FBCCI chief opposes

ad hoc agri subsidy

tainable growth.

economy

government

remarked.

But, unfortunately this

broad consensus is completely

yet to be reached," he said,

insisting that an enabling envi-

ronment should be provided to

the private sector which is a

cornerstone of the liberalised

drawn to the half-empty Par-

liament where the budget will

be placed, the FBCCI chief said

it will be much more difficult

to attain a consensus on the

budget which, he observed, in

the economic policy of the

about budgetary allocation for

the loss-making public units

while the private sector is re-

garded as the driving force of

the free market economy. The

loss-making public sector

should be ceased." Rahman

Asked to comment on re-

source drainage to the defence

sector, he said: "I still feel, as

percentage of the GDP, our de-

fence expenditure is high. But

as a sovereign country, you

can't ignore the expenditure."

legal system, development of

infrastructure, contradiction

between policy and implemen-

tation and exploitation of new

market opportunities are the

important things to be ad-

He also suggested that the

energy, communication and

education sectors, and ra-

tionalisation of corporate tax

should get priority in the next

dressed immediately.

national budget.

The FBCCI leader felt that

He also raised question

When his attention was

A business leader vesterday

cautioned against any subsidy

to the country's stagnant agri-

culture sector, if it is provided

on an ad-hoc basis in the next

subsidy to the agriculture sec-

tor. If given it has to be a part

of an overall plan ... It should

be targeted subsidy," said

Salman F Rahman, the Presi-

tions in a pre-budget discus-

sion arranged by the Economic

Reporters' Forum (ERF) to

elicit views on the coming

budget from the the BCCI -

ERF President Moazzem

the country's apex trade body.

Hossain and Secretary General

Shamsul Haq Zahid also spoke

at the discussion held at the

Jativa Press Club. FBCCI vice-

president Rashiduzzaman Dudu

Commenting on the next

budget expected to be placed

before Parliament within a

fortnight, the FBCCI president

said the budget should contain

a strategy to achieve a double-

digit growth needed to allevi-

us a clear-cut strategy, not

rhetorics," he said, adding that

the private sector would con-

sider the budget as the eco-

nomic manifesto of the de

digit growth. Rahman observed

that an export-led growth

strategy and an enabling envi-

ronment based on consensus

of social forces to attain a sus-

BCS Admin

leaders meet

ministers

By Staff Correspondent

istration Association had an

hour-long discussion with two

ministers vesterday morning

on the issue of their six-point

demand submitted to the gov-

the Secretariat Chamber of

Commerce and Information

Minister Shamsul Islam. State

Minister for Establishment

Aminul Islam was also present

(Admin) Association M Asafud-

dowlah, who is Commerce

Secretary, Secretary General of

the association Muhammad

Nuruzzaman Miah and Dr Mo-

hiuddin Khan Alamgir were

present at the meeting with

the two ministers, sources

yesterday, the Secretary Gen-

eral of the association said the

ministers were apprised in de-

tail of the 'nature of the six-

point demand' and added "we

were given a sympathetic hear-

some positive outcome, he

said. "We were given to under-

stand that the government

had taken a lenient view and

was seriously endeavouring to

resolve the important issues."

concede to two or three de-

mands out of the six put for-

ward by the administration

cadre leaders.

It is learnt from govern-

Asked if they expected

Talking to The Daily Star

President of the BCS

The meeting was held at

ernment.

Leaders of the BCS Admin-

While speaking of a double-

The government must give

ate poverty successfully.

facto government.

Rahman made the sugges-

dent of the FBCCI.

was present.

"We're very cautious of any

national budget, reports UNB.

STATUTE DIFFAURZA

Installation of a private small generator at the Ahsan Manzil, residence of the then nawabs of Dhaka, in 1901, is considered the beginning of power generation in the city.

Electricity distribution system under private ownership was first brought into being by Messers DEVCO, a subsidiary of Messrs Octavians Steel Company, in the 1930s. Dhanmondi power house was set up in 1933, from which electricity was distributed on a commercial basis.

In 1957, the government of the then East Pakistan took over the privately owned company and power generation and distribution in the city was placed under the Electricity Directorate of the government.

Later, following the foot marks of the East Pakistan Water and Power Development Authority (EPWAPDA) - established in 1959 and the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) established in 1972 - the Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) came into being in 1990 to look after power supply in this city of seven million inhabitants.

