Bangladesh has one lakh heroin addicts, mainly centered in Dhaka and Chittagong districts. World Health Organisation (WHO) representative in Bangladesh A N A Abeye Sundere said in Dhaka Sunday, reports BSS.

Quoting report of a United Nations (UN) international review team which visited Bangladesh during August-September last year, he said, the country was serving as a drug transit point, both at Dhaka Airport and Chittagong Sea Port, but the major problem was the occurrence of transshipment of drugs on the high scas, outside Chittagong and other ports of South-East

Sundere was speaking at the inaugural session of a week-long international training course for primary health care and prevention of professionals in the field of drug abuse in Bangladesh and Nepal.

He said adulterated, crude and relatively cheap heroin was coming into Bangladesh originating from across the western border of Afgha nistan, Pakistan and Indian regions. However, refined and costly product was coming form across the eastern border through Myanmar and the other countries of the golden triangle, he said.

The WHO representative said the review team had developed a master plan for drug

abuse control in Bangladesh which would require US dollar 1,790,000. The plan includes programmes on enforcement of law, treatment and rehabilitation and preventive educa-

Quoting from another surhe added.

by a team of experts led by Professor of psychiatric Dr A K M Nazimuddowla Chowdhury on about 5,000 students of Dhaka University, Engineering and 11 and 12 classes of secondary schools.

The survey revealed that drug abuse was significantly higher among the males, but less among the regular and keen students. The high percentage of drug abuse was found more in the 20-29 years age group than in the 15-19

The drugs used by the students were tobacco (most frequent), followed by alcohol, cannabis, amphetamine, LSD/PCP, snuff tranquilizers and hypnotics. Narcotics like opium, heroin and morphine usage was less, the survey re-

Saifur: Tax base

From Page 1 Col 7

the changed international scenario after the dissolution of former Soviet Union and unification of Germany, so we have to liberalize our trade regime and raise efficiency and productivity in the interest of market economy.

The Finance Minister said so we have no time to waste.

efficiency.

out of a total of 100 big companies had paid taxes. Most of the 200 big businessmen do not pay taxes, he said adding people living in Dhanmondi, Motifheel, Islampur, Gulshan and Baridhara in Dhaka and collect tax if this situation pre-

the MPs in raising the tax-revthe cultivators. He sought sugevolve a mechanism for ad-

He told the MPs that the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank had stopped releasing funds for agriculture because the government had written off Taka 2600 crore agricultural loans. "But I am in favour of this step and I am also in favour of agri-

loss in our own interest.

tion and information.

vey funded by WHO, Sundere said students with extra income and belonging to affluent families had abused drug more. Students actively involved in politics were more significantly involved in drug abusc.

growth of the industries.

Stressing the need for a development budget of about Taka 8,800 crore in the fiscal 1993, the Finance Minister said we were implementing a taka 7,150-crore development budget in the current fiscal with a 24 per cent domestic resource contribution.

We have to raise both the size of the development outlay and domestic resource contribution in the next fiscal for a healthy growth of economy, he

our Asian neighbours are also leaving us behind in the economic development race and Pointing out that salary in-

crease alone was entailing an additional fiscal burden of about Taka 1200 crore, the Finance Minister said at least Taka 2200 crore would have to be raised in the forthcoming fiscal by expanding tax base. plugging loopholes and increasing tax-revenue collection

He regretted that only two Khatungani in Chittagong evade taxes most. How will you

vails, he asked. He sought cooperation of enue collection to raise the tax-GDP ratio for the economic emancipation. Stressing the need for agricultural development in the country, he said the government would like to give more agricultural loans to gestions from the MPs to help vancing agri-loans to the farmers exclusively through the Krishi Bank. The commercial banks will also operate among the farmers but the Krishi Bank should exclusively work for the agriculturists of the country to boost agricultural

production, he said. cultural subsidy," he said.

Turning to the donor conditionalities, the Finance Minister said the country had no other options but to become self-reliant if it wanted to escape the aid conditionalities. The World Bank stopped the energy sector credit on the ground that we could not reduce the system loss in the power sector, he said adding we have to reduce the system

The survey was conducted University, Medical Colleges

He also requested the MPs to cooperate with the govern ment in resolving the surplus labour problem for healthy

Stressing the need for an export-led growth, he said we would like to set up a garment commission to review the overall situation and contribution of this sector in our econ-

Spelling out the economic policies of the present democratically elected government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, he said we have to eradicate illiteracy from the country. The education sector will receive more allocation in the budget and we want to develop infrastructural facilities of 9000 schools in three years in phases, he said.

