STATEDIFFACE

Starting today, we begin our Agenda 95 series on SAVE DHAKA. Appearing on Sundays. Tuesdays and Thursdays, this special feature is part of The Paily Stars campaign to sensitize the citizens and city planners alike to the issues and challenges relating to the development of the country's capital. Our purpose is to begin an active public debate on issues facing this ever-expanding, bustling metropolis today and tomorrow to make it more liveable.

The broad themes to be covered in this series are the problems of urbanisation and housing: traffic and transport: civic amenities; health; safety: pollution; and need for proper recreational facilities.

The Paily Star solicits readers contributions in the form of write-ups, photographs. suggestions or opinions to make this debate truly broad-

Looking back at the growth of Dhaka, the size of the city today is no small wonder.

Once a small trading-spot and later the economic nervecentre of the region. Dhaka's growth outsmarts even that of Calcutta considering its resilience against the successive waves of change that had often remoulded its history.

A glimpse at the future of the city is an even bigger wonder — because it is changing so rapidly. What would be the face of our capital when the 21st they say. century arrives?

A crucial question follows immediately - "Are we prepared for that unpredictable their villages to the cities. future?"

Experts say that with the expanding city limits, Dhaka would turn into a mini megalopolis - four or five times the present size - connected with smaller towns around

The area would spread up to Kaliakoir, Joydevpur and Kapasia in the north — if the urbanisation proceeds recklessly.

Narsingdi and Kaliganj will come well within the city limits in the east and Munshigani in the south. Savar has already become a de facto part of Dhaka.

Just imagine. the swank Gulshan area or the busy commercial district Motifheel would be called the old city, and nobody can guess how the present day Islampur-Babubazar or Lalbagh areas would be described. The 'old, old city' perhaps?

The city has already expanded five to six fold since its dated founding, with its population growing much faster.

APRIL 21-23

BALL ROOM.

1995. .

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9565

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RE-LOCATION OF IAN DEPARTMENT

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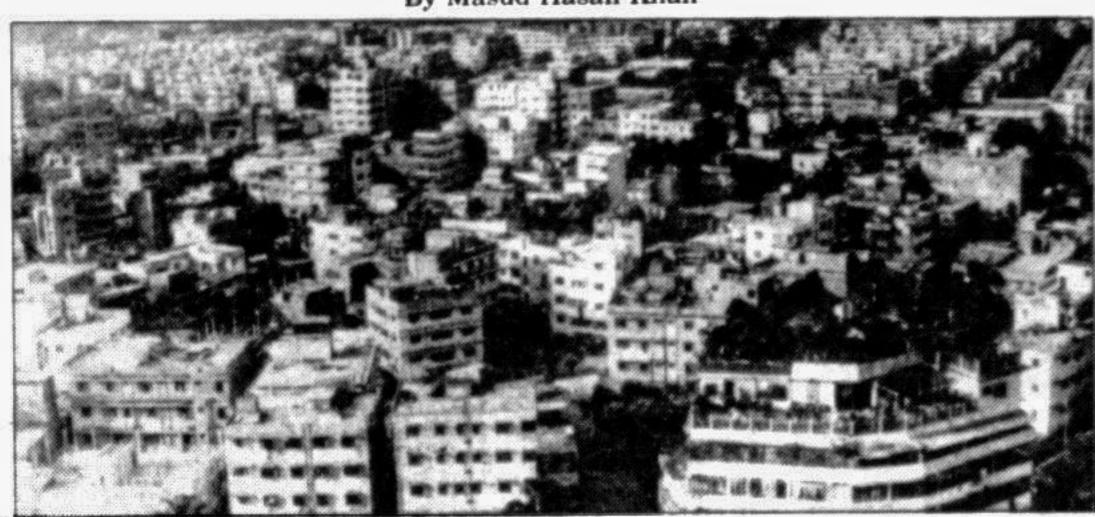
(Import under circular issued by the National Board

WORKS & BUILDING MATERIALS

URBANISATION & HOUSING: PART 1

A hydra-headed monster called Dhaka

By Masud Hasan Khan



UNPLANNED URBANISATION: This picture shows the emerging concrete jungle in the city's Kamalapur area.

