



Why is Wheel Balancing so Important?

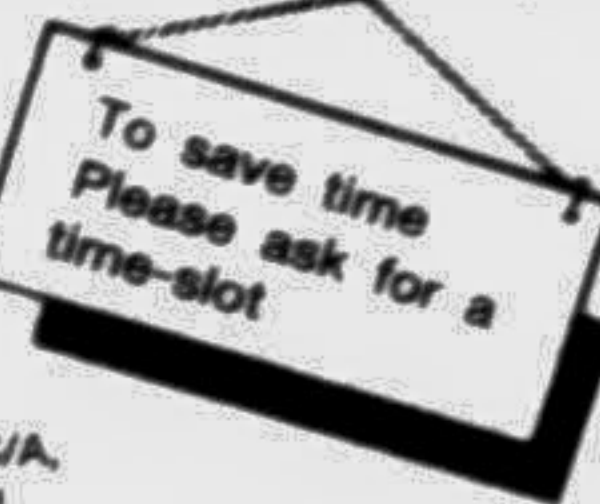
An out of balance wheel can cause vibration of the steering wheel, loss in fuel economy and abnormal tyre wear.

To ensure smooth running, wheel assemblies should be correctly balanced.

We offer COMPUTERIZED WHEEL BALANCING at nominal charges.

RAHIMAFROZ
SERVICE CENTRE

Arzed Chamber, 13 Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212. Tel: 882351, 882391.



Seminar on FAP concludes Call for practical, effective flood control measures

By Staff Correspondent

The third conference on the multi-million-dollar study-action plan on floods concluded in the capital Wednesday with calls for evolving practical and effective ways to combat floods.

Participants at the conference also emphasised the need for making institutional framework to involve the people for the making of an effective water management policy for the country.

The Ministry of Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control organised the conference at the International Conference Centre, in Dhaka which was sponsored by the World Bank.

The three-day conference included a series of technical sessions where progress reports on different FAP studies were presented for reviews by the participants.

Eminent water experts and engineers, officials of the government agencies concerned, Members of the Parliament, representatives of the donor agencies, local and expatriate consultants, representatives of the NGOs, private resource persons attended the conference.

Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Secretary M Asafuddin spoke at the closing function of the conference. Chief Engineer of the Flood Plan Coordination Organisation (FPCO), M H Siddiqi BU was present.

Conceived in 1989 and funded by 14 donor countries and agencies, the FAP aims at exploring long-term solutions to the flood and flood-related disasters which, when implemented, will be technically, financially, economically and environmentally sound for the country.

The action plan comprises eleven plan components and fifteen supporting programmes.

Speaking on the concluding session, Irrigation Secretary M Asafuddin said that an in-

stitutional framework to involve people in the action plan has been formulated.

In the framework, he said, the people would not only contribute to the policy planning but also share the costs and the benefits.

"There is no reason that we shouldn't go for cost-sharing in FAP. But it will not be introduced initially," the Secretary said.

He suggested association of the traditional leaders like the "Matbars" of the rural community in the FAP initiatives, as they served the interest of the community best.

Reiterating the government's firm commitment to a flood-free country, Asafuddin said "the poverty-stricken people of this country deserve much more than what they are getting at present."

Earlier at the two sessions on peoples' participation, the discussants pointed out that the action plan has to be taken to the door-step of the poorest section of the society because they would get the maximum benefit from it.

Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor Prof Emajuddin Ahmed, while presiding over one of the sessions, observed that the existing local government machineries needed change so that those could become more people-oriented.

One of the discussants, Dr Zafrullah Chowdhury, suggested dissemination more information on FAP to the people for their discussion and views.

Columnist Sadeq Khan said that fundamental decisions on FAP must be taken by none other than the people.

During the seminar, the Daily Star on discussions on the FAP studies, Farida Hassan, MP, of the ruling BNP suggested putting more action in the plan than just planning and making research papers.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting at Gajaria in Munshiganj yesterday. —PID photo

Storm in Pabna kills 4

PABNA, May 19: Four people were killed and 10 others injured in a severe storm that lashed three thanas of the district Tuesday evening, reports UNB.

