#### IFC to back private ventures

## Ryrie suggests changes in financial laws

tries, intends to finance private ventures in power, telecommunication and textile sectors in Bangladesh, reports

cheon meeting in Dhaka representatives.

However, meeting sources country and providing addieign investment.

He told the meeting that IFC is also interested in participating with equity in viable private projects here and ex-

tracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

deregulation and privatisation process to attract both foreign and local investment.

Bangladesh's private sector was represented at the meeting by Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) President

Mahbubur Rahman, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) President Latifur Rahman, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) President M Yunus, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) President A M Subid Ali, Bangladesh Pharmaceutical Association President Salman F Rahman and former MCCI President Syed Manzur Elahi.

Business leaders at the meeting insisted Ryrie on IFC's equity participation, particularly in medium and small private ventures in Bangladesh.

They proposed opening of an IFC window in Bangladesh to familiarise investors here with IFC activities in investment promotion in the private sector.

Ryrie, however, offered to set up an "information Advisory Centre" in Dhaka to be managed by IFC with direct participation of local private

The proposed centre will be equipped to provide advisory services, including project appraisal, to the private sector entrepreneurs. According to business circle here, IFC's appraisal makes a project specially credible international financiers.

To a plea by the private sector representatives for the IFC to invest in purchasing disinvested public enterprises in Bangladesh, Ryrie said his institution may consider such a possibility provided the projects are viable.

IFC's direct participation in Bangladesh is so far very insignificant.

said privately that the number

count them. We're too busy try-

ing to look after them," said

one nurse at Jamhuriat

Hospital as he scurried down

the corridor packed with

groaning patients and their

and its Iranian-backed ally,

Hezb-e-Wahadat, steadily poun-

ded central and southeastern

Kabul, hitting government

military bases as well as abode-

walled houses, apartment

get me I will be arrested. But

what can I do ? These things

have strong demand," said

A porter of Fakirerpoo

Bazar in the capital, Manju had

opened an innocent looking

'agarbatti' stall where he also

sold an assortment of fire

crackers to earn a few extra

According to the city hos

pital officials, more than 50

teenagers were treated

throughout the Shab-e-Barat

night until mid-day Monday.

Police at different stations

Dhaka on Shab-e-Barat

Fire Department officials

evening picked up more than

100 boys. Many of them were

said that more than a dozen

small fires broke out from

cracker bursts since Sunday

evening. In two incidents, one

palm tree caught fire a

Gandaria while another co-

conut tree at Tejgaon

Computerised

information

network opens

today

By Staff Correspondent

for exchanging information be-

tween traders in Asia and

Europe will be inaugurated to-

Anwar will open the comput-

crised information network

this morning at a seminar at

Traders, investors, busi-

nessmen, bankers and indus-

trialists will take part in the

Commerce Minister M K

An international network

Begunbari area.

day (Tuesday).

Sonargaon Hotel.

released the following day.

Many were admitted.

The radical Hezb-e-Islami

frightened families.

"We don't have time to

could be in the hundreds.

Related Story on Page 6

# Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia inaugurating the Handicraft- Show 93 arranged by

BDR Women Welfare Association at Peelkhana BDR Complex in city Sunday. - PID photo

#### RU students

From Page 1 Col 5 Saturday.

Saturday's clashes between the supporters of Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) and rival Allparty Students Unity (APSU), a conglomerate of 13 student bodies, instantly left three people death and some 500

est in the history of Rajshahi University forced the closure of the University sine die. The authorities also asked the students to vacate the halls.

More than 40 serious injured were still under treat ment at RMCH while a number of others shifted to Dhaka for better treatment, on-duty doctor of RMCH told The Daily Star over telephone.

Some of the injured lost their eyes, some hands and some others legs, the doctor said adding that "we released some of them for better treatment in safety.

ted 150 students with 75 critically injured, he added. Three were shifted to Dhaka. Witnesses said that several

hundred APSU supporters brought out a procession in the city with the body of Amjad, covered with BNP and National

State Minister for Law Amirul Hug and a number of BNP and AL leaders were present at the procession.

