

Internal management key to economic

FROM PAGE 1
of foreign aid, ever-increasing economic disparity, and pervasive corruption.

The price hike of essentials has its roots in the serious imbalances between supply – through domestic production and/or import – and demand, in the sense of supply shortage. As long as such real economic imbalances are serious and on the rise, monetary and fiscal measures may not be of much avail in arresting the inflationary spiral. The government's contractionary monetary policy has in fact failed to make an impact. Hence, the real economic (supply-demand) imbalances need to be addressed through commensurate public investment programmes and appropriate policy and incentive support to the private sector.

As far as the acute power crisis is concerned, the basic problems have been no addition to the generation capacity, and no balancing and modernisation of the existing plants in the last four or five years. Urgent attention is needed to develop policies and action programmes to ensure energy security in the country.

The ever-increasing economic disparity is another major concern that has to be addressed immediately. For example, the per capita income of the richest 5 per cent of the population was 18 times the per capita income of the poorest 5 per cent in 1991-92, which has risen to 84 times by 2005. This accentuating disparity may spell major social upheaval in the country in future. This constitutes a severe moral derogation. The Moral Law may be defined in terms of Social Will, which in turn may be defined as acting to uphold human rights and prevent human indignity and inequity from affecting any members of the society. Adherence by the State to the Moral Law, as defined, will ensure that no one will enjoy undue privileges and no one will be socially excluded. But, the undue privileges are so entrenched in Bangladesh that the Moral Law is of no force at all, and in fact the State itself upholds the ill-gotten privileges and wealth of the transgressors, many of whom are in fact makers and implementers of national policies. Unless sanity and the Moral Law find effective expressions in practice, Bangladesh society will remain deeply divided and become increasingly unequal,

and the forces unleashed as a result may erupt and overwhelm the role politic in the course of time.

DS: How are fuel prices influencing the economy and how can this problem be addressed?

QKA: Petroleum prices have been increasing for a long time in the international market. The price of crude oil has already reached \$75 a barrel and seems set to increase further. This is an external challenge and an extremely difficult one for Bangladesh to address. If domestic prices of petroleum products are increased, there will be adverse implications in relation to economic activities and the plight of the downtrodden. The downtrodden will be particularly affected if the prices of diesel and kerosene are increased. On the other hand, if the prices are maintained at the present level, the public deficits will continue to increase. Even now the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) has an outstanding loan of about Tk 5,500 crore to Sonali Bank alone.

Thus, the situation one faces is that of a classical 'horns of a dilemma'. However, one possible option is to increase the prices of octane and petrol, although these constitute a small portion of the total consumption of petroleum products, and leave the prices of diesel and kerosene unchanged. At the same time, unproductive government expenditures should be controlled and import of luxury products restricted. Obviously, these steps will not solve the problem but will contribute towards that end. A major emphasis needs to be given on energy conservation and energy efficiency as part of an energy security planning. It is always important to find ways of not adversely impacting the production of consumer necessities and not imposing further hardships on the poor.

In order to address the problem, it is important that a holistic view is taken rather than following a fragmented approach. Therefore, a comprehensive energy policy is called for, which will consider all the possible sources of energy as well as its various usage and different groups of users with a view to ensuring energy security for the nation, for all segments of the society on an equitable basis. In this context, it is important that targets are purposefully set, and strategies formulated and properly

implemented.

DS: There appears to be a number of bad indicators in the economy. Why does the economy take such a bad shape in the end of every government?

QKA: Yes, indeed. Some of them I have just discussed. But, it is not necessary that the final year of every government should take a bad shape. It is, however, possible that in its last year a government may refrain from taking unpopular decisions and may seek to promote interests that would support the electoral causes of the party/parties in power. But, the situation we are now in is not because it is the last year of the present government. The reasons have been its failure over the past several years to correct the imbalances (supply shortages) in the real economy, control corruption, dismantle violence, and successfully address fundamental issues like electricity supply and price hikes.

DS: What economic challenges the coming caretaker government may face?

QKA: Most of the challenges I have discussed earlier are likely to remain as such, and some of them may even become more serious by the time the next caretaker government is expected to take office. All these entrenched problems in managing the affairs and state of the economy cannot be solved in a few months. However, the caretaker government may bring back morality and rule of law in the way the State is managed, particularly in relation to the electoral processes for the forthcoming parliamentary elections, which will be its mandate to oversee, to ensure the holding of free and fair elections.

