

Parliamentarians' confce 1.5b go hungry in the South everyday

By Staff Correspondent

About 1.5 billion people go hungry everyday, one billion are devoid of clean water and 1.7 billion lack sanitation in the southern hemisphere.

Addressing the International Parliamentarians' Conference on 'Population, Poverty and Lifestyle' yesterday in the city Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman of the BIDS said while a person in the rich Northern states dumped 600 kg of municipal wastes every year on an average, a person in the south dumped only 70 kg. One Northerner emitted 16 tons of carbon dioxide at the same time while a Southerner emitted below one ton, he further informed.

The conference was organised jointly by the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the Khan Foundation in cooperation with the Rockefeller Foundation, the World Bank (WB) and to Cowell Foundation.

The parliamentarians yesterday discussed 'consumption patterns of the North and the South', 'per capita consumption rates in the North and the South', 'population growth', and identified 'poverty as the principal factor in the population, resource consumption and environmental degradation equation.'

The sessions of the conference were presided over by

Swedish MP Lena Klevenas, Nepalese MP S Paradhan, Pakistani Senator Noor Jehan Panzai, Irish MP John Connor and Chairman of Foreign Affairs Committee, Thailand Dr Krasae while WB Resident Representative in Bangladesh Christopher Willogby, Dr Hossain Zillur Rahman of the Bangladesh Institute for Development Studies (BIDS), Dr Osman Haider Chowdhury, UNICEF Country Representative Rolf Carriere, Sk Alok of UNFPA, Dr Barkat-e-Khuda and others spoke on the occasion.

Willoughby cited the world development indicators of the WB which revealed that a Bangladeshi consumed US 160 dollars annually in 1965 which rose to 200 dollar in 1990.

On the other hand, a US citizen, consumed 11,400 dollars in 1965 which stood at 15,700 dollars in '90.

It further revealed that the per capita consumption in 1965 in the South was 350 dollar which increased to 640 in '90 while the per capita consumption of the North was 7,600 dollars in '65 and 15,300 in '90.

The WB representative said deterioration of water cleanliness, deforestation, soil degradation, global warming and other environmental issues had affected the growth of the world consumption.

Help democracy grow

From Page 1 Col 4

laration which called for the repeal of black laws, separation of the judiciary from the executive and autonomy for Radio and Television.

On the other hand, the Treasury Bench members denying the opposition allegation said the implementation of the joint declaration was not mandatory on their part. They observed that each political party had received their mandate from the voters on the basis of their respective party-manifesto and that the government was primarily obliged to implement the programmes mentioned in the party's election manifesto.

They, however, also stated that the government was not indifferent to the joint declaration. 'We have established parliamentary form of government, ensured the freedom of expression and independence of the judiciary, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan said, adding there were also certain points in the joint declaration under the consideration of the Government.

The one-hour unscheduled debate was initiated by Awami League (AL) legislator Tofael Ahmed who made an appeal to Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali for a prayer in the House for those who had sacrificed their lives during the Ershad regime. While making the appeal, the AL MP criticised the government for ignoring the joint declaration and called upon the ruling party to take an oath on the third anniversary of the fall of Ershad to implement the joint declaration.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda, speaking on the issue, accused the AL of not cooperating with the government in instituting democracy. The minister observed that the AL was now involved in an 'entente' with the Jatiya Party (JP) to obstruct the democratic process initiated with the fall of the JP government.

The Information Minister, referring to the AL's present demand for immediate election under a care-taker government, said the joint declaration of the political alliances stood for the constitutional continuity in transfer of the state power.

At a certain stage, the House witnessed an exchange of hot words between Tofael Ahmed and Barrister Nazmul Huda. The Speaker immediately expunged from the proceedings the unparliamentary words of both the leaders.

