High-powered team off to Malaysia

Move to end complexities in manpower export

day sent another high-powered delegation to Malaysia, the second in three weeks, to resolve the complexities in manpower export arising out of illegal influx into the ASEAN country, reports UNB.

The government vester-

The five-member team, headed by Labour and Manpower Secretary Dr Harun-ur Rashid, left Dhaka for Kuala Lumpur on a threeday mission.

Malaysia, the second largest manpower market for Bangladesh, is learnt to have put an unofficial embargo recently on recruitment of workers from here alleging huge illegal immigrations.

As the government took firm stand to resume export to Malavsia, the latest delegation is expected to assure the authorities there of plugging the illegal conduit of migration from Bangladesh.

Besides, the delegation is likely to discuss ways to be taken by the Malaysian authorities to restrict unauthorised entries of Bangladeshis into the fast-developing country.

ensuring job security of Bangladeshis and increase in export of manpower from

Bangladesh in consonance with the recent changes in the overseas recruitment policies of the government of

The delegation also included Joint Secretary at Home Ministry Syed Anwarul Islam, Managing Director of Bangladesh Overseas Employment and Service Ltd (BOESL) Mamtazuddin Ah med, BOESL General Manager SM Ibrahim Hossain and Director of the Bureau of Manpower Employment and Training (BMET) Shakhawat

Eliadah

From Page1

vesterday. Advocate Obaidur Rahman Mostafa counsel for Eliadah said that his clients release had been stayed without any defence as he could not appear for her due to non-availability of her vokalatnama from the Dhaka Central Jail authorities.

A HC Division bench comprising Justice Mohammad Mozammel Hoque and Jus tice Mohammad Nurul Islam Discussion will also take on August 9 last ordered replace on reduction of current lease of Eliadah after reduc rate of emigration charge, ing her life sentence to two years rigorous imprisonment which she had already

Moyeen on five-yr plans

people, by the people and by organising the people. Moyeen Khan told officials, economists representatives of different United Nations bodies and donor organisations and envoys of different countries present at the open discussion held at the Planning Commission premises.

The state minister pointed out that the three main components of the Perspective Plan would be people's participation, emphasis on investment and creation of a permanent transparent institution for faster implementation of different programmes at the local level.

The discussion highlighted six different draft documents on the Perspective Plan prepared on the basis of counselling sessions at district headquarters and sectoral reviews by different ministries and departments. Moyeen Khan said.

The state minister said that all the five-year plans in the past followed different models. "But these complex, detailed and refined models did not come of any use-to speak the truth, those had no impact in reality." he asserted.

The success of development plans and programmes cannot be ensured without

suggestions from and integration of the masses at the grassroots level," the state minister said.

He noted that the 15-year Perspective Plan was a simple document having no economic theory or model and it was prepared for the com-

Planning Commission Member Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, presenting the executive summary of the Perspective Plan, said it has drawn a clear guideline for creating an exploitation-free society by meeting the basic needs of the people in the next 15 years.

The GDP growth rate should be sustained at 7 per cent up to 2000 in order to achieve the targets of the Perspective Plan and it should be increased to 8-10 per cent between 2000 and 2010, he said. "In this case. keeping the present incremental capital output ratio constant, 18-20 per cent of the GNP should be invested (till 2000). After 2000, it should be increased to 22 per cent," Dr Alamgir said.

The discussion high lighted rural and urban health and education, devel opment of institutional and infrastructural framework, allocation of necessary resources for different priori tised sectors and the role of private and public sectors.

Talks of democracy

"I feel sorry for the country that despite all talks of democracy and accountability, we're not yet ready to be democratic and accountable in our attitude." Rahman, coming down

heavily on misuse of national exchequer at various stages, said: "The whole culture is that the public money is no money. Political and executive

functionaries should respect limited resources of the people and ensure their appropriate spendings, Rahman The minister blasted vari-

ous ministries for demanding extra-budgetary allocation in between budgets. "Immediately after the budget, they start asking for additional allocation. Then what is the need of budget?"

Rahman did not even spare Parliament members. as he pointed out that hundreds of telephone bills of MPs remained unpaid. "They

have to be accountable prior to expecting it from others." Speakers at the seminar organised by the BCS: Audit and Accounting Association were critical of traditional approach of auditing and sug-

gested revision of the whole system in conformity with the modern and democratic The finance minister disapproved of the standard of auditing and accounting in

the country, calling them "archaic and out of date." "I'm even horrified to see my own ministry's accounting system", he said. Rahman said audit objec-

routine exercise and mean-

tions were sometimes "mere

Monetary and fiscal policies of the country, viewed Rahman, should not be guided by political and economic short-termism.

