The number of transports of every category in the city is rising, no doubt, but the problem does not be as much in the number as in the chaotic and indisciplined manner the transports ply on the city

According to an estimate. public transports such as buses, trucks, autorickshaws and tempoes, comprise some 40 per cent of the vehicles plying on the city roads.

Besides, there is a large number of defective and unregistered motor vehicles operated by incompetent drivers having no licence. May untrained assistants or helpers are also contributing to a large extend to the risky travel by buses, mini-buses and other modes of public transports, it is alleged.

The city dwellers, especially those of the middle income group, are the worst victims of such a situation.

The middle-class people sometimes can evade the troublesome trips but the lowincome ones are compelled to go by the buses and minibus no matter, whether sitting in a broken seat, standing inside holding an iron rod or clinging to the handle bar. According to Dhaka

Metropolitan Police (DMP) records, the DMP (Traffic) filed 2.31.497 cases against the owners of defective vehicles and realised Taka 1.86.76.155 from them as fine during 1994 and the first three months of the current

However, it is alleged that almost 50 per cent of the vehicles apprehended for violating the Motor Vehicles Act of 1983 are allowed to go without facing taking any action in this regard.

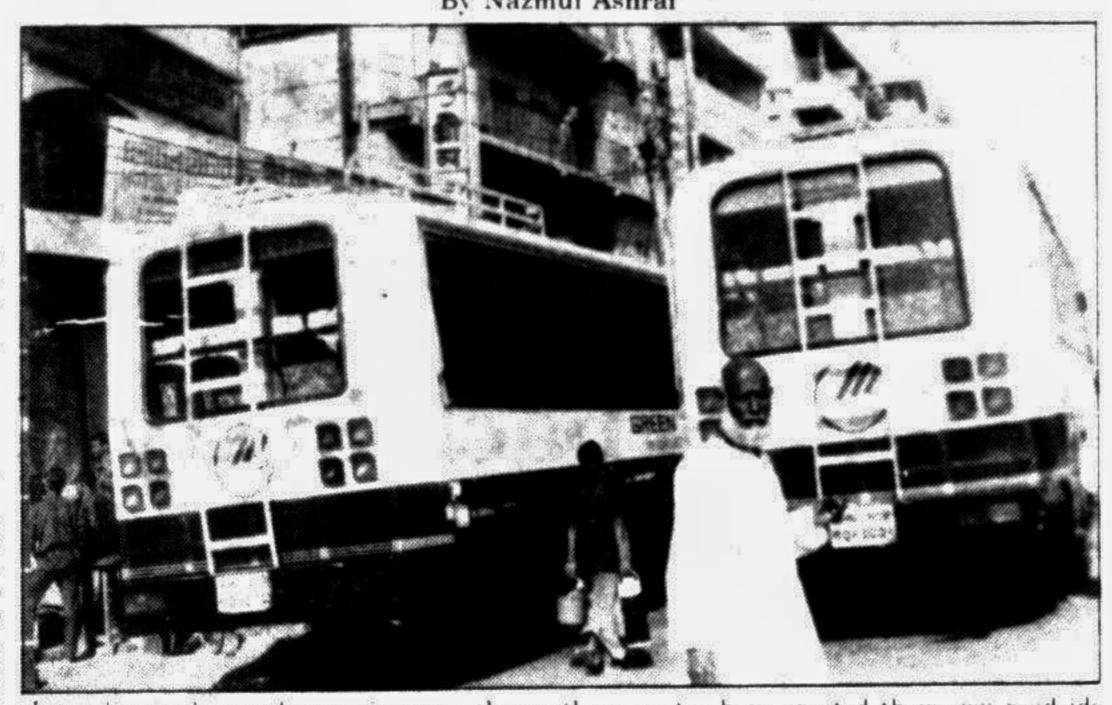
A recent study of the Department of Environment (DOE) reveals that 75 per cent of the city's 1.91.2500 motorised vehicles lack fitness. The number of vehicles operating in the city increase to over two lakh taking into account those coming from outside, the study says.

About 75 per cent of the unfit vehicles, the study says, are polluting the air by emitting black smoke.

