

# A tale of 'admission season' at schools

In the Vikarunnessa Noon

Girls High School, some

10,000 applications were

submitted for only 200 seats in

ceived seven times the capac

the pressure of school-going

children's admission is ex

cause the number of schools

quirement and quality of edu

cation was poor in the state

run primary schools than that

their kids to sit for tests in

more than one schools to

make sure that they will not

kindergarten schools could ac

commodate a maximum of

5000 new students and the

highest capacity of all other

schools, both public and pri-

number of children school-go-

agers. Crosby Capital Markets

(Asia) Ltd. Global Emerging

Markets Limited. Smith New

Court Far East Limited, UBS

Securities (East Asia) Ltd and

Citibank has a representative

office in Dhaka while the

others are also involved in the

the Bangladesh Bank, the na-

tionalised commercial banks

(NCBs), the Securities and

Exchange Commission, the

Dhaka Stock Exchange, the

utions - BSRS and ICB, the

Association of Banks, the

Bangladesh Garments Manufa-

cturers and Exporters' Assoc

iation, the Karnaphuli Fer-

tilizer Company, the Beximco

Group, the Pacific Group, Apex

Tannery and Square

divided into four plenary ses-

sions, two workshops and a

company presentation session.

At the plenary sessions, cabi-

net ministers, senior govern-

ment officials and private set-

tor representatives are going

to highlight various economic

aspects of the country while

some foreign participants are

expected to present papers on

the Dhaka Stock Exchange and

also on different international

The sponsoring foreign

Euromoney, the magazine

considered the foremost

monthly publication in the

field of international finance.

equity and 'capital markets,

started its conference business

in the 1970s and since then

has organised investment con-

ferences and seminars in more

sponsored the Subcontinent

investment forum: Bangladesh,

India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka'

in London. At that conference.

a Bangladeshi team led by the

BOI Executive Chairman made

a strong case for investment in

the country, resulting in the

planning for this conference as

20 held in city

By Staff Correspondent

for selling and frolicking with

firecrackers in the capital duf-

Police arrested 20 people

Like every year on the eve

In July last year, Euromoney

than 50 countries.

a follow up.

institutions are also going to

hold workshops on different

topics relating to international

financing instruments.

The conference would be

Pharmaceuticals.

Development Finance Instit

The local sponsors include

Of the above companies

WI Carr

capital market

But yearly increase in the

vate, was some 30 thousand.

Besides, the parents wanted

They said that all the

of the private schools.

lose an academic year.

as less than the total re-

treme on the city schools be

ity of its new enrollment.

The Ideal High School re

Teachers pointed out that

two shifts.

This year's admission sea-

son started in November last A good number of public other schools

Admission into 24 govern ment high schools in Dhaka ended vesterday

"I cannot sleep at night when I think about admission of my son, said Hosne Ara Begum, a housewife at Arambagh. She had her son sat ber of schools in the capital.

ficial estimate

The Government Laboratory High School which can accommodate only 240 students received 2500 applications for admission to class one and

took part in the admission test than 50,000, pointed out one of the Motifheel Government teacher

AL stages padajatra

The Awami League staged a padajatra in the city yesterday for the second time in the last two days with party chief Sheikh Hasina reaffirming her determination to oust the government if it failed to meet the demand for holding elections under a neutral caretaker government.

"We resigned from Parliament to establish the people's right to franchise which is endangered in the hands of the BNP government," Hasina told a rally at Basabo Maidan prior to the padajatra.

The Awami League organised the padajatra as part the opposition's 9-day programme to press for dissolution of Parliament and elections under a caretaker government.

The major opposition parties - Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat e-Islami would enforce a day long railroad blockade on January 19 and bring out torch processions on January 18 throughout the country

The rally was also addressed by Amir Hossain Amu Abdur Razzak. Mozaffar Hossain Paltu. Mostafa Jalal Mohiuddin, KM Jahangir and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury

the padajatra which ended near the Mouchak Market in the evening

# SSC course

For the lirst time the Bangladesh Open University (BOU) is introducing SSC course from this year and ad mission will begin on February l and continue till February

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club vesterday. Vice-Chancellor of the Open University, Prof M Shanisher Ali said in the first year 50,000 students will be enlisted from all over the country

He said anyone who is at least 14 years old and has passed class eight from any recognised secondary school is cligible for admission to the SSC course, but there is no maximum age limit. Women and elderly candidates would be given preference for admis-

He said application form for admission are available in the high schools in each thana sadar specified by BOU and the names of these schools can be gathered from the respective Tharm Education Officer

# 8 hurt in Khulna

KHULNA. Jan 15: At least

eight persons were wounded in a fierce gunbattle between two groups of workers around the Boyra CSD godown this morning. Police lobbed tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

rival groups, known as Aslam group and the Nazem Sarder group were fighting over the leadership of the CSD handling workers union that has so far claimed six lives in the last four years.

