PM hands over national film awards

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the filmmakers to make real-life movies to use the medium in building a healthy society.

She was addressing a function arranged to give away the National Film Award for 1999, 2000 and 2001 at the Osmani Memorial Auditorium.

For the year 1999: Best film, Chitra Nadir Parey, best story writer Tanvir Mokammel, best script writer Kazi Hayat, best dialogue Tanvir Mokammel, best direction Tanvir Mokammel, best music director Maksud Jamil Mintu, best actor Zahid Hossain, best side actor Golam Mostafa (posthumous), best comedianATM

Shamsuzzaman, best actress Shamsun Nahar Shimla, best side actress Roushan Jamil (posthumous), best vocalist Subir Nandi, best Ívricist Rashid Uddin (posthumous), best musician Alam Khan.

photography Mahfuzur Rahman Khan, best sound recordist Mofizul Hug, best art direction Uttam

Guha: and best make-up man Dipak Sur. For the year 2000: Best film.

Kirtonkhola, best story writer Selim Al Din. best script writer Abu Saveed and Nurul Alam Atiq, best dialoque Selim Al Din and Abu Sayeed,

best direction Abu Saveed, best actor Riaz Ahmed, best side actor M Wasimul Bari Raiiv, best actress Gulshan Ara Akhtar Champa, best

role Tamalika Karmakar, best vocalist (male) Andrew Kishore, best vocalist (female) Sabina Yasmin, best colour photography Mahfuzur Rahman Khan, best sound recordist Nasim Reza Shah, best editor Sujan Mahmud, best art direction Tarun Ghosh, and best make up man,

Khalilur Rahman. For the year 2001: Best film, Lal Shalu, best story writer Syed Waliullah (posthumous), best script writer Nargis Akhtar, best dialogue Tanvir Mokammel, best direction Tanvir Mokammel, best music director Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, best dance director Amir Hossain Babu (posthumous), best actor Raisul Islam

AL agenda

FROM PAGE 1 are not allowed to speak." However,

Hamid said, AL lawmakers would take the decision on joining the parliament session on September 14. Hamid said he did not get any

proposal from the government till yesterday to join the parliament After the 2001 election dehacle

the AL refrained from joining several June 24, 2002. The AL staged walkouts on many occasions and also stayed out of the House for days together. The AL is set to enforce a daylong

hartal across the country on September 25 and organise a procession in the city on September 15. The party has also extended its support to another dawn to dusk hartal on September 16 called by workers' groups backed by the leftist parties. In the run up to the upcoming

agitation programmes, AL chief Sheikh Hasina addressed two public meetings at Mirpur and Shyampur in the city on Saturday and Monday last. Besides, the opposition leader

directed her party rank and file to participate in the movements of professional groups like lawyers and AL sources said the city unit leaders

were preparing for a big showdown on September 15 that Hasina said would be a 'no confidence' by people to the

Asad, best villain Shahidul Alam Sachchu, best comedian A T M amsuzzaman, best actress Arifa

Parveen Zaman Moushumi, best side role Mahbuba Mahnur Chandni, best vocalist (male) Monir Khan, best

vocalist (female) Rumana Morshed Kanakchapa, best lyricist Gazi Mazharul Anwar, best musician

Shaha (posthumous), best colour photography Abul Khair and Anwar ssain, best sound recordist Ratan Kumar Pal, best editor Mojibur

Rahman Dulu, best art direction Mohiuddin Faruk, best child artists Shovon, Shipu, Shantanu, Twinkle, Rini and Rajiv.

Snap polls

FROM PAGE 12

ernment during the 2001 elections was biased and played its role against our interests'

"We secured lesser number of seats despite bagging higher percentage of vote as a 'ghost-rigging' took place," the opposition leader She said the AL would not join the

parliament session beginning today, as she said, parliamentary procedures and rules were not followed in dealing with the opposition.

"We are not allowed to exercise our democratic rights and even to talk. We face rude behaviours there.

