## 7 killed, 57 hurt in road mishaps

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven people were killed and 57 others injured in separate road accidents in Feni and Tangail yesterday.

UNB from Feni reports, three people, including a minor girl, were killed in two separate road accidents in Sadar thana early yesterday.

Witnesses said Mohammad Bahar, 28 and Abdul Haque, 30, were doing repairing work of their truck at about 3 am at south Kashempur on Feni-Matidee road. Suddenly an other vehicle hit the truck from behind and both the youngmen working under the truck were run over.

Both the bodies were sent to Sadar hospital for autopsy.

In another incident Sayeda, 9. of the same thana was killed when a vehicle knocked down her near Lalapol on Feni bypass road. Her body was sent to morgue at about 7 am for au-

Two cases have been filed with the police.

BSS adds: Three passengers including one woman were killed in a road accident on Tuesday on Tangail-Mymenshingh highway near Rasulpur Bridge -about two miles from Tangail town.

Fiftyseven passengers were injured of whom eighteen were admitted to Tangail Sadar Hospital. Three persons were sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The accident occurred when two passenger busesone bound for Dhaka from Jamalpur and the other from Tangail for Mymensingh — met a head-on collision.

A case was registered with Tangail thana.

balance of payment situation,

controlling inflation, increas-

ing foreign reserves and in

other areas, she said "I have

not known many countries that

have achieved so much in such

the financial sector reforms

still had "a long way to go,

while noting that the supervi-

sory and regulatory capability

of the Bangladesh Bank had to

be geared-up, banks needed to

be restructured encouraging

greater degree of competition

for the nationalised commer

Saying that removal of the

local currency constraint as a

counterpart fund for project

implementation was a "huge

step forward" the World Bank

executive said "The govern-

ment is now in a position to

Hamilton, however, pointed

utilise foreign aid effectively."

out that project implementa-

tion is hampered by certain

constraints. "The project im-

plementation capacity is a con-

straint," she said, while sin-

gling out the "workings of a

very complex system" as hin-

dering utilisation of foreign

have already been initiated to

improve project implementa-

tion, she noted, including

simplification of project pro-

cessing procedures and new

The government, Hamilton

methods for land acquisitions.

added, is also working on vet-

ting all the projects and re-al-

locating funds to priority areas.

The government has already

expressed interest in diverting

such funds to the education

Pruning exercises have also

been undertaken to evaluate

the quality of the projects be-

ing implemented. "Efficiency

of investment has improved

ternational aid climate has be-

come "very bad and competi-

tive as supply is shrinking

while demand (for aid) is in-

creasing," Hamilton, however,

said that there is no fear of an

immediate decline in foreign

foreign aid the way it can then

would be no problem in main-

taining the aid flow to

to meet the disbursement

flows for sound projects, she

tion in the power sector.

Hamilton said that as the need

of the sector is "greater than

any one agency or government

can meet," private participa-

tion is being encouraged in the

sector. "There are a whole lot

of areas where the private sec-

tor can take over," she added.

said that a World Bank mission

is currently negotiating with

the government to initiate the

jute sector restructuring pro-

ject. "I very much hope that an

accord can be reached on the

jute sector reform project, it is

very important for Bangladesh.

Naz cinema

From Page 1 Col 2

employees of the hall were re-

dead of the night.

pairing an aircooler in the

the sky in the dark of the

night some local people

rushed to the spot and tried to

extinguish the fire and in-

formed the Fire Service and

Kalyan Trust (Freedom

Fighters Welfare Trust) which

owns the building estimated

that the loss could be around

director of the trust said that a

six member inquiry committee

headed by one of its director

Lt Col (retd) Mohammad Ali

was formed to investigate the

building remained closed yes-

terday, official said.

Gulistan cinema in the same

When contacted managing

Meanwhile Muktijodha

Police, witnesses said.

Taka one crore.

incident.

The fire spread when some

When the flame illuminated

Reply to a question, she

On private sector participa

"If Bangladesh can utilise

am confident that there

There would be enough aid

aid for Bangladesh.

Bangladesh.

asserted.

Acknowledging that the in-

tremendously," she observed.

programmes.

Some government steps

However, she added that

a short time.

cial banks.

## Aid Club meet

From Page 1 Col 7

social and cultural obstacles to reforms can be overcome. The World Bank executive

expressed concern about the role of the labour unions and the effect of frequent wage hikes on the reform programmes undertaken by the government.

"The labour unions, it seems to me, are making the reform programme difficult, she saic "the wage increases should be in line with produc tion increases, it is necessary not to let wage outrun productivity?"

