BSAF study discloses

## Some 400 women, children smuggled every month

By Mizan Ali

At least 200 to 400 young women and children are smuggled from Bangladesh every month mainly to Pakistan and Gulf countries, says a study by an NGO, quoting human rights activists.

The study on Child trafficking and sale conducted by Bangladesh Shishu Adhikar Forum (BSAF) says "The number of smuggled children and women has been on the rise since the mid '80s."

It alleged that section of "The border security forces of all the three countries -Bangladesh, India and Pakistan is involved".

According to the study there exists a network of traffickers and brokers mostly Pakistanis and Indians - with links in Bangladesh. The traffickers through their agents recruit young girls, boys and women promising them well paid jobs.

In most cases, they are procured by persons known to them. "Once they gain confidence, they can easily entice or lure young girls and women to leave home for betstudy said.

Various tactics are practised by the traffickers. One common tactic is marriage, it

border areas of Khulna, Jessore, Satkhira, Rajshahi, Dinajpur. Rangpur, Myfor trafficking to West Bengal. Karachi and Hyderabad in Pakistan.

galee women arrested from prostitution dens in Karachi says they were brought to Calcutta through Banapole and then taken to Delhi. Amritsar, Lahore, Kasoor and finally to Karachi.

They crossed the borders on foot at night. Inside India and Pakistan, they travelled by trains.

"the agents have set transit points in Jessore, Benapole, Calcutta, Delhi, Amritsar, La-

Bangladesh boys brought to Pakistan by the traffickers ter jobs and marriage," the were being "forced to steal and commit other offences".

# Impasse: Opinion poll

and non-government employees, teachers and researchers, lawyers, businessmen, journalists, industrial workers, rickshawpullers, students, housewives and unemployed people from 14 thanas in the city. Of them, 69.7 per cent were male and 30.3 female.

cent viewed that the politics of confrontation must be avoided and a solution evolved through discussions and parleys between the government and the opposition parties.

Since the 1991 parliamentary polls were held under a caretaker government headed by the Chief Justice the next election should also be held under a similar arrangement, 61.4 per cent suggested. Three or four parliamentary elections should be held under caretaker government, 60.4 per cent opined.

Some 84.4 per cent did not support any foreign mecrisis.

About rape and killing of a per cent said.

young girl by police in Dinajpur, 87.8 per cent said police is involved in many wrong doings but sexual assault and killing of Yasmin

Of the respondents, 73.5 per cent said they became totally "unnerved" when they heard that police, with the assistance of the local administration, had been trying to establish that the girl was of bad character. The corrupt and dishonest policemen should be dismissed from jobs and the force be reorganised, 77.4 per cent said.

The steps taken by the local administration in Dinajpur were not appropriate, 93.5 per cent said while 92.4 per cent said transfer and suspension were not enough punishment for the policemen involved in such acts.

About Beijing Conference, 83.4 per cent opined it had little impact in this country. Members of delegations to such international conferences usually deliver speeches and arrange press diation in solving the political briefings on return, but nothing concrete happens, 84.2

From Page 1

"The main purpose of the invitation is to discuss measures to make the polls free and fair. But they (the Opposition) will have to call off the planned hartal before participating in any dialogue," said Mannan Bhuiyan, who's also Minister for Food and Agriculture.

Mannan Bhuiyan, who carried the PM's letter inviting the former Leader of the Opposition in Parliament to sit for a dialogue to the latter's Dhanmondi residence, also made copies of the letter available to newsmen at the briefing.

Replying to questions, the acting BNP Secretary General said he did not see the AL chief when he went to her residence with the PM's let-

"I did not make any prior appointment to meet Sheikh Hasina but telephoned at her

#### Gunshots at DU

By DU Correspondent

Some ten rounds of gunshots were heard from the Jasimuddin Hall area of Dhaka University Saturday

Some armed youths of the hall suddenly switched off all the lights of the gate and fired indiscriminately, witnesses said.

The firing was reportedly the sequel to the assault one Ahsanul Kabir, an activist of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) by some youths on Sat-

Ahsanul Kabir is a resident student of the Ziaur Rahman

#### Piracy in six trawlers

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Oct 29: A gang of 20 to 25 pirates swooped on six fishing trawlers and looted fish, fishing nets and engine parts at Ladiar char in the Bay of Bengal yesterday

morning. During the three-hourlong robbery the pirates also beat up some fishermen. Taking all the booties in two big trawlers, they went to Chan-

diswar in the Sundarbans. Some fishermen, who could escape to Patharghata Bander of Barguna district informed the naval force of the piracy.

pointed out.