Traffic & Transport: Part-6

Discipline 'free-style'

By Nazmul Ashraf



Inter-district luxury buses plying on the southern routes have created their own roadside terminal in the city's busy Fakirerpool area, causing serious inconvenience to normal traffic. Star photo

Admitting the existence of a large number of faulty vehicles in the city, an official of the DMP (Traffic) said they are taking legal action against the substandard vehicles." But, he added, the issuance of fitness certificates to the unfit ones by the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) is preventing the elimination of such transports from the city

The statistics available with the DMP shows that police registered 1294 cases relating to the road accidents in the capital in 1993 and some 300 persons were killed in these

As per the Motor Vehicles Act of 1983, a brand new motor vehicles needs no fitness certificate for the first five vears of its operation but a reconditioned car is given fitness certificate for one year and is subject to renewal every year.

On an average, some 14,000 new vehicles across the country are getting registered with the BRTA annually and almost half of the total new automobiles are adding to the existing fleet in the capital, BRTA officials said.

While traffic police officials blame the BRTA for indiscriminate issuance of fitness certificates and driving licences.' BRTA sources made counter-allegations 'negligence and malpractice by traffic police in enforcing traf fic rules and checking the defective vehicles

Experts say the current system of detecting defective motor vehicles is inadequate since the inspectors are not equipped with modern instruments. A BRTA official admitted the lapses in inspection and attributed those to 'human errors'.

The BRTA authorities are

and employees engaged in the

preparation of voter lists to be

honest in their work, and

warned of stringent legal ac-

tion against those found negli-

mittees headed by the Divi-

sional Commissioner, Deputy

Commissioner and Thana Nir-

bahi Officer had been formed

at the respective levels for

proper coordination of the

One of the significant fea-

Although the responsibility

of preparing the voter list lies

with the Election Commission,

it is not possible for the EC

alone to accomplish the task.

workers of all political parties

to extend their sincere coop-

eration in the preparation of

voter list within the scheduled

The CEC also urged the

voters to examine the draft

voter lists, to be published on

June 25, and see whether

their names have been prop-

that it is the responsibility of

all citizens to help prepare a

Voter List Ordinance, a citizen

can be registered as a voter

from only one particular

place. A voter would be con-

sidered an inhabitant of the lo-

cality where he or she usually

to be a voter in his permanent

address instead of his present

place of job or residence, he or

she may apply in prescribed

form to the Election Commis-

sion within the stipulated

The concerned voter will

put his signature or thump

impression only after becom-

ing sure of that the informa-

tion written in the prescribed

forms by the enumerators are

14 hurt as BNP, JP

clash in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

14 persons were injured.

seven of them seriously, in a

clash between activists of the

BNP and Jatiya Party at the

Atra Industrial area this

evening over possession of a

piece of land adjacent to the

Eastern Jute Mills.

KHULNA, May 24: At least

However, if somebody wants

Justice Sadeque reminded

Under Section 9 of the

He urged leaders and

tures of voter enrollment this

He said coordination com-

gent in their duties.

based information.

the CEC said.

erly enlisted.

correct voter list.

implementing a project to improve the scrutiny of faulty motorcars. Under the project, five modern inspection centres would be set up - two in the capital and one each at Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi. BRTA official hope the examination of defective automobiles would largely improve with the completion of the Taka 39 crore ADB-funded project in fiscal 1997-98.

Experts also say that the penalty given for violation of traffic laws is not inadequate.

Meanwhile, two separate recommendations by the BRTA and the DMP (Traffic) for enhancing the maximum fine for vehicles emitting black smoke are now awaiting government approval. The BRTA has suggested that the fine limit be increased to Taka 3,000 while the DMP wants it to be Taka 5000 instead of Taka 200 now.

Sino-Bangla JEC meet begins

The eighth meeting of the Bangladesh-China Joint Economic Commission (JEC) began in the city yesterday stressing the need for further widening the existing bilateral economic and trade ties between the two countries, re-

ports BSS. The visiting Chinese Vice-Minister for Foreign Trade and **Economic Cooperation Madam** Li Gouhua and Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD), Lutfullahil Majid, led the respective sides at the plenary session of the JEC meeting held at the conference room of the NEC building at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

The three-day meeting will, among other things, review the progress of the implementation of the decisions taken at the last meeting of the JEC held in Beijing in 1992 regarding bilateral cooperation in economic, trade, scientific and technological fields.

