

Buses, mini-buses and trucks seen moving in a free-style manner in front of the city's Saidabad bus terminal. There is simply no serious attempt by the law enforcing agencies to restore some semblance of discipline at the terminals, causing both delay and inconvenience - Star photo by AKM Mohsin. to commuters.

# Factional feud in BNP

From Page 1

leaders of the party have become ministers after BNP's victory in 1991 elections. The ministers have kept themselves confined to official activities, neglecting party work. Most of these leaders, they said, are hardly maintaining any contract with their constituencies or districts.

The scene in the divisional conferences held earlier in Chittagong and Rajshahi were more or less the same as that of Dhaka.

The factional feud in the ruling party has recently aggravated so much so that, when the Dhaka divisional conference was in session at Hare Road, bloody clashes between supporters of the two BNP MPs in Narsingdi, a district close to capital city, was on, which resulted in the death of the son of one of MPs and the setting on fire, the house of another. The situation is yet to be normal in that area.

According to sources close to BNP hierarchy, about 50 per cent of party's 75 political districts are gripped with factionalism hampering normal activities of the organisation.

"In a good number of districts full-fledged committees could not yet be formed due to inner conflicts while in some districts there are more than one committee," admitted a central leader of BNP.

The districts yet to have full-fledged or complete committees include Chittagong City, Cox's Bazar, Pabna, Mymensingh, Sunamgani, Satkhira, Gaibandha, Nilphamari and Dhaka City.

The conference of Dhaka City BNP was last held in August 1993 when only four

From Page 1

specific opinion and submit

recommendations in the light

of existing law and rules and

regulations considering the

final decision on the basis of

The government will take

The Prime Minister di-

rected to form the committee

with representatives of

Ministries of Land, Forest and

Environment and elected rep-

resentatives of the concerned

The dispute arose when of-

ficials went to survey the areas

notified as forest land. But

some individuals showed pa-

pers of ownership record and

ownership by dint of perma-

nent lease in some places and

they are drawing benefit out of

Some immediate effective

The notification said the

1) Survey work at different

2) Land development tax

3) Land development tax

measures will be taken for the

solution of the people's prob-

lem till final decision was

following measures will be im-

plemented with immediate ef-

stages will remain suspended

until further order in areas

can be realised as per rules un

til final decision of the gov-

can be realised as per rules

from legal owners if collection

of land tax and development

tax remained suspended for

tained until the government

takes a final decision in the

cases of religious institutions

like mosques, temples, chur-

ches, recognised graveyards

and cremation site and

welfare institutions like scho-

ols, colleges and madrasahs

4) Status quo will be main-

notified as forest land.

any illogical reason.

ernment.

taken on the issue.

overall situation.

the recommendations.

office bearers - President, two vice presidents and general secretary were elected. They were assigned to complete the formation of the committee. But till today that task remains incomplete, reportedly, due to lack of consensus or under-

standing among those four. The Chittagong city committee was dissolved by the party-chief soon after the Mayoral polls last year. Since then, the BNP has been functioning in the port city without any committee. However, a

cabinet minister has been looking after party activities there.

In Rajshahi division, almost all the political districts, except. Thakurgaon and Panchagar, have been facing internal conflicts. Sources said that the party high command has decided to dissolve committees in two districts Gaibandha and Nilphamari and replace those with new

Two committees were ex isting in Rangpur district, but recently both were replaced by a new committee headed by a convenor.

Rivalry among two ministers and central leader in Gazipur created leadership crisis in the district that contributed to BNP's defeat in Tongi municipal polls, party sources say.

Similar personality clash among ministers, MPs and senior leaders exists in many districts affecting the smooth

functioning of the party. Khulna, Magura, Jessore, Faridpur, Kishoreganj are

among the districts where \*such rivalry in leadership is Forest land dispute which have been built in

areas notified as forest lands.

