

# Banks should encourage female traders'

By Staff Correspondent

The lending procedure of the commercial banks, specially for the small-scale enterprises, should be simplified by bringing changes in the lending policy to help develop female entrepreneurship.

This was felt by most speakers at a three-day workshop on "Self Employment of the Women: Role of Credit-giving Agencies" which concluded Wednesday at the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management.

This is needed not only for developing the female entrepreneurship, but also for new enterprises, the experts said.

They said the equity participation in the lending process would have to be made flexible and the provision of collateral security removed.

Describing the percentage of equity needed for loans as too high, Raka Rashid of the USAID said the amount could be determined considering the prospect and viability of the project as well as the managerial efficiency of the entrepreneurs.

Raka Rashid, who conducted a session of the workshop yesterday on "Women in Business", informed that the participation of women in formal business would be over two per cent and it would be between five to ten per cent in case of both formal and informal businesses.

She also stressed the need for changing attitudes of the people towards the involvement of women in businesses, saying that this 'attitude problem' had appeared to be one of the major constraints in developing female entrepreneurship.

Director of BRAC A Q Siddiq stressed the need for providing functional education to the women, saying that the BRAC's programme in this regard had been proved to be a success.

Disclosing the BRAC's plan to set up a BRAC Bank in line with the Grameen Bank, he said this would help create employment opportunities for a large section of people of the vulnerable groups, especially for the women.

He also informed the workshop participants that the credit programme of the BRAC under the project, IGVGD (Income generation for vulnerable group development) was contributing successfully in this regard.

The three-day workshop was participated by some 30 officials from various commercial banks and NGOs, while the experts who delivered lectures included Salma Khan of the Planning Commission, Prof Khaleda Salahuddin of Women for Women, Abdur Rakib of the Bangladesh Bank, Farida Akhtar of UBINIG, Dr Shahidur Rahman Bhuiyan of the UNDP, Ki Khaled of the Agrani Bank, Dipal Barua of the Grameen Bank and Rasheda Akhtar Khanam of the BSCIC. Dr Bandana Saha and MD Jahangir Hossain were the Coordinators of the workshop.

Director General of the BIMM AHM Nurul Islam Chowdhury presided over the concluding session of the workshop and distributed certificates among the participants.



NO PUBLIC MEETING: A huge crowd of friends and relatives outside the arrival lounge (above) and hassles with unscrupulous loaders and taxi touts (below) only aggravate the ordeals of travel-weary passengers arriving at the Zia Airport everyday. —Star photo

## SPGRC observes 12-hr hunger strike

By Staff Correspondent

The stranded Pakistanis observed a 12-hour hunger strike in front of the National Press Club in the city yesterday to press the governments of Bangladesh and Pakistan for their immediate repatriation.

Several dozen members of the community took part in the token hunger strike from dawn to dusk with placards and banners.

The Stranded Pakistanis Repatriation Committee (SPGRC) in a press statement later in the day, said that similar token hunger strikes had been observed by all its branches across the country.

## BNP city meet

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yesterday evening, told the city BNP leaders that since the said rally would coincide with the AL meeting, it would create tension among the activists of both parties, a cabinet minister who was present told The Daily Star last night.

According to the minister, Begum Zia also argued that holding of the rally would tarnish the image of the BNP.

The city unit leaders accepted Begum Zia's arguments, BNP sources said.

The city BNP leaders had not consulted the party high command before announcing the programme last week, sources added.

The city leaders will however, announce a fresh date for the rally later.

## Cong lacks

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thrusts generated by economic reforms launched by Rao soon after he took office in 1991.

Singh blamed questions about the leadership for distracting the government from real issues.

"When leadership becomes the issue, other issues get pushed to the background, Singh said.

Rao is also facing allegations of corruption levelled against him by stock broker Harshad Mehta, who is at the centre of India's worst financial scandal. Rao has denied the charge.

But Singh said of the allegations, one thing is clear, that this has to be taken seriously.

A joint parliamentary committee is probing the scandal and its progress has been hindered by deep divisions over whether Rao should be called before it.

## ECNEC

From Page 1 Col 5

The meeting also approved a Japanese aided project to construct four boarding bridges for the terminal building of the Zia International Airport at a cost of Tk 15 crore. After completion, the passengers are expected to get the direct boarding facilities from December 93.

ECNEC meeting also approved three other projects at a cost of Tk 50 crore to be undertaken by the Communication, Youth and Sports, Energy and Mineral Resources ministries.