The 1979 development masterplan of Dhaka predicted that the city would have a population of 14 lakh 20 thousand in the next 20 years.

However, the actual growth of the city and its population belied all statistical and demographical models.

According to experts, the population of Dhaka will double in just 25 years and will reach 6.3 million by the year 2016.

By then, the population of Bangladesh would start reaching its optimum level - perhaps before slowing down,

Dhaka has already begun to accommodate 40 per cent of all people who set out from

Professor Nazrul Islam, a teacher of Geography at the Dhaka University, says that by the year 2025, between

40,000 and 50,000 people would live in every square kilometre of the Metropolitan

Land being a scarce resource in Dhaka, its price has increased 25 to 35 folds since independence in 1971. For example, the land price

in the Bashabo area which was Taka 2.000 a katha in the late 1970s has now increased to Taka three lakh. An increase of 150 times.

Experts involved in matters relating to Dhaka city lands predict that the scarcity would be even more intense in future and 90 per cent of the future citizens would own no land.

As it is now, the capital would be a city of migrants with low social and educational

attainments, they say. Small-scale employment like vending and peddling will

How many people live in Dhaka?

A mammoth banner hung during the last Dhaka City Corporation elections pronounced that the metropolitan city accommodates some 70 lakh people.

Former mayor Mirza Abbas, MP and present mayor Mohammad Hanif were possibly in agreement in their claim that between 60 and 70 lakh people were living in the city.

However, this is a misnomer, contradict the geographers. According to the Urban Studies Programme (USP) of the Dhaka University, the area of greater Dhaka then was 1,353

square-kilometres, The greater Dhaka, called Statistical Metropolitan Area (SMA), includes the Dhaka City Corporation area and the Cantonment, Tongi, Gazipur, Savar and Narayangani municipalities

and all rural areas within the limit. The population of Dhaka SMA is 69,50,920, according to a 1991 count of the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistic (BBS) which perhaps has reached the population of 70 lakh by now.

However, the area of the Dhaka City Corporation is 225 squarekilometres and the population was 33,99,188, according to the 1991 BBS count, which by now has reached 40 lakh.

The total number of voters within the Dhaka City Corporation area was 17,00,848 out of which 54.03 per cent (or 9,18,906 voters) cast the ballots in the last mayoral elections, pointed out a USP

Star photo

continue to dominate while the future Dhaka will see women and small children employed for low wages.

According to the Dhaka Mahanagari Hawkers Oikya Parishad, there are some one lakh people involved in vending and peddling. However unofficial count put them at nearly two lakh. Some six lakh people are indirectly dependent on vending.

Innumerable slums will dot the entire megalopolis while the role of water transport perhaps would increase because of a menacing road transport situation in the city. Prof. Islam predicts.

The city now accommodates some 1400 big and small squatters while the total slum population is nearly 20 lakh, according to the officials of the Ain O Salish Kendra, an NGO working on the rights of slumdwellers.

Experts interviewed by The Daily Star said the future of Dhaka could be saved only by charting an integrated development programme for the

A hydra-headed expansion of the city could be checked before it is too late by developing satellite towns around the capital with equal civic amenities and diverting migration of people into Dhaka from the rural areas, they pointed out.

However, they also point out that successive governments have seemed to be indifferent about the future of

Dhaka. Plans after plans are being prepared but their implementation, as a headway towards facing the future challenges. still remains a big question.