5) Afforestation program-

mes will continue to meet the

requirements of maintaining

ecological balance on areas

notified as forest lands under

undisputed ownership of forest

department. But the forest de-

partment will refrain from

taking any afforestation pro-

grammes on lands outside this

category. However, through

understanding, community af-

forestation programmes can be

the government retains the

right to review the above pro-

gramme if needed in public

Slum dwellers to

The notification said that

undertaken.

ple greeted the Prime Minister while the helicopter carrying her flew very low over the affected areas of Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Bhola, Patuakhali and Noakhali dis-

DSE price index

falls by 100 pts

in 5 months

By Staff Correspondent

share price index at the Dhaka

Stock Exchange (DSE) ex-

ceeded 100 points in the last

five months when it came

the index was 840.51. As for-

eign investors began selling

shares in large numbers aga-

began to fall ever since.

inst no purchase the index

Yesterday it fell by 4.19

points. Most of the issues

traded yesterday incurred

losses for yet another day

While 23 issues gained as many

as 43 incurred losses and 15

However, the total transac-

tion was substantially higher

than the usual. The volume of

trading was 2 lakh 81 thou-

sand 747 worth of Tk 3 crore

47 lakh 88,798 yesterday

against the previous week's av-

erage volume of 79,522 worth

The market capitalisation

stood at Tk 43.53 billion yes-

Directive to speed

up rehabilitation

programmes in

coastal areas

KHULNA, May 23: Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia

today had an aerial view of the

coastal districts battered by

the recent tidal surge and di-

rected the agencies to gear up

the on-going rehabilitation

the coastal districts, the peo-

During her day-long visit to

programmes, reports BSS.

of Tk 1.59 crore.

remained unchanged yester

In the first week of January.

down to 735.03339 yesterday.

Continuous slide in the all

Begum Zia saw for herself the losses of standing crops, houses, educational institutions and shrimp beds as well as the rehabilitation efforts of the people across the coastal

Begum Zia instructed the divisional commissioner of Khulna and other high officials to strengthen the rehabilitation programmes and help redress the miseries of the af-

# 3 killed as storm hits Pabna, Sirajganj

PABNA, May 23: Two people were killed and more than a dozen others were wounded in storm that lashed four thanas of the district Monday night. reports UNB.

The deceased were identiied as Ledu Mia, 50 of Bibigram and Masuma Khatun, 50, of Foilzana in Chatmohor thana. Both of them died on the spot

fell upon him while Masuma died in a house-collapse, Deputy Commissioner of Pabna. Ashikul Haque Chowdhury said

Ledu was killed when a tree

Four hundred kutcha houses and four educational institutions — Chatmohor Junior High School, Mulgram High School, Bhangura High School and Faridpur Girl High School— were damaged during the storm in the affected

thanas - Bhangura, Faridpur, Chaunohor and Sathia.

Five people were killed in last two day's storm. Meanwhile, the district

administration has distributed 10 metric tons of wheat and cash Tk 5,000 among the victims in these thanas. In Sirajganj, a man was

killed and 30 people were injured when a severe storm lashed three thanas of the district today. Witnesses said Abdur

Rahman, 37, died on the spot as he fell under a tree uprooted by the storm at Fulka union in Rayganj thana.

More than 400 thatched houses were damaged and about 150 trees uprooted in Tarash sadar and Raiganj thanas during the storm that lasted about 15 minutes from 5:30pm.

# B Bank annual report

From Page 1

import of foodgrain under both government and private initia tives, the central bank reports.

These steps were aimed at reducing pressures on the overall price situation after the uptrend of rice prices following a major production shortfall caused by a prolonged drought and scanty rainfall in the northern zone of the country during the Aman season in

The annual report, how ever, advises special alert this vear regarding the management of the overall cereal supply situation and calls for further efforts for augmenting the grain production during the current Boro season.

The report dwells elaborately on current trends of the country's economy, the growth rate, sectoral development, the credit disbursement scenario, foreign reserve condi tion, comparative pictures of export and import, the money market and other economic barometers.

Growth in the agro-sector stalled at 1.8 per cent while the industrial sector registered a slight rise to 9.3 per cent from 9.1 per cent in 1992-93.

