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# The Daily Star

**NIRMAN TILES**

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**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Bureaucracy-Tech-nocracy Tension: Need for a Conceptual Appreciation**  
by Syed Naquib Muslim Page 4

**International**

**Cong-I Wooing Janata Dal to survive no-confidence**  
Sihanouk won't hold talks with Khmer Rouge leaders Page 5

**Business**

**EC settles dispute over aid share**  
Mubarak happy to beat off WB demand to boost market economy Pages 6, 7

**Feature**

**Education**

**More Than Liberal Budget Allocations Necessary to Achieve Universal Primary Education: A Comprehensive Education Plan; Computing Visions of the Future** Page 8

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**

**A Slum Woman Defends Her Liberty** Page 3

## Qureshi to consider proposals for Pak electoral reforms



Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi (R) chatting with former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at her residence in Islamabad yesterday. — AFP photo

ISLAMABAD, July 20: Pakistan's caretaker Prime Minister Moeen Qureshi promised today to consider proposals for electoral reform, as he began talks with political leaders in preparation for October general elections, reports AFP.

Meanwhile, the Election Commission said it would announce by August 22 a detailed programme for the polls.

The Commission asked all political parties to submit their annual statements of financial accounts as required under the Constitution.

Qureshi met separately with former Prime Ministers Nawaz Sharif and Benazir Bhutto, the main contenders in the coming election.

After hour-long talks with Bhutto, Qureshi, sworn in only Sunday, said the caretaker government would "earnestly consider" the reforms suggested by her to guarantee impartial elections.

See Page 12 Col 3

## Govt's minority shares in jute mills on sale

**Star Report**

The government is moving to sell the minority shares it owns in 16 jute mills now under private management.

According to official sources, these shares will be offered to the general public.

A decision to this effect has been taken recently after the private management of 33 jute mills denationalised in 1982 failed to take up the offer of government-owned minority shares made to them.

In 1982 the management of 35 jute mills nationalised earlier under PO (Presidential Order) 27 were transferred to their former Bangladeshi owners. The government retained ownership of 49 per cent of the shares of 33 of these mills. In case of the remaining two such minority shares were not retained.

In the backdrop of a plan drawn up by the government to restructure Bangladesh's jute industry, the private management of the 33 mills were offered in January 1989 the minority shares owned by the government with a cut-off date of June 30, 1993, to respond.

The management of only nine of these mills have so far expressed their intention of buying out all of the minority shares in their respective units and have put up the required money.

The remaining 24 jute mills response to the government offer has been lukewarm. Eight jute mills owners have not responded at all while the owners of 12 mills have said that they need more time to make up their minds about buying the shares. In the case of three other privately-owned jute mills, only some of the private share-

See Page 12 Col 8

## Clinton fires FBI chief

WASHINGTON, July 20: President Bill Clinton fired Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director William Sessions Monday after he refused to resign, reports AP.

Attorney General Janet Reno asked Sessions to resign over the weekend, and when he refused Clinton telephoned him Monday and dismissed him effective immediately, the President said.

"Serious questions have been raised about the conduct and leadership of the Director of the FBI", Clinton said in a televised news conference. The President said he had concluded that Sessions could "no longer effectively lead the Bureau".

In January, the Justice Department accused Sessions of ethical lapses, such as using government vehicles for personal trips, avoiding taxes on chauffeured travel, using public funds to build a fence around his home and receiving a "sweetheart" deal for a home mortgage.

Sessions has denied the allegations.

Clinton named Deputy FBI Director Floyd Clarke as Acting Director.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Shrimp production declining

**By Chapal Bashar**

Lately, there has been a falling trend in export growth of marine products, both in value and quantity. While the increase in export value during 1984-85 over the figure for 1979-80 was nearly 135 per cent, the corresponding percentage during the following years has shown a declining trend. By 1989-90 there was a negative growth in value of exports while a reduction in quantity was evident even during the 1987-88 period.

The report mentioned that shrimp culture boom in Southeast Asian countries has adversely affected the competitiveness of shrimps from Bangladesh during the period mainly due to quality deterioration. "The result was comparatively lower value in the export markets, less return for the primary producer and fall in production," the report added.

Japan was the biggest importer of shrimp from Bangladesh till 1988, but now the US claims this position. Belgium and UK are the markets which have increased their shrimp imports from Bangladesh lately.

The report said that the shrimp production in Bangladesh from extensive farming could be increased. It said: Considering the low rate of shrimp production obtained from extensive culture farms at present, there is scope for enhancing the yield through minor modifications in stocking, elimination of predators and unwanted species as well as fertilizing. The shrimp farmers should be helped through extension services and by providing infrastructure facilities and finance through judicious investments, the report recommended.