Hajj needs no permission, Libya tells UN

Lockerbie. Scotland with

on Wednesday gave permission

for Egyptian airline Egypt Air

to conduct 45 return flights

from Tripoli and Benghazi to

Jeddah for Libyans making the

Hajj. But before those flights

got under way a Libyan airliner.

in defiance of the UN ban flew

The Egyptair has airlifted

1.000 Libvan pilgrims to Saudi

Arabia from Tripoli and Beng-

hazi in the first 24 hours of the

operation. Egyptair officials

The airlift began on Thurs-

day afternoon after the Libya

sanctions committee of the

United Nations gave Egypt Air

clearance to move 6.000

Libyan pilgrims in 45 flights to

and from the Saudi city of

SAARC states to

offer each other

trade concessions

Seven South Asian countries

have agreed to offer each other

trade concessions to boost

commerce in one of the

world's poorest regions, offi-

cials said today, reports

Asian Association for Regional

Cooperation (SAARC) agreed to

prepare lists of goods which

will receive preferential

treatment in the form of lower

tariffs when exported to other

Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the

Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and

Sri Lanka. Trade among SAARC

countries makes up less than

three per cent of world com-

trade arrangement will give a

fillip to regional cooperation

and should lead to more con-

Khaleda

visit, the Bangladesh Prime

Minister will call on Pakistan

President Farooq Ahmed Khan

Pakistan counterpart, Benazir.

covering matters relating to

the SAARC as well as bilateral

pected to review the progress

made in the activity of the

SAARC since the seventh

steps need to be taken for

making the forthcoming sum-

mit a success as well as in

making the SAARC a more ef-

fective organisation that can

commonman of South Asia.

bring tangible benefits to

They will also focus on

She will hold talks with her

The two leaders are ex-

From Page 1

SAARC officials said the

comprises

member countries.

SAARC

cessions.

Leghari.

relations.

summit in Dhaka.

Negotiators from the South

KATHMANDU, Apr 22:

about 150 pilgrims of Jeddah.

The sanctions committee

killed 270 people

said on Friday

Jeddah.

Reuter.

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 22: The sanctions which inclicke a ban on flights to and Libva told the chairman of a Security Council sanctions from Libya were imposed in 1992 because of its failure to committee on Friday that the surrender for trial two men Muslim pilgrimage to Makkah indicted in the United States was a religious matter which and Britain for the 1988 bomb-ing of Pan Ani Flight 103 over did not require anyone's permission, reports Reuter.

We should obey our God without permission from anybody - it is not an international matter - it is a matter of religion. Libyan UN envoy Mohamed Azwai said

Any interference with this matter of religion would not be agreeable to any Muslim

Azwai said he gave this response to the sanctions committee chairman Karel Kovanda of the Czech Republic when he asked about reports that a Libyan airliner flew pilgrims to Jeddah earlier this week in defiance of UN sanc-

Fishermen seek fair allocation of water bodies

By Staff Correspondent

The National Fishermen's Association has demanded al location of water bodies by the government in accordance with the water bodies ("Jal Mahal") policy and establish fishmongers' rights on fish markets.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club yesterday, the association president Dr Alhaj Qamrul Islam alleged that the government was not following the new water bodies management policy while allotting and transferring those through tenders, thereby only benefiting a clique of middlemen

JS session

From Page the constitutional provisions and established a one-party business in Parliament.

The MPs who have resigned are also meeting today to discuss the political situation and their sit in programme.

Meanwhile. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.at a public meeting last week, had offered to have talks with the Opposition to resolve the crisis. On the other hand. Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina in a recent statement said she, too, was ready for a peaceful solution.

BNP secretary general Abdus Salam Talukdar, who is now on a tour of the Barisal region, earlier said he would contact his AL counterpart on his return to the capital Sunday.

Talukdar had a telephonic conversation with AL general secretary Zillur Rahman on April 17 regarding the possibility of a government-Opposition dialogue. The details of their talks, however, could not be known.

UN sanctions on Y'slavia eased

UNITED NATIONS. Apr 22: The United Nations on Friday extended the relaxation of sanctions on Yugoslavia but said it will set stricter conditions in future, reports AP.

