The Midnight File

Dy Speaker endorses

Yeltsin's convention

opponents has endorsed the president's call for a constitu-

tional convention, the first sign in months of a possible com-

promise to end the country's power struggle. Yeltsin wants

the June 5-10 convention to draft a new constitution that

would strengthen the presidency and replace the Soviet-era

parliament with an American-style legislature. Deputy

Parliament Speaker Nikolai Ryabov told lawmakers on Friday

that Yeltsin's summoning of the convention was "justified." He

called for the parltament and president to take "steps toward

each other" to avoid a collision between two rival draft consti-

Ultimatum to Croatia

today issued an ultimatum to Croatia, warning it to stop at-

tacking Bosnia "immediately" or face a plea for action by the

international community, an official communique said. The

Sarajevo government warned Croatia to withdraw its troops

from the country or it would be forced to call in outside help

to "defend the sovereignty and integrity of Bosnia," said the

communique issued by the Bosnia-Herzegovina embassy here,

ZAGREB, May 15: The Muslim-led Bosnian government

MOSCOW, May 15: One of Boris Yeltsin's parliamentary

2000 BCIC employees seek self-retirement

Some 2,000 officers, employees and workers have applied for voluntary retirement from the industrial enterprises of the Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC). Officials told UNB that the

public sector corporation needs Tk 150 crore for implementing the voluntary retirement scheme, dubbed golden handshake', a donorprescribed programme of the government.

The government has initiated the retrenchment drive for ridding the public sector industries and corporations of surplus manpower under a structural adjustment scheme. The programme has already been implemented in the

Railway sector. BCIC, one of the major state-run corporations, has 21 industrial enterprises and more than 28,000 workers, employees and officials. Its units produce fertiliser, paper, newsprint, dry cells, cosmeties, cement clinkers, glass sheet and other chemical products.

The corporation invited applications from its staffers and the workers, employees and officers of its industrial enterprises in February. It also circulated the notice in April after revising the terms and, tions. conditions of retirement.

Those who have served the corporation for at least 10 years and are aged below 52

could apply for the option.

at least 20 years will get a lump sum equal to 60 months' pay of the last basic salary, those who served more than 15 years but less than 20 years will be given 45 months' salary while 30 months' pay be given to those who served more than 10 but less than 15 years.

They will also get general gratuity and other benefits

Sources said about Tk 150 crore would be needed for the payoff as the amount per head would range from Tk 2 lakh to Tk 10 lakh. However, the fund has not yet been made avail-

As per the terms and conditions, those who will retire cannot be appointed again in the corporation.

But, sources said, efficient

Some applicants from the Kohinoor Battery Manufacturers Limited, the only dry cell producer in the public sector, demanded that their benefits be reckoned up till the date when retirement would take effect, not the date of submission of their applica-

Ogata: UN presence

From Page 1 Col 6

During her three-day stay the UNHCR chief signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Bangladesh government on the "safe and voluntary" repatriation of the remaining Rohingya refugees.

Lauding the role of the people and the government of Bangladesh in hosting the Rohingya refugees, Ogata also dwelt on the contents of the MOU, the possible time frame for the return of the refugees, UNHCR assistance for local ecological damages and the international refugee situation in general.

Saying that a UNHCR presence in the country of return would enhance the repatriation process, Ogata said: "The change that is required now is to have UN presence in Myanmar as per the provisions of the bilateral accord signed between the two countries on April 29, 1992."

She noted that according to the agreement Myanmar agreed to allow UNHCR presence in the country at an "appropriate" time. "I think the appropriate time is approaching with the UN technical mission already there," she

"The UN technical mission in Myanmar, which includes a UNHCR official, would discuss the modalities of our participation in the repatriation process," the UN, High Com-

missioner for Refugees said. The MOU signed between Bangladesh and the UNECR, Ogata noted, is a "clear mechanism for implementing the bilateral agreement between

Bangladesh and Myanmar." Responding to a question, she added that the MOU would have a "positive" influence on

relationship between the two countries. Asked when the repatriation process under UNHCR

supervision is likely to begin, she said: "I am hopeful that it would start soon but organising a large-scale repatriation is a very difficult process." Declining to set a specific

time limit for completing the repatriation process, Ogata noted that the recently concluded return of 3,60,000 Cambodian refugees from Thailand took 13 months.

