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VOL. III NO. 146 REGD. NO. DA 781

ASHAR 4, 1400 BS,

DHAKA FRIDAY, JUNE 18, 1993

ZILHAJ 26, 1413 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

**Inside Today**

**Article**

**The Other Cleansing—Croats Turn on Muslims, too**  
Page 4

**International**

**Israel offers to make Golan demilitarized**  
**Lanka cuts Hema Premadasa's facilities**  
Page 5

**Business**

**Australia won't join any trade link against Japan**  
**Malaysia lifts freeze on foreign workers**  
Pages 6, 7

**Weekend Magazine**

**The world's indigenous people, My World, The Merchant of Venice: Dhaka Little Theatre's spectacular presentation, Gunter Grass: Keeping the critical conscience of society awake and Down the memory lane**  
Pages 9, 10 & 11

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**Young, energetic and imaginative**  
Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**BNPPP meets tomorrow**

A meeting of the BNP Parliamentary Party will be held at the Sangsad Bhaban on Saturday at 8 pm. Leader of the House and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting at Room No 932, 8th floor of the West Block of the Sangsad Bhaban. It will discuss present political and economic situation and matters relating to the budget session, reports UNB.

**CU exam schedule**

CHITTAGONG, June 17: Terminal examinations of M Com. final year (Accounting and Finance) students for the session 1989-90 and M. Com. preliminary students for the session 1990-91 will now be held from July 21, reports BSS.

**Japanese envoy meets Speaker**

Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Shigeo Takenaka called on Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali here yesterday and discussed bilateral matters with special emphasis on economic cooperation. During the meeting at the Speaker's Sangsad Bhaban Chamber, they also discussed matters relating to foreign investment in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

**Muggers stab businessman**

By DMCH Correspondent  
Muggers stabbed one person and snatched Tk 2000 in the city Thursday morning.  
The victim, Mohammed Abul Kalam, 40, a businessman was waylaid by a group of muggers at Kawan Bazar at about 4.30 am Thursday.  
The muggers severely stabbed Abul Kalam and took away Tk 2000.  
Kalam was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

**Arrest order against main warlord**  
**UN troops, Aideed's men clash: 60 killed**

MOGADISHU, June 17: Mogadishu's two main hospitals reported more than 60 people had been killed today and a further 100 people wounded in fighting between gunmen and UN troops in the Somali capital, reports Reuters.  
Meanwhile, the United Nations today ordered the arrest of the main Somali warlord Mahamed Farah Aideed. He will be charged with crimes against humanity, a UN spokesman said.  
Workers at the city's Digfir Hospital said 54 people had died and 104 had been injured in today's clash. The other main hospital, The Benadir, reported nine dead and 19 wounded.  
There was no independent confirmation of the death toll.  
A UN military spokesman said earlier there had been casualties on both sides, but was unable to give exact figures.  
"There are casualties on both sides, but there is no count yet," US Army Major David Stockwell told reporters.  
Italy's ANSA news agency said three Pakistani UN peacekeepers and two Moroccan soldiers had been killed in Thursday's clashes.  
The fighting erupted after UN troops launched a major offensive against gunmen loyal to Somali warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed.  
As the gunships bombed the ruined capital and helicopters hovered overhead, angry Somalis ran through the streets shouting "We will kill you" to any foreigners they saw.  
US AC-130 'Spectre' planes pounded the city for more than four hours, unleashing 105mm Howitzers at Aideed's stronghold and widespread gunfire erupted as troops moved in at dawn.  
A convoy of US and Italian troops rumbled through the city. See Page 12 Col 6