The AL chief also called for scrapping of the recent agreement with the US that gave immunity to US soldiers from trial in Bangladesh. "It is an act of sedition because such a treaty can never signed by violating constitutional norms. Replying to a question on the

nomination of Salauddin Quader Chowdhury for the post of OIC Secretary General, Hasina said his nomination was an act of betrayal to the martyrs of the liberation war. She was also critical of the prime

minister's son Tareque Rahman for alleged involvement in corruption. Regarding gas export, she said "We were against it while in power as we can export it only after fulfilling our

Diplomats

rency to this end has done any good.

Recently, several ambassadors have been changed and more changes are likely by December in the missions in US, UK and several European, Asian and Middle Eastern countries.

The PMO official said the press minister in Washington did pretty little since his appointment more Tk 1 crore for heart treatment, which is five times the ceiling

He has also brought the Bangladesh mission in Washington into disrepute as the bill of the heart operation in one of the most expensive hospitals is yet to be paid, official sources said.

They said the Washington mission sent the bill several months ago to the foreign ministry, which refused payment since Syed Kamaluddin's appointment was arranged by the information ministry. The information ministry however said it does not have such a huge fund to foot the bill and sought special allocation from the finance ministry.

"Steps were taken to raise funds to pay for the bill from prime minister's and president's welfare funds. But there is no such provision for such a huge amount from the welfare funds. The press minister and his bill have become a huge liability on the government," said an impor

AL presidium member, Wednesday

night and urged them to join parlia-

ment, sources close to Bhuiyan told

On the other hand, Speaker

Jamiruddin Sircar yesterday told

newsman that he would not make

any move to persuade the AL into

to join parliament sessions and talk

on behalf of people. [Unfortunately]

they have planned not to join the

session and will hold their parlia-

mentary party meeting on

September 14, though the parlia-

ment session begins on September

Bangladeshi workers

expatriates welfare ministry secre-

Employers are to place their

requirement for workers and then

the foreign ministry and Italian

embassy in Bangladesh will come in

to complete the process, he said.

"It's their (AL) constitutional duty

The Daily Star yesterday.

ending the boycott.

tary said.

WTO meet starts amid deep splits mies and this will open up the possithings to be achieved in a few days their domestic policies. bilities for further liberalisations in at Cancun, we hope the publicity But Japanese Foreign Minister

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia talks with Pakistani Foreign Minister Khurshid Mahmud Kasuri at her office in Dhaka

the developing world once we address the fundamental problems of subsidies." said South African Trade Minister Alexander Erwin.

A proposed statement drafted by WTO ruling general council chairman Carlos Perez del Castillo and supported by the United States and the European Union came under intense criticism before the gathering even started.

The Cairns Group of 17 major farm exporters as well as the Group of 21 developing countries, said the draft fell far short of the mandate set out when the current round of trade liberalisation talks was launched in the Qatari capital Doha in 2001. But EU Trade Commissioner

Pascal Lamy said Tuesday the complete elimination of export subsidies as well as a dramatic cutback in direct government assistance to farmers would unfairly put the onus for cutting domestic support and further opening up markets entirely on developed countries. "This is just not on the cards," he

The Washington Post on Tuesday said the US proposal to

eliminate farm subsidies was a small step forward that did little to address the world-wide frustration at the slow pace of the negotiations.

The ADB had approved US\$37

effective in August 1999 and origi-

nally it was to continue till December

\$77.7 million, involving funds also

from the Global Environment Facility

and the Netherlands government.

The executing agency is the Forest

than 25 per cent of the project was

implemented and 23 per cent of the

funds disbursed, the ADB said. No

further withdrawal can be made

unless ADB decides to lift the sus-

pension but disbursements commit-

ted through outstanding letters of

The suspension move comes

pending a redesign of the project,

through a participatory and consulta-

tive process, involving Bangladesh

government and all stakeholders,

and improvement in financial man-

develop a sustainable management

and biodiversity conservation system

for the Sundarbans and help reduce

poverty of around 3.5 million people

living in the areas around the forest

The conservation project aims to

agement, the ADB said.

credit will not be affected, it added.