Describing that as one of the "best organised" repatriation processes, she added "It was completed in record time as confidence and the desire of the Cambodians to go home

was very high." Replying to another question, Ogata said that the 22,400 Rohingya refugees, out of a total of over 2,50,000, who

have already returned, went back on their own. Terming it as "spontaneous repatriation," the UNHCR chief

said "Spontaneous return is something we are not in a position to stop." However, Ogata refused to comment on whether the returning refugees were co-

erced, as alleged by some international quarters. "We were not involved in the repatriation process and we did not have access to the

refugee camps at the time, so Editor: S. M. Ali

Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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.

Applicants who have served

from the corporation.

and important officials and employees have applied for retirement which would affect normal function of the corporation and its industries.

Meanwhile, the corporation has decided to sell out the factory and has floated tender for

than one lakh surplus employees in the public sector because of which a massive we were not in a position to chunk of government spendascertain if they were coerced ings cannot be diverted to or not," she added.

poverty alleviation. However, she went on to He also stressed the need point out that a system for for agricultural diversification repatriation had not been deprogrammes for higher inveloped at that time. come of the rural poor.

tion process we have to ensure that they want to go back and the mot important word is voluntary and the refugees have to decide on the time." The UN is just beginning to

"In an organised repatria-

be in Myanmar, she noted, and is now trying to find out if the conditions for the return of the refugees is favourable.

"I think they (the Rohingya refugees) all want to go home but they want to go home feeling sure about it," she said.

Lauding the government's role in hosting the refugees for the second time around in 15 years, the UNHCR chief said "It seems that the government remembers the 10 million or so Bangladeshi refugees hosted by India in 1971."

On her visit to the refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, she said that the camps were "very well-organised and well taken care of."

Noting that the health and nutrition problem in the camps has improved "considerably", Ogata added that the shelter problem has also been resolved.

She further pointed out that the UNHCR has agreed on a 3.3 million US dollar project package to benefit the affected villages near the camps.

Under the programme, she said, 180 projects would be undertaken, including renovation of schools and other infrastructure in villages near

the refugee camps. Responding to a question, Ogata, whose organisation is involved with some 18 million refugees worldwide, termed the refugee situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina as "most danger-

"People in Bosnia," she said, are living in besieged cities under a civil war situation."

Werner Blatter, UNHCR director for Asia and Pacific, Darioush Bayandur, the resident representative, Sylvane Faa, spokeswoman for the High Commissioner, and Irene Khan, executive assistant to the High Commissioner, also attended the press conference.

Bank manager, two others arrested in Khulna

From Our Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 15: Police foday arrested a local bank manager and two employees for their alleged involvement in defalcation bank money.

According to police, on April 8 last, Tk 14 lakh was found missing from the strong room of the Sonali Bank, Koyra Branch. The Sonali Bank Regional Office, Khulna lodged a case with the police.

Accordingly police arrested the branch manager, Tejendra Nath Mandal, cashier Abdus Sabur and a night guard today.

Kashmir militants storm police station, loot arms

armoury of its weapons and

cated arms than us" said one of

the officers who were held up

They had more sophisti-

Meanwhile, six people in-

cluding two militants died in

separate incidents Saturday in

the Muslim dominated Kas-

hmir valley, police said in

Srinagar, the northern state's

summer capital and urban hub

been relaxed for six hours in

the Kashmiri town of Bhade-

rwah near Jammu, the state's

winter capital, but remains in

force in other parts of the

troubled Doda district, in-

Youngman

stabbed

By DMCH Correspondent

stabbed at Mirpur in the city

late Friday night by unidenti-

supplier Md Jahangir had in-

tervened to protect a local girl

from the bullying of a youth of

lower abdomen by a group of

unidentified youngmen im-

mediately after the incident

Dhaka Medical College Hos-

pital in a critical condition.

Jahangir was stabbed in his

Jahangir was rushed to the

fied youngmen.

Sector 12.

around 11.30 pm.

A young businessman was

The 27-year-old garments

cluding Kishtwar, police said.

Meanwhile, a curfew has

of the secessionist drive.

ammunition.

at gunpoint.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman participated in a policy dialogue on the government programme for poverty

SRINAGAR, May 15: Armed Militants stormed a police station in Kashmir and stripped its armoury of weapons as six people died in the troubled northern Indian state, officials said here today, reports AFP.

alleviation at the BIDS auditorium in the city yesterday.