In tune with the Finance Minister, Chairman of Public Accounts Committee in Parliament LK Siddigui, the special guest at the seminar. stressed reforming the traditional auditing approach to end the mishmash. Auditors should evaluate the "value for money" in their auditing approach, he said.

Siddiqui also spoke in favour of the suggestion that the Office of the Auditor General should be administratively independent.

Comptroller and Auditor General of Bangladesh KM Hossain suggested that the Office of C&AG be made administratively independent as of other constitutional bodies the Public Service Commission, Election Commission and Parliament Secretariat.

Unless administratively independent, the C&AG cannot work properly.

Hossain expressed concern at the authorities' inaction towards bringing the defaulting officials to book as recommended by the Public Accounts Committee.

Syed Amir Ul Mulk, Additional Secretary in charge of the Ministry of Environment and Forest, presented the key-note pa-

BCS: Audit and Accounting Association President M Hafizuddin Khan and Secretary General Zakir Ahmed Khan also addressed the

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd. 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a discussion on 'Bangabandhu and Post-75 Bangladesh' organised by the Bangabandhu Parishad at the Engineers' Institution in the city yesterday. - Star photo

SOCHI (Russia), Aug 13:

Russia's Foreign Minister and

US President Bill Clinton's

National Security Adviser be-

gan talks on former Yugos-

lavia today and both sides

said they hoped to find

common group, reports

agreements", Russian Foreign

Minister Andrei Kozyrev told

reporters before meeting

Anthony Lake. 'On the con-

trary, our efforts are moving

erupted in Bosnia and

In central Bosnia, gov-

ernment forces backed by

tanks and artillery attacked

north from Bugoino towards

the Serb-held town of Donji

Vakuf and gained ground, UN

Meanwhile, fresh fighting

in the same direction.'

"We are not expecting dis-

Reuter.

Croatia.

officials said.

US-Russia talks begin

Fresh fighting in

Bosnia, Croatia

range.

UN spokesman major

Greg Thompson told Reuters

that peacekeepers in central

Bosnia counted more than

3.000 tank and artillery

rounds going out from gov-

made advances to the south

of Donji Vakuf," he said.

"They've moved up a few

kilometres but we can't say

whether they've gotten into

would give government

forces control of the main

road linking Kupres and

Bugojno with Travnik and

improve their access from

the coast to the central

UN military observers ex-

Capturing Donji Vakui

Donji Vakuf or beyond."

"The Bosnian army has

ernment positions.

3 die in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent

Three people were killed in separate incidents of food poisoning, road mishap and electrocution in the city yesterday and the day before.

Salek Bhuiyan, 45, owner of a rod-cement shop and seven others were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital last evening as they fell sick after a feast at his Green Road residence. Salek died of food poisoning, doctors there said. The seven others were released after first aid. The maid who had prepared the food fled away after the incident. Salek's family sources said.

Nurul Islam, an army personnel, injured in a road accident, died at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) Saturday evening. Islam. while riding on a cycle, was hit by a minibus near Shoura police box under Cantonment police station.

Dulal, 22, an auto mechanic, was electrocuted while working at his workshop at Khilgaon yesterday.

In another incident muggers snatched two gold neckless from two rickshaw passengers and stabbed one of them, Masudur Rahman, in front of the DMCH last night.

25 DU senators demand radio, TV programme on Aug 15

Twenty-five senators of the Dhaka University yesterday urged the government to broadcast special programmes in radio and television on August 15 to commemorate Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

The signatories include Dr AAMS Arefin Siddique. Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury Ramendra Krishna Majumdar. Prof Md Harun-or Rashid, Prof Sayed Modasser Ali, Nilufar Begum, Advocate Sayed Reazur Rahman and Md Manjurul Islam.

Lankan leaders urged to halt public appearance

COLOMBO, Aug. 13 Leading Sri Lankan politicians believed to be on a hit list of Tamil Tiger rebels have been urged to halt public appearances after last week's blast in the capital. newspapers and defence officials said today, reports

pressed surprise at the In Croatia, Serb gunners amount of armour involved in Saturday's assault and specurained shells on areas near the historic adriatic port of lated their allied Bosnian Dubrovnik and Croat artillery Croat forces might be supply-

Bosnian heartland.

pounded Serb positions in ing equipment to support the the nearby coastal mountain government attack. 4 killed, 18 injured

in road accidents ditch near Jorpul. Three SAVAR, Aug 13: Accidents

on the Dhaka-Aricha highway today claimed the lives of four people and injured 18 others, police said, reports

They said some 14 trucks skidded off the road, which became dangerously slippery due to rains in last 24 hours.

