Help maintain congenial academic atmosphere: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday sought help from all concerned in maintaining a congenial academic atmosphere and stopping unscheduled closure of educational institutions, reports UNB.

"I urge all including students, teachers, guardians and politicians to take measures, in the interest of the country and future generation, so that studies of the students are not hindered," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing at the Osmany Memorial Hall a reception accorded to the meritorious students who secured places in the 1994 Higher Secondary Certificate and Alim Examinations under the country's four Education Boards and the Madrassah Education Board.

Begum Zia distributed certificates among the 325 students at the function, presided over by Education Minister Zamiruddin Sircar. Education Secretary Ershadul Hug also addressed the function, attended by ministers, MPs. teachers, guardians and senior civil and military officials.

She noted that nobody gains if the educational institutions

are closed, examinations are deferred, éducational atmosphere is disrupted. "Rather it's a loss for our children, the whole nation."

Exhorting the meritorious students, the Prime Minister hoped that they would be able to continue their success in attaining knowledge of the amazing progresses in science and technology taking place at this fag end of the twentieth cen-

Noting that tough competition lies ahead for this world in the twenty-first century. Begum Zia said, "We have to prepare for the challenge. We have to accelerate the pursuit of knowledge.

"The knowledge the developed world has acquired in a hundred years has to be grasped by us in a much shorter period, and for that the meritorious students are the centre of our hope," she added.

She reiterated that the present government had given top priority to education and listed different programmes, including the Food for Education. Compulsory Primary Education, Adult Education and free education for girls upto Class Ten in the rural areas.

Kuwait eager to help

From Page 1 had fruitful talks with his

Bangladesh counterpart Begum Khaleda Zia and other ministers on matters of mutual interest

He thanked the government and the people of Bangladesh for extending warm hospitality to him and members of his entourage during the visit. "I and members of my entourage are very satisfied and happy," he The Kuwaiti Prime Minister

expressed his gratitude to the government and the people of Bangladesh for extending support to his country in combatting the Iraqi aggression in

"Bangladesh stood by Kuwait in time of its crisis and played a due role in the liberation of Kuwait," said the Crown Prince.

Referring to his formal talks with Begum Zia, he said that the Bangladesh leader had also assured her country's support to Kuwait and work in all international fora to make Iraq comply with all terms of the UN resolutions before lifting of the embargo. Responding to a question.

the Crown Prince said Kuwait is ready to take all possible

From Page 1

with the cooperation of the

business community. her gov-

ernment would be able to cre-

ate a more congenial invest-

ment and employment atmo-

sphere for the betterment of

President of its Board of Direc-

tors Sarwar Jamai Nizam, ap-

prised the Prime Minister of

the latest situation of trade and

The CCCI president in-

formed the Prime Minister

that foreign investment in his

city increased manifold due to

the policy adopted by the gov-

than 35,000 people were now

working in the Chittagong EPZ

and foreign investors coming

Sylhet murders:

Post mortem held

on three bodies

From Staff Correspondent

mortem of the bodies of three

villagers recovered from a

gunny bag after 39 days of the

gruesome murders, was held

at the Sunamganj Sadar Hospi-

one more person from Murad-

pur village for his alleged

complicity in the murders.

With this the number of those

killed and eighty others were

injured in a clash between res-

idents of five villages in

Dharampasha thana of Sunam-

ganj. Three others were also

kidnapped on the day from the

Jaldhara haor. The bodies of

those three villagers were late

recovered from a ditch at vil-

Lightning kills

4 in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

bers of a family were killed in a

lightning when a hailstorm sw-

ept Hizla thana here last night.

about 8:30 pm damaged some

300 houses, crops of about 100

acres of land and uprooted

many trees.

BARISAL, Apr 15: Four mem-

The storm that started at

lage Lanka Patharia Thursday.

On March 5 one person was

arrested rose to fourteen.

Police yesterday arrested

SYLHET. Apr 15: The post-

He mentioned that more

business in the port city.

ernment.

tal today.

