

Inside Today

Article

In the Name of the Poor

Column: Another Voice by Kazi Fazlur Rahman Page 4

International

Russia favours indefinite extension of NPT Page 5

Business

Illegal manufacturing of boilers to face stern action

Mahathir's win to help boost trade in Malaysia Pages 6, 7

STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	777.86 (+0.23%)
Market capitalisation Tk.	45.53 billion
Turnover in volume	86741
Turnover in value Tk.	19.24 million

Law and Our Rights

On the streets or behind bars; Rape victim in custody while rapists run free; High legal fees, not enough lawyers and Lawscape Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Escape from City's Tribulations Page 3

11 killed, 40 injured in Pabna road accident

By Staff Correspondent

At least 19 people were killed and over one hundred injured in separate road accidents in Pabna, Noakhali, Narasingdi, Narayanganj and capital Dhaka yesterday.

Of them, 11 were killed and 40 injured in Pabna, five killed and 50 injured in Noakhali, one killed and 12 injured in Narasingdi, one killed and five injured in Narayanganj and one killed in the city.

The road accident at Chakla in Bera thana of Pabna occurred at around 8:30 am.

The Natore-bound bus fell into a road side ditch while giving side to another bus coming from the opposite direction, said a news agency report quoting witnesses.

Nine passengers of the ill-

lated bus died on the spot and two others while being taken to hospital.

Of the injured, five were sent to the Dhaka Orthopaedic Hospital, five to the Rajshahi Medical College Hospital and seventeen to the Bera Thana Health Complex.

Ten of the dead were identified as Aslam, 35, Abdul Alim, 25, Abu Sayeed, 32, and Jalaluddin, 60, of Bera thana, Sharif Ali, 25, of Belkuchi, Abul Hossain, 50, and Shahidul Islam, 25, of Baghabari, Tipu, 22, of Shahjadpur, Nazmul Islam, 30, of Kumarkhali, and Abdus Salam of Raiganj.

The driver and his helper fled.

Our Noakhali Correspondent in his report faxed to us

says, three passengers died on the spot and two others succumbed to their injuries in the road accident at Annadaha on the Sonapur-Steamerghat road yesterday morning.

A Sonapur bound overloaded bus (Rajshahi-Ba-576) skidded off the road as it tried to overtake another bus.

Of the killed, two were identified as Shiuli, an eight-month old baby and Selim, 24. The three others could not be identified immediately. Most of the injured were rushed to the Noakhali General Hospital.

In this accident, 11 persons, nine of them women, sustained burn injuries as acid leaked out of the battery fell on them.

See Page 12 Col 5

Call for day-long hartal today

Khulna JP secy, driver shot dead

From Our Correspondent

KHULNA, Apr 25: A local leader of the Jatiya Party (JP) and his driver were shot dead here this afternoon.

Sheikh Abul Kashem, general secretary of the JP city unit and driver Mikhail Hossain died on the spot.

Armed youths encircled the car of Kashem just after he got into the vehicle at Sir Iqbal Road at about 1:45 pm. They broke the window shield of the vehicle and fired gun shots at Kashem from a close range. They also shot at the driver as he came out and tried to prevent the killers.

Police said, the motive behind the killings was not known immediately. The bodies were sent to the Khulna Medical College Hospital for autopsy.

Hearing the news, JP activists came on the streets and damaged several vehicles. The shopkeepers closed their shops apprehending more violence. Sounds of gunshots and explosions were heard.

No fresh violence, however, was reported.

Hundreds of JP leaders and workers later visited residence of Abul Kashem, who was also a former president of the Khulna Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

To protest the killings, the JP has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Khulna tomorrow and a half-day hartal on Thursday. SSC examinations and rickshaws will not come under the purview of the hartals.

The party also announced a 7-day mourning programme. A protest rally will be held tomorrow when central leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed will be present.