The Security Council voted 13-0 to approve a resolution and the Czech Republic.

for another 75 days instead of 100 days as in the past.

backed by the United States. Britain, Germany, France, Italy

GDP growth remained static

thereby run down our external

ture sector, authored by Abu

Abdullah, M Hassanullah and

Quazi Shahabuddin, focused on

the stagnation of agricultural

growth and identified the root

cause as levelling off in the

stay in agricultural growth.

declined from 12.85 per cent

during 1983-90 to 2.07 per

cent during the 1990-94 pe-

riod, primarily due to decline

in the area under boro cultiva-

tion from 13.78 per cent to

the decline in agricultural in-

puts and irrigation equipment

trial sector, written by Zaid

Bakht and Debapriya

Bhattacharya, identified the

real problem of the sector as

the shallow base of its growth.

It also looked into increased

The report also pointed to

The chapter on the indus-

Boro production, the main-

growth of rice output.

0.97 per cent, it said.

over the period.

The chapter on the agricul-

reserves."

From Page 1

port-based taxes which contributed half of all tax collections in 1990-91 to 1993-94 compared to 52.1 per cent in 1985-86 to 1989-90," it noted. The draft pointed out that

the revenue expenditure to GDP ratio actually increased to 8.9 per cent during the 1990-94 period, the highest level in 15 years. While, on the other hand, the development expenditure to GDP ratio declined from 8.9 per cent during 1975-90 period to its lowest level at 7.2 per cent over the 1990-94 period. It also questions the level of

domestic resource contribution to the ADP, saying that rise in the share of self-reliance owes to the fact that the development budget has been well below expected levels while noting that the revenue surplus is itself the end result of 'peculiarities' of budgetary accounting techniques.

The chapter on the external sector, written by Abdul Bayes, M Ismail and Mustafizur Rahman, noted the real growth rates of exports of 16 per cent during the 90s compared to around 5.5 per cent in the 80s.

However, the draft expressed concern over the fact that the country's exports remain concentrated and vulnerable to a regulated trade regime. "It is of some concern that other than ready-made garments and knitwear, ex-

ports actually registered a growth of only 2.1 per cent per annum between 1989-94," ing sector but noted that the surge in term loan disburse-It went on to note that in-

ments is not comparable to the growth in capital imports. spite of import liberalisation. The section on poverty allegrowth in imports remained viation, by M Matiur Rahman much less robust owing to and Binayek Sen, examined weak investment performance. the government and non-govwhich resulted in the impresernment initiatives to improve sive accumulation of foreign the living standards of the tarexchange reserves. "A more robust level of investment, at get groups. In the section on populaaround 20 per cent of GDP. would, in 1993-94 have improved import growth and

tion, M Ataharul Islam made a critical review of the 1991 census and noted that the challenge would be to sustain the contraceptive prevalence rate by making oral contraceptive pills available to the users.

Rohingyas From Page 1

everything goes according to

The refugees were initially sheltered in 20 makeshift camps in Cox's Bazar and Banderban districts. After the large-scale repatriation that began last July, 10 of the camps were closed gradually while another two are now in the process of being dismantled. By early May, there would be only eight camps remaining.

The UNHCR, which has been providing assistance for the maintenance of the Rohingyas since February 1992, is now working on both sides of the Bangladesh-Myanmar border to facilitate the repatri-

The Midnight File

3 peacekeepers killed in Sarajevo

SARAJEVO. Apr 22: Three French peacekeepers were killed and four wounded in a munitions accident at Sarajevo airport today. UN officials said. Maj Pierre Chavancy, a UN spokesman, said the accident occurred at 3:10 pm (1310 GMT) as the soldiers were trying to defuse ammunition at the French-controlled UN airport compound, reports AP.

Spl credit facilities for N region demanded

RAJSHAHI. Apr 22: A divisional convention of businessmen here today highlighted the wide economic disparity between the northern and eastern parts of the country and demanded special credit facilities and investment fund for the northern districts, reports UNB.

Speaking at the convention at Raishahi Stadium, FBCCI President Salman F Rahman said the government should adopt an integrated industrial policy to ensure balanced development in the country.