DS: You are aware of the fact that Bangladesh economy is run following the IMF prescriptions. How far do you think the IMF-prescribed policies have yielded result?

QKA: Home-grown policies and programmes based on proper assessment of the prevailing realities are always better than dictates from outside, including such monolithic organisations as the IMF. The IMF has standard policy prescriptions for every country to respond to particular problems. Its prescriptions often relate to the outer covering of the economy, not to the core of reality. Of course, loans available from the IMF may help the government from time to time to address

balance of payments problems. But, the price can be too high, given that the policy prescriptions coming with the loans may not only be unhelpful but in fact be damaging to the longer-run prospects of the country. According to the Nobel laureate economist Stiglitz, the key reason for the East Asian economic crisis in 1997 was the policy prescriptions of the IMF.

As I said earlier, the grants and loans that Bangladesh receives from the international community (both multilateral and bilateral) are rather meagre. Therefore, perhaps, it makes sense on the part of the government functionaries to waste less time on dealing with the IMF and other international funding agencies and more on finding solutions to the problems faced. It makes perfect sense to exchange views with them and to obtain their opinions on the problems that are within their competence to advise on. But, these dialogues need not necessarily be related to negotiations for funds. As a matter of fact, PRSPs and MDGs were supposed to be the conduits for large-scale transfer of funds from the rich world to the poor. But, what has so far been provided is way short of what is required, and the future prospects do not look to be any the brighter. And, in Bangladesh's case, the disbursements have in fact become tardier in the current fiscal year.

However, whether there is outside advice or not, good governance, democratic values and good practices have to be established in the country, if there is to be any chance of achieving the national goals of poverty eradication, sustained economic growth, and social development through equitable political, economic, and social processes.

DS: Are the prevailing economic problems result of external situations like high oil prices or more of internal mismanagement?

QKA: Of course, a country always faces external opportunities and challenges. The need is to understand the external processes and developments and make responses to minimise the challenges and maximise the opportunities. The external environment is now particularly relevant because of globalisation. The oil price hike is certainly causing reverberations in the Bangladesh economy, as its spread effect can be wide even if

the government absorbs additional costs of oil imports. The other important external issues to be understood and addressed relate to, for example, market access, terms of trade, and intellectual property rights.

But, ultimately it is the internal management of the economy that has the pre-eminent role. Hence, if there is internal mismanagement, the internal and external problems will not be addressed properly and their adverse implications may combine to play havoc with the economy. It is therefore essential that the national management of the economy be sufficiently improved. It means ensuring collection and availability of reliable and up-to-date data and information on all relevant internal and external matters, analyses and understanding of the nature of both internal dynamics and external opportunities and challenges, and then making necessary policy approaches and adjustments to make the best of the prevailing circumstances. To do so efficiently would require capable functionaries, which Bangladesh lacks to a large extent. There is, therefore, a huge need for developing human capabilities for effective management of the national affairs.

DS: You are aware of the terrible power situation in the country. The lending rate of bank is also rising. How do you see these factors affecting the country's industrial growth?

QKA: Both power shortage and rising interest rate are negative in the context of industrial growth, indeed for every economic sector. Power shortage in fact is a crippling factor, which leads to reduced productivity and production, and increased cost of production, thereby limiting the prospects of the industries concerned. The use of own generators as an alternative is costlier than grid electricity. The importance of adequate supply of power to accelerate the industrial wheel cannot be overemphasised.

Interest rates should be realistic, given the prevailing industrial environment. What is particularly important though is timely availability of credit to industries, as required in a policy environment that is stable and predictable.

Kushtia

FROM PAGE 1
went to his Bheramara residence on May 2, demanded Tk 50,000 and threatened to publish news against him when he refused to pay the money.

Following a daily Manabzamin report on May 7 about the declining popularity of three lawmakers including Shahidul, the lawmaker threatened the journalists of dire consequences in the presence of Forest and Environment Minister Faruq Islam when they went to cover the programme of the birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore at Shilaidaha the next day.

