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# The Daily Star

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**STOCK MARKET**  
 DSE price index 789.61 (+0.07%)  
 Market capital Tk 48.90 billion  
 Transactions in volume 142536  
 Transactions in value Tk 21.79 million

**Metropolitan**  
**Day by Day**  
 Watch Fixer Knows Professional Tricks Well Page 3

**Holiday Notice**  
 The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today (Thursday) on account of Eid-e-Miladunnabi. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow (Friday).

**NEWS BRIEFS**  
**Shops ransacked**  
 By Staff Correspondent  
 A group of unidentified persons ransacked five shops and damaged vehicles in Motijheel area in the city yesterday afternoon. They beat up one young man when attacked Hazir Hotel in the area at about 5:30 pm, police said. The cause of the attack could not be known immediately.

**Banned medicine seized at ZIA**  
 By Staff Correspondent  
 Customs officials at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) seized banned medicine worth about Tk 1.76 lakh yesterday morning. The customs surveillance team recovered the medicine from a Bangladeshi passenger arrived Dhaka from Karachi by an Emirates flight at about 9:30 am.

**Fire in Hotel Sheraton room**  
 A fire broke out in a room behind the main building of the Hotel Sheraton last night. According to hotel sources, the fire originating from an electric short circuit, burnt some old papers in the room.

**3 electrocuted**  
 SIRAJGANJ, Aug 9: Three people including two farmers in Kazipur thana were electrocuted in separate incidents, police said today. According to police, Mofizuddin, 37, a farmer of Shimuldaiz village and Abdul Bari, 26, of Satkora village came in contact with live electric wires and died.

## EC defers by-polls to vacant JS seats

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday deferred by-elections to 144 vacant parliamentary seats because of 'natural calamity' caused by recent floods in different parts of the country.

The reports that we have got from deputy commissioners are not satisfactory and there is also a forecast of severe flood," Chief Election Commissioner Justice A K M Sadeque told The Daily Star yesterday.

The EC felt that the by-elections to vacant seats could not be held within the 90-day limit, which expires on September 17, because of flood situation.

As per Article 123 (4) of the Constitution, the by-elections to these vacant seats now would be held within 90 days from September 17, according to an EC announcement.

A total of 142 parliamentary seats fell vacant as the Opposition MPs remained absent from the House for 90 consecutive sitting days, while two more seats fell vacant due to the death of two ruling party MPs.

Justice Sadeque said that though they had constitutional obligation to hold by-elections to the vacant seats by September 17, the EC could also defer the elections by another 90 days because of natural calamity.

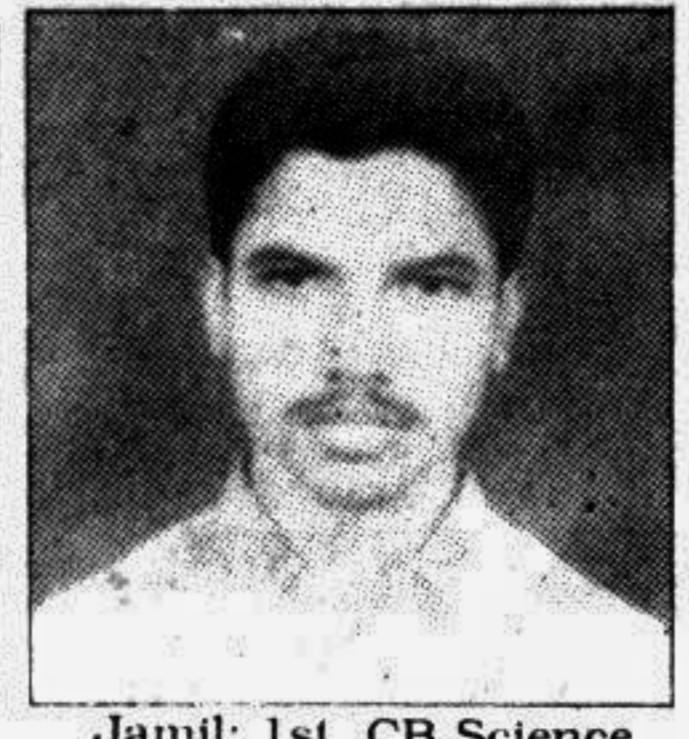
The EC said that they would convene a meeting with the political parties shortly to discuss the draft code of conduct that the EC formulated recently.