The conserence, attended by a large number of businessmen of the region's 16 districts, even proposed that the government declare the northern division as a province to remove the imbalances between the two sides of the Jamuna river

The FBCCI president emphasised the need for a conge nial atmosphere for better utilisation of the business oppor

ADB, Japan From Page 1

informed that a three new power plants with a capacity of 510 megawatt had commissioned in 1994 and another plant having capacity of 82 megawatt would be added to the national grid by June next after its overhauling. Another four power plants having capacity of 740 megawatt will go into operation by 1998.

The meeting expressed satisfaction over the progress of the process of private power generation.

DU question

From Page 1 Commerce Faculty Prof ABM Khaled, Prof Sirajul Islam Chowdhury of the English Department and Provost of Rokeya Hall Dr ZN Tahmida Begum.

All concerned, including the examinees, have been requested to help the committee members by providing information and any related evidence about the leakage.

Different student organisations, including the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikya (GCO), brought out processions and held rallies on the campus demanding cancellation of the 'Kha' unit admission test and hold a fresh one.

tunities created by the opening of the economy.

He said Bangladeshi industrialists are competent enough to take the advantage of the opportunities and respond to the challenges of the freemarket economy if there is political stability in the country.

We have to press our polit ical leaders to bring a stable condition so that we can utilise the opportunities." said Salman who attended the convention as chief guest.

FBCC1 vice president Khandaker Rashiduzzaman Dudu presided over the meeting while president of Rajshahi Chamber of Commerce and Industry Mohammad Ali Sarkar delivered the address of wel-

Speakers at the conference listed different problems of industrialising the country's northern zone and blamed the government's "wrong industrial policy" for the backwardness of Rajshahi division.

Teresa meets PM

From Page 1 in love and peace, Begum Zia wished Mother Teresa good health and a long life so that

services to humanity. Mother Teresa, who preaches "the fruit of love is service." "The fruit of service is peace," said all good works can be done if they are pur-

she can continue her noble

sued with love. Appreciating the warm hospitality she received in Dhaka. Mother Teresa said "the people of Bangladesh are

very good. Mother Teresa also paid a courtesy call on the officials of the NGO Affairs Bureau at the Matsya Bhaban in the city yes-

