

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT
 The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD & SEAFOOD in CHITTAGONG (NO BRANCH). Please try us and you will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than ever before.
 1643 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y.M.C.A. NASIRABAD. CHITTAGONG. TEL: 226903. Fax: (880) (31) - 225258

The Daily Star

EA&I
 CALL: 232224, 237784
 239145, 239217 **BLUE DART**
 WE HAND CARRY YOUR VALUABLE DOCUMENTS TO INDIA DAILY BY AIR
 BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L LTD.
 15, MOTUFEEL C.A. DHAKA

VOL. II NO. 47 REGD. NO. DA 783 FALGOON 18, 1398 BS, DHAKA MONDAY MARCH 2, 1992 SHABAN 26, 1412 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

Article
 We Need to Be Austere for Our Survival Page 4

International

 JKLF renews pledge to cross line of control Page 5

Business
 Undisbursed ADB loans stands at \$ 1689 m Page 7

Feature
 Development
 The disabled — only differently abled Page 8

Metropolitan
 Dhaka Day by Day

 Don't send us back to death Page 3

Cabinet meet on KAFCO yet inconclusive

Chiyoda threatens legal action if decision not taken by today

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi

Uncertainty looms large over the fate of the Karmaphul Fertilizer Company (KAFCO) as the third consecutive Cabinet meeting yesterday failed to arrive at a decision.

Sources said yesterday's meeting had ended 'inconclusively'. Chiyoda Corporation of Japan has already served notice to the Bangladesh Government asking for a decision by March 2 (today). The influential Japanese firm, a shareholder and also a general contractor, has threatened legal action if the decision is not taken by today.

According to a source, the ministers and concerned senior officials who attended the Cabinet meetings were asked to keep mum over the deliberations.

Unconfirmed reports say there might be some flaw in the letter of authorisation given to the then Industries Secretary, Mosharrar Hossain, by H M Ershad as President of the People's Republic of Bangladesh, which may have come in the way of the government's taking a legal position on the issue.

Under that letter of authorisation, Mosharrar Hossain signed the agreement on behalf of the Bangladesh Government.

Critics have always argued that the authorisation does not hold any legal basis as it was not an executive order.

A top official of KAFCO last night expressed his ignorance about the outcome of yesterday's Cabinet meeting.

'I've no reaction,' Tore Feuk, the Managing Director of KAFCO, told The Daily Star late last night when he was asked about his reaction to the impasse.

Tore Feuk also confirmed that the scheduled 10th AGM of the Company on March 7 had already been postponed.

See Page 12 Col 3

Involve people to frame flood projects : PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday said an effective and meaningful programme for mitigating natural calamities had become imperative to save people's life and property and ensure advancement of the country, reports UNB.

"Our progress and prosperity will remain an illusion unless we could save our people from the scourges of natural calamities," she said while inaugurating the Second Conference on Flood Action Plan [FAP].

The Prime Minister stressed that the masses were the centre of all development efforts of the present government and attached importance to framing flood control projects with participation of the people.

Jointly organised by the Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Food Control and the World Bank, the four-

See Page 12 Col 7

Historic March

A Star Commentary

A new reality dawned on the military rulers of Pakistan on March 2, 1971. The Bengalee people of the then East Pakistan decided to take their destiny into their own hands, and the student community of Dhaka led the way.

At a massive gathering at the Battala of the Dhaka University, Vice-President of the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU), A S M Abdur Rab unfurled the new flag of Bangladesh — a golden map of Bangladesh set on a red circle against a bottle green background.

See Page 12 Col 7



Sheikh Hasina, the Awami League Chief and the Leader of the Opposition, conferring with Abdus Samad Azad, her deputy, at the inaugural session of the party's extended meeting yesterday.

Govt's failure making people averse to democracy : Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has said there is no room for killers in her party.

She also accused the BNP government of failure in running the administration. Mismanagement inefficiency and dishonesty have been making the people indifferent towards newly-won democracy, the AL leader observed.

She was speaking at the two-day extended meeting of the Awami League (AL) central working committee began in city yesterday afternoon. Sheikh Hasina herself presided over the meeting.

About 250 leaders representing the central committee, national committee, district committees and the party MPs were present in the first session.

AL Presidium member Dr Kamal Hossain, who had been abstaining from attending the committee meeting of the party since its debacle in the last parliamentary polls, was also present.

Kamal Hossain stopped attending party meetings following misconduct with him by some AL activists at the 32, Dhanmondi for his comment terming the election free and fair.