The current account deficit was reduced to 1.7 per cent of the GDP from 2.6 per cent of GDP in 1992-93 while the inflation rate was restricted within the limit of 1.8 per cent, which is comparatively much lower than those in the neighbouring and even many developed countries.

Total investment in proportion to the GDP increased from 13.8 per cent in 1992-93 to 14 per cent in the last fiscal.

Net foreign investment in financial year 1993-94 totalled 6.9 crore US dollars (Taka 280 crore) while the foreign exchange reserves stood at 276.5 crore dollars at the end of June, 1994, marking a 30.4 per cent increase.

During the said year, Bangladesh Bank received 32.06 crore dollars from the IDA, 24.11 crore dollars from the ADB, 13.79 crore dollars from Japanese Debt relief grant, 1.82 crore dollars from the EC, and 1.24 crore dollars from the Export Development Fund (EDF), which contributed to the rise in the forex reserves. The reserve is sufficient enough to pay the country's import bill for seven

months, the report says. Export earnings rose by 9.1 per cent of Taka 840.1 crore and stood at Taka 10,097.6 crore from Taka 9,257.5 crore in the previous year while the import expenditure soared by 5.2 per cent or Taka 832.1

crore and stood at Taka 16.766 crore from Taka 15,933.9 crore in the previous

Deficit in the trade balance was reduced by 1.8 per cent from 168.8 crore dollars to 165.7 crore dollars.

Due to the increase of remittances sent by foreign wage earners to the tune of 108.88 crore dollars, up from 94.4 crore dollars, the deficit in the current account balance was reduced by 32 per cent from 61.8 crore dollars to 42 crore dollars.

The net foreign debt increased by 58.1 crore dollars from 1155.80 crore dollars to 1213.90 crore dollars, which is 47.2 per cent of the GDP. Bangladesh repayed 40.2 crore dollars as principal amount and interest of the foreign debt, which accounted for 15.9 per cent of the GDP.

The growth of credit disbursement by the scheduled banks dropped to 0.6 per cent in 1993-94 from 7.9 per cent in the previous year. The supply of credit grew by only Taka 153.70 crore compared to Taka 1752.20 crore in 1992-Bangladesh Bank lowered

the bank rate twice last year (1993-94) — first in September 1993 and then in March 1994, each time by 0.5 per cent — to improve upon the credit situation.

While loan disbursement fell, bank deposits, excluding inter-bank transactions and government deposits, increased by 14.5 per cent of Tk 3.931.30 crore, taking the gross deposits to Tk 30,988 crore in 1993-94.

In 1992-93, deposit grew at the rate of 10.6 per cent, the reports says.

As for loan realisation, the report claims a 76.5 per cent recovery for new loans at the end of June 1994. The report however, says nothing about the recovery of the long outstanding or default loans.

Disbursement of agricultural credit during 1993-94 fell short of the target by more than Tk 540 crore.

Farm credit, however, surpassed the previous year's figure of Tk 841.85 crore.

The economy can witness a more significant and sustainable growth if the non-economic problems can be solved. the report forecasts.

The macro-economic stability that the country attained through the implementation of overall financial management and reforms have succeeded in drawing attention of the international community, the report also claims#

## DU Kha unit admission test **May 26**

The admission test for first year honours course (session 1994-'95) under the Arts Faculty (Kha Unit) of the Dhaka University will be held from 10 am to 12 noon on May 26, reports UNB

Seat-plan of the test will remain the same as they were during the test held on April 21, which was later cancelled, says a press release issued vesterday. The seating arrangement is

as follows: Roll No 1-1600 Begum Bodrunnesa Girls' College, 1601-2800 Dhaka City College, 2801-4800 Dhaka College: 4801-7020 Eden Girls' College, 7021-8220 Home Economics College, 8221-8500 Social Welfare and Research Institute, 8501-8900 Curzon Hall (Examination Hall). 8901-10135 Science Annex Building, 10136-10485 Curzon Hall (Physics Department), 10486-11045 Dhaka University Central Library, 11046-11225 Modern Language Institute, 11226-12050 Udayan School, 12051 12600 Dhaka University Laboratory School, 12601-13080 Institute of Education and Research (IER), 13081-13330 Commerce Building, 13331-13870 Lecture Theatre Building. 13871-14670 Institute of Business Administration (IBA) and 14671-17030 Arts Building.