However, the DESA started formal functioning and commercial operation on October 1. 1991, after taking over the electricity distribution network in the 7437 sq kilometre area of greater Dhaka, which was previously under the jurisdiction of the PDB.

The DESA, which has a manpower strength of 6275. DESA purchases electricity from the National Electric Grid under the PDB through Siddhirganj, Tongi, Ghorasal and Haripur grid sub-stations at a rate of Taka 1.58 per unit and sell it to consumers at a rate of Taka 2.43 per kwhr. According to DESA sources.

consumers' demand for power in the city is increasing by 10 per cent every year.

The DESA is the single largest buyer of the PDB, which generate around 2000 MW of power. On an average, it buys 48 per cent of the total power generated by the PDB while the Rural Electrification Board (REB) buys another nine per cent.

"We only distribute, not generate power. Shortage of

Border talks

From Page 1

Bangladesh over farming in the

disputed Fenichhara river

maintained in the disputed

area after India pulled back

some 200 border guards in

line with the decision reached

at the 25th flag meeting be-

tween the BDR and the BSF at

Battalion Command level in

another flag meeting on May 8

at Ramgarh border town under

Khagrachhari district, over the

disputed Fenichhara lands

PM: Opposition

From Page 1

She said the government

has undertaken a massive edu-

cation programme to free the

nation from the curse of illit-

eracy. She particularly men-

tioned the Food for Education

Programme, free primary edu-

cation, free education upto

Class Ten and stipend for the

parties are voted to power they

would stop all the people-ori-

ented programmes initiated by

the BNP government because

they wanted to do politics

keeping the people poor and

Bridge she said. "We have

started the construction work

of the bridge and expect to

complete the work by 1997.

The bridge will facilitate rapid

development in North Bengal

Outgoing navy, air

chiefs meet

President, PM

Force chiefs. Rear Admiral M

Mohaiminul Islam and Air Vice

Marshal Altaf Hossain Chowd-

hury yesterday made separate

farewell calls on President Ab-

dur Rahman Biswas and Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia,

the Supreme Commander of

the Armed Forces, appreciated

their long services and their

contributions towards the de-

velopment of the Bangladesh

Navy. and the Air Force.

The President, who is also

reports BSS.

The outgoing Navy and Air

Referring to the Jamuna

Begum Zia said if opposition

The BDR and the BSF had

Jalia, a village in Tripura.

A status quo is now being

catchment.

1500 acres.

Begum Zia said.

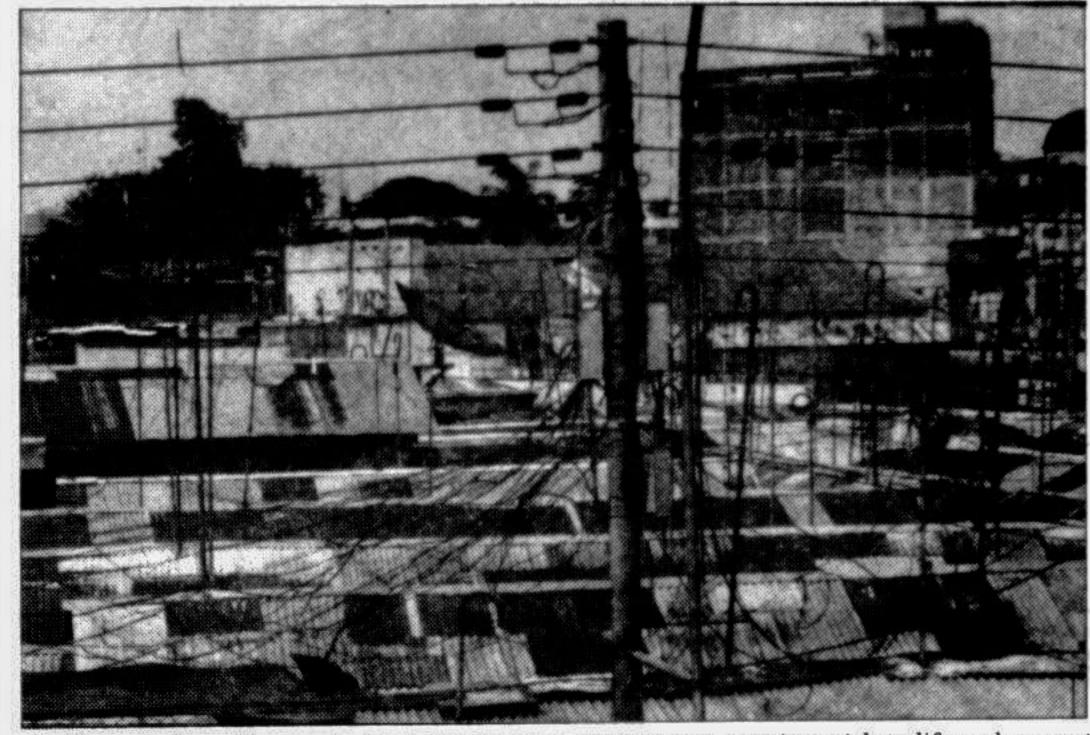
girl students.

illiterate.