The CCCI delegation, led by

the teeming millions.

measures to help its 'tested friend' achieve allround development.

The strong ties of friendship and cooperation between Dhaka and Kuwait City will continue to grow in the days ahead, he said.

He regretted his inability to attend the press conference scheduled for Friday. All his official engagements on the day were cancelled due to the sad demise of a senior member of the ruling Sabah family.

Earlier, Begum Zia met with Al-Sabah at Sonargaon Hotel where he was staying during the visit and hoped that the visit would further strengthen the existing relations between the two countries.

She expressed deep sorrow at the death of the Sabah family member and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

The royal guest was also given a ceremonial farewell at the state guest house Karotoa He was given a guard of honour by a smartly turned out contingent drawn from the three services. He took salute and inspected the guard.

. BSS adds: Sheikh Saad in a assage greeted Prime Minister Begun Khaleda Zia on the occasion of Pahela Baishakh.

Khaleda business leaders

to invest in the country's business capital. Nizam said in the name of hartals, common people were being confined to their houses violating human rights.

In observance of the day, "We are witnessing a bad trend that hartals and strikes are being called especially when foreign investors come Friday morning. to explore prospects of in-

vestment," the CCCI president observed. "We have to face a serious competition for survival because every chapter of the Uruguay Round will be implemented by the year 2005. So spoke on the occasion

it is time to groom our busi-State Minister for Cultural ness by shunning the anti-de velopment activities," cau tioned the chamber leader. The CCCI executives lauded denry in its premises. the current economic policy of

the government and expressed their gratitude to the Prime Minister for declaring Chit tagong as the business capital.

They further said the standard of living of the people of the port city and already improved and observed that the infrastructure of the city was better than that of capita Dhaka.

Thanking the Prime Minis ter, the directors said the gov ernment had in the meantime set up stock exchange and the infrastructure of the proposed World Trade Centre to be established in Chittagong.

Quarry labourers gherao Companyganj thana parishad

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 15: More than four thousand quarry workers laid a siege to the Companyganj thana parishad today to press for immediate resumption of stone collection from the Bholaganj quarry. A rally was also held after the siege.

The labourers alleged that stone collection had been suspended for the last one week due to obstacles created by some local quarters demanding illegal tolls.

The quarry workers also called upon the district administration to take necessary steps to end the problem within 24 hours or face a bigger agitation.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.



The Chhayanaut members rendering songs at the Ramna Park in the city Friday morning in celebration of Pahela Baishakh. - Star photo

Pahela Baishakh

From Page 1

crooners welcoming the first sunrise of BS 1402 with Tagore's famous song "Esho Hey Baishakh-Esho, Esho."

Under the huge banyan tree, the singers also presented folksongs and patriotic songs while a large number of people enjoyed the first few hours of the New Year.

Outside the parks, makeshift stalls sold fried fish and panta bhat with chilli and onion to those who wanted a different kind of start for the Pavement stalls also sold

traditional items, handicraft and cottage industry products besides assortment of foodstuff and beverage. Students of the Fine Arts

Institute brought out a colourful procession that paraded different areas. Masked processionists. carrying huge paper-and-bomboo buntings of fish, elephants

chorus and danced with the drumbeats. The Institute also arranged an art competition for children

and other creatures, sang in

of different age groups. Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) brought out a separate procession from the Bahadur Shah Park in the old city.

Led by DCC Mayor Mohammad Hanif, the procession ended near the Engineers Institute.