### Govt policies From Page 1

ment has taken up all possible steps with the objective of ensuring overall welfare of commonman," she said, adding the country had achieved a remarkable uplift as a result of massive development programmes.

The BNP government con siders the removal on problems and difficulties of the people as its main task, the Prime Minister said and made it clear that implementation of development programmes is possible only in a democratic atmosphere.

Listing various nation-building programmes implemented during the four and a half years of the BNP rule. Begum Zia said her government had ensured a balanced development of every nook and cranny of the country.

Mentioning government's education programmes. Begum Zia expressed her hope that people would get the benefit by next five years. "We are implementing massive education programmes as we want to edneate every citizen of the

the government was imple menting various self-employment programmes for alleviating poverty and unemployment problems.

reaping the benefit of the programmes and the country is moving ahead," she added.

### Writ against CEC

Article 99 of the Constitution his appointment as CEC is "illegal". , Moving the writ, Advocate

"illegal" as the EC has no judicial or quasi judicial function.

Barrister Amirul Islam told the court that "The Election Commission has no judicial function, its only job is to hold elections."

# The Midnight File

## Bomb found in Arafat's office

JERUSALEM, May 23: Israel TV reported Tuesday that a bomb had been discovered and safely defused in Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Gaza City office. The television said the device was found several days ago, citing unidentified Israeli sources. The sources were quoted as saying it was the first attempted assassination of Arafat by Palestinian opposition groups. No other details were given, reports AP.

### Croatian troops withdraw from UN buffer zone

ZAGREB. May 23: Croatian army troops have withdrawn from a UN buffer zone, leaving behind only soldiers who were there before an operation against separatist Serbs earlier this month, a UN spokesman said here today. A total of 670 Croatian soldiers remained in the UN-monitored buffer zone in western Slavonia to separate the Croatian army from separatist Serb forces, said spokesman William Taylor, reports

## Damascus confce to focus on future of Jerusalem

DAMASCUS, May 23: Information Ministers of the Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) will focus on the future of Jerusalem at their third annual congress to begin here tomorrow, reports AFP.

The question of Jerusalem is not a new one and will remain a hot subject at this conference." Egyptian Information Minister Safwat Al-Sharif told reporters.

But he added that after Israel's suspension of land grabs in East Jerusalem, "the discussions will be more calm

### Benazir's envoy due next week

A special envoy of the Pakistan Prime Minister is expected to visit Bangladesh shortly, reports UNB.

Prof ND Khan, Minister for Law and Justice, is likely to fly to Dhaka next week, carrying a message from Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto for her Bangladesh counterpart Khaleda Zia.

Benazir is expected to visit Bangladesh sometime next August, diplomatic sources

### HC issues rule on Ershad's appeal for quashment A division bench of the

High Court vesterday issued rule upon the government to show cause why the proceedings against former president HM Ershad on the charge of unnecessary purchasing TV camera and accessories should not be quashed, reports BSS. The bench comprising

Justice M Mozammel Hug and Justice Nurul Islam also stayed further proceedings of the said

#### Hasina pledges From Page 1

Manda of Naogaon district and Mohanpur of Rajshahi district She reminded her audience

that the AL took many positive measures in the agriculture sector when in power and would not only revive the past measures, but also introduce new ones. Hasina lambasted the ruling

BNP for its failure to realise the country's due share of the Ganges water from India and said this had caused the droughts in the northern re-Pointing out that most of

the canals have dried up. Hasina asked, "Where did the Prime Minister dtg the canals that have been shown on the BTV screen?" Hasina also promised to set

up cottage industries to create employment opportunities for the large section of rural women.

