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Inside Today

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

The 9th Young Artists Exhibition represents the rebellious mood of December 1990 Page 3

Feature

Banking & Finance

The reasons for bad and doubtful debts may be primarily attributed to resource constraints, inefficient credit administration, currency rate fluctuations and absence of locating real entrepreneurs Page 6

Article

The Debate That Never Was..... The Third View by Mahfuz Anam Page 4

International

As Rahul Gandhi immersed the ashes of his father Rajiv, the LTTE said New Delhi gave Tamils huge quantities of plastic explosives Page 5

Business

World Bank will ask aid donors to substantially increase their assistance to disaster-prone Bangladesh Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Khaleda visits Nizami

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the injured Jamaat-e-Islami leader Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami, MP, at a city clinic Wednesday night. Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and State Minister for Post and Telecommunications M. Shamul Islam accompanied the Prime Minister, reports BSS.

Body to probe DU incident

The government has constituted a one-member committee with Justice M M Huq of the High Court Division of the Supreme Court for judicial enquiry of the incidents which took place on May 27 at the office of the Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University.

Patrol Inspector suspended

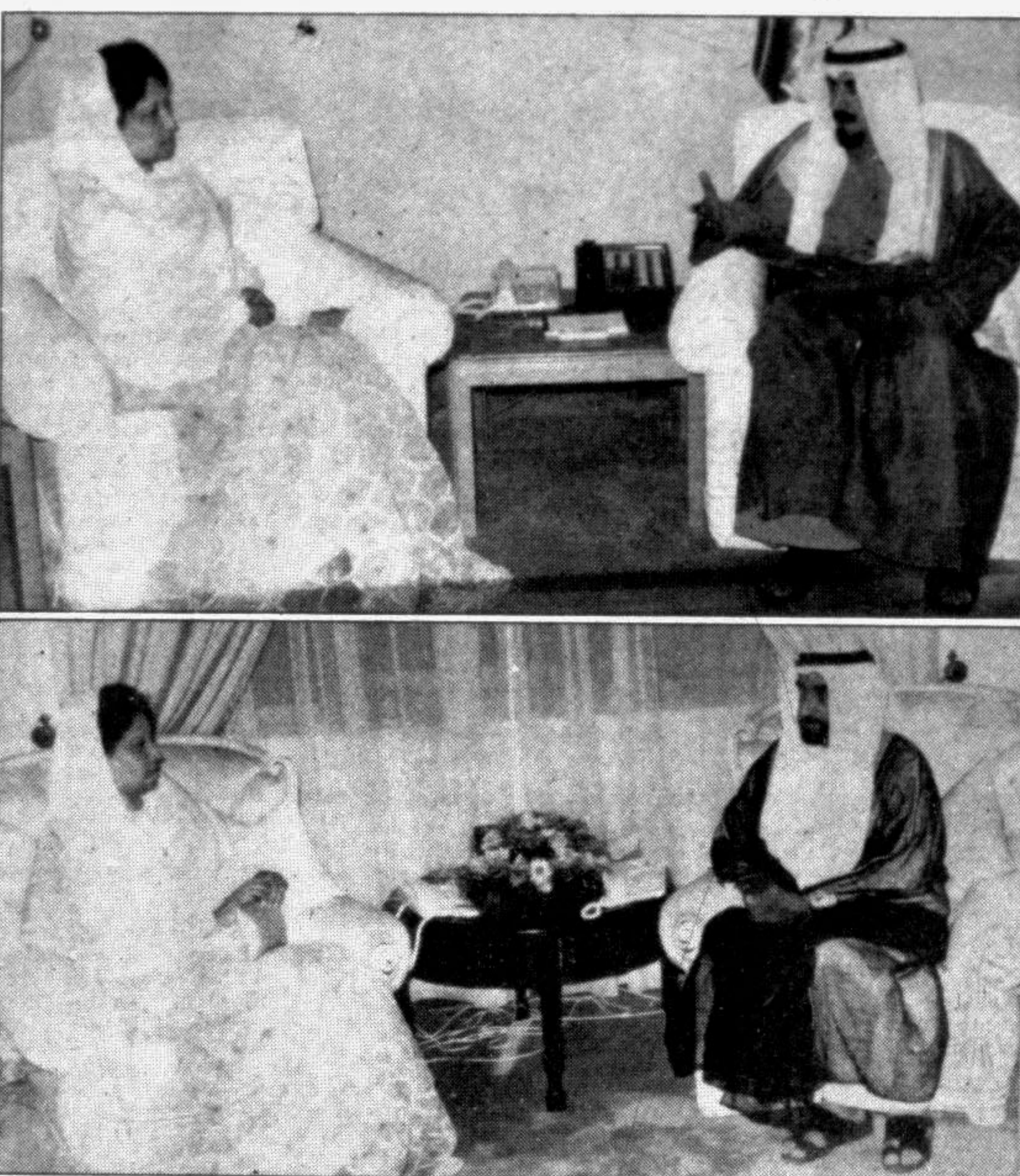
The government has suspended the Patrol Inspector of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police, Mohammed Chowdhury, of Ramna region, with immediate effect for negligence of duty in connection with the incident that took place at the Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor's office on May 27, reports BSS.