The Rajshahi Metropolitan Police imposed a ban on meetings and procession in the city for one week from Sunday to

Our Rajshahi University correspondent said that Tapan was a First Year student of Applied Chemistry Department and hailed from Madaripur district while Amjad was a student of Political Science who

ing authority's order and the campus was being guarded by the BDR and police.

They also demanded resigna-

tion of RU VC and Pro-VC. Local BNP leader Ekhlaque Hossain, AL leader Advocate Mohsin, Workers Party leader Fozle Hossain Badsha, Shafigur Rahman of CPB and Masum

sent at the press conference. Meanwhile, APSU has called a two-hour token hartal from 9 am on Thursday. It would also hold a rally on Wednesday.

velopment, Rajshahi Government University College was closed for two days following an attack on the principal's office by a group of unruly stu-

pal's office was ransacked Monday when a procession of Chhatra Oikya protesting the Saturday's incident in RU was

Police rushed to the spot and brought the situation under control. But the authorities closed the college apprehending further untoward incident. Another report says, Raj-

shahi Medical College was closed sine die yesterday. Bangladesh Television quot

ing authorities last night said the RMC students have been asked to vacate their halls by 10 am today.

#### Related Story on Page 2 RU probe body

RAJSHAHI, Feb 8: Rajshahi University (RU) authorities formed a three-member committee, with Prof Farrukkhalil as convenor, to probe into Saturday's incident on RU

The other members of the committee are Prof Fakhrul Islam and Syed Rafiqul Alam.

#### 6 killed, 30 hurt in road mishap

persons were killed and at least 30 were injured today when a Netrokona bound passenger bus from Mymensingh skidded off the road at Isabpur near Netrokona on Mymensingh- Netrokona Highway.

PM tells a reunion of BDR men

The Paily Star

### Perform duties staying above all allurements

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Sunday asked members of Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) to perform their duties with courage and confidence and staying above all allurements, reports UNB.

"Use iron hands in curbing smuggling in the greater interest of the country and the nation," she told the BDR men at a reunion at Peelkhana BDR headquarters here in the morning.

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina, Ministers, chiefs of the three services diplomats and senior civil and military officials were present at the BDR Reunion-93. Begum Zia said smuggling is

"it hampers production, brings stagnancy in industrialisation and increases unemployment." Lauding the present role of BDR in checking smuggling,

a curse on national economy as

she expressed her firm belief that it will be totally stopped if the efforts are continued. The Prime Minister also praised the BDR personnel for their role in maintaining coun-

try's internal security, law and order and ensuring safety to life and property of the people. She said the contribution of BDR is memorable in the process of consolidating democracy through ensuring a peaceful and disciplined election.

She appreciated the BDR

the parade and took salute.

The Prime Minister during

infiltration from across the

activities for preventing illegal

Reminding that the BDR personnel were also the sons of this soil, Begum Zia said they had scope of helping the people of the country in different ways. "While on leave, you can motivate the people of your area to participate in different development activities including education, tree plantation and family planning." The Prime Minister said

the present government is pledgebound to ensure overall development of the BDR and assured that all possible measures will be taken to mod ernise the force.

Begum Zia recalled the role of the Rifles during the Liberation War and paid rich tributes to those who laid down their lives for the cause of independence. She particularly mentioned the names of Shaheed Ln Nk Munshi Abdur Rauf Bir Shrestha and Shaheed Ln Nk Nur Muhammad Sheikh Bir Shrestha in this regard.

Begum Zia was given a guard of honour. She reviewed

her stay at the BDR headquarters also inaugurated the Rifles Mahila Kalyan Samity Handicraft Exhibition-93 at the BDR complex.

## DESA snapping power lines without notice

Star Report

The Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) is disconnecting power lines of consumers without prior notice.

An essential service, DESA is required to serve a detailed notice before disconnecting any power supply line as per rules of the Electricity Act.

