The Paily Star

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a huge public meeting at the Haragacha

commitment to Bangladesh

and the developing countries

and Family Welfare Sirajul Hug.

Unicef Resident Representa-

tive Rolf C Carriere, Country

Representative of the WHO Dr

ANA Abyesundere, Team

Leader CDD of the WHO

Regional Office in New Delhi

Dr KB Singh and Joint

Secretary of the Ministry of

Health and Family Welfare Dr

Md Khalilullah also addressed

the meeting. Director General

Nurunnabi presided over the

need for research works on

the prevention of diarrhoeal

diseases, said the meeting

would help in undertaking ap-

propriate measures in this re-

progress in the control of diar-

rhoeal diseases would not only

reduce child mortality and

morbidity caused by the dis-

eases but also help reduce

are the major causes of deaths

and illnesses of children in the

· CDD Programme Managers

from Bhutan, India, Mongolia,

Myanmar, Nepal, Shri Lanka

the Maldives, Indonesia and

Thailand are attending the

cholera-prone countries of the

region, scientists from the

International Centre for

Diarrhoeal Diseases and

Bangladesh(ICDDR,B) and the

National Institute for Control

of Epidemiological Diseases

(NICED), Calcutta and repre-

sentatives from the WHO and

the Unicef were also present

at the inaugural function of the

five-day consultative meeting.

Epidemiologists from the

developing countries.

meeting

Research'.

He said, diarrhoeal diseases

malnutrition of the children.

Abyesundere said, the

Health Services M

Sirajul Huq, stressing the

Deputy Minister for Health

Degree College ground under Kawnia thana in Rangpur yesterday.

share health care ideas'

By Staff Correspondent

of the region.

function.

# 'Accountability has to be ensured for development'

Administrative and financial accountability has to be ensured to sustain the development process for democrati sation, emphasised State

terday. "The Government machinery should be prompt, peopleoriented and committed to delivering services to the people," he said while inaugurating the 5-day "ASEAN-SAARC Conference on Administrative and Financial Accountability"

at a city hotel The minister stressed the need to translate political commitments into actions. "We must take up appropriate policy measures and action programmes to ensure accountability both at the macro and micro levels."

Jointly organised by the Bangladesh Public Administration Training Centre (BPA-TC) and the Asian and Pacific Development Centre (APDC). the conference is being attended by 55 senior government officials of 12 countries

The opening session was also addressed by BPATC Rector Q M Monzur-i-Mowla and APDC Director Dr Harka Gurung.

Thanking the APDC for selecting Dhaka as the conference venue, Aminul Huq, who is also the chairman of the BPATC Board of Governors, said, We all fully appreciate the importance of organising such a conference at this critical juncture of time when the nations of this region are struggling hard to reap the harvests of new technology management information system and democracy."

National and international

health and environment ex-

perts at the end of a two-day

conference yesterday adopted

a set of recommendations out-

lining future actions for envi-

ronmental health and policy

17 countries suggested more

research work, coordination

among agencies and long-term

policy to combat diarrhoea

epidemic and other tropical

entific conference (ASCON-

Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease

Research, Bangladesh (ICDDR,

B) held at the centre's

Forty scientific papers were

presented during the two-day

conference during which re-

lated health and environmental

On the concluding day yes-

'issues were also discussed by

terday two symposia on urbani-

sation, population and envi-

ronmental health and cholera

epidemic and disaster man-

agement were held with

Professor Shahjahan, Vice-

Chancellor, BUET and Prof R

Black of the John Hopkins

University of the United

States, in the chair respec-

Representative, UNDP, Dhaka

chaired the concluding cere-

mony with LGRD Secretary

Alamgir Faruk Chowdhury as a

Kamal Jbn Yousuf inaugurated

tions suggest development of

short- term and long-term ap-

propriate, comprehensive in-

tervention packages for a safe

system should be developed to

preserve, protect and use sur-

Indian propaganda

They also suggested that a

household environment.

the conference on Saturday.

Health Minister Chowdhury

The 44-point recommenda-

special guest.

Dr Eimi Watanabe, Resident

Sasakawa auditorium.

It was the third annual sci-

International

Some 350 participants from

perspectives.

III) of the

the participants.