"We would also discuss the proposed Political Party Act that would compel the parties to get registered and some other issues such as debarring the 'defaulters' from contesting polls," he said.

The EC has prepared a draft law namely, Political Party Act. The draft law would be sent to the Law Ministry for the approval of the government, he said.

About debarring the defaulters, he said that big parties might oppose creation of such a rule. "The smaller parties already raised the demand for debarring the defaulters from contesting elections. Now it would be possible to enact such law if all parties reach a consensus," he added.

The EC thought that there was scope in the proposed Political Party Act



Jamil: 1st. CB Science



Nelima: 1st. CB Social Science



Rehana: 1st among girls in CB



Alamgir: 2nd. CB Science

## 74.93 pc come out successful CB pc of pass highest in four boards

**By Staff Correspondent**

The results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) Examination of 1995 under the Comilla Board were announced yesterday.

Out of a total of 1,89,605 candidates who sat for the examinations held in April and May, 1,42,062 came out successful, the percentage of pass being 74.93, the highest of the four education boards.

Of the successful candidates, 69,597 passed in first division, 71,091 in second division and 1,374 in third division.

The number of female students who appeared in the examinations was 79,487, of whom 72.47 per cent or 57,608 came out successful.

Out of a total of 62,601 candidates including 17,316 female examinees in the Science group, 87.33 per cent or 54,670 passed.

In the Social Science group, there were 1,27,004 candidates including 62,171 female students, of whom 87,392 came out successful, the percentage of pass being 68.81. Jamil Taufiq Imam of Comilla Zila School topped the combined merit list of Science group securing 906 marks with letters in seven subjects.

Alamgir Muhammad Faruqi of Collegiate School, Chittagong, secured the second position in this group getting 888 marks with letters in six subjects.

A H M Anwar Sadmani of Sylhet Cadet College obtained the third position in this group securing 887 marks. He got letters in seven subjects.

First three positions in the combined merit list of

## Miladunnabi today

The Eid-e-Miladunnabi, birth and death anniversary of Prophet Hazrat Muhammad (SM), will be celebrated all over the country today, reports UNB.

Prophet Muhammad (SM), greatest of all prophets, was born in Makkah in Saudi Arabia 1425 years ago.

In a message on the occasion, President Abdur Rahman Biswas called for following the teachings and

**Editorial on page 4**

ideals of the Prophet for alleviating poverty and strengthening democracy.

In a separate message, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia urged the countrymen as well as Muslim Ummah to work for the welfare of the mankind and global peace, imbued with the teachings and ideals of the Prophet.

In a message on the occasion, Awami League Chief Sheikh Hasina said Hazrat

## Tactic to buy time, says Opposition

**By Staff Correspondent**

The major opposition parties yesterday termed the deferral of by-elections to the 144 parliamentary seats another act of violation of the Constitution and its tactic to buy time.

Leaders of the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami, in their instant reactions to the deferral, told The Daily Star last night that the BNP government had influenced the EC to defer the by-polls only to prolong its stay in power by ignoring the popular demand for dissolving the present 'illegal' parliament to pave

the way for fresh general elections under a non-party caretaker administration.

They also warned the government of the consequences of violating of the Constitution and the democratic norms time and again.

The opposition leaders also blamed the government for what they said turning the EC into an instrument of it and said no fair polls were possible under this EC.

Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman, in a press statement, accused the BNP government of conspiring to prolong its illegal rule

## 71.90 pc pass Rajshahi Board SSC exams

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Rajshahi Board yesterday announced the results of the SSC examinations of 1995 with the percentage of pass being 71.90.

Out of a total of 1,97,334 candidates, 1,41,888 came out successful, the percentage of pass being 71.87.