According to a notice to the concerned consumer with a minimum of seven days' time is mandatory under the law to disconnect any legal and authorised power

For quite some months, DESA is snapping electricity connections to domestic consumers who had allegedly failed to pay arrear bills.

As there is no prior notice, consumers have to face a lot of harassment during DESA's disconnection drive. Even domestic consumers who have no arrear dues, often fall victim to this operation.

DESA representatives go to the consumer's place during day hours on working days and disconnect power lines from the meter. They do not hesttate to snap the main connection from the pole outside the house, if they find the meter box or the consumer's house locked.

However, DESA people are kind enough to grant few minutes to the inmates of the consumer's house, if they find any, for showing the receipts of payment of all the arrear

But, during working hours of the day, the owner of the house, or head of the family or even adults usually remain outside. So the inmates present -

#### Gopalganj From Page 1 Col 7

At one stage, the villagers

apprehended all the seven. Three of the critically wounded Sarbaharamen died on the spot while four others were admitted to Kotalipara Thana Health Complex and later shifted to Gopalganj Sadar Hospital. The next day another group

of Sarbahara activists launched a second attack on the UP Chairman's residence in the early morning. They asked the villagers to keep out and started firing at the Chairman's house. Police returned the gunsire but at one stage retreated. Two villagers were killed in the crossfire.

housewives, minors or servants - fail to tackle the DESA men by producing the receipts immediately resulting in the power lines' being discon-

DESA went into such action in Gopibagh, Ramkrishna Mission Road, Motijheel and other areas last week where power lines to many houses were disconnected.

All the victims in the disconnection drive complained that they were not given notice while many of them alleged that their lines had been snapped on baseless claims by DESA.

One such consumer said that his power line was disconnected on DESA's plea that bills for some months of 1991 and early 1992 remained un-

"But, those bills were paid in time for which I have the receipts. My wife and I were out when the DESA people came and my servant was not supposed to know where the receipts were kept," said the annoyed consumer. He mentioned that it was DESA's fault as the payment for those months were not recorded in its accounts.

Similar incidents were reported by many consumers in different areas of the city.

DESA disconnected the power line to a house in Banani while the owner was away leaving a caretaker in the house. Later, it was found that all the electricity bills of the consumer in that house had been paid on time.

prior notices to consumers were served with adequate time to realise arrear dues, then the concerned persons would have the opportunity to contact DESA and settle the claims, if any. "Prior notice to consumers

Observers believed that if

individually before disconnection is the only way to avert harassment to the people," said observers, adding that general notice of DESA in newspapers was not adequate in this regard. When contacted, a high of-

ficial of DESA said that they were issuing public notices through the media to pay the arrear bills to avoid disconnection of power lines. However, he acknowledged that the provision for issuing prior notice to consumers for disconnection still existed under the Electricity Act.

#### Shab-e-Barat observed

The fiely Shab-e-Barat was observed throughout the country Sunday night with due solemnity and religious fervour, reports BSS.

Quran khwant, mtlad mahfil, discussions and night-long prayers were held at all mosques and mahallas at the acgis of Islamic Foundation and other socio-cultural and religious organisations seeking the blessings of Almighty Allah.

Islamic Foundation, Bangladesh, held night-long discussions on the significance of Lailatul Barat, the night of fortune, milad mahfil, Quran khwani at Baitul Mukarram National Mosque. Bang adesh Sirat Mission

held Quran khwani, milad mahfil and discussion on the significance of the night at Patuatuli Jame Mosque. Similar discussion and milad mahfil were also held at all other mosques throughout the coun-

Devotees visited the graves of Muslim saints and peers and their near and dear ones and offered Fatcha there.

Muslims also feed the desti-

The night-long prayers was followed by Akheri Munajat after Fazr prayers at all mosques including Baitul Muka rram National Mosque. People sought blessings of the Almighty Allah for the peace progress and prosperity of the country and brotherhood of Muslim ummah.

The holy night was followed by public holiday yesterday.

#### Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5 While giving an account of the ruling party's 'undemocratic attitude towards her party, Hasina said the government was interfering with the independent functioning of the Election Commission. She cited the cases of recently held Mirpur by-election and the police atrocities on the AL activists across the country in support of her argument.

The alleged attempt on the life of Sheikh Hasina at Chittagong also came up at the meeting as a reference to the government's autocratic attitude towards the AL.

We shall protest the government's undemocratic activities in and outside Parliament peacefully until the AL is pushed to a point of no-return by the government', Hasina told the meeting. She observed that her party had a vital role to play in consolidating hard earned democracy.

She instructed her colleagues in the Working Committee to make necessary preparations to make the countrywide half-day hartal scheduled for tomorrow a suc-

The meeting felt for submitting a writ petition in the High Court against the government for its alleged interference in working of the Election Commission in conducting the Mirpur by-elec-

"We have adequate evidence in favour of our claim relating to the government interference with the commission, a senior AL leader who was present at the Sunday's meeting told The Daily Star last night on condition of anonymity adding." We shall produce evidence in the High Court".

#### Book fair From Page 1 Col 8:

Panna Kaisar, Prof Safiuddin

Ahmed, Prof Jubaida Gulshan Ara and Farida Akhtar took part in the discussion on the first book while Prof Mohammad Maniruzzaman, Dr Mohammad Hannan and Muhammad Jahangir, on the second book. Reading on language and literature and cul-

tural shows followed the dis-

cussion meeting.

Earlier on Sunday discussions on "Rabindranather Nobel Pureshkarprapto Geetanjoli", edited by Abdur Rashid "Bangla Sahityer Samalochana" by Afzalul Bashar were held at the academy premises. Prof Hayat Mamud, Dr Khaliquzzaman Elias, Prof Azhfar Hossain, Prof Jahangir Tarek and Prof Golam Mustafa participated in the discussion on the two books.

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote organised a recitation programme Monday afternoon at the Central Shaheed Minar on the occasion of the Amar Ekushey. Meanwhile, a group of stu-

dents took away a number of books from the stall of Oasis Books Sunday evening. One salesman of the stall told The Daily Star that the group of students earlier expressed its reservation about four books containing criticism of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and the Awami League.

Today's programme of Bangla Academy: Discussion on "Promito Bangla Bananer Niom" of Bangla Academy and reading from Bengali prose and drama.

## The Midnight File

#### Mitterrand, Kohl nominated for Nobel Peace Prize

OSLO, Feb 8: French President Francois Mitterrand and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl have been jointly nominated for the 1993 Nobel Peace Prize for working towards a united Europe, Norwegian parliamentarians said today. "Kohl and Mitterrand have both worked for a united Europe", said Tor Mikkel Wara, one of three parliamentarians from Norway's right-wing Progress Party who signed the nomination, reports Reuter.

#### 80 burnt to death in Lagos

LAGOS, Feb-8: At least 80 people were burnt to death today when their passenger bus caught fire in Lagos, Nigeria's commercial capital, state radio said, reports Reuter.

#### General election in **Australia March 13**

CANBERA, Feb 8: Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating called a general election today for March 13. His announcement followed the Labour Party's defeat in state elections Saturday in Western Australia, reports AFP.

## AL creating confusion

From Page 1 Col 3 election result was concerned, the BNP candidate won by a margin of 2592 votes."

According to the results announced by the Returning Officer, he added, of the total 1,66,578 valid votes cast the BNP candidate bagged 80,127 to the AL candidate's 77,535.

He noted that ballots were counted in all the 117 centres in the presence of the polling agents of the candidates. "None of the polling agents, either from the BNP or the AL. had raised any objection in any of the centres."

Saying that all the result sheets had been duly signed by the presiding officers, he added, "There was no scope at all for anybody, even for the Returning Officer, to change anything on the result sheets by any means and there had been no difficulty in checking the results."

