

SAVE DHAKA



Lack of proper road sense among the public, as seen here, is one of the major reasons behind the acute traffic problem in the capital. Very few people use the overbridges or the zebra crossings despite repeated media campaigns by the authorities. — Star photo

Reports on Mugabe's wedding: 3 charged with defamation

HARARE, May 16: Three newspaper executives were formally charged with criminal defamation Monday over reports that President Robert Mugabe had secretly married his secretary, reports AFP.

Salam Talukdar

From Page 1 tory and patriotism of the twelve crore people within the geographical boundary of Bangladesh. Referring to Awami League leader's reported remarks that "the BNP is the agent of India," he said that it was not the BNP but the Awami League which was known to the people of this country as the agent of India. The people of Bangladesh know that it is the Awami League which signed the 'accord of slavery' for 25 years with India in 1972. Talukdar said adding that it was the Awami League government which allowed India to commission of the Farakka barrage without protest.

Salam Talukdar said that the 'so-called secularism' of the Awami League was in line with India, where Sheikh Hasina on several occasions spread venom about the people of this country during her visits. Therefore, he pointed out, it was known to the people which political party has maximum love for India. The BNP leader also said that the Awami League president is now showing an anti-Indian posture only to confuse the people and to come to power. He said the Awami League was now using catchy words only to confuse the people which was their old political tactic. He made a request to Sheikh Hasina to think of the past activities of her party before making remarks. Because the BNP leader said, the conscious people of the country had not forgotten their misdeeds.

Depends on two leaders

From Page 1 Daily Star after the telephonic conversation. He said he will convey the message to Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina when she returns to Dhaka after her trip to the southern region. He told Talukdar that he will get back to him after discussing the proposal with Hasina and other colleagues. What Talukdar had said about the new offer sounded logical. According to him, the current contacts between the government and the opposition should lead to a 'summit' meeting between Begum Zia and her arch-rival Sheikh Hasina. It is up to the two leaders to end the political standoff and remove the anxiety that has been raging the nation since March last year. It is hardly an overstatement when some observers described the current political dispute as merely "a battle of two Begums."

Talukdar's new offer came in the backdrop of another good development. In a speech to foreign diplomats in Dhaka last month, Hasina favoured a negotiated settlement to the conflict. She was quoted as saying that Begum Zia should raise her by phone first in order to break the ice. Though it is unclear why Begum Zia failed to make the gesture, it is heartening to learn that her Local Government Minister is trying to catch up. There is every reason to believe that Talukdar is talking with the blessings of Begum Zia. Because Begum Zia herself has offered talks with the Opposition on more than one occasion. Going by Zillur Rahman's remarks, the dialogue can start

Call to include Nepal in process of Farakka solution

RAJSHAHI, May 16: Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia today said the north-western region of the country is being desertified and the salinity of the southern zone is increasing due to the impact of the Farakka barrage, reports UNB. "We need an effective plan with suitable suggestions to overcome the water crisis created by India," he said while addressing a seminar here today. The seminar on "Social, Economic, Political and Environmental Impact of Farakka in Bangladesh" was arranged in observance of Farakka Day today at the Senate Building of the Rajshahi University. "Not only India, but also Nepal must be included in the process of the solution of Farakka problem," he told the seminar.

Telecom Day

From Page 1 Secretary of the Ministry of Telecommunications and the Secretary General of the ITU have given separate messages. To mark the day, the Telegraph and Telephone Board has arranged a TV discussion and radio talks in the Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi and Rangpur centres of Radio Bangladesh. In observance of the day, the BCS (Telecom) Association will hold a seminar at the auditorium of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) today. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman will attend the seminar as the chief guest while the Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, Secretary of the Ministry M Hafizuddin, T & T Board Chairman M H Chowdhury will be the special guests. The association will also bring out a souvenir.

Life-term for murdering wife

By Court Correspondent The court of the Second Additional District and Sessions Jdge, Dhaka, yesterday convicted and awarded life-term to one person for murdering his wife.

Judge Akhlaqur Rahman Chowdhury found accused Arif Hossain, who is absconding, guilty of having killed his wife Seema at their village home in Bamansur of Keraniganj thana under Dhaka district on the night of June 19, 1992. Arif grievously assaulted his wife before strangling her. He later fled to escape arrest.

