

Manzur murder case Govt withdraws petition on stay of HC order

By SC Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday allowed the government prayer for withdrawal of the petition for stay operation of the High Court order staying the proceedings taken by the Dhaka Sessions Judge on August 16 in the Manzur murder case.

Justice Mohammad Abdur Rouf of the Appellate Division, however, ordered the government to pay cost to the opposite party, former president H M Ershad.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mohammad Moazzamul Haque and Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam, upon a criminal revision petition filed by Ershad, directed the government on August 30 last to show cause as to why the proceeding taken by the Dhaka Sessions Judge on August 16 in the Manzur murder case should not be set aside and also ordered stay of the proceeding till disposal of rule.

On the following day, September 1, the government filed the stay petition before the Appellate Division, but later on September 4 they filed another petition for withdrawal of the stay petition.

Deputy Attorney General F M Hasan Arif assisted by Assistant Attorney General Sharif Uddin Chaklader moved for the stay, while Advocate Maudud Ahmed and Advocate Yusuf Hossain Humayun appeared for Ershad.

BUET student

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directed the Director of Student Welfare and Member-Secretary of Board of Residence and Discipline and the Vice-Chancellor of the BUET to show cause as to why the expulsion order should not be declared to have been issued without any lawful authority, and, as such, void and has no legal effect.

The Director of Students Welfare and Member-Secretary of the Board of Residence and Discipline on August 16 last expelled M Masum Iqbal for one year from the University under allegations of committing unfair means in the examination.

It was stated in the writ petition that while the petitioner was inside the toilet certain papers were found on the floor of the toilet which the invigilator thought that the petitioner would see during the examinations on August 8.

But the petitioner completely denied the allegation as false, speculative and absurd, the petition said.

The petitioner was expelled without assigning any reason nor he was given the chance of being heard which deprived him of Natural Justice, the petition argued.

Smugglers' paradise

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friends. If there is any unusual movement of the security forces across the border, we shall be informed within fifteen minutes." "The same thing applies to them," the Havildar said pointing his finger at the BSF post.

"If a stranger arrives in the villages there are paid informers among the people who waste no time to alert us. So, you see, nothing happens here beyond our knowledge," the soldiers boasted.

Bhatkhari, a village along the border further down, is the "open route" for smuggling nowadays, according to some bikers on the road. Even kids know of the route changes for any reason, say flood.

There is electricity in Bhatkhari village and television, VCR and other modern amenities in every house. "It's not surprising here. You will find things here more than you can imagine," said a local man.

On way to Kamalpur, a village market about five kilometres further down along the border. Scores of bikers were passing by with their merchandise. This reminds one of the "ants highway" where every ant carries something for a buffer stock.

Bikers said they paid Tk 16 a kg for green chillies on the other side of the border. Paddy, now on high demand was bought for Tk 8 a kg, onions for Tk 8.20, sugar for Tk 18, iodised salt for Tk 4 a kg. Most of the daily necessities are cheaper there. Thus a handsome return is

Five killed, 45 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least five persons were killed and 45 others injured in road accidents across the country yesterday.

An unknown male, aged about 25, was killed on the spot and at least 10 people were injured when a Gazipur bound bus from Dhaka skidded off the road at Salna at about 11 am.

Our medical correspondent says: Of the injured, Moniruzaman, 44, Hazrat Ali, 40, Amjad 22, Wahed, 25, and Shati Ranjan, 30, were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

An auto-rickshaw driver, Abdul Aziz, 40, was killed and four passengers received injuries when a Dhaka bound bus hit the three-wheeler at near the Savar Radio transmitter at about 11:30 am, according to an agency report.

In another accident near the Savar Dairy Farm, a microbus driver, Joz Miah, 35, and a rickshawpuller were killed and at least 16 passengers injured when two minibuses collided head-on and hit a rickshaw yesterday afternoon.

The injured passengers were admitted to hospitals in Dhaka.

One Rustom, 45, was run over by a Bogra-bound truck near Satbaria in Shahjadpur thana at about 9 am.

Meanwhile, at least 15 people were injured when a Dhaka bound bus from Bogra fell into a roadside ditch at Gurka under Raiganj thana yesterday morning. Of the injured, five persons were admitted to the Raiganj Health Complex.

