The Midnight Rile

Rally against trial of Sharif

prices of this delicious fish remain high. - Star photo

9 killed, 15 injured in road accidents By Staff Corespondent

killed and 15 injured in road accidents in the country Saturday and yesterday.

Our correspondent in Gaibandha says, five people were killed on the spot while three others sustained serious injuries when a Rangpur-bound loaded truck (Bogra Ta 3733) dashed a parked vehicle at Moheshpur on Bogra-Rangpur highway yesterday morning. The injured persons were

admitted to the Rangpur Medical College Hospital in critical condition.

cidents on Dhaka-Aricha and Nabinagar-Kaliakayr roads in Savar thana vesterday. Witnesses said a young boy.

Manik Mia, was crushed under the wheels of a running truck at the Hemayetpur bus stand afternoon.

truck knocked him down on Savar-Kaliakyr road near Baroipara bus stand vesterday

The bodies were sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

sovereignty stood threatened

as foreign debts and aids regis-

tered a sharp rise and poverty

The worst and direct vic-

tims of the changed scenario

are the working class faced

with loss of job, mounting

unemployment and increased

Ershad accused

Last week the officers of

From Page I

the Criminal Investigation

Department interrogated

Ershad inside the Dhaka

Central Jail regarding his role

in the murder of Gen Manzur.

Ershad was the chief of Army

Staff when the incident took

Three retired military offi-

cials, namely, Maj Gen M A

Latif, Lt Col Shamsur Rahman

and Major Kazi Emdadul Haq.

were arrested by the police

following the filing of a first in-

formation report (FIR) by

Manzur's elder brother Abul

Mansoor, with Panchlaish

thana of Chittagong on March

I last, nearly 14 years after the

death of the general, believed

to have led the unsuccessful

now being detained in the

Comilla, Tangail and Dhaka

jails. All three made judicial

statements admitting their in-

volvement in the alleged

crime. However, at later

stages, all made applications

before the court seeking to

retract their statements.

by the courts. They were pro-

duced before the CMM,

Chittagong, on June 1 during

formal charges against all the

The CID is likely to file

All three were refused bail

recorded by magistrates.

the hearing of the case.

accused soon.

Latif, Shams and Emdad are

magistrates in Dhaka.

place.

coup bid.

situation further worsened.

Meanwhile an activist of the Jativatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was killed and his two associates were injured in a road accident at Fazilpur in Feni Sadar thana on Saturday. Ehsanul Karim Masum of

Feni district JCD unit succumbed to his injuries on way to Dhaka. He was, earlier, admitted to the Feni Medical College Hospital with his two associates — lqbal Hossain and Zohir Hossain. The victims were going to Muhuriganj in Chhagolnaiya thana riding on a motor cycle. Another report said: One

person was killed and another 10 injured, four seriously, in a road accident on Jamalpur-Sherpur road on Saturday, police and hospital sources said.

The victim, identified as Nazmul Huq Shahadat, 26, succumbed to his severe injuries on way to hospital. He hailed from Gouripur in Sherpur pourashava.

Witnesses said the accident occurred at about 2:30 pm when a Dhaka-bound coach "dreamland" turned turtle in a roadside ditch at Kulur Char in sadar thana after the driver

Tk 151cr KCC budget announced

From Our Correspondent KHULNA, June 11: The Mayor of the Khulna City Corporation. Sheikh Tayebur Rahman, today announced a hundred and fifty-one crore taka budget for the 1995-96 fiscal year. No new taxes have been imposed.

In the proposed budget, Tk 96.94 crore has been shown as government grant. Over Tk 28.90 crore will come from the KCC's own sources and the rest Tk 25.89 crore from special project grant.

A grant of ten erore taka from the Prime Minister's special fund has been shown in the budget.

Tk 20.89 crore has been earmarked for development of drainage and sanitation of slum areas of the city with the financial support of the Asian Development Bank.

Tk 48 crore has been proposed to be spent for various development work and Tk 12.23 crore for solving the water crisis in the city.

Revision petition on behalf of Taslima rejected

The District and Sessions Judge Dhaka, Mohammad Abdus Salam, yesterday summarily rejected a revisional petition on behalf of controversial writer Taslima Nasrin, reports

The petition was filed before the court yesterday against the order of acceptance of the government's sanction letter under section 188 of the CrPC, necessary for prosecuting Taslima for an offence committed outside the country. Rejecting the petition, the

judge observed that there was no power of attorney nor any authorisation from Taslima to file this revisional case. There was no illegality in the lower court's order either, he added Earlier, on May 20, Addi-

tional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka, A K M Kamaluddin found the sanction letter filed by the government to prosecute Taslima valid.

