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 noncompletion 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

located at the concerned district headquarters and Pourashabhas at upazila headquarters respectively, the an-

UNB adds: Elections will be held in the pourashabhas of Panchagarh, Thakurgaon, Pirganj, Dinajpur, Parbatipur, Phulbari, Nilphamari, Syedpur, Rangpur, Lalmonirhat, Kurigram, Gaibandha, Joypurhat, Bogra, Sherpur, Shantahar, Naogaon, Nawabganj, Natore, Gurudaspur, Sirajganj, Shahjadpur, Pabna, Bera, Iswardi, Kushtia, Kumarkhali, Bheramara, Chuadanga, Alamdanga, Darshana, Meherpur, Magura, Jhenidah, Kotchandpur, Moheshpur, Kaliganj, Jessore, Narail, Kalia, Bagerhat, Mongla Port, Satkhira, Patuakhali, Borguna, Patharghata, Bakerganj, Jhalakathi, Nalchiti, Bhola, Lalmohan, Tangail, Gopalpur, Mymensingh, Gouripur, Netrokona, Mohanganj, Kishoreganj, Bhairab, Bajitpur, Jamalpur, Sharishabari, Sherpur, Narsingdi, Munshiganj, Gazipur, Tongi, Faridpur, Rajbari, Pangsha, Madaripur, Gopalgani, Shariatpur, Habiganj, Sreemongal, Brahman baria, Comilla, Laksham, Chandpur, Hajigani, Lakshmi pur, Noakhali, Chowmuhuni, Bashurhat, Patiya, Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Khagrachhari and

assurance of workers and

labourers rights according to

laws of International Labour

lowest scale of Taka 1400 at

the national level for the gar-

workers who comprised 85

per cent of total garments

workers were being exploited

both in and outside the gar-

ceeded in meeting their de-

mands through movement,

they said, but the Parishad

would prefer tripartite talks

with the government and fac-

tory owners for peaceful solu-

a labourers rally on May 1 at

the National Press Club

Nirmul Committee

grand rally

today

By Staff Correspondent

Nirmul Committee will hold a

grand rally this afternoon at

Battul Mokarram (South Gate)

in which the committee is

likely to announce a number of

action programmes including

said that the action pro-

gramme would be finalised at a

Committee leaders includ

Similar public meeting

would be held in major cities

and towns across the country

on the day, committee sources

wings of the committee on

Saturday held rallies in the city

in support of Sunday's grand

tee urged the people to make

Hearing of 3000

tola gold

smuggling case

begins

Court Correspondent

tional three thousand tola gold

smuggling case began in the

Special Anti-smuggling

Tribunal in the city yesterday

All the five accused, includ-

ing two foreigners, were pro-

the Dhaka Central Jail.

Islam, is still absconding.

(Sunday).

duced before the court from

Commodore (Retd) Mainul

The principal accused, Air

The court was adjourned at

pm yesterday. The hearing

will resume, at 10 am today

The hearing of the sensa

the Sunday's rally a success.

In a statement the commit

Meanwhile, different ward

ing Jahanara Imam would ad-

dress the rally.

meeting this (Sunday) morn-

A reliable committee source

Ekattorer Ghatak Dalal

The Parishad also called for

Previously the Parishad suc-

ments workers.

ments factories.

They also demanded the

The Parishad said female

Organisation and conventions.

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

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

Jute workers

From Page 1 Col 4

trade with the foreign cur rency they earn by themselves.

The Sangram Parishad suggestions urged the government not to hand over the jute sector carned foreign currency to the import traders not in-

volved in earning foreign exchange. To implement the idea, the Sangram Parishad suggested formation of a central cell, compromising representatives of Jute Ministry, Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporations (BJMC), Bangladesh Jute Mills Association (BJMA) and jute mills workers, that would control the foreign currency

earned through raw jute ex-The foreign currency earned through export of both raw jute and jute products should be used by the jute mills authorities in their proposed import trades, the Sangram Parishad formula sug-

gested. It also proposed that the profit coming out of the import trade conducted by the

jute mills authorities be invested in modernising jute industries and jute cultivation in the country. The eight-point formula also maintained that the public

sector jute mills should get rid of their over-staffed managements to ensure dynamism in the sector.

Sangram parishad however opposed termination of jute mills workers.

The Finance Ministry has meanwhile suggested termination of 10 per cent of the total workers employed in the public sector jute mills for the sound growth of the sector.