JP leader Kazi Zafar Ahmed at a press conference here in the evening blamed the BNP and the JCD activists for the killings and demanded arrest of the alleged killers within 72 hours.

Meanwhile, Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali has condemned the assassination of Abul Kashem.

In a message of condolence, the Speaker expressed his deep shock and sorrow at the death of Kashem and his driver and prayed for the peace of departed souls.

Sheikh Razzak Ali, who is also an elected MP from Khulna, expressed concern over the deteriorating law and order situation in Khulna.

He called for immediate action for the recovery of illegal arms and improvement of law and order.



Anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla's death today

The 33rd death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq will be observed today, reports UNB.

Different organisations have drawn up programmes on the occasion.

The programmes included seminar, discussion, Quran Khwani, milad mahfil and placing of wreaths at the mazar of the late leader.

The Sher-e-Bangla National Children Academy will hold a seminar on 'Sher-e-Bangla: National Spirit and the Context of Time at State' and a milad mahfil at the National Book Centre auditorium at 4 pm today.

The Sher-e-Bangla National Memorial Council will place wreaths at the mazar at 7 am and hold Quran Khwani and

See Page 12 Col 4



Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto paid a courtesy call on her Bangladeshi counterpart Begum Khaleda Zia at her hotel suite in Islamabad yesterday. — AFP photo

Commitments to SAARC reaffirmed

ISLAMABAD, Apr 25: Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto today reaffirmed their commitments to the principles of SAARC and further strengthening of the bilateral ties between the two countries, reports BSS.

The two leaders expressed the views when Pak Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called on Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the latter's hotel suite.

Benazir described Bangladesh Prime Minister's visit as very 'useful and good'. They agreed to expand economic cooperation and work closely to strengthen South Asian ties for the welfare of the peoples of the region.

On the Indo-Pak relations, Benazir outlined Pak initiatives to improve relations with Delhi.

The Pakistan Prime Minister also gave a resume on the situation in Kashmir. Begum Zia said her country was continuing its efforts to resolve all the outstanding issues with India including the Ganges water sharing and the repatriation of the Chakma refugees.

She also referred to her talks with Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao in April 1993 in Dhaka on the Ganges

See Page 12 Col 6

Dhaka-Islamabad jt communique Cooperation in energy, other areas agreed

Bangladesh and Pakistan yesterday agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation in a number of new areas and stressed the need for evolving a collective position of SAARC before the international conferences, reports BSS.

This was stated in a joint communique issued simultaneously from the capitals of the two countries last night to mark the two-day official visit to Pakistan by Bangladesh Prime Minister and outgoing SAARC chairperson, Begum Khaleda Zia, at the invitation of her Pakistani counterpart, Benazir Bhutto.

The two countries discussed fresh proposals, put forward by Bangladesh on cooperation in the field of energy and a number of other areas.

The two prime ministers reviewed the activities of SAARC since the holding of the Seventh Summit in Dhaka in 1993 and agreed that considerable progress had been made not only in the core areas of cooperation under the integrated programme of action (IPA) but also in areas under the SAARC people-to-people contact programmes.

The two leaders expressed the hope that the agreement on SAARC preferential trading arrangement (SAPTA) would

come into effect within the stipulated time.

While reviewing progress made in trade liberalisation in the region under SAPTA, they noted with satisfaction that the fifth meeting of the inter-governmental group (IGG) on SAPTA in Islamabad and its sixth meeting at Kathmandu as well as the fifth meeting of committee on economic cooperation (CEC) took place as scheduled, the communique said.

The two prime ministers, the joint communique stated, felt that the issue of poverty alleviation should remain high on the SAARC agenda. Recalling the Dhaka Declaration on poverty alleviation and the subsequent holding of the first SAARC finance and planning ministers' meeting, they felt that all efforts should be made to eliminate poverty in the SAARC region preferably by the year 2002.

