Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a seminar on "Prevention of Mater-nal and Child Malnutration in

PM: Malnutrition

Bangladesh" organised by Bangladesh Population Asso-ciation in the city yesterday.

From Page 1 Col 7

education, control of pre-

ventable diseases. Expanded

Programme of Immunisation

made for free distribution of

Vitamin A tablets for preven-

tion of blindness and produc-

tion of sufficient quantity of

todized salt and its easy mar-

keting had been ensured so

that goitre caused by iodine

deficiency could be prevented.

She said iodization of salt had

been made compulsory by the

the desired success in dissem-

ination of nutrition education

was achieved and the vulnera-

ble groups of the villages had

been brought to the focus of

development activities through

we are aware that there is no

room for complacency at the

success we have so far

achieved. Our preparation.

considering the enormity of

the problem is limited. We still

Describing the impact of

malnutrition in the country the

Prime Minister said about half

of the newly-born babies have

less than normal weight at the

time of their birth which is

the highest in the world, she

The Prime Minister said

physical growth of about 60

have a long way to go."

The Prime Minister said

the "safety net programme."

The Prime Minister said

next year.

Arrangements have been

and treatment facilities.

## Govt allows import of dish antenna

The government has decided that import, use and giving license of TVRO or dish antenna will remain open for all subject to the payment of existing tariff, tax and other duties on it. reports BSS.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting held at the conference room of Ministry of Information under the chairmanship of Information Minister Nazmul Huda.

The meeting was attended by Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Keramat Ali, Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Industry Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Information, Secretary, Post and Telecommunications and senior officers of the concerned ministries and organisations.

The meeting held detail discussions on implementation of the decision taken at a reeent cabinet meeting regarding import, production and use

of dish antenna in Bangladesh. Intending people to know about the existing tariff, tax

Rima murder

## Defence terms phone call as 'dubious'

The hearing of appeal against the judgement in the Rima murder case continued for the third day vesterday before a High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Badruzzaman and Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin, reports BSS.

Senior Advocate M A Malek appearing on behalf of Munir Hossain placed evidences of prosecution witnesses that on April 9, 1989 at 8 pm a journalist without giving name and particulars just informed to Humayun Kabir Chowdhury. the maternal uncle of deceased Rima, that she was murdered by Munir but this journalist never identified himself and nobody knew who murdered

Malek also mentioned that the question arose, how some body posing as a journalist could say Rima was murdered by Munir. So the telephone call to Humayun Kabir Chowdhury

on the date mentioned was motivated and dubious in nature because no journalist till today had come forward to say that he was the person who informed the matter to Chowdhury or to any resident of the victims father, late Nizamuddin Ahmed's house.

He further mentioned that the sheath of USA made knife was found on April 23 from the place of occurrence but the knife reportedly recovered by a child and seized by Demra police and subsequently produced in the court two weeks later, was made in Switzerland.

The hearing will resume on tomorrow. Serajul Huq, M A Malek ap-

peared on behalf of appellant while, Attorney General Aminul Huq, Deputy Attorneys General A F M Shahid, Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Assistant Attorney General Obaidur Rahman Mostafa appeared for the state.

and nepotism further aggra-

vated the misery of the peo-

party of non-fulfilment of its

election pledges, Hasina said,

"they are enjoying power for-

getting their commitment to

essentials, increasing lawless-

ness and growing unemploy-

ment have already generated

frustration among the people,

she said. Any fresh burden of

taxes on gas, electricity and

water as well as enhanced rail

fares would further increase

party for repression on its po-

litical opponents and warned

that autocracy must succumb

to the combined strength of

the masses. Autocratic Ershad

was not spared by the people.

