



Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia addressing the 4th Biennial central council of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Administrative reforms

From Page 1 Col 2
process, he observed.
The government itself has been facing problems in implementing its policies and decisions because of the very character of the administration, Saifur said, adding the administration would be made facilitatory and supportive to the private sector by reducing its regulatory role and huge size through the administrative reform programme.

The Finance Minister said reform programmes would be undertaken also in the legal and the banking and financial institution sectors, as he felt the lengthy process in the legal system and the indiscipline in the banking and financial sector may not be helpful for a speedy growth of the economy.
Describing the country's present economic position as 'solid, sound and respectable', the Minister said increased participation of the private sector in all aspects of the economy is needed to uphold the position.

He also informed that the country has come under the Article 8 of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), which implies that the country had a stable economic condition with low inflation rate and a sustainable foreign exchange reserve and thus, it is a convenient place for investment.

Referring to the recommendations made by various chambers and trade bodies on the country's tax and tariff structures, Saifur said the government has been working on harmonising the tax, tariff and other restrictions with those of the neighbouring countries, as he felt, otherwise the entrepreneurs of the country would not be able to compete with their counterparts in those countries.

The Minister was, however, very critical about the public sector industries of the country, specially the jute and textile sectors, as he said, "These

sectors are causing haemorrhage to my brain. The staff of the sectors are being paid their salaries from the national exchequer. No country in the world has such precedence".

The Consultative Committee meeting was attended, among others, by State Minister for Finance Mojibur Rahman, NBR Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan, FBCCI president Mahbubur Rahman, other members of the NBR and representatives of the chambers and trade bodies of the country.

Mahbubur Rahman made various recommendations on the country's tax and tariff structures and said for speedy growth of the economy and rapid industrialisation, the government would have to consider the suggestions.

The recommendations made by the FBCCI president included reduction of the rate of Value Added Tax (VAT) to 10 per cent from its present rate of 15 per cent, putting some small sectors beyond the purview of the VAT, keeping the difference in the rate of duty on finished goods and raw materials at 30 per cent, allowing import of taxicab and bus under rebate of duty to facilitate the development of the transport sector and increasing the ceiling of income tax free earning to Tk 75,000 from the present ceiling of 50,000.

Huda leaves for Atlanta

Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda left Dhaka last night for Atlanta en route to London to attend the 5th CNN world report contributors conference to be held from May 1 to 5, reports BSS.

During his stay abroad, the minister will visit the press wing of Bangladesh Mission in London, Washington, and New York.

PM: Opposition

From Page 1 Col 4
of workers demands, including pay-scale and wage board and underscored the need for maintaining discipline, peace and stability in the industrial sector for rapid development of the country.

Begum Zia said Japan is now the strongest economy in the world because of people's hard work and said, "We have also to develop our country like Japan through hard labour."

"The whole world is experiencing economic and political changes. We have to keep pace with the changing world. This is why we have adopted a market economy," the Prime Minister said.

She urged the workers to increase production and improve the quality of products. "This is our country. We all should take the responsibility of building the country."

Presided over by Sramik Dal president Iskander Ali, the function was addressed by BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister, Abdus Salam Talukder, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah al-Noman, Sramik Dal leaders Nazrul Islam Khan and Abul Kashem Chowdhury.

Foreign guests, including Laxman Bahadur Bhasnet, president of the Nepal Trade Union, Mia Muhammad Munir, president of the All-Pakistan Federation of Trade Unions, Gopeshwar, president of the Indian National Trade Union Congress, and S Thandeman, president of the Sri Lankan Trade Union also spoke at the inaugural session of the council.

BNP standing body

From Page 1 Col 7
sources said.
Meanwhile, Abdus Salam Talukder, Secretary General of the BNP, while talking to The Daily Star last night said, "We have decided to continue to pursue the Opposition parties to return to the House."

Replying to a question, the BNP leader said, "All the Standing Committee members including myself would explore every possible avenue to bring the Opposition back to Parliament."

According to meeting sources, the Standing Committee leaders unanimously observed that in a parliamentary democracy, the Parliament floor should be the centre for debating various problems confronting the nation and only active participation of the Opposition parties could make the system effective.

The meeting also felt that there was no alternative to dialogues and exchange of views with the Opposition parties, especially on crucial national issues.

On the question of ways of ensuring entirely fair elections, the meeting resolved that strengthening of the Election Commission was the only constitutional answer to the problem.