Till the end of June this year, less

The total cost of the project is

Sundarbans

FROM PAGE 12

surrounding the meeting will embarrass the US, Japanese and European governments, with their atrocious record on farm subsidies into adopting a more radical approach," added the US daily.

The New York Times, on its part, called on US President George W. Bush to make common cause with the Group of 21 and stand up to "powerful farming interests ... that stand to lose if forced to compete fair and square against foreign farmers.

Ministers here also faced difficulties over agreeing a framework for negotiations on cutting tariffs for industrial goods, special treatment for developing countries as they implement trade accords and whether to launch new talks on competition and investment poli-Japan insists that establishing

global rules governing cross-border private investment would benefit developing countries, which have so far resisted calls for such regulations to be debated by the WTO. Developing countries suspect that such rules would be of greater

ised nations than to their own fragile Their argument is that investment rules have nothing to do with

benefit to investors in rich industrial-

Yuriko Kawaguchi said in Cancun Tuesday that "the world is changing very fast and we need a system to respond to the changes."

Without the protection afforded by internationally accepted investment procedures, she added, developing countries would be at the mercy of more powerful states.

Despite the profound disagreements, all 146 member states agree that after two years of deadlock a failure of the Cancun talks would be disastrous. The conference gets under way

Wednesday morning with speeches by top WTO officials, Mexican President Vicente Fox and a message read on behalf of UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. Hundreds of non-governmental

groups and thousands of protesters have descended on the Caribbean resort to voice their opposition to what they say is the pro-corporate agenda of the WTO. Some have vowed to sabotage

the conference, but Mexican authorities mobilised 20,000 security forces to ensure there is no disruption of the meeting.

Lawyers' black day today

FROM PAGE 12

million in loan for the Sundarbans committee also forms today a Biodiversity Conservation Project in human chain on the Supreme Court November 1998. The loan became The Sammilito Ainjibi Samannay

Parishad also expressed its support to observe the day by holding rally and human chain wearing black The committee stages the demon-

strations to press home its new fourpoint demand. The demands are the repeal of the proposed amendment of the Bar Council Rules and Order, 1972 as well as the Code of Civil Procedure, arranging fair trial to ensure justice in Khulna city Awami League (AL) President Monzurul Imam and Bijan Bihari Mondol murder cases, and probe into the attack on the lawyers on September 6 on the Dhaka District Court premises.

The speakers at the press conference said the pro-BNP lawyers and cadres of the Jubo Dal supported by law enforcers attacked the lawyers during the prime minister's visit to the Dhaka District Sessions Judge's Court to lay the foundation stone of the annex building.

They also criticised and demanded repeal of the proposed amendment of the Bar Council Rules, 1972, which bars a lawyer to be a member of the Bar Council more

Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan. Barrister Shafique Ahmed, Advocate Abdul Baset Maiumder, among other lawvers, were present at the press conference

The Six-point Demand Implementation Committee, however, has temporarily stopped its demonstrations to realise the six demands. which include the separation and independence of judiciary, repeal of Trade Licence Rules, Income Tax Return and the Bar Council's amendments, and consulting the chief iustice before appointing judges.

auction notice of the bank said.

The bonds will be of Tk 1 crore. 5 crore and 10 crore with facility to draw interests annually or at the maturity of tenor.

tions will be allowed to show the bond investment against the statutory liquidity requirement (SLR).

promissory note-- will be registered but cannot be cashed before maturity. They can also be transferred after mutation at the issue office.