In addition to having a common cultural heritage, he said the countries of the SAARC and ASEAN regions also have similar experiences in developing institutional mechanisms for ensuring adminis-

"I am confident this conference will strengthen the ASEAN-SAARC cooperation in ushering in a new era of development in this region," the

Acknowledging that the ASEAN nations are well ahead in economic development as well as in developing their administrative and financial systems. Huq noted: "We, in Bangladesh also, especially after the establishment of the democratic government, are

has established parliamentary committees to scrutinise and examine the activities of every ministry and a committee has also been set up to recommend administrative reforms. "Our aim is to ensure account ability and transparency in the functioning of the govern-

most important factors that administration system in any country.

face water and methods on

how to train community mem

emphasis has been laid on de-

velopment and promotion of

context-specific complete and

appropriate methods/hygiene

based on the real situation and

practices of handwashing, and

be conducted on how to re-

duce neo-natal and post-natal

deaths through maternity care

programmes. It also suggested

developing appropriate envi-

ronmental and health emer-

gency preparedness pro-

The experts said that exist

ing health programmes should

be reviewed to see whither

these provide a comprehensive

slums are worse and are likely

to worsen with rapid urbanisa-

tion, preventive care research

during any disasters should

also take into account their

long-term development impli-

Inter-ministerial and inter-

sectoral programmes in

health, environment, LGRD,

planning and relief should have

discretionary health care may

increasingly be left to the pri-

The experts opined that

The sanitation programmes

should focus first on continued

use of latrines for a better hy-

gienic atmosphere. Because

family planning contributes to

public health, both males and

females should be targeted for

permanent or appropriate

communications between field

workers and clients should be

improve for effective family

STOL licence

From Page 1 Col 8

Eight private firms had ap-

plied for permission, of which

three have so far got the li-

cences. Authoritative sources

said, the remaining applica-

tions did not conform to the

new CAAB guidelines for STOL

tions are still under considera-

the firms had failed to furnish,

in the prescribed application

forms, information regarding

their paid-up capital while a

number of applicants submit-

ted specifications of aircraft

commodate 15 to 25 passen-

said renovation work in the six

airstrips and at the old

Tejgaon airport in the city was

going on in full swing to allow

for inauguration of the service

A STOL aircraft can ac-

Meanwhile, CAAB officials

tion of the authorities.

other then STOL

by January 31.

However, the five applica-

CAAB sources said some of

To achieve this, personal

a central information bank.

vate sector.

methods.

planning.

services.

should be given priority.

As the situations in the

Programmes undertaken

It said that studies should

personal hygiene.

grammes.

health package.

In the recommendations.

both administrators and politileaders are necessary to ensure maximum utilisation of available resources."

Dr Gurung identified the basic objectives of the conference as: to promote inter-regional dialogue between SAARC and ASEAN nations on issues of administrative and financial accountability; foster greater cooperation among institutions in the region; promote greater collaboration among the nations in the field of public administration and management; and to develop training methods for enhancing administrative accountability in

even a social order

be imposed from outside.

He, however, pointed out that much of our administrative and financial systems are developed in "alien societies" and are "borrowed" without much thought or "imposed" without much choice.

"This leads to a crisis and I believe one of our primary tasks in this conference would be to find out a way to resolve this crisis," Manzur-i-Mowla

Malaysia and Aslam Igbal of

the next decade. The Health Minister said. South and South-East Asian issue among the regional coun-

> In this regard, he also spoke of the achievements made by the South-East Asian countries in different areas of interest and said, the experiences of these countries would have to be utilised for the common benefit of the people.

> Kamal Ibne Yusuf said, considering the diarrhoeal diseases as a major public health problem, Bangladesh has also initiated a National Diarrhoeal Diseases Control Programme like other countries.

> sistance to Dhaka's CDD programme and the programmes of the WHO. Unicef and other international agencies would continue as part of the global

SRINAGAR, India, Jan 16:

An Indian security officer and

four militants were killed in a

30-hour gunbattle in Srinagar,

the summer capital of India's

Jammu and Kashmir state to-

that a officer of the Indian

paramilitary Border Security

Force (BSF) and four Muslim

militants were killed in a gun-

fight that broke out after the

separatists fired on troops

from a house in the Buchpora

tants were believed to be for-

eign nationals, or guest

They said two of the mili-

The officials told Reuter

day, police said.

area of Srinagar.

PM .

- PID photo

'South Asian states should From Page 1 Col 3 captured all the five Parlia ment seats in Rangour. Four of them later went to his Jatiya Party in the by-elections.

> The Prime Minister also said the Ershad regime had harassed the farmers with certificate cases and loan burdens, but the present government first waived agricultural credit upto Tk 5,000 and land tax upto 25 bighas. It also withdrew certificate cases. "We do not want to give re-

lief. A nation cannot hold its head high through dependence on aid and begging. We want to place our country in a dignified position in the world," she said and called upon the rural women to take loans and set up small home based cottage industries, poultry and dairy farms and buy sewing machines for their self reliance.