CIVIC AMENITIES: Part-4

95 years of electricity in Dhaka

By Reaz Ahmad



Such connections, from a single electricity pole, always pose a serious risk to life and property in the city. This picture was taken at Shyamoli yesterday. — Star photo

go for power rationing in the capital causing inconvenience to the consumers," said a DESA official.

According to sources in PDB, no master plan has yet been taken up to increase the level of power generation. Scarcity of natural fuel and high costs of oil, which is imported, needed for generating electricity in the western zone of the country are being seen as two impediments to gearing up the production.

The present nationwide production shortage of power is about 450 MW, according to PDB sources.

Besides, inadequate generation of power, delay in the implementation of the 3rd phase of Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project is a major reason behind frequent power failures in the city, the sources

Development of power infrastructure is much slower to power production leads us to match the pace of increasing

parts of the metropolis, power distribution is marked by regular disruptions and fluctuation of voltage, they added.

demand. This is why in many

DESA sources said, with the completion of the 3rd phase of network development by the year-end, the situation would considerably improve. Following the completion of

the 1st and 2nd phases in fiscals 1984-85 and 1988-89 respectively, the PDB took up the Taka 728-crore 3rd phase of the project, jointly financed by the ODA and the ADB, for implementation in 1988-89. It's implementation was later shifted to the DESA.

So far, under the 3rd phase, some 1180 new transformers were installed, seven 132/33 KV sub-stations were set up and similar seven other stations were expanded. Besides, nine 33/11 KV sub-stations were set up and 21 others upgraded.

"People's sufferings could

purely on humanitarian

Divisional Sessions and

grounds, the counsels argued.

Special Judge, Dhaka Ansarud

din Sikder, after hearing both

sides, adjourned the proceed-

ings till June 21, when he will

No 33 of 1993 was lodged with

Tejgaon thana on 2.1.1992.

The chargesheet was submit-

ted by the police on 5.8.1993.

sole accused, but a supplemen-

tary charge-sheet, submitted

on 13.2.1995 made one Sultan

Alam Mullick, the person who

was reinstated on Ershad's

that Mullick, once the office

superintendent of the

Suhrawardy Hospital, was rein-

stated on the instructions of

Ershad after more than ten

years of his dismissal on disci-

BUET student

assailants left the scene im-

vailing on the campus last

were deployed on the campus.

out a procession on the Dhaka

University campus yesterday

afternoon and held a protest

rally in front of the Jatiya Press

League, BUET unit, the Bangla-

desh Samajtantrik Dal, the

Samajtantrik Sramik Front and

the Charan Sangskritik Kendra

have demanded immediate

arrest and trial of the persons

of the Bangladesh University of

Engineering & Technology

(BUET) yesterday urged all to

The university authorities

help keep peaceful atmo-

sphere on the campus.

Meanwhile, the authorities

responsible for the killing.

The Bangladesh Chhatra

From Page 1

A tense situation was pre-

Huge police contingents

The SCF activists brought

The prosecution alleges

orders, a co-accused.

plinary grounds.

mediately.

Initially, Ershad was the

The FIR of the Special Case

give his ruling.

be lessened to some extent if the consumers became a little more responsive to the load management policy which dealt with the mechanism for more rational use of power from six pm to 10 pm, the peak-hours," said a DESA offi-

The load management policy has provisions for keeping the irrigation pumps off during peak hours, keeping all kinds of shops and shopping centres except essential ones closed after 8 pm, limiting the use of power consuming electrical appliances, stopping night time operation of singleshift industries and no illumination except on the government-announced special occasions.

Both the DESA and the Dhaka City Corporation have informed people about the load management policy through repeated announcements but received poor response from the consumers, a source concerned pointed out.