Bangladesh Small and Cot tage Industries Corporation organised a week-long Butshakhi mela (fair) at the Dhanmondi Club ground with traditional handicraft and household items on display.

the Shishu Academy organised an eight-day "Shishu Ananda Mela" in its premises since Deputy Leader of the Jatiya

Sangsad Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury inaugurated the mela. State Minister for Women and Children's Allairs Sarwari Rahman and Director of the Academy Golam Kabir

Affairs Prof Jahanara Begum opened a week-long folk festi val organised by Bangla Aca-Eminent folk artistes are

taking part in the festival. A separate Baishakhi mela

has also been arranged in the Academy premises. Dhaka City unit of the Khe

laghar, a juveniles organisa tion, sponsored a cultural com petition at the Amtala on the Dhaka University campus in the morning. More than one thousand

children from fifteen localities of Dhaka took part in the competition that included items like songs, dance, recitation dress-as-you-like and hand writing competition. Besides, cultural groups

like Swanan, Annay, Rishwi Shilpi Gosthi and Katthak Abritti Kendro organised musical soirees at the Suhrawardy

Political organisations were also involved in the Pahela Baishakh celebrations. The Awami League held a cultural soiree in front of the Engineers Institution. AL president Sheikh Hasina was the chief

The Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha, cultural wing of the ruling BNP, held a function at the Ramna Batamul in the afternoon to celebrate the Pahela Baishakh.

BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Abdus Salam Talukder was the chief guest.

The Jatiya Press Club organised a traditional Jatra in the club premises.

In Chittagong, a function organised by the Pahela Baishakh Celebration Committee at the DC Hill premises was the central attraction of the day.

Chakma, Marma, Tripura and Rakhaine tribal communities also observed the day with traditional enthusiasm.

New system to check ghost phone bills soon

The Telegraph and Telephone Board is introducing a new system to check ghost billing in analogue telephone sets, official sources said, reports UNB.

"Call-barring equipment are being set up on experimental basis for analogue sets like digital ones, which will help subscribers protect their phones from misuse," said a T&T official yesterday.

It will be done by using code numbers in analogue sets like digital sets. With this device an analogue subscriber will be able to lock and open his set as he wishes, the official added To check ghost bills and

modify the overall telephone system in the city, he said, T&T will also turn all F-1 analogue sets into digital system step by step.

The F-1 analogue-number sets in the port city of Chittagong have already been turned into digital numbers.

T&T sources said it would also introduce an auto-billing system to inform the subscribers of their outstanding

bills before disconnecting their lines.

After a limited number of NWD and ISD calls, in this system, a subscriber will be informed and cautioned about his outstanding bill

If he does not respond within the stipulated time, his set will automatically be turned into a one-way (incoming) line. and after another stipulated period, his connection will be cut off.

The T&T official hoped that after introducing the system, the subscribers would be conscious about their bills and pay regularly.

Meanwhile, T&T has started search for fake telephone lines. After the investigation, it will go for action against those who had taken telephone connections ille-"We have a good number of

demands for new telephone connections. If we could identify the fake and unauthorised connections, we will be able to give these numbers to the new subscribers," the offi-

NID second phase today for eradicating polio

By Staff Correspondent The Ministry of Health and

The second phase of the National Immunisation Day (NID) will be observed throughout the country today to immunise about two crore children below five years against the dreaded disease poliomyelitis.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is expected to inaugurate the second phase at the International Conference Centre in the city at 12:30 pm.

The government introduced the NID this year with the objective of eradicating poliomyelitis from the country.

The first phase of the NID was observed on March 16 when about 1.60 crore children under five years were given the first dose of Oral Polio Vaccine (OPV). The second dose would be administered

The NID would also be observed twice with a gap of one month in 1996 and 1997 in line with the WHO target of building a polio-free world by the year 2000.

Family Welfare in collaboration with the UNICEF. WHO USAID, Rotary International and various socio-cultural and voluntary organisations has taken up elaborate preparations to make the second phase of the NID a success. The authorities have sup-

plied adequate polio vaccine to all the thanas, city corporations and municipalities. The OPV would be administered at about one lakh and 30 thousand immunisation centres across the country. All the regular centres of the Expanded Programme of Immunisation (EPI) would also remain open

The programmes of the day will start at 8 am and continue until 4 pm. The children will also be given vitamin 'A' capsule along with the polio vac-

A total of 50,000 field workers under the Health Ministry aided by about six lakh volunteers will participate in the day's programmes.