**General debate on budget continues**  
**Peasants ignored: Opposition Accepted in good grace: BNP**

The Opposition in Parliament yesterday criticised the proposed budget for fiscal 1993-94 for its failure to comprehend the objective socio-economic situation of the country.  
The legislators were participating in the third day's discussion on the new budget yesterday.  
The opposition alleged that the proposed budget ignored the interests of the peasant who had been providing 40 per cent of the nation's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).  
Opposition members also observed that the budget had failed to provide any sense of direction regarding industrialisation.  
They believed that the budget had been proposed in the light of World Bank (WB) and International Monetary Fund (IMF) prescriptions which have a little understanding of the country's core problems.  
The Treasury Bench congratulated the Finance Minister for providing the highest allocation to the education sector and non-imposition of fresh taxes. Ruling party MPs observed that their counterparts were criticising the budget for the sake of criticism only. "The people have accepted the budget in good grace and this was evident from the fact that no procession was brought out on the streets to protest the budget," the Treasury Bench MPs argued.  
A few Treasury Bench MPs, including Golam Rabbani of Juyprhat, however, criticised certain aspects of the proposed budget.  
Golam Rabbani criticised the budget for 'not giving any sense of direction to make the country's heavy industrial units economically viable'. See Page 12 Col 7

**Dhaka's call to uphold human rights without dual standards**

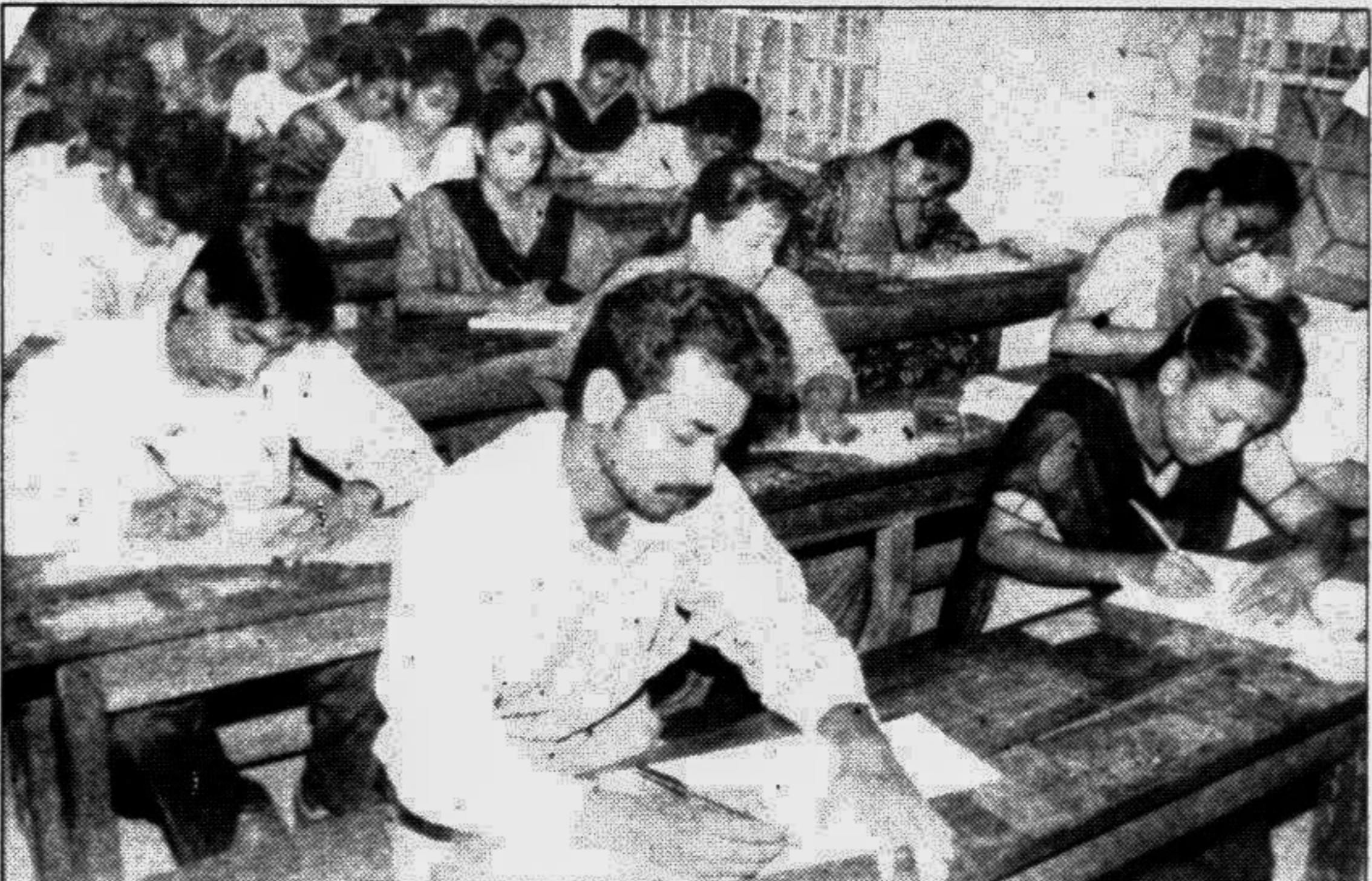
Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman has called for upholding the human rights on a global scale without applying dual standards, reports BSS.  
The violations of the human rights go on because we apply different standards to different situations," he told the current world conference on human rights in Vienna, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.  
The Foreign Minister, who is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the conference, made his statement Wednesday. The conference began on June 14 and will continue till June 25.  
Rahman, detailing the conference, said the government "to redouble its efforts to guarantee that all Bangladeshis enjoy lives free from threats to their fundamental rights". The report, however, did not mention any detailed or specific instances.  
The House of Representatives Subcommittee on Asia and Pacific released its recommendations on June 1 in Washington and the report was made available to the press by the USIS in Dhaka yesterday. The Subcommittee, previously chaired by Congressman Stephan Solarz, is now headed by Congressman Gary Ackerman (Democrat, New York).  
The report, while expressing its "intense interest in