The INFOFISH study also stated that while there was still scope for enhancing fish and shrimp production from both capture and culture sources, there was need for caution while choosing the most appropriate technology for meeting objective.

The environmental factors are of paramount importance in this country, especially in view of the frequent natural calamities visiting its coastal areas and plains in the forms of flood, cyclones and tidal waves, the study report said.

It also suggested that rather than increasing the area used for aquaculture, the desirable option for Bangladesh should be to increase the present rate of production through necessary modification in traditional practices without any drastic increase in cost of inputs.

## Politics gone wild!

HYDERABAD (India), July 20: The wife and two daughters of an opposition politician were stripped and paraded naked in the south Indian state of Andhra Pradesh by a local leader of Prime Minister Narasimha Rao's Congress Party, opposition leaders alleged today, reports Reuter.

They said the incident on Friday, in which the three women of an opposition Telugu Desam Party (TDP) member were allegedly humiliated in a local political feud, had stirred serious tensions in Amaravati, a coastal temple town.

TDP President N T Rama Rao, a former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, said the women were dragged out of their home by a Congress leader, the local village chief.

Rao said the chief was angered by the TDP member's bid to put his won name forward as one of the sponsors of a statue of Mahatma Gandhi before it was formally inaugurated.

Gandhi, leader of India's Independence Movement, is revered in India as an apostle of peace.

Rao accused the police of deliberately not arresting the culprit.

## Minister resigns in protest Miyazawa may have to quit Thursday

TOKYO, July 20: In a highly unusual Cabinet confrontation, an outspoken minister demanded Tuesday that Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa resign, then resigned himself when the demand was rejected, reports AP.

The sudden decision by Posts and Telecommunications Minister Junichiro Kotzum further weakened Miyazawa's fragile grip of power following the ruling party's historic loss in elections Sunday.

Later in the day, Miyazawa, 73, hinted that he had already made his decision to resign as leader of the ruling Liberal Democrats and prime minister.

"I have no intention of just hanging onto my position," Miyazawa told party leaders who had urged him to step down. "I am doing this job at the party's behest. It will determine my fate."

Miyazawa, considered a lame duck since losing a no-confidence vote in June, surprised party members Monday when he refused to resign, saying he would make his own decision after considering party views.

Party insiders said they expected Miyazawa to announce his resignation during a meeting of LDP lawmakers Thursday.

**Editorial on Page 4**

The Liberal Democrats have governed Japan since their party's formation in 1955 and claim credit for the country's economic growth.

Still the Liberal Democrats won 223 of the 511 seats in the elections Sunday.

See Page 12 Col 7



Kiichi Miyazawa

## PM's condolences for flood-hit Americans

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday offered Bangladesh's help to the United States in tackling the post-flood situation there, reports UNB.

In a message to US President Bill Clinton, Begum Zia conveyed her deepest sympathies and condolences to all those affected by the unprecedented floods in the mid-west region.