The two sides also discussed fresh proposals put forward by Bangladesh on cooperation in stemming trafficking of women, and children, combating discriminatory treatment of immigrant labour from the region and convening of a ministerial level meeting to formulate a com-

See Page 12 Col 5

PPD secretariat to be set up in Dhaka

The Secretariat of the newly-formed international organisation 'Partnership in Population and Development' (PPD) will be established in Dhaka, reports UNB.

Health and Family Welfare Minister Chowdhury Kamal Ibne Yusuf said this yesterday at a press briefing at the Zia International Airport.

He was talking to newsmen on return from Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe, where he attended an international conference on partnership in population and development.

The minister said Indonesia, Morocco and Tunisia were interested to provide a site for the secretariat, but Zimbabwe and many other countries voted in favour of Dhaka, which was finally selected.

BNP MPs demand punishment of sit-in organisers

By Staff Correspondent

Ruling party MPs yesterday demanded disciplinary action against those who held demonstrations inside the Parliament building Monday, threatening the Speaker with dire consequences.

'These people violated discipline and breached the sanctity of the Sangsad by holding meetings and chanting slogans,' treasury bench member Abu Yousuf Mohammad Khalit-ur Rahman told the House, condemning the sit-in by opposition MPs who resigned late last year.

'Shamsul Huq of the Awami League threatened that the Speaker might suffer the same consequences of Shahed Ali,' Rahman said, in the course of a brief legislative business. Shahed Ali, the deputy speaker of the erstwhile East Pakistan provincial assembly, died in 1985 of injuries suffered during a clash between two groups of MPs inside the House.

Expressing a sense of in-

See Page 12 Col 5

DU 'Kha' unit admission test cancelled

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University authorities yesterday cancelled the admission test for first year honours under the 'Kha' unit following the probe committee report on leakage of question papers.

The next schedule for the admission test will be announced soon, says a press release of the university.

The six-member probe committee submitted its report yesterday to the authorities after conducting investigation on the question leakage scandal.

Most of the newspapers published report on the leakage of question of the 'Kha' unit which comprises the subjects of the Arts and Social Science faculties.

See Page 12 Col 1

Checks against future fertiliser crisis in offing

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Industries Lutfar Rahman Khan told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the government was formulating a policy to stop recurrence of any bungling in the distribution of fertiliser in the country.

He was replying to questions from some treasury bench members on the recent fertiliser crisis.

The minister, however, declined to answer some of the saying questions, that the matter was under investigation by

