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BUDGET '95-96
 Business leaders speak out
 Today S.U. Haider President,
 Bangladesh.
 Tomorrow : Rezaul Karim,
 Chairman, Bangladesh Jute
 Association.
 See details on page 6

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 Bombing**
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International

Colombo prepares for
 all-out war with Tamil
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 Asia-Pacific nations to
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Business

IFAD-funded projects
 should be based on
 demand-driven goods,
 services
 Crude oil prices reach
 Gulf states' target
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STOCK MARKET

DSE Index	745.07 (+1.32%)
Market capital Tk	44.13 billion
Transactions in volume	89870
Transactions in value Tk	12.94 million

Development

Taking research into our
 own hands; Senators
 indicate support for CBI
 parity with NAFTA; and
 helping the poor to help
 themselves
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Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

 Flowers — More Than
 a Thing of Beauty
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NEWS BRIEFS

One killed in city

By Staff Correspondent
 A young man was killed in
 crackers blasts at Shewrapara
 in the city yesterday morning.
 Sadeque, 25, died on the spot
 as a cracker blasted when he
 was manufacturing explosives
 at an under-construction building
 at around 11am. His identity
 could not be known immediately.

Buses for female passengers

CHITTAGONG, May 21:
 Four buses for female passengers
 were introduced today by
 the city bus owners' association.
 Chittagong Metropolitan
 Police Commissioner Shahidul
 Hoque inaugurated the bus
 service this morning at Oxygen
 crossing.

6 more killed in Karachi violence

KARACHI, May 21: Armed
 men opened fire on a bus today,
 injuring three passengers,
 and six more people were
 killed in overnight shootings,
 bringing the death toll in three
 days of violence here to 29, officials
 said. Tension ran high as
 people torched several private
 vehicles.

7 children burnt to death in Delhi

NEW DELHI, May 21: At
 least seven children and two
 women were burnt to death
 today in a fire which gutted
 some 75 shanties in the Indian
 capital, the fire brigade said. A
 fire department spokesman
 said the blaze in the city's
 eastern Seelampur district
 engulfed parts of a sprawling
 shanty town, trapping the
 seven children and the two
 women, reports AFP.

Child labour issue: BGMEA firm on its stand US body to boycott our garments from today

Garments manufacturers and exporters in Dhaka yesterday sharply criticised a move by an American organisation which has threatened to call for a boycott of Bangladesh garments because the BGMEA refused to endorse an MOU on phasing out child labour from the industry, reports UNB.

The Child Labour Coalition, a Washington-based umbrella body of 40 national organisations in the United States, in a letter said it will call for a general boycott of garments made in Bangladesh from today.

Redwan Ahmed, MP, the BGMEA president had said Saturday the memorandum of understanding was rejected by a majority of members in an extra-ordinary general meeting of the association on May 17.

The MOU was ostensibly designed to facilitate a phased elimination of child labour from Bangladesh's garment industry by August 1997 and envisaged provisions for education to working children under a programme called the 'School-E-Jai'.