BNP's rejoinder

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Secretary General Anis Salam Talukdar has issued a rejoinder to the report published in The Daily Star Tuesday headlined "BNP looking for other options".

The rejoinder issued yesterday said "BNP's views and options have no similarity with those attributed to an unnamed cabinet minister and standing committee member of the party."

"The report has created confusion among the party leaders and workers and the members of the public," said the rejoinder, signed by BNP office Secretary Nazrul Islam.

BNP Secretary Nazrul Islam.

RU admission test begins today

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Sept 12: The written test for admission to the first year honours classes of different faculties of 1994-95 session under Rajshahi University will be held from tomorrow.

Workers clash

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as they have a dispute over the ownership of the shops around the mills' compound. Of the injured, 15 were sent to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the rest given first aid at different local clinics.

During the three-hour fight, the rival groups used lethal weapons and blasted at least 150 homemade bombs.

A group of workers also set fire to the mills' security barracks; union office, labour office, cash section and burnt down necessary papers.

Firefighters rushed to the spot and recovered five rifles and huge ammunition from the security barracks to save them from fire.

Police reinforcements were brought in from Chittagong headquarters to bring the situation under control.

One held with 71 fake passports

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promised after a trip. "When we bring things the BSF says nothing. But if we want to take something there it is very difficult," said a biker who claims to have been in the "trade" since 1971. At Kamalpur market, Indian goods are sold in every shop at cheaper prices.

But where are the big smugglers? "They are everywhere. Every bike carries about 40 to 60 kgs of merchandise. They do the same as the ants - deposit the goods to the big lords," said a barber at Kamalpur.

"Nobody is unemployed here. Anybody can take to the promising smuggling business any time," the barber said.

Electronic items, such as VCR, VCP, tape recorders etc. from Bangladesh are in high demand across the border, another local man said.

Protest march

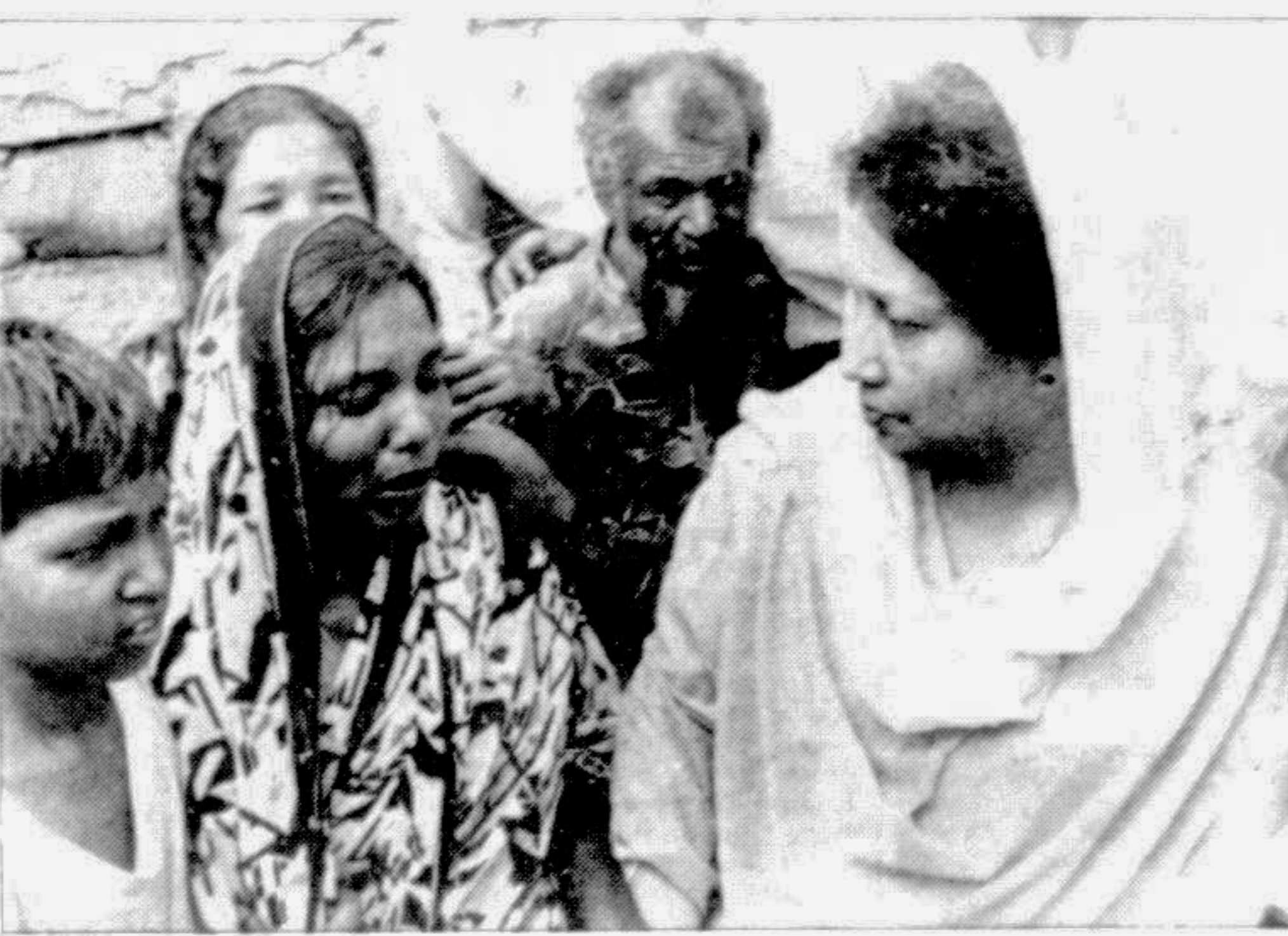
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demanding removal of the Home Minister and trial of the policemen responsible for the rape and murder of Yasmin and killing of seven people in the town.