According to the study mensingh, Comilla and Brahmanbaria are land routes Bombay, Punjab in India and

The study, quoting Ben-

The arrested women said hore and Karachi."

The study said that

From Page 1

was the most heinous act. Of those polled, 77.3 per

# BNP ready to discuss

house before starting from the PM's Tejgaon office," he "Our letter contains an open agenda - an overall discussion relating to the holding of the next general elections. We want to find out through talks the devices for making the polls free and fair," he said when asked

> ernment. About the persisting political impasse, the BNP leader said, "We want a solution to it through talks

> about the Opposition demand

for holding the general elec-

tions under a caretaker gov-

with an open mind." Mannan Bhuiyan said the letter from the ruling party Chairman was the first written and formal invitation to the main opposition party to sit for a dialogue to resolve

the political crisis. He reiterated BNP's earlier contention that Justice Shahabuddin's government was not a caretaker one and said. "We accepted that interim government as it was not possible to accept the illegal government of Ershad."

#### 3 more repay

From Page 1 Earlier, the Bangladesh Bank had asked nine private banks to realise the defaulting loans, within two months taken by 32 directors by flouting the banking regulations. These defaulting directors owe about Tk 150 crore to the banks.

These banks are: Arab-Bangladesh Bank, National Bank, Uttara Bank, United Commercial Bank, City Bank, IFIC Bank, Pubali Bank, NC-CBL, and Islami Bank.

The two-month period of the notices will be completed on October 23, 27 and the first week of November. However, the deadlines for repayment by the directors will be counted from the day the notices were served by the scheduled banks.

If the directors fail to repay within the stipulated time, they will loose their directorships and their dues will be adjusted from their shares with the banks. However, most directors owe much more than their shares in the respective banks, sources said. In that case, the additional amounts of the overdue loans will be realised through normal procedures.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing the DCC ward commissioners of her party at the party central office in the city yesterday. - Star photo

#### No alternative to caretaker govt : Hasina

Awami League president Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the anti-government agitation will continue until the demand for a neutral caretaker government is realised, reports UNB.

"There is no alternative to a caretaker government," she said while addressing Ward Commissioners at the party's Dhanmondi office.

Accusing the government of widespread corruption and of politicising the administration, she said none can even imagine an impartial election under the BNP government.

Hasina alleged that the government had resorted to forgery from the very beginning of preparing the voters list. "BNP wants to continue corruption, plundering and terrorism by staying in power through vote rigging."

She said the economy of the country is going to collapse due to corruption. politicisation and wrong policy of the government

#### Letter won't bring any result: Moudud

Jatiya Party leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed yesterday said no conspiracy could mislead the ongoing agitation,

reports UNB. Referring to the letter written by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to opposition leader Sheikh Hasina. the JP leader said: "Writing letter at the end of the day will not bring any result."

"There could have been a possibility of reconciliation if the letter had been written earlier." Moudud said, adding "nothing could stop the agitation for caretaker govern-

ment this time". "It will be wrong if you think by writing this letter you will be able to kill time or mislead the people," Moudud said of the latest government move, while addressing a brief rally at the Baitul Mukarram in the city.

#### **US-Russian accord** on changes to CFE

MOSCOW, Oct 29: Russia and the United States have reached agreement on changes to the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) treaty, defence minister Pavel Grachev said today. reports

#### 70 feared drowned near Patna

PATNA, Oct 29: Over 70 persons were feared drowned when a boat carrying about 100 people capsized in the Ganges off Narialghat near here today, official sources said.

## Body to probe RMC incident Hartal at Rangpur

RANGPUR, Oct 29: A twomember committee to investigate the Saturday's violent incidents on Rangpur Medical College campus was formed today, reports UNB

The committee members are Additional District Magistrate Khalilur Rahman and Additional Police Super Shaihan Raj

At least 13 students of Rangpur Medical College Hospital (RMCH) were injured critically when angry people stormed and ransacked two hostels of the college after the death of an old man in a bomb explosion on Saturday.

Meanwhile, a dawn-todask hartal in the town enforced by the people of Dhap area protesting the killing was today observed peace-

### No man's land

From Page 1 tional convention.

Villagers in the area have left their homes out of fear. India had started the con-

struction work on Wednesday at a plan between border pillar No 1274 and 1276 but suspended the work following BDR protest. But the dispute was not resolved even in two rounds of flag meetings on Thursday.

From Page 1

Dr Rashid pointed out.