Jatiya Party MP Munirul Haque Chowdhury, while

Nusrat

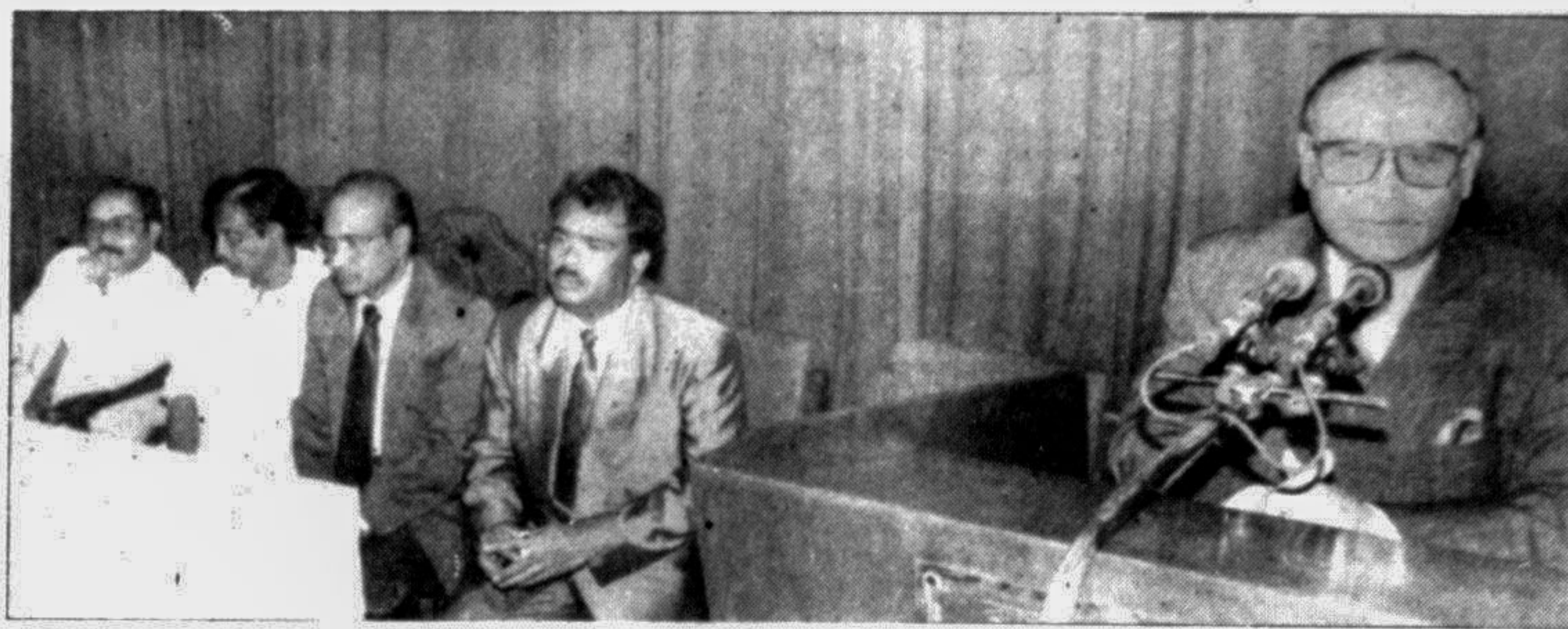
From Page 1 Col 3

prehension was growing that Nusrat Bhutto might help her son seize the party leadership.

Sources in Lahore said there was some confusion among leaders of whom to side with in the family fight.

The second wife of the party founder Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, Nusrat Bhutto, who entered politics in 1972, was appointed chief of the party's women's wing in 1977 and was elected an MP the same year, shortly before her husband was toppled by military ruler Muhammad Zia-ul-Haq.

Z A Bhutto was executed on a political murder charge in 1979 and Nusrat Bhutto was elected party chief.



BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder addressing a discussion at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in observance of the 'Democracy Day' yesterday. — Star photo

Team leader tells Saifur Japan feels importance of JMB project

The high powered Japanese Mission on Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge led by S Sato, Director General of the Loan Aid Division of the Economic Cooperation Bureau of the Japanese Foreign Ministry, called on Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

During the discussion, the Finance Minister outlined the importance of the Jamuna Bridge in socio-economic life of the people of western part of Bangladesh and economic activities in that part would be increased manifold after completion of the bridge.

Reciprocating the sentiments, the leader of the Japanese delegation said Japan government feels the importance of the Jamuna Bridge Project.

Dip pharmacists observe strike

By Staff Correspondent

Diploma pharmacists working at the eight medical colleges, postgraduate hospital, district hospitals and the thana health clinics of the country yesterday, observed a token strike to press for their sever-point demands.

During the strike no medicine was distributed among the patients except in emergency cases.

Bill passed

From Page 1 Col 4

in violation of the constitution. Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali reiterated that since 1973 a number of similar ordinances with retrospective effect were passed by this House.

The Manufacturing Nationalised Industrial Enterprises Workers (service condition) Bill provided that the government through gazette notification could determine wages, bonus, medical allowance, house rent allowance, conveyance allowance, leave, gratuity and night shift allowance of the workers to materialise the recommendations of the national wages and productivity commission, excepting the wages and benefits fixed, no additional benefits would be allowed.