The two groups used firearms and hand bombs dur ing the clash.

Telegraph Board (T&T) to facilitate the date entry and computer software export business in the country and asked the Commerce Ministry to look into the arrangement with the T and T Board

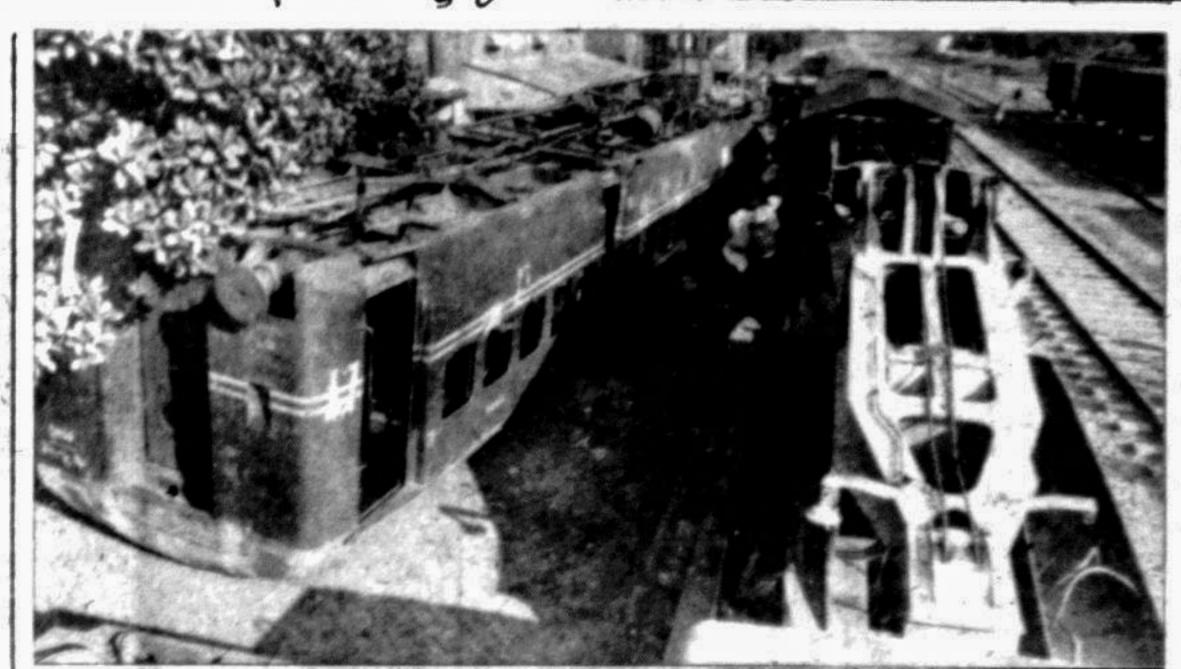
The meeting, held after a gap of nearly a year, was also attended by cabinet ministers. senior government officials and chamber representatives.

The meeting instructed the banks and insurance companies concerned to jointly discuss ways of reducing the bank debt burden of the frozen food industries in the coastal areas which were affected by the

1991 cyclone. was also asked to look into the feasibility of providing reduced airfreight rates for the export of fruits, vegetables and cut flowers, included in the export

The meeting decided to consider a jute sector demand to reduce the bank interest rate to the sector from 12.5 per cent to nine per cent. But by the export oriented industerest rates to the sector, the commerce ministry sources added.

The decision to reduce the advance income tax at source was taken amid continued demand by the country's export sectors, although the Finance Ministry was initially opposed



Some of the coaches derailed in Friday night's accident at Hily station were yet to be removed when this picture was taken yesterday. - Star photo by Anisur Rahman

## Hili station master, two pointsmen still at large

From Naimul Hag

HILI Jan 15: Three employees from nearby railway stations have been deputed to run the Hili station which came to a standstill following Friday night's accident.