"To ensure maximum par-

ticipation of the private sec-

tor as the prime mover, the

policy would try to create an

enabling environment by

providing incentives includ-

ing better bank loan facilities

and import duty relief," he

the spinning, dyeing, weav-

ing, finishing and all other

components of the textiles

sector, much of which is still

dependent on imported raw

Multi-Fibre Agreement (MFA)

within 2005 will place the

Bangladesh garments indus-

try in a disadvantaged posi-

tion in the global market, if

the country fails to set up at

least 379 spinning mills re-

quiring an investment of Tk

7,280 crore and 114 dyeing,

printing and finishing mills

needing Tk 3,420 crore in-

vestments to feed both the

local demand and the export-

oriented garments sector, a

Textiles Ministry said.

well-placed source of the

According to the official

figures, presently there are

110 spinning units in the

country of which 27 belongs

to the state-owned Bangla-

The phasing out of the

materials.

The policy would relate to

Cabinet: Textile policy desh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) and the rest. 83. are in the private sector.

Addressing a post-hartal

rally in the evening at Jahai-

mara Company square the

people demanded immediate

removal of the DC and SP of

the district for their 'failure'

to maintain law and order in

condition of four RMCH stu-

dents injured during the Sat

urday's attack deteriorated

today. Of them Saifuddin has

been shifted to Dhaka PG

Reply to letter

From Page 1

choose to deliver the letter

PM's meeting

held at the Prime Minister's

Office last night between

8:30 and 10:30. Senior BNP

leaders Prof Badruddoza

Chowdhury, Majidul Huq

Mannan Bhuiyan, Dr Moshar

raf Hussain and Shamsul Is-

lam were present at the

meeting chaired by Prime

Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

among other issues, the pos-

sible response from the AL

chief to the PM's letter fig-

ured in the discussion.

Meeting sources said that,

Meanwhile, a meeting was

after her return."

Hospital sources said the

There are 1127 weaving units, of which 1,119 units belongs to the private sector and the rest to the BTMC. The country has 212,421

handloom units, 250 dyeing/printing and finishing units, 588 knitting units and 1830 ready-made garments With the withdrawal of

MFA, under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariff (GATT), there will be no quotas or restrictions on export or import.

"Therefore, no garments factory owner will be able to buy a quota in USA, for instance, to ensure his market there. The countries which sell textile raw materials to Bangladesh will be feeding their own garments then. So Bangladesh has to increase production of the textiles sector by 80 per cent at the least," the source pointed

While the annual requirement of textiles stood at 2235 million meters in 1994-95, the demand will jump up to 5430 million meters in 2005, according to a projection of the ministry.

#### Communication channel From Page 1 down any invitation for talks,

it Sheikh Hasina could spec-

ify the agenda which will bring her to the negotiating table. The AL chief could make her reply a historic document by suggesting ways how the impasse could be broken at this stage. A way could be shown by her as to how, through the by-election process, a neutral caretaker government could be formed. which would not require any constitutional amendment. It is our view that the issue of the constitution has not been seriously dealt with by the opposition. Now is the time, if ever, to do so. The nation wants to see light, and she could show it.

There is another compelling reason why Sheikh Hasina should reply. If she rejects it out right she will give further substance to the image that opposition is always saying NO. It will not go down well with the public either at home, with the Bangladeshis abroad, and with the international community (those who take interest in our affairs) that the opposition not only turns

but even refuses to reply to a letter of invitation for such talks. While the opposition's movement may carry on as the channel of communication remains open. One of the fundamental

weakness of our present political situation, and one that has made any solution more complicated than it should have been, is the absence of any direct communication between the two top leaders. Even with all their present differences, both political and personal, if they could have communicated without any via media, then we are convinced, there would have been less misunderstanding and far less bitterness. In the current situation middlemen, and carriers of messages, and so-called proposals have had far greater power and influence then they would have otherwise had. The situation became further complicated in the absence of designated , and confidence enjoying negotiators, with full authority to 'give and take' within set parameters. Thus, over a

time, there have been several

communications, and numerous formulae, and just as many interpretations. Nobody knew, including the two top leaders, which were authentic, and how much or who to believe.

Thus for no other reason, just for the fact that this is a direct communication between the top two, it must not be allowed to be cut off. Many will want the channel of communication to snap for the simple reason that gives the intermediaries tremen dous leverage. We repeat what we have

said before. It is our considered view that the two sides are not as far apart as their public postures make them out to be. Both sides more or less agree on a five plus five formula. The only hitch remains about the Prime Minister of the interim/caretaker government. While BNP wants it, Begum Zia has already offered that it will not be her. We are convinced that a negotiated solution can be found for this one last point. For that communication must remain open.