The mishaps also caused serious traffic jam on the busy highway throughout the day. Police could remove only seven vehicles.

The accidents occurred at Barbaria, Kalampur, Joypura. Srirampur, Mutipara under Dhamrai thana and Boliarpur. Hemayetpur, Salehpur, Aminbazar, Jorpul and Turag

under Savar thana. The dead included driver, a helper, a business-

man and a pedestrian. Businessman Aminuddin. 30. died when a truck overturned near Aminbazar at 4 am. Four others including the driver of the truck were injured.

Akkas Ali, 28, helper of a truck died on the spot when the truck fell into a roadside others including the driver and a pedestrian were also injured.

In two other accidents at Fulbaria and Barbaria an unidentified driver and a pedestrian were killed when their vehicle skidded off the highway.

BSS adds: Four persons were injured in a road accident in front of Teigaon Old Airport following a head-on collision between two cars, family sources said.

Congestion in tele link with US

The telecommunication circuit between Bangladesh and the USA is temporarily experiencing congestion due to some technical faults at the Moghbazar international exchange, says a press release of the T and T Board. reports BSS.

Steps have been taken to remove the faults in the next few days, the press release added.

Hasina From Page 1

was promulgated after the as sassination of Bangabandhu to prevent trial of those who killed him and his family members. Hasina and her sister Sheikh Rehana sur vived the August 15, 1975 killings as they were abroad.

'How does Parliament reasked.

party want to establish a sound democratic system in which people would be the only source of power. "And for this, we are demanding general elections under a neutral caretaker government," she said and asked whether democracy was safe in the hands of those who wanted to stay in power violating the Constitution.

was suppressing the opposi tion parties.

She said during the BNP rule, the number of people under poverty line was increasing, while a section of people were becoming wealthy. But how long the the majority deprived? she

distressed would one day raise their heads to establish recalled Bangabandhu's steps to reduce the gap between the rich and the poor. Referring to Prime

In 1975, when the AL was in power, the growth rate was 7 per cent which was never attained by any successive government, she said. The percentage of landless people has now risen 70, as against 37 in 1975, unemployed youths from 15 to 45 and that of people under poverty line from 49 to 86. "Is this called development?" she asked.

discussion for her illness.

Proposed political alliance announces manifesto

By Staff Correspondent

parties — the Ganatontri Party, the Communist Kendra and the Gona Azadi League yesterday announced the manifesto of their proposed alliance.

democratic values, nonjectives of the alliance," said at the Jatiya Press Club.

The Midnight Eile The Indemnity Ordinance

Hasina blamed the ruling BNP for 'ignoring' people's rights and resorting to despotism to stay in power. main effective after the resignation of 147 MPs?" she

The AL chief said her

The Awami League leader alleged that the government

smaller group of people can protect their wealth keeping

"The deprived and the their rights," she warned and

Minister's speeches regard ing her government's devel opment work. Hasina said a war-torn country (as after the independence) could not be compared with the country now. But, she said Bangabandhu's government had brought the situation under control within a short

Prof Kabir Chowdhury

prominent journalist Obaidul Haq, Prof Borhanuddin Khan Jahangir and Dr S A Malek also spoke on the occasion, while poets Syed Shamsu Haq, Asad Chowdhury and Nurul Huda recited their self composed poems. Chairperson of the Bangabandhu Parishad poet Sufia Kamal could not attend the

Three left leaning political

"Upholding the spirit of

the liberation war, promoting communalism and social development are the main obthe leaders of the political parties at a press conference The leaders vowed to re-

vive and implement the principles of the 1972 Constitu-

self-rule accords

JERUSALEM, Aug 13: The Israeli cabinet approved today partial accords to extend Palestinian autonomy on the West Bank, an official spokesman announced. Seventeen ministers voted for, Energy Minister Gonen Segev voted against and Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet and Interior Minister Ehud Barak abstained, reports AFP.

Israeli cabinet okays

Rain triggers floods

From Page 1

rounding areas for the last two days caused flash floods in most of the low lying areas.