Begum Zia said her government had raised the issue of the Farakka Barrage over the Ganges, which has created serious water crisis in the northern Bangladesh, to the United Nations because the BNP is the party of the people.

Local leaders from both Haragacha and Chilmari raised various problems. People of Chilmari informed the Prime Minister of the displacement of villagers due to erosion by the Brahmaputra river.

For a rapid development of the backward northern part of the country, Begum Zia said. her government is going to construct the Jamupa Multipurpose Bridge and extract mineral resources from Barapukuria and Maddhyapara

She assured the people of Rangpur that all thanas and villages would come under rural electrification, more roads and bridges would be constructed and educational institutions would be given additional financial supports.

### Malaysia to host int'l confce on Bosnian crisis

KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 16 Malaysia will host an international conference for lawmakers on the Bosnian crisis, with the president of war-torn Bosnia-Herzegovina, Alija Izetbegovic, as the chief guest, officials said today, reports

The two-day conference from January 22-23 is aimed at promoting an understanding of the events surrounding Bosnia-Herzegovina and the "far reaching and tragic consequences that they have," an official said.

Sixty parliamentarians from more than 30 countries around the globe are to attend the conference to be addressed by Izetbegovic and international experts, an official of the Kuala Lumpur-based Institute of Strategic and International Studies (ISIS) said

# 'Newsprint supply returns to

By Staff Correspondent

Industries Corporation (BCIC) expects to restore normalcy in the production and supply of newsprint within the next few A BCIC press release yes-

terday said the supply and production of newsprint was disrupted by miscreants who 'created difficulties in extracting gewa wood from the Sundarbans.

However with the intervention of the law enforcing agen-

cies, the extraction of gewa wood has improved, the press release added. The Khulna Newsprint Mills

is now producing 85 tonnes of paper and the level of actual production is steadily increas-

"It is expected the production will reach the level of 100 MT per day within the next few days and the situation will continue to improve gradually. restoring normalcy in produc-

The production target of the Khulna Newsprint Mills for the

The Midnight File

Chinese Vice Foreign Minister removed

BEIJING, Jan 16: Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Yang Fuchang has been removed from his post along with two other government officials, the People's Daily said today. The official newspaper gave no reason for Yang's departure, or that of Gui Shilian as Vice Director of the State Council Research Office and Xiu Penhang as Director of the State Bureau of Technology supervision.

# Fighting in Kabul continues

ISLAMABAD, Jan 16: Fighting in Kabul continued for the 16 day today with rival Afghan factions bombing each other's positions. According to a report from the Afghan capital, jets belonging to President Burhanuddin Rabbani bombed the Balahisar fort on the southern outskirts of Kabul, a stronghold of his rival, Uzbek warlord General Rashid Dostum, reports

### Clinton leaves Geneva

GENEVA, Jan 16: Bill Clinton left Geneva for Washington today, ending his first European tour as US President. The tour which ended with a meeting with Syrian President Hafez Al-Assad today, took Clinton and his family to six countries in eight days. It also included a two-day summit in Moscow with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, reports Reuter.

English!

Diary

From Page 1 Col 4 many more invite a laugh for

the silly spelling mistakes.

especially those written in

of different ways to spell 'cast',

such as 'cust' and 'caste'.

Sometimes, 'vote' itself-is spelt

fessionals and paid amateurs.

better known as "Chikabaz" in

city slang, often reserve

particular walls in advance by

putting arrows and party

marks. At the Malibagh

crossing, one can see such

requisitions by parties like the

written between the arrow

marks. . Like "BOKED". The

Chikabaz probably wanted to

write "booked". No wonder

graffiti writers never get hired

Most of the canvassers going

as proof readers in the newspa-

from door to door in the neigh-

bourhoods to drum up support

for their candidates are of the

fairer sex. Women appear to be

still treated with privilege and

are believed to have easier ac-

cess to the voters, for whatever

female campaigners at one's

door or stairway is often a

strong enough compulsion to

unbolt the doors, at times even

aware of this and, therefore, do

not dither about using their sis-

ters and cousins, or even girl

friends, to campaign for their

candidate, it is wiser to use fe-

money, they can often muster

more charms to convince voters

than their male counterparts.

Besides, according to a

Not only do they cost less

EC may ask

From Page 1 Col 4

special forms every hour giving

figures of the turnout of voters

between 7 am and 1 pm and

prepare half-hourly statements

from 1 pm to 3 pm. Such

statements will be sent to the

Election Commission as soon as

The candidates are well

with a welcoming smile.

male campaigners.

Also, the sight or sound of

reasons.