The trial was held in absentia. The punishment will begin immediately upon the convict's arrest, the court ruled. The court also fined Arif a sum of Taka 10,000 and, in default, to serve a further two years. Assistant Public Prosecutor Borhanuddin conducted the case on behalf of the State.

Maid's death

From Page 1 The court had also rejected the bail payer of the suspects and sent them to jail.

The CMM, after reviewing the documents of the case and the report by the investigation officer, said yesterday the death of the victim appeared mysterious. As it was said that the victim was serving the suspects as maid, each of them was placed on two more days' police remand for the sake of proper investigation, he added. The court also ordered the investigation officer to remain alert while interrogating Rukhsana Choudhury and allow her to keep her baby with her.

Meanwhile, another maid of Rukhsana Choudhury filed a case with Ramna police against the mother and daughter accusing them of repressing on women. Police prayed for a seven day' remand of the two but the court fixed May 20 for issuing an order in this regard. Besides, two more cases against Rukhsana and her daughter for repression on women are under trail in the court of the third and the sixth additional district and sessions judges, Dhaka. Rukhsana had been absconding since she was granted bail in the cases.

Forecast

From Page 1 57, Khulna 44, Sitakunda and Comilla 34 mm each, Rangamati 32, Sandwip 29, Patuakhali 28, Barisal 20, Srimangal and Tangail 20mm each, Rangpur 21, Khepupara 15; Dinajpur 12 and Sylhet 10mm. Bogra, Rajshahi, Jessore, Iswardi, Satkhira and Mymensingh recorded rainfall below 10mm. The country's highest temperature of 30.5 degrees Celsius was recorded in Jessore yesterday while the lowest, 23.5 degrees, in Comilla. The Met Office, in its forecast for the next 12 hours commencing at 6 am today, said, under the influence of a land depression over the Khulna, Jessore and Feni regions and steep pressure gradient over the north Bay, moderate to moderately heavy rain or shower accompanied by gusty or squally wind is likely almost all over the country. Warning of squalls, the Met Office said, south or south-easterly squalls at speeds between 70 and 90km per hour are likely to occur over the regions of Khulna, Barisal, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Comilla, Faridpur, Dhaka and Chittagong. The offshore islands and shoals are likely to be inundated by tides three to five feet above the normal due to big waves in the next 24 hours. The Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been advised to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number three.

Rao to consider more autonomy for Kashmir

NEW DELHI, May 16: India will not go to war with Pakistan over their dispute on Kashmir, and will consider giving more autonomy to the province — short of independence, Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao said today, reports AP. "It's not the government's policy to wage a war against Pakistan," Rao said in his speech in parliament. In Kashmir, meanwhile, police used tear gas and batons to disperse hundreds of Kashmiri Muslims who poured into the streets of downtown Srinagar to protest against last week's destruction of a historic mosque. More than a dozen people were injured when police fired tear gas and beat them with sticks. Protestors threw stones at the security forces, the police said. An indefinite curfew continued in the Kashmir valley for the sixth day Tuesday. It was relaxed for five hours in the morning to help people stock up on food. But violence prompted authorities to quickly reimpose the restrictions and force the people back into their homes.

Ganajagoron editor held

Police yesterday arrested Editor of the Daily Ganajagoron Deen Mohammad Bhuiyan on charge of selling allotted newsprint in blackmarket, reports UNB. He has also been charged with misappropriating money from people in the name of giving them jobs in the proposed Self-Employment Bank Ltd.

Inundated

From Page 1 50 kilometres of unpaved roads have been damaged in Hatiya by the high tides. The district administration distributed Taka 25 thousand, ten tons of wheat and four bales of old clothing among the affected people of the district. A UNB report said that a strip of land some 230 km-long, from Teknaf in Cox's Bazar to Swarankhola in Khulna had been badly affected by the surging sea water. Especially affected was Chokoria thana in Cox's Bazar where at least 500 shrimp beds had been ruined and more than 50,000 people affected. The Met Office in Dhaka yesterday forecast further rainfall and squally wind in most parts of the country throughout the day today. According to our correspondents, more downpours are only likely to aggravate the already serious situation in the affected regions.