It will also consider Chinese assistance for future infrastructure projects, identify measures for promotion of balanced bilateral trade and discuss problems relating to implementation of the shipping and air link agreements for amicable settlement, officials

Inaugurating the meeting. ERD Secretary Lutfullahil Malid expressed the hope that JEC meeting would work out the details for further strengthening the bilateral trade and economic coopera-

He lauded the government of the people's republic of China for extending economic cooperation in the socio-economic development endeavour of Bangladesh.

Majid proposed the signing of agreements on "elimination of double taxation" and the "encouragement and reciprocal protection of investment" between the two countries and narrowing down of the trade gap which is now in favour of

Reciprocating, Madam Li

took note of the growing eco-

nomic and trade ties between

the two countries and called for further diversification of trade between Dhaka and Bei-She gave the assurance that steps would be taken for narrowing down the existing

The volume of trade between Bangladesh and China in 1994 stood at 387 million US

Confce on flood control begins in city today

trade gap.

dollars.

By Staff Correspondent

A joint US-Bangladesh conference on "Comparative Evaluation of Flood Control Approaches for Bangladesh and the Mississippi River Basin" begins in the city today, says a USIS press release.

Funded by the US National Science Foundation, the three day conference will be organised by the Bangladesh Environmental and Flood Committee in America and the Institute of Flood Control and Drainage Research of the

Entrepreneurs

From Page 1

Korea, signed one on setting

Orbit Group of Bangladesh and

Furuta Shozi Co. Ltd. Japan, on

a textile mills, and between

Bangladesh, and Taihung Paper

Mfg. Ltd. South Korea, on a

those two investment forums

was revealed at a meeting of

the ESCAP officials and the lo-

cal entrepreneurs held at BCIC

Bhaban yesterday. The Ban-

gladesh Chamber of Industries

turing is expected to be signed

next month, the meeting was

Dhakal, Economic Affairs Offi-

cer. ESCAP, and K Hauhara.

Expert on Investment Promo-

tion, ESCAP, met with the

participants of last year's in-

that a two-day National Work-

shop on "How to Attract

Japanese Investment in

Bangladesh' will be jointly or-

ganised by the ESCAP and

JETRO in Dhaka sometime in

November where Bangladeshi

prospective entrepreneurs and

the existing Japanese investors

KM Hara, JETRO represen-

tative, said there was a big

communication gap between

the two countries. "If the gap

is overcome, then Bangladesh

could be targeted as an in-

vestment area by major

Japanese companies," he said.

warded some suggestions to

boost joint ventures between

the countries concerned, in-

cluding constituting a coordi-

nation committee comprising

Ministry of Industries and the

Arson in Sylhet

village

From Staff Correspondent

women were injured and valu-

ables worth Taka two lakh

burnt when a group of people

set fire to three dwelling

houses at village Mobarakpur

under Balaganj thana this

fifty attacked the house of one

Nasir Ali and set his home-

stead on fire. They also beat up

Extortionists

fire shots

By Staff Correspondent

A group of gangsters yes-

the female inmates.

A mob numbering about

morning.

SYLHET, May 24: Four

The BCI, on its part, for-

in Bangladesh will participate.

Dhakal told the meeting

During the meeting, BP

The follow up action of

Unique Group of Companies.

Two others are between

up of a cement factory.

paper mill.

informed.

vestment forums.

while to see if these new ideas are relevant to Bangladesh.

a murder case today, reports The District and Sessions Judge Sri Dipraman Sarker also fined the accused Mistibibi. Tk 5,000, in default

imprisonment. hirul Islam, 17, on June, 4

(BCI) arranged the meeting. Another MOU between Orbit Group of Bangladesh and Yamagia International Group of Japan regarding shoe manutac-

the treaty. Hasina said the BNP was maintaining a double standard on the issue. "The BNP like its predecessor, calls i (the treaty) a friendship treaty in Parliament but terms it an accord of slavery at public ral-

ernment.

Referring to BNP's accusa tion that Awami League was India's agent. Hasina said "People have seen how India expanding its market in this dian goods are being smuggled into the country on a large scale. People have now understood who are the agents of

Besides, she added, the Prime Minister had already sold out the country to India by signing an accord, contrary to national interests, with her Indian counterpart. She, however, did not explain.

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, May 24:

Police foiled a robbery bid on a motor-launch in the river Buriganga yesterday and nabbed five dacoits with their weapons.

Officials said that the robbers were arrested with the help of the villagers of Char Kashipur who gave a hot chase to the fleeing bandits and managed to grab them.

