The Midnight Rile

Supreme council to promote

Kashmir's independence

and religious organisations at a multi-party conference here formed a supreme council to promote Kashmir's independence from India, party officials said today. A declaration adopted unanimously at the end of a two-day all-parties conference (APC) said, the council would formulate and implement a "Unified and concrete" policy for Kashmir's

Hariri reappointed PM

prime minister Sunday after Syria intervened on his behalf two days after he resigned. A presidential statement said President Elias Hrawi summoned Hariri to his palace in suburban Baabda and asked him to form a new government, re-

BEIRUT, Lebanon, May 21: Rafik Hariri was reappointed

MUZAFARABAD, May 21: Leaders of key Kashmiri political



There are hardly any proper parking places for the city's large number of trucks, except a few designated stands. Pictured here are several trucks parked illegally at the Chankhapool area. Such scenes are common in many parts of the capital, causing greet inconvenience to normal traffic flow. - Star photo

Data communication

### T&T Board vows to consider all objections

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (T&T) yesterday unveiled a set of proposals and policy guidelines aimed at liberalising the value added service on the data communication industry.

The Board organised a conference at its city headquarters to elicit opinions and suggestions from concerned quarters before recommending the draft to the government for finalisation of policy.

The packed audience at the Telecommunications Bhavan conference hall included nearly 50 representatives from national and international companies trading in on-line computer services.

Copies of a ten-page policy guideline called "Policy and Guidelines for Liberalizing the Value Added Services in Bangladesh" were earlier sold to the public for Tk 500 each In it, the Board suggests new guidelines to regulate E-mail Voice Mail. Data communications through Very Small Aperture Terminals (VSAT). Bulletin Board, Video-Text and Video Conferencing services.

Some of the participants at tending the conference vehemently opposed the Board's proposal to impose new restrictions on the emerging private sector data communications industry. They included representatives of different companies providing satellite, E-Mail, INTERNET and telecom services, as well as the FBCCI.

They raised questions about the true intentions of the T&T Board vis-a-vis the new pro-

The Secretary General of the FBCCI. former Secretary SM Al-Husainy, questioned the legal framework under which the document had been drafted and its apparent contradictions; on the one hand professing to promote and liberalise the industry while on the other proposing to impose regulations.

The Board's representatives appeared to accept some of the criticisms which, they said, would enable them to better evaluate the situation.

"We shall gladly consider all written recommendations in this regard before drawing up the final document for the benefit of future users of value added data communication services." Nazmul Hassan Chowdhury, the Board's Director for Planning (International) promised.

## Repairing of embankment

begins The 359 km long embankment starting from Cox's Bazar to Khulna was affected by recent tidal surge and storm, a preliminary estimate said, re-

ports BSS. Besides this, 36 irrigation or drainage structures were

partly damaged, the Water Development Board sources said. Sources said repairing of embankment and irrigation and drainage structures damaged by the calamity have al-

ready begun. According to preliminary estimate, the repairing and reconstruction of the embank

ments and structure would entail Taka 65 crore. Meanwhile, a centre has been set up at the WAPDA building under the supervision of a chief engineer to carry out rehabilitation in the affected areas and also to take emer-

gency measures during

calamity.

### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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### Bangladeshi garments

From Page but the members, in the EGM. rejected it by 311-41 majority because they were "adamant. not to sign the draft."

"We are ready to face any propaganda against Bangladesh's garments industry," he said, adding: "Whatever decision we have taken, we will be firm on it."

He said that the BGMEA had already introduced a schooling programme for the child workers who were employed in the garments factories "only on humanitarian considerations".

Ahmed, however, welcomed any initiative by any international organisation to rehabilitate the already retrenched child workers and assured the BGMEA's assistance in this regard.

Some 40,000 child workers were fired from the country's garments industry since 1993 after a worldwide campaign was launched to boycott products made with child labour; particularly after the Child Labour Deterrence Act. better known as the Harkin Bill after its proposer Tom Harkin, was introduced in the US Congress.