Reforms under uneasy political situation

From Page 1 prevailing macro-economic stability. The level of investment remained stagnant during 1991-93 because of the restructuring of the financial sector taken up after the bubble economy of the 80s 'went burst, he said. "You cannot increase the size of investment during a debt deflation period." Another reason that the benefits of the reforms is not forthcoming is because important measures like administrative and legal reform has not been carried out yet, he added. "We have only gone halfway with the reforms." The Finance Minister appreciated the efforts of the authors in preparing the IRBD and said it has provided a basis for dialogue. But in a more critical vein he wished that the authors would have been "more objective" and hoped that the report's executive summary would be made in a much smaller form in the future. Appreciating the effort in preparing the IRBD, Moshed Khan said a harmonious approach on the reform measures is needed to ensure that the results can be delivered to the commonman. Earlier, in his address of welcome Rehman Sobhan said that as a pioneering venture the IRBD was prepared as an overview of the state of development of the country and was carried out independent of the government and the development partners. He added that the CPD would like to bring out such a report every year, coinciding with the conclusion of the fiscal year. "We hope the report will be exposed to as much constructive criticism and comments as possible," he said. "We also hope that the government would see this as an objective assessment and the political parties would see this as a source of information to guide public debate." Later, the designated discussants Dr Mashhur Rahman, secretary of the Railways Division; Tercan Baysan, chief economist of the World Bank resident mission; Finance Secretary Nasimuddin Ahmed and Dr Zaidi Sattar, advisor to the National Board of Revenue, spoke on the macro-economy and fiscal sector related chapters of the report. Baysan noted that the report was in general agreement with the World Bank prepared Country Economic Memorandum that the investment level has to be pushed up for accelerated growth. He, however, said that the issue was through which channels should investments be pushed

China keen to set up new power plant in Khulna

The visiting 10-member Chinese delegation led by Vice Minister for Machinery Industry Zhang De Lin, called on the Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman at the latter's office in the city yesterday, reports BSS. They discussed the possibilities of furthering mutual co-operation in the trade and industrial sectors with particular reference to the development of the power sector in Bangladesh. The leader of the visiting delegation said, apart from the setting up of two units of power generating plant at Raazan, China was keen to set up a new power plant at Khulna. He also expressed China's interest to set up a high voltage transmission line from Chittagong to Ashuganj. The Finance Minister said Bangladesh needs a lot of investment in the power sector to meet the ever increasing demand for electricity in the country. He thanked the Chinese delegation for their interest in the power sector.

Two held for murdering minor boy in city

By Staff Correspondent Detective Branch Police Monday arrested two persons in connection with the murder of a little boy in the city's Pallabi area earlier this month. Shahidul Islam Akand, 18, and Abdul Barak, 25, were arrested from Kachukhet under Cantonment thana and Rayer Bazar under Mohammadpur thana respectively. The two are accused of kidnapping Miraj, the four-year-old son of one Abdul Aziz Bepar, from the BISS Colony, Buxnagar, Mirpur on May 2 last. After the boy's father failed to pay the ransom of Taka two lakh for Miraj's release the two allegedly killed him the same night by drowning him in the pond behind the nearby Botanical Garden. Police were interrogating the two at the Minto Road headquarters of the DB.

The Midnight File

Pakistan to seek UNSC meet

ISLAMABAD, May 16: Pakistan will ask for a meeting of the UN Security Council to discuss 'threats of war' harked by Indian leaders, the Associated Press of Pakistan (APP) said today quoting Foreign Minister Asf Ali Khan. The minister said he will write to the President of the Security Council, asking for a meeting of the UN body to consider "the threats of war," the official news agency said. It did not elaborate, reports AFP.

