

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.  
1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y.M.C.A. NASIRABAD,  
CHITTAGONG. TEL: 226603. Fax: (880) (01)-223238

# The Daily Star

The finest Ice cream from Italy  
Made with all  
natural ingredients  
and Italian  
technology.  
**dolce vita gelato**  
gelateria, ice cream parlour  
54 Kamal Ataturk Ave.  
Ground floor, Banani, Dhaka Ph. 807980

VOL. II NO. 120 REGD. NO. DA 784

JAISTHA 6, 1399 BS,

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 20, 1992

ZILQAD 16, 1412 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

## Inside Today

### Article

Lessons on disaster  
management from  
the 1991 cyclone  
Page 4

### International



Order to arrest Imelda  
Page 5

### Business

\$1382.21m foreign ex-  
change reserve at BB  
till April  
Page 7

### Feature

Banking and  
Finance

Development perspec-  
tive and priorities  
Page 8

### National

Jamuna devours 12  
villages  
Page 9

### Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Of women's pain and  
poignancy  
Page 3

## NEWS BRIEFS

### AL council body meet tomorrow

A meeting of the prepara-  
tory committee of Awami  
League's biennial council ses-  
sion will be held at the party  
office at 10 am on Thursday.  
Chairman of the preparatory  
committee and party chief  
Sheikh Hasina will preside  
over the meeting. Party's con-  
stitution and manifesto sub-  
committee and the finance  
sub-committee will also meet  
at the party office on Thursday  
at 4 pm and 6 pm respectively,  
reports UNB.

### Biman flights rescheduled

Following grounding of an  
aircraft due to mechanical  
fault, Biman Bangladesh  
Airlines has rescheduled its  
flight no BG 033, 034, 037,  
038 and 039 and cancelled BG  
015, 016, 043 and 044 for five  
days from Tuesday, BSS.

### Power failure

By Staff Correspondent

The whole of the Dhaka  
Metropolitan area plunged into  
darkness when power supply  
to the city was snapped at  
around 8.30 Tuesday night.  
According to Power Devel-  
opment Board (PDB) source,  
supply of electricity remained  
suspended for 26 minutes  
from 8.30 pm due to grid  
failure. The cause of this power  
disruption could not be  
determined immediately.  
PDB source said that power  
supply in the city resumed at  
8.56 pm. However, some areas  
including Toyneeb Circular  
Road were without power till  
9.30 pm.

### Two electrocuted

BHERAMARA, May 19: Two  
persons died and one was  
seriously injured as they al-  
legedly came in contact with  
live electric wire at Salbaria  
under Bheramara upazila on  
Saturday, reports BSS.

## Over 50 killed : Suchinda imposes 'de facto' curfew

# Death squads to hunt down Thai 'rioters'

BANGKOK, May 19: The  
Thai military said today it had  
set up mobile death squads to  
hunt down and kill rioters  
after a second night of anti-  
government violence in  
Bangkok, reports Reuters.

A military spokesman ac-  
cused motorcycle gangs of  
inciting violence among  
demonstrators campaigning  
'peacefully' for democracy.

"The Bangkok Peace  
Keeping Council has now set  
up well-armed squads to ter-  
minate these gangs and stop  
their actions as soon as possi-  
ble because the groups are try-

ing to cause riots and anger  
among people that will lead to  
civil war," the spokesman said  
in a television announcement.

An earlier announcement  
blamed the motorcycle gangs  
for arson attacks in the city.  
Several public buildings and  
more than a dozen buses were  
set ablaze in overnight vio-  
lence.

AFP adds: Thai authorities,  
faced with collapsing public  
order, declared today a de  
facto curfew in Bangkok as  
riots began to raid the Thai  
capital.

Prime Minister Suchinda

Kraprayoon, speaking on na-  
tional television, warned peo-  
ple to stay off the streets. The  
government in a late afternoon  
broadcast announced more po-  
lice, military and civilian vol-  
unteers had been called upon  
following two nights of vio-  
lence that left more than 50  
people dead.

