

89 pourashabhas go to polls June 4

Election of the 89 out of 104 pourashabhas of the country will be held on June 4, according to an announcement of the Election Commission Saturday, reports BSS.

Programme for holding election in 15 pourashabhas cannot be taken up due to non-completion of their delimitation and cases in the court, the announcement said.

The Election Commission through a gazette notification yesterday announced detailed schedule for the election.

Under the schedule, nomination papers have to be submitted on May 10, Returning Officers will scrutinise nomination papers on May 11, last date of withdrawal is May 17. And polling will take place on June 4.

The Election Commission has appointed 55 Additional District Magistrates as Returning Officers while 53 District Election Officers and 36 Upazila Nirbahi Officers have been appointed Assistant Returning Officers for conducting the coming pourashabha elections.

Additional District Magistrates will act as Returning Officers of all pourashabhas under their jurisdiction.

District Election Officers and Upazila Nirbahi Officers will act as Assistant Returning Officers in the pourashabhas

Garments workers' ultimatum

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Garments Sramik Karmachari Samannay Sangram Parishad (Coordination Movement Council of Garments Workers and Labourers of Bangladesh) gave their ultimatum Saturday to the government to meet their seven-point demand related to workers' rights by May 30.

The Parishad also warned the government of workers movement in 1005 garments factories of the city if the government failed to meet their demands within the ultimatum period.

Leaders of the Parishad at a press conference at the National Press Club said about seven lakh garments workers in the city were deprived of reasonable wages they said, 'even the 1984 Wage Board with the lowest Taka 627 scale has not yet been implemented in the factories.'

Parishad leader Abul Hossain told the press that their demands emphasise on

assurance of workers and labourers rights according to laws of International Labour Organisation and conventions.

They also demanded the lowest scale of Taka 1400 at the national level for the garments workers.

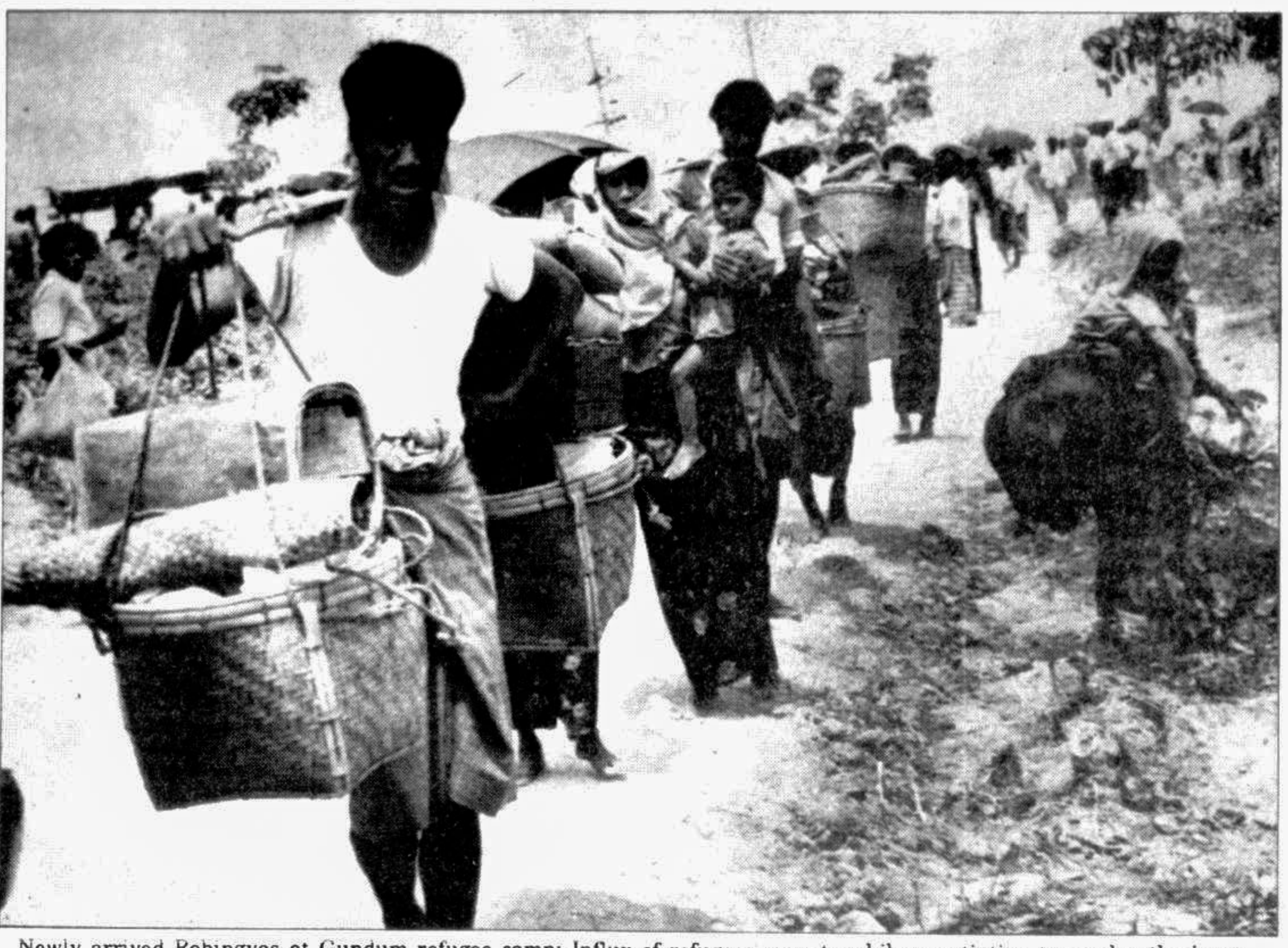
The Parishad said female workers who comprised 85 per cent of total garments workers were being exploited both in and outside the garments factories.