She also suggested reform in the civil service to increase the efficiency in project implementation.

Hamilton, however, termed the progress of the government's macro-economic stabilisation programme "impre-

Noting that "incredible" progress had been made in the

### Azam's case

From Page 1 Col 7 filled two other requirements and his domicile of origin revived when he surrendered his Pakistani passport, the defence lawyer pleaded.

Making queries, Justice Chowdhury said Bangladesh has its own law and it may say 'although you are born here. you have lost your citizenship as you collaborated with the enemies of the country."

Quoting the Attorney General from the earlier split judgement of a two-judge court, Justice Chowdhury said citizenship of Bangladesh is guided by law and with that it could disqualify one to be a

citizen. Barrister Yusuf referred to Article 2(I) of the Citizenship Order which provided that students and serviceholders stranded in Pakistan would be allowed to come back, but the government giving liberal construction to the law allowed all to return. This is also applicable for the petitioner, he

argued. The Awami League government with an intention did not incorporate with Bangladesh citizenship law the citizenship law of Pakistan which provides for cancellation of citizenship for treason, said the judge.

Justice Chowdhury said although Bangladesh adapted with the Pakistan Citizenship Act 1951, it did not incorporate that particular provision intentionally- to accommodate the collaborators, thinking as to where they would be sent if not accommodated.

Barrister Yusuf pleaded if Golam Azam's conduct is bad. he could be tried according to law of the land, but he cannot

be deprived of his citizenship.

### Shutdown

From Page 1 Col 7 Leaders of the jute-textile mills workers held such rallies at Adamjee, Ghorashal and other industrial areas of the Dhaka district in the past two days, they added.

The Workers Party has decided to hold a press conference Saturday to announce its support to the 48-hour strike and to call on other parties to

do so, party sources said. SKOP leader Abdus Salam Khan talking to some reporters at Topkhana Road yesterday evening said they would respond to any invitation by the government. However, he added any fresh talks must be on the implementation of the SKOP-gov-

ernment accords. Jute mills workers' union leader Abdul Bashar while talking to a group of reporters at his office last night said that the government could remove the deadlock only by announcing the Wage Commission report and fulfilling other de-

mands. When asked, he said, "We will go forward with vigorous programmes after the shutdown is over, and the government does not meet our demands.



Construction materials dumped on busy Gulshan road

- Star photo

### Construction materials block road

By Staff Correspondent

Heaps of construction ma terial have been dumpel on one of the busy and important roads in the posh Gulshan area. Rods, sand, shingles even bags of cement have been stored on the busy road running through the commercial centre of the area causing much inconve nience to vehicular traffic and pedestrians. At times trucks loaded with construction materials block the road waiting to be unloaded during busy hours of the day making it im possible to ply on.

Business and commercial houses of the area and residents, many of whom are for eigners and diplomats have brought the matter to the no tice of the concerned authorities and even ventilated their grievances through the columns of newspapers but to no avail.

### 178 more Rohingyas return home

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 4: One hundred seventy eight Rohingya refugees voluntarily went back to their homes in Myanmar through three transit camps at Teknaf here today, official sources said, reports

With this 32nd batch of repatriation, the total number of repatriated persons now stands at 21,908.

### India to build 12 more warships

NEW DELHI, Mar 4: India will manufacture 12 more war ships with state of the art technology by the end of the century to modernise its navy defence officials announced here today, reports AFP.

Minister of State for Defence M Mallikarjun told Parliament the navy's modernisation was a constant and ongoing development based on India's threat perception, maritime interests ... and budgetary resources.

The navy was in a state of preparedness to handle any exigency that may arise, he

### PM: China

From Page 1 Col 8 two countries.

Recalling China's gesture after the 1991 cyclone, she said the two peoples had many things in common.

She appreciated China's open policy of privatization and free market economy and informed the ambassador that similar steps have been taken in Bangladesh for speedy economic progress and prosper-

The Prime Minister invited Chinese entrepreneurs to invest in joint venture projects in Bangladesh and mentioned the incentives provided by her government in this regard.

Seeking Chinese support for developing the communication sector, Begum Zia said the China-Bangladesh Friendship Bridge over the river Buriganga is a symbol of deep friendship

between the two countries. She welcomed the Ambassador to his new assignment and assured him of all cooperation from her government during the tenure of his office in Bangladesh.

The Ambassador, reciprocating similar sentiments, said the visit of Begum Zia to China has left a place in the hearts of the Chinese people.