**US House body report faults our human rights situation**

By Staff Correspondent  
Members of the US House of Representatives Committee on Foreign Affairs feel disturbed by the State Department's assessment that the human rights situation in Bangladesh deteriorated last year.  
The recommendations of the Committee, released recently, went on to add that the members "Wish to underscore the fact that democracy cannot survive in an atmosphere where the government is less than fully committed to the protection of individual human rights."  
The House Committee urged the Bangladesh government "to redouble its efforts

**Khaleda meets partymen this afternoon**

By Staff Correspondent.  
The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) will hold a special meeting of the MPs, ministers and other central leaders available in the capital today.  
There is no specific agenda for the meeting, rescheduled for 5-30 this afternoon at the Prime Minister's Sugandha office, but insiders indicated that the two-year performance of the BNP as a ruling party would be reviewed.  
The meeting is also being considered as groundwork leading to a possible cabinet reshuffle since it was convened at a short notice and after Saturday's sacking of State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda.  
Party chairperson Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will attend the meeting. See Page 12 Col 2



**A RACE AGAINST TIME:** First day of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations at a city college yesterday. — Star photo

**Clinton welcomes Dhaka-UNHCR accord on Rohingyaas**

US President Bill Clinton has welcomed the recently concluded agreement between Bangladesh and UNHCR on the repatriation of Rohingya refugees and their welfare, reports BSS.  
"We warmly welcome your government's efforts to promote the welfare of the refugees," said Clinton in a letter sent to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday.  
The US President assured his country's continued support for the cooperation between Bangladesh and United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) for the safe return of Rohingya refugees to Myanmar from Bangladesh.  
American Ambassador in Dhaka William B Milam handed over the letter to Begum Zia at her office. Milam accompanied by US Marine Lt Gen Stackpole, who paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister.  
The visiting American General, who commanded the joint Task Force Operation Sea Angel as part of US military relief efforts in Bangladesh in the aftermath of the 1991 cyclone, thanked the Prime Minister for giving him the time.  
Begum Zia recalled the contributions of the US Task Force in the rehabilitation and relief operations in Bangladesh following the devastating cyclone.