T&T bond

FROM PAGE 12

The banks and financial institu-

The bonds-- which will be issued as

Gene revolution

organised the fair coinciding with the IRRI Board of Trustees' (BoT) meeting in Bangladesh for the first time. The three-day BoT meeting attended by some 30 members from 12 countries began at the BRRI in Gazipur vesterdav. The agriculture minister said, "Per

capita land in the land-man ratio is on a continuous decline. We need frontier research in crop sector. Along with our efforts for utilising full potential of the Green Revolution, we should step into what is called a 'gene revolution' to reap the benefits of genetic engineering in farming." He observed. "In spite of argu-

ments for and against biotechnology across the Atlantic (US and Europe), we've to take cautious steps for institution building for biotechnology research and putting the regulatory framework in position." Bangladesh could not be a silent observer of an emerging technology with potential to feed the hungry million simply on the ground of perceived risks, he added. On farm subsidy, Anwar said

pumping billions of dollars as farm subsidy in developed countries is the single largest impediment to agricultural growth in developing countries. Problems affecting agricultural

development in Bangladesh include the existing marketing system dominated by middlemen and inadequate facilities for preservation of farm products, he mentioned.

Anwar called for bridging the gap of yields in breeders' plots and in farmers' lands. Farmers want scientists to develop rice varieties that can grow in stress conditions like drought, salinity and submerging, he

State Minister for Agriculture Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir, outgoing Chairperson of the IRRI Angeline Kamba and Director General Ronald P Cantrell, Agriculture Secretary Ayub Quadri and IRRI BoT Member Fazle Hasan Abed also spoke on the occasion. Those present included IRRI

deputy directors general Dr Ren Wang and Dr William G Padolina, head of its Social Science Division Dr Mahabub Hossain, Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) Dr Nurul Alam, IRRI Representative to Bangladesh Dr Noel P Magor and its Liaison Scientist Dr Hamid Miah. Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir

referred to transplantation of Vitamin-A producing gene into Bangladeshi rice variety BRRI Dhan-29 by IRRI scientists and said. "We're ready to provide all support for early testing of Golden Rice (Vitamin-A fortified rice) in Bangladesh. Dr Cantrell stressed a balanced

diet for Asian rice consumers and

also more profitability to Asian farm-

ers. "The challenge is to grow more

rice on less land and release the rest

cultivation, to other crops," he said. Later, the agriculture ministe opened the fair highlighting techno-

of the land, currently under rice

logical successes achieved through the Irri-managed largest agricultural programme in Asia -- Poverty Elimination Through Rice Research Assistance (Petrra), funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) of the UK. He also launched the Petrra website, its Bengali newsletter Dhonodhannya and Petrra-sponsored marketing of fine and aromatic rice Otithi

Petrra, its sub-projects, the BRRI, Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation (BADC). Bangladesh Rice Foundation (BRF) and Forum for Information Dissemination on Agriculture (Fida) put on display books, posters and research findings at 47 stalls at the A seminar on Petrra was also held

at the fair venue in the afternoon. Prof Abdul Bayes presented the keynote paper and Director General of the Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) Dr Quazi Communications Secretary Shahabuddin was in the chair.

Prof A M Muazzam Hossain of the BRAC University, Dr Binayak Sen of the BIDS and Dr AN R Gomosta of the BRRI took part in the discussion. also attended the programme

Hasina blames **BNP** for Jamal

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

kidnap

Opposition Awami League (AL) President Sheikh Hasina yesterday said business magnate and BNP leader Jamal Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury was kidnapped by none other than the ruling BNP godfathers.

"Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has become a godmother and she has 70 godfathers who are involved in the abduction of Jamal, That's why Jamal has not been rescued as vet." Hasina told a public meeting at the historic Laldighi Maidan. The former prime minister said

she wanted to visit Jamal' family but thought better of it after the family members quoting the abductors as saying that Jamal would be killed should she visit them. She said the ruling coalition of the

BNP and Jamaat-e-Islami has recently launched the 'abduction business' in the port city. Hasina wondered why Jamal has not been rescued even 48 days after his kidnap despite assurances by three minis-

Earlier in the morning, she visited the family members of slain AL leaders Faruk Mahmud Siddiquee in Quaish Burishchar area, Ajit Talukder in Hathazari and Chittagong University Bangladesh Chhatra League leader Golam Mortaza in Fatehabad under Hathazari thana. The opposition leader leaves for

Dhaka this morning, sources said.