See Page 12 Col 1

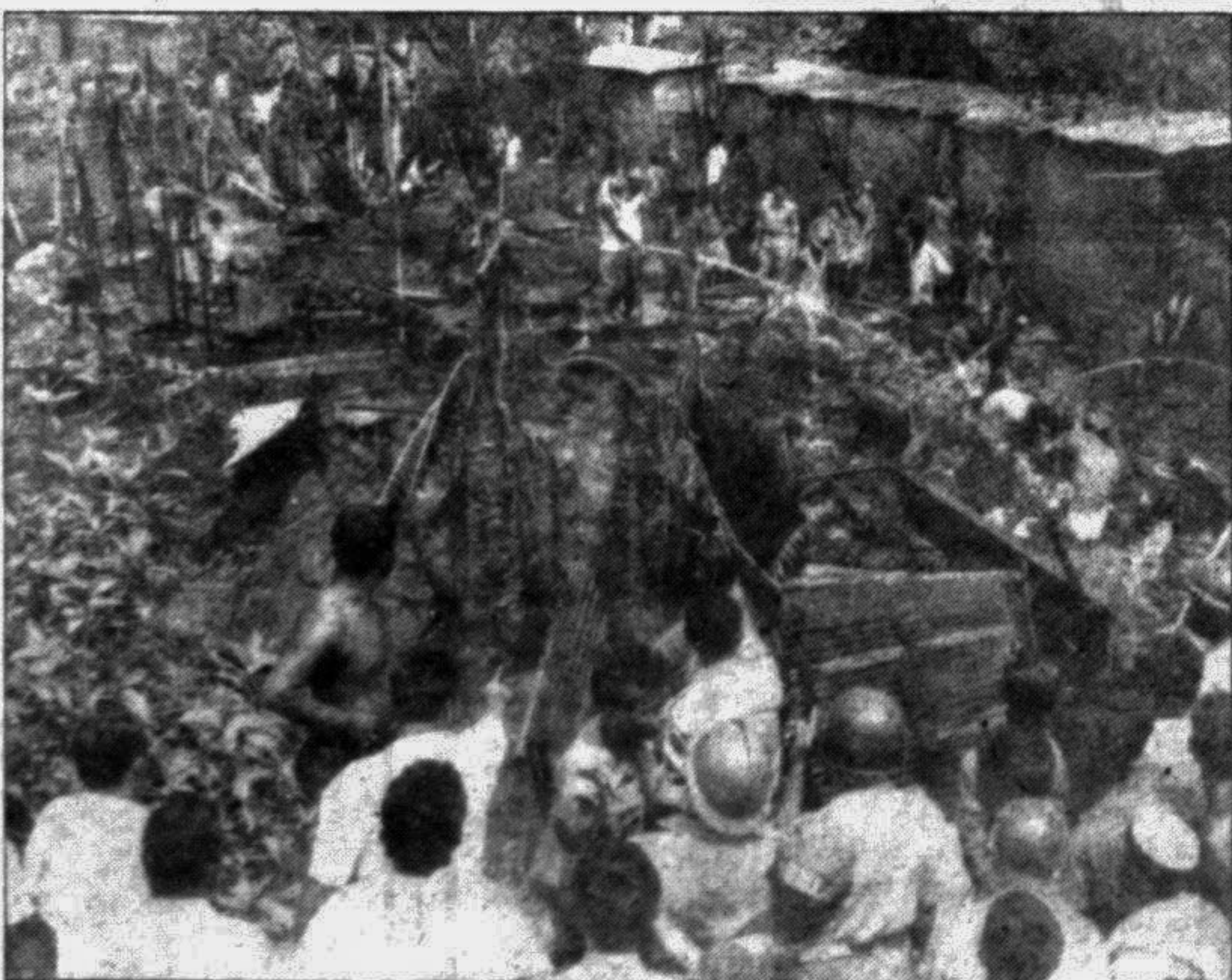
Bill to enhance salary, house rent of SC judges

A bill seeking enhancement of the remuneration and allowances of the Supreme Court judges was introduced in parliament yesterday, reports UNB.

Law Minister Mirza Golam Haifz introduced the Supreme Court Judges (Remuneration and Privileges) (Amendment) Bill 1995.

The minister suggested a 10 per cent raise in the monthly remuneration and 100 per cent in the house rent allowance because of increase in the cost of living.

See Page 12 Col 2



A big fire at a shanty in the city's Gopibagh area yesterday left everything in ashes. —Star photo

EPC proposes \$ 8100 million export target for 1996-98

By Staff Correspondent

Infrastructure problems, particularly loadshedding in the power sector, were identified as major impediments to industrialisation and the consequent growth in exports.

These problems were highlighted by private sector representatives at the 27th meeting of the Export Promotion Council yesterday, in which export earning targets of 3,800 million US dollars and 4,300 million dollars were proposed for the fiscal years 1996-97 and 1997-98 respectively.

In a startling revelation, a Power Development Board (PDB) official said the Board is unable to operate two of its

generating units because of a shortage of supply, while acknowledging that the daily peak-hour (5-10 pm) loadshedding could escalate from 100 mw to 350 mw.

Presided over by Information and Commerce Minister M Shamsul Islam, the meeting was attended by a large number of officials from different ministries and readers of various chambers traders associations. Organised by the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB), the meeting was held in a local hotel.