**Wet weather to continue**

By Staff Correspondent  
Intermittent rain and gusty wind disrupted normal life in the capital Thursday, while the Met Office forecast more rain today.  
After a light shower in the morning, drizzles and heavy showers accompanied with gusty wind continued throughout Thursday creating inconvenience to commuters as well as the city dwellers in their normal work.  
The Met Office recorded 8 mm of rainfall in 12 hours during the day.  
A Met official said that the depression formed over the Bay on Wednesday was now crossing over West Bengal and adjoining Bangladesh as a land depression.  
Most parts of the country experienced rain and showers on Thursday under the influence of the depression and weathermen said it would take at least another two days for the sky to clear.  
The highest rainfall — 77 mm — was recorded at Cox's Bazar, followed by 41 mm in Feni, 38 mm in Chittagong, 36 mm in Patuakhali, 35 mm at Sandwip, 34 mm each at Majdee Court and Sitakundu, 26 at Comilla and 21 mm at Barisal.  
Our Staff Correspondent from Chittagong adds: Normal life was almost paralysed here Thursday following intermittent rainfall accompanied by gusty wind.  
The rainfall that began from the morning amid gusty wind — Star photo

**Miyazawa faces no-confidence**

TOKYO, June 17: Opposition parties submitted a motion of no-confidence in Japanese Prime Minister Kijichi Miyazawa's government today after his failure to push through promised anti-corruption reforms, NHK television said, reports Reuters.  
With a group of ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) dissidents ready to cross the floor, Miyazawa faces the real possibility of defeat which would oblige him either to resign or call snap elections.  
Meanwhile, a leader of Japan's strife-torn ruling party said today he hoped to stall a key confidence vote in parliament until the party had a chance to whip rebellious pro-reform dissidents into line.  
It was Miyazawa's failure to honour a pledge to enact anti-corruption laws that united the fractious opposition in a bid to overthrow his government.

**Expulsions, clashes mark first day of HSC exams**

By Staff Correspondent  
At least 50 people including five policemen were injured in clashes on the first day of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations while over 1031 examinees were expelled from different examination centres across the country yesterday.  
The highest number of examinees were expelled from six districts under the Comilla Board. Board Office sources said, as many as 380 examinees were expelled yesterday.  
The number of expulsions were as follows: Chittagong district — 187, Comilla district — 146; Sylhet—25, Brahmanbaria,—17, Laxmipur—4 and Noakhali—1. The Board office could not provide information regarding the examination centres of nine other districts.  
Violence broke out between police and the examinees and outsiders at the Sirajul Islam College under Boalkhali thana the Quah Burischar College under Hathazari thana and the Satkania College, from where 60 examinees were expelled.  
During the clashes police lathicharged and fired blanks to disperse the mobs which, along with the angry candidates, had attacked the exam centres.  
Some motor vehicles were damaged during the clashes, the Board office said, adding that 15 persons were arrested in this connection.  
Under the Rajshahi Board, 363 examinees were expelled from different centres of five districts out of 16.  
The district-wise numbers of expulsions were as follows: Dinajpur—234, Bogra—56, Rajshahi—39, Panchagarh—22 and Lalmonirhat—12. The Board office could not provide information regarding the other centres.  
Under Dhaka Board 269 examinees were expelled. Of them 102 candidates were expelled in Mymensingh district, while only five students were expelled from Dhaka city Colleges.  
Only 29 examinees were expelled from five districts of Jessore Board — Jessore, Kushtia, Khulna, Barisal and Patuakhali.  
Three lakh 39 thousand and 524 candidates appeared on the first day of this year's HSC exams. There are 655 examination centres and 105 sub-centres under the four education boards of the country.