Public Prosecutor Abdur Razzaque Khan appeared for the State while Sara Hossain and Zahirul Islam stood for the accused.

Storm From Page 1 the evening

Normal life in the port city as well as in Cox's Bazar and outlying areas were disrupted due to intermittent rainfall and gusty wind.

It is also learnt that communications between Cox's Bazar and Moheskhali and Kutubdia and between Teknaf and St. Martin's island were af-

News agency reports mentioned that Haldia, Rezu and Matamuhori rivers crossed



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a huge public meeting at the Kuliarchar college ground in Kishoregonj district yesterday. - PID photo

BNP will make country self-reliant: Khaleda

KATIADI (Kishoreganj) June 11: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today said that her government will continue the present development programmes for the welfare of the people despite the opposi tion's "anti-development activities," reports UNB.

Addressing a public meet ing at Gachhihata College ground in the afternoon, she said the opposition was trying to obstruct the various development works through hartal and demonstration.

Implementation of the development programme by the BNP government in last four vears was much more than what was done in the past 20 years, the Prime Minister told the public meeting amid heavy

In an oblique reference to the Awami League, Begum Zia said how the party which could not give food and clothes to seven crore people would take the responsibility of 12 crore people.

In this context, she alleged that the post-independent government had looted relief goods, keeping people without food and clothes.

"BNP will reach the fruits of independence to the common people.... BNP will make the country self-reliant," she said.

Responding to a local demand, the Prime Minister as sured that steps would be taken to construct a bridge between Katiadi in Kishoregani and Monohardi in Narsinghdi.

Presided over by Katiadi thana BNP president Habibur Rahman Bhuiyan, the meeting was addressed by BNP Secretary General and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah Al-Noman, Major (retd) Akhtaruzzaman MP. Sardar Sakhawat Hossain Bakul

Earlier in the morning. Begum Zia addressed a separate public meeting at Kuliarchar College ground.

Visits Thakurgaon today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia leaves Dhaka today for Thakurgaon where she will address a public meeting at the Haripur Jadurani High School ground in the afternoon, reports UNB.

She will also apprise hersel of the progress of primary and mass education activities of the district. Later on the day. Begum Zia

will fly to Dinajpur and address a workers' meeting there. She will stay overnight at Dinajpur. She will inaugurate the Na tional Tree Plantation Campaign '95 at 10:30 am at Ra

jarampur in Dinajpur tomorrow and distribute saplings among the school students. Begum Zia will distribute the 'Prime Minister's Award on

tificates. Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain will preside over the function.

Tree Plantation '93' and cer-

After the function in Dinaipur, Begum Zia will leave for Gaibandha district and address a public meeting at Majumder hat in Sundarganj thana.

The Prime Minister will return to the capital tomorrow

CHT truce From Page 1

problems could be resolved. an official said quoting the let ter signed by the PCJSS spokesman Ushaton Talukder.

The proposed talks will be held on the basis of PCJSS's five-point draft proposal, the PCJSS leaders said demanding release of its 10 activists by

Present JS has no locus standi to pass budget: AL

By Staff Correspondent Awami League general secretary Zillur Rahman said yesterday that the present Jatiya Sangsad has no locus standi to pass any budget since it had lost legitimacy following the resignation of the Opposition

At a public meeting at Uttar Khan in the city. Zillur said his party was struggling to free the country from the corrupt rulers of the BNP' and to restore the people's rights to vote and food. To this end, he added they were demanding a non-party caretaker administration to conduct the next general elections. "We will compel the BNP government to resign," he said. Chaired by Khandakar Tarif,

the rally was also addressed by Advocate Shahra Khatun and the publisher of the daily Banglabazar Patrika, Zakaria

Bus stand From Page 1

gar and Malibagh crossings disrupting traffic movement for over two hours from 11 am

The owners of the inter-city luxury coaches, who had been using the main thoroughfare in the busy Fakirerpool area as their stand, were earlier served with eviction notices by the DCC, said Motifheel police.

When contacted last night. police sources said they got cooperation from vehicle owners, who had earlier closed their booking counters to comply with the DCC's notice.

