On Bus Terminals in City

By ASM Nurunnabi tary facilities expected by bus

Dhaka city has four bus terminals at Saidabad, Maha-Among the three inter-diskhali, Gabtali and Gulistan. The trict terminals, the ones at first three terminals are main-Gabtali and Saidabad handle ly for inter-district services. more buses and passengers while from Gulistan buses than the other one. One an avoperate on city routes and erage, 525 buses, minibuses some routes to nearby places operate through the Gabtali like Ghazipur and Dhamrai. The inter-district bus terterminal. The total load here is minals have specific zones of 25,000 to 30,000 passengers operation: Saidabad terminal daily. The terminal at Saidabad serves Chittagong Division, handles about 400 buses with Mahakhali terminal north-20,000 to 25,000 passengers eastern zones like Mymendaily on an average. From December last, some buses opsingh and Tangail, and the Gabtali terminal serves the erate from this terminal to northern and southern Barisal and Faridpur via Mawa. districts. The Mahakhali terminal handles about 250 buses with All these terminals together handle approximately 1 lakh 4500 to 5000 passengers daily.

passengers a day. This huge

number of passengers are,

however, deprived of some el-

ementary facilities at these

terminals which go to com-

pound their tribulations. In the

context of the fast growing

passenger traffic in the city,

these deficiencies need be at-

transport and railways, road

transport enjoys a steadily

growing importance, because

of its accessibility to new areas

and requirement of less capital

investment. But the record so

far shows that it has not been

able to meet adequately the

challenge and problems in this

sector. Many shortcomings ap-

pear even to the casual eye.

Among the more important of

these are that, first, it does not

possess a modern fleet of

buses/ minibuses. Most of

them are re-conditioned ones.

Secondly, it has an unsatisfac-

tory safety record. The high

incidence of road accidents in-

volving passenger buses causes

a lurking fear in every bus

traveller. The bus service also

fails to provide many elemen-

From Page 1 Col 8

large number of leaders ad-

dressing the three day meet-

ing expressed their concern

over severe internecine con-

flict which surfaced in differ-

ent district level units of the

units including those of Pabna,

Gaibandha, Narshingdi and

Chittagong city had been iden-

tified by the ALWC as ones suf-

fering most from the internal

also expressed their worry

about the party's failure to en-

sure significant fresh recruit-

the district level units of the

comprising Zillur Rahman,

Tofael Ahmed, Abdur Razzak,

Amir Hossain Amu, Abdul Jalil,

Dr Seltm and Prof Abu Sayeed

have been formed on the sec-

ond day of the three day meet-

cision, sources said, the com-

mittees had been granted a

period of sixty days to settles

the disputes surfaced in all the

members fail to remove inter-

nal conflicts from the units

within the deadline fixed by

the meeting, the Working

Committee would directly take

activities across the country

was the only answer to the

problems in fresh recruitment

of workers into the party, the

to revitalise the party activi-

ties, has proposed formation of

a high level committee at the

According to the proposal,

A senior AL leader, in a bid

Revitalisation of the party

up the issue, sources said.

ALWC observed.

meeting.

In case, the committee

nine district committees.

According to the ALWC de-

party, separate committees

ments in the recent years.

Some of ALWC members

In a bid to settle disputes in

conflicts.

A total of nine district level

tended to with all urgency.

The Bus Terminals are under the management of the DHaka City Corporation. Observers generally complain of lack of development and proper maintenance of these terminals. Some of the common passenger facilities, such as proper toilet arrangements, waiting rooms, adequate water As compared with air supply, coin box telephone are wanting at these terminals. The Gabtali and Mahakhali terminal areas are uncarpeted, with the result that heavy rains cause flooding, much to the suffering of the passengers. At Gabtali, buses about to start their journeys are parked at some distance away from the booking counters. This causes trouble to intending passengers with heavy load of luggage.

> The incidence of extortions by Mastans of illegal tolls is endemic at all these terminals. However, according to terminal sources, such troubles are present much under control. Stray incidents of drug smuggling, mainly through the Saidabad terminal, are reportedly kept in check owing to

greater vigilance of the author-

From sources close to the owners of transports, it is understood that there is at present a proposal under consideration for setting up a Terminal Authority, consisting of representatives of the City Corporation, Road transport authority, owners and employees. The purpose of setting up the Authority is stated to be to ensure greater efficiency in terminal functioning by coordinated action for improvement and development.