But he fell short of declar-  
ing a formal curfew, although  
a later television announce-  
ment said 'the situation in the  
city is deteriorating' as re-  
newed rioting was likely, ad-  
vised people to return home  
'as soon as possible after you've

finished your business.'

There were reports of sepa-  
rate shooting incidents in at  
least one departmental store  
and in front of a bank, but de-  
tails were sketchy.

There were also reports of a  
run on food supplies and fuel.  
Banks closed early due to the  
lack of cash and staff in major  
hotels advised guests not to  
leave the premises.

The area near Bangkok's  
democracy monument, where  
tens of thousands had rallied  
since Saturday to demand  
Suchinda's resignation, was  
See Page 12 Col 7



WASA men digging city roads, as the one in the picture : Elephant Road, for improving  
sewer facilities but the work everytime coincides with the rainy season. — Star photo

## Country's sole Lithotripsy machine idle

By Inam Ahmed

Even six months after the  
import of the country's first  
Lithotripsy Plus machine, used  
to crush stones of the kidney  
and gallbladder without opera-  
tion, the machine could not be  
installed due to bureaucratic  
tangles.

The machine was imported  
at the cost of Taka eight crore  
to be installed at the Institute  
of Post Graduate Medicine and  
Research (IPGMR) in October,  
1991, concerned sources said.  
An operation theatre has  
been built in the institute. But  
the machine has been kept ly-  
ing on the ninth floor of the  
institute.

The machine was supposed  
to have been kept at room  
temperatures between 25 to  
50 degrees Celsius and humid-  
ity of 50 per cent. But sources  
said no such conditions have  
been maintained at present as  
the air conditioning system of  
the operation theatre could  
not be installed.

Official sources in the  
IPGMR said specifications for  
the AC could not be finalised  
which was delaying the in-  
stalling of the air conditioning  
plant.

The plan was to put the  
machine into operation within  
two months of its arrival, hos-  
pital sources said.  
PG authorities also sent one  
of their professors to Germany  
for training on the operation of  
the machine.

The authorities had esti-  
mated that about ten to 12 pa-  
tients could be treated with  
the machine each day if it was  
fully utilised.

At present, patients have to  
go to India and other countries  
for such treatment of kidney  
stones which is also very ex-  
pensive.

The authorities initially es-  
timated that each patient  
would be charged about taka  
ten thousand. They also made  
a draft policy to treat destitutes  
on gratis. But the draft is also  
lying without any decision.

## Tubewell-use deregulation Govt differs with WB proposal

By Mahfuz Ullah

The government has re-  
acted unfavourably to the  
World Bank (WB) proposal to  
deregulate the use of shallow  
and deep tubewells for irriga-  
tion, according to highly  
placed sources.

The government response  
came on the impact evaluation  
report of the shallow tubewells  
prepared very recently by the  
Agriculture and Human Devel-  
opment Division of the Bank  
based in Washington.

The 105-page report in its  
observation termed the regula-  
tion of tubewell siting as  
counter productive and sug-  
gested deregulation on the  
plea that it would double or  
triple the present areas irri-

gated from ground water.

The government, according  
to sources, refuted the Bank's  
suggestion because ground wa-  
ter for a country is the insur-  
ance against any future crisis  
and its irrational use would  
have adverse impacts on the  
environment.

The government in its reac-  
tion told the WB that in view  
of the geo-physical condition of  
the country doubling or tripling  
the ground water use might  
lead to serious land subsi-  
dence in the country.

Referring to the WB obser-  
vation that restrictions in the  
way of using shallow or deep  
tubewells would deny other  
See Page 12 Col 7

## Malnutrition national problem: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum  
Khaleda Zia said here yester-  
day that the government had  
been actively trying to solve  
the problem of malnutrition  
through well-coordinated pro-  
grammes, reports BSS.

She said malnutrition was  
obviously a national problem  
and her government wanted to  
prevent it effectively.