The statement to be issued on behalf of the Standing Committee is likely to carry these views, meeting sources said.

Beginning at 8:30 pm at the Prime Minister's Secretariat, the meeting lasted for about three hours.

Ten of the 14 members of the standing body attended

Ilyas Kanchan to lead march in Sylhet today

By Staff Correspondent
Film actor Ilyas Kanchan will lead a march in Sylhet today demanding 'safer roads'.

This will be the third march under a programme which began on the first day of December last year.

Some film workers and journalists left for Sylhet yesterday to join the march.

Ilyas Kanchan launched the programme after his wife was killed in a tragic road accident near Cox's Bazar last year.



Former Gano Forum leaders Nurul Islam Nahid, Dabirul Islam, MP, and Mohammad Yusuf, MP, presenting a bouquet to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina on the occasion of their joining the party in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Nahid, two MPs join Awami League

Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for stepping up current agitation to force the government out and realise free and impartial elections under a caretaker authority to ensure people's right to vote, food and the rule of law, reports UNB.

The Awami League cannot remain silent at a time when the party in power is making Parliament ineffective, democracy jeopardised and people's life miserable through corruption, misuse, terrorism and politicisation, she said.

The Awami League president and Leader of the Opposition was addressing more than 500 leaders and workers of the Gano Forum and the undivided Communist Party of Bangladesh who joined the Awami League at 29 Minto Road in the afternoon.

They formally joined the Awami League under the leadership of Nurul Islam Nahid, Dabirul Islam MP, Mohammad Yusuf MP, Motahar Uddin Sarker and MA Qudus.

Welcoming the newcomers Hasina said the Awami League had formulated people-oriented new economic policy suiting the changed global order to ensure minimum needs of commonman.

Hasina said despite aspirations of the people, an account-

able government was not restored. "The BNP is ruling the country like Zia-Ershad autocratic régimes."

The Awami League chief said six people had been killed at Lalbagh by the BNP for casting votes for the Awami League in mayor election while Magura by-election was marred by massive rigging, snatching the people's voting right.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia, Hasina said, has failed to implement the joint declaration of the three alliances, 4-point accord signed in Parliament, commitment made to workers, teachers, students and professional groups.

"We have extended a lot of cooperation to this government. We have given them three years. Had the BNP in the opposition, such cooperation would have been beyond imagination. Because today's Prime Minister gave hartals call in advance before the results of last parliamentary elections were announced," Hasina told.

The meeting was also addressed by Awami League leaders Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman and Tofael Ahmed. Nurul Islam Nahid spoke on behalf of the newcomers.

AL may announce

From Page 1 Col 7
ers and steps against alleged corruption, misuse and politicisation and terrorism of the ruling party.

Prior to the May 4 public meeting, the Awami League is going to hold a two-day extended meeting of its central working committee at the Engineers' Institute in the city.

The extended meeting, seen as very crucial in the context of current political developments, will be attended by presidents and general secretaries of the district committees, members of the national committee, members of Parliament and members of the central body.

The entire spectrum of political, economic and social condition of the country will be discussed in the extended meeting, also expected to recommend party strategy of the current agitation for realisation of the charter of demands.

Awami League sources indicated that the party may not join the upcoming Parliament session beginning May 4 unless the ruling party agrees to bring a bill in the House seeking a constitutional amendment providing for a caretaker government.

The sources said an atmosphere congenial to a return to the House by the opposition MPs could be created by the ruling party's clear constitutional move for a caretaker government.

"We are not against joining the Sangsad. Rather we want to make it effective for the wellbeing of the people. But it is the ruling BNP which creates obstacles to our return to the House," a senior leader of the Awami League said.

"Let the government first concede the people's demand for a caretaker government and bring a bill in the House in this regard," he said.

Meanwhile, the recently-held meeting of the central working committee was learnt to have decided to boycott the coming by-election in the Bogra-4 constituency.

The party MPs are now abstaining from meetings of the different parliamentary committees in protest against alleged rigging in the Magura by-election and to press for a caretaker government.

Port facilities

From Page 1 Col 8
vide mutually beneficial arrangements for the use of their waterways for commerce between the two countries and for the passage of goods between two places in India through the territory of Bangladesh.

Bangladesh also proposed at the meeting for creating new port facilities for Bangladesh vessels at the Indian river ports of Halida and Goalpara for carrying cargo, including boulders, which would be largely imported, specially for constructing the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

The Bangladesh side also sought berthing and warehouse facilities for the country's vessels at Calcutta port.