Of the 40,221 candidates including 9,544 female students in the Science Group, 86.88 per cent or 34,946 came out successful.

Of the 1,57,113 including 58,427 female students, who appeared in the examinations under Social Science Group, 1,06,942 passed, the percentage of pass being 68.07.

A B M Toufique Hasan of Dinajpur Zila School topped the combined merit list of

**Merit lists on back page**

Science Group securing 897 marks with distinction in seven subjects.

Abul Bashir Md Mahbulul Haque of Rajshahi Government Laboratory School secured the second position getting 892 marks while Rayeesa Nafis of Government PN Girls' High

## France-Bangla chamber formed

**By Staff Correspondent**

France-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCIFB) has been formed in the city to give, as organisers say, an impetus to the growing economic relations between the two countries.

The chamber, formed recently, is awaiting the authorities endorsement for commissioning.

"At a time when Bangladesh has achieved significant macro economic stability and is enjoying an advantage in trade with France, I believe the proposed chamber will be able to play a vital role," Ambassador of France in Bangladesh and Honorary President of the CCIFB Jean-Michel Lacombe said at a function of the newly-formed

## K S Nabi defends Awami League stand Lone BNP in JS claims majority

**Star Report**

Awami League Law Secretary Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia's views on the AL demand, published in The Daily Star Tuesday.

Quoting Article 65 of the Constitution, Nabi said Parliament has been described as the 'House of the Nation' which shall consist of 300 members to be elected directly from 300 territorial constituencies. Besides, 30 women MPs would be elected through indirect elections.

The AL leader maintained that after the vacation of 142 seats belonging to the Opposition, Parliament is now half-empty and also incomplete. "There is no Opposition in it, though Opposition is an integral part of parliamentary democracy," Nabi also referred to Section 2 of Parliament's

Rules of Procedure which define the functions of the leaders of the House and the Opposition. "But the present Parliament is functioning without any leader of the Opposition — this too makes its existence illegal."

Referring to Articles 142 and 52, which provide that support by at least two-thirds of the total number of MPs is needed for amending the Constitution and impeaching the President, Nabi said that the present Parliament does not have the strength to take such steps. "Therefore, this Parliament is now ineffective and unconstitutional."

The AL Law Secretary dismissed Barrister Rafiq's contention that the two-thirds majority is needed

## Legal notice on EC to announce by-poll schedule

A lawyer gave a notice to the Election Commission (EC) with a call for announcing the schedule for by-election in vacant seats of Parliament by August 16, reports UNB.

The notice demanding justice was sent by Advocate Md Sadequr Rahman on behalf of Advocate M Saleem Ullah reminding the EC of its constitutional obligation to hold by-election in the vacant seats by September 17.

The lawyer in his notice, however, mentioned that if the EC failed to publish gazette notification in this regard, he would be compelled to invoke writ jurisdiction of the Supreme Court

## Eliadah freed on grounds of benefit of doubt

**By SC Correspondent**

A Division Bench of the High Court Division yesterday ordered release of the American girl Eliadah McCord convicted of carrying heroin after reducing her punishment on grounds of 'benefit of doubt'.

The Division Bench of the High Court of the Supreme Court comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hoque and Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam also instructed the DIG (Prison) to hand over Eliadah to the US Ambassador or his representative if she is not wanted in any other case. It was the desire of the court that the US Ambassador would arrange her return to homeland.

The court, though issued an advance order to set her at liberty immediately, yesterday it was not ready to communicate with the DIG (Prison). It would take two days to release her, as the court will remain closed today and tomorrow, her counsel Md. Obaidur Rahman Mostafa said last night.

Though the HC allowed the appeal in part and set aside the judgement of sentence passed by the trial court, yet it found her guilty of the offence. But the court, however, reduced her sentence from life term to two years of imprisonment for lack of proof. The court also



Eliadah McCord

## ECNEC approves eight projects

The government yesterday approved eight projects, including a Tk 305 crore informal education project aimed at increasing the country's adult literacy rate to 62 per cent by the year 2000, reports UNB.

