

Inside Today

Sport



Tony Lock dead, Bangladesh out of SAARC Gold Cup football
Page 11

Article

Crisis Versus No Crisis

Column: Beneath The Surface
by Abdul Bayes
Page 4

International

Strike paralyses Kashmir



Benazir at war with 'murderers' in Karachi
Page 5

Business

Hillary Clinton favours trade union for poor women

Delhi gov't announces moderate budget
Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	794.86 (+0.49%)
Market capitalisation Tk	43.34 billion
Turnover in volume	67426
Turnover in value Tk	10.42 million

Education

A history of literacy efforts for women
Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



All in a Day's Work

Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

PM opens science week today

The 18th National Science and Technology Week begins in the city today Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will formally open the week at the National Science and Technology Museum at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city at 11 am, reports BSS.

Fire Service week

Countrywide Fire Service and Civil Defence Week '95 begins today to create public awareness about incidence of fire, natural disasters and wartime emergency. The inaugural function of the Week will be held at 8.30 am at the Mirpur Fire Service and Civil Defence Training Complex. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury will be the chief guest, reports UNB.

JCD calls hartal in Narsingdi today

NARSINGDI, Mar 31: District Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) called a six-hour hartal in the town tomorrow to protest the attack on the residences of five JCD workers.

BNP for judicial probe into fertiliser crisis

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has decided to initiate a judicial probe into the fertiliser crisis.

A three-member committee with a High Court judge as its chief would be formed within a couple of days, meeting sources said.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting of the party's standing committee held with BNP Chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The hurriedly convened meeting was held at the Tejgaon office of the Prime Minister. Besides 14 standing committee members, the minister concerned also attended the meeting.

The meeting resolved that the recent report of a donor agency that government inter-

ference had created the fertiliser problem was not true, a source who attended the meeting said.

The Prime Minister was apprised of the fertiliser distribution system. The minister concerned said that during the January-February period, the government had no role in distributing fertiliser across the country.

During the period, the licence-holders lifted nearly two lakh tons a month while the deputy commissioners were given very small quantity of fertiliser. Under the open market economy, there is no restriction on fertiliser trading and a simple trade licence-holder can purchase fertiliser from the factory, it was pointed out.

The government interfered only when the crisis turned serious and ordered the BCIC to send fertiliser to the DCs. During March, the DCs were given about one lakh tons of fertiliser which significantly improved the situation, the meeting was told.

The Prime Minister was also informed that the northern districts of the country were more affected than other areas. But supply has already been ensured.

The BNP chairperson directed the party leaders and workers to hold public meetings and rallies to explain the situation.

The party stalwarts also noted that the oppositions' anti-government agitation had not yet gained ground but they were trying to take advantage

See Page 12 Col 5

Gen Manzur murder Groundwork for case began 3 years ago

By Asiuzzaman

Government agencies started the groundwork for the case of Maj Gen Abul Manzur's mysterious killing at least three years ago when principal suspect Maj (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Huq returned from his diplomatic assignment, informed sources said.

'Emdad, then a captain, who took the custody of Gen Manzur from Hathazari police on June 1, 1981, was summoned time and again by the Defence Forces Intelligence (DFI) when he came back from Senegal in early 1992 after completing his assignment, the sources said.

On June 22, 1992, Maj Emdad had made a statement to the chief of the DFI in which he disclosed how he was assigned to take custody of Manzur and how the general was killed. Emdad's family sources confirmed that he was interrogated several times by the intelligence agency men following his return.

Before going for the initial investigation, the agency reportedly got approval from the higher authorities, a source involved in the process said, adding "the authorities want to unveil the mystery over Manzur's death."

Emdad referred to the 1992 statement when he was produced in the court of Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Chittagong, on March 28.

Emdad was relieved of military job in early 1987 and his services were placed under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

A number of others who were either involved or closely witnessed the killing of Gen Manzur in Chittagong Cantonment were also called time to time by the DFI and interrogated, the sources added.