They said the launch, the ML Haridia, sailed for Dohori in Munshiganj district from the Sadarghat launch terminal in Dhaka with some 300 pas-

sengers. The dacoits, posing as pas-

A case has been filed with

The Midnight Eile

Israel, Syria reach understanding on security

WASHINGTON, May 24: Israel and Syria have reached a framework understanding on security arrangements and their military experts will hold talks on the issue in Washington before the end of June, US Secretary of State Warren Christopher announced today, reports Reuter.

BGMEA to reopen talks

From Page not the only exporters having child labour, " said Redwan Ahmed.

Talking to members of Economic Reporters Forum at his office, the BGMEA chief said he did not receive any letter from the CLC, but managed to get a copy of the same locally and sent a reply explaining his association's stand.

He also explained why the manufacturers in an extra-ordinary general meeting on May 17 voted out the drafted MOU. Majority of the BGMEA members rejected the draft as none of the parties involved in the negotiation could give assurance that the importers would buy garments after signing of the MOU.

The BGMEA President said he got indications that importers are not ready to accept Bangladesh's garments if produced with child labour irrespective of any agreement that the children would be provided with education.

Govt welcomes

From Page 1

prepare a composite programme for the overall welfare of those child workers to be retrenched from the industry. It also decided that BGMEA

would continue discussions for an understanding on this issue with the US ambassador in Bangladesh, concerned agencies of the United Nations and other international organisations.

The organisations now engaged in propagating against the use of Bangladesh made garments have been requested to refrain from such activities.

The meeting was attended by BGMEA president Redawan Ahmed MP, Labour and Manpower Secretary Dr. Harun-ur-Rashid, Social Welfare Secretary Md. Abdul Hannan Women and Children Affairs Secretary Matiur Rahman, Additional Secretary. Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chairman Export Promotion Bureau.

Kuldip

From Page 1 Barrister Kaiser Murshed of BIISS termed the water problem in the Ganges basin as a problem of food.

"We are closely living with spectre of a famine. It is haunting the Ganges basin," he said stressing the need for ensuring food security in Southeast Asia of which water is one of

the main ingredients. World Bank expert Syed Rana pointed out that

Bangladesh has no control over the availability and non-availability of water. He focussed on various aspects of water management which can be handled within and outside the country. Speaking on the Farakka

problem, water expert Amjad Hossain Khan blamed India for deviating from its agreement and neglecting the issue which is a 'life and death' question for the people of Bangladesh.

Noted journalist Sadeq Khan alleged that India is following a water policy which is detrimental to the environment linked with the river system of the region.

Khurshida Khandkar, environmentalist Dr Ansarul Karim, wild life specialist Dr Zakir Hossain and publisher of the book Habibur Rahman also highlighted the adverse effects of the Farakka Barrage on the environment of Bangladesh. particularly pisciculture, agriculture, forestry and wildlife. The discussion followed the

screening of a documentary on "The Ganges: A Dying River. inter-relating man and nature, by Nazneen Azim.

Nazrul From Page 1

gramme begins today at Darirampur where to poet spent his boyhood. LGRD Minister Barrister

Abdus Salam Talukdar will inaugurate the programmes. The inaugural function will be attended by Deputy Minis-

ter Serajul Huq and Whip Abdul Karim. State Minister for Estab-

lishment. Barrister Aminul Huq will be chief guest at the inaugural function Friday. Vice Chancellor of the

Agricultural University. Dr Shah Mohammad Faruq will be the special guest,

The concluding function on May 27 will be attended by Jute Minister Brig Hannan Shah. State Minister for Industries Lutfar Rahman Khan and **Dhaka Divisional Commissioner** Nuruzzaman will be special

A committee, headed by the Deputy Commissioner. Mymensingh, Enamul Huq, has been formed to organise and conduct the programmes.

He informed that some 50,000 child workers had already been retrenched from the country's over 2,100 factories and the remaining 7.000 will be dismissed within

the deadline. Terming employment of children in garment units as totally humanitarian', he said the importers are not buying products of those factories having child workers. An European buyer, C&A, cancelled order worth 15 million US dollar following a AAFLI campaign that Bangladesh uses child labour in its garment industry.

Describing the campaign as malicious and highly motivated', he said they have chosen Bangladeshi's garment industry for experiment to realise designs of certain vested quarters.