The BNP Secretary General blasted the opposition Awami League for resorting to hartals, violence and chaos instead of accepting the verdict of the people as announced by the Election Commission, while noting that his party "always" accepted the verdict even when BNP candidates lost in three by-elections by narrow margins.

Noting that the Election Commission had conducted the 1991 general elections, union parishad, pourashava and all the by-elections with remarkable fairness and integrity, Talukder accused the Al. of seeking to disregard the fairness and neutrality of the

The press conference was also attended by BNP standing committee members, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed Food Minister Shamsul Islam and Information Minister Nazmul Huda, Joint Secretary General and Works Minister Raliqul Islam Miah, Mayor Mirza Abbas and Mir Shawkat

Barrister Talukder regretted that the AL was trying to create confusion among the people by making an "unnecessary issue" out of the UNB report telecast by Bangladesh Television.

He said that the news agency's report could not influence the result as the polling had ended by that time and counting of ballots was done in presence of the polling agents. "It (the UNB report) could not in any way influence the results as the counting was completed ear-

He added that preliminary unofficial results had always been declared and that there was nothing wrong with that. "No election rules are violated and it does not compromise the ethics of journalism," he said while noting that the unofficial results could either be given by the election commission or gathered by reporters from their own sources, because of a "competitive" environment.

He added that such incidents also happened before but BNP never objected to them. The BNP Secretary General

#### Mahathir's visit

From Page 1 Col 5 He will fly to the port city of

Chittagong the next day to visit the Export Processing Zone. The Malaysian Prime Minister will proceed to Pakistan from Chittagong on a three-day trip. The five-year cultural coop-

eration accord that expired in 1983 is expected to be renewed while another agreement on assistance in sports is likely.

According to official sources, Malaysia will provide financial and technical assistance to lay astro turf on the National Hockey Stadium in Dhaka under the sports ac cord. The cultural accord provides for exchange of scholar ships to students and cultural

teams. The Prime Minister will be accorded a civic reception by the Dhaka City Corporation when he will be presented with a key to the Dhaka city.

said even in 1991 the TV presentator, while announcing 12 constituencies results, told the viewers that the election was clearly turning in favour of a party (Awami League).

But BNP had not raised any question about the neutrality of the BTV under the neutral government, he said, adding that the first unofficial results of the 1991 parliamentary polls had shown 140 seats, bagged by BNP but two days later officials announcement showed 138 seats for BNP snatching away two seats from it and even at that time also BNP had not raised any objection for the sake of greater national interest. He alleged that the Awami

documents by helicopters to the Ganobhaban, disregarding the existence of the Election Commission. The BNP Secretary General said that the AL leaders, after the defeat, were creating con-

League government during the

parliamentary election of 1973

had shifted all the election

fusion and that even their own figures did not match. He noted that Sheikh Selim told parliament that the AL candidate had won by a margin of 1800 votes while Tofael Ahmed placed the figure at

Furthermore, Talukder added, Motty a Choudhury claimed the AL candidate bagged 79,000 votes while the candidate himself claimed 79,900 in a press conference and his

chief pol'ing agent said that he

1752 and Motiya Choudhury at

won 79,952 votes. Talukder also noted that Sheikh Hastna demanded repolling in 16 centres at the Jatiya Sangsad while the AL candidate demanded repolling in 19 centres at the press conference.

Referring to the relevant clauses of the Election Act, he said "only on the ground if polling is postponed" in any of the centres and based on the report of the presiding officer and the election commission "can re-polling be done."

Referring to the delay in announcing the poll results, he said that the reason given by the returning officer was that tabulation at the control room was suspended after 8 pm on Wednesday because of the law and order situation created by AL supporters. "They (the AL supporters) gheraoed the control room and demanded the declaration of the results right

there and then," he alleged. Talukder questioned how the AL supporters could bring victory processions as early as 5 pm and why did they try to force the declaration of the re-

Replying to a question about allegations that the DMP Commissioner held a closed-door meeting with the Assistant Returning Officer at the control room, he termed it "completely fabricated and baseless"

However, he added that there was nothing wrong in the Police Commissioner's visiting the control room "even if he was not asked to come", as he was responsible for law and

Talukder said that allegations that the returning officer visited Sugandha was an "absolute and total lie".