The first session of the meeting which continued till 8-30 pm was addressed by a district-leaders from Chittagong Division.

The meeting resumes today at 9-30 at the official residence of the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament.

AL chief Sheikh Hasina earlier welcomed the party leaders coming from different parts of the country in the meeting.

Referring to the killing of Maniruzzaman Badal, a leader of AL's student wing, in last January, Hasina said, "There is no room for the killers and their patrons as well in the party adding 'whoever they are or however powerful they may be'."

She however claimed that the government's killing agents planted inside the party killed Badal with a view to tarnishing the image of AL.

Hasina in this connection was very critical of the government's alleged inaction in arresting the AL activists expelled from the party on charge of involvement in the Badal killing.

Hasina asked AL leaders attending the meeting to be firm.

See Page 12 Col 6



Rain plays havoc with victory plans

SYDNEY, Mar 1: The rain, when it came, was mostly a pain for England and India in the World Cup cricket tournament on Sunday, reports AP.

After dismissing Pakistan for 74 — its lowest ever one-day international total — England faced only eight overs before rain forced the match to be abandoned at Adelaide, Australia. England had scored 24.1, and with no result, both sides collected one point.

At the Brisbane Cricket Ground, previously winless Australia defeated India by one run. The Indians were all out for 234 when their last batsman, Venkatapathy Raju, was run out off the final ball of the day while seeking an equalizing run.

Australia scored 237-9 from its 50 overs, with Dean Jones hitting 90, but India's target for victory was reduced to 236.

See Page 12 Col 1

NEWS BRIEFS

National Committee on education

The government has formed a 48-member National Committee on education with Minister and State Minister for Education as its chairman and vice-chairman respectively. The committee will advise the government in finalising the national plan in implementing the commitment made at the world conference on "Education for all by the year 2000" and to ensure education for all by the year 2000, reports BSS.

Census of stranded Pakistanis begins

The census of stranded Pakistanis in Bangladesh began Sunday morning at Muhammadpur Geneva Camp in city. The census is being organised jointly by the representatives of Pakistan government-Rabita Al Islami and Stranded Pakistanis General Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) to assess the number of population for repatriation to Pakistan, the SPGRC Chief Patron M Nasim Khan told BSS.

Pabna BNP leader stabbed to death

FARIDPUR, Mar 1: A bus employee was killed after being stabbed by an unidentified miscreant at the local bus terminal here today. Yahia (28), a supervisor of Zaker Paribahan was stabbed repeatedly by an unknown assailant at about 5.30 this afternoon. Another report from Pabna said Farhadullah (35), a local BNP leader was also stabbed by some unknown miscreants near the police station here. He was admitted to Sadar Hospital where his condition was stated to be critical, reports UNB.

1 killed, 28 hurt in accident

SERAJGANJ, Mar 1: One person was killed and 28 others were injured in two separate accidents in the district this afternoon. The deceased Abdul Matin (30), was killed on the spot when he fell from a speeding truck near Diyarbaidhanath village on Dhaka-Bogra highway. In another incident near Shahabganj at Raiganj Upazila a mini bus lost control and fell into a road side ditch injuring at least 28 passengers, reports UNB.

Police, courts seen as brake on poverty alleviation moves

By Mahfuz Ullah

Police and courts, the two regulatory organs of the state, are delaying the process of poverty alleviation.

Major reforms of these organs on the one hand and strengthening community organisations and local self-government on the other have been proposed as one of the specific policy measures for rural poverty alleviation.

A recent study done by senior economists of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) has made these recommendations. The study, Re-thinking Rural Poverty: A Case For Bangladesh, will be formally released on March 12, where Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to be present as the chief guest.

The other measures, suggested for alleviating poverty, include 'major improvements in primary health care in particular by addressing the problem of service failure of existing facilities, empowerment through primary education and the creation of a land bank targeted to marginal and small owners.'

The study done by Dr Mahabub Hossain, former director general, of the BIDS, Dr Omar Haider Chowdhury, Dr Binayak Sen, Shamim Hamid and Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman covers 9874 households evenly spread over 62 villages of the country. The sample size is bigger than what is used by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics for its periodic household expenditure survey.

'Notwithstanding two decades of poverty alleviation', the study report says, 'widespread and acute rural poverty remains the single most important problem facing Bangladesh.'

Commenting on the solution to poverty, the report argues that it is not a matter of good intentions. A particular weakness of the poverty debate in Bangladesh is the inadequate attention given to problems of implementation.