Shing donates HK \$ 500,000

The richest man of Hong Kong, Li Ka Shing, donated 500,000 Hong Kong Dollars for the cyclone victims of Bangladesh. A message from Hong Kong said Wednesday that more funds have been raised in the island through a cricket tournament.

Khaleda returns: Visit strengthens friendship, says Mustafiz

Saudi Arabia, UAE will help implement anti-cyclone plan



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia holding talks with (above) Kuwaiti Emir Sheikh Zaber Al-Ahmed Al-Sabah and (bottom) UAE President Sheikh Zayid-bin-Sultan Al-Nahyan during her visit on Tuesday. — PID photo

By Staff Correspondent

Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates are keen to help Bangladesh implement permanent measures to control cyclone and flood devastations. Kuwait, which is still in the first stage of clearing mines and extinguishing fire from blazing oil fields, will take more than 63,000 Bangladeshis for employment.

Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman told newsmen on Wednesday that the just-concluded three nation tour of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was a success.

She returned to Dhaka Wednesday morning. The special aircraft of the Kuwait Airways carrying Prime Minister Khaleda Zia and members of her entourage touched down at the Zia International Airport at 6.30 am.

She was received at the airport by her cabinet colleagues. Earlier the Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister of Abu Dhabi Sultan Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan saw her off at the Abu Dhabi International airport.

The Foreign Minister said the governments of the three Arab nations extended a 'very warm and spontaneous welcome to the newly-elected democratic government' of Bangladesh.

Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan who also accompanied the Prime Minister during the visit said 'for the first time we felt in their scheme of things Bangladesh could play a useful role for security and stability in the Gulf regions,' and that the situation was most favourable to 'strengthen our relations'.

See Page 10 Col. 1

Cyclone warning system obsolete

By Moinuddin Naser

The century-old cyclone warning and forecasting system, being used in our country, is not suitable for cautioning the people about any impending natural disaster.

An expert of the Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARSSO) told the Daily Star Tuesday that the system was very vague and in no way made any sense to the people who are the main victims of cyclones.

Dr A M Chowdhury, Director of SPARSSO said that the warning signal upto Number 10 for the sea ports and upto Number four for river ports carry no sense for the people.

AM Chowdhury who first rushed to the Parliament House with the ATP (Automatic Picture Transmission) picture received from the satellite ground station, to inform the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia about the intensity of the April 29 cyclone said that from April 28 the cyclone began moving in a north-easterly direction towards the Chittagong coastal area. But he said that the existing warning system could not make clear the intensity of the cyclone to the affected people.

He said that besides the existing system for warning sea ports and river ports a system should also be developed to warn people. People should be given accurate warning about the intensity of cyclones, he added.

He said that on April 29, the SPARSSO was almost certain that the cyclone with hurricane core winds would hit the Bangladesh coast.

He said that radio and television had only announced signal Number six for sea ports upto 9 am on the day raising it to Number 10 for sea ports and number four for river ports at 11 am.

Chowdhury said that there was also a misunderstanding about the signal which was lowered from Number 10 to Number nine taking into account the existing system of warning in the afternoon of April 29. But it was a misnomer for the whole warning effort. After the lowering of the signal to 9 people thought that the cyclone may have weakened and would probably move off in another direction.

He said that the signal should be specific for the areas to be affected.

In India, he added, during any cyclone the weathermen mention the places where people may be affected with thorough description of those areas.

He said even six to twelve hours notice for cyclone preparedness could be effective but that the warning should be correct to avoid any sort of prejudice regarding the warning system.

Anniversary of Zia's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The tenth anniversary of President Ziaur Rahman's death will be observed today. On this day in 1981, the former president was killed at Chittagong circuit house by a group of mutineers.

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), of which President Zia was the founder chairman, and other organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to observe the day. The party flag will fly half mast at all the offices of BNP and Quran khwan, milad mahfil and discussion meeting will be held all over the country.