Water issue

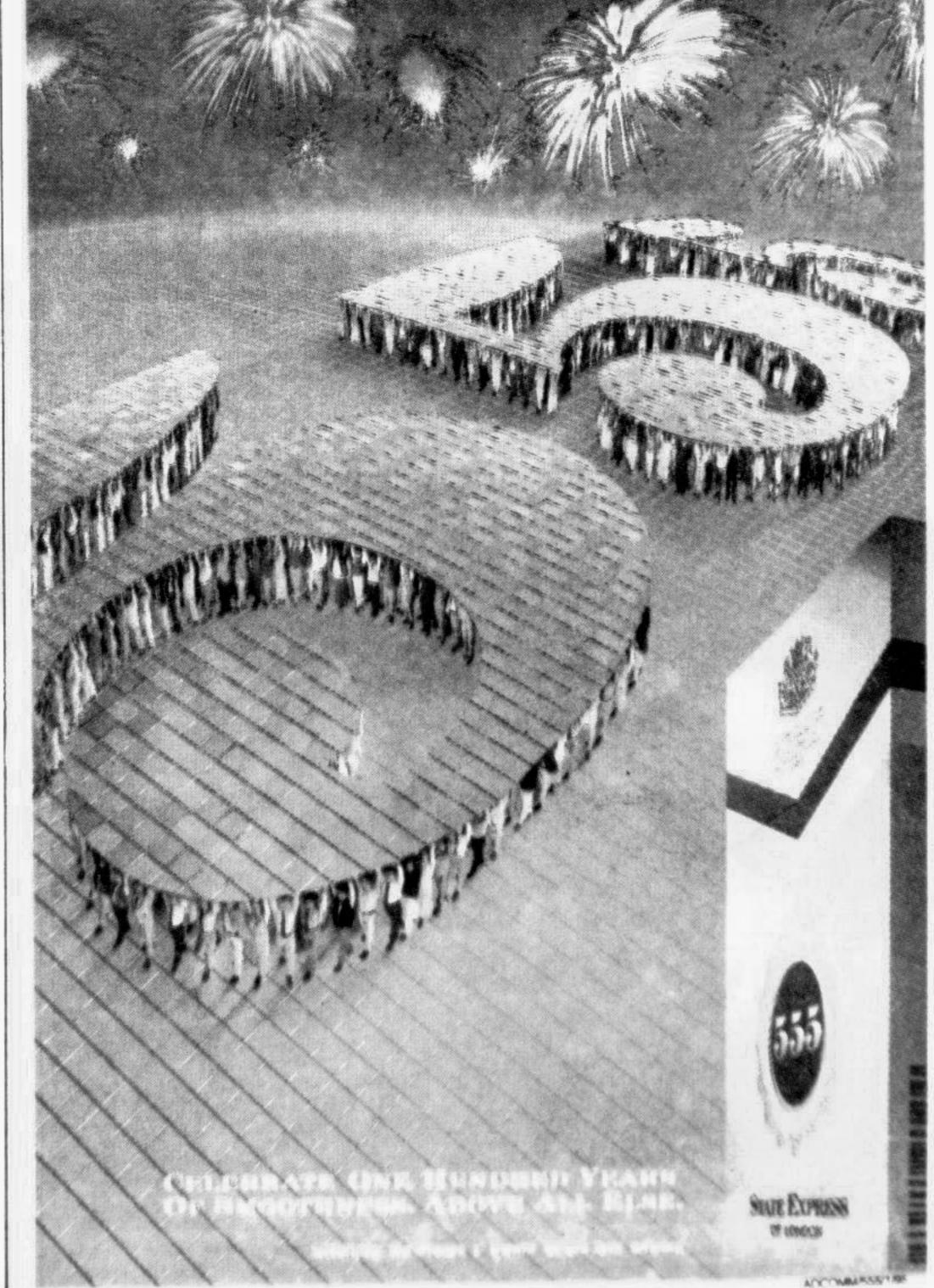
terday afternoon.

From Page 1 solve all problems through open-minded discussion.

She said her country has good relations with all the South Asian countries and expressed Bangladesh's firm commitment for achieving the objectives of the seven-nation SAARC.

The Prime Minister assured all possible cooperation from her government during the tenure of the Indian envoy in Bangladesh.

Senior officials were present on the occasion.



of Revenue), we have decided to shift the said department at the following address: Globe Chamber, 1st Floor 104, Motijheel Commercial Area Tel: (880-2) 23 21 25 Fax: (880-2) 86 23 75 Tlx: 642433 SGS BJ P. O. Box-197 DHAKA.

The importers who are importing materials according to the circular issued by the National Board of Revenue are requested to contact SGS at the above address from Tuesday the 25th April,

19, Dilkusha C/A (2nd Floor) P. O. Box-197, Dhaka. Tel: 861110, 232385, 862244, Tlx: 642433, Fax: 862375

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Bus services in Patuakhali suspended

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Apr 22: Bus services from Patuakhali have

been suspended for an indefinite period from yesterday following clashes between two groups of the local road transport workers union. They clashed over the possession of the union office. No buses are plying from Patuakhali to Kalapara, Mirzaganj, Amtali and Baufal.

Rly to rehabilitate important stations

sengers, reports BSS.

Oli Ahmed in the chair.

The meeting was told that renovation work in 25 stations in the eastern zone and 30 stations in the western zone had been going on.

Important railway junctions and district town stations will be brought under a full-fledged rehabilitation programme to give better service to the pas-

This was decided at a review meeting held at the Railway Bhaban here yesterday with Communications Minister

Sanctions were eased only,

term-lending by the commercial banks to the manufactur-