Aziz Biswas, a local BNP leader close to the lawmaker, filed another case against the three journalists with Kushtia Sadar Police Station on Wednesday accusing the three journalists of extortion and looting.

Mortar shell

FROM PAGE 16
on as to why and how the powerful mortar shell was brought to the shrimp enclosure belonging to a political leader.

Three days ago, Sonadanga police recovered four live bombs from an abandoned house at Basupara.

Price hike

FROM PAGE 16
referred to medical facilities for the poor, construction of roads, highways and bridges, various allowances for the poor, freedom fighters and old people and rehabilitation of the homeless as some of the measures.

She said the alliance government cancelled various projects taken up when the AL was in power. This is why they (present govt) could not add a single megawatt of electricity to the national grid nor increase food production even by one tonne.

The AL chief alleged that hundreds of her party leaders and workers have been tortured and crippled and ousted from their houses due to political rivalry during the tenure of the this government.

Lions Clubs District Convenor Mohammad Abdul Aziz chaired the convention. Speakers included International Director of Lions Clubs International SK Kabir Hossain, Council Chairperson of Multiple District 315, Bangladesh, MA Kashem Bhuiyan, MA Awal, MA Kashem and Jahangir Kabir.

Over 150

FROM PAGE 1
"We have been unable to recover any injured person. All of them were burnt beyond recognition. We found at the scene of the explosion about 500 jerrycans which we suspect were used to steal fuel from the pipeline," he said.

"The raging fire has been put out and normalcy is returning to the place," Orebiyi said.

But he added: "We found that vandals have drilled holes on (into) the pipeline, from where they have been stealing fuel. We advise strongly Nigerians to desist from this dangerous act."

Private television station Channels also said more than one hundred people had been killed in the pipeline explosion, which it said took place in Ilado village, close to Lagos.

The TV did not show any images of the blast but during the morning a huge column of very black smoke was visible from the centre of Lagos, rising from the vicinity of Apapa port, where numerous oil installations are located.

Fire fighters, and officials from the Red Cross and the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) were at the scene, Channels said.

Hundreds of people have been killed in pipeline explosions across Nigeria in the past few years.

Hamas

FROM PAGE 16
peace talks with Israel based on what is referred to as "Arab legitimacy," an apparent reference to an Arab peace initiative that calls for a two-state solution. "This document is very important," Abbas said. "It includes a deep and realistic political vision that to a very large extent represents my point of view ... and thus I adopt it."

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has said he is ready to withdraw from much of the West Bank to make way for an independent Palestinian state, but he plans to keep large blocs of West Bank settlements and holy sites in east Jerusalem. Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman Mark Reggev declined to comment on the accord, calling it an internal Palestinian matter.

The draft agreement does not renounce violence, saying Palestinians should "focus their resistance on the lands occupied in 1967."

Hamas has largely observed a truce since February 2005 but has refused to formally renounce violence. Barghouti has supported continued shooting and bombing attacks against Israelis in the West Bank and Gaza, while Abbas opposes all violence.

The prison negotiations were also aimed at ending rising tension between Hamas and Fatah, who are vying for control of the government. The rivalry erupted into violence in Gaza this week, killing three people and wounding more than a dozen others, including five on Thursday.

Hamas and Fatah are to hold crucial talks in two weeks to try to settle their differences, and the draft, which calls for Fatah to join the Hamas government, could be part of the negotiations.

Future on a slippery

FROM PAGE 1
fuel price stands at \$75 a barrel and by 1.3 per cent of GDP at \$85 a barrel.

But, against such possibilities, the government is now basically handicapped to increase domestic oil prices substantially. But if the latest proposal of the government to increase diesel price by Tk 5 and octane by Tk 6 is materialised, the additional burden on the consumers will be Tk 200 crore a month, a Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) estimate shows.

"There will be a temporary impact [of internal oil price increase], but it will be desirable," a World Bank economist told The Daily Star yesterday. "It will help ease the pressure on balance of payments and increase liquidity in the market to offset interest rate hike."

The Bank feels the strategy of a big increase in octane price and a small increase in diesel price will not work well, as out of the 3.7 million tonne petroleum products imported a year, a huge proportion of 2.4 million tonne is diesel and 0.4 million tonne is kerosene, while octane's share is only 0.35 million tonne.