In the city, floral wreaths will be placed at the mazar of the late President at 9 am. Quran khwan and milad mahfil will also be arranged at the mazar in morning.

Jatiyatabadi Samajik-Sangkritik Sangstha (JASAS) has arranged a discussion meeting today at 4 pm at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in which central leaders of BNP will participate.

Zia Shishu Kishore Sangathan will place floral wreaths.

See Page 10 Col. 3

St. Louis arrives as Tarawa sails home

By Staff Correspondent

Another US Charleston Class Amphibious cargo ship USS St Louis arrived Wednesday off the coast of Bangladesh to participate in the closing stages of Joint Task Force relief operations.

According to a USIS press release, the USS St Louis which operates from Japan, has brought additional Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units (ROWPU) for distribution to the storm-ravaged areas by military landing craft.

According to Foreign Ministry sources the ship will operate under the existing memorandum of understanding between Bangladesh and the United States. The ship is carrying a crew of 22 officers and 334 sailors.

Meanwhile the eight US Navy ships of the Amphibious Group-Three sailed for US yesterday after rendering humanitarian assistance to the cyclone victims of Bangladesh.

The US Navy ships are carrying most of the members of the Task Force except the 400 personnel who will stay up to mid-June to complete the relief effort.

The US Task Force which started relief activities under the name of 'Operation Productive Efforts' was subsequently renamed 'Operation Sea Angels'.

The Amphibious assault ship USS Tarawa and seven other Task Force ships were on their way home from operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm in the Gulf, when they were directed to assist Bangladesh. The ships arrived Bangladesh May 15.

While stationed in the Bay of Bengal, Amphibious Group-Three with the 5th Marine Expeditionary Brigade started relief operations using helicopters and landing craft to move over 2,500 tons of relief.

See Page 10 Col. 3

Clash in Ctg: 15 hurt Jamaat demands judicial probe into attack on Maulana Nizami

By Staff Correspondent

Acting Ameer of Jamaat-e-Islami Abbas Ali Khan Wednesday demanded formation of a judicial inquiry committee to identify Monday's attackers of party Secretary General Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami on the Dhaka University campus and to recommend stern action against those responsible for the assault.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club, the Jamaat leader also demanded of the government that the 'identified' terrorists be arrested immediately and the DU Vice-Chancellor Prof M Moniruzzaman Miah be removed from his position if he was unwilling to quit the post.

Khan called upon all patriotic forces to work unitedly to free the country's educational system.

See Page 10 Col. 6

30,000 tin sheds will be built for offshore cyclone survivors

Star Report

The government plans to construct 30,000 tin-shed dwellings at an estimated cost of about Taka 50 crore for the cyclone survivors in the coastal belt.

The Department of Relief and Rehabilitation has already submitted a proposal to this effect for approval by the highest authority. Each dwelling will cost nearly Taka 17,000 which will be allotted free of cost among the cyclone victims in the coastal belt and offshore islands.

An official source told The Daily Star on Wednesday that the sites for the proposed houses have also been earmarked. The scheme has been taken as per Government instruction, the source added. Implementation of the plan will start immediately after the final approval is made.

Meanwhile, a ship of the Bangladesh Navy which visited St. Martin's island saw colossal devastation of property following the April 29 cyclone and tidal bore, the worst disaster of the century. About 10,000 people live in this island. How many of them died could not be confirmed as yet. The health complex there is now run by compounders and some other lower level staff. No doctor is working there. No medical relief team has ever visited the island.

The survivors of the island are now forced to drink contaminated water as the sources of pure water have been completely washed away. Protection walls made of boulders have also been washed away at many places, eye witnesses reported. The survivors need immediate help.

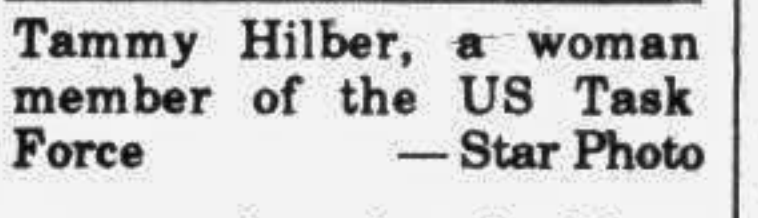
BSS adds: A two-member delegation of the Greater Manchester Bangladesh Association (GMBBA) in the United Kingdom arrived in Dhaka on Wednesday to explore the possibilities of building a cyclone-

The joy of love

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, May 29: It's a joy working for a humanitarian cause in Bangladesh," wrote Jammy Hilber, a member of the US Task Force to her fiancée.