Nurul Islam Moni stressed the need for political stability and firm commitment of the government to attract foreign investment and industrialization. He suggested setting up of Singapore-type marchantile banks to increase investment

in the country. Sakhawat Hossain Bakul said Bangladesh needed an agrarian revolution and export-

oriented industrialisation. The MPs suggested the minister to impose taxes on rich agriculturists and take steps for raise savings liberalize trade regime and mobilize domestic resources through

political consensus. Planning Commission member Dr. Sheikh Moqsud Ali, Finance Secretary Nasim Uddin Ahmed, Internal Resource Division Secretary Dr. Moshiur Rahman, Economic Relations Division Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury, Planning Secretary Dr Harunur-Rashid, and Bangladesh Bank Economic Adviser Nurul Islam Chowdhury assisted the

Rohingya

minister.

From Page 1 Col 5

Officials from both countries will meet again on May 25 at Myanmar's Buthodaung when the Bangladesh side is expected to submit the second list of the returnees for scrutiny.

Director Immigration of Myanmar Aung Sein led the 15-member team of his country, while the 20-member Bangladesh side was headed by Cox's Bazar Deputy Commisstoner Daud-uz-Zaman Chow-

Officials at Cox's Bazar said that the refugees' protest against repatriation that had started since the April 28 repatriation agreement has subsided, though tension still prevails in the camps.

A clash between angry refugees and Ansars at Balukhali camp-1 on Thursday left one refugee killed and another 20 injured. One camp official and 10 Ansars were also

injured. However, there has been no fresh influx of refugees since last Thursday. Only four refugees arrived on Sunday.

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Visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Ali Akbar Velayeti called on Prime Minister Begum PID photo Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday.

Natural disasters

From Page 1 Col 3 age, coordinate relief work and provide policy guidelines for field work.

The chairman of the body will be the minister-in-charge, Relief and Rehabilitation Division (RRD) and the mem bers will be the secretaries of thirteen ministries and divi-

The ministries and divisions are: Health and Population, Control, Home Affairs, Defence, Relief and Rehabilitation (RRD). Finance Economic Relations, Agriculture Irrigation and Flood Control Energy, Food, Fisheries and Livestock, Local Government and Rural Development and Cooperatives.

The standing orders assign separate responsibilities to the ministries and divisions to perform in the pre-disaster disaster and post-disaster situations.

According to the standing orders, the secretary of the relief and rehabilitation division will act as the senior executive in-charge of all relief opera

The division will be empowered to exercise complete control over all civil officers directly or indirectly involved with relief operations. It will make necessary orders and will also be empowered to relax departmental standing regulations.

The division's programme in case of cyclone will be implemented in five phases: precyclone, alertness, warning, cyclone and post-cyclone.

The RRD will also play a prime role in the management of flood emergencies. In a predisaster situation it will establish a control room including radio communications with divisional, district and upazila headquarters, organise a meeting of the voluntary organisations and other agencies involved in mobilizing and coordinating relief efforts

and mobilize available relief

stock in the flood-prone areas. During a disaster the RRD will give instructions for evacuation orders to be made, assist rescue operations, allocate resources and issue instructions to field officers in related to relief operations.

Immediately after a disaster the RRD will make a detailed assessment of the damages and continue all relief and rehabili tation works.

The special functions of the Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Division include, strengthening the activities relating to the infrastructure such as constructing dams and barrages, establishing cyclone information centres and mobilizing manpower and departmental facilities to deal with the disasters.

The Division will also establish a flood information centre to run between May 1 and September 30 each year and an information cell.

The standing orders also include specific guidelines and tasks for the other ministries and divisions included in the central coordination committee in case of natural disasters.

Depression

From Page 1 Col 4 within 48 kilometres of the depression centre is about 50 kilometre per hour (KPII) rising to 60 kph in gust or

BSS adds: A meeting of the National Coordination Committee for Cyclone Preparedness was held with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair at her Sugandha office Sunday

The meeting was held in view of the deep depression formed in the Bay of Bengal and its tendency to intensify

Velayeti

From Page 1 Col 5 relationship with friendly countries particularly the Muslim states.