Elaborating her charges, Hasina said, the ruling party did not implement its commitments made in the joint declaration of former three political alliances, nor it materialised the students' 10-point demand, and solved the problems facing the labourers, peasants and others.

On the autonomy of Television, as was pledged in the joint declaration, she accused the government of running the state-owned media in the same way the autocrats did.

On TV's coverage of news, the Opposition leader mentioned, 'Each of the TV news bulletins of 8 and 10 O'clock yesterday (Sunday) covered on average the Prime Minister for

18 minutes, foreign news for 2 minutes, ministers for nine minutes and Sports events for one minute.'

Speaking on her party's charge of politicisation of the administration by the ruling party, Hasina commented, 'The administration has been politicised after BNP's popularity declined sharply and after it lost confidence in people. The party wants to win the next polls by using the administration, she added.

If voted to power, she said her party would take necessary steps to eradicate illiteracy, poverty, and hunger, ensure the availability of agricultural inputs at the reduced rate and fair price of agri-products and resolve all problems relating to industries, and educational institutions.

Zillur Rahman in his speech told the meeting that Sheikh Hasina would explain at a meeting at Panthapath 'soon how power would be transferred to a care-taker government.'

SAMS Kibria criticised the government's foreign policy saying inept handling of bilateral issues resulted in no solution to those. 'We cannot devote ourselves to the nation-building activities keeping the bilateral problems unresolved, he said.

Bangladesh candidate's getting of only two votes in the FAO DG election was a shame for the whole nation, he remarked.

However, a top executive of a leading NCB was optimistic of achieving this year's target for disbursing industrial loans. 'We are new in the industrial lending business, but we are learning fast and we hope to achieve this year's target,' he added.

Referring to the state-owned banks and financial institutions, the Finance Minister, in a press briefing last week, said: 'I am thoroughly dissatisfied with the (industrial lending) performance of the NCBs. They still have a lot of defects (in their investment lending programmes) and they should improve it, but they also have to be cautious in selecting investment proposals.'

Saifur Rahman was also sharply critical of the private sector banks, while noting that they only set aside Tk 125 crore for investment lending during the current fiscal year. 'They (the private banks) also have a lot of money... the public's deposit has to be invested for productive purposes,' he stressed.

In 1992-93, the state-owned banks disbursed Tk 558.26 crore out of Tk 798.65 crore sanctioned as industrial loans: Sonali Bank disbursed Tk 88.63 crore out of Tk 169.84 crore, Janata Bank Tk 114.13 crore against Tk 155.81 crore, Rupali Bank Tk 81.94 crore out of Tk 102.67 crore and Agrani Bank disbursed Tk 164.56 crore out

of Tk 284.27 crore sanctioned as industrial loans.

The private sector banks and financial institutions lent Tk 101.76 crore against a sanction of Tk 203.57 crore as new industrial loans while only three of the six foreign banks disbursed Tk 47.67 crore out of Tk 59.01 crore sanctioned. ANZ Grindlays Bank lent Tk 26.43 crore, Banque Indosuez disbursed Tk 18 crore and Habib Bank disbursed Tk 3.24 crore as industrial credit during the previous fiscal year.

In addition, all banks and financial institutions also disbursed Tk 4805.02 crore as working capital loans last year. The government banks lent Tk 3719.61 crore while those in the private sector disbursed Tk 802.99 crore and the foreign banks lent Tk 353.60 crore as working capital loans.

The reason for the poor industrial lending by the banks is being attributed by banking experts to the huge bad-debt portfolio of the banks and also to the recent steps taken to streamline the lending and accounting procedures under the Financial Sector Reform Project.

They also added that the NCBs are comparatively newcomers in the industrial lending field and, as such, are inexperienced and continue to remain 'over-cautious.'

On December 10 (Friday), she will address a public meeting at Khalishpur in Khulna, to be organised by the local Awami League.

'Tolerance precondition for consolidating democracy'

Speakers at a discussion here yesterday pleaded for taking a fresh vow to give democracy an institutional shape reflecting the ideals and dreams of those who embraced martyrdom during the nine-year anti-autocracy movement, reports BSS.

The discussion was organised by the city unit of BNP marking the third anniversary of the fall of autocracy and triumph of democracy at the Shilpakala Academy with BNP Vice Chairman and Telephone and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam in the chair.