Replying to another question, Talukder said that he was not aware why Kamal Siddiqui, the Prime Minister's Secretary, went to the Election Commission. But added that perhaps it was to inform the Chief Election Commissioner about the disturbances at the control room.

Referring to hartals on the issue of election results, Salam Talukder said the government had no plans to resist hartal. "It's up to the people to resist hartal or spontaneously observe it". "Hartals one after another

without any issue, walkout without any cause, raising issucs by Awami League rising above rules in the House and speaking by thumbing Speaker's ruling will only destabilise democracy," the BNP Secretary General said.

#### International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank affiliate financing private business in developing coun-

The IFC's willingness was expressed by its visiting **Executive Vice-President Sir** William Ryrie during a lun-Sunday with the country's leading private sector

said, Ryrie strongly suggested necessary amendment to the existing financial laws of the tional facilities to attract for-

tending credit to such ven-Sources quoting observations of the IFC chief executive at the meeting said Bangladesh is still to go a long way in at-

The urgent need, according to Pyrie, is to further initiate

Also he reportedly stressed the need for promotion of a congenial environment for investment as well as implementation of policies to generate "confidence" among investors.

Heavy rocket attack on Kabul: 54 killed

KABUL, Feb 8: Rockets and mortars slammed into the presidential palace compound and surrounding neighbourhoods Monday, one of the bloodiest in three weeks of fighting between government troops and dissident rebels, reports AP.

State-run Kabul Radio said

at least 54 people were killed

and more than 100 injured by

missiles that damaged homes mosques and government buildings. But doctors said the casual tics were the heaviest in any

single day of fighting since Jan buildings and foreign em-19, and government officials Firework frolic on

Shab-e-Barat

Manju Via.

By Masud Hasan Khan Nayan, a 12-year-old boy from Mirpur, was groaning on the bed of Dhaka Medical College Hospital casualty ward with upper part of his body

The skin of his entire face

and neck was scaled off, part of his hair charred and there were blotches all over his arms and legs. Navan is one of scores of teenagers who landed in the

severely burned.

city hospitals Sunday night with burn wounds - marks that were left by a flery fun on Shab-e-Barat (the night of fortune).

aid from nearby drug stores or were treated at home. Like many other Shab-e-Barat evening, city kids this year went for an all night fun setting off crackers and light-

ing other fire works.

There were many who suf-

fered minor injuries took first

also seen lighting gleefully the crackers to the joy of their children. At some places, kids were seen lobbing burning silver rains from pavement at the passersby.

A section of parents were

Long night of prayers, in which fate is believed to be bestowed for the next year, was punctuated by innumerable cracker bursts and holler of the kids. "I could not pray properly,"

said one devotee from Moti-

jheel government staff quarters," it seemed that we were living in Bosnia-Harzegovina." A section of the pavement vendors that sell incense sticks on the eve were also party to the fun. Some of them secretly supplied these incendiaries to the teenage boys. But to an enquiring adult, they claimed that all they sold were harmless agarbattis and can-

ers are banned and if police Editor: S. M. Ali

"I know sales of fire crack-

**Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam** Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motificel

C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at The Sangbad Ltd., 36 Purana Paltan, Dhaka. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11; Road No. 3; Dhanmondi R/A., Dhaka-1205. PABX 600092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA.

## others injured.

The clashes, seen as sever-

Initially the hospital admit-

avert violent incident.

was from Pirganj. The source said that all the students left the halls follow-

Later, the All-party Action Committee held a press conference demanding removal of RMP Commission Rafigul Alam.

Ahmed of JSD (Inu) were pre-

UNB adds: In another de-

dents. Witnesses said the princi-

passing by.

campus, reports BSS.

NETROKONA, Feb 7: Six