According to witnesses, Abu Bakar (50), Hazrat Ali Molla (45) and Naziruddin (70) of Hatigara village in Bera thana died in thatched house collapse while Moazzam Haq (32) of Chatmohor died by lightning.

The three seriously injured were rushed to Bera thana health complex.

The storm with windspeed of 80 kilometre per hour and heavy rainfall swept over Bera, Chatmohor and Sathia thana razing to the ground about 400 kutcha houses.

District officials said standing crops on about 300 acres were damaged by the storm that lasted for half an hour.

Discard hartals: PM

From Page 1 Col 4

sured the people that her government would always stand by them and would go ahead with its development programmes.

The Prime Minister regretted that some political parties had resorted to anarchy, destruction and anti-development activities at a time when a wave of development was sweeping across the country.

Without naming, Begum Zia said, the parties which have no development programmes and are opposed to the people's welfare have been engaged in creating chaos through hartals and strikes.

The Prime Minister said that the wrong policy of the party which took over immediately after the country's independence had led to the immense sufferings of the people. That political party, she said, had no welfare-oriented programmes which had plunged the nation into a state of crisis.

Begum Zia also blamed the past autocratic regime which

she said had pushed the country to the brink of ruination through its largescale corruption, plundering of national resources, looting and destruction of institutions.

Turning to the country's industrial sector, the Prime Minister said the wages of the workers had to be linked with productivity.

The workers can get increased wages if they can boost up production and make their respective industrial units profitable concerns, she said posing questions wherefrom the government would pay higher wages if there is less production and the units are turned into losing concerns.

About the local problems, the Prime Minister said steps would be taken to construct the Gazaria-Munshiganj road.

Prior to her public meeting, Begum Zia yesterday distributed 50 poultry birds, two goats and two cows among the nine distressed men and women in her efforts to make poor villagers self-reliant.

Future depends on how we rear our children: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday underlined the importance of upbringing children on whom the country's future depends, reports UNB.

"Our future depends on how we bring up our future generation", she said at a children's function at the Osmani Auditorium. It was held for distribution of medals and certificates among children who participated in a competition organised by the Islamic Foundation.

Children should be given priority in all sectors and they should be reared properly, she said, stressing the need for better education, health and nutrition.

Begum Zia also underlined the need for instilling values and patriotism into the children to help them in developing their latent talents.

She listed poverty as the country's main problem and referred to thousands of deprived children who were not getting the facilities of education, but had to go out to seek job at their tender age.

The Prime Minister informed the function that the government has taken a number of programmes on a priority basis for the welfare of the children.

She underlined the importance of competition to develop skills among children and informed that the government has been expanding the activities of the Shisu Academy and Islamic Cultural Centres to help flourish the latent faculties of the children.

More than 100 children were awarded medals and certificates for their outstanding performance in cultural competitions for the years 1991 and 1992.

HC upholds reinstatement of BSC employee

By Court Correspondent

A division bench of the High Court division of the Bangladesh Supreme Court recently dismissed the revision case filed by the Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) and Ministry of Shipping against the judgement and decree passed in 1991 by the 1st Additional District Judge, Dhaka affirming those delivered in 1989 by the 3rd Subordinate Judge declaring that the termination of Raquibuddin Ahmed from his service as Secretary of the BSC in 1982 was "illegal, void and without any lawful authority."

The bench comprising Justice M M Hoque and Justice Md Abdul Karim upheld the said decisions of the lower courts and directed the BSC and Ministry of Shipping to pay Taka five thousand to Raquib as cost.

Ahmed, who served BSC an erstwhile National Shipping Corporation of Pakistan between 1970 and 1982, was illegally terminated during the Martial Law regime on August 31, 1982. He has now been reinstated in his previous position as secretary with full financial benefits and all service facilities including other privileges after 11 years following the High Court order which affirmed the judgements and decrees passed by the trial court and the lower appellate court.