Government lawvers and defence counsels for deposed president H M Ershad vesterday argued for more than two hours for and against the indictment of the former general in a corruption case, reports

While special public prosecutor Ashrafuddin Ahmed stated that there was enough material to frame indict the deposed ruler for having illegally reinstated a government officials after a decade of his dismissal, Ershad's counsels claimed that their client had merely made a recommendation so that a petty government official could back his job. That recommendation was

Taslima's trial adjourned again

The Assistant Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (ACMM) yesterday adjourned the trial of Taslima Nasrin on blasphemy charges until June 13 following a petition by the writer's lawyer seeking leave to appeal before a higher

Diplomats

of various on-going development activities in the district. Ambassador of Belgium Xavier Van Migem while thanking the chairman of Local Government Council said that they were highly impressed with the development process in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT). He expressed optimism that the current development initiatives would

condition of the people. Migem was of the view that all development plans should carried out in harmony

Later, the envoys were flown to Kaptai where GOC of the 24th Division Major General Azizur Rahman briefed the envoys about the present sit-

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Ershad acted out of compassion, court told

By Court Correspondent

From Page 1

have favourable impact on peace and socio-economic

with nature and ecology.

uation in the area and the role of the army to ensure the safety and security of the commonman of CHT.

demanded exemplary punishment of the persons involved in the killing of a student Ahmed Ullah at the campus vesterday morning.

The Deans, department heads and provosts of different halls of the university in an emergency meeting at the residence of the Vice Chancellor yesterday evening discussed

campus. The meeting expressed concern over the unruly activities of some students following the killing.

the overall situation on the

Lanka to examine India's request to extradite Prabhakaran

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka, June 3: The government will examine India's request for the extradition of Tamil Tiger rebel leader Velupillai Prabhakaran for his alleged involvement in the assassination of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, officials said today, reports AP.

But the extradition request can't be implemented immediately because Prabhakaran lives in the rebel-controlled northern Jaffna Peninsula and the Sri Lankan government does not know where he is.

The foreign ministry will have to approve the request and petition the high court, said Shibly Aziz, the attorney general The high court would then

issue an order for the rebel leader's arrest, Aziz said. India also asked for the ex-

tradition of two other mem bers of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam, the rebel group which has been fighting the Sri Lankan army since 1983 to win an independent Tamil homeland in the north and

A special messenger carried the extradition requests to Colombo on Saturday, India's Commerce Minister I Chidambaram told Parliament in New Delhi during a debate about the assassination probe.

RU admission

From Page 1

The Vice Chancellor's announcement postponing the admission test regretted "inconvenience to the examinees" and said, "the decision was taken to avert possible violence and contain the deteriorating law and order situation on the campus."

The postponement came after allegations, made by some student organisations on May 31, over the leakage of question papers for admission to the first year honours classes in six faculties.

On that day, the university authorities had formed a committee to investigate the allegation. The committee urged the students, to appear before the committee. But as none appeared the committee dismissed the allegation as "false and baseless."

In protest, the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Chhatra Sangram Parishad have called a strike on the campus till June 8.

Chamber leaders concerned at Govt-BCS (Admin) stand-off

By Staff Correspondent

The country's leading chamber leaders yesterday urged the government to solve the problems relating to the BCS (Admin) cadre for the sake of good governance.

President of The Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry Salman F Rahman, President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry R Maksud Khan and President of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry M Anis Ud Dowla in a joint statement expressed their concern over the present tussle between the government and the bureaucrats.

FMCH opens today

FARIDPUR. June 3: The Faridpur Medical College Hos pital (FMCH) commissions tomorrow with treatment of outdoor patients, officials said. reports UNB.

250-bed hospital will begin from June 10, said Project Director of the FMCH and Civil Surgeon Dr Kazi Syed Ahmed at a press conference here to-

The hospital has been built ment sources that it might Barisal highway.

Admission of patients to the

at a cost of about Tk 13.75 crore on 7.73 acres of land at Hanukandi on the outskirts of the town and beside Faridpur-

STOL service next week

From Page 1

utes to cross the 62 nautical miles between Dhaka and Barisal, he said, adding that initially there would be four flights a day.

Aero Bengal is one of the nine private airlines which got licenses from the Civil Aviation Authority over the past two years to operate STOL services on domestic routes.

"Our second route, Dhaka-Shamsernagar in Sylhet will start from the third week of this month. Later on, we will procure bigger aircraft to fly on other domestic routes, said Iqbal, also the president of the Association of Travel Agents, Bangladesh (ATAB).