"However, we found a number of buses standing on roads and drove those to Rajarbagh police line ground. From there, the vehicles were later driven to an open space beside the Biswa Road near Kamlapur Railway Station," said a police

to be resolved. And I think the

main reason for this optimism

is because it seems that the

campaigning has already been

started by the major political

parties. So, you know, obvi-

ously if they did not intend to

participate in the elections or

if there was any doubt that the

elections would not be held, I

don! think people would have

started to spend their time.

energy and resources on cam-

paigning. On the other hand, if

it does not happen, then of

course it will be very, very

dangerous for the economy.

Because without political sta-

bility you cannot have eco-

DS: Do you think the ongo-

SFR: Oh, definitely, Because

ing political stalemate has had

any negative impact on the

of this political stalemate and

because Parliament has been

virtually non-functioning, it has

definitely had a negative im-

pact on the economy. The

economic growth would have

been much more and invest-

ments would have been much

more, had there been political

stability and had there been a

nomic development.

economy?

Justice Rouf

The Tk 14 crore 22 lakh NDi: project can provide a vast range of information. It would be very useful for business and financial institutions and an entrepreneur can easily do marketing research with data

What would have cost say trepreneur.

greater scope for attracting international business. Since the cost of data entry will be much lower than in most countries many overseas companies will want to use NDB for their own data entry which, in turn will financially benefit Bangladesh. Thus it will also attract foreign investment, he said.

will take four years to be implemented, will also provide scope for generating employ-

are working for the project and several others will be appointed eventually. An NDBrun monitoring team will ensure smooth operation and proper maintenance of the computers.

cuted through two high powered committees. A national coordination committee will comprise representatives of education, different research bodies, chambers of commerce, financial institutions and standing committee, having local and foreign experts, will determine the type of technology, network and selection of modem.

From Page 1

meeting scheduled to be held

Mauritius meeting, a three-day second track meeting began in Perth, Australia, yesterday. Some 28 countries are attending the meeting under the banner of International Fora on Indian Ocean Rim. Bangladesh has nominated its minister at the Australian High Commission to attend as observer. President of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industries (FBCCI) Salman F Rahman is also likely to attend the meeting, although not as a govern-

meeting.

tion, he said that sub-regional organisations like the SAARC. GCC and ASEAN have also not been consulted about the IOR. He, however, added that launching of IOR would not diminish the role of the subregional organisations but stressed the need for involving all the Indian Ocean Rim countries in any such move to make it a success.

Japanese aid From Page 1

eration between Dhaka and Tokyo on both bilateral and international issues.

ticularly investment in Bangladesh and expansion of bilateral trade Japan, the largest donor to

He also showed his coun-

try's keen interest in extending aid to other SAARC countries and ASEAN nations. Mostafiz thanked the

continued support of his country to the welfare of Bangladesh. The Foreign Minister renewed Bangladesh's support to

Hakuo, who arrived here Saturday night on a three-day visit, is leading a four-member delegation.

Japan's move for becoming a

From Page 1

the simultaneous holding of the two constitutional posts of the Chief Election Commissioner and a judge of the High Court by Justice Rouf.

The second writ was filed by Advocate Mohsin, Rashid challenging the authority under which Justice Rouf was holding the post of a judge of the High Court Division.

The first writ came up for hearing yesterday before Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice MM Ruhul Amin. Pleading on behalf of the

government. Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khandaker cited the 11th Amendment to the Constitution and said that holding of the two posts by Justice Rouf was not a violation of the Constitution. He also mentioned that the

two earlier writs had both become infructuous. The appointment of Justice

Rouf as the Chief Election Commissioner, in December 1990, and his simultaneous holding of the post of a High Court judge had been ratified and protected by the amendment. Wadud Khandker argued. He further said that the

condition of the appointment of Justice Abdur Rouf as the CEC by Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed had kept a provision for his return to the High Court, which could not be questioned in any court of law. Advocate MI Farooqui

lawyer for petitioner Salimullah, referred to the Constitution, a few law books and laws of other countries in favour of his contention that the appointment of Justice Rouf could be challenged. Justice Rouf's return to the

High Court was a violation of the Constitution since the service of a judge is service of the republic, and none can be absorbed in the service of the republic after holding the post of the CEC. Farooqui argued.

Hydrocarbon

From Page 1 spectively after months of negotiations.