Airbus case

Justice Joynul Abedin and Justice Tariqul Hakim gave the verdict after hearing final arguments Tuesday on the quashment petition by Khaleda The Attorney General's Office did

not oppose the petition nor will it appeal against the HC verdict, as the case was quashed on law point said Attorney General AF Hassan Earlier, a HC division bench issued a rule nisi on the government

on November 6, 2000 and stayed proceedings of the case after Khaleda challenged the charges against her Yesterday, Khondker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, counsel for Khaleda, told the court that one Airbus was

caretaker government in June 1996. He referred to a decision of the August 6, 1996 meeting presided over by the then finance minister of the AL government that approved \$64.02 million for the second aircraft.

received and the funds were pro-

vided for it during the rule of the

"If there was any lack of transparency or irregularities in the procedure of the aircraft purchase, the caretaker government or the AL government later could have cancelled the deed. Without doing that, the AL government filed the c a s e ... to harass Khaleda Zia," Mahbub-

uddin said. He submitted that the case was

intended to harass political oppo-

Saarc

OIC Secretary General.

He informed her that Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf expressed his hope that the unity of the Muslim ummah in various areas of development could be further consolidated through the OIC. The Pakistan president believes

that Bangladesh, recognised internationally for its modern and forward-looking vision, can take the leading role in further strengthening the Organisation of Islamic Conference". Kasuri said. Other common bilateral and

regional issues, including the scope for increasing trade and commerce also came up during the talks which dwelt on reactivating the Joint Council of the two countries. The two sides agreed that the private sector should be encouraged.

Importance was also laid on regular consultation at the foreign minister and foreign secretary levels for promoting ties between the two Collaboration in ICT sector and

agricultural research, and studentexchange programme also came up for discussion. Bangladesh Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan, PM's Principal

Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui, Foreign Secretary Shamsher Mobin Chowdhury and Pakistan High Commissioner labal Ahmed Khan were present.

3 bus terminals

Barrister Nazmul Huda was present at the function as chief guest.

Each terminal will have an array of infrastructural facilities, including a number of terminal buildings, taxi stand, parking bay for buses, covered walkway, 200 toilets, parking lot for 200 heavy vehicles, loading and unloading facilities for 300 buses per hour and computerised ticket counters.

Speaking on the occasion, the communications minister said the bus terminals will help improve city's traffic congestion to a great extent by way of reducing the haphazard parking of buses and trucks that currently contribute to traffic jams. Private operators will run the

terminals and ensure that terminal areas are free from extortion, said the minister, adding that this will also help improve the city's law and order.

Syed Rezaul Hayat, Executive Director of Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) Kamrul Islam Siddique and DUTP officials

Letter to Indian CJ

divert waters from the shared rivers. reducing the flow of Bangladesh's two major river networks -- the Jamuna-Brahmaputra and the Ganges-Padma, the letter said. "Since Bangladesh is dependent mainly on the Brahmaputra for twothirds of its dry season requirement of water, withdrawal of water from it will adversely affect at least 100 million people.

Withdrawal of water by the upper riparian will have serious repercussions on the climate, ecology, geomorphology, bio-diversity, wetlands and navigational activities in Bangladesh. Besides, it will lead to drying up of rivers in vast areas for much of the year, seriously affecting production of rice and also causing spread of salinity in farming areas, he letter said.

8 killed

Modhupur bound pic-up van from Dhaka on board passengers hit a tree, as the driver lost its control at 6:30am, killing three on the spot. The injured were rushed to Modhupur Upazila Hospital, where another died. Shahyahan Ali, 40, of village Raktipara and Nurmohammad of village Brahmman Bari of Modhupur could be identified among the dead.

A case was filed with Modhupur Police Station.

Meanwhile, a Pabna-bound ambulance hit a tractor, parked beside the road, at 10:30pm and then collided with a truck, killing three on the spot and one on the way to hospital, a UNB report said. The dead were identified as

Aslam Hossain Moni. 35, Razib. 18. Pravat, 35, and Pradip, 26. The injured were admitted to

Pabna General Hospital.

with a caretaker.