At the end of the meeting, officials said, a document for the mutual benefit of the waterways of both the countries would be signed.

Rashidul Alam, Joint Secretary (Development and Port), Ministry of Shipping, is leading a nine-member delegation at the fifth meeting of the standing committee while a five-member Indian team is being led by Economic Minister at the Indian Mrs S Tripathi.

The meeting of the Standing Committee will continue till Saturday.

Radio programme

From Page 1 Col 5
'Are You Prepared for the Cyclone Next Time?' was organised by the Disaster Forum, a network of 33 NGOs and development agencies.

The seminar emphasised the need for better communication facilities to cope with natural disasters like cyclones.

The Midnight File

Palestinian self-rule accord in Cairo on May 4

CAIRO, Apr 28: PLO leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will sign the Palestinian self-rule accord in Cairo on May 4. President Hosni Mubarak announced here today. Rabin and Arafat will meet on Tuesday to put the final touches to the agreement, Mubarak said, reports AFP.

SA polls extended for a day

PRETORIA, Apr 28: President Frederik de Klerk today announced that voting would be extended for a further day in parts of South Africa where people had been unable to vote before polls closed in the country's first all-race election. De Klerk named the affected areas as Venda, Lebowa and Gazankulu in northern Transvaal, Ciskei and Transkei in the eastern Cape province and the KwaZulu part of KwaZulu-Natal, all former black homelands, reports AFP.

Badruddoza prefers ID cards to caretaker govt

Deputy Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury yesterday said that introduction of identity cards for all voters was a more logical formula for free and fair elections than a caretaker government.

The idea of a caretaker government is self-contradictory. While an opposition party is saying that such government is the only way free and fair polls can be ensured, yet the same party had insinuated at subtle rigging in the 1991 polls which were held under a caretaker government," the Deputy Leader pointed out at a seminar in the city.

According to the Opposition's proposal, the elected ruling party would hand over power to a non-elected caretaker government. Prof Badruddoza observed, and asked whether such an idea was consistent with any democratic practice.

"We admit the election process in the country is not perfect. Thus, I would say — everybody should support the introduction of ID cards for the voters. This is logical and consistent with democratic practices," the Deputy Leader of the House said.

The seminar on "Democracy, Rule of Law and Human Rights," organised by the fortnightly magazine *Atin*, was chaired by its adviser Mahbubur Rahman and addressed by Chairman, Board of Editors of the *Dainik Ittefaq* and the New Nation *Barrister Mainul Hosen* and Dean of the Law Faculty, Dhaka University Prof Dr M Ershadul Bari as special guests. Director of the

212 troops return from Kenya
Another batch of 212 personnel in the Bangladesh military contingent in Rwanda returned home from Kenya early hours yesterday.

Keeping in view the meeting of SAARC Finance and Planning Ministers in Dhaka in July and the next SAARC Summit in New Delhi, the groups decided to invigorate the media campaign on poverty alleviation, as they broke up and returned to their respective countries.

Media confce
From Page 1 Col 4
one from The Daily Star in Bangladesh.

The High Commissioners of Bangladesh and Pakistan in Sri Lanka also attended.

The meeting took a good look at the follow up on the recommendations of the Poverty Commission report and found the media advocacy of these to have been inadequate, by and large, so far.

For a turn-around in the situation, the draft statement contained outlines of a media strategy highlighting the need for journalistic version of the Poverty Commission Report, its translation in South Asian languages, formation of media groups for a vigorous presentations of the implications of the Report, orientation of the agents of change and that of media reporting and commentators, exchange of reports, commentary and analysis, posting of correspondents.

Keeping in view the meeting of SAARC Finance and Planning Ministers in Dhaka in July and the next SAARC Summit in New Delhi, the groups decided to invigorate the media campaign on poverty alleviation, as they broke up and returned to their respective countries.

Call to simplify disaster signals for prompt action

By Staff Correspondent

A seminar yesterday on the country's readiness to face the next cyclone suggested including the disaster preparedness programme in the national educational curriculum.

Participants in the seminar also recommended that the cyclone signals should be simplified so that the people living in the coastal regions understand them better and take timely flight to safety.

Cyclone-tolerant housing programmes could be initiated instead of just building shelters for temporary use, they observed.

The Disaster Forum organised the seminar on "Are You Prepared for the Cyclone Next Time?" at the WVA auditorium at Dhanmondi in the capital, one day ahead of the third anniversary of the 1991 cyclone.