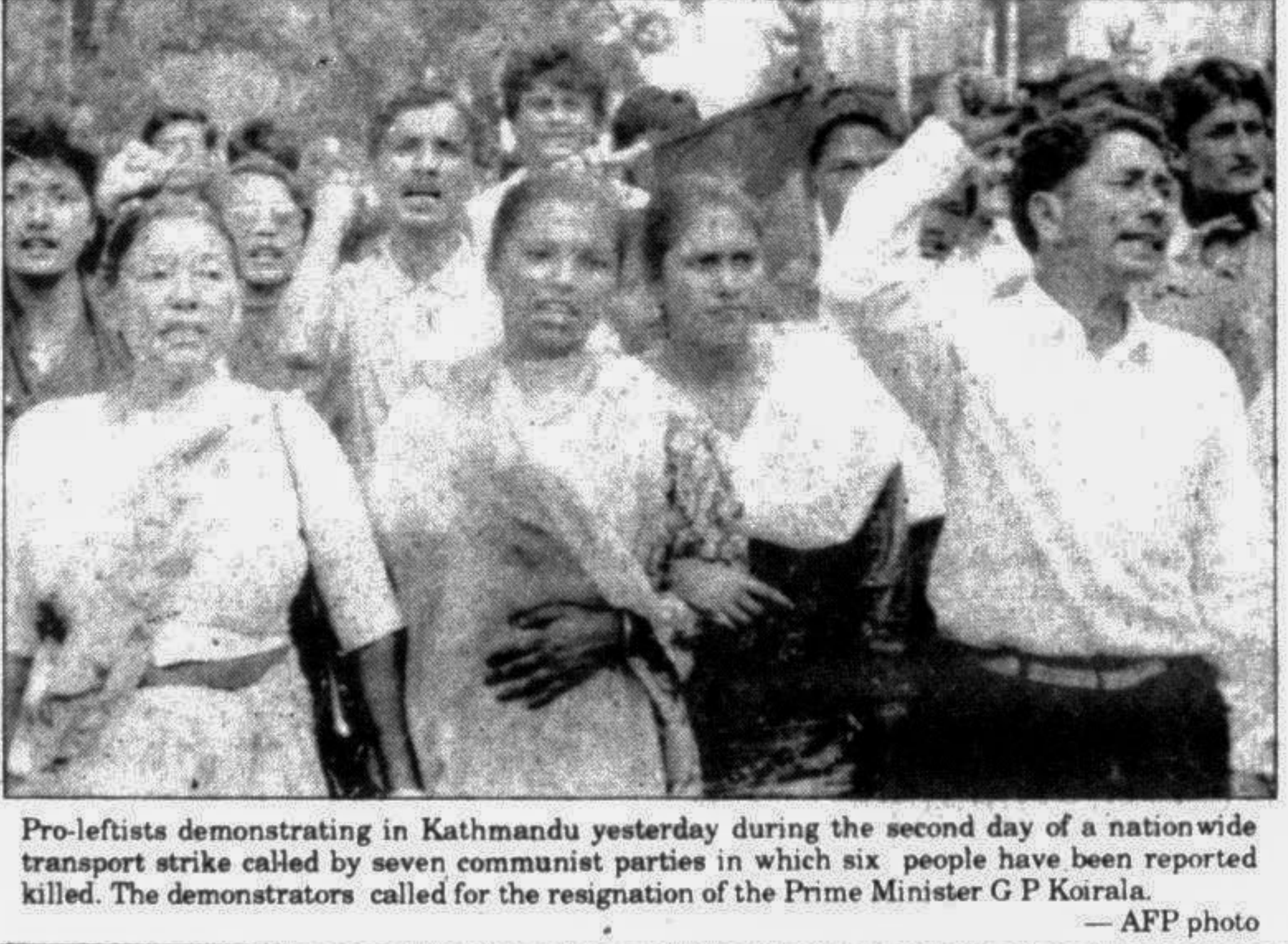
"As a token of our concern in this time of trial 'we would like to stand beside you offering our help in whatever humble way we can,'" said the Prime Minister.

She further said that the government and people of Bangladesh recall in particular the invaluable assistance of the United States task force 'Operation Sea Angel' in the aftermath of the devastating cyclone of April, 1991.

BSS adds: Bangladesh has decided to send tea and jute bags to the United States, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said yesterday.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman informed Bangladesh's decision to US Charge D'affaires in Bangladesh yesterday.

The US envoy thanked the Bangladesh government for this welcome gesture of support.



Pro-fleists demonstrating in Kathmandu yesterday during the second day of a nationwide transport strike called by seven communist parties in which six people have been reported killed. The demonstrators called for the resignation of the Prime Minister G P Koirala. — AFP photo

## 2 more die from bullet wounds in Nepal

KATHMANDU, July 20: Two women died from bullet wounds in police firing in five districts of Nepal on Monday bringing the death toll to six during a nationwide transport strike called by communist factions, party officials said today.

However, the second day of the 48-hour strike today ended peacefully after the government had released 17 arrested communist MPs and more than 2,000 activists overnight.

During the police firing Monday, four people had been reported killed and at least 60 wounded, while party sources said 3,000 were arrested.

Nepal communist party General Secretary Madhav Kumar Nepal said Tuesday two women, Kausalya Ranabhatti and a young daughter of Ramchandra Dahal, succumbed.

See Page 12 Col 8

## Floods snap Ctg-Cox's Bazar road link

**From Our Correspondents**

Heavy, incessant rainfall over the past two days has further aggravated the flood situation in many parts of the country.

The rain started at about 7 yesterday evening and continued upto two this afternoon.

Sources said incessant rain in the Bandarban and Rangamati hill districts went huge volumes of water down the rivers in the region, causing inundation to the lowlying areas.

The Matamuhuri river in Chokoria thana was overflowing its banks, flooding eight villages in its vicinities.

Low areas of Kutubdia, Maheshkhali, Chokoria and Teknaf thanas were also inundated by the sudden increase of water. Four villages of Shahportrdwip union in Teknaf thana went under water.

About 1,000 people of Chittagong district went under

3 to 4 feet of water during period.

Our Cox's Bazar correspondent reports movement of vehicles between Chittagong and Cox's Bazar remained suspended till three Tuesday afternoon since parts of the highway connecting the two districts went under water due to heavy overnight rain.

The downpour along with an onrush of hilly waters, also inundated a large area of Kharulia of Cox's Bazar district, affecting about 300 houses.