Conveying the best wishes of Chinese Premier Li Peng, the envoy recalled the relations between the two countries which marked significant progress during the government of late President Ziaur Rahman.

The Prime Minister conveyed her best wishes for the Chinese Premier and the President. As chairperson of BNP, she also conveyed greetings for the General Secretary of the Communist Party.

## Focus on Bajitpur

From Page 1 Col 5 grounds for the fish looters and the robbers. The nearest land is a distant line close to the horizon.

Talking to The Daily Star a 25-year-old fisherman Haripada Das said "We can fight the robbers and the loot ers who try to take away expensive nets and other fishing gear... but we are helpless against the 'legal robbery' by the mahajan's men supported by police.

He said that the systematic repression on the common fishermen begins when the money-lenders and other middlemen involve themselves in direct fishing.

The Bengla-Charabadha crisis started as the waterbody was leased out in April, 1991 for three years in return of Taka 8,05,600 a year as rev-

The smaller fishermen's cooperative societies could not take part in the bidding because the price was suddenly increased four-fold over the previous term's.

The local societies formed a kind of consortium and helped the Reformed Nauhata Matsyajibi Samabay Samity win the bid. The fishermen decided to

gather the necessary funds from a mahajan Kanchan Mia of Kuliarchar thana of the dis-The Samity members al-

leged that Kanchan Mia in a bid to maximise his profit and monopolise the local fish trading caused a split in the leadership of the society. The President Krishna

Dhan Das and General Secretary Jagadish Das banded with the money-lender, they added. The members of the society

wanted to haul in the catch at the end of the three year lease term so that the fish could grow up to the necessary sizes. But the Mahajan's group wanted to fish twice in the lease period for profits.

The general members and shareholders held a meeting December 1, 1992, ousted the leaders and replaced the executive committee by an ad-hoc

The general meeting of the society also decided to fish at the end of the lease period.

Following the meeting, several moves were initiated by the local member of Parliament and community leaders to mediate the rift.

But the ousted leaders of the society and the mahajan's men unilaterally hauled fish violating an earlier consensus that had suggested that fishing would be carried out under the supervision of both the groups.

As eight boatloads of fish were about to set off for Kanchan Mia's cold storage at Kuliarchar December 28, 1992, society members and the people of the nearby villages blocked the boats at the mouth of the Bengla-Charabadha.

The people asked Mia's men to sell the fish to the local traders and deposit the money in the bank.

In reply, a son of Kanchan Mia, Rubel, and his cronics opened fire on the people killing Sanjib Das of Kachua Khola village and injuring another 30.

### Six killed in Kashmir

violence

SRINAGAR, Mar 4: Six persons including four militants were killed in Jammu and Kashmir while 11 top militants were captured by security forces since yesterday evening, reports PTI.

Militants today abducted two policemen from a bus going from Baramulla to Srinagar. The two were identified as head constable Ghulam Nabi Nagashbandi and constable Mohammed Ramzan.

Eleven top militants including self styled district and area commanders of a militant out fit were captured by security forces. Large quantity of arms and ammunition were recovered from them.

### A wireless instruction from the Deputy Commissioner of

Kishoregani suspending fishing at Bengla-Charabadha to avert clashes reached Bajitpur when the shootout was over. Bijoy Das, father of slain Santib Das, filed a case against

lice did not include many names in the FIR. The father said that many of those earlier arrested on charges of murder were granted bail because of the poor framing of the case and

21 people. He alleged that po-

that they were pressing him to withdraw it. The injured Khagen Chandra Das in a written statement to the Kishoregani First Class Magistrate January 23 also alleged that the ac cused had offered him Taka

50,000 not to testify against

them. The fisherfolk of Dightrpar, Baliardi and Maijchar accused the local police and the Deputy Commissioner of siding with the moneyed mohajan.

Leaders of different political parties organised a series of protests at Bajitpur and Kishoregani towns. District police baton-

charged the demonstrators and detained several persons including even some school students Advocate Hasnat Kaiyum, a

local leader of Ganatantrik Biplobi Jote, was arrested and detained when led a proces sion to the DC's office to submit a memorandum. People of the riverside vil-

lages in the three unions leaders of the fishing commu nity and local parties said that nobody could now even utter a single word in support of the fishermen's rights. In a counter action, sup-

porters of the money-lender also filed a case against the fishermen and some of the leaders.

leader Arun Chakravarty said that he had been accused of looting fish.