One station master from Parbatipur and two pointsmen from other stations were brought in to replace the absconding employees.

#### Editorial on page 4

The station master Abdul Khaley and the pointsmen Noor Mohammed Fakir of Hili station are still absconding after two trains collided headon, leaving at least 26 persons dead and more than a hundred injured

More than 57 injured passengers were under treatment in different hospitals at Dinajpur, Fulbari, Joypurhat and Hakimpur

The microwave link with

of order for several days was restored, according to sources. Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) personnel are cordoning off the station for rescue opera-

railwaymen. Witnesses said, the family members of the victims are blaming the railway employees for the tragic accident.

tions and the safety of the

Hill station which had been out

Meanwhile, the train communication in the border area has been restored with the relief trains continuing rescue and relief operations.

Railways Secretary Dr Mashiur Rahman yesterday visited the Joypurhat Sadar Hospital and Birampur thana health complex, and handed over Tk 5,000 each to nine injured people as compensa

The rest of the victims receive their compensations in a day or two.

# New formula underway

From Page 1 Col 7

Meanwhile, Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali has already prepared his ruling regarding the resignation letters of 147 op-

The source further said that the Speaker was in touch with both the sides about the latest development.

A source close to the Speaker said that he (Speaker) had identified a number of faults in the resignation letters and is likely to declare those invalid. He (Speaker) would substantiate his decision with a number of legal provisions, the source added.

The announcement of the consensus and the Speaker's ruling may come simultaneously on January 17, a top political leader told The Daily

Shaikh Razzak Ali and Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain had a meeting with senior BNP leader and Communications Minister Oli Ahmed at the latter's residence yesterday evening.

parties maintained silence about the progress of the nego-

# Mr Khan, Sufia made

The government yesterday appointed noted educationists Dr M R Khan and Dr Sufia Ahmed National Professors for a period of five years, reports

#### JS boycott case From Page 1 Col 6

given on December 12 last. was granted upon a prayer by Rafiqui Hug. Bar-at-Law, counsel for Jatiya Party parliamentary leader Moudud Ahmed. one of the three respondents named in the writ.

. The counsel for the writ petitioner Mohammad Ali, Bar at Law, opposed the prayer for extension of stay for an uncertain period and submitted that since the Opposition Members of Parliament (MPs) had already submitted their resignations on December 28, 1994 and since there was no chance of immediate implementation of the High Court order, there was nothing to stay."

Justice ATM Afzal granted the prayer and extended the stay till hearing of the appeal.

Justice Afzal directed the appellants to make the paper book of the appeal ready erty to mention the case befixing the date for an early

When contacted over telephone. Oli Ahmed told The Daily Star it would be wise not to write anything about the progress of the negotiation process.

gotiation process, don't write anything," Oli Ahmed said.

"From my side, I have no comment. I have no comment," he concluded.

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder said that he was isolated from the whole process since he was out of the capital for the past three days.

have no knowledge," he

phone, Mohammad Nasim, of the Awami League told The Daily Star Last night 'it is the ruling party which can resolve the crisis.

#### PM: Opposition From Page 1 Col 4

expressed her determination process at any cost. "The people are very much with us, so we are not afraid of anything."

The Prime Minister also sounded a note of warning, saying legal action will be taken if anyone tries to disrupt law and order and peace, damage property and cause suffering to the people.

"Law is equally applicable for all and none is above the law," she reminded and said the government would not tolerate any indiscipline and anarchy in the country.

The Prime Minister said goods given by the foreign countries to the poor people."

To curb the freedom of speech, she said, digging further into the past of her opponents, the particular party raised various forces and killed lakhs of innocent people. "If that party once again assumes power, it will kill crores of people denying them food and with torture," she cautioned her audience.

# presidium member

By Staff Correspondent

Former first lady Begum Raushan Ershad has reportedly been made a member of the presidium of the Jatiya Party. informed party sources said yesterday.

"She has been made presidium member and the decision would be announced soon," a senior JP leader told The Daily

chief HM Ershad directed the acting chief and other senior leaders to induct Roushan into the presidium.

The source said that with her membership, 30 posts of the 33-seat highest policymaking body are now filled up.

### PM witnesses it winter exercise of army, air force in Comilla

MODAFFARGANJ (Comilla). Jan 15: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said the government is determined to build a strong and modern army in a continuing environment of economic development, reports UNB.