When asked why the road transport sector is lagging behind in offering improved services to passengers, sources close to the owners state that the sector is at present functioning under some handicaps. First, new capital investment in this sector is slow because many banks hesitate to offer loans inspite of an easy procedure for granting loans as advised by the Bangladesh Bank. Moreover, the existing import policy banning import of spare parts for vehicles more than six years old acts as a damper on satisfactory operation of reconditioned vehicles most of which are 1973 and 1974 vintage. As a result, the sector is said to be functioning in an unhappy situation, and very few buses are put on the road It behaves the concerned authorities to look into these as pects of the problems.

The deficiencies in the basic facilities for passenger comfort are at present too apparent at the terminals. The fast growing passenger volume makes all the more urgent that the terminals function with a reasonable standard of effi ciency and the existing deficiencies made good.



Mouchak Market has been illuminated for traditional face-lift to shopping centres in city before Eid ul-Fitr. - Star photo

Diarrhoea claims 15 more lives

A total of 15 people died of diarrhoea and another 1,005 were attacked in different parts of the country in last 24 hours, Diarrhoea Control room sources said vesterday (Friday). reports UNB.

With this, the death toll from the disease rose to 940 people since January 1. More than 60,698 people were attacked by the water-borne disease during the period.

Unofficial sources, however, said the death figure and the number of people attacked by the disease would be much higher.

According to Diarrhoea Control room, 7 people died in Jhalakathi, 3 in Netrokona, 2 in Patuakhali, 1 in Khulna, 1 in Barguna and 1 in Barisal during the last 24 hours.

Diarrhoea broke out in an epidemic form in eight southern districts in early January. It has now spread in the districts of Jhalakhati, Barguna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Bhola, Bagherhat, Gopalgoni, Khulna, Netrokona, Dhaka, Narayangani and Laxmipur.

A large number of diarroheal patients are being admitted to ICDDR, B PG Hospital Dhaka Medical College Hospital, Mitford Hospital, Shishu Hospital, Narayangoni General Hospital and other district hospitals and clinics.

Officials said mobile medical teams are working round the clock to combat the disease. Some temporary medical centres have also been opened in the affected areas.

Deputies

From Page 1 Col 4 ster with a Soviet-era bureau-

adds: Khasbulatov. warned lawmakers today that "terrorist acts" were being planned, including assassinations of democrats aimed at discrediting conservatives.

In a thinly veiled allusion to Yeltsin, he told an incredulous parliament he had "reports" indicating that terrorist acts are being planned.

Without indicating his sources. Khasbulatov said several rumors have been circulating for a while on the existence of (presidential) decrees ordering the dissolution of congress by force."

Possible victims of attacks were Gleb Yakunin and Lev Ponamarev, two leaders of the pro-reform democratic bloc in the Congress, he said.

Meanwhile dozens of aging Stalinists laid flowers at the dictator's grave along the Kremlin wall Friday to mark the 40th anniversary of his death. They later accused Boris Yeltsin of plotting a new dictatorship.

"People remember how well we lived under Stalin. Everything was for the people.

Injured Ctg JCD leader succumbs

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 5: The body of the JCD leader here who succumbed last night to his bullet wounds at Chittagong Medical College Hospital, was buried after a Namaze-Janaja at Agrabad Jamburi field today.

Saiful Alam Babul received severe bullet injuries during Wednesday evening police firing at Abidarpara Police outpost under Doublemooring thana. Another JCD activist also received bullet wounds. Both of them were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. But Saiful died there.

Clinton, Yeltsin to hold summit in Vancouver

MOSCOW, Mar 5: The April summit meeting between President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin will be held in Vancouver, news agencies reported Friday, reports

The summit will be Clinton's first foreign trip as president.

BCS promotion From Page 1 Col 5

Commission (PSC) suggesting relaxation of the rules for another two to three years.

Some officials, who could not appear at the examination because they had reached nine years of services, said that promotion system under this rule would create imbalance between the positions of juniors and seniors as all the BCS cadres did not fall under the purview of the rule.

Eight BCS cadres including the law and justice, health, ed ucation, statistics and others are exempted from examina tions for promotion.

In these cadres, promotion takes place automatically on the basis of seniority.