There is also something else

Jamaat and the BNP.

The graffiti writers, both pro-

One can discover a number

# SAPTA will turn SAARC into economic block: Silwal

KATHMANDU, Jan 16: SAARC Secretary General Yadab Kant Silwal has expressed the optimism that the South Asian Preferential Trade Arrangement (SAPTA) will eventually turn the seven-nattion forum into an economic block, reports UNB.

"The SAPTA has given the SAARC a new direction, It could be an eventual economic grouping like EEC and ASEAN." he told a visiting group of Bangladeshi journalists at the SAARC Secretariat here before leaving for Dhaka on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

# HBFC loans

From Page 1 Col 7 the repayment instalment would be reduced to about Taka 5,500 per month.

According to Finance Ministry sources, the depart ment concerned is actively considering the HBFC idea, especially because of the government's repeated stress on increasing house building facilities for the middle class people.

Under the present apartment loan plan, the HBFC of fers credit for apartments with an inner area of between 900 and 1300 square feet. Intending borrowers have to apply for the loan to the HBFC authorities in support of a real estate company and must provide the corporation detailed description of the size and lo-

cation of the apartment. The HBFC Managing Director (MD) Sohel Ahmed, while talking on the subject yesterday, informed The Daily Star that the loans would not be applicable for already completed apartments. "The corporation charter does not allow sponsoring real estate trading," the MD said, adding that the HBFC financial assistance was meant for private citizens of the country.

Replying to a question. Sohel Ahmed said the apartment loan scheme would take off strongly in the next four to

five months. Real estate developers have developed an interest in building their apartments to the specifications of the HBFC to

get the benefit of the loan for their customers, there by expanding their own business. the MD told The Daily Star. He, however, made it clear that the corporation would play no role in bringing a bor-

rower and a real estate devel-

oper together for the purpose.

Doctors From Page 1 Col 7

the voting is over.

continued to worsen the plight of patients in different hospi-

Our DMCH correspondent says, more patients left the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday. Forty-six patients left the hospital while five died.

The 800-bed hospital, which is always crowded with at least 1400 patients everyday, had 1107 patients yesterday.

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# By Staff Correspondent Minister for Establishment Barrister Md Aminul Hug ves-

minister said.

is a need to review regularly the process, standards of accountability and various enforcement methods. "Regular assessment and rethinking by

Experts recommend steps

for safe environment

By Staff Correspondent

A question of similar nature was repeated in the first paper

The Botany paper repeated

Students were asked to mention the differences bein the same paper.

Eight marks were for the

From Page 1 Col 7 Awami League's proposal for reducing the diesel price af-

industries, primary schools in primary school teachers to Tk. health centres in each union and small and cottage industries to create job opportuni-

jahan. Abdul Kader Siddiqi and

Akheri Munajat From Page 1 Col 8

Hassan and Maulana Ahmad Lat (New Delhi) delivered sermons after the Fajr, Zohr, Asr and

The ljtema, besides its spiritual activities, also solemnised 85 marriages.' Maulana Enamul Hassan conducted the marriage ceremonies after the Asr prayers today. The guardians of

died of cold and diarrhoea during the ljtema while 20 others were admitted to the Tongi hospital. Of them, 12 persons were referred to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The bodies of three persons were buried near the Ijtema venue while the bodies of two others were taken by their relatives.

Temporary medical centre sources said about 15,000 persons took first aid from the several centres today and yes-

Police arrested over 30 pick-pockets in the two days from the litema site.

drizzles caused much problems for the devotees, specially those who were staying under the open sky. Many of them even faced difficulties in cooking their food because of the rain and the sudden coldwave.

train services for the convenience of the home-bound devotees from Tongi from tomorrow after the Akheri Munajat.

### Mistake in BSc question paper By Staff Correspondent

of the B Sc Pass examinations that began yesterday.

a question in the first and sixth questions given to candidates appearing under the Dhaka University.

tween Virus and Bacteria twice

correct answer. Hasına

fecting the farmers. Sheikh Hasina said if returns to power, the Awami League will set up agro-based each village, enhance salary of 1500. They will also set up

ties for rural women. She demanded that Dhanbari in Tangail be made a separate thana for better ad-

ministration. Others who addressed the meeting were Abdul Mannan, Shamsur Rahman Khan Sha-

Abul Hasnat Chowdhury MP.

crammed with hundreds of motor vehicles. Maulana Ashraf Ali (Bangladesh), Sheikh Khalifa (Abu Dhabi), Amir of the Tablig Jamaat Maulana Enamul

Maghrib prayers respectively.

the brides were present. . Meanwhile, five persons

terday.