The theory of Dal-Bhat, a  
nutritional approach to poverty  
alleviation, had been intro-  
duced for the prevention of  
malnutrition, the Prime  
Minister told the inaugural  
session of the Fourth National  
Conference of Bangladesh  
Population Association and its  
seminar on Prevention of  
Maternal and Child  
Malnutrition in Bangladesh at  
NEC Building auditorium.

The functioning was ad-  
dressed, among others, by  
Health and Family Welfare  
Minister Chowdhury Kamal

Ibne Yusuf, Finance Minister M  
Saifur Rahman, BPA President  
Dr A K M Ghulam Rabbani,  
Secretary General Abu Yusuf  
Chowdhury and chief of Health  
and Nutrition Section UNICEF  
Philip D o'Brien.

The Prime Minister said  
poverty alleviation, expansion  
of education, primary health  
care and family planning, en-  
vironment consciousness and  
change of dietary habits are  
the significant issues for pre-  
venting malnutrition.

Prime Minister said the  
government had launched the  
Fourth Population and Health  
Project, the largest World  
Bank aided project in the  
Third World, at the root of  
which lay the plans for im-  
provement of maternal and  
child health.

She said we have also taken  
all efforts to expand universal  
primary health care, nutrition,  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Khaleda stepping into Ershad's shoes : Hasina

FATIKCHHARI (Chittagong),  
May 19 : Opposition leader  
Sheikh Hasina today called on  
the patriotic democratic forces  
to build effective resistance  
against Jamaat-Shibir and their  
allies to save the country's in-  
dependence and sovereignty,  
reports UNB.

"Rise in protest ... the na-  
tional independence is in dan-  
ger in the hands of anti-libera-  
tion Jamaat-Shibir and their  
allies", she told a big rally at  
the Coronation High School  
premises here this afternoon.

Awami League President  
Sheikh Hasina arrived here  
this morning to personally  
convey her sympathy to the  
family members of party lead-  
ers and workers who were  
brutally killed recently in  
Fatikchhari, allegedly 'by  
Jamaat-Shibir and NDP ac-  
tivist.

Expressing her deep shock  
and indignation at the das-  
tardly killing of party workers,  
Hasina said people in any  
civilised society can never

condone such gruesome mur-  
ders. "Any human being will  
shiver seeing the horrors and  
massacres being committed by  
the anti-liberation elements."

She demanded of the go-  
vernment to let the people  
know the sources of money  
and sophisticated weapons  
being used by the activists of  
the Jamaat-Shibir clique  
against the pro-liberation  
camp.

The government must an-  
swer to the people how the  
Jamaat-Shibir could use so-  
phisticated modern weapons  
to stage massacre in daylight ...  
Is there a government in the  
country?"

The Awami League chief  
blasted the government for  
what she said backing Jamaat-  
Shibir which had declared "our  
mothers and sisters as mal-  
eganimat (booty)" and handed  
them over to the Pakistan oc-  
cupation forces during the  
Liberation war. This evil force,  
she said, is now engaged in  
See Page 12 Col 1

## Storm weakens, crosses Teknaf coast

By Staff Correspondent

The depression that brewed  
over Bay crossed the coast  
near Teknaf at 6 pm Tuesday  
Dhaka Meteorological Office  
source said. There was no re-  
port of damage or casualty till  
late last night.

"We are glad that the cy-  
clonic storm weakened and its  
eye crossed the coast near  
Teknaf", a Met official said  
Tuesday night.

It has now turned into a  
land depression, he said, and  
is weakening gradually. Under  
its influence the coastal dis-  
tricts of Cox's Bazar,  
Chittagong, Feni, Noakhali and  
its offshore islands and char  
areas may experience moder-  
ately heavy fall during the next  
12 hours commencing 6 pm  
Tuesday.

The storm has lost its  
power to do any harm in any  
See Page 12 Col 7

## Shantibahini kills 3 more

KHAGRACHHARI, May 19:  
Outlawed Shantibahini men  
killed three people — an  
elderly couple and their minor  
son — at a frontier village in  
Ramgarh upazila of the district  
early today, reports UNB.