Following the Supreme Court order, it mentioned, the Indian government is now going to complete the project in 10 years, ignoring the legitimate interests of Bangladesh and the principles of international laws on equitable utilisation of shared rivers.

The letter was signed by S Rizwana Hasan of Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers Association, Dr. Asif Nazrul of Dhaka University, Dr. Atiq Rahman, chairperson of the Coalition of Environment NGOs, Enayetullah Khan, editor of the New Age and weekly Holiday, Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury, editor of the Bangladesh Observer, Khushi Kabir, coordinator of Nijera Kori, Farhad Mazhar of Ubinig, Mahfuz Ullah of Centre for Sustainable Development and Masood Alam Ragib Ahsan of Odhikar (four NGOs) and Quamrul Islam Siddique, president of the Institution of Engineers, Bangla-

Gunrunner

FROM PAGE 12

tion with Rezaul's murder. Jamir's boss Ebadulla, who headed a band of pirates, had been arrested earlier. Police expect Jamir to provide

valuable information about underground criminal activities in Moheshkhali and Cox's Bazar. Moheshkhali has long been a safe haven for some 500 pirates and

robbers belonging to as many as twelve groups, police said, adding that some 20 arms factories have developed there over the years. Fifteen notorious criminals and

as many as 288 firearms were recovered from the small offshore upazila alone during the recent countrywide anticrime drive.

5 jailed for tiger killing

FROM PAGE 1 charges, told the Fourth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's

Court, Dhaka A butcher bought poison and meat from outside on November 8, 1996 and fed three tigers on poisoned food after entering their cages

One of the tigers died the follow-

ing day, another two on November 11 and a cub died from suffocation on November 13 after sucking toxic milk of its mother. The convicts -- Osman Gani, the butcher, and Azizul Haque, Yaad Ali,

Sadek Ali and Sohrab Hossain, all

caretakers -- have to serve two more vears in iail in failure to pay the fines. The court acquitted nine people caretakers Alek Chand, Mobarak Hossain, Mohammad Mostafa, Shah Alam and Abdul Baten, medical assistant Hafizur Rahman of the zoo's veterinary hospital, electrician

Judge Habibur Rahman in his verdict said he was unable to hand down death sentence to the convicts. although sections 15 (1) (3) and 25 (D) of the Special Powers Act, 1974 prescribe death penalty for such a

Lal Mia, security guard Abdus Sobhan and the zoo's driver Khalilur

Rahman said he handed down lenient punishment to the accused because of their longtime harassment and blamed the leniency on 'neglect and indifference' of the prosecution for seven years. The judge summoned witnesses

n the case through the home secretary on different dates, but they did not appear before court on time, making the case linger.

In his observation, Rahman said the

IMF

FROM PAGE 1 ment. And so, the party is not aware of the understandings reached between the government and the

IMF on the loan. It also observed that the government not only failed to take the opposition into confidence in discussing the conditions tagged with the loan, it also kept a vast majority of people in the dark about the whole affair.

The AL leaders also told the IMF that they came to know about the conditions for the loans from newspaper reports, which makes its commenting on the issue all the more difficult. But, it welcomed the loan, saying achievement of the poverty reduction programme depends on successful preparation of sectoral plans and efficient implementation.

If the record of the coalition government is anything to go by, then one cannot be optimistic that resources will be utilised for poverty reduction since gross corruption takes place in the government, the opposition observed. The AL expressed deep concern

over the poor state of the economy and blamed poor governance and mismanagement of the government The opposition delegates said prices of essentials are on the rise, foreign and domestic investment has

declined and many industries have

been shut down without taking into account the impact on the economy or employment situation. The AL delegates alleged repression on political opponents by the ruling coalition, leading to violence in the country. They said due to direct governmental intervention the judicial

AMA Muhit, Dr. Mohiuddin Khan Alamqir, Kazi Zafarullah MP, Saber Hossain Chowdhury, Syed Abul Hossain MP. Faruk Khan MP and Dr Abdur Razzak MP were present at the

system has been destroyed.