### ZIA customs godown looted

By Staff Correspondent

Burglars broke into the customs godown at Zia International Airport and looted goods worth over Tk seven lakh in the early hours Saturday, police said.

The goods, 62 cartoons of seized Indian Supermax blades, were looted from Godown No 2 of the Dhaka Customs House at about 3:30 Some 95 cartoons of the

same brand blades seized in May were stolen from the same godown in June.

A case was filed with Can tonment thana in this connection yesterday.

#### 3 get 13 yrs' RI for repression on teenaged girl

SIRAJGANJ, Oct 29: Three people were awarded 13 years rigorous imprisonment today for committing repression on a teenaged girl, reports UNB.

In his judgement, District Assistant Sessions Judge Mirza Abdur Rouf convicted Aminul Islam, 23, and Abdul Karim, 38. of village Tajulpara in Kamarkhand thana and Delwar Hossain, 45, of Ranigram in sadar for their offences.

According to the prosecution story, Mahmuda Yasmeen Rahima, 14, a student of class VII. was kidnapped from near Tholeshwar Rail crossing in July 23, 1993 when she was returning home from Jamaital Dhupakandi High School.

She was then forcibly got married with Aminul Islam of the same village in collaboration of other accused.

Police recovered the innocent victim from the house of Delwar Hossain six months later and gave charge-sheets against 12 people on receiving a case from her mother, Nuemahol Begum.

Nine of the accused have been acquitted of the allega-

#### N'ganj medicine shop owners observe strike

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Oct 29: All medicine shops in Narayangani town remained closed from 6 am to noon today at the call of the local unit of the Bangladesh Chemists and Druggists Samity. The strike call was given

in protest against the attack on the owners and employees of a medicine shop by some drug addicts last week. They also ransacked the

Dayal Pharmacy at Maisdai after failing to get phensidyl from the shop. The Chemists and Drug

gists Samity has threatened to observe a day-long strike on October 31 if the authorities do not take action against the drug addicts.

#### I anneries From Page 1

cio-economic study for over all development of leather sector.

The meeting also discussed different aspects of implementing a long-term strategic plan for leather

Representatives of the Bangladesh Tanners' Associa tion (BTA) and the Bangladesh Finished Leather Goods Exporters' Association (BF-LEA) informed the meeting that, on principle, they were interested to shift their factories to the proposed leather industrial estate.

#### Youth centre From Page 1

all the 460 thanas of the country by the year 1997.

The press conference was informed that the Directorate has so far sanctioned loans of Tk 212.40 crore, of which Tk 82.34 crore have been disbursed among the trained youths for self-employment The loan target for the current fiscal is Tk 104 crore.

The state minister happily noted that once the poor youths from rural areas get training and loan, they emerge as entrepreneurs and not only manage their own bread but also create jobs for other unemployed youths. "They repay cent per cent

of the loan within the stipulated time but some fortunate well-off urban people, who took over Tk 10,000 crore loan did not repay," he said. He said, a week-long programme to celebrate the Na

tional Youth Day will include a youth fair, youth rally, seminar and cultural function Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the programme at the Outer Stadium at 11 am on Novem-

High officials of the Ministry of Youth and Sports and the Directorate were present at the press conference.

# The Midnight Rife

#### 180 Taliban militia killed. claims Afghan govt

ISLAMABAD. Oct 29: The government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani said today it had launched an air attack against a military convoy of the Taliban militia, killing at least 180 people, reports AFP.

#### Robin Raphel in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD. Oct 29: US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asia. Robin Raphel, flew into Islamabad today for talks on regional issues including the situation in Afghanisatan, officials here said, reports AFP.

## Macro-economic stability faces collapse, study says

The macro-economic stability that the country achie ved in last three years faces collapse due to recent increase in the budget deficit warns an evaluation report. says UNB

The report, documented by a group of ADB (Asian Development Bank) appointed consultants, emphasised on timely steps to augment rev enue and other deficit-reducing measures to avoid the "An increase in the budget

deficit has re-emerged. which is exerting a growing pressure on the price level. and the fine macro-economic stability achieved during the last three years looks threat ened to collapse .... " the report says. As per the evaluation, the

deterioration in budget deficit basically originated from huge and growing losses of the public enterprises forcing large government borrowings from the banking system. The recent largescale food deficit for which the government had to spend a lot on food import has been an added pressure on the budget. The report recognises the

cuted in recent years resulting in 'remarkable record of macro-economic stability, but observed that government's fiscal management suffered from significant weaknesses. "Fiscal management masked significant structural weaknesses."

massive fiscal reforms exe-

It says although the size of development budget and internal revenue contribution to it increased over the years

#### PM's letter

From Page 1 people. I am sincerely inviting you to sit for a dialogue immediately with an open mind with a view to finding out solution to all problems relating to the forthcoming elections. At any time suitable for you, the talks can take place either at the Prime Minister's office or the Parliament Chamber of the Leader of the House.