About one kilometre of the road in Cox's Bazar Sadar thana and about three kilometres in Lohagara thana of Chittagong district went under

See Page 12 Col 6

## NEWS BRIEFS

**EC Vice-President due Friday**

Vice-President of the European Commission Manuel Marin will arrive here on Friday on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. During his stay here, Marin is expected to call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. Besides, he will meet Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, reports UNB.

**New 10 taka note from July 24**

A new bank note of Taka 10 denomination with the signature of Bangladesh Bank Governor Khorshed Alam will be initially issued from Motijheel office on July 24, according to a Bangladesh Bank press release here yesterday. This note will be issued from other offices of the bank later, the press release added. The present 10 Taka note in circulation will remain legal simultaneously, the press release said, reports BSS.

**First fire fighting ship**

Country's first fire fighting ship will be handed over to Bangladesh Fire Service and Civil Defence at a simple ceremony at Sonakanda in Narayangonj tomorrow, official sources said here yesterday. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury and Industries Minister Shamsul Islam Khan will attend the function to be held at Narayangonj reports UNB.

## Administrative reforms report due in Aug

**By M Anwarul Haq**

Major reforms in the administrative system of the country are on the anvil.

A comprehensive report on "improved economic management and administrative restructuring" now under preparation is expected to be submitted to the government through the UNDP sometime in the first week of August.

A team of UN experts is preparing the public administration sector study at the initiative of the government which indicated its desire to restructure the public administrative system to better serve the people.

Accordingly, the UNDP, under the fifth country programme for Bangladesh, reached an agreement with the government to "engage in an exercise to develop prescriptions for change in the Administrative system."

A United Nations team led by Dr. AT Rafiqur Rahman, head of the UN Programme on public administration is in the city and will stay for a month to discuss the findings and prepare the report. The team members comprise several experts from the US, UK and South Korea.

Dr Rafiqur Rahman talking to The Daily Star yesterday said that the UNDP team has prepared only the initial report and has not yet drawn up the recommendations.

"We want to involve the local people for the study and have already completed the formulation mission in October 1992," he said.

The preliminary findings should be ready by July 23 and will be discussed with a high level advisory team under the chairmanship of State Minister Aminul Haq, Dr Rahman informed.

A series of workshops and seminars on the administrative experience of other countries are also planned.

These are expected to be participated by persons with experience in governance and public management, including parliamentarians, government officials and business leaders.

The special workshops are expected to be conducted by the Bangladesh Management Development Centre (BMDC), the Planning Commission and the Parliament Secretariat with view to creating awareness about governance and management systems, particularly in leading Asian and European countries.

The entire study is being conducted for transparency, accountability and consensus building for improved performance in the Bangladesh administrative system," the UN expert stated.

Giving a background of the proposed reforms, Dr Rahman said the purpose of the study is

See Page 12 Col 1

## Multinationals to double investments in Asia

GENEVA, July 20: Foreign investment by multinational corporations is likely to pick up during the rest of the decade after a sharp slump over the past two years, according to a new UN report, reports AP.

The report by the UN Conference on Trade and Development, due to be published Wednesday, said inflows into developing countries would likely to double by 2000 because of an anticipated surge in investment in Asia and Latin America.

The World Investment Report 1993 said multinational corporations had become a key force pushing integration of the world economy. It said they controlled

about one third of private productive assets worldwide.

In the early 1990s there were 37,000 multinational corporations with 170,000 foreign affiliates, up from 7,000 corporations two decades ago, the report said.

It said the corporations controlled a stock of foreign direct investment totaling about \$2 trillion and were responsible for foreign sales of an estimated \$5.5 trillion.

The largest foreign investor in 1990, in terms of book value of foreign assets, was the Anglo-Dutch corporation Royal Dutch Shell. The US multinationals Ford, General Motors, Exxon

See Page 12 Col 6

## AL for making tomorrow's agitation a success

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALCWC) yesterday decided to utilise the party's full strength to make the party's countrywide agitation against the government tomorrow a success.

The party announced the programme last week to protest alleged government corruption and repression of opposition activists.

According to the programme, the party is scheduled to bring out processions and hold public rallies across the country tomorrow.

The party working committee, in an emergency meeting last night, reviewed the programme, especially the 15-party 'Demand Day' scheduled for July 25.

See Page 12 Col 3

## Capital machinery may be made duty-free: Anwar

The government is considering a proposal to make import of capital machinery duty free for export-oriented industries, Commerce Minister M K Anwar said in Dhaka yesterday.

He was addressing the installation ceremony of the newly-elected executive committee of the Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers' and Exporters' Association (BGMEA) as the chief guest, reports UNB.

Anwar strongly advocated for competitive incentives to local industries, particularly the export-oriented ones.

Local industries often fail to compete with foreign products both within the country and in the international market because of their high cost.

See Page 12 Col 6