to give a new chance to the peace process. Israel announced Monday it

would suspended the confisca-

tion of 53 hectres (131 acres) of land in Annexed East Jerusalem amid Arab anger and the threat by a no-confidence vote in the Knesset to bring down the government. Israel proclaims Jerusalem

its united capital while the Palestinians demand the eastern sector for the capital of a future state. The two sides are to begin negotiations on the city's final status by next year. Syria, hosting the confer-

ence of the Saudi Arabia-based OIC. has yet to react officially to the suspensions of the land OIC Secretary General

Hamid Al-Gabid said the twoday ministerial gathering here "should solidify cooperation between Islamic countries in the realm of information to reveal the true face of Islam."

### Shrimp industry From Page 1

He suggested a short-term programme for urgent repairment of water control structures, embankments and other infrastructures and a longterm programme to draft a national policy for the overall development of the shrimp sec-

"The situation should be addressed right now and be highlighted at the national level" said Dr. Aftabuzzaman, a former state minister for fisheries in the early 80s.

Replying to a query the BFFEA president said a weak shrimp beds management policy of the government often leads to dispute among parties over shrimp cultivation.

Various committees under the ministries of fisheries, industry and land formed to look after the shrimp culture, still exists despite formation of a coordination committee for this purpose by the cabinet re-

Dr. Aftabuzzaman admitted that sometimes unplanned shrimp culture causes unwanted hazards to environment.

When asked, the BFFEA

president said though the export target of Taka 940 crore in the current fiscal has already been achieved but, "our expectations at the middle of the fiscal, for exporting frozen foods worth Taka 1500 crore. may not be fulfilled due to the calamity and scarcity of fish

"We missed the season as availability of fries in local water bodies dropped by 50 per cent and we have to import those, mostly from Thailand," he added.

### Khagrachhari From Page 1

Some clashes between the

farmers of India and Bangladesh were also reported vesterday, sources said. The BSF lodged a protest to the BDR and called for a flag

meeting. BDR sources said. Sources said that following the dispute among the farmers

on either side of the border India started amassing BSF jawans two days ago. Meanwhile, the Bangla-

deshi border guards have been put on alert.

### 5 die in separate incidents

#### By Staff Correspondent At least five people were

killed and 30 others injured in separate incidents in and around the city yesterday.

Three people were killed on the spot and 30 others injured when a truck hit a Dhaka bound minibus from behind at Hemayetpur on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway at 9 in the morning. The injured were admitted

to different clinics and hospi-

In another incident, a minor boy. Sumon was electrocuted at Uttara in the city yesterday morning. Mujibor, a mason, received

serious injuries when he fell down from fifth floor of an under construction building at Pikepara in Mirpur, Monday afternoon, according to a source.

#### A blatant protectionist act by vested groups in US are allowed to make surprise that the issues are "very com-"in no uncertain terms as undoing with an organisation like plex and intricate and there visits and inspections in gar-

be included in voters' list: CEC

By Staff Correspondent Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Justice AKM Sadeque yesterday said that slum dwellers would be included in the voters' registration.

The new manual for registration workers has clear policies relating to the enrollment of the slum dwellers to the voters' list, he said while receiving a memorandum sub, mitted by a number of human-

rights organisations in the city He also called upon all to help complete the registration of the voters for holding fee and fair elections.

ADAB chairperson Khushi Kabir, Advocate Fazlul Huq. Barrister Sara Hossain Advocate Javed Hasan Mahmud and Mirza M Hassan of the Nagorik Uddyog weremamong the delegation which submitted the memorandum.

### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motifheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

tectionism. If it was really about helping children then they wouldn't have pushed the children out on the streets." she said. "It is very clear now that whatever the BGMEA does

the US which doesn't want Bangladeshi garments." Both SCF-UK and Oxfam, along with a number of other local and international NGOs, had earlier refused to be a party to the MOU. Coote termed the proposed MOU

here, there is a whole lobby in

unrealistic and unworkable". "We didn't think that the MOU was workable. It was unrealistic and the whole spirit of the MOU was a punitive one," she added.

