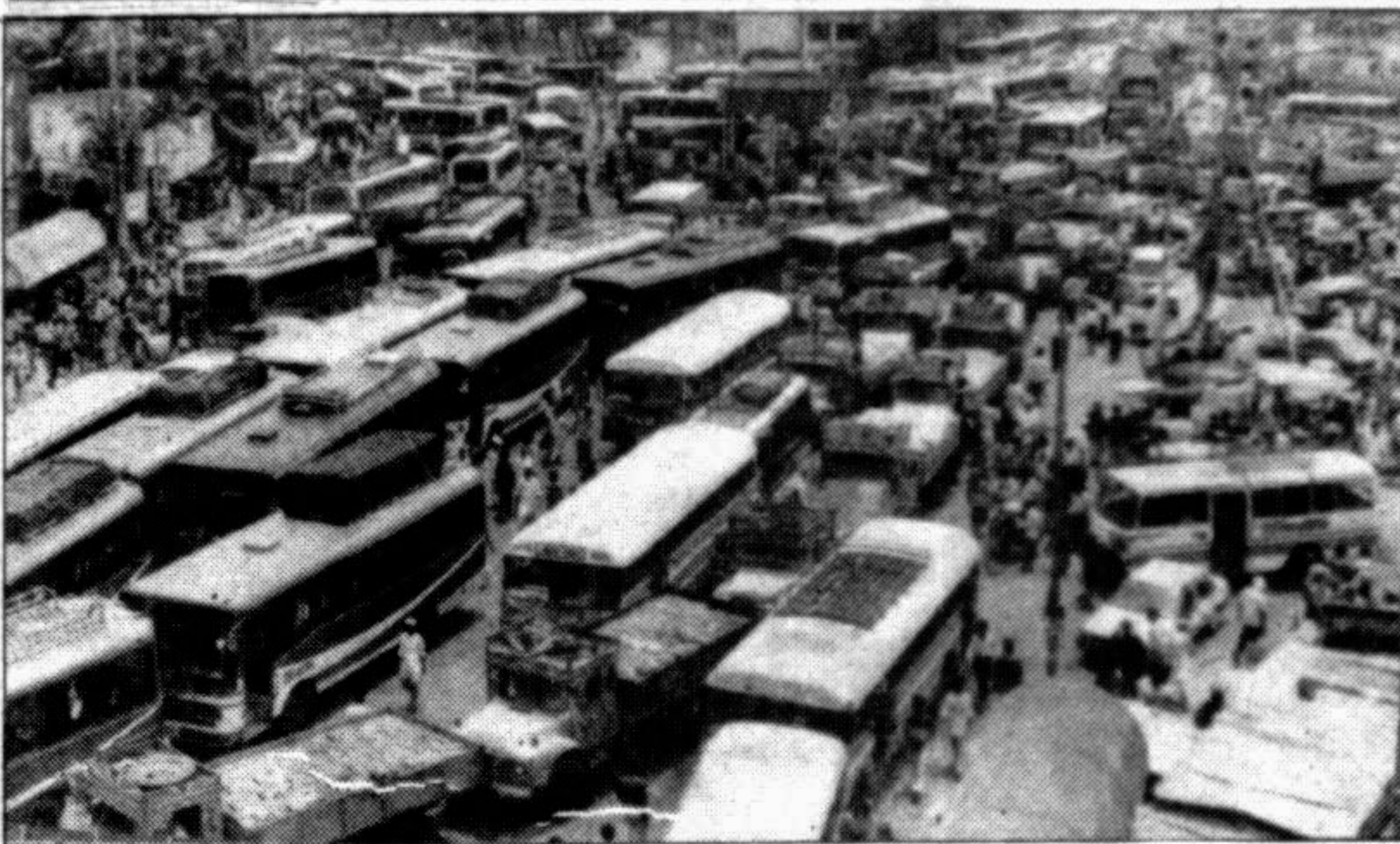


SAVE DHAKA



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 to commuters. — Star photo by AKM Mohsin.

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 contact 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.

DSE price index falls by 100 pts in 5 months

From Page 1
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 understanding 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.