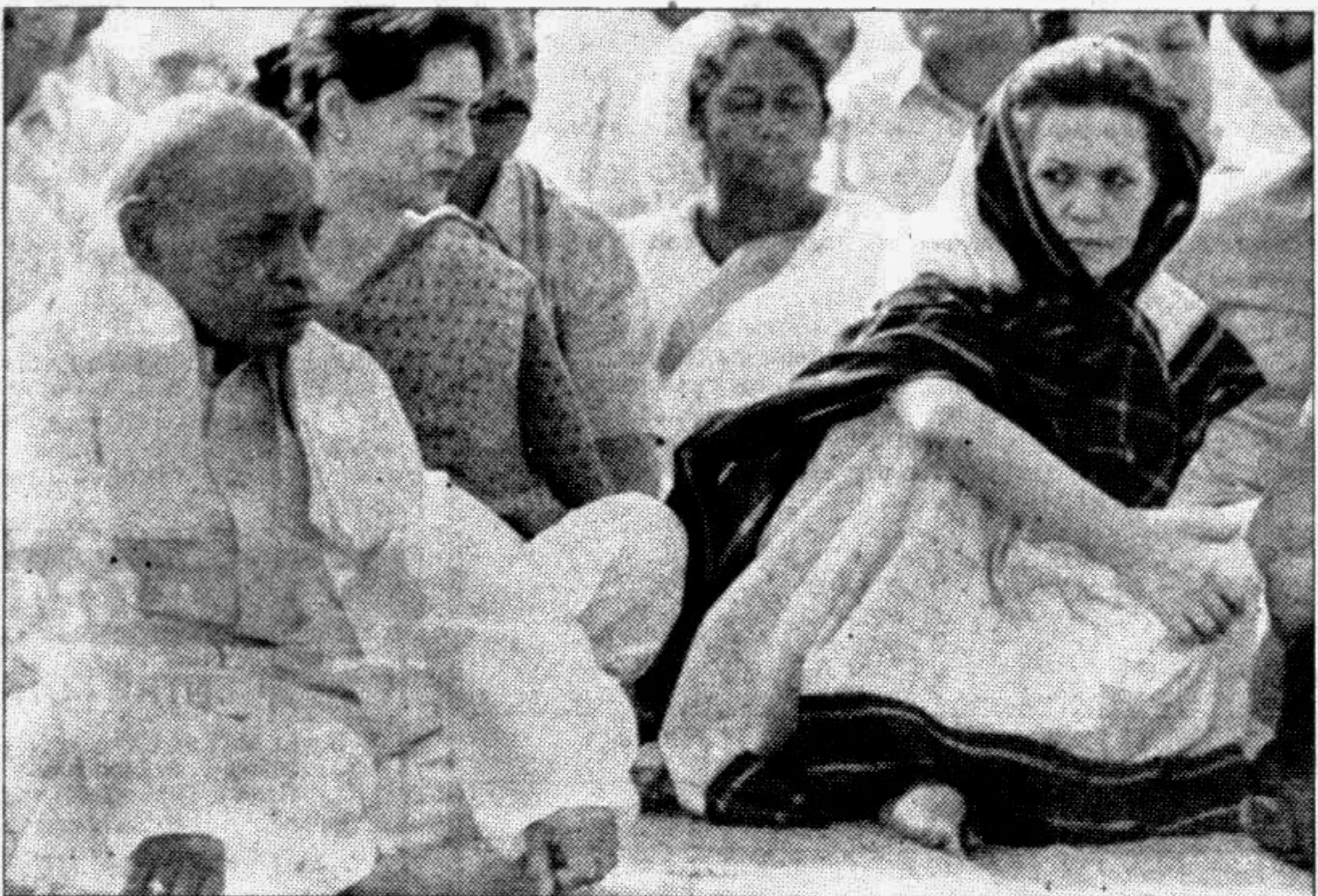
"We never made any commitment that we would sign it... We had only agreed to help prepare the draft of the MOU that was to be placed before the members of the BGMEA for their consideration," Ahmed said.

The Coalition, on the other hand, in the letter addressed to Ahmed — a copy of which was made available to UNB by fax — alleged that the BGMEA president had 'failed' to inform his members 'adequately' either regarding the positive benefits of the MOU or the negative consequences of rejecting it.

"Unfortunately, it is your members and their workers who must pay for your failure," threatened the letter, signed by the Coalition co-chairperson Pharis J Harvey.

But when contacted, the BGMEA chief informed this correspondent that he had not received any such letter from the Coalition.

When his attention was drawn to the copy of the letter, Ahmed said he had tried his best to convince the BGMEA members about the MOU. See Page 12 Col 2



Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao and his potential rival for the top job Sonia Gandhi (R) at a ceremony in New Delhi marking the fourth death anniversary of former premier Rajiv Gandhi yesterday. — AFP photo

Salam yet to get Zillur's reply

By Staff Correspondent
 The Awami League General Secretary said yesterday he would not reply to the telephonic offer made by his counterpart in the ruling party to initiate a dialogue for resolving the prevailing political crisis.

"I have given my reply publicly and also through the press statement," Zillur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday. "Is there any need to inform him again?" he questioned.

BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder on May 15 had phoned Zillur, suggesting a dialogue between the ruling party and the opposition to end the impasse.

The AL General Secretary had told Talukder that he would reply after consultation with his party chief Sheikh Hasina, who was not in the capital at the time.

See Page 12 Col 6

Bearish run at DSE continues

By Sharier Khan
 Share prices of a number issues in the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) have been showing a downward trend in the recent weeks, while many issues were being traded below their face value, according to DSE data.

Meanwhile, the All Share price index fell by 9.95 points yesterday and stood at 745.07. A total of 68 issues was traded on the day with 16 gainers and 44 losers while eight remained unchanged.