Concerned ministers, members of the Planning Commission, secretaries attended the meeting.

## Shamsul Huda

From Page 1 Col 5

expected to be the president of the Bangladesh Jatiya Party while former Deputy Prime Minister Dr M A Matin would be the secretary general.

The final decision to form the party came after the present JP leadership failed to meet the demands of the dissidents who campaigned for democratisation of the party constitution and leadership.

A previous move was averted by the JP leadership with a promise to discuss the dissidents' demands in the proper party forum.

The source said that 17 of the 30 senior JP men, who joined hands with the former Speaker, deserted deposited president H M Ershad a few days before his ouster.

Meanwhile, former minister Major (ret'd) Manzur Kader, Golam Sarwar Milon and joint organising secretary Sajjad Hossain, who helped Shamsul Huda Chowdhury during the first move, were now reportedly out of touch with Chowdhury after Dr Matin and his aides entered the scene.

The central working committee of the Jatiya Party is meeting today at the Gulshan residence of acting party chief Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury to discuss the latest party situation.

## Huda, Matin blast Mizan Chowdhury

Former Speaker Shamsul Huda Chowdhury and former Deputy Prime Minister Prof M A Matin yesterday blasted Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury for "trying to turn Jatiya Party into a pocket organisation," reports UNB.

In a sharp rebuttal to Mizan Chowdhury's contention that they were deserters, the JP dissidents said Mizan, on the contrary, was a deserter.

He (Mizan) deserted the mainstream Awami League to float his 'own pocket Awami League' but later abandoned it and joined the Jatiya Party to become a minister, they said.

The two leaders stated that they were opposing "Mizan's move to reduce Jatiya Party into his pocket organisation" and called for broadening the party and restoring it to its original ideals, principles and programmes.

Shamsul Huda Chowdhury said when he took exception with the way Mizan Chowdhury and his coterie were running JP, Maudud Ahmed rushed to him with a request to put off his scheduled meeting on July 30.

He claimed that the meeting was put off as he was assured

## Injunction on Indian blade

By Staff Correspondent

The District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka has issued an ad-interim injunction against the marketing, selling and distribution of Indian 'Super Max' razor blades in the country.

Judge Abdus Salam passed the order on Monday following an application by a local industry Messrs Samah Razor Blade Industries Limited, which manufactures blades under the same brand name.

The court ordered Vidyut Metallic Ltd, Bombay-Agra Road of India, M/S Anwar and Brothers and M/S Serajul Haque and Brothers of Moulvibazar, Dhaka to refrain from selling, marketing and distributing the Indian 'Super Max' blades in Bangladesh.

The learned court also served notices upon the Chairman of the Chittagong Port Authority and the Collector of Customs, Chittagong to show cause by August 21 why they should not be restrained by an order of temporary injunction from giving delivery or clearance of goods (Super Max blades) from the vessels Kotabuna.

The defendants noted that M/S Anwar and Brothers and M/S Serajul Haque and Brothers had been engaged in selling, marketing and distributing of Indian-made 'Super Max' blades violating Bangladesh Trade Marks regulations.

The Registrar of Trade Marks earlier issued the 'Super Max' trade mark registration to M/S Samah Razor Blade Industries Ltd and the industry had been producing and marketing the Super Max razor blades in the country for years.

## BTV relay centre in Patuakhali soon

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 18: The construction work of the BTV relay station at Patuakhali, with French financial assistance, will begin shortly, according to Ministry of Information sources.

Money for the acquisition of land has already been allocated while the Public Works Department (PWD) has drawn up an expenditure of Taka 60 lacs for the first phase construction of the TV relay station. The cost of the main station building has been estimated at 42 lac taka.

The government has stressed on early completion of the Patuakhali relay station, which will extend BTV telecasts to at least ten southern districts and also bring the coastal areas under the national television network.

## Kirtankhola devours homes, land

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 18: River erosion devoured at least 70 to 80 homesteads and several acres of crop land in Char Kaula under the Sadar thana along the Kirtankhola river.

The river swallowed several shops and the Char Kaula boat terminal. It also affected some parts of the Barisal town, opposite Char Kaula.

During the past one year, five to six villages completely vanished in this river through erosion, leaving hundreds of families homeless.

In Barisal itself, the Kirtankhola now threatens the fish landing and processing centre and its nearby areas.

The rivers Adharmank, Lohalia, Tetulia and Payra in Patuakhali district have continued to erode more lands. In recent times, these rivers have washed away hundreds of acres and left over 8,000 people homeless.