Begum Zia said her government had liberalised the industrial policy to attract investment providing equal opportunities for foreign and local investors.

She said joint collaborations with private and public sectors in Iran would be welcomed in Bangladesh. She said there were a large number of doctors, engineers and other technical personnel in Bangladesh who could help Iran in its post-war reconstruction and development activities.

Begum Khaleda Zia thanked after the last year's cyclone. She also urged Iran for exerting its influence on Myanmer so that under the present Bangladesh-Myanmar agreement the Rohingya refugees could go back with honour and

Dr Velayati later yesterday visited two camps in the Cox's Bazar district where the refugees from Myanmar are

Dr Velayati, who arrived Dhaka yesterday morning on a two-day visit, flew to Ramu and visited the Dohapalang camp and later went to another adjacent camp Dechuapalong-II.

He spoke to the inmates through interpreters and told them that the people of Iran were deeply concerned at the influx of the Muslim brethren from Myanmar.

Iranian ambassador in Bangladesh Mohammad Ganjidoost, member of the parliament and member of the governing board of the Red Crescent M A Jinnah and director general in the Foreign Ministry Afsarul Quader accompanied Dr Velavati.

Velayati, leading a 10-memmal talks with Foreign Ministoday.

Iran for its help in the reconstruction work of Bangladesh

dignity to their homeland.

sheltered.

ber delegation, will hold forter A S M Mostafizur Rahman



Members of Bangladesh Senior Family Welfare Visitors' Association brought out a procession in the city yesterday to press for their five points demand. Star photo

Rima murder

From Page 1 Col 8 ceeded in creating an impact which had influenced the court. He said because of this reason, the defense considers it as a case of mistrial and therefore prayed for the ap-

Malek said although Munir had been convicted in this case, his name was not there in the FIR (First Information Report). This point should be carefully considered, he

pleaded.

Mohammad, a friend of Munir who was mentioned as a probable witness in the charge sheet, was named as one of the 77 witnesses. He further said, Selim, another friend of Munir was one of the 66 witnesses who appeared in the court but was not cross-examined. He read out part of Selim's statement made before the police (161) and also the deposition of Kohinoor Nizam (mother of the deceased) made before the

The defence lawyer said Din

Malek said although it was stated that blood was spread on Rima's body after the murder, there was no chemical examination of that blood. It was not proved whether that was human blood or any other thing, he mentioned. He drew the attention of their lordship to this "vital point".

Attorney General Aminul Haq was present from the prosecution side. The hearing will resume

Two railwaymen

suspended

this afternoon.

The driver and the assistant drivers of an inter-city train have been placed under suspension on charge of pilfcring fuel from a rail engine by stopping the train at an unscheduled station, according to a Ratlway Division press release issued in Dhaka Sunday.

BUET Syndicate members meet Khaleda

The Syndicate members of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her Sugandha Office Sunday night, reports BSS.

The Syndicate members led by the Vice Chancellor of BUET Dr Mohammed Shahjahan included Dr Masizuddin Ahmed, Dr S Z Haider, Dr M A Mannan, Dr Md Waliuzzaman, Dr Giasuddin Ahmed and Prof Abu Haider Imam Uddin.

The members congratulated Begum Khaleda Zia for her initiative for holding the convocation of BUET which had removed the long standing bottlenecks.

The Prime Minister said it was possible to hold the convocation following the united endeavour of the teachers, students and employees of BUET.

Govt firm to export food in next five years: PM

BEGUMGANJ (Noakhali). May 17: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today expressed her government's determination to turn Bangladesh into a food-exporting country in next five years, reports UNB.

"We will make Bangladesh a food-exporting country in next five years by attaining self-sufficiency in food production," she told a huge public meeting at Begumganj Government Pilot High School ground this afternoon.

The government will resume soon the North Irrigation Project, abandoned during the Ershad regime, to help attain food sufficiency, she said.

Organised by the upazila BNP, the meeting was presided over by Barkatullah Bulu, MP.

Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khondker Mosharraf Hossain, State Minister for Textiles Maj (rtd) Abdul Mannan and MPs I lalima Khatun, Jainal Abedin, Sala huddin Kamran and Mohammad Shahjahan also spoke.

Prime Minister also under scored the need for rural electrification for expansion of industries and good communi cation for marketing agricul tural products. About Tk 400 crore will be spent for devel opment of road communica tions in the greater Noakhal district, she told the crowd.