Prices of the shares and debentures of Beximco group, Singer and some other companies have drastically fallen in the recent weeks as the schedules for holding Annual General Meetings (AGM) of these companies are drawing near, market operators said.

The prices are also falling due to various reasons including large scale sales by foreign investors, political uncertainty, change Commission (SEC) said.

The fall of the share and debenture prices of different Beximco units has raised many eyebrows. Some fear that this is an indication of further worsening of the DSE market which is witnessing a fall by more than 80 points in its all share price index for the last three months.

Beximco Fisheries, Beximco Pharma, Beximco Infusion and Beximco Ltd will hold their AGMs very soon. The SEC source clarified that these units have already closed the books meaning those who had been holding their shares before the book closure would receive dividends declared at the AGMs.

"After the book closure, people who will buy their shares will not receive the upcoming dividends. Therefore, See Page 12 Col 8

Imran father of love child?



LONDON, May 21: Former Pakistan cricket captain Imran Khan who recently wed Gemima Goldsmith, daughter of industrialist Sir James Goldsmith is the father of a love child, the British press reported Sunday, says AFP.

Reports named Imran as the father of Tyrian, the two-year-old daughter of Sita White, with whom he had an affair in the late 1980s.

White, 34, the daughter of Lord White, the head of the Hanson Conglomerate in America, has always declined to name the child's father.

Her close friend Laura Horton claimed to the Sunday Mirror that when White knew that her three-year relationship with Imran was ending, she deliberately became pregnant with his child.

"She told me one night that she couldn't imagine having anyone else's, that she wanted a part of him to have for ever if she couldn't have him," she said.

Horton said Imran had never seen the child. Newspapers reported that Lord White 'made no secret' that Imran was the father and See Page 12 Col 8



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressed a huge public meeting at Hussainpur in Kishoreganj district yesterday. — PID photo

Democracy most secure with BNP: Khaleda

HOSSAINPUR, Kishoreganj, May 21: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today urged the people to continue their support for her party to consolidate democracy and development, reports UNB.

"Independence, sovereignty and democracy are most secure in the hands of the BNP," she said.

"Strengthen the BNP for further enhancing the country's image," Begum Zia told a mammoth public meeting at the local playground in the afternoon. Thousands of people from far flung areas had been waiting since morning to listen to the Prime Minister.

Addressing the meeting, the Prime Minister said the BNP does not believe in the politics of lip service, its politics are for production, development and service to the commonman.

Referring to her party's 1991 election pledges, Begum Zia said most of them have already been fulfilled and the rest are being implemented.

She said the BNP government considers removing problems and difficulties of the people as its main task.

Massive development works initiated by the BNP government are now going on in full. See Page 12 Col 4

Professional skill a must for armed forces : PM

GHATAIL (Tangail), May 21: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said every member of the armed forces would have to acquire professional excellence, reports UNB.

"I believe that through hard work and exercise you will be able to attain the highest professional skill," she said.

The Prime Minister was addressing the officers and jawans of Military Police (MP) at the corps' reunion at the Ghatail cantonment in the morning.

The function was also attended by Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Prof See Page 12 Col 7

Denial of Latif's bail HC issues rule on govt

A High Court bench yesterday issued a rule on the government to show cause within seven days why Major Gen (ret) MA Latif should not be released on bail, reports UNB.

Gen Latif was arrested on March 12 to stand trial for the murder of Gen MA Manzoor following a military putsch in Chittagong in 1981 in which President Ziaur Rahman was killed.

The bench consisting of Justice M M Huq and Justice Nurul Islam fixed May 30 for hearing the bail petition.

The court also called for the See Page 12 Col 7

Emdad, Shams again refused bail

From Staff Correspondent
 CHITTAGONG, May 21: The District and Sessions Judge, Chittagong today rejected the bail prayers of Major Emdad and Col Shamsur Rahman, two of the accused arrested in connection with the murder, 1981, of Major General Abul Manzoor.

The court also disposed of the two miscellaneous cases filed by their lawyers.

District Judge Iftexhar Rasul, in his judgement delivered after hearing both the defence and prosecution lawyers for about two hours, said, "I am not in favour of enlarging the accused petitioners on bail at this stage."

The judge gave two separate judgements — one for Maj (ret) Kazi Emdadul Haque's Misc. Case No. 1631/95 and another for Shamsur Rahman's Misc. Case No. 1886/95.