The United States is the largest buyer of Bangladesh garments, importing more than one-fourth of its total apparel exports in 1993-94 fis:

The Child Labour Coalition. in its letter, said it will launch a media campaign by distributing packets containing information about child labour in Bangladesh garments factories to inform the American peo-

It said the boycott will remain in effect until two condi-

tions are met: an independent verification system in established acceptable to the UNICEF and for the US Ambassador to certify compliance with the BGMEA's announced ban on child labour, and a provision to made by the BGto contribute significantly to an education programme for the retrenched children

The US body warned that the boycott would last at least into November - covering the major shopping season in the States. The BGMEA, however, announced an October 31 deadline to rid its member factories of all child workers.

"After October 31st. our doors will be kept open for any international organisation. The people from the US Embassy can also inspect our factories." said Ahmed, pleading for an end to all kinds of propaganda against the Bangladeshi garments industry.

He said that the BGMEA had wanted a total elimination of child labour by October 31 last year, but postponed the plan following requests from organisations like the ILO, UNICEF, AAFLI and some other NGOs.

The BGMEA president informed UNB that he had requested the Commerce Secretary to convey the BGMEA decision on elimination of child labour to the buyers. The BG-MEA itself is also planning to send delegations abroad to clarify its decision, he said.

Redwan Ahmed suggested that the government should take necessary steps through the commercial wings of its missions abroad to explain the BGMEA's decision in order to protect the interest of the

some 100 million dollars and

"Bangladesh is a proven

employing some 17,000 peo-

choice for the Korean in-

vestors as many of them are al-

ready here," he added, "Most

of the Korean investors in the

country seem to be satisfied

and they are also going for ex-

opined that Bangladesh should

offer Korean investors a 'total

The Honorary Consu

## S Korean investment

pansion.

From Page 1 delegation, talked about the existing bilateral and trade relationship between the two countries, positive experiences of the Korean investors already in Bangladesh, possible areas where Korean investors can be attracted and about other areas of cooperation between Dhaka and Seoul.

He revealed that a Korean company has already proposed to set up an exclusive export processing zone in Chittagong where some 30 or so Korean investors would set up exportoriented industries worth about 100 million US dollars.

The proposed export processing zone would be set up by the company at its own cost, including purchase of land and development of infrastructure, he said.

"If this project comes through, it will bring sizeable Korean investment in medium and small-scale industries employing around 10,000 people, and there may be more follow-up investments from Korea as well as other countries," the ruling party MP pointed out.

He noted that the Prime Minister's visit to Korea comes at a very appropriate time when the two countries are enjoying excellent bilateral

diplomatic and trade ties. Bilateral trade volume between the two countries is quite large and stood at 460 million US dollars in 1993-94. Chairman of the newly formed Chittagong Stock Exchange, Chowdhury felt that although the balance of trade is presently against Bangladesh, it could be offset by increased

ments in the country worth

investments from Korea. The visit would help bring the prospective Korean investors upto the "enquiry stage" about investing in agreement during the visit. Bangladesh, he said while noting that the Koreans already have substantial invest-

package of investment potentials ranging from infrastructure development, including power, telecommunication, highways and ports, and in industrial areas like textiles, leather, ceramics and elec-

tronics. "These are the areas the Korean entrepreneurs have the technical know-how and expertise and they also have the strength of marketing the

products globally," he said. Asked if the Korean investors should be provided special incentives, he said that it would not be necessary as the existing incentive package is relatively attractive. "I don't see any problem with the existing incentive package and the Korean investors already here have found them to be lu-

He, however, hoped that the tax holiday incentive period, which expires next month, would be extended. "I hope the tax holiday will be extended further for consistency of the incentive policy

He also pointed out that Bangladesh should seek Korea's expertise in upgrading the vocational and technical training capability in the country. The two countries are expected to sign a Cooperation on Science and Technology

A former president of the Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Chowdhury noted that this was the right time to seek investments from Korea as many of its 'sun-set' industries were being relocated to developing countries.

"We must make most of this visit and it should be backed up by strong follow-up action. he said.



passing cars and other property in protest of the National Sports council's order forbidding the use of the pavements for displaying goods by the traders at the Dhaka Stadium and Hockey Stadium markets.

## Shopkeepers on the rampage

From Page 1

At least 25 people were injured in a clash between shop owners at the Stadium Marke in the city and the employees of the National Sports Council (NSC) vesterday afternoon.

The offices of different sports associations and the Sports Journalists Association at the stadium and adjacent swimming pool and outer stadium were also ransacked. witnesses said.

