The Midnight File

DPRK missile ship

slipped US eyes

lieved to be carrying Scud-C ballistic missiles for Iran and

perhaps Syria avoided a US navy search and slipped into an

Iranian port, the US Defence Department said today. "We

were certainly looking for it. I don't know why we never

found it," pentagon spokesman Pete Williams told reporters,

100 killed in clash over

ponds in Nigeria

WASHINGTON, Mar 10: A North Korean cargo ship be-

## From misery to misery

By Farid Hossain back from Cox's Bazar

Thousands of Rohingya Muslims are arriving in Bangladesh every day to live a life of misery with disease and hunger being spawned in illequipped refugee camps. But they don't seem to care.

The refugees are happy to have escaped what they say is a systematic brutal oppression by the Myanmar (Burma) soldiers in Arakan, a predominantly Muslim province in western Myanmar.

"We have escaped the barbarians. Now in Bangladesh we will be able to live in peace," said Gulfuraz Begum, 50, who reached Teknaf last weekend in a rickety wooden boat crossing the Naf river with 200 others.

Gulfuraz and her group from Naikongdong village in Arakan's Buthidong thana said they trekked through forests and mountains for six days to reach Bangladesh.

According to the refugees, their number is increasing by at least 5,000 a day as Myanmar's military government has unleashed a pogrom to purge Arakan of its predomtnant Muslim population of 3

About 130,000 Rohingyas have fled Arakan since the exodus began in March last year and they all tell the same stories: the soldiers are conscripting the men for forced labour, raping the women and shooting those who disobey.

It is difficult to verify their stories independently but the grim statistics underlay the refugees' hair-raising tales of atrocities.

Dr Abu Hanif at the Rabita hospital near Duchiapalong camp said they treated a 2year-old boy for burn injuries on the face. Villagers who brought the boy said soldiers poured hot water on him because the child was crying while they were trying to rape his mother at an Arakan village near Mangdwe.

The atrocities are aimed at cvieting the Rohingva Muslims from the region that has been their homeland since the 7th century. They are called Rohingyas, a term derived from Rohang, the ancient name of Arakan, an independent Muslim kingdom until the 18th century.

The Rohingyas claim to be the descendants of Arabs. Moors, Pathans, Moguls and Bangalees and speak a local dialect known as Rohingya, a mixture of Arabic, Persian Urdu and Bengali

Persian was the official language of Arakan during the Muslim rule. According to Rohingya his-

torians Arakan was conquered by Burmans in 1784 and consequently by Britain in 1824 and by Burmans again in 1948 when Burma, the old name of Myanmar, gained independence. Since then the Rohingyas have been subjected to religious and political discrimination by Burmans, the ruling community.

That's why the Myanmar funta has now renewed its campaign against Rohingvas saying, they are illegal immigrants, a claim denounced by the United Nations.

The soldiers come and tell us, 'you are Muslims. Go to your homeland', Bangladesh," said Abul Hashem, a refugee.

To gain this objective Myanmar, seems to be pursuing a policy of persecuting the Rohingyas so that they leave their homes. Conscription for forced labour is a major component of this policy.

This is reflected in the composition of the refugees, majority of them being women and children as many men have already been conscripted.

The practice of polygamy is said to be another reason of women and children's outnumbering the men. There are men who have as many as 20 children from more than one Most of the refugees are

landless poor with the middle class and affluent Rohingyas staying behind. They are impoverished, hungry, diseased, malnour-

ished and tiliterate. Nearly all the children are unimmunized. "It's a pity that Burma has ignored so many of its citizens for so many years," said a

UNHCR official watching the caravans of homeless people scattered along the rugged plains and hills stretching from Ukhia to Cox's Bazar. The extreme poverty has

perhaps made Myanmar's task of eviction easier.

The refugees arriving on the muddy banks of Teknaf take a short break before climbing the Bangladesh hills, hardly looking back at the land they left.



Refugees waiting for shelter.

-Star photo

## UNHCR appeals for funds

From Page 1 Col 5 the district authorities out of

According to latest official estimates, I lakh 20 thousand Myanmar Muslims have so far crossed into Bangladesh and the unofficial figure will run up to I lakh 50 thousand.