In a country like Bangladesh where there is no mandatory birth registration, the MOU provisions would open up avenues of "all sorts" of abuse in the detection process of children under 14 years of age. she noted.

Coote also felt that the Child Labour Deterrence Act, popularly known as the Harkin Bill, which prompted the actions against the use of child labour after it was introduced in the US Congress in 1992, is very unlikely to be passed into

Mollison pointed out that the MOU was already rejected

workable and ethically suspect" by the majority of the NGOs which were consulted. including the SCF-UK.

"We deplore the way in which, what had at first appeared to be misguided but sincere attempt to find a solution to the child labour problem, has now become an attempt by certain suspect groups to indiscriminately damage the economy of Bangladesh and, with it, the welfare of the very children they claim to wish to protect," he said.

He alleged that the MOU was being used as a blackmailing tool and termed the attempt to force the garment factories to sack the underaged workers as a "crazy scheme. "They are saying that if you

don't sign the MOU then we are going to mobilise force in the US against your exports," Mollison noted. "I am absolutely astounded by this affair, I haven't seen anything like this before." He questioned the inten-

tions of both AAFLI and CLC. "Who are they, where do they come from and where do they get their funding from," he wondered. "Their agenda is not entirely clear to me and I don't know what UNICEF is

AAFLI." Attempts to contact the

Terry Collingsworth, was unsuccessful yesterday. A staff at his office said he was in Nepal and attempts to contact him over telephone also failed. The UNICEF Representative, on the other hand, said that a preliminary negotiating

process to revise the MOU has

been initiated involving the

BGMEA, US embassy, ILO and

AAFLI representative in Dhaka

the UNICEF. He added that yesterday's meeting explored the possibility of a revised MOU that would still carry the endorsement of the BGMEA members and would also be acceptable to the other parties. "Together with the US Ambassador, we will do everything to broker the ultimate agreement with

the BGMEA on the MOU issue.' The key issue is whether the impending threat of the boycott could still be staved off, he noted. "Hopefully. think we can do it if we can act very swiftly, particularly on BGMEAs part. I am confident that a win-win" solution could be reached in which all sides

Carriere said that there are indications that the BGMEA want to salvage something of the MOU. He, however, added

The Prime Minister said

"People have already started

From Page 1 that the newly-appointed CEC is a retired judge and as per

MI Farrogi referred to Article 119 of the Constitution which describes the function of the Election Commission and said the appointment of the CEC is

Saying that the total elimination of child labour as proposed by the BGMEA would be disastrous, he pointed out that UNICEF is extremely concerned about the potential adverse fate of the children who could sacked overnight and may find themselves in poten-

tially more hazardous and ex-

are many different perspec-

ploitative circumstances. "To release the child worker from the garment factories does not automatically mean that they will go to school, he said. Unless the elimination process is phased over a period of time, it would not be logistically possible to ensure that all the retrenched children would be absorbed in schools.

out that many buyers in the US. Canada and Europe are seeking the total elimination of child labour from the garment He also said that the BG-MEA members have resolved

that the association would not accept any outside supervision other than that from government representatives, the US embassy, UNICEF and the ILO. Ahmed, however, noted that buyer representatives already

But Redwan Ahmed pointed

ment factories. The BGMEA chief said that the association may consider a

revised proposal for the MOU "If any acceptable proposal is made by a UN organisation and the US embassy to revise the MOU then we (the executive committee) will take it to our general members again for their consideration." At the meeting with the

OCAB members. Ahmed expressed concern at the threat by CLC to campaign for a boycott of Bangladeshi garments He, however, hoped that

the boycott threat would not affect the garment sector. Ahmed said that a BGMEA delegation would soon leave for the US to explain and convince the buyers that the association has taken sufficient measures to eliminate child labour from the industry as desired by the buyers

#### Aziz Mohammad From Page 1 said, the personal property of Aziz Mohammad Bhai would

be over Taka five crore. When asked, he could not produce any document or give

any satisfactory statement in support of such a vast amount wealth, the press release also