3 killed as storm hits Pabna, Sirajganj

PABNA, May 23: Two people were killed and more than a dozen others were wounded in a storm that lashed four thanas of the district Monday night, reports UNB.
The deceased were identified as Ledu Mia, 50 of Bibigram and Masuma Khatun, 50, of Fozilana in Chatmohor thana. Both of them died on the spot.
Ledu was killed when a tree fell upon him while Masuma died in a house-collapse. Deputy Commissioner of Pabna, Ashikul Haque Chowdhury said today.
Four hundred kutcha houses and four educational institutions — Chatmohor Junior High School, Mulgram High School, Bhanga High School and Faridpur Girl High School — were damaged during the storm in the affected thanas — Bhangura, Faridpur, Chatmohor and Sathia.
Five people were killed in last two days' 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.

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 yesterday.
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.

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 AFP.

B Bank annual report

From Page 1
Import of foodgrain under both government and private initiatives, 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 short-fall caused by a prolonged drought and scanty rainfall in the northern zone of the country during the Aman season in 1994.
The annual report, however, advises special alert this year 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 condition, 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.
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 report 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.

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 Salwat 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 Khaleeda Zia.
Benazir is expected to visit Bangladesh sometime next August, diplomatic sources said.

Directive to speed up rehabilitation programmes in coastal areas

KHULNA, May 23: Prime Minister Begum Khaleeda Zia today had an aerial view of the coastal districts battered by the recent tidal surge and directed the agencies to gear up the on-going rehabilitation programmes, reports BSS.
During her day-long visit to the coastal districts, the people greeted the Prime Minister while the helicopter carrying her flew very low over the affected areas of Khulna, Satkhira, Bagerhat, Bhola, Patuakhali and Noakhali districts.
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 belt.
Begum Zia instructed the divisional commissioner of Khulna and other high officials to strengthen the rehabilitation programmes and help redress the miseries of the affected.

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 considers 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 educate every citizen of the country."
The Prime Minister said the government was implementing various self-employment programmes for alleviating poverty and unemployment problems.
"People have already started reaping the benefit of the programmes and the country is moving ahead," she added.

HC issues rule on Ershad's appeal for quashment

A division bench of the High Court yesterday 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 Moazzamul Huq and Justice Nurul Islam also stayed further proceedings of the said case.
Hasina pledges
From Page 1
Manda of Naogaon district and Mohanpur of Rajshahi district today.
She reminded her audience that the AL took many positive measures in the agriculture sector wher 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 region.
Pointing out that most of the canals have dried up, Hasina asked, "Where did the Prime Minister dig 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.

Forest land dispute

From Page 1
specific opinion and submit recommendations in the light of existing law and rules and regulations considering the overall situation.
The government will take final decision on the basis of the recommendations.
The Prime Minister directed to form the committee with representatives of Ministries of Land, Forest and Environment and elected representatives of the concerned areas.
The dispute arose when officials went to survey the areas notified as forest land. But some individuals showed papers of ownership record and ownership by dint of permanent lease in some places and they are drawing benefit out of it.
Some immediate effective measures will be taken for the solution of the people's problem till final decision was taken on the issue.
The notification said the following measures will be implemented with immediate effect:
1) Survey work at different stages will remain suspended until further order in areas notified as forest land.
2) Land development tax can be realised as per rules until final decision of the government.
3) Land development tax can be realised as per rules from legal owners if collection of land tax and development tax remained suspended for any illogical reason.
4) Status quo will be maintained until the government takes a final decision in the cases of religious institutions like mosques, temples, churches, recognised graveyards and cremation site and welfare institutions like schools, colleges and madrasahs

A blatant protectionist act by vested groups in US

From Page 1
"no uncertain terms as unworkable 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 under-aged workers as a "crazy scheme."
"Those are they, 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 doing with an organisation like AAFLI."
Attempts to contact the AAFLI representative in Dhaka 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 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, I 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 gain."
Carriere said that there are indications that the BGMEA want to salvage something of the MOU. He, however, added

Writ against CEC

From Page 1
that the newly-appointed CEC is a retired judge and as per Article 99 of the Constitution his appointment as CEC is "illegal".
Moving the writ, Advocate MI Farooqi referred to Article 119 of the Constitution which describes the function of the Election Commission and said the appointment of the CEC is "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."

Slum dwellers to 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.
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 "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 law.
Mollison pointed out that the MOU was already rejected

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 on behind at Hemayetpur on the Dhaka-Aricha Highway at 9 in the morning.
The injured were admitted to different clinics and hospitals.
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.