## Egyptian minister

From Page 1 Col 4

istry has led a government crackdown on Muslim radicals who have carried out a 19-month campaign of violence to topple the secular government and install strict Islamic rule.

El-Alfy had been the governor of Assut province, a hotbed of Muslim extremism, before becoming interior minister in April. Some militants had said they welcomed his appointment, saying it could lead to a decrease in confrontations with the government.

Wednesday's attack began with a bomb blast, and four or five gunmen then opened fire on el-Alfy's motorcade. The gunmen fled toward Tahrir Square, one of the city's most crowded areas, witnesses said.

An Interior Ministry statement said four people were killed and 15 wounded.

## Bomb hurled at Banglar Bani office

From Staff Correspondent

Miscreants hurled two bombs at the office of the Banglar Bani at Motijheel Commercial Area here last night at around 11:15 from a speeding vehicle, police sources said, reports BSS.

The bombs exploded with a bang damaging the exhaust fan at the first floor of the building. But none was hurt.

# The Midnight File

## NATO exercise in Bosnia

ZAGREB, Aug 18: NATO allied aircraft carried out their first military exercise in Bosnia today, the UN protection force (UNPROFOR) said. It said the exercise, conducted in the north-west Bosnian Bihać region, involved simulated ground target practice, reports Reuter.

## 8 hurt in Istanbul blast

ISTANBUL, Aug 18: A bomb hurled at an empty tourist bus injured eight passersby in front of a downtown hotel Wednesday, authorities said. Two people apparently threw a grenade at the parked Hungarian-registered bus before escaping in a getaway car, police said, reports AP.

## Truce in Nagorno-Karabakh

STEPANAKERT (Azerbaijan), Aug 18: Azeri officials and Armenian separatists in Nagorno-Karabakh agreed today to a new ceasefire, to come into effect at 6:00 pm (1400 GMT), the local parliament announced here in the enclave's capital. The press service for the Nagorno-Karabakh legislature said the ceasefire agreement would last five days, during which both sides are to organize a summit meeting to discuss a long-term peace accord, reports AFP.

## AL programmes

From Page 1 Col 4  
ately after the fall of the Ershad regime in December 1990.

Meanwhile, the AL is expected to announce programmes like gheraos of the offices of the Thana Nirbahi Officers (TNOs) and demonstrations in front of the Deputy Commissioners' (DC) offices all over the country during next few weeks at its rally tomorrow.

AL leaders, except Sheikh Hasina, would also be asserting that the next parliamentary polls need to be held under a caretaker government for the sake of neutrality. An AL president member told The Daily Star that the party chief would announce the stance only when the ground for implementation of the demand is well prepared.

However, the specific programmes to be announced during tomorrow's rally will be finalised by the party's Central Working Committee meeting scheduled for this afternoon.

Bosnia  
From Page 1 Col 5  
ing 'no to a reporter's question on whether the Sarajevo plan had been agreed.

But Mills said all three sides, including Izetbegovic, had accepted the amended document.

Earlier, Alija Izetbegovic, pulled out of talks here today accusing the Croats of "horrendous" mistreatment of Muslims in the southern city.

"With the situation as it is, we cannot go on talking about Mostar," Izetbegovic said after a morning meeting with Boban and mediators Thorvald Stoltenberg and Lord Owen.

"A horrendous expulsion of Muslim civilians is taking place" in Mostar he said.

Izetbegovic said 35,000 Muslims in the eastern part of the divided southern Bosnian city were "living in dreadful conditions and have received no humanitarian aid for 100 days."

Meanwhile, three mortar shells slammed into the embattled Sarajevo neighbourhood of Dobrinja Tuesday night, hours after a visit by the US ambassador, doctors said. Thirteen people were wounded.

The TDCC's tenure will be five years during which, under the rotation system, all the UP chairmen will get an opportunity to act as chairman, said an official source.

## Container terminal

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A coordinated master plan for development and expansion of Chittagong, Mongla, Dhaka and Narayanganj is under active consideration of the government, she said.

Begum Zia pointed out that only infrastructural development will not change the situation and called upon all concerned to improve the service. "Skill, dedication and honesty will increase revenue earning from this sector to a large extent," she said.

On arrival at the terminal gate, the Prime Minister unveiled a plaque of the new container terminal and offered munajat.

BSS adds: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Wednesday visited the mazar of the 14th century Peer (Spiritual leader) Hazrat Sheikh Syed Shah Mohsen Aulia (R) at Battali under Anowara thana.