Begum Zia was addressing members of the 33 Infantry Division after witnessing a oint winter exercise of Bangladesh Army and Bangladesh Air Force at village Bijora néar Médaffargani Bazar in Comilla district this morn-

Lauding the timely step taken by the armed forces in avoiding loss of life and corps in the flood affected Gumti area, the Prime Minister said the Army had always stood beside the people in times of

She mentioned the glorious role of the armed forces in the Liberation War, in serving distressed people, and restoring peace and order in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

#### Hasina

From Page 1 Col 5 caretaker administration and finally resigned from Parliament to realise the demand But the Prime Minister understood (the need for quitting power) the day after the Opposition lawmakers' resigned, Hasina said. The AL chief regretted that

the Speaker was yet to give his decision on the resignation of the Opposition MPs even 17 days after the submission of the resignation letters. Mentioning her latest pro-

posal for elections under a neutral advisory council headed by the president, she said the BNP government could not still respond to it

The ruling BNP has now become a "minority party in Parliament after 149 out of the 300-elected MPs resigned and this had put an end to the legitimacy of the Leader of the House and the Prime Minister and her government." Hasina claimed.

'Yet. there is time to give up power and accept the demand for polls under a neutral caretaker government by dissolving the present Parliament," she said. The AL chief called upon

the people to get prepared for further intensifying the current Opposition agitation and asked the BCL activists to stand by the people. Rashed Suhrawardy, son of

HS Suhrawardy who was also present, in his speech said the national politics was now at a crossroad and said "we must be prepared to contest a fresh general election." The reunion was also at-

tended by the present and former BCL leaders.

## Anti-mosquito

From Page 1 Col 5 programme at the field level. We always continue mosquito control measures, this time we are gearing up our activities." he added.

Besides the spraying of insecticide, the DCC will about release guppy fish in drains since these generally live on larvae. This programme is en' vironmentally sound, a DCC official said, adding that they also examine the side-effects of the insecticide which they brought from different agen-

Dr Mohammad Abdul Baten of the D€C's mosquito control department said they would also use 'malarial oil-B' in drains and ditches with stagnant water to control breeding of mosquitoes. This oil would however, not affect other species in water, he said

Another DCC official, preferring anonymity, said their mosquito eradication drive got delayed due to shortage of fund. The DCC allocated Tk 3.75 erore in its present bud-

could not be contacted for his comment on the DCC's failure to check mosquito menace so far. His family sources said that he was ill.

# The Midnight Eile

Chechen war could last longer than Afghan war, warns Dudayev

BONN, Jan 15: Russia's war in Chechnya could last longer than its 10-year-involvement in Afghanistan. Chechen President Dzokhar Dudayev warned in an interview with the German Sunday newspaper Die Welt Am Sonntag. "It could last a very long time, perhaps longer than the war in Afghanistan. Dudayev said in the 15-minute interview by satellite telephone which the paper said took place on Saturday, reports AFP.

## Two arrested for murder

By Staff Correspondent

Two brothers were arrested for their alleged involvement in the murder of a youngman in the city's Lal Mohan Street area vesterday. Mohammad Matin, 20, ac-

cused of stealing a bicycle, was beaten to death by some youths Saturday evening. The two brothers - imam Hossain, 20, and Jahir Uddin,

22, were detained by police for interrogation yesterday after-Matin had reportedly

brought a youngman who wanted to buy Imam's bicycle but fled away with the cycle. according to police.

#### Bank dacoity From Page 1 Col 7

ers of Motiffieel, but we're yet to find any clue to the whereabouts of the person/s behind the incident said Fazlul Karim, an assistant commissioner of the Detective Branch.

He said, police are not yet certain if the deceased security guard Azizur Rahman Khan had let any prostitute inside the bank before the incident.

We've found some sings of lipstick in the under shirt of Aziz, but that's not a very strong evidence," he added "But we have evidence that

usually admit prostitutes and their clients into their premises at night," said the police officer But police believe the criminals entered the bank with

some of the guards in the area

the help of the security guard. Azizur Rahman, 38. was found murdered inside the

bank at the WAPDA Bhaban at Motifieel Saturday morning. The criminals tried in vain to break open the vault which contained some 35 lakh taka

with a drilling machine Police are waiting for the autopsy report to determine he approximate time of the murder... Another police source said

some city electric shops were

raided in a bid to locate the source of the drilling machine used by the criminals. The drilling machine left behind at the scene was new but we cannot say anything at

this moment if it was pur-

chased from a shop or stolen.