The situation is worsening as the influx is continuing at the rate of 5,000 to 6,000 every day.

Eleven camps have so far been constructed in the districts of Cox's Bazar and Bandarban to accommodate the refugees, thousands o whom are living on their own under twig and peat shelters.

The World Health Organisation has also donated health kits for the refugeos. BSS reports: Only a quarter

of the over 1,10,000 refugees have been given shelter in a total of ten camps in Cox's Bazar and Bandarban districts an UNHCR press release said here yesterday.

Nine of these camps are operative in Cox's Bazar and one in Naikhyanchhari under Bandarban district. Besides "thousands of people arc putting up their own shelters made of leaves and twigs," the press release added.

Narrating pitiable condition of the refugees, the UNHCR said as thousands of refugees are stranded on the roadside awaiting registration and shelter, the UNHCR High Commissioner Sadako Ogata has requested the Government for land to establish necessary additional camps

The UNHCR press release said the request of Sadako Ogata for land to establish additional camps had been placed before the Prime Minister.

The UNHCR said she had responded positively and a site known as Nayapara has been proposed on the stretch of

road between Cox's Bazar and Teknaf. The UNHCR engineers and water experts would visit 390,000 to assist Bangladesh there on Thursday in order to assess the suitability of the

Ogata has expressed her distress at the plight of the refugees. She has also written to the Myanmar authorities informing them of the UN body's concern. Though UNHCR has no political mandate, the press release quoted its Director of Regional Burcau for Asia and Occania, Jamshid Anvar, stating at a press conference car lier this week: "If every gov ernment in the world begins tracing the origins of its ethnic minorities to centuries ago and sending them back, we would

have complete chaos."

tonnes of biscuits. 100,000 people.

ports: Death toll in different refugee camps here rose to 35. Seven persons died during the last three days.

ties over 25,000 people have been attacked with various discases like diarrhoea, malaria, dysentery, and gas

reaching here, at least 10 Rohingyas were killed on Friday last in a communal clash with rival community at Sikderpara in Mangdow town-

BSS in Dhaka reports: The Commission of the European

Communities has approved a

It also lauded the UNICEF's role for ameliorating the water problem. The UNICEF is running feeding centres in several camps and distributed eight medical kits. OXFAM has also offered to donate five metric

Considering the continuing influx of the refugees, the Government is also planning to construct a huge camp with capacity to accommodate

BSS from Cox's Bazar re-

According to local authori-

troenteritis. According to refugees

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new grant of Taka 19.25 million equivalent to ECU

> number of Myanmar refugees. A press release of the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Bangladesh said, the fund will be placed with the UNHCR to meet emergency requirements like shelter, water supply and sanitation in the refugee camps.

in coping with the increasing

AFP from Tokyo reports : Japan is considering helping tens of thousands of Muslim refugees who have fled Myanmar to Bangladesh to escape alleged military oppression, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said yes-

"We are making our efforts to find out about the situation. Foreign Ministry Press Secretary Masamichi Hanabusa

We keep in touch with the Bangladeshi and Myanmar (Burmese) governments in this connection as well as the UNHCR, he said

Hanabusa said\_ Japan, Myanmar's largest aid donor, was following the matter with serious concern and waiting for the UNHCR to make a report on proposals for assistance to the refugees.

When the report is made, we will consider providing help to the refugees in an appropriate manner, the spokesman said, adding that the Japanese Red Cross has already donated 9.4 million yen (72,300 dollars) to the International Red Cross for the relief of the refugees.

He did not elaborate on how Japan would help the refugees. UNHCR Sadako Ogata, a Japanese, launched Monday an emergency international appeal for 27.5 million dollars in

Malaysia broke ranks with other members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) over the weekend to seek and end to the alleged military oppres-

UNB from Cox's Bazar says: Relief officials have registered nearly 100,000 Rohingya refugees from Myanmar until Monday while about 30,000 new arrivals were still in the queue awaiting registration, officials here said.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at an Iftar party arranged by Army officers at the Senakunja yesterday. - PID photo

## Private limited cos sion from the Controller of the

From Page 1 Col 8 Taka 50 lakh without prior

permission of the government. Under the new provision of the law, excepting the banks, insurances and the non-banking financial institutions, there will be no restriction in withdrawing capital in case of the privately owned limited companies. However, in case of public limited companies the existing law will prevail.