The Forum is a network of 33 NGOs and agencies which are involved in disaster management programmes in the country.

Speakers at the opening session of the day-long seminar observed that the country's voluntary development organisations have earned good credibility in the management of natural disasters.

Despite opposing the doling out of relief, the NGOs had to acquire disaster management skills to develop the indigenous coping mechanism of the people.

Inaugurating the seminar, Information Minister Barrister Nazmul Huda emphasised the need for increased cooperation between the NGOs and the government in alleviating the sufferings of the cyclone-affected people.

The minister highlighted the need for organised campaigns for disaster management and said the government had laid highest importance to protecting the country's people from the onslaughts of natural disasters.

He pointed out that the Relief Ministry has recently been renamed the Ministry of Disaster Management and elaborate programmes have been charted to cope with any future natural disaster.

Saidur Rahman, Director of the Bangladesh Disaster Preparedness Centre, informed the seminar that the country's NGOs have spent US dollars 200 million during and after the 1991 elections, mainly due to the immense positive response both inside the country and abroad.

Nayem G Wahara, convener of the Disaster Forum, pointed out that radio and the television should broadcast cyclone messages in local dialects and the government should allow use of ham radios for better communication in the coastal regions during emergencies.

"Our cyclone signals are very complicated and hardly understood by the masses," he observed.

Representatives of five NGOs — Caritas, Dwp Unnayan Sangstha of Hatia, CARE, BRAC, Cyclone Preparedness Centre and the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society — gave short run downs of their readiness if a cyclone were to hit the Bangladesh coast.

After the inaugural session, the Information Minister opened an exhibition of cyclone preparedness materials.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi E/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 600092-4, Commercial: 600091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

Demands of teachers

From Page 1 Col 4
had not postponed its programme till mid-night last night.

Earlier, the Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, State Minister for Education Eunus Khau, Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Science and Technology Abdul Mannan, Major (Rtd) Quamrul Islam, MP and Education Secretary Irshadul Haque discussed separately with the representatives of the Bangladesh Teachers' Association and the liaison committee. Besides, the government also held several rounds of talks with the Bangladesh Principals' Parishad, the Madrassah Teachers' Association, the Bangladesh College Teachers' Association, the Jamiatul Modarresin and the Bangladesh Teachers' Employees' Federation during

"We told the minister we would discuss those at our forum and would let him know tomorrow (Friday)," he said.

Sources said the liaison body also proposed that the SSC examinations be shifted from its current schedule of a May 2 start. However, the government had turned it down.

Meanwhile, in another development, the government college teachers yesterday refused to perform vigil duties during the coming SSC examinations, a press release of the BCS General Education Association said.

No troops withdrawal

Meanwhile, a UNB report from Lalmonirhat said yesterday, India was yet to withdraw troops from the Burmari border of Rangpur, as was agreed upon at a flag meeting Wednesday.

It was agreed at a flag meeting Wednesday between local commanders of Indian Border Security Force (BSF) and Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) that India would withdraw troops massed on the border and dismantle the bunkers they had dug.

The Indian side insisted that Bangladesh should refrain from cutting loop within 150 yards of the no-man's-land till the dispute is resolved at the Joint Rivers Commission.

Officials said, the Indian side backed out from its commitment and today declined to sign the agreed minutes of Wednesday's flag meeting.

BSF men

From Page 1 Col 8
the villagers. About 20 people were injured in the indiscriminate assault.

They also took away two bullocks from the village. BDR protested the incident at a flag meeting held at the village in the evening. The BSF side agreed to return the bullocks to the owners tomorrow.

BDR said they would return the arms and ammunition after contacting the higher authorities.

মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষা-১৯৯৪
ঢাকা, কুমিল্লা, রাজশাহী, যশোর শিক্ষা বোর্ড
বিষয় : এসএসসি পরীক্ষা ১৯৯৪-এর সূচু পরিচালনার জন্য ছাত্র, শিক্ষক, অভিভাবক তথা সর্বস্তরের জনগণের সর্বাঙ্গিক সহযোগিতা কামনা

১. ১৯৯৪ ই. সালের মাধ্যমিক স্কুল সার্টিফিকেট পরীক্ষা সারাদেশব্যাপী আগামী ২-৫-৯৪ ই. তারিখ হতে ২০-৫-৯৪ ই. তারিখ পর্যন্ত অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