Barristers Moynul Hossain and Joydul Abedin represented Raquibuddin Ahmed while Advocate Faiz appeared for the BSC and A Y Salehuzzaman, Deputy Attorney General, represented the Ministry of Shipping.

Ektatturer Jishu gets clearance

By Staff Correspondent

The full length Bengali film "Ektatturer Jishu" (Jesus of 1971), on the country's Liberation War, which was earlier denied a Censor certificate, finally got the clearance Wednesday.

The Ministry of Information requested the Bangladesh Film Censor Board to release the feature film as per the recommendation of the Appeal Board, which after watching the film found it eligible for public viewing.

The Film Censor Board earlier had denied to certify the film believing it might affect public sentiment and Bangladesh's relations with a neighbouring country.

Nastruddin Yusuf, the director of the movie, had appealed to the Appeal Board against the Film Censor Board decision.

The Midnight File

China is important, difficult to handle, says report

LONDON, May 19: Coping with China's dramatic post-Cold War economic growth is as much a problem for China's rulers as it is for the outside world, the International Institute for Strategic Studies said Wednesday. "For the world as a whole China is becoming both more important and more difficult to handle," the institute said in its annual report. China is teetering between confidence it gained from the breakup of the Soviet Union, and insecurity brought by its swift development, the report said, reports AP.

Serb Assembly declares Vance-Owen plan dead

MOUNT JAHORINA (Bosnia-Herzegovina), May 19: The Bosnian Serb assembly on Wednesday proclaimed the death of an international peace plan and threw the question of more war or peace back to the world community. "The Vance-Owen plan is dead. Long live the peace process," Karadzic said at the meeting opened. "The Serb people have not voted for war. We are calling on all politicians... to come up with new ideas, new peace initiatives," he said, reports AP.

96 pc Bosnian Serbs voted against peace plan

SARAJEVO, May 19: Official results today showed Bosnia's Serbs voted by an overwhelming 96 per cent against a UN-backed peace plan, while Croats and Muslims battled again in central Bosnia, reports Reuter.

The fighting flared around dawn, with Bosnian Muslims and Croats exchanging sniper fire and rocket propelled grenades.

ALWC

From Page 1 Col 5

Begum Zohra Tajuddin, Abdus Samad Azad, Abdul Mannan, Dr Alauddin, Begum Sajda Chowdhury, Amir Hossain Amu, Abdur Razzak, Tofael Ahmed and Zillur Rahman were present.

In another resolution, the meeting alleged armed goons of the ruling BNP killed Chhatra League worker Ranzu in Pabna and Juba League worker Pikul in Jessore in last two days.

The killing of Bahauddin of Mirpur Bangla College was the outcome of intra-party conflict of Chhatra Dal, the resolution said.

In a separate resolution, the meeting also vented concern at unbridled increase in the prices of agricultural inputs, aggravating the suffering of the farmers. The meeting demanded cut in the price of agricultural inputs by 50 per cent and refixation of diesel price at Tk 7 per litre.

Earlier, the Advisory Council of Awami League met at the party office yesterday morning with Sheikh Hasina in the chair, discussed prevailing socio-economic and political situation as well as various national and international issues.

Cockpit crew

From Page 1 Col 7

The other members of the committee include Captain Mushaqaq, chief of Flight Safety, A R Choudhury, Deputy Chief Engineer of Biman, P K Biswas, an official of the CAAB and two representatives of Bangladesh Airforce.

Meanwhile, the Biman authorities remained uncertain how soon the aircraft could be retrieved to a nearby hanger as, they said, inspection by representatives of the manufacturers and the insurance company would be necessary before it is shifted.

Inspection by representatives of the insurer Lyods of London, along with the aircraft's manufacturer McDonnell Douglas is needed to ascertain Biman's insurance claim, they added. Representatives of the two companies are expected to arrive soon.

Responding to a question, a Biman official said that retrieving the huge aircraft from the muddy field would pose no problem such it can be done with equipment available here.

He added that the extent of the damage to the aircraft cannot be gauged until it is salvaged and taken to the hangar.