**Mahathir's letter handed over to Khaleda**

The visiting special envoy of the Prime Minister of Malaysia Dr Mahathir bin Muhammad called on the Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office here yesterday, reports BSS.  
The special envoy and Minister for Domestic Trade and Consumer Affairs, Datu Abu Haji Abu Hasan bin Omar handed over a letter from Malaysian Prime Minister to Begum Zia.  
He also conveyed an invitation by Dr Mahathir bin Muhammad to Begum Zia to visit Malaysia. The Prime Minister accepted the invitation and said the visit will take place at a mutually convenient time.  
Begum Zia thanked the Malaysian Prime Minister for taking personal interest for the development of bilateral relations.  
They also discussed bilateral matters.  
**Fresh rainfall inundates new areas in Sylhet**  
From Our Correspondent  
SYLHET, June 17: The flood situation in Sylhet Sadar, Fenchuganj and Balaganj has deteriorated further with the start of rains since Wednesday night inundating new areas of Sadar thana.  
The direct road link between Zakiganj, Beanbazar, Balaganj and Fenchuganj still remained suspended.  
Water in all the rivers were still flowing above danger-level. The Surma at Sylhet was flowing well above and at Kanaihat 41 cm above the red-mark. The Kushiya was 113 cm above danger-level at Fenchuganj, 27 cm above at Sheola of Beanbazar thana and 65 cm above at Amolshid of Zakiganj.  
Thirty-three mm of rainfall was recorded in Sylhet during the last 36 hours ending Thursday noon.

**Police protection for Mehta: CBI asked to probe Party stalwarts rally behind Rao**

NEW DELHI, June 17: India's ruling Congress (I) party closed ranks behind Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, his image dented by a damning allegation he had taken money from the chief suspect in a huge bank fraud, reports AFP.  
Cabinet and party heavyweights expressed disbelief at Wednesday's accusation by stock market "big bull" Harshad Mehta, as the opposition clamoured for Rao's resignation and the press demanded proof of the premier's innocence.  
"The party is solidly behind the Prime Minister," Congress (I) spokesman Vithal Gadgil said Thursday. "We have full faith in his leadership."  
Human Resources Development Minister Arjun Singh, seen as Rao's main challenger within the government, rose to defend him at a press conference in the eastern Indian city of Gaya.  
He said he could not believe Mehta, expressed faith in Rao's leadership and ruled out a threat to the government, the Press Trust of India said.  
Senior Congress (I) leader and former Defence Minister Sharad Pawar described Mehta's charge as blackmail and other party members saw a conspiracy to destabilise Rao's government, which completes two years Monday.  
Meanwhile, Maharashtra state Chief Minister Sharad Pawar said he had asked the Bombay police to give "full cooperation" to the CBI.  
See Page 12 Col 8

**DC-10 pilot ignored advice not to land**

By Staff Correspondent  
The Pilot of Biman's DC-10 aircraft which met an accident last month at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) was reportedly advised not to land in the stormy weather, a source who overheard the replayed control room tape recording at the airport, said.  
"The pilot was asked not to land," the source, who was also interrogated by the seven-member inquiry committee, told The Daily Star on condition of anonymity.  
He said that the conversation with the pilot recorded in the control tower was played while the committee members recorded the pilot's statement. See Page 12 Col 3

**Implementation of Road Division projects poor**

By Staff Correspondent  
Implementation of projects taken up by the Roads and Road Transport Division of the Ministry of Communications under the 1992-93 Annual Development Programme (ADP) has been poor.  
According to official sources, Tk 622.52 crore was spent till April last against an allocation of Tk 978.75 crore for 40 projects of the division.  
Reasons for the poor performance in project implementation, according to the authorities, include delay in finalising tenders, unavailability of machinery and stones, delay in the process of acquiring land, appointing experts and contractors, formulating work programmes and disbursement of foreign aid.  
Of the total projects, 12 — four of which were designated priority projects — were earmarked for completion by the end of the 1992-93 fiscal. But, according to sources, three out of these 12 will not be completed on time because the progress in implementing the four priority projects was rather disappointing.  
The projects which were given priority included the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project (JMBP), the Roads Development Project-1, the Feeder Road Development Project and the Road Rehabilitation and Maintenance Project-1.  
A sum of Tk 9 crore 91 lakh was spent till April this year in