Previously the Parishad succeeded in meeting their demands through movement, they said, but the Parishad would prefer tripartite talks with the government and factory owners for peaceful solution.

The Parishad also called for a labourers rally on May 1 at the National Press Club premises.

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Newly arrived Rohingyas at Gundum refugee camp: Influx of refugees mounts while negotiation to resolve the issue continues. — Star photo

PM to lay 'Jute House' foundation stone Apr 29

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will lay the foundation stone of a permanent 'Jute House' in the capital for the headquarters of International Jute Organisation (IJO), on April 29, reports BSS.

Disclosing this at the 17th session of the IJO committee on projects in Dhaka Saturday Jute Secretary M Akhter Ali said as per agreement with IJO, Bangladesh would provide free premises for the headquarters of the organisation.

At present the IJO headquarters is located in a house at Banani hired by the government.

Akhter Ali is the leader of the 9-member Bangladesh delegation at the meeting of the IJO committee on projects.

Fate of BCI

By Staff Correspondent

He said the company was supposed to provide information on its activities to the Controller of Capital Issues (CCI) on a regular basis. As such, if any director of the company takes loan from it which is illegal, the BCI office should know it at first.

Bangladesh Bank authorities with the then Finance Minister, Wahidul Haque in the chair also stated that BCI is engaged in activities beyond its authority. The irregularities of the company were also proved to be true in 1987. Bangladesh Bank at that time warned the company to refrain from such activities.

The Bangladesh Bank at the meeting wanted to publish an advertisement in the newspaper clearly defining the area and scope of activities of the such non-banking financial institutions. Bangladesh Bank viewed that this was necessary as the activities of the company were beyond the legal control of the bank.

BCI sources said the company has now an aggregate fund of Taka 200 crore. The institution has 600 employees and 24 branches in the country.

DCCI blames Bangladesh Bank for BCI crisis

By Staff Correspondent

The President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Mahabubur Rahman in a statement Saturday expressed his grave concern over the situation prevailing in the Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI) and held the Bangladesh Bank responsible for the critical situation.

He said that the investment companies were largely involved in economic activities of the country and all their activities were directed and controlled by the Bangladesh Bank.

He said that as these companies were under the control of the Bangladesh Bank, whatever decision and steps the bank deemed appropriate to save the private sector and bring discipline in the economic activities should be taken immediately.

Rahman viewed that the situation of the BCI would shake the confidence of the clients and that other institutions like the BCI were likely to be adversely affected by the situation.

He further noted that despite the government promise to make the private sector active and lively, government action so far was negative.

Import policy

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Businessman

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The Midnight File

Arabs divided over form of cooperation

MANAMA, Apr 25 : Arabs are divided over the form of cooperation they set out to secure after the Gulf war, Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa said today, contradicting statements he made last week. "Certain differences exist among the positions of Arab countries" that have signed the Damascus declaration, Mousa told a press conference, reports AFP.

Kozyrev meets Fahd

RIYADH, Apr 25: Russia's Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev met here today with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and delivered a message from President Boris Yeltsin, Russian diplomatic source said. Kozyrev also met the Saudi Defence Minister, Prince Sultan Ibn Abdel Aziz, before leaving Riyadh for Kuwait, reports AFP.

Dainik Bangla

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stitutions from the public exchequer and proposed for private participation to improve the financial situations of these newspapers.

When contacted, Salman Rahman told The Daily Star that negotiations were going on with the government about his appointment and 'in one week's time it be final'.

Salman Rahman, denying his participation in the ownership, said if he accepts the offer he will do it as a 'public service'.

But, he added that he had put forward some conditionalities which are pre-conditions for good management.

He said that he would try to salvage the two loss-making 'national institutions' by bringing in structural changes. He did not rule out the possibility of lending money to these organizations for clearing their outstanding liabilities.