Many BCS officials who served over nine years ex pressed their helplessness for not being able to appear at the examination because they could not even qualify them selves for the test due to official bottlenecks all these

Before appearing at the promotion test, one BCS official must take departmental trainings and examinations.

One such situation prevailed in the BCS economic cadre which was created in 1984 The departmental trainings and examinations of this cadre could not be held till '89 as no syllabus was formulated till

In '89, when the first train ings and examinations of the economic cadre was held many officials could not attend those as they were on trainings outside Bangladesh. Some economic cadre officials alleged that the Planning Division could not arrange divisional training for them till '92.

*For such delays, my juniors or equals who took their training in '89 were qualified for the promotion test and thus became my seniors," an official regretted.

27 shops gutted in Faridganj

CHANDPUR, Mar 5: At least 27 shops were completely gut ted in a devastating fire at Khejuria Bazar in Faridgan thana early hours Thursday, reports UNB.

The blaze was put out after five hours of battle by the local people in the absence of any fire station in the area.

WB: Bank rates

From Page 1 Col 8 ical of the "inefficiencies" in the country's financial system which, according to the Bank, are hampering private sector development here.

Weak staff of the commercial banks precludes them from playing their important role of mobilizing savings and allocating them to efficient investment, the bank observed.

It said the nationalised commercial banks (NCBs) have been shielded for years from market forces which has impeded their efficiency.

The World Bank appreci ated the recent reform mea sures which the government initiated under its Financial Sector Reform Programme (FSRP), including interest rate liberalization, introduction of new monetary instruments, discontinuation of directed credit and subsidized refinancing facilities and establishment of financial loan courts.

It, however, recommended further actions like formulation of policies to strengthen the supervision and regulatory capacity of Bangladesh Bank and restructure the commercial banks.

As an immediate measure, the World Bank - which is providing the country with an adjustment credits for financial sector reforms - suggested that the government should immediately start privatizing one of the NCBs to demonstrate its sincerity about

sector.

The Midnight File

UN commander starts talks with Serbs

SARAJEVO, Mar 5: The UN Commander in Bosnia Herzegovina began talks with local Serbian forces today on access to the besieged Muslim enclave of Cerska in eastern Bosnia, from which the UN wants to evacuate wounded people, an Unprofor spokesman announced, reports AFP.

S African parties begin crucial talks

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 5: Black and white political parties began crucial talks Friday aimed at resuming full-scale negotiations on ending apartheid after months of stalemate. Political leaders warned South Africa was running out of time and a peaceful solution was vital in the face of soaring violence, political intransigence and the crumbling economy, reports AP.

FBI trying to negotiate with cultmen

WACO, Mar 5: Federal agents trying to negotiate an end to a bloody standoff Friday with a doomsday prophet and his armed disciples are getting help from Biblical scholars,

WB aide memoire

From Page 1 Col 7 provided already agreed reform measures continue under a sustain stability.

"Aid commitments for F) 94 (1993-94) will need to be related to the government's demonstrated ability to strengthen its implementation performance," the aid memoire said with a call to speed up ADP implementation and improve aid disbursements.

Last year, for 1992-93, donors pledged 2.1 billion US dollars in aid - 1.4 to 1.5 billion dollars in project aid, 0.45 to 0.50 billion in commodity aid and 0.20 billion in food aid

The memorandum issued from Washington February 12 showered praises on the government for macroeconomic management, tax reforms and successful stabilisation which it described as an important achievement' and said that the Dhaka authorities should now focus more on implementation of structural reforms needed to raise investment.

The WB paper, which forms the basis for donors' evaluation and new yearly pledges, speaks of three priorities for the government that include 1) raising the level of public investment, 2) restoring export competitiveness and 3] form-

ing a clear vision for the future.

"All macroeconomic indicators show a marked improvement between FY '90 and FY '92. The fiscal deficit was lowered from 7.8 to 5.2 per cent of GDP; the annual inflation rate fell from 9.3 to 6.2 per cent: the current account deficit was reduced from 6.9 to 2.3 per cent of GDP; and foreign exchange reserves increased from 1.9 to 5.6 months of imports," the WB memorandum prepared by the South Asia department said.

"Successful stabilisation in the midst of the political transition of FY '91 and FY '92 and the devastating April 1991 cyclone certainly enhances the credibility of the GOB's policy agenda," the WB said.