Explaining the measures for poverty alleviation, the report says the developmental functions of the state have devolved upon 'an administrative machinery whose linchpin is the district administration created under colonial rule.' The demands for development and participation have not sat well with entrenched institutional procedures of this machinery with its inherited bias towards regulatory functions per se.

The report further says 'neither has the punitive hold of this regulatory administrative machinery over the initiative of local society been effectively checked by any countervailing structures of local self-government.'

Referring to the role of police and courts, the report observes reform of these institutions is critical in reducing the 'sources of insecurity and thereby serve to expand the initiative of the poor and of society in general.'

The report further says, "by norms, jurisdictions and history, this bureaucratic state power is anything but participatory. By the very logic of its institutional prejudices rooted in regulatory functions, it is inherently obstructive of development goals which have been added to its function in the wake of independence."

Explaining the need for education the report observes 'the impact of education on income is not a linear one.'

See Page 12 Col 3

Khetmajur samity turns into NGO

By Farid Hossain

Hardliners at Bangladesh Khetmajur Samity, a CPB-backed organisation for landless agricultural labourers, have suffered a defeat after delegates at last week's conference endorsed a move that may turn the group into a NGO.

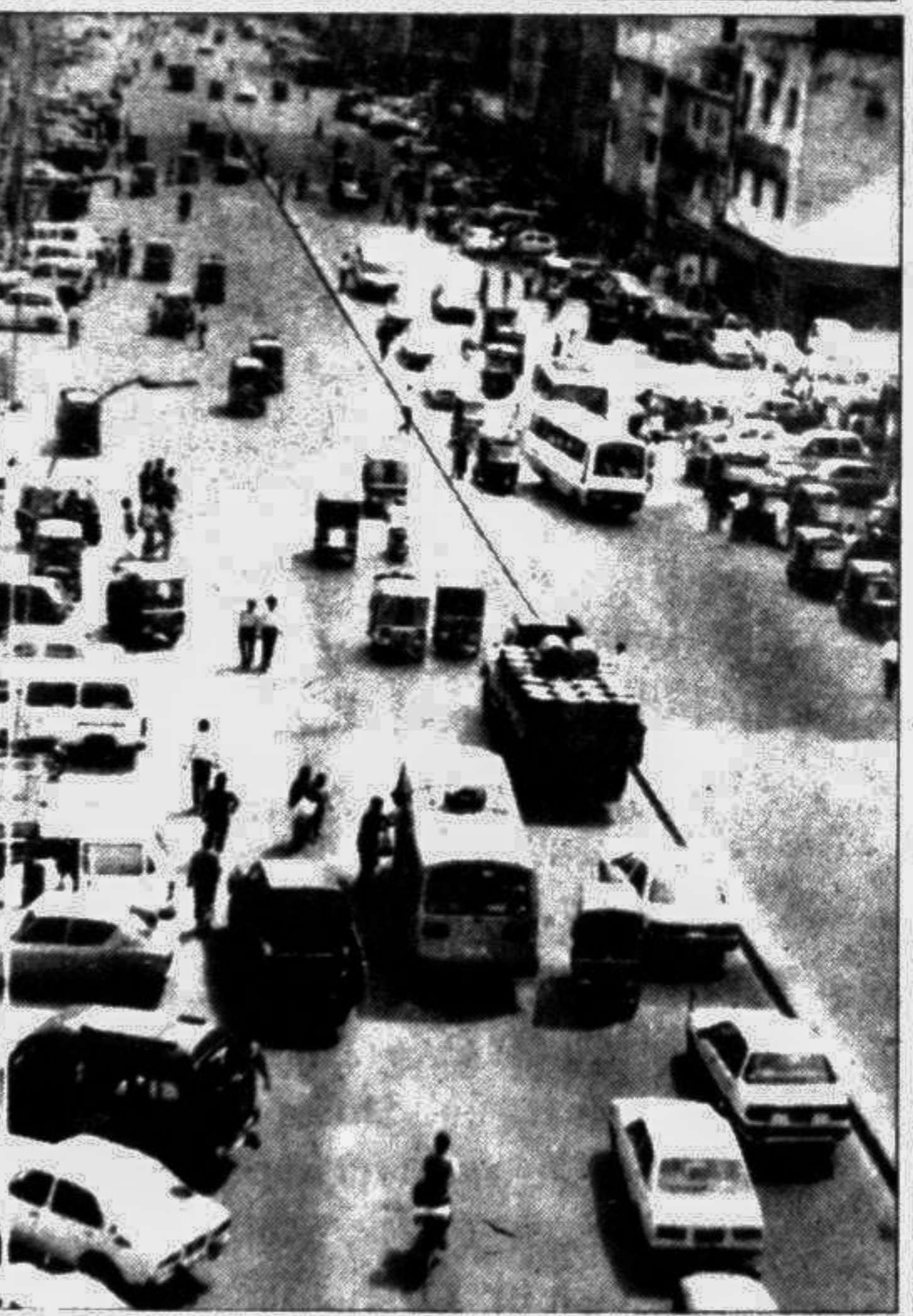
Launched as a front of Communist Party of Bangladesh in 1981 the Khetmajur Samity focused its programmes on distribution of khas lands (government-owned lands) among the landless agricultural workers and fair wages for them.