The approval was given at a meeting of the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) held at the Secretariat Cabinet Room with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman in the chair.

Under the Informal Education Project-I, the rate of enrollment of students is likely to increase to 95 per cent from existing 76 per cent and reduce the dropout rate at primary level from 60 per cent to 30 per cent.

The ECNEC meeting also okayed a project for development

## Blast at N'ganj court premises: 10 injured

**From Our Correspondent**

NARAYANGANJ, Aug 9: At least 10 persons were injured when a group of people blasted cocktails and fired gunshots at Judge Court premises here during hearing of a double-murder case today.

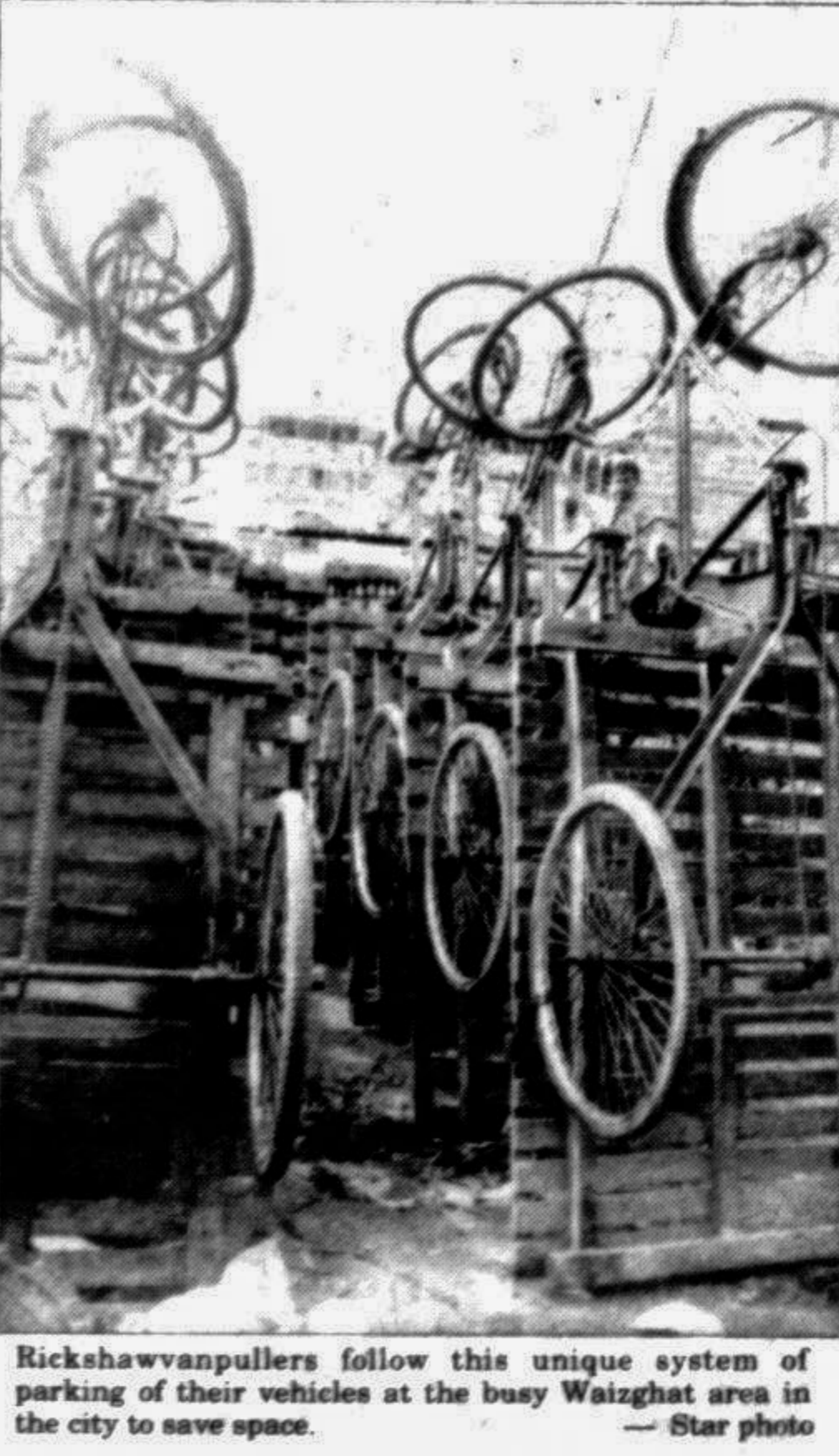
Seriously injured passers-by Abdul Halim, 32, Bikash, 26, and Firoz, 28, were admitted to local clinics. Four persons — Roni, 19, Delwar, 21, Dina, 21, and Liton, 20, — were arrested in this connection.