"This stability, the Bank view, allows the government to quicken the implementation of the 'much needed' structural

According to the Bank paper, fiscal adjustment, 'successful' tax reforms in particular, has removed the shortage of taka resources as a constraint on ADP implementation, helped reduce duties on imports and finance public en-

terprise restructuring and labour retrenchment Also, the Bank believes, reduction in inflation provides a conducive environment for fi-

nancial sector reforms. On the first priority, the

World Bank contends that the government must "raise the level of public investment through a drastic overhaul of

Dock worker stabbed to death

By DMCH Correspondent

A group of gangsters killed a dockyard labourer, Shawkat, at Kaliganj in Keraniganj on the outskirts of the capital Friday evening.

Shawkat was severely stabbed and immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where he succumbed to his injuries at around 8 pm.

Following an altercation, the gangsters severely beat up Shawkat and repeatedly stabbed him at Kaligani at

around 7.15 pm yesterday. Local people said that Shawkat had a previous rivalry with them.

Keraniganj police said that receiving the information their emergency officer left for the spot and did not return until 10.30 pm last night. Detail of the incicent was not available.

they added. The body of Shawkat was sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy. The post mortem is likely to be done today restructuring the banking (Saturday)

project execution and aid utilisation procedures and the reform of key public enterprises responsible for important in-

vestment projects." The second is to 'restore export competitiveness through reforms of urban labour markets and a continued commitment to flexible exchange rate policies."

"Private investors need to be convinced of the governnicnt's resolve in pursuing reform efforts," the report added to emphasize that donors are not happy with the pace of privatisation.

The third is to "clearly articulate its (government's) vision for the future and seek widespread support for its policy agenda, while accelerating the implementation of reforms in the areas of trade policy, privatisation and financial sector restructuring."

Road mishaps

From Page 1 Col 7 identified as Niranjan, 40, Apurba, 30, and Ashutosh, 60.

All the injured were rushed to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital in critical condition. Witnesses said the speeding

truck was heavily damaged in the accident. Police seized both the trucks and took away the fish

for auction sale. But both the drivers were absconding.

BSS from Chittagong adds: Two persons were killed in

two separate road accidents at Mirersarai and Sitakunda thanas yesterday. According to Sitakunda police, one Murshed, 17, of village Taltali died on the spot

when a Chittagong bound night coach ran over him at Banubazar. The victim was crossing the road to convey the death news of his grandmother to his other relations. Local people in protest

against the tragic death of Murshed put a blockade on Dhaka Chittagong Highway for two hours.

The second victim Sohrab Hossain, 23, an assistant of The Daily Janakanta transport service died on the spot when a Chittagong bound speeding truck coilided with a bus of the service at Joralganj of Mirersarai thana early yesterday morning, a Janakanta press release said.

The seriously injured driver of the Janakanta has been admitted to Chittagong Medical Hospital.

Another UNB report says, at least 20 people were injured, seven seriously including a woman, when two bus collided on Chandpur-Comilla highway Thursday.

Chandpur-bound bus collided with a Kachua-bound bus head-

Police and witnesses said a

complex

civil court to resolve their or ganisational problems or seck

if the fishermen have any problem in the leadership, or allegation of fund bungling, they have to go to the thana and to district cooperative officials and even to the

on at Dogoa in Shahrasti thana. Brake failure was learnt to the reason for the accident. A woman passenger was admitted to Chandpur General Hospital while six others to Hajiganj and Shahrasti health Police seized the buses. However, drivers of both the vehicles managed to flee. A case was registered with the local police in this con-Bantpur

From Page 1 Col 5

justice against any corrupt society leader.

Cooperatives Division office of the LGRD Ministry in Dhaka, he added. The lawyer suggested that what was most important was to strengthen the fishermen's

societies so that they could organise themselves financially, buy their own fishing gears and play some kind of role in the marketing.

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ALWC to meet Fridays

level units.

sources said.

the committee will consist of

the leading members of the

party Working Committee and

it would monitor party activi-

ties of the 20 greater district

mittee, according to the pro-

posal, would be empowered to

scrutinise the activities of the

thana level committees. The

members of the proposed

meetings at the local level.

committee, however, would

The ALWC meeting also felt

for distributing a booklet

clearly explaining its political

aims and objectives among

different section of people

The party high command

had asked the heads of the

party sub-committees to com-

pile suggestions from con-

cerned experts with a view to

was raised only one, on the

second day of the meeting, by

Mohammad Nasim, the

Organising Secretary of the

party and Chief Whip of the

Opposition in Parliament.