Biman officials also said that a contingency plan has been initiated to reschedule flights to 29 international destinations.

The national carrier would try to maintain flights to the high-density destinations while curtailing the low density ones. However, they added that the Hajj flights would depart on schedule.

Restaurants open today

By Staff Correspondent

A three-day strike by the country's restaurant and tea-stall owners ends this morning.

Some 30 thousand restaurants and tea-stalls went on a 72-hour strike Monday last for realisation of their five-point demands including withdrawal of Value Added Tax (VAT).

Striking owners and their employees held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday reiterating their call for realisation of the demands.

President of the association, Khandker Ruhul Amin, said that they would go for a bigger agitation if the VAT was not withdrawn in the coming budget session of Parliament.

Among others, the rally was addressed by Mohammad Sharifuddin, Abul Kalam Azad, Gazi Mohammad Arshad, Haji Mohammad Ekhtas and Wahidur Rahman Baechehu. The rally was followed by a procession which ended at the National Board of Revenue (NBR).

Polytech

From Page 1 Col 5

ted a memorandum to the Home Ministry on Tuesday demanding that the institute be freed from terrorists and a congenial academic atmosphere created.

Also on Tuesday, police raided Abdul Latif Hall of the Institute and recovered huge quantity of arms and ammunition and arrested two youths, including a student.

Police were also posted in and around the institute campus to guard against untoward incident.

CPB session

From Page 1 Col 7

leadership with a Marxist-Leninist political ideology or to quit the party and floating an organisation of their own, sources said. The reformists, on the other hand, told the meeting that they were ready to give up leadership aspirations provided their opponents in the party accepted their previous proposal for changing the party name.

Both groups, in fact, maintained their rigid stances. The leaders would most likely use the extra time before the special council session to settle amicably their disputes regarding ownership of the party property, sources in both factions told The Daily Star last night.

FAP

From Page 1 Col 4

FAP and easy access to all relevant information. Because people have a right to know about any flood or drainage projects and their long-term implications.

The opponents of a hasty FAP also pointed out that the World Bank (WB) was not acting according to its own principles regarding the FAP and demanded a review of the plan by a neutral committee.

The WB has categorised FAP in the "B" grade in its environmental impact assessment. But considering the possible enormous impact it may have on the people, the WB should have categorised it in the "A" grade which would ensure adequate compensation to the people affected by the project, they suggested.

"We do not per se oppose the embankments as such," they clarified. "We are opposing random embankments before assessing their actual need consequences," they concluded.

Administrative reforms

From Page 1 Col 7

tions are issued and existing ones amended has resulted in a great deal of uncertainty and unpredictability in the investment environment."

The lack of public accountability, it added, is enhanced by the fact that typical 'no reports' are made of the time taken to process applications for undertaking various types of commercial transactions.

The report goes on to note that those who know how to navigate through the administrative labyrinth are able to proceed, while others have to wait for extended periods.

"Access can, and frequently does, have its price. Official simply do not take action, or refuse to take action, without sufficient 'encouragement'," the report remarked.

Even when decisions are finally taken, it said, they can often be arbitrary and administrative review is difficult, time consuming and generally unrewarding, and judicial oversight is hard to obtain.

Acknowledging that it is not uncommon for businessmen to complain about bureaucratic procedures, the report, however, noted "The complexity, the opacity and arbitrariness" of the rules and regulations in Bangladesh is unusual by any standards.

As an example, it said, in many ministries there is only one copy of a particular regulation and it is difficult, even for lawyers, to obtain access to it. Noting that government "intervention and rent-seeking" have corroded the judicial, administrative and commercial machinery of the country, the FIAS report said that the environment is thus discouraging for any potential investor.

The risks for investing any appreciable amount of capital in such circumstances are unacceptable for most, hence the majority of all commercial activity is confined to trading in one guise or another, or at its worst extreme, smuggling."

Any discussion of incentives for domestic and foreign investment may be premature, the report noted, so long as the primary impediment to investment in Bangladesh continues to be the way rules, regulations and administrative procedures are applied.