Barrister Salam Talukder in his speech said that one of the main objectives behind the anti-autocracy movement was establishment of democracy. Paying tributes to the memory of those who shed their blood in the democratic movement, the LGRD and Cooperatives Minister said consolidation of democracy required cultivation of democratic values and tolerance.

Barrister Salam Talukder referred to shifting of BNP's scheduled public meeting at Democracy Square in Gulistan

to December 7 from December 6 as another party had announced meeting in the same area on the day. He said consolidation of democracy was a difficult task everywhere in the world as it required tolerance, and exercise and cultivation of democratic cultures.

Food Minister Lt Gen (ret'd) Meer Shawkat Ali referred to a recent speech of Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina published by the newspapers that if voted to power Awami League would improve the condition of the army and said the army never believed so. He recalled the condition of the army between 1972-1975 under Awami League rule.

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda referred to an incident of Awami League's decision to join polls under Ershad in the face of reported threat of fresh martial law in 1986. In an oblique reference to Awami League, the Information Minister said it had betrayed with the cause of democratic movement.

Energy Minister Dr Khondaker Mosharraf Hossain stressed the need for resisting conspiracy against parliament-

ary democracy. Labour Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said there were attempts to create chaos and indiscipline in the society on different pretexts.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Mia said Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina had joined polls under Ershad in 1986 though she had earlier announced that anybody joining such polls, would be branded as national traitors. He referred to such announcement at a meeting in Chittagong.

T & T Minister Tariqul Islam, in his speech, referred to change in party constitution for switching over to parliamentary 'democracy from presidential system to implement the declaration of the three alliances.

Referring to demands for implementation of the declaration raised by the five-party alliance and also others, he said whether it was any longer required when some political parties were involved in conspiracy with the defeated forces of autocracy.

Hasina : Force BNP

From Page 1 Col 7

would go down, the existing problems would multiply and there would be no welfare of the masses with the BNP in power.'

'We've given 33 months to this government,' the AL leader said and continued, 'Even then, it failed to return anything except lip-service through Television and repression on the Opposition.'

Reiterating her allegation that the BNP government breached its commitment with every quarters including its former political partners, students, labourers, peasants and different professional groups, the Opposition leader once again termed the government a betrayer.

Elaborating her charges, Hasina said, the ruling party did not implement its commitments made in the joint declaration of former three political alliances, nor it materialised the students' 10-point demand, and solved the problems facing the labourers, peasants and others.

On the autonomy of Television, as was pledged in the joint declaration, she accused the government of running the state-owned media in the same way the autocrats did.

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12 Shibir activists held in Sylhet

From Our Correspondent

SYLHET, Dec 6: Police arrested 12 activists of the Islami Chhatra Shibir last night from a mess at Shaplagab area of the town and recovered some lethal weapons.

The weapons include 12 ramdaos, 4 cocktails and a bayonet. The arrested persons were sent to the jail hayat.

Meanwhile, the Sylhet town unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir today brought out a procession.

Jamaat

From Page 1 Col 4

hard-earned democracy. The ruling party has failed to exercise democratic norms during its three years' rule, he added.

The Jamaat leader alleged that the BNP government imposed Section 144 to foil public meetings and rallies of the Jamaat, and the Awami League let loose terrorism across the country.

Referring to the demolition of the Babri mosque on this day last year, Khan demanded that it be rebuilt at its original site.

Jamaat parliamentary party leader Motiur Rahman Nizami was critical about those which are demanding a ban on religion-based political parties.

'This is an undemocratic demand... They are out to trample fruits of the nine-year anti-autocratic agitation,' he said.

Nizami maintained that 'only Islam can present us the real democracy and Islamic rule can restore the fundamental rights of the people.'

Barisal medical

From Page 1 Col 8

The feuding groups fired at least 10 rounds of gun shots and hurled about 20 hand bombs.

Besides, nine rooms of the college hostel were ransacked. A large number of police personnel were deployed. A tense situation was prevailing on the campus.

Four injured persons were admitted to the Medical College Hospital.

Rangpur Polytechnic

Our Correspondent from Rangpur adds, the Rangpur Polytechnic Institute has been closed sine die from today following violence of a group of students.

The authorities have asked the students to vacate the hostels by this evening.

A group of unruly students went on a rampage protesting the overall poor results of the fifth semester examination.

They broke window panes and manhandled teachers and staff of the institute yesterday.

The angry students also pelted stones and hurled hand-bomb.

A strong police force have been posted and the situation is now under control.