According to the Sangram Parishad sources, there are about 90,000 labourers working in a total of 78 public sector jute mills.

nouncement said.

PM to lay 'Jute House' foundation stone Apr 29

continues.

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 govern

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

Fate of BCI

From Page 1 Col 5

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 known 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 coun-

DCCI blames Bangladesh Bank for BCI crisis

By Staff Correspondent

The President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) Mahbubur 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

From Page 1 Col 4 keen on formulating fair and non-partisan policies relating

to commerce and industries. Anwar said the government role in this regard would be complementary instead of a controlling one and added the main objective of the economic policies, adopted by the present government, to ensure a free market and thereby help develop a strong private sec-

Senior officials of the Ministry of Commerce, heads of corporations, representatives of banks and insurances and various chambers of commerce and industry and trade bodies attended the day-long meeting, held at Hotel Sheraton.

Anwar informed the meet ing that the import of consumer and intermediate goods and industrial raw materials had registered an increase during the first six month of the current fiscal year although the percentage of opening of Letter of Credit (LC) had fallen by 2.81 per cent compared to the same period of the previ-

The minister agreed to the proposal for amending the Company Act and said in the overall interest of the economic activities undertaken in the country the insurance act and various policies formu lated by the Ministry of Commerce would also be reconsidered.

Referring to the pursuing of a liberal trade policy by the present government, he said the biennial import policy would be changed and amended on the basis of sug gestions, put forward by various chamber of commerce and industry and in the light of the experiences in the sector.

At the same time, the min-

Press Note

From Page 1 Col 8

and Christians have been living in peace and amity since long and thus have set a unique example of communal harmony This communal harmony has been further strengthened in the democratic atmosphere after assumption of power by the present government, pointed out.

The Press Note further said that the allegations of repression on the members of the minority communities in Bangladesh, occupation of their properties and temples and violation of human rights were absolutely unfounded and travesty of truth. Certain quar ters are making such imaginary allegations with ulterior motives, it said and pointed out that the people of Bangladesh, irrespective of caste, creed and religion, have been living in peaceful and utmost cordial atmosphere. The government is determined to maintain this atmosphere.

In the Press Note the government expressed the hope that the concerned quarters would refrain from making such irresponsible statement in the interest of maintaining the existing communal harmony and peace in the coun-

Paharika Express derails

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

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

ister said, the government was eager to bring necessary changes in the policies in the overall interest of the country and not for protecting the in-

terest of any particular section or a vested group. Commerce Secretary Nazem Ahmed Chowdhury and President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Mahbubur Rahman also addressed the meeting in

which about 70 participants took part in the discussion. In his speech, the FBCCI chief Mahbubur Rahman said the main objective of the import policy should be to protect and develop the local in-

dustries. Rahman called for implementing the suggestions for incorporating the industrial policy with the import policy reducing the import of unnecessary goods and items, regu lar review of the import situation and its committee deci-

sion within 30 days. He stressed the need for setting up of a statistical cell with the representatives from the ministries of commerce, industries and national board of revenue with location at Chittagong customs house to

monitor export and import. The FBCCI president urged the government not to change the biennial import policy at the middle of the fiscal year and thereby avoid complicates faced by the importers and banks in this regard.

Businessman

From Page 1 Col 8 out of the room and when he did so, the man grabbed him

while another young man, who was waiting outside, shot him. After the incident, the 'killers' escape in an autorick shaw waiting in the hospital

compound, witnesses added. Bullet-ridden Jarif was immediately taken to the operation theatre of the hospital where doctors declared him



Kazi Jarif, the victim.

 Star phote family members said, at tempts 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 Mishu 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

Star photo Dhaka-Yangon

From Page 1 Col 8 Working Group entrusted with the job of working out the modalities for repatriation.

Dhaka's envoy to Yangon Mostafa Farooq Mohammad and visiting Myanmar Deputy Attorney General Tun Schin and the country's Dhaka mission official Kyaw Myiat were also present at the meeting.

The Working Group was formed at the first round of talks on Friday. The Foreign Ministers of the two countries led the delegations at the discussions.

Bangladesh is pursuing a permanent solution to the refugee issue and therefore wants UNHCR to monitor the repatriation. Dhaka believes that the

monitoring by the UN body will ensure the return of the Rohingyas in 'safety and The number of refugees has

already crossed 2.25 lakh and the influx is still continuing although at a slower pace. According to sources, the

UNHCR Representative in Dhaka is likely to meet the Myanmar Foreign Minister to-The Working Group sits

formally today and is expected to finalise its report before the two delegations meet on

The Myanmar team leaves Dhaka Tuesday.