Maj (ret'd) Rezaul Karim, who was arrested with Gen Manzur from a tea garden in Paildang when they were fleeing after the abortive coup, was

See Page 12 Col 1



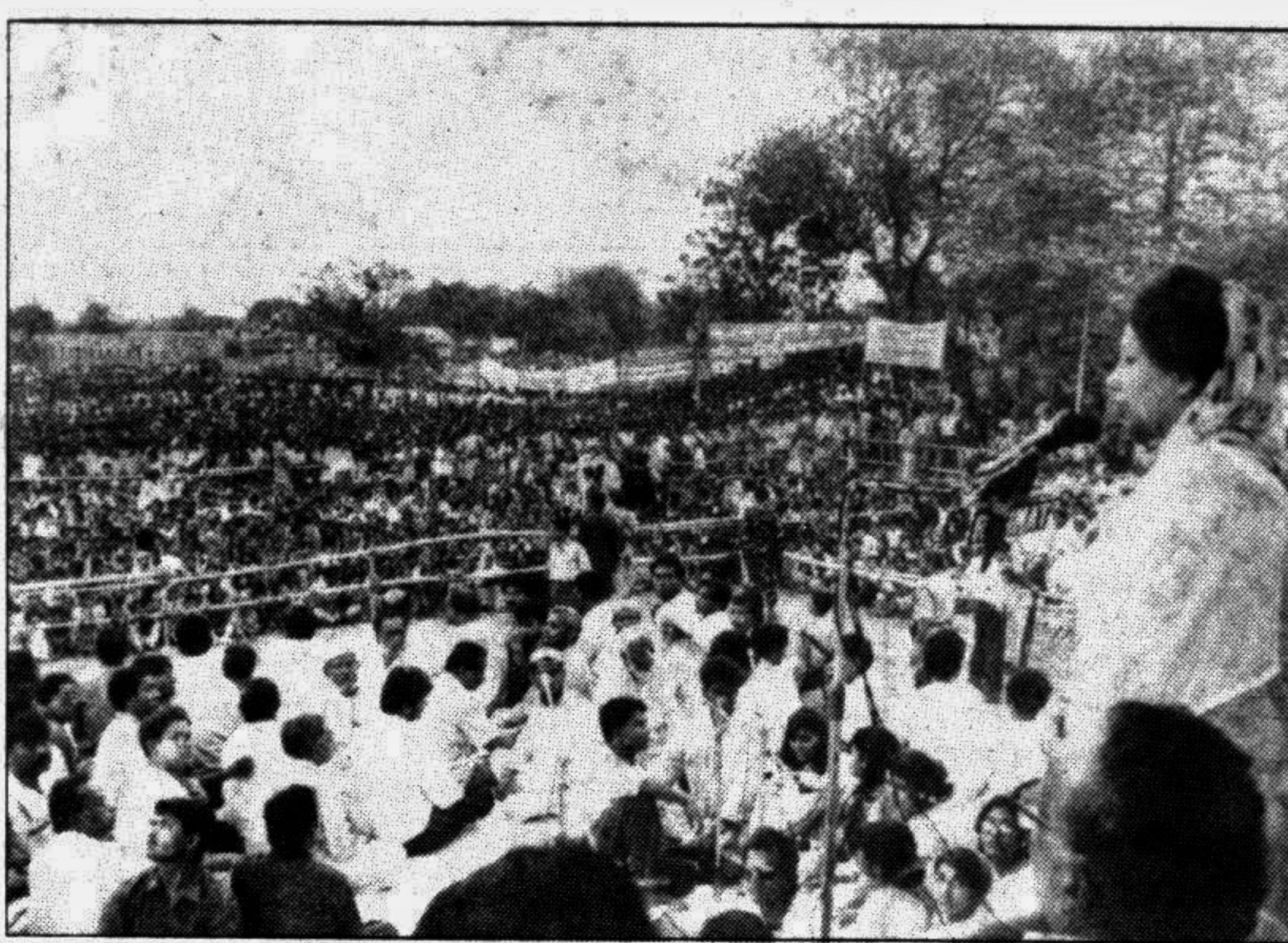
Qatari FM due today

The Minister for Foreign Affairs of Qatar Sheikh Hamad Bin Jassim Bin Jabor Al-Thani arrives in the city today on a two-day visit at the invitation of Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, reports BSS.