13 killed in country

From Page 1

killings of Babul and Ilias were a sequel to an old conflict be-In the capital, three persons died in separate road accidents while an old man was killed in a storm during the period.

The police man were killed when a van carrying 30 of them met an accident at Monihar in Shibganj thana on its way to Bogra from Nilphamary at 1 pm.

The policemen were earlier deployed in Nilphamary in connection with a meeting of the Jamaat leader, Golam Azam, on Thursday. Police said Habilder Shams-

uddin, 30. Habilder Abdul Hamid, 35, and constables Jamaluddin 28, and Nannu Mia died on the spot. Of the injured, 12 were

taken to the Bogra Mohammad Ali Hospital and 10 to the Bogra Police Hospital. Four critically injured policemen were later shifted to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital. The driver of the lorry, however, managed to flee.

Meanwhile, in Chittagong, Pahartali police said a teenage boy fell to his death from a tree at Sagarika Road in the city Saturday night The boy suddenly fell to the

ground while watching a

nearby Baishakhi mela (fair).

Patiya police recovered the body of a woman aged about 45 vears from a ditch at Shantirhat Saturday night. Police could not identify the woman.

In the capital, a pedestrian aged about 55 was killed when a train knocked him down at Kasai Bari under Uttara police station yesterday afternoon. The victim, not immedi-

ately identified, died on way to the DMCH. In another road accident, a minor boy was crushed under

the wheels of a speeding autorickshaw in front of the BDR cinema hall at Azimpur Friday morning The victim, Zakir, 5, son of one Mohammad Yousuf, was seriously injured and was sent

Gazipur Friday afternoon.

the morgue for autopsy.

to the DMCH where the attending doctors declared him An unknown pedestrian was killed when a speeding minibus ran over him in front of the BG Press under Tejgaon

police station Friday morning. Rashid, 24, was beaten to The fatally injured 16-year death at a fair at Pahartali vilold died on way to hospital. lage in Raozan thana on Friday Meanwhile, 70-year-old evening following a feud be-Mohammad Kudrat Ullah was tween the residents of Kakilled when a branch of a tree saipara and Sheikhpara. fell on him during a storm at

injuries on way to Chittagong He was sent to the DMCH Medical College Hospital. where he died after admission. A case was filed with Raozan

All the bodies were sent to police.

Ershad's trial adjourned

By Staff Correspondent The trial of former president HM Ershad and four others on charges of corruption in connection with the purchase of radars for the Air Force was adjourned yesterday ıntil May 20.

Presiding judge Md. Shafi uddin, the sixth Additional District and Sessions Judge. Dhaka, allowed a prayer by the prosecution for adjournment.

Ershad is the principal accused while two former air chiefs - retired Air Vice Marshals Sultan Mahmud and Momtazuddin Ahmed - and two businessmen. Shahzad Ali and H M Musa alias Tipu, both directors of United Traders. are the co-accused.

They are all charged with causing a loss of over Taka 64 crore to the state exchequer through their dubious dealings in the matter of a radar purchase from the USA in 1985.

Defence counsel Mahbubur Rahman, a former Ershad minister, yesterday challenged the maintainability of the case and the jurisdiction of the court in the light of the Seventh Amendment to the Constitution which gives blanket cover to all actions by Ershad as the Chief Martial Law Administra-

The judge said he will decide on the question of mainminability when the court re-

Taslima's trial adjourned

The trial of the controver sial writer. Taslima Nasreen, was adjourned yesterday for the sixth time until May 17 reports UNB.

Donors ask for autonomous status of JMBA

Financiers have asked for autonomous status of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority (JMBA) for expeditious implementation of the bridge project, reports UNB.

A joint mission of the three financiers - World Bank, Asian Development Bank and the OECF of Japan — that visited Bangladesh last month recommended the JMBA to be declared as a separate division under the Ministry of Comm-Official sources said a meet

ing of the project steering committee might decide on strengthening the JMBA at a meeting today.