"But I can prove that I was at the office of the Fisheries Minister on the day when the alleged looting took place", he

The local police, however, said that those voicing support for the fishermen "were robbers and we have information that these people possess unauthorised weapons.

Talking to The Daily Star in Kishoreganj town, DC Magkusudul Hug said that what is being done is dictated by the higher authorities. The DC would not name his

dictating superior.

Huq said that the fisherman Sanjib Das was killed by bullets from his fellowmen.

When asked why Advocate Hasnat Kaiyum was arrested, he said "We arrested him for another case earlier filed against him." Advocate Kaiyum is now in detention.

The DC said that the police action on the demonstration was taken because it was organised on the days of the hearing of the case.

A local MP, present at the DC's office during the interview, said that many of the leaders involved in the demonstration were Naxalites "and they demanded money from Kanchan Mia.'

### Serbs agree From Page 1 Col 8

Mladic's reply on Thursday.

A UN chartered convoy of a dozen-odd trucks converted into ambulances was blocked for the second day Thursday at Banja Koviljaca on the Serbian side of the Bosnian border awaiting the Serbian go-ahead, UNHCR official Tony Land said here earlier. AP adds: Bosnia's Muslim

government signed a military demobilization agreement Wednesday, in a step toward a comprehensive peace plan in their war-ravaged nation. Foreign Minister Haris

Silaidzic said the government received assurances that heavy weapons would be placed under UN control.

January.

Bosnian Serbs and Croats signed the pact in Geneva in

### PM invited to visit Tunisia

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has been invited to visit Tunisia, officials at the Foreign Ministry said yesterday, reports UNB.

She has accepted the invita tion extended by Prime Minister of the North African Muslim state Dr Hamed Karoui. Date for the tour will be

fixed through mutual discussion, they said. A senior official who described the present relations

between the two countries as good" said Tunisia is interested in further strengthening its friendship with Bangladesh The two OIC countries have

identical views on various re-

### Diarrhoea

From Page 1 Col 8

gional and international issues.

Some 520 people were at tacked in different areas of the capital in a day but no death was reported, according to the

The health control room said that 14 people including one in newly affected Gopalganj and one in Narayanganj. died on Thursday pushing the toll to 925 in two months in 13 districts.

The other deaths were reported from Jhalokhati. Patuakhali, Khulna, Barisal and Bhola, one source said adding that some 1,500 people were ill on the day.

Health experts said that it was a new kind of bacteria as deadly as cholera which causes acute dehydration and death if not treated timely.

They suggested drinking of boiled or tablet purified water and also recommended sufficient Oral Rehydration Salt (ORS) as soon as the first symptoms of the disease were

From Page 1 Col 5 over who should hold supreme power in Russia: the president of the parliament. The struggle was left unresolved following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991.

The Congress has whittled away Yeltsin's powers in recent months and in December forced him to dump his reformist prime minister, Yegor

Yeltsin has said that politicians cannot settle the constitutional dispute, the question should be put to the Russian people in a nation wide referendum on April 11.

The hard-liners failed Thursday to win enough votes to have the Constitutional Court decide whether Yeltsin's recent actions violated the

### constitution PM: Islambagh

From Page 1 Col 5 tion of the government in mitigating their sufferings and rehabilitation of the affected people.

in this context, she said a list of the affected people will be prepared by city Mayor Mirza Abbas MP and Meer Shawkat Ali, MP in consultation with the local leaders.

Responding to the local demands for widening of roads in the densely populated Islambagh area, Begum Zia said the government will take appropriate steps for the purpose if necessary land is provided by the residents volun-

Begum Zia also visited Haji Ibrahim Government High School Relief Centre where several hundred families have taken shelter. She went to the area by boat from Sadarghat terminal and spent more than two hours among the affected people of Islambagh area.

The Prime Minister announced Taka five lakh as emergency grant for the affected slum dwellers. She also asked the relevant agencies to provide 200 cartoons of prepared food, 750 maunds of rice, 100 tin biscuits, 2250 pieces lungi, 1250 pieces saree, 500 pieces shirt and 500 pieces frock for distribution among the people of Islambagh

City Mayor Mirza Abbas, State Minister for Relief Lutfor Rahman Khan, State Minister for Social Welfare Sarwari Rahman, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society Chairman Shahidul Huq Jamal MP, Meer Shawkat Ali MP and Amanullah Aman MP accompanied the Prime Minister.