She prayed for the eternal peace of this famous saint and peace and prosperity of the country.

## Nurses' strike

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However, 99 persons were admitted to the emergency, casualty and outdoor departments.

The nurses, meanwhile, brought out a protest rally in the hospital premises in the morning.

Our SSMC correspondent adds: The operation theatre of the Mitford Hospital remained closed yesterday due to the strike.

The nurses only attended the post-operative and the cardiac units of the hospital.

At 11 am, the BDNA brought out a procession led by Delwara Khanam and Taheba Khatun.

<b>saudia</b>	
<b>CHANGE IN TELEPHONE NUMBERS</b>	
The following telephone numbers of SAUDIA Sonargaon Office has changed to new numbers effective 17-8-93.	
OLD NUMBERS	NEW NUMBERS
<del>18179</del>	816856
<del>31849</del>	816857
<del>31207</del>	816859
<del>31769</del>	816860
<del>37498</del>	816827
<del>32602</del>	816829
<del>32603</del>	816830

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## BAU VC Prof Ashraf Ali dead

The Vice-Chancellor

Bangladesh Agriculture University Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan died of heart failure at Suhrawardy Hospital Tuesday midnight. He was 57, reports UNB.

Prof Khan, who suffered a heart attack on August 12, was first admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital and then shifted to Suhrawardy Hospital on the following day. He died at the intensive care unit of the hospital at 12 midnight Tuesday.

He left behind his wife, two sons, a daughter and a host of students, friends and relatives to mourn his death.

Khan was buried at the Bani graveyard after his Namaj-e-Janaza was held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque after Zohr prayers. Another janaza was held at the administrative building premises of the BAU in the morning.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in separate messages of condolence expressed their deep shock and sorrow at the sad demise of Prof M Ashraf Ali Khan.

Both also expressed their heartfelt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

The Qulkhwan of Dr M Ashraf Ali, Vice-Chancellor of Bangladesh Agriculture University (BAU), will be held tomorrow (Friday) after Asr prayers at House-851, Road-19 (old), Dhanmandi, family sources said in Dhaka yesterday.

Friends, relatives and well wishers of the deceased, have been requested to attend the function.

## BNP confces

From page 1 col 7

structions of the high command. The conference there has been scheduled on August 27.

Earlier, a selected committee was suspended amid bitter infighting and the district leaders said that the committee would now be elected by secret ballot.

Meanwhile, the preparatory committee of the fourth national council yesterday decided that a procession of nearly one lakh people would be organised after the inaugural session of the council on September 1 at the Manik Miah Avenue. The day is also the 15th founding anniversary of the ruling party.

Some 50,000 delegates, more than 2,000 councillors and thousands of other party workers and supporters are expected to attend the opening session of the two-day council and post-inaugural procession which would either end at the Mouchak crossing or in front of National Press Club.



Stick-welding vandals attacking a BRTC double-decker at Gulistan area in the city yesterday protesting the eviction of footpath hawkers. —Star photo

## Agitated hawkers damage vehicles in city

By Staff Correspondent

Agitated roadside hawkers damaged scores of vehicles in the city's downtown yesterday protesting the government eviction order.

The city hawkers, who were recently evicted from the city pavements — where they peddled their wares — held a rally near the Gulistan Cinema around 11:30 am which, at one stage, turned violent, witnesses said.

The processionists pelted vehicles in the Motijheel and Gulistan areas and created panic, witnesses added.

Police, who intervened to bring the situation under control, didn't make any arrest.

The authorities earlier banned all sorts of trading on the city pavements to reduce traffic jams.

## Flood situation in Pabna, Sirajganj improves

By Staff Correspondent

The overall flood situation in Sirajganj and Pabna slightly improved yesterday as the water level of the Ganges had decreased by a few centimetres at almost all points, according to information received in Dhaka.

Official sources in Sirajganj told The Daily Star, 333 prisoners of the district jail had to be transferred to the Pabna Jail early yesterday as the turbulent Jamuna eroded the nearby embankment and threatened the jail.

The sources said the town protection embankment in front of the jail was devoured by the river the day before. The embankment was temporarily repaired at the affected points by yesterday noon and now the jail was out of danger, the sources added.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Division (FFWD) said river waters in most parts of the country were receding. However, the river Manu in Maulvi Bazar might rise as rainfall continued in the region.

The forecasting division also added the river Kaliganga at Toraghat may cross the danger level today.

## Bomb hurled at Banglar Bani office

From Staff Correspondent

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