Official sources said Noor  
Hossain (62), Shamsun Nahar  
(50) and their son Rabul Huq  
(12) were chopped to death by  
the tribal insurgents at a paddy  
field in Taichalpara, three  
kilometres from the border.

The outlaws, coming from  
across the border, attacked  
them at their makeshift house  
in the paddy field and severed  
their heads with sharp knives  
before returning to their  
sanctuary.

The dead were buried at  
Taichalpara graveyard.  
With this, the tribal insur-  
gents have killed 11 people,  
injured seven others and  
burned several houses to ashes  
in four separate incidents in  
the hill tracts region in a  
week.

## Murder at Lalbagh

By Staff Correspondent

A salesman cum cashier of  
Sonali Tobacco Limited was  
stabbed to death at his resi-  
dence adjacent to the company  
godown at Lalbagh area in the  
city late Monday night.

Lalbagh police went to the  
spot early Tuesday morning  
and recovered the body with  
multiple stab injuries of Abu  
Hossain from the floor of his  
room. He was 30.

Police are yet to trace out  
the murderers but they picked  
up two sons of the house  
owner, Sohail and Jewel and  
the owner's son-in-law, Firoze  
Mia for questioning.

A night guard of the area,  
Danesh said, when he heard  
Abu Hossain groaning inside  
the room, he cried out to wake  
up local people. Immediately  
after it, he along with some  
local people, rushed to the  
house and found Abu Hossain  
dead on the floor, he added.

The victim's father-in-law  
who resides in the same area  
lodged a murder case with  
See Page 12 Col 8

## Kidnap threat Panic grips Viqarunnessa girls

By Staff Correspondent

Tension and panic gripped  
the teachers, students and  
guardians of Viqarunnessa  
Noun Girls School and College  
Tuesday following a threat to  
kidnap students.

According to a school  
source, some unidentified per-  
sons threatened the school au-  
thorities to kidnap several  
girls if they declined to give  
the money demanded.

Ramna police said that they  
were also informed about the  
threat and had deployed spe-  
cial force in the school area to  
prevent any untoward inci-  
dent.

Following the threat, the  
school authorities took ex-  
treme caution in sending back  
the children to their guardians  
after school Tuesday.

Meanwhile, a rumour was  
rife in the city that one or two  
girls of the school had been  
kidnapped from the school  
area Tuesday.

However the school authori-  
ties and Ramna police sepa-  
rately dispelled the rumour  
and said they were not aware  
of any such kidnappings.

## Mixed reaction over Saifur's statement

By S Y Bakht

Mixed reactions, varying  
from guarded approval to strong  
criticism, yesterday greeted  
the statement of Finance  
Minister Saifur Rahman made  
on Sunday on wide-ranging  
issues focusing on the mobi-  
lisation of domestic resources,  
tax evasion and investment  
from outside, among other  
matters.

While the approval, border-  
ing on praise, came from ex-  
perts for the Minister's de-  
termined approach to all the  
issues under discussion, trade  
circles, contacted by The Daily  
Star, criticised Rahman for his  
"sweeping generalisations"  
about tax evaders and implied  
but unsubstantiated attack on  
the business community living  
in certain areas in Dhaka and  
Chittagong.

In his statement made on  
Sunday before a group of MPs,  
the Finance Minister said,  
without quoting any source,  
that only two out of a total of  
100 big companies had paid  
taxes and that most of the 200  
big businessmen evade their  
dues to the National Board of  
Revenue (NBR). In this re-

spect, he had specifically  
mentioned people living in  
Dhanmondi, Motijheel, Islam-  
pur, Gulshan and Baridhara as  
being the worst offenders.

Speaking on the basis of  
anonymity, like a few others  
contacted by this correspon-  
dent, one leading businessman  
disclosed that all the five com-  
panies he is involved in had  
paid their tax every year.  
"While several companies may  
evade their taxes," he said,  
"there are many who do meet  
their commitments on time."