## Green panel sweeps **RUTA** polls

RAJSHAHI, Jan 15: The green' panel today swept the Rajshahi University Teachers' Association (RUTA) polls bagging 12 seats including the president of the 15-member executive committee for 1995, reports UNB.

Prof M Aminul Islam of the green panel known as the nationalist force and Dr Mizan Uddin of yellow panel were elected president and general secretary respectively of

The elections to deans and teachers' representatives for the syndicate, academic council. finance committee, and planning and development committee were also held today. Nationalist force candidates bagged 15 out of 19

The green panel secured all the six seats of the academic council, all five of the syndicate, three posts of deans and the only seat of finance com-On the other hand, the yel-

low panel got three posts of , deans and a post of planning and development committee.

fair extended The ongoing Dhaka International Trade Fair will now end on January 28, instead of Jan 21 as scheduled earlier, official sources said yesterday, reports

Duration of trade

#### A real bull From Page ! Col 2

Finally a hot chase by local people, assisted by stickwielding policemen of Narayanganj thana, succeeded in bringing the runaway bull under control. Two bus drivers also helped by blocking the way of the charging bull by parking their vehicles in its path. Earlier attempts to stop the frightened animal by rolling empty oil barrels in its

path had failed to impede it. When contacted, the police could not say whether the prisoner would be granted bail or satisfy the palates of its uniformed captors.

# एम्डाट्ल देतञ्चाट्या काः लिः

গত ১২ই জানুয়ারী সকাল সোয়া ১১ টায় ১২৬৭, আশরাফ আলী চট্টগ্রাম-এ ফেভারেল ইন্যুরেল কোম্পানী লিমিটেভের চাক্তাই শাখার আনুষ্ঠানিক উছোধন করা হয়। উদ্বোধন করেন কোম্পানীর ভারপ্রাপ্ত চেয়ারম্যান আল্হান্থ আহমদ শকি।

কোশানীর ভারপ্রাপ্ত চেয়ারম্যানের সভাপতিতে এ উপলক্ষে আয়োজিত সভায় গুরুত্পূর্ণ বক্তব্য রাখেন পরিচালক এম, এ, খালেক, আল্হান্ধ এনামূল হক, ভারপ্রাপ্ত মৃখ্য নির্বাহী এ. কে. এম. সোহরাভয়াদী চৌধুরী এবং শাখা ব্যবস্থাপক মিলন কান্তি বিশ্বাস সভায় পরিচালকবৃব্দের মধ্যে ছবিরুল হক, জসিম উদ্দিন, নুরুল

আলম, মোঃ লোকমান চৌধুরী এবং চটুগ্রামের বিশিষ্ট শিল্পতি ব্যাংকরি, ব্যবসায়ী ও গণ্যমান্য ব্যক্তিবর্গ উপস্থিত ছিলেন সভায় পরিচালক এম, এ, খালেক বিগত বছরগুলোভে ব্যবসা

অর্জনের ক্ষেত্রে কোম্পানীর উভরোভর সাফল্যে সম্ভোব প্রকাশ করেন এবং পরিচালক আলুহাত্ব এনামূল হক কোম্পানীর বর্তমান উল্লভ গ্রাহক সেবা অব্যাহত রাখার প্রতিশ্রুতি ব্যক্ত করে গ্রাহকদের অন্তরিক সহযোগিতা কামনা করেন সভাপতির ভাবণে আলহান্ত আহমদ শক্তি বলেন, গত বছর

আমাদের কোম্পানী ১৫ কোটি টাকার নগদ প্রিমিয়াম সংগ্রহ করেছে এর মূল কারন কোম্পানীর উপর গ্রাহকগণের সুগভীর আস্থা এবং নিরাপত্তা নিষ্ঠিতকরনে কোম্পানীর দ্রুত বীমা দাবী নিম্পন্তি তিনি আরো বলেন, আমাদের ২৪টি শাখা ইতিমধ্যেই সারা দেশে