Of the 12 injured employ ees of the NSC, three were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

A group of shop owners se fire to some ticket counters for the NSC lottery during the

The trouble centred the NSC authorities' orders not to

### Nepal's Dhaka visit postponed

By Staff Correspondent

Deputy Prime Minister of Nepal, Madhav Kumar Nepal who is also his country's foreign and defence affairs minister, has postponed his visit to Dhaka scheduled to take place at the end of this

A Foreign Office spokesmar said the visit has been postponed due to domestic preoccupations.

#### Hasina From Page 1

ther step was taken to contain

terrorism", she added. "We are determined to put an end to campus violence at any cost", she told the teachers and stressed the need for developing a 'mechanism' to ensure that the students devoted themselves to studies and 'money, muscle and arms could not destroy them'.

The federation delegation comprised its chief prof. Md Mansurul Amin and other leaders Prof. Md Fasiul Alam Prof. Nasiruddin Ahmed. Prof. Abdullah Mohammad Faruque, Dr. ANM Munir Ahmed Choudhury, Prof. M Mostafa Choudhury, Dr. AAMS Arefin Siddique. Dr. Abdur Rahim, Md Zakir Hossain and Shahid Ahmed Choudhury.

AL leaders Mohiuddin Ahmed, Zillur Rahman, Abdul Jalil. Matia Choudhury, Abu Sayeed and Abdul Mannan were present on the occasion.

### N dists tour

Another report adds: Sheikh Hasina will leave the capital tomorrow for a four-day visit to some parts of four northern districts.

She will visit Rajshahi Naogaon, Natore and Chapatnawabganj during her mass contact tour and will address a number of public meetings.

### Khaleda

From Page 1

swing, she said and urged the people to cooperate with the government in carrying forward its programmes to make the country self-reliant.

The Prime Minister ac cused the opposition parties of not performing their due role as mandated by the people. Instead of serving the people. they are engaged in destructive activities setting fire to public and private property and paralysing normal life of the people, she said.

Without mentioning any name, Begum Zia said a party now wants to establish the rights of vote and food, but this was forgotten when they were in power. "During the rule of that party, candidates even could not file their nomination papers."

If voted to power, that party would again introduce the oneparty rule, snatch the voting rights of the people and would Begum Zia said the past au-

let them starve, she said. tocratic regime had also destroyed the country through unbridled corruption and massive looting.

By Staff Correspondent display goods in front of the

shops at the Stadium Market the shop owners have called a day-long strike at the market today to protest the NSC's action.

The clash started when some shop owners at the mar ket resisted the NSC employ ees trying to seize the goods kept on the pavement in front of the shops, witnesses said. At a stage, they attacked

the NSC office adjacent to the stadium, witnesses and NSC

### Tomb of Pharaoh's 50 sons found

CAIRO, May 21: The huge newly-discovered tomb of 50 sons of the Pharaoh Ramses II may harbour proof of the existence of Moses in Egypt, experts believe.

The tomb, the largest ever found in Egypt, contains 67 chambers for 50 of the Pharaoh's 52 sons. Its discovery near the southern town of Luxor was announced last "It is possible that we will

firming the theory that Ramses' reign coincides with the period when Moses was in Egypt," the head of antiquities at Giza, Zahi Hawas, told AFP. Practically all the royal

find in this tomb proof con-

tombs in the valley of the kings have been looted, but the latest discovery has been spared. Only the entrance to the

tomb, on the west bank of the Nile, had been discovered previously by foreign amateur archa-eologists in the 19th cen-They could not penetrate

any further because some chamber walls had collapsed. A team of American archae

ologists discovered the rest of the tomb while restoring other monuments in the valley of the kings, 660 kilometres south of Cairo, following damage caused by torrential rain in November.

Sources alleged that the traders at the stadium market defied the NSC authorities re peated orders for not using the pavements for business pur-

The authorities have now launched a drive to seize the goods displayed on the part ments, sources said.