The opposition leader also

rebuked the government for

"blacking out" opposition news

in state-run radio and televi-

sion. "Begum Zia is virtually

ruling the country, stepping

into Ershad's shoes and

trenching nearly one lakh in-

dustrial workers, she warned

that the government will not

be allowed to do it without ar-

ranging alternative employ-

the number of industrial work-

ers was recorded at one crore

15 lakh in 1975 when the total

population was seven and a half

crore. But the number of

workers gradually came down

to only 45 lakh when the

population has risen to over 11

The rate of unemployment

has increased to 50 per cent

presently from 15 per cent in

The Awami League chief

also addressed a public meet

ing at Kathirhat High School

premises. One her way from

Chittagong to Fatikchhari, she

also addressed as many as 16

wayside gatherings. Earlier,

Hasina visited the houses of

martyred Awami League and

Chhatra League workers and

consoled the members of the

1975, she added.

bereaved families.

Quoting statistics, she said

Criticising the move for re-

putting on his spectacles."

Hasina charged the ruling

the sufferings of people.

she reminded.

ment for them.

crore.

Unbridled price-hike of

Also accusing the ruling

ple", she alleged.

the people".

## Hasina at Fatikchhari

From Page 1 Col 7 bloody conflicts to drive the nation to a civil war.

Hasina accused the Jamaat-Shibir forces of spoiling the sanctity of mosques by using the sacred place of worship as their party offices. She called on all true Muslims and her party workers to perform their prayers in mosques and maintain its sanctity at all costs.

"People won't allow them (Jamaat-Shibir) to use mosques as their party offices ... Our people are religious minded but not fanatics", the Awami League chief said. Beware of these misinter-

preters of Islam", she cautioned. Hasina, reiterating her demand for trial of Golam Azam.

said war criminals all over the world are still being searched out and put on the dock. "Unfortunately, war criminals in Bangladesh are being reha-She, however, said the new generation has become con-

scious about the conspiracy of the anti-liberation elements and this was manifested in the trial of "war criminal" Golam Azam on March 26 by the "Gano-Adalat" (people's court). "It is now the responsibility of the government to execute its verdict."

Criticising the government for not responding to the verdict, the Awami League leader alleged that the present government allowed Golam Azam, a foreign national, to dabble in politics and hatch plot against the country.

Presided over by local Awami League leader Zahirul Haq, the meeting was addressed by Pulin Dey, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Ivy Rahman, Mosharraf Hossain, Abdullah Al-Harun, Abdul Mannan, Syed Natibul Bashar, MP, A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Ishaq Miaj and newly elected Chhatra League President Mainuddin Hasan Chowdhury.

The Awami League President criticised the BNP government for what she said not resolving the basic problems facing the .common people. "Its 14 months of misrule, inefficiency, corruption

vised to contact National Board of Revenue.

and other duties on import of

dish antenna have been ad

The meeting decided that industry for manufacturing of dish antenna can be set up under the existing industrial policy to bring down the price level of dish antenna within the reach of the people. The Information Ministry will also take decision on the licence fee for use of dish antenna which will be made known to all through a government notification soon. However, any body can import and use dish antenna or TVRO paying the existing tariff, tax and other duties pending the publication of government notification on license fee.

The meeting further decided that after the issuance of the government notification on licence fee, the users of dish antenna or TVRO will have to pay licence fee and other related fees as per the provision of the notification.

#### Court orders release of Zeenat

A High Court Division bench Tuesday ordered release of Zeenat Mosharraf from Detention if she is not wanted in any other case, reports BSS.

The court comprising Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil and Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq delivering the judgement said that the order of her detention was without lawful author-

Rokonuddin Mahmud and Murad Reza appeared for the petitioner.

Deputy Attorney General Shahabuddin Ahmed appeared for the state.

#### Nor'wester hits 3 Sirajganj upazilas: 25 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, May 19: A storm with a speed of 70 miles per hour swept over three upazilas of the district Monday night injuring at least 25 peoplc, reports UNB.

The nor'wester that lasted for nearly 45 minutes hit Sadar, Belkuchi and Kamarkandh upazilas at around 9 pm damaged homestead over 300 partially and some completely.

Agriculture Extension Department said that standing boro crops on about 3,000 acres of land were damaged. Electric poles and trees were also uprooted.

Besides, the storm also caused considerable damage on Mango groves of the affected upazilas.