I'm not blaming the American government, but a few groups with vested interest are doing this", the BGMEA chief said, declining to name any organisation or country.

Responding to a query, he said, the manufacturers are ready to extend support to any initiative by international organisations or the US Embassy in Dhaka for schooling and rehabilitation programme for the retrenched children.

"But the owners cannot tolerate any interference by any non-governmental organisation. We cannot agree with their prescription because as an independent nation we have our own bodies," he asserted.

4 killed, 50 hurt in road accident PABNA. May 24: Four peo-

ple were killed and 50 injured. 13 critically, after two coaches collided on the Pabna-Bogra highway and both skidded off the road tonight, reports UNB. Police and witnesses said

the accident occurred when the two Dhaka-bound buses -Royal Travel and Khaleo Travel - from Dinajpur dashed each other and fell into roadside ditch at Shalika in Bera thana at 10:30 pm.

Abdul Malek, 70, of Muradpur in Mithapukur thana of Rangpur died on the spot while Abu Taleb, 30, of Pirganj in Rangpur, Elahi Bux, 47, of Hakimpur, Dinajpur, and Shamsuddin Mia, 45 of Senpara in Rangpur died on way to Pangu Hospital in Dhaka. po-

All the bodies were kept at Bera thana.

lice said.

Thirtynine of the injured were admitted to Bera Thana Health Complex, 13 in critical condition, while 11 others were released after first aid.

Jamuna devours vast char area

SIRAJGANJ, May 24: The river Jamuna has devoured a vast tract of char-land, including some agricultural land, with the rise of its water-level by 23 cm during the last 24 hours ending 9 am today, official sources here said, reports

PM: ROK visit From Page 1

Besides, a 46-member team of top businessmen and industrialists and a six-member media team including five editors will accompany the Prime Minister to take the opportunity of making direct contacts with the investors of the second biggest economic power in Asia after Japan.

In Seoul. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will hold meeting with President Kim Young Sam, covering the entire gamut of bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of common concern

Possible new avenues for investment in Bangladesh and expansion of trade are likely to figure prominently in the discussion.

The summit will be followed by signing of an agreement on Science and Technology cooperation. The foreign ministers of the two countries will initial the accord.

In the Korean capital, Begum Zia will inaugurate a seminar on Investment in Bangladesh' which will be attended by leading businessmen and industrialists from the two countries.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister will attend a reception to be hosted in her honour by four Korean economic organisations. Heads of seven Korean

business conglomerates will call on the Bangladesh Prime Minister. They are chairmen of Kabol Group, Hyundai, Daewoo, Samsung, Saang Yong, Lucky Gold Star and Youngone Corporation.

meeting today From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 24: A

BDR-BSF flag

ficial sources said.

Commander level flag meeting between the Bangladesh Rifles and the BSF is expected to be held at 9 am tomorrow at Jalia a border village in Tripura, of-

The flag meeting is aimed at defusing tension created by fresh deployment of about 200 border security force personnel in Tripura across the border with Khagrachhari hill dis-

trict, sources added. The para-military forces have been deployed along a 13kilometer stretch in the Asalong sector of Khagrachhari

district. The BSF had proposed flag meeting on Monday when some Indian farmers ploughing near the Fenichhara river catchment were driven back by Bangladeshi people, official

sources said. They seized a bullock and ploughs from the Indian farm ers who encroached into the disputed land breaching the status quo.

Southeast Bank

From Page 1

mistakes in the banking sector which have earned banks a bad name," Quashem said hinting at loan defaulters. "We will start with small investments. consumer credit system and new schemes such as clearing utility bills on behalf of our

clients, if they wish." "Our prime objective is promoting industrialisation and creating employment op-

portunities," he said. CUFL resumes production

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, May 24: Production in the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Factory Limited (CUFL) resumed last night after a nine-day suspension.

Official sources said the production was in full swing. The CUFF suspended production on May 15 due to abnormal increase in the salinity rate of the Karnaphuli river

water due to the recent high

tide whipped up by a storm in

the Bay of Bengal.