Jammy, a member of the naval medical team told this



Tammy Hilber, a woman member of the US Task Force — Star Photo

correspondent that she felt so happy being able to help the distressed people, she didn't forget to mention it to her fiancée whom she said "was the right man she got after a long time."

"She felt very happy when the conversation which took place during her off time at the laboratory in the airbase turned to the context of love."

Tammy said, "It is very difficult to select the right man for family life in our country."

She said that her fiancée Robert Spindle is also a naval personnel now working in California.

Tammy, a high school graduate from Hawaii, spoke highly of Bangladesh and its people saying "They are really lovely"

See Page 10 Col. 2

8 die as rebels shoot anti-US demonstrators in Addis Ababa

ADDIS ABABA, May 29: At least eight people were killed and several others wounded here today when Ethiopian rebels who have captured the capital shot on thousands of anti-EPRDF and anti-American demonstrators, eyewitnesses said, report agencies.

Rebels of the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF), opened fire on the demonstrators who had gathered outside the US embassy.

They were protesting against the EPRDF and against the United States, which they complained had authorised the Tigryan-led rebels to enter Addis Ababa while peace talks got underway in London.

The rebels opened fire on the crowd at several different points in the city, killing one person on Menelik Avenue, at least six in front of the Erras hotel and another on Revolution Square, according to eyewitnesses.

Earlier report said: Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets and stoned the US Embassy on Wednesday, protesting the American role in turning the country over to rebels.

Also Wednesday, Eritrean rebels staked a claim to northern Ethiopia, declaring provisional rule separate from another insurgent group that seized the capital Tuesday after a US call for it to restore order here.

The Eritreans said, however, they would cooperate with the main rebel group in ensuring the flow of relief supplies from major Red Sea ports to thousands of Ethiopians.

See Page 10 Col. 5

'BCS (Admn) Assoc letter aimed at blackmailing Govt'

By Staff Correspondent

The Coordination Committee of Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) comprising 23 cadres, at a meeting on Tuesday observed that the letter written to the Cabinet Division by the BCS (Administration) Association was motivated and part of a deep-rooted conspiracy.

Presided over by M A Hena, See Page 10 Col. 4

Clash disrupts communications with Ghorashal

GHORASHAL (Narstngdi), May 29: Communications between Ghorashal and Dhaka were disrupted Wednesday as transport workers put up road barricade after a clash, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash occurred near Ghorashal bus stand at about 10-30 am between members of Truck

See Page 10 Col. 8

Student groups agitate on Dhaka University campus

By DU Correspondent

Different student organisations will hold separate demonstrations on June 1 in front of the Ministry of Home demanding withdrawal of false cases against some of the student leaders.

The student organisations to demonstrate are the Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A), BKSAL-backed Jatiya

College teacher assaulted

BRAHMANBARIA, May 29: Students of all private colleges here abstained from their classes Wednesday in protest of manhandling a teacher of the local Municipal College by some unknown miscreants Tuesday, reports UNB.

Prof Farhaduddin Ahmed, a teacher of the Department of Economics at the college, was assaulted.

Hundreds of college students brought out a procession.

23 BRCS volunteers died during cyclone

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty three volunteers of Bangladesh Red Crescent Society died and 776 received serious injuries during the devastating cyclone of April 29.

They were engaged in evacuating people under Cyclone Preparedness Programme

See Page 10 Col. 8

Saifur explains situation to Aid Club

PARIS, May 29: Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman today sought 2.4 billion US dollars in foreign aid to implement Bangladesh's development programmes for the fiscal 1991-92, reports BSS.

Addressing the World Bank sponsored aid consortium meeting here, the Finance Minister said his country needed foreign aid to realise the goals of democracy, development and poverty alleviation. He said the central feature of his government's economic programme was the creation of a social and economic environment which encourages efficient economic activities.

Giving the break-up of the aid, he said Bangladesh would need 1550 million dollars as project aid, 520 million dollars as commodity aid and 330 million dollars as food aid.

Rahman said the government's agenda was based on a firm commitment to democratic pluralism, privatisation, deregulation and market-oriented competitive economic environment. "In particular, we are determined to bring about fiscal and monetary discipline in macro-economic management and roll-back the wave of corruption that has increasingly affected our society by stressing accountability and transparency in allocations of the government," he added.

Saifur Rahman told the meeting being attended by 24 donor countries and agencies that the government had given stress on creating more em-

See Page 10 Col. 7