Witnesses said that the shop owners also brought out a procession and threatened to resist all sports activities in

The use of the pavements by the traders hinder free movement of people in the studium area. NSC officials

#### Salam waiting From Page 1

Zillur said. "Our position is clear. If the ruling party accepts in principle the formula for a caretaker government we can sit to finalise the modali-

clear-cut answer as to whether he had had any discussion on the matter with his party chief. "You possibly have heard our speeches in different public meetings. Our chief has

He, however, did not give a

made our position clear," he Asked what would be his reaction if he were to receive a fresh telephone call or a written proposal from Talukdar, the AL secretary said, " Let

such a proposal come.' The BNP Secretary General said last night that he was still waiting for a formal reply from Zillur Rahman.

"He told me that he would inform me after consultation with his party chief. His party chief is still in town and think he will phone me regarding the matter," Talukdar

Talukdar said that he would call Zillur after Sheikh Hasina leaves for a tour of the northern districts on Tuesday.

pected to discuss how to re-

move trade imbalance against

ported commodities worth

10.2 million US dollars from

South Korea against exports

amounting to 2.10 million US

cuss manpower issue, the

spokesman told a questioner.

They are expected to dis-

JP demonstrates

From Page 1

Hossain Manju, in his speech,

said the present government

has appointed 'the CEC of its

choice' since it was unwilling

to maintain neutrality in the

the government as it is trying

to take away the people's vot-

Manik

From Page 1

of the constitution, the Gano

Forum will have a 16-member

presidium and a 14-member

meeting also decided to hold

the national council before

September 30 this year while

the district conferences will

Nazrul dead

From Page 1

Party as its general secretary

from 1983 to 1988. He played

an important role in the anti-

According to the provisions

The central committee

"We demand resignation of

next general polls.

ing right", he said.

Secretariat.

be held in August.

Last year, Bangladesh im-

### Dhaka, Seoul to sign 3 agreements The two leaders are ex-

Bangladesh.

Bangladesh and South Korea will sign three agreements, in a bid to bolster the existing bilateral cooperation, during Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's upcoming tour, reports UNB.

One of the accords will be on scientific and technological cooperation and another on cultural cooperation, spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said at a weekly press briefing yesterday.

He said the two Asian countries would also sign a memorandum of understanding (MOU) for establishing a friendship hospital in Bangladesh.

The Prime Minister will pay a three-day official visit to South Korea from Thursday. The tour will take place at the invitation of President of the Republic of Korea (ROK) Kim Young Sam.

In Seoul, Begum Zia will hold talks with the Korean President, covering bilateral matters as well as regional and international issues of common The PM, who will inaugu-

rate a seminar on 'Investment in Bangladesh' in the Korean capital on Friday, will give a thrust on huge Korean investment in Bangladesh in her meeting with President Kim and other ROK leaders. South Korea has so far in-

vested more than a hundred million US dollars in textile and other sectors of Bangladesh. The Korean entrepreneurs

autocracy movement during have invested in 12 units in the Ershad regime. the Dhaka Export Processing Zone (DEPZ) and 20 units in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ).

In its politburo meeting yesterday, the Workers Party expressed deep shock at the death of Nazrul Islam. Expansion of trade will also

The party will hold a prominently figure in the condolence meeting at its planned discussion. office at 5 pm on May 25.

Saifur tells Indian team

"liberation" from India, they said, reports AFP.

## Delhi should give fair access to our goods

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman yesterday urged the visiting Indian delegation to influence decision makers in Delhi to harmonise its policy at macro level with others in the region for a successful cooperation, reports UNB.

The call from the Finance Minister came while the ndian team of former minisers, intellectuals and enrepreneurs called on him at his office in the city.

Rahman argued that harmonisation of macro policies was essential for a successful regional cooperation.

During the discussion, the Finance Minister said Bangladesh had opened up its economy for a healthy competition in internal consumer market and stability in macro policy. He asserted Dhaka would continue to pursue sound economic policy in fu-

He said Bangladeshi exportable commodities should get a fair treatment from the Indian side.

Rahman said Bangladesh attained maturity in some industrial products and had tremendous' potentials in some export sectors.

"All we need is some degree of reciprocity from the other side to give a fair treatment to our commodities by

### From Page 1

Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain State Minister for Industries Lutfur Rahman Khan, Army Chief Lt Gen Abu Saleh Mohammad Nasim. PSO Maj Gen Subed Ali Bhuiyan and other senior army officers.

Members of the Shaheed families of the Military Police Corps were also present.