Incidentally, Salman Rahman was one of the founders of the English daily the Morning Sun and continued as its Chairman, Board of Editors till November 17, 1990.

The Dainik Bangla was first published as a trust paper on November 6, 1964. The Bangladesh Times, once owned by Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni, nephew of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, was first published in 1973.

The paper was sold to the government in June 1975 when the Awami League government decided to stop publications of all newspapers but four in the country in 1975, immediately after introducing one party rule under BAKSAL.

Late Abul Kalam Shamsuddin was the first Editor of Dainik Pakistan and Enayetullah Khan became the first Editor of the Bangladesh Times after it went into government hands.

Both these papers are losing money, and government subsidy in the form of advertisements keep them going.

The employees, quite often, complain of irregular payment and bad management.

Drizzle

From Page 1 Col 7

cur in Dhaka during the next 36 hours starting 6 pm Saturday.

The situation is improving but there is no chance of a dramatic change in the weather," a Met official said.

There were traces of rain in Rajshahi, Bogra and Sylhet on Saturday while two mm rainfall was recorded in both Faridpur and Sylhet.

A trace of rain was recorded in Dhaka this month against the expected 100 mm.

An average of 9.5 mm rainfall was recorded in Chittagong division the highest in the month while there was no rainfall in Rajshahi and Khulna divisions.

Only 14 mm rain was recorded in March over the country against the forecast 154 mm, Met office source said.

A Met official said Saturday that the Intra-Tropical Convergence Zone (ITCZ) was still lying 10 degrees north and the low pressure over the South Bay was inactive which was one of the major causes of the current drought like dry spell.

He said that although the number of westerly lows had increased, they were moving to the north of Bangladesh and the conjugation of westerly and easterly lows was not possible at this stage and so rainfall could not occur.

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 7

The opposition leader demanded adequate relief, including cash grants and house building materials, for the affected people in Bajitpur where a severe tornado on April 17 left at least 18 people dead and about 1,000 injured.

Hasina visited the worst-hit Majchar, Madhyapara and Dilalpur villages and listened to the misery of the storm-hit people.

A heart-rending scene was created when she went to the house of Afrozuddin (55) who succumbed this afternoon to his injuries sustained during the storm. Afroz, President of Majchar union Awami League, died only a few hours before Hasina visited the house. Victim's mother Kanchannessa and wife Latifa Khatun burst into tears as they embraced Hasina.

Well drilling

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depth—will be absolute waste of millions of dollars already sunk into the well.

Experts pointed out that exploratory wells serve twin purpose: discovery of hydrocarbon and geological information. Neither of these can be obtained without reaching the desired target.

It will be a great tragedy, they said, if the drilling in Patharia Well No 5 has to be abandoned because of financial constraints. The country will not only be deprived of a probable oil discovery but also of invaluable geological information, the experts added.

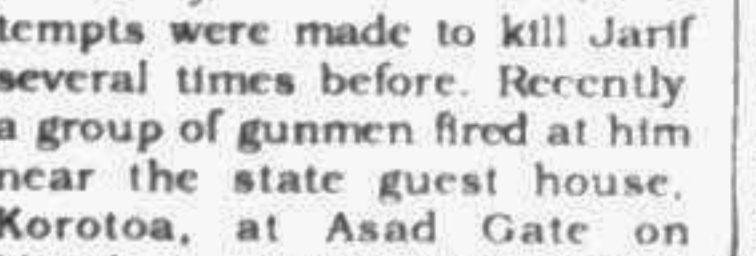
Storm lashes Sunamganj

Power supply to Deraf and Jamaiganj upazila in Sunamganj district has been suspended due to a storm that lashed the district yesterday reports BSS.

Paharika Express derails

Nine bogies of inter-city Paharika Express train bound for Sylhet from Chittagong derailed in between Gunabati and Sarsadi railway stations about 1.30 pm Saturday, railway sources in Dhaka said, reports BSS.

None was hurt and no damaged was caused following the derailment.



Kazi Jarif, the victim. — Star photo

Family members said, attempts were made to kill Jarif several times before. Recently a group of gunmen fired at him near the state guest house, Korotoa, at Asad Gate on March 2 when two of his companions, Shahadunnabi and Humayan, were injured. Jarif escaped unhurt.

Police arrested three persons, Ilyas, Kazi Lalon and Mithu Bahadur, from Gulshan area on March 2 in connection with the firing incident. However, they were released shortly afterwards.

Tarif, elder brother of Jarif, said that the murder was committed by a rival group of businessmen. Jarif's political associates, however, believe that it was a 'political murder'. Jarif was killed by activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), they claimed.

Jarif was the son of Kazi Abdul Mohaymen of 135, Darus Salam Road, Mirpur. His body was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

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