"Agriculture is not operating at an economically efficient level when diesel price is kept artificially low," the World Bank economist argued. "The optimal use of input depends on relative price. So, if diesel price increases, allocation efficiency will improve in agriculture."

But if price is not increased, the

economy will lose its efficiency and the financial system will collapse through subsidisation, the economist said. The bleeding will be more and the people will be hurt all the same.

Although Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya, executive director of the CPD, agrees with the need of increasing fuel prices, he said the additional burden has to be shared by the government and consumers, and lessened by the arrangement of concessional funding of fuel import.

"Diesel price has to be increased, but not as much as the donors prescribe," he said. "The increase should be lowered by shifting the attention to octane price hike."

He feels the people have to mitigate the Tk 200 crore additional burden resulting from a fuel price hike by either increasing income through efficient activities or by cutting consumption.

"Since there is little scope for income increase, people will first reduce consumption of non-basic goods and then basic goods," he added. "This is why it is more important to keep diesel price increase as minimum as possible. Any relief to the poor, however trivial it may seem in terms of total amount, will still help support their consumption pattern."

4 US Marines killed

FROM PAGE 16
soldier died Tuesday from wounds not suffered in combat.

Their deaths raised to at least 2,434 the number of members of the US military who have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count.

Three months ago, Iraq's freely elected Parliament took office, but the country's complex mix of Shia, Sunni, Arab and Kurdish politicians are still trying to form a Cabinet that will make the government fully operational.

The framework was put in place last month with the appointment of Nouri al-Maliki as prime minister-designate. Al-Maliki, a Shia, is trying to put together the Cabinet, but the process has bogged down over who will lead the defence and interior ministries. The former is responsible for the Iraqi military, the later Iraq's police forces.

US officials hope a new unity government can win public confidence and quell the violence so that American and other international troops can go home. But delays in the political process have led to a surge of sectarian violence, including the kidnapping and killing of civilians by death squads, raising fears of a civil war in Iraq.

That problem was obvious on Thursday, when US and Iraqi forces rescued seven Sunni Arab men seized by suspected Shia militiamen near Baghdad.

The kidnapping was the latest in a wave that is plaguing the country, killing hundreds of people. Many of the abductions are part of the sectarian warfare in the Iraqi capital, home to large communities of Sunnis, Shias and Kurds.

Iraqi police said the hostage drama started Thursday morning in two Sunni villages near Khan Bani Saad, 40km northeast of Baghdad, where dozens of gunmen, some of them wearing military uniforms,

raided and abducted 10 young men.

Village leaders and clerics alerted police and US soldiers, who rushed to the scene, clashed with the gunmen and rescued seven of the hostages, police said. Three others were missing and presumed taken away by gunmen, police said.

US troops killed at least one kidnapper and wounded another, said Lt. Col. Thomas Fisher, commander of the 1st Battalion, 68th Armour. Some of the hostages had been severely beaten, he told Associated Press TV News.

More than 30 people were taken into custody, Iraqi police said, and interrogators were trying to determine their identities. Some gunmen told police they belong to the militia loyal to radical Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr and had come from Baghdad, Iraqi authorities said.

Kidnappings are believed to have risen steadily since the US-led invasion of 2003, although police believe few are reported. A study by the Brookings Institution estimated that between 30 and 40 Iraqis were kidnapped per day in the Baghdad area alone during March, compared with two a day in the capital in January 2004.

With the rise in sectarian tensions, much of the violence has shifted from Sunni insurgent strongholds such as Anbar province to Baghdad and other areas with a mixed population.

The shift has impacted heavily on civilians, many of whom have been targeted simply because of their religious affiliation. According to the Health Ministry, 952 people were killed nationwide last month in "terrorist" violence, among them 686 civilians.

By comparison, ministry figures showed that 548 civilians were killed nationwide in January, 545 in February and 769 in March.

US must talk directly

FROM PAGE 16
reactor fuel but also nuclear bomb material.

The United States has refused to talk directly to Iran but backs the EU diplomacy.

"I have asked all sides to lower their rhetoric and intensify diplomatic efforts to find a solution," Annan said.

"I have also stated very clearly both in private and in my contacts with the American administration and publicly that I think it is important that the United States come to the table and that they should join all the European countries and Iran to find a solution," he said on the sidelines of a European Union-Latin American summit.