Giving his personal opinion,  
Metropolitan Chamber of Com-  
merce and Industries (MCCI)  
President Morshed Khan  
asked why these people were  
not being assessed on the  
taxes due from them instead of  
their being treated more as a  
case of 'political persecution'?

"I think this indicates that  
there is something wrong with  
the system," he said, adding  
"the system loss in the taxing  
department has to be looked  
into with equal seriousness as  
that in the energy sector."

He said that a total restruc-

turing of the taxing system,  
with a built-in incentive to pay  
taxes, should be contemplated.  
Jamal Uddin Ahmed, a  
chartered accountant by pro-  
fession, and a former Deputy  
Prime Minister in the govern-  
ment of the late President  
Ziaur Rahman described the  
Finance Minister's statement  
as an "act of indiscretion,"  
adding that there should not  
have been a public discussion  
on the matter. "It only creates  
more confusion," he said.

The representative of a  
trade body felt that the  
Minister's blatant attack on the  
business community could  
adversely affect the credibility  
of the private sector and, to that  
extent, hinder the pace of pri-  
vatization in the country.

Another expert expressed  
the fear that by raising the  
issue of poor tax collection,  
against the backdrop of the  
need for maximum mobilisa-  
tion of domestic resources for  
development, Rahman was  
preparing the ground for a  
massive tax increase, both di-  
rect and indirect, in his com-

ing budget.

However, most observers  
agreed that instead of issuing  
alarm signals about tax evasion,  
the government should use the  
existing laws to go after the of-  
fenders.

In this respect, a senior  
Finance Ministry official said  
that the NBR has the total au-  
thority and all legal powers to  
deal with the tax evaders, from  
authorising 'swoops' to finding  
the records of hidden income  
to taking legal action.

The NBR is also authorised  
to set up appellate tribunals  
and even appoint the members  
to the tribunals, he pointed  
out.

However, he admitted that  
"inefficiency and corruption"  
in the taxation department  
also compromise the system in  
addition to individuals provid-  
ing false income statements.

He hoped that if the import  
and trade records became  
more transparent with the in-  
troduction of the value added  
tax (VAT) system in phases  
"such evasion on trading and  
commercial income would be-  
come difficult."

## Obhi, associates on police remand

By Court Correspondent

Former student leader  
Golam Farooq Obhi and his 15  
teen associates, who were ar-  
rested Monday last, were pro-  
duced before the Chief  
Metropolitan Magistrate Court,  
Dhaka yesterday (Tuesday).

The Detective police prayed  
for seven days police remand  
for all the accused persons.

The court allowed them 3  
days' police remand for inter-  
rogation. None appeared for  
their bail yesterday.

Detective police on secret  
information raided the Jagannath Hall of the Dhaka  
University and arrested Obhi,  
Manzurul Alam Liton,  
Khandakar Ashfaq, Farid  
Ahmed Sentu, Ekhlash Uddin  
Shisu, Sajjad Hossain, Masud  
Karim alias Ayub Ali, Mostafa  
Kamal alias Shameen,  
Hemayet Ahmed, Mozammel  
Haque, S M Oul Reza,  
Mosharrar Hossain and Swapna  
Kumar.

Police recovered a modern  
automatic pistol with 5 bullets  
from the possession of the ac-  
cused Imtiaz Ahmed Ouddu.

According to police, Golam  
Farooq Obhi, a notorious ter-  
rorist and former student  
leader and his associates  
assembled at Jagannath Hall  
for what the police source said  
committing heinous offence.

Golam Farooq Obhi was the  
principal accused in Dr  
Shamsul Alam Khan Milon  
murder case. His associate  
Khandakar Ashfaq was also  
an accused in the same mur-  
der case. Both the accused  
were acquitted on the charges  
by the judgment of the 2nd  
Additional District and  
Sessions Judge Court, Dhaka  
delivered on May 13.

Two separate criminal cases  
were registered with Ramna  
Police Station against Golam  
Farooq Obhi and his 15 other  
associates.