Delegation of greater financial and administrative authority to senior level JMBA executive are likely to be okayed at the meeting, sources added.

DU student hurt by falling plaster By DU Correspondent

A student of the Dhaka University was injured when cement plaster from the ceiling of the Administrative Building fell on his head yesterday afternoon. Injured Mazharul Huq Tito

is an MCom final year student. He received serious head injuries and was under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, sources said. AIDS body meets

The 27th meeting of the National AIDS Committee NAC) was held in the commit tee room of the Jativa Sangsad Bhaban with Prof A Q M Bad r**uddoz**a Chowdhury, c**hairman**

CEC From Page

of the committee and Deputy

Leader of the House in the

chair, reports BSS.

was also discussed.

Another minister, who attended vesterday's meeting, said that the progress of issuance of ID cards for voters

The meeting was informed that it would take another five to six months to complete the process. The EC has already printed forms for the voters, the minister added.

When asked who will be the next CEC. the ruling party leader said that a decision was yet to be taken in this regard.

Ctg murders From Page 1

tween two factions of the

Shibir in Fatikchhari. An activist of the pro-Jamaat Shibir. reportedly belonging to group opposed to Babul and Ilias, was killed in the month of Ramadan (February). Police sent the bodies to

the General Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Kotwali police, but none was yet arrested. In another incident, Abdur

Rashid succumbed to his

The Midnight File

'Akash' to be test fired by April 24

BALASORE. Apr 15: India's indegenously developed surface-to-air medium range missile 'Akash' will be test fired from the Interim Test Range (ITR) at Chandipur-on-sea 15 km-from here any day between April 17 and 24, according to official sources. There is every likelyhood that two 'Akash' missile's will be test fired within the period, the sources said.

Chirac ahead of rivals

PARIS, Apr 15: One week before French voters go to the polls to elect a new president. Paris Mayor Jacques Chirac stayed solidly ahead of his main rivals from both the political left and right. Premier and fellow conservative Edouard Balladur was locked in a tight battle with Socialist Lionel Jospin to make it into the second round May 7 Only the top two finishers from the first round April 23 go on to the runoff, unless one candidate receives more than 50 per cent of

Train-bus collision leaves 42 dead in Egypt

QUWEISNA (Egypt). Apr 15: At least 42 people were killed and 39 injured today when a mainline Egyptian train smashed into a bus packed with textile workers on their way to a Nile delta factory, reports Reuter.

The wreckage of the bus. mixed up with shoes and clothing, was spread over 200 metres of track near a level crossing on the outskirts of the delta town of Quweisna, 55 km north of the capital Cairo.

"It was horrible. The bus started moving and for the next few seconds all I saw was my friends scattered all over the line," said Ghada Mohamed, 25, one of the survivors

Mohamed and other witresses said two trains had

Jamuna Bridge

From Page 1

taken to reliabilitate some 80,000 individuals and an en vironmental management ac tion plan is being imple mented to mitigate the envi ronniental issues. Oli Ahmad added that the

government has raised the re-

settlement cost to Tk 163 crore from the initial assessment of Tk 50 erore to provide compensation package for those affected. He informed that some 50,000 people will be employed in different phases of

the project while Bangladesh

Railway will earn Tk 10 crore

by transporting bridge materi-He reiterated that the bridge will have a railway track, which is now a part of the project, besides the East-West power interconnector and telecommunication and

gas transmission lines. The co-financiers, according to the provision, has so far reimbursed Tk 387.59 crore of the advance loan, the JMBA of ficial informed.

On the monitoring mechanism, he said separate reports are prepared every month by supervision and construction consultant, management consultant, donors and the JMBA steering committee They also meet once a month to review the progress.

A panel of experts comprising world renowned engineers and consultants, including three BUET professor, also watch the progress of works, he

Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowdhury also accompanied the visiting team. Local MPs, JMBA senior of ficials and representatives of contractors and consultants

were present at the briefing

Chief of Air Staff Air Vice

Saudi Arabia From Page 1

after the trip. Interior Minister Nayef Ibn

session.