গ্রাহক সেবায় নিয়োজিত। চট্টগ্রামের চাক্তাই এলাকা ব্যবসা বাবিজ্ঞার জন্য বিখ্যাত। এখানকার ব্যবসায়ীগণের নিরাপন্তা এবং সেবার ইচ্ছা আমাদের কোম্পানীর দীর্ঘদিনের। আমাদের ২৫ তম শাখা উদ্বোধনের মাধ্যমে তা বান্তবায়িত হল।

পরিশেষে তিনি এলাকার সকল শ্রেণীর বাবসায়ীদের সহযোগিতা এবং আল্লাহর অশেব রহমত কামনা করেন

#### Editor: Mahfuz Anam

behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52. Motuheel C.A. Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd. 90 Kakrail, Dhaka 1000 Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House Not 11, Road Not 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX 500092-4. Commercial 500091 (Direct), Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. Cable DAILYSTAR, DHAKA

# while their wards sit for admission tests inside. - Star photo.

Anxious guardians waiting outside a school in the city

As intense competition goes Boys High School for only 200 on for admission against a lim- seats in two shifts. Last year, ited number of seats in the city some 3000 applications for schools parents are worried admission were received. about the fate of their children

and private schools have already finished enrollment while admission is still on in

for admission tests at a num

There are 325 government primary schools in Dhaka Besides, there are 200 high schools, both public and private, 50 primary schools and some 500 kindergarten schools, according to an unof-

class six. Four thousand children ing age in Dhaka was more

**Investors**' conference From Page 1 Col 5 ticipants have registered with Euromoney in London while another 19 have registered locally, and most of the local invited participants are also expected to attend the confer ence." said a senior BOI official yesterday. This is a grand op-

vestment opportunities in the country. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is scheduled to inaugurate the conference at the Sonargaon Hotel. The conference is designed to look into all economic aspects of the country and is expected to provide an opportunity to po-

portunity to promote the in-

views with the policy-makers. The objective of the confer ence, as Euromoney put it in an outline of the conference, is linked to the government's overall marketing strategy to promote international busi ness, dinance and investment

Foreign investors and

in the country.

tential investors to exchange

Bangladesh but are more eager than ever to learn about new opportunities. Bangladesh is at the fringe of the emerging markets," it said "Visitors also need to be shown how investment in

Bangladesh can function as a

spring-board for operations in

traders alike know little about

India, as well as South East Asia and the Middle East. It is important to persuade the international financial and business community to visit Bangladesh so that they can realise firsthand how welcome foreign investment now is and how the economic manage ment team is speeding up economic liberalisation, Euromoney, also part of the

Economist group, added. The conference would also enable senior government officials to meet face to face with top-level executives from in ternational institutions and would also provide an opportunity to identify and meet with new institutions who wish to develop business in Bangladesh, it said

"The targeted audience should be senior investors. fund managers, corporate executives, investment bankers. commercial bankers, trading companies, accountants and lawyers, selected because-they have, or should have, a real interest in Bangladesh," Euromoney explained in the conference plan. The conference is being

sponsored by six foreign and 12 local institutions, splitting ing last two days until midthe 120,000 pound sterling night last night. cost among them. The foreign sponsors include Citibank NA and five

of holy Shab-e-Barat, a group of businessmen went on selling other international fund manfirecrackers.

The rally over, Hasina led

# BOU introduces

reports BSS.

sion, he said.

gunbattle From Our Correspondent

Eve witnesses said, the two

Advance tax From Page 1 Col 8

The commerce ministry

promotion crash programme. it did not consider a request trial sector to reduce bank in-

to the idea, the sources said. The National Board of Revenue is expected to issue an order within the next few weeks regarding the reduction of advance income tax at source and providing warehouse facilities for leather sector imports, they added.

of a party in Parliament played the key role in the negotiation between the ruling party and the Opposition.

position MPs. He delayed announcing it apparently to give the rival camps the scope to reach a consensus, one source

The spokesmen of all the

Nat'l Professors

The extension of the order.

After hearing both sides

within one month from yesterday. He also said that on expiry of that date the writ petitioner's counsel will be at libfore the Appellate Division for hearing of the appeal.

"If you want to help any ne-

"Something may happen but When contacted over tele-

government is fully legal' and to maintain the constitutional

the Opposition had earlier been in power but completely failed to do any welfare of the people. "They had created famine through looting relief

# Raushan made JP

He said the jailed party

get for mosquito control. Mayor Mohammad Hanif

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on