protectors of zoo animals became their killers in an age when the world is trying to protect the environment and wildlife This sentence was handed down to

discourage the recurrence of such a

Alek was acquitted even after his

confessional statement, as his name was wrongly spelt in the statement form by Metropolitan Magistrate M Afzalur Rahman. In his statement, Alek said a group led by Khalilur Rahman conspired to

kill the tigers in a bid to compel the authorities to backtrack on the transfer order on the 32 zoo staffers in October 1996 Khalil. Shah Alam and Hafiz of the

group held a secret meeting, and the zoo's butcher Osman bought poison from Muktijoddha Market at Mirpur section-1 after Alam and Alek gave him Tk 20. The butcher also smuggled meat nto the zoo from outside, and Alam,

Sohrab and Lal Mia mixed the poison with the flesh. Sadek took the key from caretaker Sohrab, sneaked into the cages with Osman and gave the three tigers the

Hafiz, Khalil, Aziz, Sadek, Alek,

poisoned food. Alek said The judge took his seat at 2:30pm and read out important parts of the 22-page verdict in 20 minutes, while the accused stood in silence in a crowded courtroom. The convicts and their relatives burst into tears on hearing the judgement.

The judge branded Aziz, Yaad and Sohrab as instigators in the crime and Osman and Sadek as perpetrators

the zoo, filed a general diary on November 14, 1996 with the Mirpur Police Station after the tigers -- Raju, 20. Sharmi. 14. Mintu. 7. and a threemonth-old unnamed cub -- died in five days.

Dr Ashraf Ali, the then curator of

A regular case was filed with the same police station on November 24, 1996 and detectives arrested at least 20 guards and employees of the zoo. The detectives submitted a

chargesheet against the 14 people, naming an additional 14 as prosecution witnesses on January 21, 1998. The court framed charges against them on July 26, 1998 and began its

trial on January 26, 2000.

FDI

FROM PAGE 12

Bangladesh, has dropped by 43.04 per cent. The Unctad report was based on facts and figures furnished by the BB. This stood in marked contrast to

calculations by the Board of

Investment (BOI), which claimed a

315.19 per cent rise in FDI, and

sparked a debate over calculation methods. So far, the BB has calculated FDI on the basis of cash in commercial banks. But the BOI used the Unctad method on equity capital, reinvest-

ment, intra-company borrowing and its

own survey findings in 2002. Although the BB since 1998 has been experimentally using the Unctad method of FDI calculation conducting yearly and sometimes half-yearly surveys of foreign companies, the surveys have never been accepted officially due to some technical problems that could lead to miscalculation of balance of payments (Bop), sources

seeking technical assistance from the nternational Monetary Fund (IMF) so that no miscalculation takes place in assessing the Bop under the internationally accepted method currently used by IMF and Unctad. Besides, the central bank has also

Now, the Bangladesh Bank is

decided to permanently conduct halfyearly surveys of foreign investment.

formal initiative to bring the main Privileges) Act, 1975. opposition back to parliament. But Parliament sources said Local Mannan Bhuivan, also the BNF Government, Rural Development secretary general, talked over and Cooperatives Minister Abdul telephone to Abdus Samad Azad,

Vice-presidency

tent with the provisions of the constitution," said Bhuiyan, specifying the reason for the move to introduce the Besides, two other bills. The Bar Council Act (Amendment) Bill, 2003, and the Chittagong Hill Tracts

Mannan Bhuiyan is expected to

amend the act and make it consis-

"The bill will be introduced to

introduce the bill.

ment today. The Business Advisory Committee will sit at 5:00pm today to decide on the duration of the session. But the AL lawmakers will not be joining the meeting. The AL may hold its parliamen-

tary party (ALPP) meeting on

September 14 to decide whether to

Regulation Act (Amendment) Bill,

2003, may be introduced in parlia-

join this session or continue with the boycott of parliament it had started on June 26 protesting a remark by a state minister against its chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh

The government will not take any