The FIAS report recommends setting up of a permanent administrative reform commission to rationalise existing rules, regulations and procedures and a standing committee within the senior secretariat to vet all regulations.

In reforming administrative practices, the report suggested establishing deadlines for action with automatic approval procedures, setting up an inter-ministerial implementation committee and an administrative law tribunal.

Calling for establishing public reporting requirement, it urged for publishing rules, regulations, procedures and a handbook on commercial investment laws, regulations and procedures.

The FIAS report went on to recommend strongly the streamlining of anti-corruption procedures and appointing of an ombudsman, as provided under Article 77 of the Constitution.

The Director General of BTV has been asked by the government to submit a report fixing responsibility for lapses, if any, to the concerned authorities immediately.

The faulty landing of the Biman BG 036 flight from Jeddah at ZIA damaged the plane heavily. However, none of the passengers or crew were hurt.

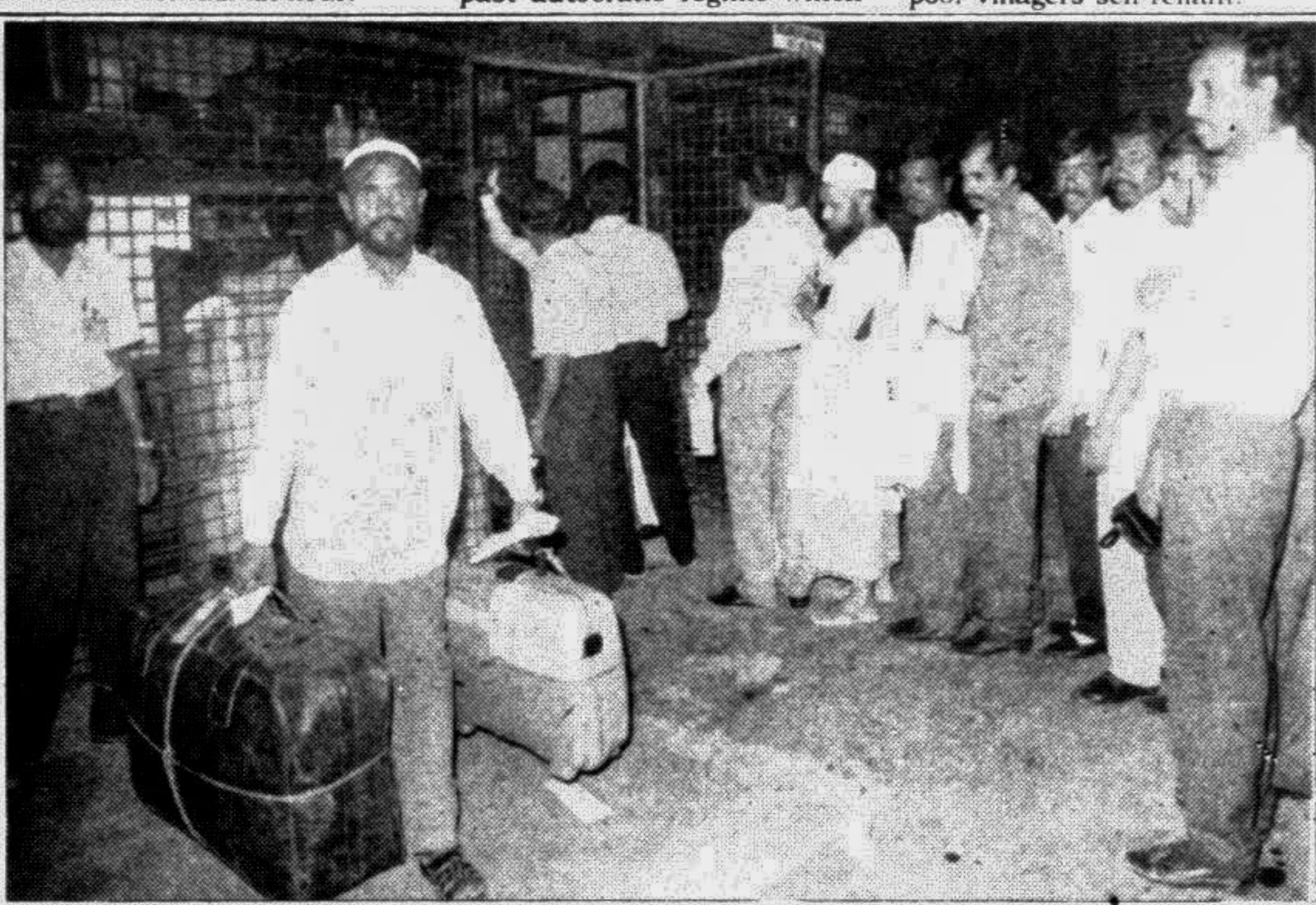
But BTV failed to inform its viewers about the incident in any of its bulletins Tuesday night.