Poverty

From Page 1 Col 5

agricultural products have led

to the current high yield of

rice in the country. He said

that diesel price cannot be

lowered for the agriculture

Saifur outlined the govern-

ment's policies for poverty al-

leviation by saying that any

growth should be employment-

cottage industries should be

for bringing efficiency in agri-

cultural support services for

government inherited more

promoted," he said.

better crop production.

"For this, labour-intensive

He also stressed the need

Saifur lamented that the

Former BNP planning min-

ister Fashiuddin Mahtab

stressed the need for more re-

search in agriculture for mak-

ing the crop diversification

Former Planning Commi-

ssion member Dr Sheikh

Maqsud Ali said that structural

changes in policy are required

for resource transfer to the

more efficient section of the

poor. He said that the outlook

of the Civil Service needed to

The Charge d'Affaires of the

Dutch Embassy, K K Nelsen

said the high overhead costs of

poverty alleviation pro-

grammes have to be reduced

through accelerated imple-

mentation of programmes and

Ganem also stressed the need

for increasing implementation

fellow of the BIDS, said indi-

rect investment programmes

like rural electrification help

alleviate poverty. He said that

excess food stock of the gov-

ernment could be diverted to

research coordinator of the

BIDS poverty alleviation pro-

ject, also pointed out the high

overhead costs of poverty re-

Abdur Rab Chowdhury spoke

against the highly bureaucra-

tised system in programme

implementation and said the

rural poor must be empowered

Acting DG of BIDS, Dr M R

to help improve their own lot.

Khan said incentives for farm-

ing must be maintained for

Criminals' list

From Page 1 Col 5

Minister's office M Hafizuddin

Khan, police commissioners of

Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and

Rajshahi metropolises and

deputy commissioners and po-

lice supers of Chittagong, My-

mensingh, Comilla, Sylhet and

take stringent measure after

reviewing violence and terror-

ism in the educational institu-

tions, hijacking, illegal toll col-

lections, smuggling, cow lift-

ing, dacoity on the highways

the need for increasing man-

power and logistic support and

prepare up-to-date list of

criminals and arrest them

district law and order commit-

to take drastic actions against

criminals irrespective of their

political affiliations. It directed

the officials to execute Anti-

2 dacoits held

By Staff Correspondent

Muslims were caught redhanded by Mirpur mobile po-

lice early Saturday morning.

Two dacoits guised as pious

The dacoits robbed the

house of one Abdul Kader of

280/4 Paikpara, Mirpur and

tried to flee by pretending to

go to the mosque for Fajr

The meeting emphasised

It instructed the officials to

It emphasised to conduct

The meeting took decisions

and in the waterways.

modernisation of police.

tee meeting regularly.

Terrorism Law strictly.

accordingly.

The meeting decided to

Member of Parliament

Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman,

the extreme poor section.

moval programmes.

poverty alleviation.

Jessore districts.

World Bank economist Dr

Dr Binayek Sen, research

administrative reforms.

programme a success.

change for this.

efficiency.

sector alone.

oriented.

The attackers, who raided the Vilgam police station on Kashmir's border with Pakistan just after midnight, escaped with 20 rifles and thousands of rounds of ammunition, police said. None was injured during the raid.

The frontier police station has been under the virtual control of the Indian army since 1989.

Officers posted in the station said raiders carrying automatic rifles forced them to surrender before stripping the

BNP programmes to observe Zia's death anniversary

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has chalked out a four-day programme in observance of the death anniversary of its founder Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on May 30, reports BSS.

All units of the BNP have been directed to observe the day with due respect throughout the country.

The programme begins on May 27 with a discussion entitled Politics of production, industrial revolution and Ziaur Rahman' organised by the Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal. Deputy Leader of the House Prof A Q M Badrudduza Chowdhury will be the chief guest.