Meanwhile, the Myanmar delegation led by Foreign Minister Ohn Gyaw is to call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas today.

Mujahideen

From Page 1 Col 5

in league with Interior Ministry officers, diplomatic sources said.

It is a struggle for power in a power vacuum," said one Asian diplomat of the emerging situation as rival guerrillas raced to gain control of strate gic locations.

Thousands of armed guerillas swarmed over the city and occupied most vital installations by midday; facing no resistance from government

Masood's Jamiat-I-Islam faction acted quickly to re trieve the situation, as Hezb fighters had surfaced first after infiltrating the city in league with Interior Ministry officers, diplomatic sources said.

By nightfall, the Jamiat and its allies had occupied the presidential palace, the foreign and the defence ministries the Kabul garrison, the central bank and the national armoury and seemed to have the upper

The rush of thousands of Mujahideen troops into the city prompted one veteran observer to speculate that the Mujahedden inside the country had rejected the "Peshawar so

U Nu freed

BANGKOK, Apr 25: Myanmar's military junta today said it had freed the country's last democratically elected Prime Minister U Nu. from house arrest and would allow detained Nobel Prize- winning dissident Aung San Suu Kyi to receive visits from her family. reports Reuter.

Storm lashes Sunamganj

Power supply to Derai and Jamalganj upazila in Sunamganj district has been suspended due to a storm that lashed the district yesterday reporta BSS.

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 Mussa said here today, contradicting statements he made last week. "Certain differences exist among the positions of Arab countries" that have signed the Damascus declaration, Mussa told a press conference, reports

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

From Page 1 Col 8 where big business houses of Pakistan participated in the

ownership. The NPT was a single trust owning different newspapers in two wings of the then Pakistan. Prominent among those were Dainik Pakistan, Morning News, Pakistan Times, Imroze.

The Dainik Pakistan changed its name to Dainik Bangla and the Dhaka edition of Morning News ceased publication after the emergence of Bangladesh in December 1971

Till buyers are available for the 49 per cent shares, sources said, Salman Rahman, one of the owners of Beximco, a leading business house of the country, will be appointed Chairman of the new trust in a bid to revamp the management of these papers and make them profitable.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman, according to sources, objected to financing these in-

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

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

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 Maijchar, 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 Aftoruddin (55) who succumbed this afternoon to his injuries sustained during the storm. Aftor, President of Maijchar 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

From Page 1 Col 3 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.

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

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,

The Dainik Bangla was first

published as a trust paper on November 6, 1964. The Bangladesh Times, once owned by Sheikh Fazlul Hug 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

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 gov-

one party-rule under BAKSAL.

ernment 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

Rao

and bad management.

From Page 1 Col 7

ernment was thinking on right

model of development. With reference to foreign investment, he said "We have drawn the lines so that our national sovereignty is protected." There will be not total winding up of the public sector in which one lakh crore of rupees have so far been invested he said adding the public sector has given India a strong industrial base and visualised public investment in iron and

steel as well as in the antipoverty programme. He said all parties have by and large supported the economic liberalisation policy of

the government in the field of foreign policy. Rao said, India will not forsake the 'basics' and will merely reorient it to suit the changing circumstances. He said in the quest for truth he would find the truth between dogmas without adhering to any particular creed.

About the performance of his minority government, the Indian Prime Minister confidently said that he was running the government without any difficulty on the basis of issues which are national and common. He said dealing with national issues, he is receiving support from all quarters.

The seven Bangladeshi Editors who had meeting with the Indian Prime Minister are Sanaullah Noori, Chairman, Bangladesh Council of Editors and Editor of Janata, Enayetuallh Khan, Editor-In-Chief of the Holiday. D P Barua, Chief Editor and Managing Director of the Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS), Reazuddin Ahmed, Editor of the Telegraph, Mahbub Anam, Editor of the Bangladesh Times, Syed Zafar, Editor of the Dinkal and Liaquat Ali Editor of Dainik Purbanchal, Khulna.

The Editors are here at the invitation of Editors Guild of India, holding three days discussion on professional issues in the field of journalism to promote cooperation between the press of Bangladesh and India.

Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd.,

52 Motifheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20. Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.

Editor: S. M. Ali

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

