesheet if it had evidence against Quattrocchi," Naidu

said. "The Congress is unhappy, but the nation is happy," he said.

The CBI also filed charges against the Swedish company, its former chief Martin Ardbo, a former top defence bureaucrat, S.K. Bhatnagar, and expatriate Indian businessman Vin Chad-dha accusing them of cheating, forgery and criminal conspiracy.

The CBI said Rajiv and the others conspired to get the contract to be awarded to Bofors.

Bofors beat Austrian, British, French and Italian firms to win the contract to supply 400 field guns to India, after four years of haggling.

The deal sparked a huge political furor and led to the blacklisting of Bofors in India.

The ban was lifted after the Swedish guns were successfully used during the May-July conflict with militants backed by Pakistan in Kashmir.

On Saturday Home Minister Lal Krishna Advani said the CBI were planning to file new charges against officials and businessmen involved in the scandal.

A New Delhi court said it would start proceedings on the case from November 3.

## Probarona Purnima observed

The country's Buddhist community yesterday observed Probarona Purnima with due religious fervour and festivity, reports BSS.

The day's programme included Sangha Dan, Aesta Dhutu Pariskar, Dharma Desha, Mangal Sutra, Puriya, Pindo Dan and observance of silence seeking universal peace.

## CTBT

From page 1

agreed to push for the installation of "hotline" telephone links between the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Chirac and Jiang also discussed human rights for three hours yesterday evening.

Jiang was quoted as saying that it had been the most comprehensive conversation on the subject he had ever had with a foreign leader.

After Chirac had expressed his 'worries' about political and religious freedoms in China, Jiang told him he wanted to make progress in this field "step by step."

## Garbage

From page 1

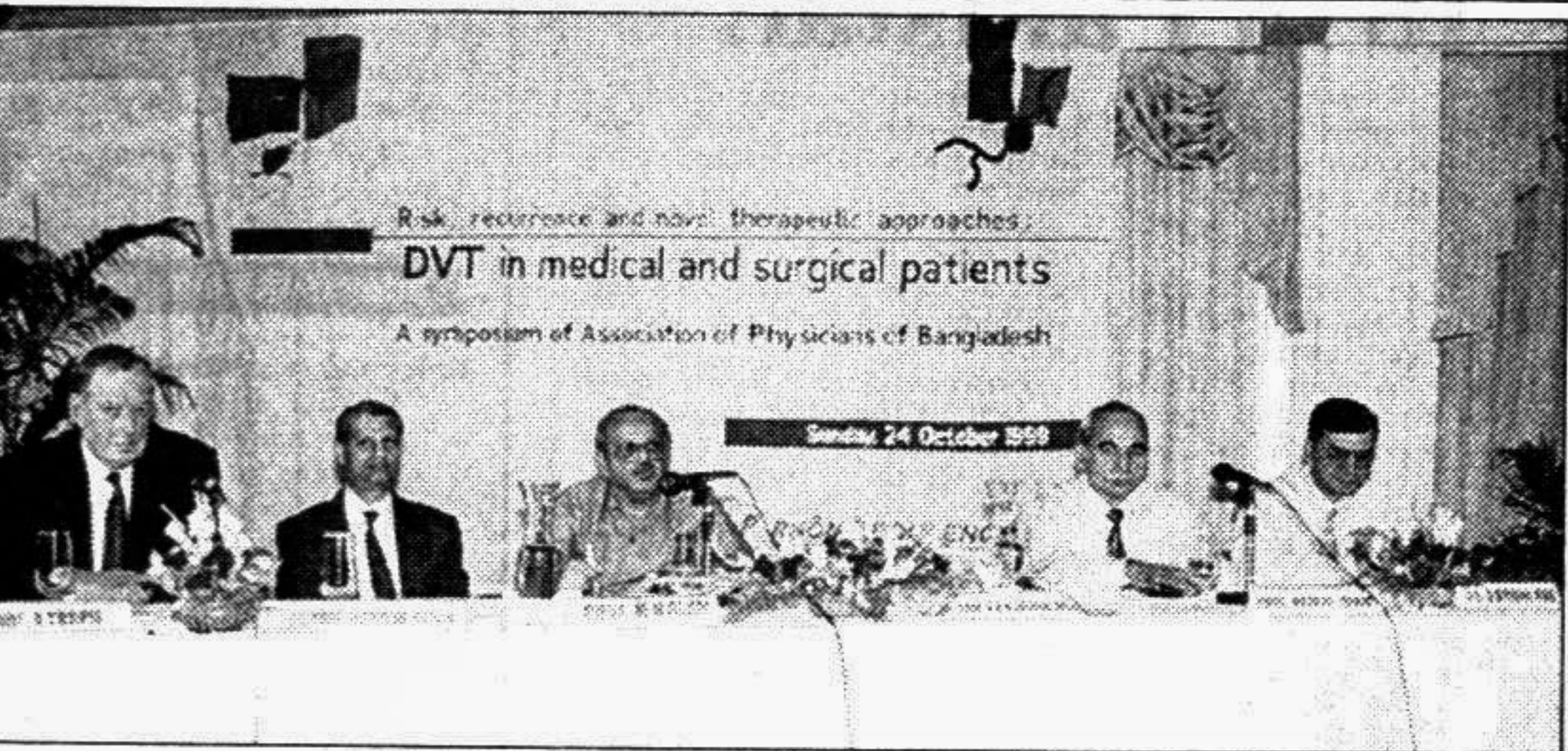
take revenge for damage of garbage carrying trucks during last Thursday's hartal.

A large number of partly men, local residents and pressmen visited the residence of the former mayor.

When contacted, Mayor Mohiuddin said: "I have not yet heard about the incident, but maybe it was done by the conservancy people of the corporation as the opposition attack on them during the hartal hours angered them seriously."

"It is a tit-for-tat act as I warned the opposition leaders here twice earlier that garbage will be dumped in front of their houses if garbage-carrying trucks and employees were attacked during hartal period," Mohiuddin said.

"Actually I gave the warning as the conservancy people of the City Corporation here complained to me that I was keeping silent despite attacks on them," Mohiuddin explained.



A seminar on "Deep Vein Thrombosis in Medical and Surgical Patients" was held at a local hotel yesterday. The seminar was jointly organised by Association of Physicians of Bangladesh and Rhone-Poulenc Rorer Bangladesh Limited. Prof M N Alam, Professor of Medicine, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University, Prof Nazrul Islam, Professor of Cardiology, National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Professor Alexander Graham G Turpie of McMaster University, Hamilton, Canada were present at the seminar.

## Obituary

Begum Ayesha Awlad, wife of a former Member of Public Service Commission and former Chief Engineer of WAPDA late Awlad Hussain, died yesterday of old age complications in the city. She was 83, reports BSS.

Quilkhwan of Ayesha Awlad will be held today after Asr prayers at his son's residence at 25, Lake Circus, Kalabagan.