But the new move endorsed at Feb 27-28 conference has sought to shift the focus on economic benefits that rural poor get from the NGOs operating in Bangladesh, sources at the organisation said on Sunday.

Hardliners led by the organization's founding General Secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim unsuccessfully tried to retain the leftist features of the organisation with majority of the 500 delegates backing their President Nurur Rahman, who favours the NGO line.

The sources said it was Nurur Rahman who registered the organisation as a non-governmental organisation.

See Page 12 Col 5



A city street during rickshaw strike yesterday.

Rickshaws stay off roads for 8 hours

By Staff Correspondent

A half-day rickshaw strike was observed in the city Sunday.

Called by different rickshawpullers' and rickshaw owners' associations demanding the withdrawal of a municipal corporation move disallowing rickshaws from plying on 19 major city streets.

Rickshaws stayed off the roads during the strike hours which began at 6 am and only started to appear in the streets in large numbers after 2 pm.

A number of processions were brought out around the city to protest the police action against the rickshawpullers during the strike on Saturday last the protesters demanded unconditional release of those arrested by police.

Dhaka metropolitan police however said that no untoward incident was reported on Sunday and none was arrested.

Solarz pledges help to mobilise Congress support for Rohingyas

US Congressman Stephen Solarz held out an assurance that he would mobilise support in the American Congress for helping Bangladesh in tackling the Rohingya refugee problem, reports UNB.

The assurance came when Bangladesh Ambassador Abul Ahsan met Solarz, Chairman of the 93-member committee on Asian and Pacific Affairs at his office recently.

According to a message received here, they exchanged views on wide-ranging subjects including the Rohingya issues and bilateral relations.

Solarz expressed satisfaction at the successful democratic transition in Bangladesh.

See Page 12 Col 8

City mosquitoes defy authorities and insecticides

By Asiuzzaman

Most of the more than seven million people of the capital have been testing a bitter biting of ubiquitous mosquitoes while the authorities are baffled by this tiny insect as they failed to check it using all possible means.

"Ask the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) to impose mosquito tax we are ready to pay but we want to get relief from this menacing situation," Younus Ahmed, an aggrieved city dweller told this correspondent.

The DCC and the Mosquito Control Department (MCD) jointly continuing operations to annihilate mosquitoes from the 210sq kilometre city areas, are still being cursed for their initial fault of not spraying larvicide timely.

The DCC which now has two fogger and 600 hand sprayers is planning to buy 20 more fogger sprayers to step up its operations, sources said.

"Possibly they are spraying insecticide in their own houses and living in peace but we are completely fide up," Younus Ahmed a resident of Khilgaon area alleged.

He said that the situation has worsened to such an extent that no one can have a nap at noon without mosquito-net.

"Frequently I and my family members cursed those official for whom we are suffering from this mosquito menace, he said adding that "it hampers the normal works at home."

He also said that my sons and daughters cannot read in their table without lighting a mosquito-coil which, I know, is very harmful for health. Everyone cannot afford costly aerosol-spray which is a bit more effective than coil, he added.

The ubiquitous mosquito did not spare the residents of posh areas though their houses are completely netted.

The metropolitan mosquitoes have become so skilled that it somehow managed to enter my fully netted house," Nilufa Sultana, a resident of posh Gulshan area told the Daily Star.

"It is very embarrassing to sweat mosquitoes and itch parts of the body," she said.

She alleged that the concerned authorities undoubtedly had done little to take sting out of this vast army of tiny creature creating the present deteriorating situation.

Meanwhile, informed sources said that the DCC failed to spray insecticides ahead of high-breeding season of mosquitoes.

November to February is the season of mosquito breeding and some 2,465 kilometres of

See Page 12 Col 1-