The incident occurred when Shidullah and Shahar Ali, witnesses of a 1990 double-murder case came to court premises to attend the hearing in the morning, sources said.

Two people were murdered on July 4, 1990 at Pajla under Fatullah police station. Three persons were arrested in this connection of whom Tofazzal and Nirab were released on bail.

At least 30 cocktails were blasted and four rounds of gunshots were fired during the attack.

The violence also spread to Ukilpara, Chashara and Bangabandhu Road areas. Several vehicles were also damaged and finally the witnesses had to leave the court.



Rickshawpullers follow their vehicles at the busy Waizghat area in the city to save space. — Star photo

## Fakri's car recovered

**From Staff Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: Police this evening recovered the car of Taher Ali Fakri, by which the gunmen abducted him.

Police said the car was recovered from Isapur road under Hathazari thana where it had been left.

Meanwhile, the terrorists who kidnapped Fakri are yet to be arrested. Fakri, a noted businessman of the port city, was set free yesterday after four days of his abduction.

## Mortality rate still high: UN survey Health situation of women, children has improved

The health situation of Bangladeshi women and children has improved significantly since early 1980s but the mortality rate still remained high indicating ongoing challenges for policymakers, says a UN survey report, reports UNB.

Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey 1993-94 shows that infant and under-five mortality rates have continued declining over the last 15 years. In the most recent 10-year period, infant deaths decreased by more than one-fifth and currently about one child in 11 dies before the first birthday while under-five mortality reduced by 26 per cent.

Under-five mortality rate was 133 deaths per 1,000 births in 1989-93 from 180 in 1979-83 and infant mortality was 87 per 1,000 births in 1989-93 from 116 in 1979-83.

Despite this improvement, the level of childhood mortality remained high that is almost one in seven Bangladeshi children dies before reaching his/her fifth birthday, the report added.

Children are likely to die in the first five years of life if they live in rural areas in Chittagong division, or if their mothers have no education, says the BDHS report, indicating that there are marked differentials in childhood mortality according to residence, division and level of education.

Under-five mortality is 35 per cent higher in rural areas than urban areas that are 153 deaths per 1,000 in rural and 114 in urban. It is 49 per cent higher in Chittagong division than Khulna division.

The results of the BDHS, first of this kind of study conducted in Bangladesh, provides rapid feedback on key demography and pro-

## Mali president due this month

President Alpha Oumar Konare of Mali is expected to pay a three-day state visit to Bangladesh in the last week of this month, reports UNB.

Diplomatic sources in city said yesterday the visit will be featured by a summit to discuss employment of Bangladeshi farmers in the agriculturally rich west-African country.

Besides, the Mali President and Prime Minister Khaleda Zia will exchange views on various bilateral matters as well as regional and international problems.

Labour and Manpower Minister Lt Gen (Retd) Mir Shaukat Ali is likely to visit Mali shortly to discuss with authorities concerned matters relating to export of Bangladeshi manpower.

## US-Bangla jt exercise in Bay

**From Staff Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, Aug 9: US navy took part in a joint exercise with Bangladesh navy and air force in the Bay of Bengal Tuesday.

The joint exercise titled 'Operation Seabat' was carried out to focus on cooperation between the US and Bangladesh forces in the fields of sea surveillance, search and rescue operations during natural disaster.

This was stated by commander of US patrol aircraft