On Wednesday the United States, which has failed to win support for UN sanctions against Iran, announced it would give its European allies "a couple of weeks" to draft a fresh approach to persuading Tehran to drop its disputed nuclear activities.

Diplomats said negotiators from the Security Council's permanent members – the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France – plus Germany planned to meet in London on May 19 to weigh a new package of incentives as well as penalties.

The United States charges that Iran is using a nuclear programme it says is a peaceful effort to generate electricity to hide the development of nuclear weapons.

Earlier Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad hit back yesterday at what he called a US propaganda war, keeping up his firebrand attacks on the West a day after saying that Israel would one day vanish.

Ahmadinejad, who has become the public face of the Islamic republic in its quest for nuclear know-how that critics say is a bid to build the atom bomb, said his nation was a great force that would not bow to the US and its allies.

"They perhaps are using propaganda to start a war of ideology but they actually know that the Islamic Republic of Iran is a great force," he told a summit of Islamic and political leaders in the Indonesian capital Jakarta.

"They actually are carrying out propaganda with a sour face and are using strong words to intimidate our people, but I'm telling you the people

of Iran are not afraid of them."

Asked if Iran was preparing for a potential military strike, he replied: "We deem that this matter is far from the possibility of taking place."

Ahmadinejad later attended Friday prayers at Jakarta's Istiqlal mosque, the largest in Indonesia, where he was mobbed by a crowd of thousands eager to catch a glimpse of him and shake his hand.

The congregation chanted "God is great!" when he was introduced by Indonesia's religious affairs minister.

"Indonesian people are people of faith and I am honoured to have come here," he told them.

Ahmadinejad's visit comes amid a backdrop of frantic international diplomacy over Tehran's nuclear ambitions.

The United States and European Union troika of Britain, France and Germany are pushing for a binding UN resolution that could clear the way for economic sanctions, possible escalating toward military action.

They are meeting resistance from China and Russia, however, which both have close economic ties with Iran.

On Wednesday Washington, which has so far failed to win support for UN sanctions against Tehran, said it would give its European partners "a couple of weeks" to draft a fresh approach.

On Thursday, the Iranian leader ramped up his rhetoric against the West, calling Israel a "cancer" that would "one day vanish".

"We believe that a government such as this one will not last long because it is built on tyranny and tyranny will not last long," he said as he also brushed off the threat of sanctions and war against Tehran.

"The idea of going to war is a joke, it's like a joke. Why should there be a war?" he said. "They do know that any mistreatment of the Iranian people will actually cause more losses to them than for us."

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, who met with Ahmadinejad on Wednesday, backed Tehran's claim that its nuclear programme was peaceful.

Power cuts, low voltage

FROM PAGE 1
the cost of running it.

Rice mills and cold storages in Dinajpur, the basket of food grains in the country, are under tremendous electricity shortage as the REB supplies electricity to run 45 rice mills and 10 cold storages, our correspondent in Dinajpur reports.

"We only receive three to four hours of electricity a day," said Noor Newaz Rana, owner of a rice mill.

The poultry farms in Thakurgaon and Panchagarh are also suffering as chickens are dying due to excessive heat, industry insiders said. Cottage industries and filling stations remain closed most of the time even during the day.

One large textile mill, 40 industrial units of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC), 100 small engineering units and five cold storages in Nilphamari are suffering from tremendous power crisis resulting in poor production, our correspondent in Nilphamari reports.

The 40 industrial units of BSCIC need about 6MW but are getting only 2.5MW, causing a loss of Tk 10 lakh per day, a BSCIC source said.

About 70 percent of the production was lost in the hundreds of small engineering factories in Saidpur due to shortage of electricity.

Sabbir Ahmed, convenor of the Small Engineering Factories Association, said people are buying low quality Indian products since they are failing to meet the market demands. The factories incur a loss of Tk 25 lakh per day, he added.

Most of the factories in Comilla are on the verge of closing down due to low voltages while farmers who irrigate fields with electricity-run deep and swallow tube-wells are also suffering, our correspondent in Comilla reports.

The demand for electricity in Comilla is 99.5MW while only 41MW of power is supplied during both peak and off-peak hours. Power snaps at least for four to five times a day and for as long as four hours during the night.