Begum Zia lauded the role of the members at times of natural disasters, Gulf War and n different UN missions. Later. Begum Zia also ad-

dressed the commanders of

the MP corps, which enforces

discipline in the army. HSC examinees go on rampage

By Staff Correspondent At least 50 vehicles were damaged by HSC examinees who went on a rampage near

the Dhaka College yesterday. Several hundred HSC examinees from different colleges in the city damaged the vehi cles around noon yesterday demanding shifting of the examination dates.

### HC issues rule

From Page 1 records of the case from the

The Deputy Attorney General (Crime) who was present in connection with the case was directed to be present on May 30 for the hear-

CMM's court. Chittagong.

Moving the petition. Barrister A R Yusuf told the court that Major Gen (rtd) Latil had not been named in the FIR either directly or indirectly.

He said that at the time of the alleged murder, the accused was not the brigadier at Chittagong Cantonment nor had he any officers and troops under his command at Chittagong Cantonment. At the time, he was brigade commander of the 203 Infantry Brigade based Khagrachhari.

Yusuf also pointed to the long delay in the filing of the FIR, after 14 years of the incident. The FIR was lodged for a collateral purpose, he argued.

#### Gias Kamal made **Economic Minister** in London mission

By Staff Correspondent Senior journalist Gias Ka-

mal Chowdhury has been appointed Economic Minister of the Bangladesh High Commission in London on contract for two years, says a PID handout. Gias Kamal Chowdhury is

now Chief Reporter and Spe-

ctal Correspondent of the

Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha

removing the uneven tariff structure,"

This could help reduce huge trade imbalances existing between the two SAARC countries, Rahman added.

Besides the trade imbalance India is enjoying, the Finance Minister reminded hundreds of millions of dollars being siphoned off to India in the form of visits by Bangladeshis travelling to India for treatment, education and pilgrimage to Aimer Sharif ev-

ery year. Former Indian Foreign Minister I K Gujral, former Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate, Chairman of Centre for Policy Dialogue Prof Rehman Sobhan, former Finance Minister of Bangladesh A M A Muhit were among others present in the meeting.

#### Water talks From Page 1

enquired from the Indians but have not yet received a date." Foreign Secretary Faroog Sobhan, talking to The Daily Star, said "There was a clear understanding that the Indian Foreign Secretary would come to Dhaka. We had agreed about

that in New Delhi." He, however, said the Indian Foreign Secretary is now on a trip to the US. He added that he (Faroog Sobhan) would be away to South Korea with the Prime Minister

shortly. "I am hopeful that he (the Indian Foreign Secretary)

#### would come," he said. Emdad, Shams

From Page not only in the column of the

FIR but also in its body" The judge also said "For the present, the confessional statement of the accused petitioner is a prima facie formidable evidence of his involvement in the murder of

He also mentioned that the confessional statements, together with the petitions seeking retraction, would come up for consideration at the time of

## Imran's child?

the trial of the case.

From Page that Sita White "openly introduces" the little girl as Imran's

daughter. Imran. 42. and Jemima Goldsmith, 21, are now on honeymoon in Spain after a brief Islamic ceremony in Paris

on Tuesday. They are due to be wed at a London register office on June 20, followed by a lavish party at Sir James's Richmond, west Lodnon home.

#### DSE share From Page 1

the share price falls," the SEC source said, explaining one of the factors which had influenced fall in Beximco prices.

The Beximco Limited will hold its AGM on May 30. It has proposed a dividend of 25 per cent. Beximco Pharma and Beximco Infusion will both hold their AGMs on June 18. These companies have proposed dividends of 30 per cent and 10 per cent respectively. Beximco Fisheries has proposed dividend of 5 per cent and its AGM will be held June 20, the SEC source pointed

The share-price of Singer with a face value of Tk 100 had exceeded Tk 4000 in the secondary market last month. But its price fell by nearly Tk 1600 on May 15.

'Singer proposes 60 per cent dividend plus a bonus at its upcoming AGM on May 28. One single share of Singer is a small investor's dream. But after the book closure, it's demand has sharply declined. therefore the price went down," the SEC source said.

The source further said

share prices tend to fall before the AGMs which are mostly held during November-December and May-June. "I believe the share market

will improve in the months of September-October." he added

# SAVE DHAKA