Aero Bengal's Vice Chairman, Air Commodore (retd). Moin Ul Islam, Managing Director BH Haroon, Defence Attache of the Chinese embassy in Dhaka Col Wang and a representative of CATIEC in Bangladesh were also present at the briefing.

The Aero Bengal Chairman said the company had not yet fixed the fare, but said it may be about Taka 1,000 for a single journey Iqbal said, "In Dhaka, our

base will be the old airport at Tejgaon. However, to facilitate transfer of international passengers, a special service to ZIA would be made available. He said that the two aircraft, with Canadian Pratt and

Whitney engines had been purchased on a cash payment of Taka 20 crore from the China National Aero Technology Import and Export Corporation (CATIEC), the largest aeroplane industry of China.

The CATIEC representative welcomed the Bangladesh government's decision to open its skies to private airlines and

said. "We are happy that Aero Bengal has joined the Y-12 users family."

He said CATIEC exported 'several thousand' Y-12 to countries including the USA, Malaysia, Nepal, Laos, Cambodia and Sri Lanka.

"This is very good beginning," said Co Wang, the Defence attache of the Chinese embassy.

Explaining the technical aspects of the aircraft, Air Commodore (retd). Moin Ul-Islam said, though a STOL plane requires 2,150 feet of landing distance, as prescribed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the Y-12 can land and take off within a landing distance of only 600 feet.

"Our craft will be able to land on a football ground or on any other hard soil, if necessary. The Y-12 has no record of engine failure in its life his tory," he added "The Y-12 is more roomy

than the ATP. Our pilots, copilots and ground engineers' team comprises seven Chinese and nine Bangladeshis," said the Aero Bengal vice chairman.

Coming to the point of fuel price, the Aero Bengal Managing Director BH Haroon said the government has been giving the state-run Biman an annual subsidy of Taka 22 crore. "The authorities have assured us that we will be provided with fuel at the price that Biman gets it."

Representatives of Aero Bengal Airlines said fuel price are comparatively much higher in Bangladesh than in neighboring India and Pakistan.

After the briefing, the newsmen were taken to the ZIA tarmac to have a look at the two aircraft

The Midnight File

UP state govt sacked

LUCKNOW. June 3: The Utter Pradesh Governor Motifal Vora today dismissed the 18-month old Mulayam Singh Yaday ministry and invited the BSP legislature party leader. Ms Mayawati, to form an alternate government tonight. The swearing-in of Ms Mayawati is scheduled at 2230 hours tonight. Yadav, who called on the Governor this evening, was asked by Vora to resign since he has lost his majority. The BJP has extended support to Ms Mayawati from outside the state assembly, reports PTI.

30 Tamil rebels killed

COLOMBO. June 3: At least 34 people, including 30 Tamil Tiger rebels were killed in a battle in the eastern jungles where troops have been hunting for guerillas for four days, the military said Saturday. "Ground troops confirm a minimum of 30 Tigers killed and more than 20 wounded in the Kumburupiddi jungle in Trincomalee district," said spokesman Lt. Col S Handapangoda, reports AP.

Maudud's new book

From Page 1

Ershad as a lesser evil than the BNP.

Maudud said the public suspicion that Ershad, and the Awami League were cooperating was fuelled by the regime's soft attitude towards India.

This allowed Ershad to survive in power without any definite politics of his own. and allowed the AL to contain the politics of the BNP and consolidate its position in national politics.

The book, published by the University Press Limited in Dhaka, has been released si multaneously by the Oxford University Press in Islamabad and Karachi, and Vikas Publishing House Ltd in New Delhi and Calcutta.

Former chief justice Kemaluddin Hossain chaired the function organised at the National Museum auditorium in the afternoon.

Prof Talukdar Maniruzza man, Prof KM Mohsin and Dr Muntasir Mamun of the Dhaka University, Holiday Editor AZM Enayetullah Khan and Morning Sun Editor Atiqul Alam took part in the review.

The book, in 12 chapters, deals with the fall of Mujib, Zia and Ershad, coups and mutinies, comparative studies on Zia and Ershad as military rulers, and crisis of democ-

Some reviewers mentioned the author's active role under the two military regimes of Zia and Ershad that caused damage to democracy and judi-

Docs continue

strike By Staff Correspondent

The doctors at the Suhra-

wardy Hospital have continued their strike. Only emergency services are being provided by a skeleton staff. The Director of the Hospi-

tal. Dr Akhtaruzzaman, told-The Daily Star yesterday that efforts are on to bring an end to the strike and he was hopeful the hospital would be able to restore normal activities within a day or two.