The bail petitions were rejected on the ground that the case is still under investigation.

In the order rejecting Maj Emdad's petition, the judge said: "It appears from the record that the accused petitioner's name has found place See Page 12 Col 8

Hasina urges varsity teachers Launch agitation against campus terrorism

By Staff Correspondent
 Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the university teachers to launch an agitation against campus terrorism and assured her party's cooperation in such a move.

"Remain alert so that no armed goon can enter university campuses and stay in the dormitories to disrupt academic activities. We must back you in the task," she told a delegation of the Federation of Bangladesh University Teachers' Associations (FBUTA) that called on her at her Dhanmondi residence in the city yesterday evening.

Hasina said her party had taken steps to help restore normalcy on the campuses. "We banned our student front's activities at the Dhaka University and proposed in parliament measures to check campus terrorism following which the government was forced to form a committee. But the committee was not allowed to function and no further See Page 12 Col 4

No date yet fixed for next meet on water issue

By Staff Correspondent
 No date has yet been fixed for the next meeting on the crucial water sharing issue between Bangladesh and India.

The third round of talks between the two countries at the foreign secretaries level was earlier scheduled to be held in Dhaka sometime at the end of this month.

The first two rounds were held in New Delhi on May 4 and 5 at the end of the eight SAARC summit.

A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry said at the regular briefing yesterday "we have See Page 12 Col 8

40 indicted for Farhad murder

A city court yesterday indicted 40 persons for their alleged involvement in the murder of police Sergeant Hasanul Farhad last year, reports UNB.

Additional Sessions Judge, Dhaka, Md Shafiquddin committed the accused to stand trial. Those among the accused present in court entered 'not guilty' pleas.

Police Sub-inspector Hasanul Farhad was killed during a clash between two rival student groups at the Jagannath University College premises in the city on March 5 last year.

The accused including Sagir Ahmed Liton, a notorious student leader of the area, See Page 12 Col 8

Jatiya Party demonstrates near EC secretariat

By Staff Correspondent
 Jatiya Party workers yesterday demonstrated near the Election Commission Secretariat in the capital protesting the appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) without consulting the Opposition.

The JP's programme followed a similar one by the main opposition Awami League Saturday.

Hundreds of JP activists assembled in front of the Islamia Eye Hospital around noon and later started marching towards the EC office.

Police halted them near the old Met office.

The demonstrators chanted various anti-government slogans. However, the demonstration took place peacefully.

Earlier addressing the protesters in front of the Islamia Eye Hospital, JP leader Moudud Ahmed said the appointment of the CEC was undemocratic. He also blamed the BNP government for 'not respecting democratic values and establishing one-party rule' by ignoring the opposition parties.

JP Secretary General Anwar See Page 12 Col 6

Manik elected Gano Forum General Secy

By Staff Correspondent
 Saifuddin Ahmed Manik, a central leader of the Gano Forum, has been elected General Secretary of the party.

The election was held at the party's central committee meeting yesterday with its president Dr Kamal Hossain in the chair. The meeting also elected Mafizul Islam Kamal Joint Secretary of the party.

The election of the office-bearers was held following the adoption of the constitution of the party launched on August 29, 1993 at a convention in Dhaka.

Since formal launching, the Gano Forum had been functioning under a 111-member central committee headed by Dr Kamal, which was authorised to draft and adopt a constitution for the party.

See Page 12 Col 6

Honorary Consul tells The Daily Star PM's ROK visit to help attract investment

By SY Bakht
 The upcoming visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to the Republic of Korea would go a long way in consolidating ties between the two countries and in attracting Korean investment in Bangladesh, observed the Honorary Consul of the ROK in Chittagong yesterday.