As per the Act of 1947, any company required prior permission from the Controller of Capital Issues for giving bonus or right of share. The government has exempted all companies from this rule of the

The provision for taking prior permission as compul-Golam Azam

From Page 1 Col 7 are not at all afraid, but the issuc (trial) will not remain confined to Golam Azam only, rather it might become a

threat to the country's exis-

tence. Nizami, however, did not rule out the possibility of foreign involvement in trumpeting the trial but did not spec-

Terming the party a power though little. Nizami said futile attempts to agitate people against the Jamaat would not yield any fruit to anyone.

Nizami urged all to follow the universal code of democracy and called for united efforts to consolidate it.

Referring to the party's firm belief in the democratic process, the Jamaat leader said that it did not have any vendetta against anyone, and called upon all to do politics following the universal rules and norms of democracy.

He further added that the Jamaat did not believe in the politics of annihilation because Prophet Muhammad and Islam direct us to think about the welfare of people'

Prof Yusuf Quamruzzaman, Abdul Kader Mollah, Sheikh Ansar Ali, Prof Mujibur Rahman and Ali Ahsan Mujahidee were among others present at the press confer-

### Indo-Bangla border meeting March 18 From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Mar 9: A Deputy Director General (DDG) level meeting between the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) and the Border Security Force (BSF) will begin here on March official sources said

Brig Khairul Bashar will lead the meeting on the part of Bangladesh while Shankar Sen, Additional Director General of (BSF) Calcutta and Tripura will lead the 12-member Indian delegation.

The Sector Commanders of Khulna, Kushtia, Rajshahi, Dinajpur, Sylhet Comilla and Khagrachhari will also participate in the meeting. The meeting will discuss on

the dispute over catching fish at Talpatti island area, reconstruction of the border walls and other border disputes.

office yesterday.

Capital Issues in fixing salaries and allowances of the chief executives has been annulled.

The application form for buying shares has been simplifled and made scientific, the handout said adding the restrictions, those contained in the Company Act 1913 and 1947, have been simplified for fixing share price. It is expected that as a re-

sult of the reforms made, the private companies would be able to take prompt economic decisions.

To protect the right of the share-holders new provisions have been announced pertaining to dividends. As per the new provisions, all companies will have to pay off dividends within sixty days from the day of announcement.

Necessary documents and certificates with respect to dividends and payment of the dividends will have to be submitted within seven days to the Controller of Capital Issues.

Meanwhile, new order and provisions have already been published in government gazette.

## DCC employees

From Page 1 Col 5

alternative measures during the strike, an official of the DCC said adding that the cleanliness programme was continuing under the system. Measures have also been taken to put the street lights on at night during the strike, he

Meanwhile, the DCC has directed the employees of the corporation to join their duties immediately.

A DCC press release said that the corporation had directed some 1000 master roll employees to join their duties by today (Wednesday).

If they failed to join duties, legal actions would be taken against them, the press release Several hundred employees

of the DCC also demonstrated in front of its office, now under heavy police guard.

The Mayor and other officials attended their offices and held meetings to review the si-An official of the DCC said

that the employees were trying to make some seven million city dwellers hostage during the month of Ramzan. He said that the authorities would take all possible mea-

gency services. A source of the poura federation which called the strike complained that the intransigence of the authorities forced the employees to go on strike.

sure to maintain the emer-

Our staff correspondent from Chittagong and Khulna add: The strike of corporation employees continued for the second day Tuesday in the Port City of Chittagong and in Khulna.

processions during office hours outside their offices. In Khulna the employees locked the main gate of the

The employees brought out

corporation office on Tuesday.

City Juba League President Hashem Bhuiya addressing a protest rally against suspension of

central Juba League Secretary Mostafa Mohsin Montu in front of the Awami League central

## Humayun Rashid clarifies position on passports

Former Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury has said that the diplomatic passports issued to him and his wife were returned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs after his resignation from the cabinet on December 10, 1988.