#### Foreign exchange reserve up

The foreign exchange reserve at the Bangladesh Bank at the end of April last stood at 1382.21 million US dollar against 735.43 million US dollar during the corresponding period last year, registering an increase of 646.78 million US dollar, Bangladesh Bank press release said in Dhaka Tuesday. reports BSS.

The reason for the increase in reserve can be attributed to higher opening balance during the current fiscal year (about 361 million US dollar higher) against the previous fiscal year's opening balance.

During the current year the balance was 880.80 million dollar while it was 520.20 million US dollar during the previous fiscal year.

Higher receipts of foreign exchange owing mainly to increased export earnings and increased remittances by the Bangladeshis working abroad. less payment to IMP by way of debt servicing.

#### 25 injured as police, workers clash at Adamjee

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, May 19: Police lathicharged and dispersed a workers rally in the Adamjee Jute Mills premises at noon today.

The Adamiee Jute Mills Sammilita Pratirakkha Committee this morning called a rally and a symbolic hunger strike at the Shapla Chattar in the mills premises to protest an alleged 'conspiracy' to shut down the mills.

But the committee was obstructed by police from holding the rally and workers were

A statement by Committee Convenor Advocate Shah Majharul Huq said about 25 workers were injured in the lathicharge.

Denouncing the incident the leader said, police prevented guests and also the special guest of the rally from entering the mills premises.

President Muavani's stopover in Dhaka last month, would provide an opportunity to develop "a" fruitful cooperation between the two countries in the light of South-South Cooperation."

Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman today be-

The Prime Minister said the under such circumstances all concern should contribute their mite for the welfare of the country and should not depend solely on the govern-Laying emphasis on the

per cent of female children

dren of the age group of six

months to six years was re-

tarded due to the lack of nu-

trition. She said every year

about 30,000 children become

blind because of Vitamin A de-

ficiency and half of them die

four women die just before or

after delivery of child. Most of

those who survive somehow

again fall victim to illness, dis-

eases and malnutrition, she

Begum Zia said one out of

within a few months.

and 55 per cent of male chil-

child healthcare and nutrition she said they are the symbol of our hopes and aspirations. They are the inheritors of our entity. A bright future had to be ensured for them through prevention of maternal and child malnutrition."

Calling upon all professional bodies, non governmental organisations and social workers to come forward with coordinated programmes in this regard, she said let us invest our collective talent, wisdom and labour to attain the goal to brighten the future of the chil-

### 'Quit Bengal' movement

- PID photo

against Jyoti CALCUTTA. May 19: The Union Minister of State for Sports, Mamata Banerjee, who is also the state Youth Congress I chief, today vowed the Quit India Movement.

Addressing a youth that a massive rally would be organised at the brigade pa rade ground for launching the movement.

She said that Congressmen remain in power any longer

who addressed the rally. Given the factional rivalries in the State Congress political observers viewed the sharing of the same platform by Mitra and Banerice as an attempt to

Bancrjee lost to Mitra in a president.

to launch a Quit Bengal movement against the CPI-M in the last week of August to mark the 50th anniversary of Congress-I rally. Banerjee said

could not allow Jyoti Basu to

following the ruling Left Front's misdeeds and to save Bengal from CPI-M oppression The WBPCC-1 President Somen Mitra was among those

demonstrate solidarity among themselves in the post organi sational poll period.

keenly contested election for the post of the state party



Bangladesh Railway Sramik League brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting government's move to retrench workers . - Star photo

## Uganda to recruit manpower

skilled manpower from Bangladesh for its on-going development projects, reports

This was indicated by Ugandan State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kirunda Kivejinja Tuesday on his arrival in Dhaka on a two-day official visit of Bangladesh.

Kivejinja, who flew in Dhaka on his way back home after attending NAM meeting in Bali, Indonesia, was received by State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan at the airport.

"Uganda looks forward to taking teachers from Bangladesh for its universities and other educational institutions," he told newsmen at the airport.