"I hope, you will oblige me by accepting my invitation.

### Chambers

From Page 1 said that as South Korean economy was opened for import from various countries, the visiting delegation members would explore the possibility of import from Bangladesh.

Kihak Sung stressed the need for further expanding the economic and trade cooperation between the two countries.

Ambassador Byun said that

about 800 Korean traders and

industrialists were now active

in Bangladesh and this indicated their increased interest in investing here. The Korean investors would initially invest 100 million US dollars in the

planned exclusive Korean EPZ in Chittagong. The business session of the fourth meeting held later stressed the necessity of direct foreign investment in

Bangladesh. It also called upon the South Korean investors to participate in the capital market of Bangladesh

but public investment as percentage of GDP marked de-

The evaluation finds the government tax structure still 'inappropriate' with heavy reliance on import duty. Overwhelming dependence on import taxes reflects that tariff reform is inadequate and there are deficiencies in VAT (Value Added Tax) and direct tax system

"There remains serious shortcomings in the design of VAT as well as in other taxes leading to significant tax-induced economic efficiency losses and creating tax inequities. The report also questions

the efficiency of tax adminis-

tration even after recent re-

forms. "During the last four

years, no significant au-

tonomous measures were introduced to sustain the appreciable growth in government revenue that was achieved during the first few years following the introduction of VAT.

## Group of 5

From Page 1

third meeting with the PM.

The group, comprising Justice Kemaluddin Hossain, Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed, Prof Rehman Sobhan, Fakhruddin Ahmed and Faiz Ahmed, had first met the PM on October 9.

Then they met Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina on October 14 and conveyed to her the outcome of the

meeting with the PM. The group met the PM on October 16 for the second time. The outcome of this meeting was also conveyed to Awami League on October 17. Later, Prof Rehman Sobhan met Hasina on the following

On October 16, the PM said that she was willing to meet Sheikh Hasina for discussions with an open mind to find a solution to the pre-

vailing crisis. The group again met Hasina on October 22 when she told it she was ready to meet the PM if she accepted the concept of a caretaker government headed by a neu-

tral person. Four of them also met the Chief Election Commissioner on October 25 and discussed various issues relating to general elections.

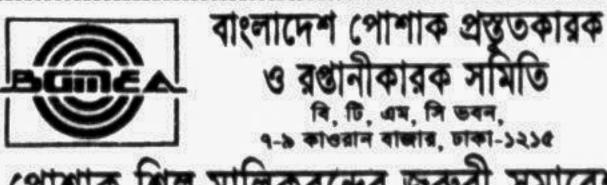
TB patients

From Page 1 and international NGOs for their partnership with the government in implementing the tuberculosis control pro-

gramme. Later she formally released a commemorative postage stamp and a first-day cover issued by the Bangladesh Post Office on the

occasion of the conference. More than 70 representatives from Japan, Thailand, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and 250 representatives from host Bangladesh are attending the conference. There are also observers from US. UK, Finland, Canada, WHO, World Bank and international

and national NGOs



শিল্প মালিকবন্দের জরুরী সমাবেশ (সংশোধনী) গত ২৯/১০/৯৫ ইং তারিখ অত্র দৈনিকে প্রকাশিত পোশাক শিল্প

মালিকবৃন্দের জব্দরী সমাবেশের তারিখ ১লা নভেম্বর ১৯৯৫ এর স্থলৈ ৩০শে নভেম্বর ১৯৯৫ ছাপা হওয়ায় আমরা দুঃবিত সমাবেশটি ১লা নভেম্বর বুধবার বেলা ১০-৩০ ঘটিকায় দি ইনস্টিটিউট অব ইঞ্জিনিয়ার্স অভিটরিয়াম, ঢাকা-এ অনুষ্ঠিত হবে

সকল পোশাক শিল্প মালিকবৃন্দকে উক্ত সমাবেশে যোগদান করার

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