The Qatari foreign minister will head a delegation which includes senior officials of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Qatari envoys to the UN and China, representatives of civil aviation and the Qatar Airways.

A private sector business delegation and a media team will also accompany the Qatari

See Page 12 Col 8



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting after inaugurating the Haquul Ebad bridge linking Kamrangir Char with Dhaka city yesterday. — PID photo

PM opens bridge Hartal, siege hamper development

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated a long cherished bridge over the Buriganga river to establish a direct link between Kamrangir Char and the capital city, reports UNB.

The Hakkul Ebad Bridge, built at a cost of about Taka two crore, will directly benefit more than seven lakh residents of the island under the capital's Lalbagh thana.

It will contribute to further improving the socio-economic condition of the char already having a large number of small textile and cottage industries.

Addressing a public meeting at the local madrasah ground, Begum Zia urged the people to exert united efforts to build the country and place it at a respectable position in the comity of nations.

The Prime Minister said the policies undertaken and progress achieved by the present government has helped the country get rid of the stigma of 'bottomless basket'

See Page 12 Col 8

Slide in DSE index continues

By Sharier Khan

All share price index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) continued to fall for the second week in a row as a large number of traded issues incurred substantial losses.

Market operators termed the continued fall "a cold wave in the share market" and said it was an inevitable impact of the political impasse persisting for more than a year.

The DSE lost over Tk 4 crores in just one week while the index fell by 8.310 points or 1.048 per cent at the close of last week compared to the previous week, in two weeks, the fall was 40,150 points, which is over 4 per cent.

The DSE closed at 784.65 points Thursday from the previous week's 792.81 points. The fall was steady in the four-day week of the DSE.

While over 60 per cent of the traded shares incurred losses everyday, the total market capitalisation stood at Tk 43.33 billion last week as against Tk 43.77 billion of the previous week.

The total trading of shares and debentures also declined sharply. A total of 280,953 shares and debentures worth Tk 61,664 million was traded against 644,896 shares and debentures worth Tk 144,204 million of the previous week.

"The market has been affected by the political uncertainty. Everybody is afraid of sudden hartal calls or agitation programme," a well placed source in the DSE told this correspondent, adding, "the political stalemate has created an economic stalemate."

Market operators are not sure whether the market would continue to fall or improve. "It is high time for the politicians to decide about the stalemate to make to economy run again," one operator said.

The market operators also pointed out that the foreign investors in the stock market were selling out shares, keeping hundred per cent profit, but lower prices were offered for other shareholders. "This

See Page 12 Col 7



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at the Nazrul College ground in Trishal yesterday. — AL photo

BNP has no right to stay in power: Hasina

TRISHAL (Mymensingh). Mar 31: Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina today called upon the people to step up the on-going agitation to force the "killer" government to step down, reports AP.

"This government did not spare anyone and would continue its repression and oppression on people to cling to power," she told a meeting here to protest the killing of farmers in recent weeks.

It has killed police, students, 55 businessmen, 16 workers and 12 farmers, she alleged.

The Awami League President said the inefficient and corrupt government, which has failed to ensure fertiliser supply and killed as many as 12 farmers who staged agitation for fertiliser, has no right to stay in power.

See Page 12 Col 2

Romanian plane crash kills all 59 on board

BUCHAREST, Mar 31: An Airbus A310 flown by the Romanian airline Tarom crashed in a sleet storm today minutes after takeoff from Bucharest's airport, killing all 59 people on board, authorities said, reports AP.

The plane crashed at 9:11 am local time (0611 GMT) near the village of Balotesti, 20 kilometers (13 miles) outside Bucharest, just north of the capital's international airport Otopeni.