The minister from the East African state said the visit, follow up of his country's

He will meet Education

former British colonies in the fields of agriculture, education and technical cooperation.

Replying to a question, he also showed interest in purchasing more jute goods and other commodities from Bangladesh.

There is a broad-based understanding between Dhaka and Kampala in political and economic fields," a sentor official here said. Both are members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) and the Commonwealth.

LAGOS, May 19: At least 300 people have been killed in two days of religious and ethnic fighting in northern Nigeria, diplomats in the troubled city of Kaduna said today.

been killed. It is terrible and sad', a foreign diplomat told Reuters from Kaduna, political heartland of Nigeria's mainly Muslim north.

"I saw mortuaries and hospitals filled with the injured and corpses, some beaten beyond recognition. Others had vard. slit throats", he said.

#### Political clash leaves 14 hurt in Nepal

KATHMANDU, May 19: At least 14 people were hurt in a clash between Communist activists and the ruling Nepali Congress in the western city of Pokhara, the Nepalese Home

both Nepali Congress and opposition Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) activists.

225 kms (140 miles) west of here, told AFP by telephone that police had opened fire Monday after using teargas to try to disperse protesters against the Nepali Congress.

Hussain Talukder. Chief of the Reading Section of the Daily Ittefaq, died of a heart attack at his residence at Mugdapara in the city early Tuesday, a press release said, reports He was 50.

Talukder left behind his mother, wife, two sons, two daughters and a large number of colleagues and well-wishers to mourn his death.

His Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Mugdapara mosque after Zohr prayer and later he was buried at Azimpur grave-

# **Lankan Tamils arrested**

NEW DELHI, May 19: Indian police on Monday arrested five more Shri Lankan Tamils in connection with the assassination of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi last year, the United News of India (UNI) reported. Quoting police sources, it said those arrested had helped in providing hideouts for the prime suspect Sivarasan and his accomplices, reports Reuter.

The Midnight File

Rajiv murder: Five more

#### Gunmen kill six in Hyderabad

HYDERABAD (Pakistan). May 19: Masked gunmen on motorcycles sprayed bullets in a street in the southern Pakistani town of Hyderabad, killing six people and wounding five, police said today. They said the nine gunmen escaped on three motorcycles after the shooting on Monday night, reports

## WB proposal

From Page 1 Col 7

farmers' access to the water reservoir lying below 6 to 8 metres, the government said that deregulation would limit the availability of drinking water for millions of people in the country.

The government feels that it is important to maintain the ground water table at a certain level 'so as to cater to the needs of over a million of hand tubewells, the only source of clean drinking water for about 85 per cent of the country's total population

Besides, drawing down the water table below 6-8 metres would render thousands of ponds, tanks and other shallow-water bodies dry during lean seasons causing problems to domestic and livestock uses in rural Bangladesh, sources added

In addition, the closed-water fisheries already threat ened by excessive drawing of the ground water would be put in further crisis.

Sources further said that a strong lobby favouring importation of shallow and deep tube wells was trying to impress the government for defegulating their use.

Referring to adverse im pacts of these types of tube wells they said that when the number of deep tubewells has come down to 2000 from 22000 the same number has gone upto 32000 in the country. In addition, not more than 5 per cent of the global irriga

#### Storm

From Page 1 Col 8 parts of southeastern region. the Met official added.

The deep depression which formed over the southwest Bay on Sunday later turned into a cyclonie storm. Maritime ports of

Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla, however have been advised to keep hoisted local Cautionary Signal Number 3 (three)

Meanwhile, the capital experienced drizzle with a gale of wind Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, BSS adds: Khulna town, its adjoining areas and Mongla Tuesday evening experienced occasional gusty wind accompanied by light rainfall as an impact of depression in the Bay of Bengal which passed through the area after it became weak.

The sky remained overcast during the evening.

Loading and unloading in Mongla port was not hampered despite warning signal, port sources said.

tion requirement is met from ground water reserves.

Environmentalists feel that indiscriminate sittings of shallow and deep tubewells have already given rise to problems in certain areas of the country.