The strike began on May 29 following the death of a patient at the hospital after which angry relatives reportedly assaulted two doctors on duty. In a protest against the incident and demanding security, doctors, nurses and employees called for the indefinite strike.

JP MPs join BNP From Page 1 MP. I observed the politics of

development introduced by the BNP.

Advocate Abdul Majid said he decided to join the BNP being imbued with the ideals of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and the welfare- oriented activities of Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman.

He also said that he joined the BNP to take part in the nation-building activities.

Presided over by Doara Bazar thana BNP president Nuruzzaman Chowdhury, the meeting was also addressed, by Ebadur Rahman MP, Nazir Hossain MP, former MP Kalimuddin Milon and BNP leaders Gulzar Ahmed, Syed Mohammed Faisal and Fazlul Haq Ashtia.

Child labour From Page 1

At the first meeting on Wednesday last, the BGMEA proposed involving the ILO to independently monitor compliance with an accord to end the use of child labour in the garment sector

The BGMEA president had proposed that the ILO, as an ndependent UN organisation dealing specifically with labour issues, should take up the monitoring role and hoped that that would be acceptable to all parties concerned.

In rejecting the earlier MOU the BGMEA had obected to allowing outside non governmental organisations to pay surprise visits to garment factories to monitor compliance with the MOU. At the time the BGMEA said that it would have no objections if the monitoring was done by the US embassy, the Unicef or any other international organisa tion. But both the US embassy and Unicef later declined to be involved in a monitoring role

The author had served the Zia and Ershad regimes as Deputy Prime Minister, Prime Minister and Vice-President.

said it would have been better if the author had elaborated on issues such as the declaration of independence, nationalism and secularism. Prof Mohsin said the book

Justice Kemaluddin Hossain

is well-documented but there is no classified information in

Enayetullah Khan said there is a difference between a mutiny and a coup, and Gen Zia should not be described as a usurper of power. There are a lot of myths in the book about the killing of Zia and General Manzoor, he added.

Atiqul Alam said the book is a bombshell for the Jativa Party as it exposes Ershad as a corrupt ruler and a womanizer. Dr Muntasir Mamun said

the author, who has a fascination for power and has no political ideology, does not mention whether Zia had any consent behind the assassination of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. In his harsh criticism, Dr

be dedicated to the cause of democracy in Bangladesh since Maudud, as an associate of the two military rulers, had himself caused immense harm to democracy. Welcoming the criticisms.

Mamun said the book cannot

the author said he had tried his best to write the book as objectively as possible. "I admit that I have not been able to write the whole truth.... I will write more about it in future," he promised.

Maudud said the views expressed in his book were exclusively his own and have no connection with the party he

now belongs to. 185 Bangladeshis

From Page 1 to avert legal actions of the two

countries, it was learnt. Diplomats here expressed surprises over the illegal acts being committed by dishonest manpower agents for a long time, deceiving the authorities of the two countries.

A huge number of people from other South Asian countries were also illegally staying in different parts of Thailand, carrying Bangladeshi pass-

The source said that 77 such cases had been detected recently and their passports

seized. Their misdeeds apparently cause harm to the image of Bangladeshi nationals living in Thailand. Bangladeshis staying here with valid documents are generally recognised as peace-

TCB to import tyre-tube

loving and law abiding.

The government will import tyre-tube through the state-run TCB and allow free indent for their import to check price hike, reports

The decision was taken at a meeting yesterday in the conference room of the Commerce Ministry with Commerce and Information Minister Shamsul Islam in the chair. The representatives of

traders sought direct measures for sufficient supply of tyretube in the market. Transport association lead-

ers in the meeting stressed the need for opening up indenting under the open market system. The meeting, on the opinion of the traders and im-

porters, decided to allow free indent by the traders to import tyre-tube for ensuring adequate supply in the market. Shamsul Islam sought cooperation from all in removing

any impediment to developing the transport sector. NATO

From Page 1 He said it was uncertain if Belgium would contribute troops. But a Bruish defence

officials said on condition of anonymity that Holland, Canada and New Zealand have offered troops "We're not going in with

the question of 'ls this a good idea to do but how do we go about doing it." US Defence Secretary William Perry told reporters before the meeting