30 killed as ship sinks in Somalia

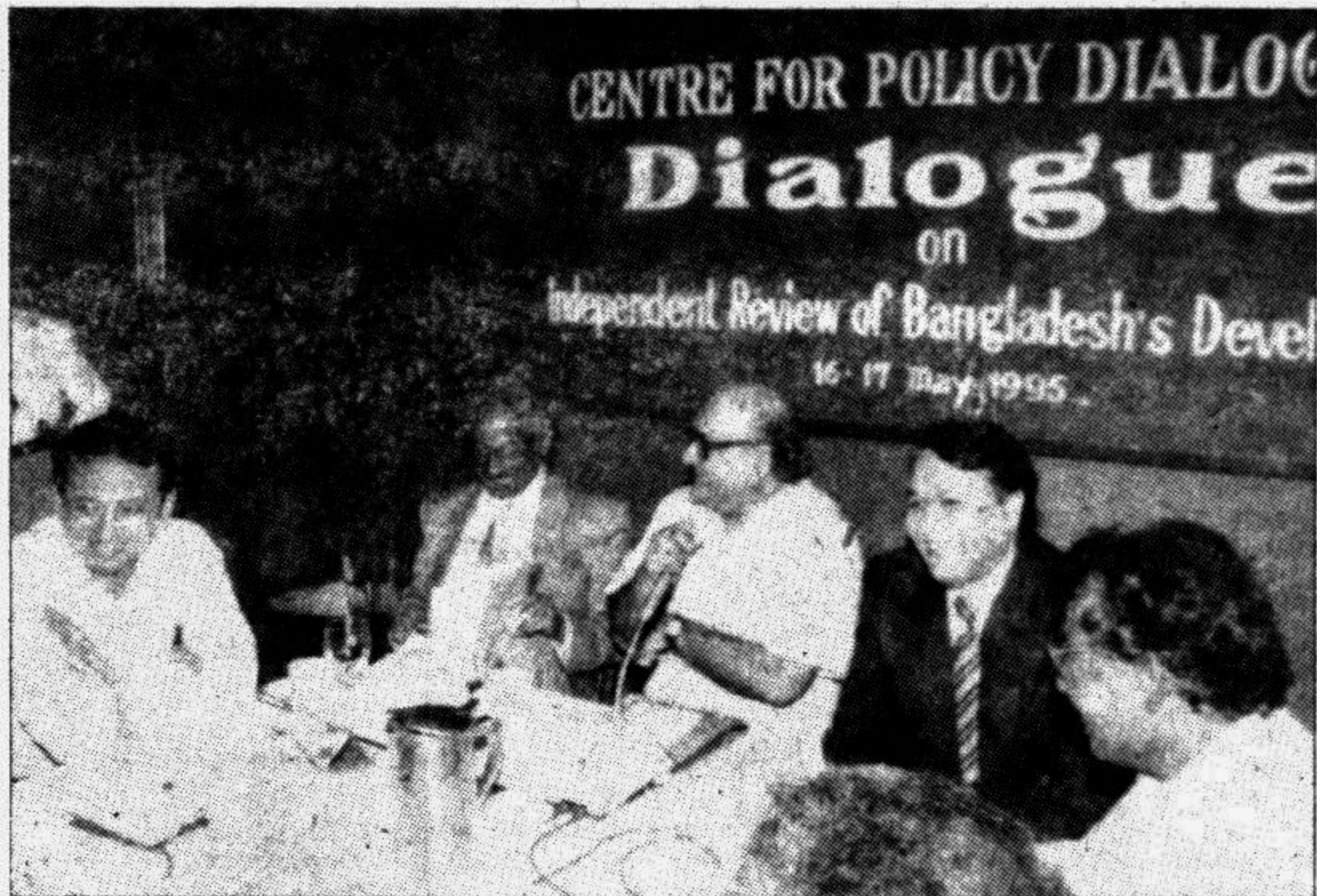
MOGADISHU, May 16: Thirty people died but 86 others were saved after a ship transporting refugees from the self-declared republic of Somaliland to Yemen sank just off Bosasso, a faction leader announced today while denying survivors' accounts that the vessel had been attacked by armed militiamen aboard a speedboat. Survivors who swam ashore said 15 militiamen aboard the speedboat fired at the ship and that five people who jumped overboard in panic, two of them three-year-old twins, were among the dead, reports AFP.