Chowdhury further said that proper receipt were issued by the Ministry stating that the passports were cancelled and were being kept in the custody of the consular section of the ministry.

Chowdhury made this statement clarifying a news item published in The Daily Star March 8.

the government is comparing the numbers of the passports once held by Chowdhury and his wife with that found in the possession of a Bangladeshi in

Chowdhury says, "For over three years since my resigning from the government I have travelled on two successive passports. The first passport l obtained in lieu of my surrendered diplomatic passport was an ordinary green passport where my profession was shown as 'member of parlia-

This passport I surrendered on my ceasing to be a member of parliament and ob tained a fresh passport where my profession was shown as a retired government servant. It was this passport that was taken from my possession by the Special Branch in connec tion with some government business. I was assured by a Mr Kibria of the Special Branch that the passports would be returned within a couple of days. This happened on the 24th of February, 1992.

"On March 3, 1992 I wrote to the Home Minister requesting return of the passports in view of my impending treatment abroad. I again wrote to the Home Minister on March 7, 1992 informing him that I had found receipts issued to me by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in respect of the surrendered diplomatic passports and enclosed photo-

his statement will remove any possible misconception arising from The Daily Star report'.

# F Kabir

his family graveyard at village Gournadi under Ghatail upazila in Tangail district, a press release of Bangladesh Film Dhaka yesterday. Kabir Chowdhury had di

rected 25 films since 1974.

Foreign office sources say

The clarification issued by

By Staff Correspondent

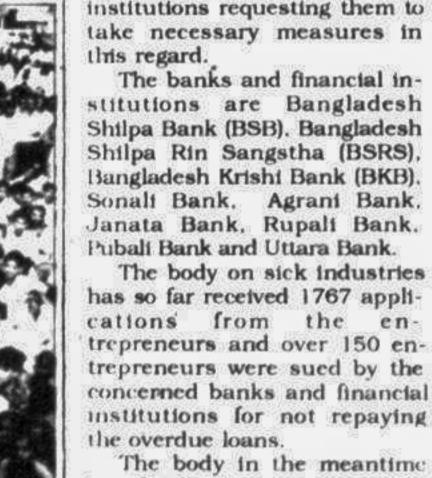
copies of the same."

Chowdhury expected that

## Chowdhury Noted film director F Kabir

Chowdhury died of a heart attack Tuesday. He was 46. Kabir Chowdhury left behind his wife, a son and a host of admirers to mourn his death, reports BSS. He will be buried today at

Directors Association said in



has finalised its recommendations for the rehabilitation of the sick units of four sectors. The sectors are : jute, rubber, steel and engineering and printing and packaging. The recommendations re-

garding the rest of the sectors

are likely to be finalised by the

current month.

LAGOS, Mar 10: At least 100 people were killed in fighting over the use of two ponds for a fishing festival, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) said today. The weekend violence was in the eastern state of Taraba, where residents say up to 5,000 people have been killed since October in battles between the mainly-Christian Jukun and Tiv ethnie groups over farming rights, reports Reuter.

## Montu to hold meet

also exchange views with

members of the Task Force

that was constituted by the

Caretaker Government of

presented by Ataur Rahman

Khan Kaiser and discussed at

the Working Committee

meeting on Monday suggested

that the country's economic

philosophy be "welfare econ-

omy" and the means of imple-

One of the draft proposals

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

From Page 1 Col 7 1971 stood for socialism but shifted to "mixed economy" in its election manifesto in 1991. The need for further liberalisation of the party's economic policy was felt in the wake of

reports Reuter.

changed global perspective. Sources close to the meeting told UNB that the committee, which began deliberation on the draft proposals on Monday, also discussed the party's economic policy with country's eminent economists, including Prof Rehman Sobhan