The Daily Star had mentioned this inexplicable black-out of the mishap by the BTV in its Wednesday's issue.

The DMP Commissioner also pointed out that shortage of men and proper logistic support were the major causes for failure to arrest the rise of crime.

The government also plans to create two more police divisions, namely an East Division and a West Division in the Dhaka metropolitan area which is now divided into only the North and South divisions.

Besides, the government has sanctioned another police station for Pallabi, Mirpur. In Bangladesh there is only one police man for every 1370 citizens.



One of the passengers of Biman's BG 036 flight which made a faulty landing at ZIA Tuesday retrieves his baggage yesterday while others wait in queue for their turn. —Star photo

BTV asked to explain

By Staff Correspondent

The government has formed an inquiry committee to investigate why Bangladesh Television (BTV) failed to cover the Biman DC-10 accident in its news bulletins Tuesday.

The Director General of BTV has been asked by the government to submit a report fixing responsibility for lapses, if any, to the concerned authorities immediately.

The faulty landing of the Biman BG 036 flight from Jeddah at ZIA damaged the plane heavily. However, none of the passengers or crew were hurt.

But BTV failed to inform its viewers about the incident in any of its bulletins Tuesday night.

The Daily Star had mentioned this inexplicable black-out of the mishap by the BTV in its Wednesday's issue.

Two found dead in Pabna

PABNA, May 19: A villager and his niece who set out for the capital in search of work were found dead in a ditch near Gofrabad railway station today, reports UNB.

Some DC-10 passengers

From Page 1 Col 7

Photographer of The Daily Star a number of the passengers confided what had happened during and immediately after the crash.

They recalled that only after feeling a severe jolt and a sudden loud bang did they realise that something had happened to their aircraft.

The passengers survived injuries because the seat-belts were fastened, noted Mohammad Shahjahan, a middle-aged man from Feni who was returning home from Saudi Arabia. A number of passengers alleged that several minutes elapsed before they were told what had happened and were asked by the cabin crew to evacuate.

A chaotic situation prevailed inside the aircraft because of a lack of adequate directives from the cabin crew as to how to evacuate and also because the panky passengers did not know exactly what to do, they added.

After struggling off the aircraft the passengers landed on thick mud amid pouring rain. When they reached the airport terminal the passengers were asked to go home after being given a coupon and told to return the next day to pick up their luggage.

Most of the passengers were from the Noakhali region.

Some of them were sent to Sylhet by a connecting flight on Tuesday.

A number of these passengers also claimed that many of their carry-on luggage were missing.

Shahjahan said that he had lost his wallet during the chaos and confusion while another passenger, Abdul Majid, said one of his handbags was missing.

Pak SC

From Page 1 Col 8

some 'sensitive material' that the government had received from Pakistani missions abroad.

The court, which has been hearing the petition challenging Sharif's dismissal since May 8, was to examine whether the former Prime Minister had not paid due attention to certain issues of state.

Sharif was dismissed from office on April 18 after trying to trim President Ghulam Ishaq Khan's wide-ranging powers to fire governments.

The deposed premier in his last meeting with Ishaq Khan on April 14 had undertaken to resolve the 'grave and preasting national and international issues facing the country.' But these did not receive the attention they deserved, the state attorney said.