Environmentalists further warned that the ground water in Bangladesh was not an inexhaustible free commodity and priority needed to be attached to its rational use and its protection against over-exploitation and pollution.

Environmentalists argue. sound development and conservation policy should provide for preferential allocation of ground water giving appropriate weight to its different competitive uses and balancing short-term demands with long-term objectives in the interest of the present and the future generations.

#### Diarrhoea claims 5 in Noakhali

MAIJDEE COURT, May 19:

Diarrhoea claimed 5 lives in five upazilas of the district during the last 72 hours, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

Another 28 people, suffering from the disease, were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

One death was reported at Ramnathpur village in Sadar upazila Thursday and 4 others at East Nurpur of the same upazila Wednesday.

reportedly attacked by the disease that broke out in Sadar, Chatkhil, Chapainawabganj, Senbag and Begumgani upazilas during the period.

At least 2,000 people were

The cause of the sudden outbreak of the disease was attributed to acute scarcity of drinking water.

#### Murder

From Page 1 Col 8 Lalbagh police Tuesday

morning. The postmortem examination of the body was done at the Forensic Department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday but police

Abu Hossain supplied tobacco leaf in the area and he lived in the house alone. His wife Sufia Begum and his three years old son lived in his village Sariatpur.

are yet to receive the report.

Meanwhile Lalbagh police declined to comment on the motive for the murder. The murderers killed Abu Hossain and left the spot without taking anything from the house, they added.

# Death squads

From Page 1 Col 5 cleared early Tuesday morning by troops in a hail of gunfire, killing scores of people. A volley of gunfire was

heard nearby in mid-afternoon, after a mob reportedly attacked a police station to press demands that those arrested during the unrest be released. Chamlong Srimuang, a

former Bangkok governor and a key opposition leader, and close aides were arrested Monday, and a government-run television station reported that 4,000 people had been arrested when troops quelled the anti-Suchinda protest.

Pockets of rioters gathered in other central Bangkok areas, and in one incident, three buses were set ablaze.

But, following the government's warnings, the rest of the city emptied rapidly as hundreds of police were deployed late afternoon at key city intersections with rifles and shotguns. They also erected barricades on major avenues in an apparent bid to freeze all traffic and paralyze this city of some eight million

people. Government announcements over television repeat edly warned of the danger of motorcycle gangs. Monday night, hundreds of metercyclists spread throughout the capital, attacking police, smashing police boxes and traffic lights in an orgy of de-

struction. During his television broadcast. Suchinda accused a former military leader with links to the communist move-

ment 20 years ago of trying to subvert Thailand's democratic

system of government. He did not mention the person by name, but the description left no doubt that he was referring to former supreme commander Chaowalit Youngchaiyuth, who along with Chamlong, has been a key leader of the anti-

Suchinda protests. Air Chief Marshal Kaset Rojananil, the present supreme armed forces chief, told reporters that more opposition politicians may be arrested once police reports were in. He specifically mentioned former national security chief Prasong Soonsiri, a one time close aide to Chaowalit and now Chamlong's senior

political adviser. The American embassy here circulated a travel advisory issued by the US State Department that said Americans should 'defer travel to Bangkok, where clashes between police and protestor have spread to several areas of the central city.

Meanwhile Amnesty International today issued an 'urgent action' call to its members over the arrest Monday in Bangkok of political leader Chamlong Srimuang.

The London-based human rights watchdog organization said it considered Chamlong, a member of parliament, to be a prisoner of conscience' and added it was concerned that Thai authorities had issued warrants for six other demonstration organisers.

#### **Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam** Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd.,

52 Mottiheel 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 Bex No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.

Editor: S. M. Ali

# Uganda is likely to recruit

lathicharged.

fore leaving for Islamabad. Kivejinja said there is a prospect of developing cooperation between the two

300 killed in Nigerian riots

"Up to 300 people have

Ministry said today, Senior Home Ministry spokesman Ramananda Vaidya said the 14 injured included

A reliable source in Pokhara

#### Newsman dead Senior journalist Nurul