23 injured

From Page 1 Col 8

The clash ensued when lo-

cal businessmen at Basatpur

confined an alleged BDR in-

formant during a quarrel over

payment for 35 bags of lentil,

reportedly smuggled in from

Battalion Headquarters here

admitted the incident and

stated that members of 35

Battalion from Satkhira were

adds: Khulna Sector Comman-

der of Bangladesh Rifles said

that the BDR personnel had to

defend themselves when they

were gheraoed and attacked by

the smugglers with the help of

They fired blank shots and

He said that the BDR men

left the spot immediately after

recovering the smuggled

Woman police

officer robbed

By Staff Correspondent

robbed of a gold chain at

Agargaon near the Met office

Police, Rebeka Khanom and

another Assistant Sub-

Inspector of Police Azizunnesa

was going to Rajarbag police

line by a rickshaw, two snatch-

ers on a motor bike halted the

rickshaw and snatched away a

gold-chain from the neck of

two police officers rushed to

Tejgaon Police Station by the

same rickshaw and Tejgaon

police arrested the rickshaw

puller, Abul Kasem, 30, in

connection with the snatching,

with Mohammadpur Police and

the accused rickshaw puller

was handed over to

Mohammadpur Police, police

Sick industry

From Page 1 Col 3

to the Secretary of the Finance

Division of the Ministry of

Finance, the Governor of the

Bangladesh Bank and to the

Managing Directors of the

banks and concerned financial

Later a case was registered

Soon after the incident, the

Rebeka and fled.

police said.

in the city Tuesday afternoon.

A woman police officer was

When a Sub-Inspector of

no one was hurt in the BDR

action,' Col Anwar Hossain told

Our Staff Correspondent

involved in the clash.

villagers.

unnds.

The Daily Star.

Sources at the 2nd Rifle

Kashem, witnesses said

menting the programmes to be mixed economy Kaiser, party's Economic and Planning Affairs Secretary, and Dr. Anisur Rahman. They said that before advocated for determining the priority of the public and prifinalising the policy, the

vate sectors on the basis of na-Awami League leaders would tional and social utility Another report adds: Awami League Joint Secretary Abdul Jalil yesterday demanded immediate repeal of the Mohammed Moksed and Abul Indemnity Ordinance to clear

the way for trial of the killers

of Bangabandhu Sheikh

Mujfbur Rahman Addressing a workers' meeting at Savar Thana Awami League office yesterday afternoon, he also called for holding trial of "war criminal" Golam Azam to protect the country's independence and sovereignty, says a party press

## Customs officials raid city markets

By Staff Correspondent

The Customs officials Tuesday raided the Mauchak and Anarkali markets in the city at about 11 am with the help of BDR and Police Forces. No contraband items, however, could be recovered from the two markets, a statement served by Akhtaruzzaman Monjoo, President of Mauchak Market Banik Samity and Vice-Chairman of the Bangladesh Federation of Shopowners'

Association informed. They strongly protested the raid during the Ramzan month saying that the raid incurred heavy losses to the shopowners of the two markets. The statement also urged the government to conduct such raid on

### specific information. killed, 10 hurt in road mishap

By Staff Correspondent

One person was killed and another 10 were injured as a Dhaka bound passanger-bus collided with a truck on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway near Demra Tuesday afternoon. Jasim, 25, died on the spot.

Of the injured, Selim, 25, M Salam, 60, Khorshed Mia, 30, Jasimuddin, 16, Ali Asad, 30, Abdul Khaleq, 45, Hira Mia. 38, Shamsul Haq, 30, and an unidentified person, 55, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), reports our DMCH correspon-

Demra Police setzed the bus and the truck. The drivers, however, managed to escape.

### DPRK freighter From Page 1 Col 7

strongly protested against the transfer of the improved Scuds from Korea to the Middle East and had demanded that the shipment be halted.

Administration officials said last week that the White House was trying to decide whether to stop Korean ships headed for Iran, possibly with missiles destined for Syria and Iran. Those missiles would put Israel at greater risk of an attack from the two countries, they said.

## Employees storm CMCH director's office

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Mar 10: A

group of employees Chittagong

Medical College Hospital (CMCH) on Tuesday attacked and ransacked the office of the Director of the Hospital (CMCH) protesting alleged irregularities in recruiting some class III and class IV employ-