The upazila hospital will also be upgraded with more 50 scats added to its 150-seat capacity and Gouripur Girls School here will be nationalised, the Prime Minister announced.

She also assured that the problem of teacher shortage in the Begumgani Government College would be solved.

Storm

From Page 1 Col 8 Nur Mia (60), Nafar Sheikh (60), Balu Pramanik (45) Ruma (2), Farida Parvin (35) Habib Sheikh (45), Shaheb Ali (24). Abul Hashem (25) and his wife and two other unidentified people.

The one-hour storm razed more than 5,000 thatched houses moved down crops on thousands of acres of land in

the district. One hundred educational institutions, including primary and high schools were damaged in the storm which cut also off power supply in the whole district.

According to an estimate the loss of property stands at more than Taka five crore. Staff Correspondent adds: When contacted from Dhaka

Sunday night an official in the district administration could not give details of the deaths and extent of damage caused by the nor'wester.

Hartal call From Page 1 Col 5

with the death sentence. Vehicles belonging to news papers, hospitals and clinics, Fire Service, WASA and Electric Supply authorities and the hotels and restaurants have been exempted from purview

of the hartal. The Coordination Commi ttee demands include: withdrawal of cases against 24 sponsors of Golam Azam's public trial, ban on the Jamaat-e-Islami and its allies and action against Jamaat activists for spreading 'Moududi'-ism in the country's mosques.

The Coordination Committee in a post-hartal public meeting at Bangabandhu Avenue is likely to announce a countrywide hartal in mid-June. The date will be finalised later, committee sources said.

Meantime, the Awami League, Five-Party Alliance, Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya and various socio-cultural organisations and professional bodics have supported the half-day hartal and announced their active participation in making is a success.

Meanwhile, railies and processions were organised in different parts of the city yesterday in support of today's hartal. Besides, statements calling to

observe the hartal were issued. Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya, the combine of four student organisations, Samajtantrik Chhatra Front and Bangladesh Chhatra Federation held separate rallies in the Dhaka University campus and brought out processions in this con-

The city unit of Awami League held a rally in front of the party central office yesterday afternoon. Party leaders while address-

nection.

ing the rally called on all concerned to make the hartal a total success. Chhatra League (M-I),

Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal (Khaleg), Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (Rab), Ganatantrick Biplobi Jote, Ganatantrik Chhatra Kendra, Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon and Ganochhaya, a cultural organisation, issued statements calling upon the city people to obscrve the hartal.

The Midnight-Bile

Masood, Hekmatyar fail to resolve differences

NICOSIA, May 17: Afghan Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood met hardline guerilla chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar but the two rivals failed to resolve their differences, Tehran Radio said today. The radio, quoting an Afghan Defence Ministry source, said the two met outside the Afghan capital Kabul on Saturday. "During the meeting Hekmatyar once again insisted on his demands, saying that General Abdul Rashid Dostum's forces should leave Kabul. Masood, however, opposed his demands," the radio said, reports Reuter.

Israeli businessman shot dead in Gaza

JERUSALEM, May 17: Palestinian gunmen shot dead an Israeli businessman in his car in the occupied Gaza strip today, Israel Radio said. The man was shot in the head by "terrorists" near Bett Lahya town in the north of the strip and died instantly, it said. Palestinians said troops set up roadblocks in the search for the attackers. Gunmen last shot an Israeli, a Jewish settler, in Gaza in January, reports Reuter.

Sarbaharamen

From Page 1 Col 7 delay in rehabilitation of the surrendered people belonging to different groups of the party

could force them return to

their previous life. The government in December 25, last year offered amnesty to the Sarbahara Partymen which produced little response. A total of 425 people gave up arms in response to the amnesty offer while a small amount of illegal weapons were recovered during the month-

districts, identified as Sarbahara dominated area. In an interview with a Barisal daily recently, Siddigur Rahman, leader of one faction of the party, said those who gave up weapons responding to the government's amnesty of fer could again take up arms for their personal safety.

long period from 13 southern

Hasina

From Page 1 Cot 8 Retterating her demand for execution of the "people's court" verdict and withdrawal of the cases against 24 personalities, including Jahanara Imam, Hasina warned that none would be spared if found

standing against the will of the

The Awami League President called upon all sections of the people for facing peacefully and politically all conspiracies of the government and its allies in the antiliberation camp.