The rape and murder of Yasmin had sparked violent mass protests in the town resulting in death of seven people in clashes with police.

Today's procession was led by local leaders of NAP (Mozaffar). The processionists marched through different streets of the town chanting slogan.

Earlier, during the Prime Minister meeting, a section of the audience ran helter skelter in panic twice. But no apparent reason for panic was seen. However, there was no other untoward incident during the public meeting.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia consoled the mother of Yasmin at her home during a visit to Dinajpur yesterday. —PID photo

4 policemen sent to jail on murder charge

From Our Correspondent

BRAHMENBARIA, Sept 12: Four policemen, including a Sub-Inspector, were sent to jail today on a charge of murder in Kashba thana.

SI Sanwar Hossain and constables — Abul Hossain, Abdul Mannan and Mutasin Ali — were also suspended from their posts as First Class Magistrate Motiur Rahman had filed a case against them under Section 302/34.

At 1 pm, August 29, the four policemen had gone to the house of Mofizul Islam, 32, son of late Syed Ali, in village Shastapur, Kashba, called him out and killed him.

After hearing the screams of the victim, his family members went out and found Mofizul lying unconscious on the ground in front of the police. The policemen claimed that Mofizul had suddenly become ill. They left the place saying they were calling in a doctor.

Chief accountant of BIWTA robbed

By DMCH Correspondent

Muggers robbed the Chief Accountant of the BIWTA of Tk 40 thousand yesterday.

A group of about five persons stabbed Mirza Ershad Ali, 58 at about 3 pm near Banga Bazar and snatched the money from him when he was returning home at Bangshal.

The victim was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Rivals kill two BCP activists

From Our

Correspondent

SATKHIRA, Sept 12: Two outlawed communist party workers were brutally murdered by their opponents in Tala and Dumuria thanas last night.

Akram Hossain, 27 an activist of the outlawed Biplabi Communist Party was killed at Jiala by a group of 12 to 14 armed men of another outlawed organisation — Purbha Bangla Communist Party, police said.

Another Biplabi Communist Party member, Majid 45 of Jiala, was shot dead by a different gang of the Purbha Bangla Communist Party at Chandpur of Dumuria thana last night.

Poor status of SAARC women

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women in those country where the gap between men and women's education level and professional skill remained wide.

Besides, Mrs Bertini said the programme would devote more than 50 per cent of its resources of school food supply to girls, and the allocation on women's illiteracy reduction programme would double its present figure.

Private women's groups say their main concern is that governments won't spend enough to turn ideals into real programmes to improve women's lives.