The Cox's Bazar-Chittagong highway has been cut off due to floods on an area of one kilometre of the highway. About three feet of flood water has engulfed the vast area of the road blocking hundreds of vehicles on either side.

About 30,000 people in 25 villages under the Cox's Bazar district were marooned by the floods. Nearly 87 mm of rainfall was recorded there during the last 24 hours.

Our Sylhet correspondent adds: With continuation of rains and onrush of water from the hilly areas across the Indian borders, four thanas of the district have been severely affected.

The direct road commu nication between Gowainghat and Jafflong remained snapped for the second consecutive day.

The river Dhoti was flowing 16 cm above the danger level at Companyganj point while the river Gowain was flowing above 54 cm above danger level at Gowainghat and the Sari was flowing above the danger mark.

PWD clarifies

By Staff Correspondent The Public Works Depart-

ment (PWD) yesterday said its programme for filling up part of the Dhanmondi lake for construction of government flats went through all procedural formalities and was not taken up discretely. A report published in the

August 7 issue of The Daily Star had said that the project was taken up "discretely without public participation The executive engineer of

PWD Division II in a clarifica tion said the scheme was prepared as per a government decision to construct 40 flats on this land for officers of Judicial Department. After getting fund from the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, tenders were floated by PWD Division Il for site-filling and for construction of buildings. The report in the paper that steps were taken discretely without public participation is far from facts."

The Ministry ders in some national newspapers for the work. A total of 117 tenders were received, the clarification said.

The site-filling work was started. But after objections from some local residents, the work has been suspended temporarily for final decision on the matter.

The lake was earlier handed over to the Fisheries Department for pisciculture and the lakeside land to the Dhaka Municipal Corporation for development. Any allegation that the PWD was responsible for polluting it is not true, the clarification

The Daily Star response to the clarification: The Daily Star stands by its report.

Opposition From Page 1 this month, a grand rally in

early September and a 72hour hartal in the middle of September. The mainstream opposition parties — Awami League, Jatiya Party and Jamaat-e-Islami, will also support the four-day (September 17-20) rail-road barricade by industrial workers. The barricade programme was announced last Leaders of the three par-

ties met separately yesterday to prepare the draft programmes which would be approved by the central committees of their respective parties. Yesterday's meetings follow a joint meeting of the leaders of the three parties Wednesday where they discussed identical programmes for agitation. Before finalising those tomorrow, the assigned leaders of the three parties will exchange views.

Leaders of the parties are unlikely to meet again because the AL wants to avoid criticism, already made by its pro-liberation political allies, sources in the party said.

The AL strategy also aims at building better understanding with the pro-liberation parties and professional groups supporting the AL. party sources said. The AL is planning to seek support of professional groups, trade union bodies and student or ganisations in its agitation.

Over 109 mm of rainfall was recorded in Sylhet during the last 24 hours.

Our Kushtia correspondent adds that incessant rainfall over the last 36 hours has paralysed normal life in the district. Kushtia town and its surrounding areas have gone under knee-deep to waist-deep water. With 84 mm of rainfall within the last 24 hours the Kushtia town and the surrounding villages have been inundated.

the district town is under waist-deep water posing enormous problem to the patients and the service providers. Aman sidlings on many parts were inundated. UNB adds: In the northern

The general hospital of

frontier district of Lalmonirhat, flash flood hit the low-lying areas of five thanas due to incessant downpour for the third consecutive day today (Sunday).

Nearly 200 houses of Daoabari area in Hatibandha thana and Kulaghat area of sadar thana were washed away in last 72 hours by the Teesta and Dharla rivers respectively by eroding their banks at two points.

The Sherpur correspondent of UNB reported that incessant rain and rolling waters from hills across the border inundated 20 unions of three thanas of the district in the season's third spell of flooding. At least seven points of

the flood-protection em-

bankment of Chellakhali and

Moharashi rivers were washed away by the strong flow of hill waters. A large number of houses and recently-planted aman plants on vast tract of land in 20 union of Sreevordi.

thanas were reported inun-Cox's Bazar SSC results republished

Nalitabari and Jheenigati

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 13: The Comilla Board today re-published results of eight centres of Cox's Bazar township as the results announced on August 9 were grossly at fault because of computer errors. official sources here told BSS.

According to the fresh results published today 4.293 students out of the 5,883 appeared came out successful and the percentage of pass is Information had floated ten- 73.02. The percentage of pass in the science group is 82.27 while that in the social science group is 68.90 per

> Meanwhile, the students withdrew their agitation programme following re-publication of the results after due correction.