The plane, with 49 passengers and 10 crew members on board, was headed for Brussels, said Tarom spokeswoman Andrea Mihailiascu. The airline said there were no known survivors.

Mihailiascu said the dead passengers included 32 Belgians, nine Romanians, three Americans, three Spanish national, one Dutch man and a

French national, she said. Two members of Belgium's Bucharest embassy were among the dead, the embassy said. They were identified as the consul, Kathleen Hochart, and an embassy secretary, Michelle van de Nameele.

Belgium's national airlines, Sabena, earlier said 41 of the 49 passengers were Belgians.

A US Embassy spokesman, Chris Fitzgerald, confirmed that three Americans were on board. He said he could not identify them pending notification of next of kin.

Body parts, clothing and charred metal lay strewn across the blood-streaked snow and mud just hundreds of yards (meters) from Balotesti's small railway station.

Much of the wreckage was no larger than 2 meters (6 1/2 feet) long, reports AP.

See Page 12 Col 4

Janata Dal leading in Bihar polls Rao suffers another setback

NEW DELHI, Mar 31: Embattled Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao suffered another setback today as a centrist party moved towards a sensational victory in the country's most volatile state, Bihar, reports AFP.

The Janata Dal was expected to storm back to power in the state it had ruled since 1990 until New Delhi sacked its government Tuesday amid controversy and fresh elections, officials said.

The Janata Dal had won five seats and was leading its rivals in 61 out of 159 constituencies where counting of the millions of votes cast in this month's staggered elections continued.

The Dal's communist allies had bagged three seats and were on the road to victory in 22 crucial races. Counting in most other places began today, and a new government is expected in office by Monday.

"We are certain the Janata Dal will get a majority on its own," Janata Dal spokesman 5 Jaipal Reddy said here, "with

the support of our left allies we will be able to form a government comfortably."

Newspapers echoed Reddy's claims, saying the Dal was about to pull off a remarkable coup in one of the most keenly contested state assembly elections since India's independence in 1947.

Reddy, an MP, called the Bihar verdict a blow to Rao's Congress (I) party, which was desperately banking on anti-establishment sentiment to retake Bihar, which had been a citadel until it lost the agrarian state in 1990.

The Congress and about a dozen other parties, none of which share a common goal except their enmity for the Janata Dal were trailing far behind in other Bihar constituencies, counting trends showed.

A defeat in Bihar, India's second most populous state, is expected to pose difficult times for Rao, who has come under renewed attack from dissidents since the Congress

was voted out in two key western states early this month.

Bihar was one of four major states which were to elect new legislatures in February and March in a staggered vote seen as a referendum on the 73-year-old Rao, who is also the Congress president.

The Congress lost control of two major southern states in December, including Rao's home state of Andhra Pradesh, triggering a revolt by the former de facto number two in the government, Arjun Singh.

The loss of the highly-industrialised western states of Maharashtra and Gujarat added to Rao's woes, and his supporters were banning on a possible sneak victory in Bihar to come out of a tight corner.

Spokesman Reddy said the Janata Dal's performance would give new life to the centrist-communist front, whose morale suffered a setback when the centrist party lost an eastern state to the Congress this month.

3 BDR men pulled out of Maricha Palong camp

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, Mar 31: The authorities have withdrawn today three jawans of the Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) in face of a mass protest against detention of two women at the Maricha Palong BDR camp yesterday.

The BDR personnel yesterday detained the wife of a former upazila chairman and the daughter of a retired naval officer following an altercation while the women were passing in a jeep by the BDR camp.

The ladies were, however, released immediately as people staged demonstrations and put up barricade on the Cox's Bazar-Teknaf road.

The local people also brought out processions today at different places demanding closure of the Maricha Palong BDR camp.

A meeting between the district administration and local leaders will be held tomorrow at the Cox's Bazar Deputy Commissioner's office to discuss the issue.

UNDP-sponsored study on FAP Independent review report by Apr 15

By Masud Hasan Khan

The Flood Action Plan (FAP), termed by environmentalists 'unfriendly to the poor and the nature,' is undergoing an independent review which weighs the relevance of the multi-million dollar plan to the country.