Today's cold-wave and

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Railway has arranged special

#### Health Organisation (WHO) and Unicef at Hotel Sheraton. Reiterating the govern ment's commitment to allevi ate poverty, improve the living conditions of the people and provide minimum health care facilities, he hoped Bangladesh would be able to ensure health

the control of diarrhoeal diseases is undoubtedly a common area of interest of the region and hoped the consultative meeting would lead to increase sharing of ideas on the

for all by the year 2000 and

child survival by the middle of

Health Minister Chowdhury

Kamal Ibne Yusuf Sunday

creased exchanges of ideas and

views on the recent technolog-

ical developments on health

and medical science among

augurating a five-day Inter

Country Consultative Meeting

of the National Diarrhoeal

Diseases Control (CDD), organ

ised jointly by the World

The Health Minister was in-

the South Asian countries.

stressed the need for in-

He, however, hoped the as-

Srinagar: 5 killed

30-hr gunbattle in

in Kashmir. The BSF had fanned out in the Buchpora residential area on Saturday to flush out Muslim separatists, but came under gun and mortar fire. The shooting, from a house, killed the officer and injured four of

the troops. Police said that the clash lasted for more than 30 hours till today noon when the regular army was called to repulse the militant attack.

The army used mortars to blow up the house from where A police spokesman said

the militants were firing. the area continued to be sealed

#### Mujahideen as they are known after the gunfight ended. 10-party observes 'demand day'

The alliance of ten Leftleaning parties observed 'demand day' throughout the country yesterday to protest the government's accord with the World Bank.

By Staff Correspondent

The alliance also brought out processions and held rallies as part of their day-long programme. The demands of the alliance also include: Saving the country's economy from the clutches of the World Bank and the IMF, saving the farmers, and the jute sector, curbing -terrorism, uprooting communalism and trial of the collaborators of The Liberation War of 1971.

In a meeting at the National Press Club, president of the Communist Party Shahidullah Chowdhury accused the government of selling the country's interests to the imperialists. He pointed out that the guidelines given by the IMF and the World bank have resulted in the closure of many industries, decline in production, unemployment of thousands of workers and others. The meeting was also at-

tended by Bimal Biswas, Mu-

jahidul Islam Salim, Morshed

Ali, Naim Jahangir, Mir Ho-

ssain and others.

#### Chakmas' return From Page 1 Col 5 in camps in the Indian state of

Tripura, official sources said. Today's talks, which began at 11 am and continued till 1 pm, discussed the demands of the tribal refugees for resumption of repatriation.

The main demands are: a guarantee of their full security after return; involvement of the United Nations, Amnesty International and other world bodies in the repatriation process; withdrawal of all security forces from the CHT; expulsion of Bengali settlers; and proper rehabilitation of the returnees.

Sources said, all these points came up for discussion in today's closed-door meeting. The repatriation of Chak-

mas, scheduled to begin on

June 8 last year, was stalled

when the refugees refused to return despite all preparations by the government to receive them. The government opened reception camps and took measures to rehabilitate the returnees as per the bilateral agreement reached between India and Bangladesh on June

But the refugees declined to return to their homesteads in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) until the fulfilment of their 13point demands.

1, 1993.

# normal soon'

The Bangladesh Chemical

tion and supply of newsprint," the press release mentioned.

current year is 47,000 tonnes.

AC Twin

BPC, Head Office.

#### From Page 1 Col 5 developing friendly relations with its neighbours, the sources added The sources further stated that during the recent discussions in New Delhi between the Directors General of the Bangladesh Rifles and the Indian Border Security Forces the BDR Director General had offered to take his counterpart to the areas where such bases were allegedly located. This offer was neither taken up nor any reciprocal offer made by Delhi. The BDR Director General also provided his coun-

Bangladesh has never allowed any hostile and unfriendly activities by any group against a third country. The transparency and the credibility of Bangladesh in this regard has been established time and

terpart factual information

about the so-called Shan-

tibahini operating from inside

India and requested similar

information on alleged

insurgent groups operating

The sources reaffirmed that

from Bangladesh.

# trative and financial account-

ment in this vitally important

APDC director Gurung said administrative and financial accountability is one of the contribute to a reliable public

endeavouring hard to find out ways and means for improve-He noted that Bangladesh

He, however, added there

managing resources. In his address of welcome. the BPATC rector noted that the concept of accountability is bound to differ and change over time, place, culture and

"Accountability and responsibility are inseparably linked," he said, which is another way of saying that the sense of accountability must grow from within and must not

During the first working session of the conference, keynote addresses were delivered by Tan Sri Ishak Tadim of