### Editorial on page 4 Islambagh From Page 1 Col 4

organizations from the nearby areas began relief operation among the affected people. They distributed cooked food among the affected people. A number of affected people

alleged that some people were snatching and looting their belongings A land-lord Mohammad

Nasir who had lost his 20 thatched houses in the devastating fire alleged that when he was retrieving some of his belongings from the ruins, a group of youths reaching there by a boat Wednesday night snatched everything.

Police said that a heavy contingent of police were deployed in the area to keep the situation under control.

# The Midnight Rile

### UN experts inspect 4 Iraqi military sites

BAGHDAD, Mar 4: UN nuclear weapons experts inspected four Iraqi military sites Thursday but found nothing to support allegations that Iraq still has an underground plutonium reactor, their leader said. "Everything went on fine, everything is fine", Dimitri Perricos, leading the 24member team told reporters after completing the first day of inspection, reports AP.

### **World Trade Centre** blast: One arrested

NEW YORK. Mar 4: A man has been arrested in the bombing of the World Trade Centre, the White House announced today, and a television report said he was linked to Muslim fundamentalists.

### Hasina demands financial help for fire victims

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina vesterday demanded fi nancial help for the people af fected by the devastating fire at Islambagh slum in the city Wednesday, reports UNB.

In a statement, she expressed her deep shock for the victims and extensive damage caused to life and property

Describing the sudden fire as tragic and painful, the Awami League President urged all to stand by the fire affected people.

### Diarrhoea claims 11 more lives in southern dists

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Mar 4: Diarrhoea claimed eleven more lives in

the southern districts today

raising the death toll to 744 in

the region since January 1, of ficial source said. In 24 hours until this evening, seven deaths were reported from Jhalokathi while two died in Patuakhali

and one each in Barisal and

Barguna. During the same period 711 persons were attacked by diarrhoea in the six districts of Barisal division which raised the number of affected persons to 33921

### Saifur: SKOP

From Page 1 Col 8 Karmachari Oikya Parishad) earlier, supposed to be announced by December 31, last year, the Minister informed the newsmen that he had no idea of any such MOU or

agreement. Incidentally, the SKOP postponed a 48-hour strike November 29-30 last year in view of government assurance to implement the government-SKOP accord signed earlier.

The government, according to the MOU signed with the SKOP in the third quarter of last year, formed a Wage Commission comprising representatives of the workers, employer's and the government to make recommendations on different issues including national minimum wage of the workers of both

the private and public sectors The Wage Commission finalised its report on December 31 last year and submitted it to the Prime Minister.

The Finance Minister, how ever, said that the Finance Ministry had not been informed about the provisions of such understanding and that no discussion had taken place with him and any of his cabinet colleagues about either the financial implication of such understanding or from which heads' the additional resources necessary to implement such 'accord' would

### 2 DU students assaulted on campus

Two Dhaka University students were beaten up by the activists of their rivals on the campus yesterday, campus sources said, reports UNB.

Abdullah Mahmud Khan, a final year student of Soil Science Department and a leader of pro-CPB Chhatra Union, was beaten up seriously at Curzon Hall at about 1.30

Chhatra Union sources claimed that the activists of Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) had beaten up Mahmud.

in another incident, Chhatra League (M-I) activist Zahid Alam, a final year stu dent of Bengali Department and a resident of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman Hall, was beaten up at Basunia Gate at about 11 am, allegedly by the activists of Chhatra League Montu group.

Witnesses said a group of activists assaulted Zahid when he refused to join the procession of Montu group.

Both the students were

MPs' pension

given first aid

From Page 1 Col 7 "The provision of pension would not enhance the prestige of Parliament members, Farida observed Moving amendments, the

opposition members suggested

that all other benefits enhanced by the House for the members including those of the ministers and Prime Minister should also be withdrawn. They said that the economic condition of the people

like peasants, workers had not improved in the country and as such the elected public representatives must not be allowed to enjoy enhanced benefits. Presently, an MP is, however, entitled to draw Taka 6000 as salary, Taka 4000 as

Taka 250 for attending every sitting of the House. The MPs who participated in the discussion included, among others, Tofael Ahmed, Moudud Ahmed, Mohammad Nasim, Rahamat Ali, Maolana

Abdus Sobhan, Matia

telephone bills and Taka 200

as medical allowance per

month. Besides, an MP draws

Chowdhury and Shajahan Siraj. When the Speaker was about to put the amendment, moved by the Opposition members, to vote the Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad took the floor informing that they had withdrawn the amendment on the

The House approved the withdrawal of the amendment by voice votes and then passed the bill unanimously with the thumping of the table both by the Treasury and Opposition bench members.

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Published by the Editor on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel

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 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct) Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR DHAKA