Moulvibazar needs 30MW during peak hours while only 19MW is supplied from the national grid, our correspondent in Moulvibazar reports.

Power supply in the rural areas is also poor with five to six hours of power cuts during the nights. The situation was more or less the same in the six upazilas of the district.

Power cuts for five to six hours a day is forcing the industrial factories in Kushtia, Rajbari, Meherpur, Chuadanga and Jhenidah to suspend production, our correspondent in Kushtia reports.

The situation is even worse for small factories which are unable to afford alternative power supply.

According to PDB, the districts need about 104MW daily but it can supply only 58MW.

"We are forced to cut 35 percent of production daily due to power cuts," Mozibar Rahman, chairman of BRB Cables Ltd, said.

Mozammel Haq, a ruling party lawmaker of Chuadanga also the owner of several industries, said he is forced to shutdown his factories daily for hours due to power shortage.

Kishoreganj needs at least 40MW of electricity but PDB and

PBS can supply only 15 to 17MW. During May 7 to 9, Kishoreganj PDB and PBS faced load shedding for 19 hours, our correspondent in Kishoreganj reports.

In Khagrachhari PDB supplied electricity only for 8 hours a day, from May 8 to May 10, on an average, our Khagrachhari correspondent reports. The district needs about seven to eight megawatts daily but it was supplied below 3MW, PDB sources said.

PDB supplied only 40MW of electricity in Bogra, Joypurhat and Naogaon against the daily demand of 60 MW, our Bogra correspondent reports. Upazilas outside Bogra town faced power cuts for at least three hours a day, said a PDB official.

Our correspondent in Mymensingh reported the Mymensingh zone, including Jamalpur, Sherpur, Tangail, Netrokona and Kishoreganj, needs around 300MW a day but PDB supplies only 50 percent of the need.

Production in the units of BSCIC at Maskhanda went down due to six to seven times of daily power snaps.

Frequent power cuts have turned into a regular feature as the power distribution system of PDB in Brahmanbaria is mostly faulty, our correspondent in Brahmanbaria reports.

PDB sources said demand for power in the district is 78MW but the supply is only 42MW. This is incurring severe losses for the BSCIC units and other small and medium industries.

"We do not have the low voltage problem but frequent disruptions in power supply are hampering our production," said an industry owner.

Rains swamp

FROM PAGE 16
bodies out of six were conducted, a morgue staff said.

Meteorological office recorded 39 mm rainfall in the capital in 16 hours till 4:00am yesterday.

Met office sources said the highest 120 mm rainfall was recorded in Comilla.

Heavy rain across the country is likely also today, and the situation would start improving tomorrow, they forecast.

The city areas that went under water included Azimpur, Uttara, Mirpur, Shantinagar, Khilgaon, Mailbagh and many parts in Old Dhaka.

Traffic was thin on the streets from the morning and the markets and shopping malls looked almost deserted.

A small number of rickshaws and three-wheelers braved the inundated roads only to charge twice the usual fare.

The rainfall recorded in Sandwip was 116 mm, Jessore-110 mm, Bhol-a-98 mm, Khepupara in Patuakhali-85 mm, Barisal-70 mm, Feni-69mm, Chandpur-61mm and Hatia-53-mm.

City swells

FROM PAGE 1
Barabgha, Manipur, and Senpara Parbata for the last two years.

"I was forced to move to a new house as there was no water for one and a half months at a stretch in the area I was living," said a lawyer.

Electricity goes off at least seven times during the day and at least four times at nighttime, paralysing normal life in the neighbourhoods.

The Parishad yesterday held meetings and distributed leaflets at Baitus Salam Mosque, Nur Baitul Aman, Paterbgh New Mosque, Baitul Islam and Baitul Fala mosques at Dania.

"Although water situation seems to have improved with the army distributing water among the locals, load-shedding remains a huge problem," said the Parishad convenor Moslehuddin Masud.

The committee will continue until May 18 its campaign for 10-point demand that includes permanent solutions to water and power crises in Shyampur-Demra area. It will declare further programmes at a rally scheduled for May 19.

Pirates take

FROM PAGE 1
for each of the seven boats from the trawler owners and the families," he said.