The government had earlier signed agreements with the two companies for exploration of gas and oil in the Bay of Bengal - Block-16 - last year and with the Occidental of the USA for exploration in Syl-

The PSC for Block-15 has been formulated in line with the PSC for Block-16 submitted by the same companies.

het region.

On November 15 last the foreign companies initialled the PSC for Block-15 which covers the Semutang gas field. This unutilised gas field has a reserve of about 100 billion cubic feet of gas and the foreign companies propose to supply gas to the national grid through the Chittagong-Bakhrabad line by developing the reserve.

Ashura From Page 1

Various social and religious

organisations held Quran Khwani, Milad Mahfils and seminars to mark the day. A week-long fair began Saturday at Azimpur in the city. The day was a public holi-

Bangladesh Television put up special programmes while newspapers published articles highlighting the significance of the day.

sand mourners, including children, participating in it.

The processionists mar-

ched through Bakshi Bazar. Lalbag, Azimpur, New Market and dispersed at Dhanmandi Lake in the afternoon. Dewanbag Darbar Sharif or-

ganised a grand 'jalsa' at Modanpur in Narayanganj thana at 10 am to mark the holy Ashura. Islamic thinkers

their respective danger levels. | MP and Bani Ashraf MP. Strategy for higher growth rate a must

From Page 1

have a clear-cut strategy on how to achieve a much higher growth rate than what we have been able to do. That is, I

SFR: I think that the thrust

of the reforms are definitely in

think, priority number one. DS: What are your views on the on-going economic reform programme? Do you think the thrust of the reforms are in the right direction? Is the pace of the reforms appropri-

the right direction and I feel very strongly that the reforms are needed for the high growth rate that we are talking about. However, what we have always been saying is that reforms are part of a total package. If you implement part of the package and you don't implement another part of it, the reforms and its results become distorted. And that is happening in our industry. We had said that we needed an exportled growth and so we needed to place emphasis on export, which we have done. But, at the same time, before we can liberalise our domestic market, we need to strengthen our industrial or manufacturing base. And the kind of package which is needed to strengthen that base, the enabling envi-

start CSE operation soon

business plan' will be formucountry's second stock exchange in Chittagong.

chair.

asked to submit the plan within 15 days.

work load with hardly any scope for acquisition of knowl edge necessary in the context of new technology application.

drastically amended to the detriment of the toiling masses depriving them of min-

Nurul Islam, president of Bangladesh Trade Union Centre, was made convenor of the committee which will dissem-

will also collect signature on the workers' rights and submit to the governments of the SAARC countries.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the executive committee of the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) held here today with Amir Khosru

DS: So, you think the pace of the reforms should be expedited? SFR: Oh yes, absolutely. The

part of a total package. Not in the isolated manner in which it is being implemented. DS: What impact did the reforms have on the performance of the overall economy?

Do you have any alternative

suggestions?

pace must be expedited, but as

ronment which is needed, that

is not being created. So, that

distorts the whole reform pro-

SFR: The impact has been tremendous in that we have never had this kind of macro level stability ever in our history. And I think that is the direct result of the economic reform process. You see, here the most important thing

which is needed is consensus. You need consensus in society. among the politicians and the opinion-makers. A consensus on the fact that a high growth rate is needed. That is the first and foremost thing. Everybody has to accept this. Once you accept it, there can be debate and arguments about the different ways of achieving a high growth rate and the timeframe over which you will achieve it. But at this moment even about the high growth rate scenario, I don't think there is a clear conceptual consensus. And until we have that, we will not be able to get out of this poverty trap.

DS: In brief, what, in your opinion, are the specific problems in the agriculture, industrial and financial sectors?

SFR: This is too broad a question. DS: But would you talk about

some of the problems specially

in the industrial and financial

sectors? SFR: The biggest problem that we are now facing in the industrial sector is in the area of energy- power, gas and petroleum. The entire energy sector is going to be a major obstacle to industrialisation, if we cannot resolve the problems. Then we also have other infrastructural problems. The most serious problem, both in the industrial and the financial sectors, is in the legal area. We desperately need legal reforms and we need it very, very fast. Our entire legal system has to be overhauled. Our laws are outdated and our legal system is also outdated.