The Midnight File

Algerian judge killed

ALGIERS, Dec 6: Three armed men killed a senior Algerian judge this morning, the official news agency APS said, quoting a Justice Ministry statement. Rouaz Lakhdar, 49, was killed as he left his home to go to work. He was the sixth judge to have been killed in Algeria since May. Lakhdar had worked in the Justice system for 13 years, becoming president of the Oran court earlier this year, reports Reuter.

Serbs shell Sarajevo : 4 die

SARAJEVO, Dec 6: Serb gunners slammed shells into central Sarajevo today, killing four people and wounding 19, doctors said at the besieged city's main hospital. One shell hit a market near the Olympic Stadium, killing four people, and another, which Sarajevo radio said was a tank round, hit near Bosnian army headquarters, reports Reuter.

20 hurt as oil lorry catches fire in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Dec 6: At least 20 persons were reportedly injured, 11 of them critically, when an oil lorry caught fire this afternoon at Bansbaria on the Dhaka-Chittagong Highway in Sitakundu thana, 30 miles from the city, police and witnesses said.

The seriously injured persons were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Among them, Md Jasim 25, and Mitun Kanti Dey are fighting with death, hospital sources said.

The fire also devastated six tea stalls and 12 labour sheds, police and Fire Brigade sources said.

Mostafiz goes to Seoul tomorrow

Foreign Minister ASM

Mostafiz Rahman will leave here for Seoul Wednesday to pay a three-day official visit there at the invitation of Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, reports UNB.

During his stay in Seoul, the Foreign Minister will call on President of the Republic of Korea Kim Young Sam and hold talks with his counterpart on bilateral, regional and international issues.

He will also co-chair the third meeting of the Joint Commission between Bangladesh and South Korea.

Mostafiz will also visit an industrial complex at Suwon.

Democracy Day

From Page 1 Col 6

presidency following a sustained anti-autocracy movement.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP), Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami observed the day through various programmes. The Awami League and Jamaat-e-Islami held public rallies yesterday marking the fall of autocracy. The BNP will hold its scheduled public meeting this afternoon at the Democracy Square in Gulistan.

Naniarchar incident

Probe body starts functioning

By Staff Correspondent

The inquiry commission to investigate into killings at Naniarchar on November 17 has started interviewing the eyewitnesses of the incident.

Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman who heads the commission visited the spot on Saturday for the purpose, says a press release.

2.5 times up

From Page 1 Col 6

liamentary Conference on 'Population, Poverty and Life Style' yesterday, Dr Barkat-e-Khuda said, the number of crimes reached its peak twice — in 1974 and again in 1990.

The year 1974 coincided with the famine and 1990 with the face of autocracy, he said.

Dr Khuda concluded by saying that, the incidence of crime was associated with the increasing size of the population, poverty, famine, starvation and disequilibrium in the social and political system.

Barapukuria

From Page 1 Col 7

ject can be started during this dry season, the source added.

When contacted, the Chairman of Petrobangla however, expressed the hope that the implementation process will be initiated before the next monsoon.

The geologists of Bangladesh discovered the coal reserve of about 303 million tonnes at Barapukuria in Dinajpur district in 1985. Of this reserve, 102 million tonnes are recoverable while the production in the mine has been estimated at one million tonnes per year.

এজেন্টদের প্রতি বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

দি ডেইলী স্টার পত্রিকার সম্মতিতে এজেন্ট, যাহারা নবেম্বর '৯০ মাসের বিল এবং বকেয়া টাকা পরিশোধ করেন নাই, তাদেরকে চলতি মাসের ১৫ তারিখের মধ্যে নবেম্বর '৯০ মাসের বিল ও বকেয়া সম্পূর্ণভাবে পরিশোধ করিতে বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে। উক্তব্য যে সমস্ত এজেন্ট নির্ধারিত তারিখের মধ্যে বিল ও পূর্বের বকেয়া পরিশোধ করিতে ব্যর্থ হইবেন তাদের এজেন্টিতে পত্রিকার স্বাভাবিক সরবরাহ আমাদের একান্ত অনিচ্ছা সত্ত্বেও বিস্তৃত হইতে পারে। আপনারদের ব্যবসায়িক সহযোগিতা আমাদের নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর সাথে যোগাযোগ করিতে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

এ, বি, এম, আব্দুল সালাম
কমার্শিয়াল ম্যানেজার
দি ডেইলী স্টার
ফোনঃ ৫০০০৯১ (সেবাসবি)
ফোনঃ ৫০০০৯২-৪ (পিএবিএক্স)

S-468