Registration of voters The CEC urged the officials From Page 1

"The Election Commission is determined to prepare a correct and flawless voter list." he asserted

The CEC said that in the past electoral rolls were prepared without registering each and every voter, giving rise to many questions from many quarters about the correctness

of those rolls. Many had raised questions even about the voter lists on the basis of which the historic 1991 elections — the fairest in the country's history - were

The EC. he said, had thoroughly examined the nature of and the reasons for errors in the previous lists to ensure that a correct and fool-proof list could be used for the next

elections, he said. In light of previous experience and extensive examination, the EC has resolved that each voter needs to be registered independently. Therefore, an act was framed on De-

cember 13 last in this respect, he said. Justice Sadeque said enumerators, with three separate forms, would collect informa-

tion from each voter. On June 1, their supervisors will knock at every door to collate and verify the infor-

The final list will be published on August 31, the CEC A 4,06760-strong work-

mation gathered.

force has been deployed to accomplish the gigantic task. Justice Sadeque said the EC had undertaken some special measures to ensure the preparation of a correct list within the stipulated time.

Detailing the steps, he said a person would be enlisted as a voter for one time for a single voting area. Anyone who gives false and incorrect information during the registration process will be punished with six months' jail or a fine of Tk 1.000

In each union in the rural areas and every ward in the municipal areas, one Assistant Registration Officer has been appointed. Besides, one data collector and identification officer has been appointed for every 200 voters and a supervisor appointed for every four data collectors and identification officers.

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Editor: Mahfuz Anam

AL candidate wins KCC

tion held today.

February 25 last. brother of Taslimuddin Khan.

time, said the CEC, will be the and his rival 1254 votes. preparation of voters' identity The BNP candidate has sufcards on the basis of datafered defeat for the second

the programme this year.

February 1999. The integrated rural women development project to be undertaken by the Bangladesh Rural Development Board (BRDB) is aimed at providing credit to the tune of Taka 2000-5000 to one lakh women of 100 selected thanas at a cost of Taka 30 crore. The credit programme is expected

The ECNEC also approved the construction of the remaining works of the eight stadiums at Munshiganj Noakhali, Brahmanbaria, Sherpur. Pirojpur, Sirajgonj. Netrokona and Narshingdi districts at a cost of Taka 20 crore. The meeting also approved Narayangonj stadiums construction special project at a cost of Taka 20 crore.

ahead signal to set up four nuclear medicine centre at Comilla, Faridpur, Bogra and Salimullah Medical College at a cost of Taka 29 crore including foreign exchange component of Taka 19 crore.

by-election

KHULNA, May 24: Awami League candidate Taslimuddin Khan Babul has been elected commissioner of Khulna City Corporation (KCC) from Ward No 15 defeating his rival Abdur Rahman of BNP in the by-elec-

The seat fell vacant following the killing of Moslemuddin Khan by unknown assailants on

The deceased was the elder Khan has polled 3503 votes

time from the same ward.

Paksey bridge From Page 1 Under the programme, each student will get 15 kg of wheat every month subject to maximum of 20 kg wheat per family. A total of 2.08 metric tons

of wheat will be required for The meeting also approved two poverty alleviation-cumself-employment projects for rural youths and poor women at a cost of Taka 125 crore. The family-wise self-employment project to be undertaken by the Youth Ministry aimed at providing credit to three lakh youths of 60,000 families of 50

thanas at a cost of Taka 95 Taka 25 crore credit will be disbursed under the programme this year which is scheduled to be completed by

to be completed by the year

The meeting also gave a go

tion money by a contractor. reported.

However, no injuries were

Medical College (DMCH) cam-

pus after being denied protec-

Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BULT). One of the major proposals for flood alleviation in

Bangladesh consists of a proposal to build embankments. The function of similar embankments in the Mississippi flood of 1993 has renewed thinking about the costs and benefits of such a structural approach, and according to the organisers, it will be worth-

Housewife jailed for murder

SIRAJGANJ, May 24: A middle-aged housewife was sentenced to life term in jail in

to suffer three months more According to prosecution Mistibibi poisoned to death her brother-in-law's son. Za-

The judge after examining the contence and witnesses punished the accused today.

Hasina

From Page 1 party's statement regarding

lies," she added. "Cancel it right now, if you consider it a slavery accord. Don't mislead the people by making contradictory statements," Hasina asked the gov-

has occupied Bangladesh by country during BNP's rule. In-

India.

Robbery bid on motor-launch

sengers, started looting the terday fired shots at the Dhaka belongings of the passengers once the vessel approached Fatullah.

Fatullah police.