Then, another area is telecommunications. You know, there is an information technology explosion taking place in the world. Our laws and our policies are keeping us completely shut out from what is happening in the world as regards information technology. This is a major handicap both in the financial as well as the industrial sectors. DS: Has the ongoing finan-

cial sector reforms gone far

enough? What else remains to SFR: I think the financial

be done? sector reform programme has done very well in certain areas and in certain others it has not really been able to make a dent. In the areas in which it has done well is the restoration of financial discipline in both the public and private sector banks. But in the areas of actually developing expertise and technology of financial management under the present international order, that has not happened. We had hoped that the financial sector reforms would have addressed

this aspect of modernisation. DS: What is the short-term

economic outlook? SFR: What do you mean by short-term? DS: The next two to three

SFR: I think that the shortterm economic outlook for the country is good if you can manage the economy properly. You can do it in as much as your exports are growing and your foreign remittances are increasing. I feel that if you can really address the problem areas which I have mentioned. the short-term economic outlook is good. But of course, I would like to sound a note of warning. And that again brings me back to the problems in the energy sector. Because the energy sector problem, in the short-term, is going to be critical. And, in fact, it could very easily make the shortterm economic outlook very bleak indeed, if remedial measures are not taken in the energy sector on a crash programme basis immediately.

DS: What is your opinion about the current political scenario? What impact did it have on the economy? Any suggestions to improve the political climate? SFR: Well, at the moment a

lot of people seem to be quite optimistic that the elections will definitely be held with ev-

So, I think the suggestion would be that leaders of all segments of society should actually depend on the average citizens, the silent majority. We should now insist that the silent majority should not remain silent anymore. And that we should voice our concerns. that we want to get out of this poverty trap. It is possible to do so and to do it we need visionary political leadership and we need consensus. And until and unless our political leader-

DS: Any suggestion to improve the present political climate? SFR: I have always said that

working Parliament.

you should never ignore the intellect of the common citizens. We tend to underestimate them, which we should not do. ship provides us with that, we should insist that they provide erybody participating. So, that us with the opportunity of getmeans the stalemate is going ting out of the poverty trap.

batoncharged: 20 injured LAHORE. June 11: At least 20 people including four re-

porters were injured as police here batoncharged opposition workers protesting against the trial of former premier Nawaz Sharif, police and witnesses said. Some 50 people including about a dozen women forcing their way into the heavily guarded sprawling court complex, chanting slogans against the government of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto and the judiciary, reports AFP.

India does not have N-bomb: Rao PARIS. June 11: India does not have a nuclear bomb

although it has all the resources to build one. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao says in an interview to be published in France tomorrow. "The Pakistanis have the atomic bomb but we don't have it." he told the conservative daily Le Figaro at the start of a four-day official visit to France, reports AFP.

Data bank

From Page 1

ing to women issues. provided by NDB, said Bhuiyan.

Taka 10 lakh to do alone and take several years will cost only about Taka 1000 and the information would be available instantaneously to an en-NDB will also provide

The NDB project, which

At present, some 87 people

The project will be exethe ministries of planning, finance, establishment and computer suppliers, while a

IOR

in March, 1996. Against the backdrop of the

ment nominee. Responding to a question the Foreign Ministry spokesman said that several countries of the Indian Ocean region like Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Indonesia, Iran and Malaysia have not been invited to the

Replying to another ques-

The meeting mainly focused on economic cooperation, par-

Bangladesh, is keen to play more active role in development activities of Bangladesh. Hakuo said in the meeting.

Japanese Vice-Minister for the

permanent member of the Security Council.

In the capital, the day was prominently leatured by traditional Tazia processions brought out from different parts of the city. Thousands of mourners took part in the processions, pounding their chests and groaning "Hai Hossain, Hai Hossain.'

Radio Bangladesh and

The main procession under the banner "Karbalar Shaheedander Shoke Matom Michhil" was brought out from Hussani Dalan Imambara at-10:30 am with several thou-

and scholars spoke highlight ing the significance of the day.



Despite abundant supply of Hilsa in the city markets the

At least nine persons were

UNB adds: Two people were killed in two separate road ac-

on Dhaka-Aricha road in the In another accident, an unidentified man aged about 35 died on the spot when a

evening.

SAARC TUs oppose From Page 1

> Succumbing to the pressure of foreign capital, the seminar viewed, labour laws were being imum job security.

inate information and coordinate the activities in pursuance of the objectives of the semi-Trade unionists also agreed to observe September 13, 1995 as a Workers' Day in SAARC countries through demonstrations and rallies. They

Business plan' to

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG. June 11: A lated to start operation of the

Mahmud Chowdhury MP. chairman of the CSE, in the A director of the CSE has been assigned to prepare the business plan. He has been

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