Abdel Aziz announced in February the expulsion of 100,000 foreigners living illegally in the Kingdom offenders faced two years in prison and a fine of 25,000 dollars, he warned. The newspaper Asharq Al

Awsat on Thursday quoted a senior Saudi official as saying that up to 350,000 foreigners were thrown out of the country last year. All foreigners wishing to

obtain a work permit in the six Gulf Arab monarchies need to be sponsored by a citizen of the country, a company or the government.

Gas explosion From Page 1

Meanwhile, the condition of the six other injured remained critical until yesterday. They were under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, medical sources said. The accident occurred

when a member of the house tried to light the stove with a matchstick at around five am. Sources alleged that some-

one had left the stove knob open the night before and as soon as the matchstick was struck the kitchen, which was filled with gas, just lit up like a bonfire with a loud bang. The flame immediately

spread, engulfing the entire ground-floor of the building where three families resided.

been approaching the level crossing at about the same time, 6:50 am (0450 GMT), When the first had gone, the bus driver decided to drive on

The bus belonged to the Misr Menoufia Spinning and Weaving Company and had collected workers from the nearby town of Shibin Al-Koum to take them to the factory in

Quweisna gave the death toll of slightly higher than an interior 39 injured Some of the injured were

Security sources in Menufia death toll of 70. BLCC panel for

Bar Council polls By Staff Correspondent the Bangladesh Lawvers

Condition town Hills

has authorized its panel of candidates to contest the upcoming Bar Conneil elections. The members of the panel are: Advocate Shamsul Hug Chowdhury, Barrister Amir-Ul-Islam, Advocate Shudhangsu Shekhar Halder. Barrister

and Md Ozair Faroug, rene candidates for the group seats are: Group-A A K M Montazuddin: Group-B Muhammad Al Nur Tarek; Group-C Mahbub Uddin Ahmed: Group-D Ahmed Ali; Group-E Md Abdus Salam Talukder: Group-F Ali Akbar Pramanik; and

Group-G Alhaj Amjad Hossain.

Dutch tugboat

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Apr 15: A navy ship, BNS Tawhid, suffered damage when it was hit by foreign tugboat near the

lice said.

Tk 11350cr RADP

From Page 1

cal currency in the RADP has been raised to Tk 6593 crore from the projected Tk 6,000 crore, the outlay of the project

the first seven months of the current fiscal (June 1994-Jancrore or 49 per cent.

The current ADP had a total of 1004 projects. But, according to the Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division (IMED), some 257 pro-

the end of the fiscal year. The revised ADP was also enlarged further by incorporat-

Earlier in February, the Planning Commission cut funds to the tune of Tk 455 priority projects.

of the Planning Commission and senior officials of different ministries and divisions were present at the meeting. BSS adds: The meeting also

sion Secretariat to submit the project regarding the issuance of laminated ID card and data based voter list of the country to the Planning Commission within two or three days. Out of Taka 300 crore, a sum of Taka 80 crore will be released for the remaining period of the current financial year in this regard.

reports PTI

the vote, reports AP.

and the second train hit the bus smack in the side.

> Quweisna Doctors and investigators in 42 killed and 39 injured. ministry figure of 37 dead and

in serious condition and might not survive, the doctors said. province had earlier given a

Shafique Ahnied, Abdul Baset Majumder. A F M Mesbahuddin

The country-wide polls are scheduled for May 6.

damages Navy vessel in Ctg

KAFCO jetty Friday night, po-

The navy filed a case with Port thana today.

context of country's development priorities. While the component of lo-

aid has been slashed to Tk 4757 crore from the estimated Tk 5.000 crore. The meeting was told that project aid utilisation during

uary 1995) stood at Tk 2375 Officials expressed the hope that project aid utilisation would be cent per cent this year if the current tempo goes

jects would be completed by

ing 158 projects.

crore from some slow-moving ministries and divisions, and gave additional allocations to State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan, members

directed the Election Commis-