Speakers at the meeting agreed that the biggest challenge facing the country's export sector is adapting to as

post-GATT accord changes in international trade. They emphasised the need for properly understanding the implications, both advantages and disadvantages, of the global trade scenario under the newly set up World Trade Organisation (WTO).

Expressing his satisfaction over the export performance of the first seven months of the current fiscal, the Commerce Minister hoped the meeting would provide the correct direction through constructive recommendations to boost the country's exports.

Export earnings stood at 2141.64 million dollars during the July-January period as

against an annual target of 3100 million dollars. The amount is 35.56 per cent more than that of the corresponding period of 1993-94 and officials are expecting that the year-end figure is likely exceed the target by 200 million dollars.

Shamsul Islam reiterated the government's commitment to help exporters in all possible ways while noting that the Task Force on exports was set up to provide 'instant solution' to the problems of the exporters.

The meeting was addressed, among others, by Commerce Secretary Asafuddin, EPB Vice Chairman Anisul Haq Choudhury, FBCCI

President Salman F Rahman, MCCCI President Anis Ud Dowla and Bangladesh Exporters Association President Redwan Ahmed, MP.

Business leaders listed a series of problems faced by them in power supply, bank credit, customs duty, tax and VAT, duty draw-back, gas supply, telephone connection and other sector-specific issues. A total of 134 recommendations were also placed at the meeting.

But the problems relating to poor infrastructure, particularly the power sector, seem to be at the top of everyday's list of complaints. Inadequate infrastructure is

'the most urgent' issue which needs to be resolved,' said Redwan Ahmed. 'Power in factories goes off five to seven times everyday. The entire export sector has become vulnerable to the erratic supply of electricity and gas.'

Other business leaders also agreed and one suggested that the political commitment of the government would be needed to solve the power problem by improving the existing system and also by allowing private sector participation in power generation.

The number of problem is the power supply. We are being misled into investing in indus-

See Page 12 Col 2

From Staff Correspondent

BAHSAL, Apr 25: Babuganj thana police seized 152 bottles of contraband Indian Phensedyl from a passenger bus at Dourika ferryghat nearly 10 kilometres away from Barisal town and arrested three persons including a woman this afternoon. According to police, the Phensedyl bottles were seized from a Barisal-bound passenger bus (Dhaka Metro Cha-9957) coming from Dhaka around 2 pm today.

4 JP leaders in N'ganj get bail

NARAYANGANJ, Apr 25: Four local leaders of the Jatiya Party were arrested in the town early today under the Special Powers Act. They were, however, produced before a magistrate court and released on bail, reports UNB.

NEWS BRIEFS

PM returns

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia returned home last night ending her two-day official visit to Pakistan. Law Minister Mirza Golam Haifz received her at the Zia International Airport. Ministers, chiefs of the three defence services and senior officials were present, reports UNB.

Woman killed by lightning

By Staff Correspondent
A woman was killed and five others were injured when lightning struck them at Mirpur in the city yesterday evening. Fire Brigade sources said unidentified woman, aged about 30 died on the spot at Road no-9, Block-A, -1 at about 7:30 pm. Of the injured, one Aiyub Ali was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Cuban envoy meets Hasina

Cuban Ambassador in Bangladesh Lic Olga Chamera Trias called on Awami League president Sheikh Hasina at her Dhanmondi residence yesterday. They exchanged views on matters of mutual interest, reports UNB.

Phensedyl seized

From Staff Correspondent
BAHSAL, Apr 25: Babuganj thana police seized 152 bottles of contraband Indian Phensedyl from a passenger bus at Dourika ferryghat nearly 10 kilometres away from Barisal town and arrested three persons including a woman this afternoon. According to police, the Phensedyl bottles were seized from a Barisal-bound passenger bus (Dhaka Metro Cha-9957) coming from Dhaka around 2 pm today.