Taslima's case

Resumption of hearing stayed for 8 weeks

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court vesterday further extended for eight weeks the stay of the High Court judgment for resuming trial hearing of the case against Taslima Nasreen. Justice Latifur Rahman of

the Appellate Division, acting upon a prayer on behalf of Nasreen moved by Dr Kamal Hossain, granted the prayer for extension of stay till October 8 in his chamber. High Court comprising Just-

A Division Bench of the ice Mohammad Mozammel Hoque and Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam earlier stayed for two weeks the operation of its judgement rejecting Nasreen's prayer for quashment of the proceedings against her.

Kashmiri rebels From Page 1

take to free the other four hostages," Internal Security Minister Rajesh Pilot told

"We had been restraining ourselves from any direct action, in consultation with the concerned embassies," Pilot

But the brutal killing and the threat to murder the other four hostages greatly increased pressure on authorities to try to rescue "We have a general idea of

the place where these people are holded up," a senior Jammu and Kashmir official. speaking in Delhi, said. "We have maintained a kind of surveillance, and Al-Faran has been getting in touch with us from time to time."

Mostafiz for full ratification of CEDAW From Page 1 Choudhury, Convenor of the ernment to hear the voices of

(BNP).

party and Opposition leaders are women, but also because the soil of our country has produced great and revered women in the past, like Sultana Razia, Begum Rokeya and Pritilata Waddedar, " said Rahman.

He, however, disagreed with the contention that the greatest problem for women is men, as preached by some feminist writers and activists.

Listing the initiatives taken by the government in line with the recommendations of the 'Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies', he said the government has created. among others, a separate ministry, reserved 10 per cent of seats in Parliament and a 10 per cent quota in government jobs for women.

He expressed the hope that the upcoming World Conference on Women in Beijing will go a long way in promoting the causes and rights of the women all over the world. Mahfuz Anam suggested

that women activists organise

selected and targeted lobbying, to further their cause. "Like the successful Black movement in America, the women in this country should adopt such tactics as blockvoting to ensure their de-

mands are met," said the Editor of The Daily Star. Women's issues must be

promoted not just out of a sense of justice, but because it makes great economic sense,' he stressed. Appreciating the con-

certed efforts in the country

in connection with the Beijing Conference, he said, whatever happens this September, the process that has gained momentum because of the Conference must be consolidated." her presidential speech, Salma Khan high-

lighted the 'contradictory stance' of the government on CEDAW and mentioned that the Constitution of Bangladesh guarantees equality and freedom from discrimination against women. Earlier at the inaugural session. Prof Mohammad

Yunus urged the government to endorse all clauses of CEDAW so that "no one is be able to say that there exists any disparate opinions on the rights of women in our soci-"But mere endorsement will not suffice without

tioned the founder of Grameen Bank. Presided over by Dr Najma

proper implementation." cau-

ttee for the Beijing NGO Forum '95, the inaugural session was also addressed by Rashed Khan Menon of the Left Democratic Front, Motia Choudhury of Awami League and Farida Rahman. MP of Bangladesh Nationalist Party

National Preparatory Commi-

Highlighting the difference between conventional banking and the approach of Grameen Bank, Prof Yunus said, "The conventional banking sector is anti-women women are regarded as dependent (on husbands or fathers) not as individual entities, when applying for credit."

number one on the political agenda", said Prof Yunus, adding that women should group themselves so that they will not vote for those who do not assure them their rights. Criticising the political parties, Prof Yunus said they

Women's rights should be

are not sensitive enough to women's causes and suggested awarding 'honorary recognition' by the state to those who actively work towards women's emancipa-He strongly advocated the

creation of local-level gov

the silent majority who are Rashed Khan Menon stressed that the women's

movement and the demo-

cratic movement should be

inseparable. Women's rights

were guaranteed by the

Constitution as the result of a

democratic movement, he added. Farida Rahman said "Whenever a woman raises issues Parliament, she risks being branded as anti-religious. "An amendment to the Muslim Family Ordinance, to check polygamy, was tabled

six times, but it is still await

ing approval from the

Ministry of Law, she added.

Additional reserve seats for women in Parliament was suggested by the ruling party MP since, she said no male member of the House has ever promoted women's cause in Parliament. Motia Choudhury said that

her party, Awami League, has

guaranteed equal rights for women in its manifesto since 1986. despite opposition from some male members of the party. "One cannot be empowered in decision-making if

one is not economically independent," she said.