While working groups moved toward agreement on a Platform for Action before the conference ends Friday, representatives of non-governmental groups from around the world said Tuesday they feared the document would be empty talk unless accompanied by promises of funding.

Lobbyists for poorer countries charged that the platform does not provide long-term solutions to poverty and the gap between rich and poor globally.

PM: Dinajpur

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of the country and the nation. she also called for taking steps so that the development activities are not hampered by backlashes to the "tragic and unfortunate incidents".

Later in the afternoon, addressing a public meeting at Gora Shaheed Maidan in the town, the Prime Minister assured that the culprits would be put to trial under the women repression law.

The law, which was passed recently in Parliament, provides death penalty as the capital punishment for repression on women and children.

Calling the Dinajpur incidents "most sorrowful", Begum Zia said the responsible for the killing of three people would be tried under the existing law of the land.

She also said stern measures would be taken against those involved in attack and damage of press club and five newspaper offices.

The Prime Minister also said that a judicial enquiry committee had already been formed to probe the incidents.

Presided over by Mollah Jaijal Abedin, the meeting was also addressed by Forest and Environment Minister Akbar Hossain, Education Minister Barister Zamrudin Sircar, State Minister for Social Welfare Fazlur Rahman and Raushan Elahi, MP.

Young man

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Nazrul, son of Abdul Gafur, and two of his friends, were returning to his house at 7/1 Jigatola Staff quarters from the Abahani playground.

The unidentified gang hurled bombs and fired at him. The blood-stained Nazrul was immediately taken to the Chest Diseases Hospital where he succumbed to his injuries at about 11 pm.

Nari Samaj

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— Aziza Idris, Khaleda Khatun and Rashida Akhter — were injured in police baton charge at Shahabagh at about 11:30 am.

They alleged that police put up barricades to stop the procession while it was on way to the Prime Minister's office to submit a memorandum to protest rape and murder of Yasmin and killing of seven others in police firing at Dinajpur.

A 10-member group under the leadership of Farida Akhter was allowed to go to the PM's office to submit the memorandum.

to see debt relief for the poorest countries to free funds for social welfare, and a shift of funds from military spending to social needs.

"The United States and the European Union are leading the pack by refusing to allow language and analysis in the platform for action that links their economic policies to poverty," said Lisa McGowan of the Development GAP, a public policy group in Washington DC.

The main drafting committee, which is preparing the platform for presentation to the plenary, was to discuss the poverty section later today.

Negotiators at the conference said today they settled a thorny human rights issue but were still wrestling with contentious questions such as lesbian rights and women's unpaid work.

They said they resolved the human rights issue simply by dropping the word "universal" from definitions to be included in the Platform of Action.

Egypt today blasted the Western media for portraying Islam as a religion that encourages polygamy and dis-

The Midnight File

Series of attacks in Rwanda: 108 killed

KIGALI, Sept 12: At least 108 people were killed and 16 wounded in three separate attacks this morning in northwest Rwanda, the UN Assistance Mission in Rwanda (UNAMIR) radio reported here. Details of the attacks were still scarce but military observers said 24 people died in the first attack, which took place in Kanama in Gisenyi province, the radio said, reports AFP.

Pak Punjab CM removed

LAHORE, Sept 12: Manzoor Watto, chief minister of the key Pakistani province of Punjab was removed from office today after he failed to turn up for a confidence vote in the provincial assembly. The assembly speaker ruled that since Watto failed to respond to an order from the Punjab governor to seek a confidence vote he was 'no longer the chief minister', reports AFP.

48-hr transport strike from Sept 30

A joint action committee of the owners and workers of road transport sector yesterday announced a 48-hour countrywide transport strike beginning September 30 to press for realisation of their 16-point demand, reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference, Muhammad Ashraf Khan, joint convener of the action committee, said the transport sector of the country was on the verge of collapse and the strike was called to save the sector from ruination.

He urged the government to refrain Mirza Abbas from his anarchic activities. He also alleged that Abbas, after being sacked from the samity, had been creating anarchy by obstructing the buses and trucks of his opponents to ply.

Ashraf Khan, also the secretary general of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Samity, said

that government had made Mirza Abbas the President of the Samity by interfering in the elections of the committees.