Maudud allowed to go abroad for medical checkup

A division bench of the High Court Sunday granted permission to former Vice-President Maudud Ahmed to go abroad for three weeks for medical

checkup, reports UNB. The bench comprising Justice Abdul Bart Sarkar and Justice Mahfuzur Rahman granted the permission on an application from Maudud.

Jute workers

From Page 1 Col 7 it to increase jute production to 12 lakh tons from nine lakh tons while forcing reduction in our production to three lakh

tons from five lakh tons. He said that over three crore people of the country were directly or indirectly involved with jute sector and that Bangladesh could meet 30 per cent of the 20-lakh-ton annual demand of the world market if the industrial environment became congenial.

"The WB and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are the new forms of imperialism," Bashar alleged and said "WB or IMF prescriptions will cripple our jute and textile sectors.

He also blamed smuggling for harming our textile sector saying that sarees and cotton worth Taka 300 crore remained unsold in the godowns of Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC). Identifying the action

council as a pro-liberation fo-

rum, Bashar said that the gov-

ernment created a chaotic situation in the country over Golam Azam, a Pakistani national who violated the Constitution. Rehanuddin Rehan, Badrul Alam, Siddique Sarder, Iqbal Majumder, S M Rumi, Lutfar Rahman, Abdul Mannan, Matiur Rahman, Anwara Begum, Golam Kabir, Nurul Islam,

Kashim Uddin, Nasu Mian, Jakat Hossain, Joynal Abedin, Abdullah Sarker, Shahidullah Chowdhury, K M Sirajul Huq. Shamsuddin, Khondoker Azizur Rahman, Hafizur Rahman, Moshiuddohlah, Shah Alam and Sariatullah addressed the

Earlier, wearing red headbands the workers from Adamjee, Mirpur and other industrial areas arrived at the meeting venue with bamboos, sticks and banners. They chanted slogans like

tear the WB's prescriptions,

"stop the retrenchment move"

and "announce the wage com-

mission immediately."

Rahman alias Babu alias Riad told the daily that the surrendered partymen were feeling threatened by those who ig-

nored the government offer. "We laid down arms in the promise of normal lives but now our people are being killed by the rival groups, their eves being gauged out and no measures have yet been taken to ensure security to the surrendered activists," said Siddigur Rahman who surrendered to the police during the

last days of the amnesty offer. Two activists of his group was shot dead by the rival Sarbahara Partymen in Hizla upazila, the leader alleged saying that this happened due to lack of security arrangements.

The government amnesty

package offered peaceful life.

participation of the surrendered people in the development programmes and other Another daily of Bartsal, the daily Biplobi Bangladesh, in its editorial on May 13 issue said that indiscriminate killings, looting and other atrocities of

the party had in effect chal-

lenged the law and order of

the whole southern region of the country. It said action against the armed hoodlums belonging to the party now depended on the government's determination and political goodwill "if it at all wanted peace for the

people." The daily suggested that without long-term programmes of police action against the outlawed party, the amnesty offer and other peace initiative by the government

would produce little. Such programmes would also help bring back the lost confidence of the people in police and other law enforcing

agencies, the daily added. PM: Education

hostage in the hands of terror-

From Page 1 Col 4

The Prime Minister said the present government had identified expansion of primary education and female education as the cornerstones in its education policy.

She said her government

has introduced compulsory

primary education from last

January in 54 thanas at the initial stage. All the areas of the country would come under the programme in phases by 1995, she added. Begum Zia said 60 to 75 per cent of the children had got the opportunity to be enrolled in the schools but two thirds of

these children dropped out of

the school before they were promoted to class five which was a great problem. Because of the problem, the Prime Minister said the government had constituted the implementation committees with public representatives at union, thana and zila levels and government officials to make

the compulsory primary education programme a success. Stressing the need for more educational institutions the Prime Minister called for individual and institutional entrepreneurship in the private sector to supplement the government initiative for establishing more educational insti-

tutions.

The Prime Minister said along with primary and female education her government was giving emphasis on advanced technical and vocational education, because, she said, "we need the grooming up of merit for the innovation of appropriate technology for the faster development of the country."

With this aim in view the government has established an open university and would soon start national university programme, she said adding permission had been given to establish university at the private sector and the non-formal education programme would start from the current year.

The Prime Minister said the nation had high hopes in the teachers. She said the government was active to ensure overall welfare of the teachers so that they could devote themselves more sincerely in building the nation.