Nasim, according to sources,

felt that the party should take

a decision on Kamal's activities

going against party interests.

The ALWC, however, did not

spite demand from the party

rank and file that disciplinary

action be taken against Kamal,

the party high command was

of the opinion that the time

was not ripe to take such de-

According to sources, de-

discuss the issue further.

The Kamal Hossain Issue

printing the booklet soon.

The members of the com-

Ransom

From Page 1 Col 8 ing the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT), police and local sources

The sanctuaries of the terrorists are located in the hilly jungles of Hathazari, Fatikchhari and Raozan, ad ministration sources said. A group of terrorists recently set up a hide-out in the hilly area at Pahartoli under Raozan thana, local and police sources

informed. not be allowed to hold public At least 50 persons were Appreciated by most of the kidnapped by the terrorists in ALWC members attending the the past six months and released after realising ransom at meeting, the proposal, however, would be considered in different villages of Raozan and the committee's next meeting, Fatikchhari thanas, unofficial

> sources said. Besides, several persons including a UP chairman and an Awami League leader were killed during the period by those terrorists, sources

The armed terrorists last Wednesday night shot dead a local timber businessman at Nazirhat under Fatikchhari.

police said. Another local businessman Mohammad Ali was kidnapped at gunpoint allegedly by the terrorists Sunday night from village Dabua under Raozan thana, sources said.

But even after five days, the victim is yet to be rescued. Police said efforts were being made to rescue the businessman from the sanctuary of the

Sources say, the alleged terrorists are demanding Taka 15 lakhs as ransom. They may to kill the man, if the ransom is not paid, sources also say. Apart from these the alleged terrorists frequently

demand illegal toll from the villagers who return from Middle East countries, local brickfield owners, shopkeepers, businessman and contractors, sources also informed. Consequently, many villa-

gers fearing attacks from the alleged terrorists fled their ancestral homes and began living in the town here, sources further informed. party the Prime Minister

Khaleda at Iftar hosted for politicians last

From Page 1 Col 5 exchanged salams as the Prime Minister stepped out of her black Nissan President. Then they walked down a red carpet to the pandal on the eastern lawn of the red-brick residence filled with ministers, members of parliament and

politicians. Photographers scrambled for shooting the rare event as Hasina escorted Begum Zia to the head table where they sat side by side with Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali and Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdus Samad Azad on either side. The two leaders were almost silent as they took the iftar watched by a host of politicians that included Jatiya Party's Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury and Moudud

The iftar over, Hasina walked Begum Zia to her car to say goodbye. "It's time to go," Begum Zia said before boarding the car. "Thanks for coming," said Hasina. Both spoke, naturally, in Bengali.

The summit level iftar lasted about 25 minutes, but politicians who witnessed the event expressed the hope that this social meeting should have a far-reaching political impact bringing the two leaders closer to work for democracy and national development.

social meeting between Hasina and Begum Zia since the 1991 diner that the Leader of the Opposition attended at Sugandha as a guest of the Prime Minister. Hasina and her party lead-

ers did not attend an iftar

This was the first bilateral

According to the Awami League sources Hasina wanted Begum Zia to reciprocate her

dinner attendance. BSS adds BNP Secretary Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, when asked to comment about the getting together of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition, said it would enhance mutual understanding

among the ruling party and the opposition. He also went on adding that it would have been better if the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina would have attended the iftar party hosted by the Prime Minister on February 25, the second day of the Ramadan.

The ministers who attended the iftar were Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Jute Minister ASM Hannan Shah, Communications Minister Oli Ahmed, Health Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf, Education Minister Barrister Jamiruddin Sircar, Works Minister Barrister Rafigul Islam Mia, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda and State Minister for Establishment M Nurul Huda.

Among the political leaders at the iftar party were Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Moudud Ahmed, Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, Nurul Islam Nahid, Rashed Khan Menon, Hasanul Haq Inu, Kazi Aref Ahmed, Pankaj Bhattacharya and Motnuddtn Khan Badal.