He further alleged that Mirza Abbas, who was not a transport owner, was using musclemen to collect tolls.

5 Indian ministers resign

NEW DELHI, Sept 12: Five junior ministers have offered to resign ahead of a major cabinet reshuffle this week by Indian Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao, sources in the ruling Congress (I) party said today, reports AFP.

The sources said the five ministers of state had tendered their resignations to give the 73-year-old Prime Minister a free hand to reorganize his cabinet before general elections expected later this year or early next year.

Employment

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titles, namely FWTF and BOESL, on behalf of the respective governments.

Every literate Bangladeshi national within the age group of 20 to 40 years will be eligible to register their names and would be called by the BOESL time to time for interviews to get a job in Malaysia under three broadly defined categories, said the sources and added that the categories are: factory workers, construction labourers and agricultural labourers.

Officials in the Labour and Manpower Ministry said that though BOESL has sent some 10,000 Bangladeshis for work in various countries over the last one decade, it has no prior experience of exporting manpower to Malaysia, where some 1,61,000 Bangladeshi workers went since 1992, through the private recruiting agencies.

The year-wise breakups are: 1992 — 10,000, 1993 — 68,000, 1994 — 48,000 and some 35,000 this year.

"This is a challenge for us and we are equipping ourselves to face the challenge," said a high-ranking official in the ministry.

According to the official sources, licenses of some 35 private manpower recruiting agencies were cancelled this year till last month for malpractice in the recruitment process.

US immigration bill

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those categories in 1994, according to the US Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Capping the immigration of spouses and children of legal immigrants at 85,000 a year.

A limited-time programme would allow an annual 150,000 spouses and children of illegal immigrants granted amnesty under the 1986 bill until a backlog is reduced.

Eliminate a diversity lottery for immigrants with no close family ties or employer sponsors. An estimated 41,000 people entered in this category last year, INS said.

Limit employment-based immigration to 75,000 a year and tighten requirements for skill and education levels.

However, the proposed bill does not limit admission of refugees or asylum seekers.

Simpson earlier proposed limiting those admissions to 50,000 in his illegal immigration bill, but the subcommittee rejected the limit. The House bill limits refugees to 50,000 a year.

Immigrant rights activists say the bill proposed by Sen. Simpson cuts even deeper than the bill sponsored by Rep. Smith, chairman of the House Immigration Sub-

BB defends decision to raise bank rates

Bangladesh Bank, amidst growing criticism over the recent monetary measures to curb credit expansion, has strongly defended its decision arguing that rising inflation deserved an arrest, reports UNB.

Governor Khorshed Alam yesterday told a gathering of top bankers that steps to check inflation were not unique in case of Bangladesh but a usual practice by central banks all around.

"Such measures were taken by all central banks at the appropriate time to attain various objectives, the most important of which was to contain underlying inflationary pressure," he said.

Alam was inaugurating a training course for bankers on Lending Risk Analysis (LRA) in the Bangladesh Bank conference room yesterday morning. He seized the opportunity on the occasion to refute criticism by various trade bodies about the central bank's decision to deflate credit surge in private sector by raising bank rate and interest rates on deposits.

A worried Governor pointed out that the growth of credit to the private sector rose to 23.6 per cent in the last fiscal year (1994-95) against a 4.5 per cent in the public sector.

gal immigration by a third, build a triple fence along the Mexican border, double the size of the US Border Patrol and create a telephone database to allow employers to ensure they were not hiring illegal immigrants.

Republican lawmakers believe the immigrants are taking jobs and undermining the wages of Americans, and the nation needs a break from record numbers of illegal immigrants.

Immigrant supporters as well as business groups, however, disagree with the Republican lawmakers.

National Immigration Forum, a immigrant rights platform, Monday held a press conference where speakers argued that the bill would do more to harm the nation than to protect it.

The proposed bill would also leave the American business at a disadvantage in an increasingly global economy, business groups said.

Twenty-four immigrant rights forums Monday sponsored a full page advertisement in the Washington Post newspaper in which bold headlines said, "America is a Nation of immigrants. STOP ALL Anti-immigrant Legislation!"

The ad carried an open letter to President Clinton and members of the US Congress which said that even the US citizens were not safe from the anti-immigrant attack.