Maintain strict fiscal discipline: Saifur

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman has stressed maintaining strict fiscal discipline in the wake of adverse aid climate, reports UNB. Briefing the Secretaries of the government on the outcome of the recently concluded Paris Aid Group meeting at the cabinet room yesterday, he called for cutting less productive expenditure and reducing waste for optimum utilisation of public resources. He attached particular importance to maintain fiscal and financial discipline in all areas of public finance so that the 'hard earned' macro-stability and the foundation for accelerated growth are not weakened. Saifur Rahman reiterated the government's commitment and policies of allocating higher resources to priority sectors, including poverty alleviation and social sectors like health, education and family welfare. He asked the Secretaries and other important functionaries of all the implementing agencies to ensure most efficient and productive use of resources. Rahman said it was particularly important that the capability of the agencies charged with delivering social services is commendably enhanced to provide maximum benefit to the people. He said in view of internal resource constraints and aid fatigue it was vitally important to increase domestic savings and reduce wastages and staggering losses in the public sectors to finance future Annual Development Programmes (ADP). The minister expressed concern at the deteriorating financial situation in the public utility service sectors and major public sector manufacturing corporations and enterprises under them. Such losses, he said, were causing intolerable burden both upon the national exchequer and the economy as a whole. State Minister for Planning Dr A Mayeen Khan, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Cabinet Secretary and Secretaries of all other Ministries and Divisions attended the meeting. ID cards From Page 1 He said every eligible voter would have to be provided with a correct ID card within a six-month time-frame. These two stipulations could not be changed under any circumstances, he pointed out.

Khaleda

From Page 1 poverty alleviation sectors ahead of the other countries in the region. Begum Zia said the opposition parties resorted to destructive activities hindering development activities with hartal and blockade when the country is marching ahead. Without mentioning the name of the Awami League, she said they (AL) stole relief goods during natural disasters, but the BNP reached relief materials to the doorsteps of people. "So, the people like the BNP." Presided over by thana BNP president Azizul Huq Sardar, the meeting was also addressed by State Minister for Cultural Affairs Jahan Ara Begum, State Minister for Establishment Aminul Huq, Mayor of Rajshahi Mizanur Rahman Minto, local MPs Shamsuddin Ahmed, Abu Yusuf Mohammad Khalilur Rahman, Golam Rabbani and Akhter Ahmed Siddique. Later, the Prime Minister distributed poultry and cattle among the distressed people. She also planted a sapling at the meeting venue.



The Centre for Policy Dialogue began a two-day dialogue on the Independent Review of Bangladesh's Development at a city hotel yesterday. From left are Ameer Khasru Choudhury, MP, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Prof Rehman Sobhan, PM's Special Envoy Moshed Khan and AL leader Suranjit Sengupta.

up. He disagreed with the report's contention that the growing foreign exchange reserves reflect structural problems in the economy. Dr Mashhur Rahman pointed out that the economy was showing an improving trend during the last two years and that the low growth rate during the past decade should not warrant much concern as it has come in the midst of two floods, a cyclone and the Gulf War. The Finance Secretary did not share the "gloomy prognosis" of the reports chapter on the fiscal sector. He said that given the resource constraints, allocation to less productive areas should be reduced, but added that it is not easy to do as it entails political overtones.

Reduction of the inefficiencies in public expenditure, specially in the public utilities, is a major policy decision, he said. "The quality of public expenditure should not be allowed to deteriorate," he pointed out while emphasising the need for strengthening the Planning Commission. The general discussants at the session included Ameer Khasru Choudhury, MP, Suranjit Sengupta of Awami League, M Syeduzzaman, A MA Mullah of Gano Forum, FBCCI President Salman Rahman, IMF Resident Representative Shalhedine Khenissi and World Bank resident mission chief P Landell-Mills.

BANGLADESH GARMENT MANUFACTURERS AND EXPORTERS ASSOCIATION Attention: All Members of the BGMEA. **EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING** Notice Dated April 26, 1995 An Extra-Ordinary General Meeting of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will be held on 17-05-95 (Wednesday) at 4:00 P.M. in Sonargaon Hotel Ball Room, Dhaka. You are earnestly requested to attend the meeting. **Agenda:** (1) Recitation from the Holy Quran. (2) Presentation of the draft MOU on phased elimination of child labour. (A copy of the draft MOU has already been mailed separately). (3) Consideration of the proposals for suitable amendment of the Articles of Association of BGMEA (a) to provide for increase in the number of Office Bearers and for change in their nomenclature, (b) to provide for disqualification of continuing to be a member of the BGMEA on the grounds of being guilty of quota racketeering and committing irregularity in importing and disposal of imported raw materials. (A copy of the proposed amendments has already been mailed separately). (4) Miscellaneous. By order of the Executive Committee **Faruque Ahmed Secretary** 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 Kakrali, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi B/A, Dhaka-1205. FAX 500092-4. Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable DAILYSTAR, DHAKA