২. এ বছর হতে এসএসসি পরীক্ষার উত্তরপত্র কেবলই এক ফলাফল প্রক্রিয়াকরণ কম্পিউটারে মাধ্যমে করা হবে। ইতিমধ্যে পরীক্ষার্থীদের মধ্যে বিতরণের জন্য জনস্বাক্ষর এবং সৈনিক পরীক্ষার কক্ষীয় সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত নির্দেশাবলী ছাপানোর হতে সনক শিখা বোর্ড এর মাধ্যমে বিদ্যালয়ে প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে। কোন পরীক্ষার্থী উক্ত দু'টি নির্দেশাবলী না পেয়ে থাকলে ২-৭ বিদ্যালয়ের প্রধান শিক্ষকের সাথে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে। ২৫শে এপ্রিলের মধ্যে উক্ত নির্দেশাবলী না পেলে নিম্নোক্ত টেলিফোন নম্বরে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য পরামর্শ দেয়া হচ্ছে।

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা। ফোন নং	(০২) ৫০৮৯৬৬
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, কুমিল্লা। ফোন নং	(০১১) ৬১৭২
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, রাজশাহী। ফোন নং	(০৪২১) ৬২১১
মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড যশোর। ফোন নং	(০২২) ৬২০১
শিখা মন্ত্রণালয়। ফোন নং	(০২) ২১১১০

৩. কক পরিদপ্তর, হল সুপার এবং কেন্দ্র সচিবদের কক্ষীয় সম্পর্কে বিস্তারিত নির্দেশনা প্রধান শিক্ষক-এর নিকট প্রেরণ করা হয়েছে।

৪. আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বক্ষা এবং শান্তি-পূর্ণ পরিবেশে পরীক্ষা অনুষ্ঠানের জন্য পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রের ২০০ গজের মধ্যে ১৪৪ ধারা কলক থাকবে। পরীক্ষার সাথে সংশ্লিষ্ট নন এনন কেট পরীক্ষা চলাকালীন সময়ে পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রের ২০০ গজের মধ্যে প্রবেশ করলে আইনভঙ্গ দণ্ডনীয় হবে।

৫. পরীক্ষা সূচু, সুশৃঙ্খল ও দুর্নীতিমুক্তভাবে পরিচালনার লক্ষ্যে সরকার ও শিখা বোর্ড কর্তৃক গঠিত বিভিন্ন সেল টিম প্রতিটি কেন্দ্রে সর্বাঙ্গিকভাবে সক্রিয় থাকবে।

৬. পরীক্ষার দায়িত্বে নিয়োজিত শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকা, কর্মকর্তা ও কর্মচারীদের কর্তব্য অবহেলার জন্য আইনদায়ী ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হবে।

৭. কোন পরীক্ষার হলে/কেন্দ্রে যে কুসংস্কার/ছাত্রী পরীক্ষা দিবে, যে কুসংস্কার শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকা সে হলে/কেন্দ্রে পরিদপ্তর কর্তৃক তত্ত্বাবধায়ককে দায়িত্ব পালন করতে পারবেন না।

৮. পরীক্ষা কেন্দ্রে আইন-শৃঙ্খলা তরকারী যে কোন ব্যক্তি বা ব্যক্তিবর্গকে পাবলিক পরীক্ষা অপরাধ আইন বহন তাকবিকভাবে বিচার করে কারাদণ্ড অবধা অদলত অবধা উত্তর বন্ধার দণ্ড প্রদান করা হবে।

৯. নকল করার অপরাধে সোয়ী ছাত্র/ছাত্রীকে ৪ (চার) বছর পর্যন্ত বন্দি রাখা হতে পারে।

১০. এসএসসি পরীক্ষা ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের জীবনের প্রধান পাবলিক পরীক্ষা। জাতীয় জীবনের এই গুরুত্বপূর্ণ পরীক্ষা কৃতিত্বকে সূচু, শান্তিপূর্ণ, দুর্নীতিমুক্ত ও সুশৃঙ্খলভাবে পরিচালনার লক্ষ্যে স্থানীয় প্রশাসন, রাজনৈতিক নেতৃবৃন্দ, আইন-শৃঙ্খলা বক্ষাকারী সন্থা, শিক্ষক/শিক্ষিকা, অভিভাবক/অভিভাবিকা, ছাত্র/ছাত্রী এবং সর্বস্তরের জনসাধারণের সর্বাঙ্গিক সহযোগিতা একান্তভাবে কামনা।

DFP(G) 8113-25/4
G-740

শিক্ষা মন্ত্রণালয়