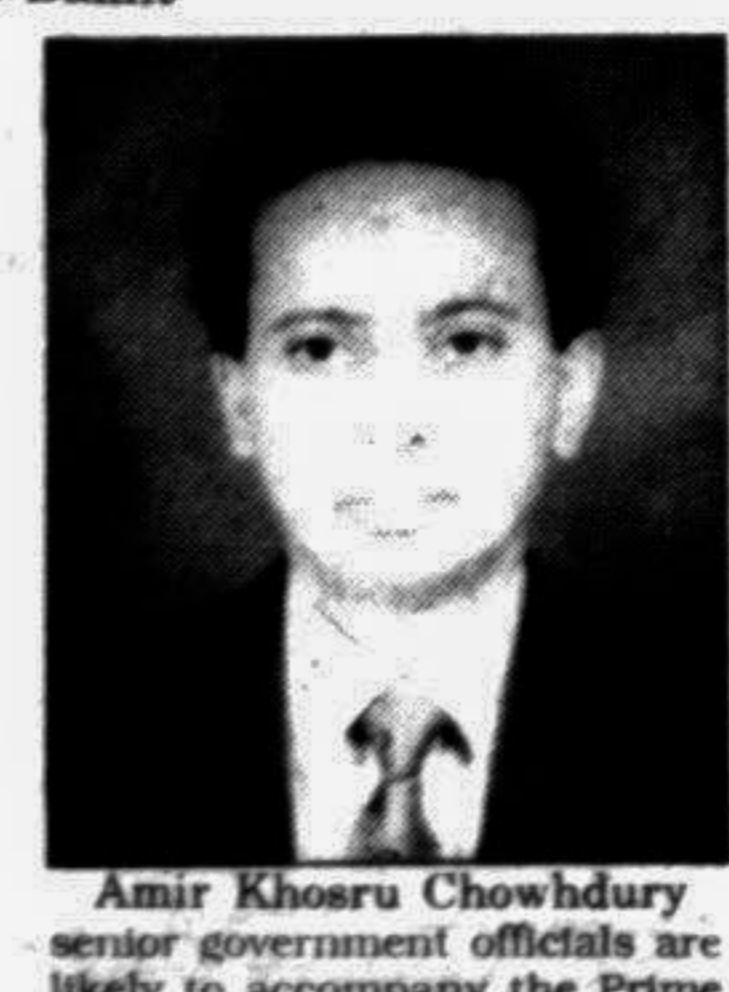
"I am sure this high-profile visit by the Prime Minister will bring in positive results," said Amir Khosru M Chowdhury, MP. "But we also have to act on our part to encourage the Korean investors to invest in Bangladesh."

The visit would help project the image of Bangladesh in Korea while the prevailing positive investment climate, with sound macro-economic fundamentals, and Bangladesh's willingness to attract foreign investment would also be highlighted, the Honorary Consul added.

The Prime Minister is leading a high-level delegation, including a 45-member team of businessmen, on the three day state visit at the invitation of Korean President Kim Young Sam. Begum Zia is scheduled to leave Dhaka early Thursday.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, Special Envoy to the Prime Minister M Morshed Khan and Minister. During the visit, designed to expand economic ties between the two countries, the Prime Minister is also expected to address a meeting of Korean business leaders and inaugurate a Bangladesh Investment Seminar, besides holding official-level talks with the Korean President. A delegation of the top executives of the Korean Chaebals — big conglomerates like Hyundai, Samsung, Daewoo and Goldstar — is also scheduled to meet the Prime Minister.

In an interview with The Daily Star, Chowdhury, who is also a member of the official See Page 12 Col 2



Amir Khosru Chowdhury, senior government official, is likely to accompany the Prime Minister.

48 Bangladeshis held in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, May 21: Arrests of Bangladeshi and other illegal immigrants working at gas stations will continue despite protests from station owners, an official said Sunday, reports AP.

Petrol Dealers Association President Abu Samah Bachik said if the raids continued, the stations would have to sharply curtail business hours because of a shortage of local workers.

Forty-eight illegal immigrants, almost all Bangladeshis, and nine Malaysian station operators and owners were arrested Saturday as part of a government crackdown on illegal immigrants.

Ten stations were raided Saturday in the first set of major raids targeted at gas stations. Previous raids had been mainly on plantations and construction sites.

With Malaysia's economy booming, many manual labourers have left plantations, construction sites, restaurants and gas stations in search of higher-paying jobs.

Many of those jobs are taken by illegal immigrants. An estimated 300,000 people work illegally in Malaysia, and about one million work with permits.

Deputy Home Affairs Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayub defended the raids, telling reporters that they were not aimed at crippling a particular economic sector.

WP leader Nazrul dead

By Staff Correspondent
 Nazrul Islam, former general secretary of the Workers' Party of Bangladesh, died at 5 am yesterday at his Daulatpur residence in Khulna. He was 58.

Nazrul was suffering from heart and kidney ailments for the last two years, says a press release.

He left behind his wife, two sons and a host of colleagues and admirers to mourn his death.

He served the Workers' See Page 12 Col 6