On May 28 the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and the Juba Dal will jointly organise a voluntary blood donation programme. In the afternoon the Chhatra Dal will hold a discussion in which BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talu-

kder will be the chief guest. On May 29, at 4 pm, a discussion, photo exhibition and documentary film show on the life and activities of Shaheed Zia will be organised by the Dhaka City Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS). On the same day the Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal will distribute clothes to distressed

women and children. party flag will fly at half-mast at all offices of the BNP including its central office in Dhaka. The Jatiyatabadi Olema Dal will hold Quran Khwani and milad mahfil at the mazar of late President Zia since morning. Ziarat and offering of wreaths at the mausoleum will be held

The Dhaka city BNP will feed the poor in all wards and thanas of the metropolitan city.

hartal in Rangpur

RANGPUR, May 15: A halfday hartal was observed in the town today (Saturday) at the call of the Islami Chhatra Shibir protesting the killing of

nment College, reports UNB. Saiful Islam, who was allegedly beaten up by a group of unidentified people during Thursday's hartal

tion of production as per rejute mills.

used to off-set the already bur-

They said during the negotiation with the WB, the

Hasina

From Page 1 Col 7 trenched, farmers deprived of fair prices, prices of diesel and agricultural inputs increased several times aggravating the hardship of common man.

- Star photo

The Awami League president demanded slashing of expenditure in unproductive sectors to increase allocation in productive sectors including agriculture, health and educa-

Referring to the unemployment problem, she said as many as 1,70,000 government posts including 2,000 posts of doctors remained vacant but the ruling party fails to fill in the vacancies due to unproductive expenditures.

She brought charges of corruption, nepotism and inefficiency against the government Amidst slogans and clap-

pings from her audience, the opposition leader said "the BNP has done fraud with the people but they cannot be fooled time and again." Referring to the local prob-

lems, Hasina demanded implementation of the Chandpur town protection scheme prepared by the Bangabandhu govcrnment in 1973. She also demanded construction of a bridge over the Dakatia linking old and new Chandpur Bazar, a long-standing demand of the people.

Earlier, Hasina went to Haimchar by launch to see the erosion by the Meghna and demanded steps to protect the lives and property of the people from the erosion. There she addressed a meeting presided over by Kaikobad

PM: Opposition

From Page 1 Col 4

tutions, reports AP.

reports AFP.

the nation of the unemploy ment problem through encouraging new industrial ventures in the private sector and attracting foreign investors.

She, however, regretted that a certain political party had chosen to engage itself in chaos and indiscipline when her government was going ahead with the programmes of meeting the five basic needs of the people - food, clothing, shelter, education and medi-

The Prime Minister reminded all that the foremost duty now was to lift the country out of economic disarray so that the people could reap the benefits of the establishment of democracy.

She underlined the need for maintaining peace, order and discipline to help implement the programmes of her government and urged the people to extend their cooperation to the government in the same way they had united to remove the past autocratic regime.

The Prime Minister said that people had already started getting benefits of the politics of production of her government since the prices of all essentials including rice, pulses, onions and cooking oil were within the purchasing capacity of the consumers.

She said that the government had reduced the prices of fertiliser but a section of un-

scrupulous traders were out to dupe the farmers.

Begum Zia said that her government had taken a number of measures for the spread of education in the country The Prime Minister asked the guardians, local chairmen and

to go to schools regularly. Begum Zia also reiterated her call to the people, particularly the rural masses, to set up dairy and poultry farms. She also asked them to plant two saplings each which, she said, would help them in times of

elite to motivate the children

The Prime Minister said production had increased due to the canal digging programme and the government was even contemplating the export of rice.

The Prime Minister also said the Langolkot Laksham-Daulatganj road would be metalled shortly. The affected educational institutions under this thana would also be provided with financial help, she added Earlier, the Prime Minister

laid the foundation stone of the Langolkot Thana Health Complex. The 50-bed health complex, to be built over four acres, would cost taka five

The Prime Minister said that the people of this locality would get better medicare after the completion of this complex.



On May 30 at 6 pm the

at nine in the morning. Shibir observes

a student of Rangpur Gover-

WB conditions

From Page 1 Col 7 trenched workers; privatisation of all the nationalised jute mills in phases; introduction of a new wage policy; rationalisaquirements; training for the officials and employees; restructuring of credit structure and repayment of bank loans; and stopping of government interference in running the

Official sources further said part of the WB loan would be dened interests on previous loans of the jute sector.

Bangladesh team would bargain on some of the proposed conditions regarding retrenchment of surplus workers, new wage policy, rationalisation of production and rehabilitation of the retrenched workers with the financial assistance of the bank.



MRANGS LIMITED

113-116, OLD AIRPORT ROAD, TEJGAON, DHAKA-1215 PLOT # 3, CDA AVENUE, SHOLOSHAHAR C/A, CHITTAGONG