A five-member team of independent reviewers has been working in this regard and would submit the report by April 15, according to sources in the UNDP which initiated the review to elicit second professional opinion on the FAP.

The ambitious studies on the recurring floods no longer sought an engineering solution to the flood problems but focused mainly on the country's water management, Water Resources Ministry officials said.

Comprising experts from various fields, the team would assess the FAP's relevance to

Bangladesh from the perspective of alleviating poverty and protecting environment.

It would also assess the validity of comments or concern regarding the FAP and if its planning accommodates people's participation.

The members of the team are: agricultural economist Just Faaland, poverty/women in development expert Prof Rounaq Jahan, social anthropologist Dr Geoffrey D Wood, natural resources management specialist Dr Fashluddin Mahtab and environmentalist with experience in fish resources management Dr Patricia Almada-Villela.

Sponsored by 16 external donors including the US, UK, France, the Netherlands and Japan, the FAP is a massive study aimed at controlling floods permanently.

See Page 12 Col 8

Hillary Clinton arrives tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Hillary Rodham Clinton, wife of US President Bill Clinton, is due to arrive tomorrow afternoon on a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Accompanied by her 15-year old daughter Chelsea, the entourage of the visiting dignitary will comprise of nearly 60 members including a 20-member media team.

A high-powered advance team that also includes a special detail from the FBI is already in the city to co-ordinate her visit.

After her arrival tomorrow, Hillary Clinton will pay a courtesy call on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at the Bangabhaban.

The US Embassy will hold a reception in her honour where very selected guests have been invited.

The invitees also include leading politicians from the

See Page 12 Col 4

Saifur criticises WB mission chief's statement

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday bitterly criticised the statement of World Bank Mission Chief in Dhaka Pierre Landell-Mills on government intervention in fertiliser distribution, reports UNB.

The World Bank Mission Chief criticised the government action on fertiliser distribution while addressing a meeting of the Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) on Thursday.

A PID handout said the Finance Minister, who was at Maulvibazar, when contacted over telephone, sharply reacted to the statement of the World Bank official.

"The government intervention this time came as the last recourse only when the distribution mechanism broke down and the farmers were not getting fertiliser at the most critical time of Boro crop," he said. "Even this intervention," the minister said "involved limited distribution through the government agencies and

See Page 12 Col 1

SC Bar polls T H Khan, S M Munir elected President, Secy

By Staff Correspondent

Mohammad Tafazzal Hossain Khan (Justice T H Khan) and S M Munir were elected president and secretary respectively of the Supreme Court Bar Association.

Association sources said Justice T H Khan, convener of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Ainjibi Forum, bagged 510 votes, while pro-Awami League candidate Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan polled 471 votes and the Jatiya Party-supported candidate Khandaker Mahbub Hossain got 218 votes.

The two-day annual elections of the association ended on Thursday in which 1209 out of 1418 eligible voters cast their ballots. The counting of votes ended early Friday morning.

The other elected office-bearers are: Vice-presidents — Syed Mohammad Dastagir Hossain and S M Zillul Huq; treasurer — Mohammad Salmullah; assistant secretaries — Amanatun Nur Begum Panna and Mohammad Omar Faruq; members — Khaleda Panna, Barrister AK Mainul Haq, Ambia

See Page 12 Col 3

Red Crescent Society lottery draw results

The draw of 10th Red Crescent Society lottery was held yesterday at the nursing school auditorium in the Holy Family hospital, reports UNB.

The first three winning numbers and prizes are: 1st prize (Tk 20 lakh) — Ja 129753, 2nd prize (800 cc car) — Chha 255168 and 3rd prize (100 cc Motorcycle) — Cha 076584, said a press release.

Vice-Chancellor of the Dhaka University Prof Emajuddin Ahmed conducted the draw.

Editor of the Daily Dinkal Sanaulah Nuri, Principal of the BDR School and College Shahina Parveen, and Film Director Khan Ataur Rahman were the members of the jury board.