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### PM urges govt employees

## Ease decision-making process to attract FDI

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, professing a clean-slate administration, said ministers would lose their jobs if they indulge in corruption, reports UNB.

To that end, the Prime Minister said, soon after the formation of cabinet, she had directed the ministers to submit the accounts of their wealth and property.

The Prime Minister repeated this while talking to the leaders and members of Sarkari Karmachari Sanghati Parishad who went to the PM's office to congratulate her on her assumption of the office of Prime Minister.

The main objective of my government is to build a corruption-free society, she told the government employees.

Seeking cooperation of government officials and employees in fulfilling the commitments of her government, the Prime Minister called upon them to work hard for rebuilding the shattered economy of the country.

To attract foreign investment (FDI), Hasina called upon

the government employees to ease the decision-making process. "Red-tapism hinders the development activities," she said and requested the concerned not to waste time taking decision.

In this context, Prime Minister, Hasina also disclosed plans for reforming certain laws to expedite work.

The Prime Minister lauded the assurance given to her by government employees of doing hard work, which would help the government implement their pay commission without taxing the people.

Parishad leader Syed Mohiuddin, earlier, assured the Prime Minister of giving their all-out cooperation to the democratic government in its development efforts and smooth running of the administration.

"If necessary, we will work after the office time to help you in organising and building the country's shattered economy... you need not impose tax to implement the pay commission, we will ensure it with our work."

## More areas flooded

From Page 1

the government to send immediate relief to the flood victims.

The overall flood situation in all eight thanas of the district further deteriorated due to heavy rain and onrush of water from hills.

Five thousand families of 15 villages in four worst-affected thanas of Sadar, Dighinala, Panchari and Malchari are rendered homeless.

About 2,000 flood victims have taken shelter at Khagrachhari Shishu Primary School, Mahajan Para Primary School and Khabong Pura Primary School. Cooked foods are being distributed among the victims by the Paurasava authorities.

Road communications between Khagrachhari and Rangamati districts headquarters remained snarled as parts of the road were washed away. Six medical teams have been sent to the affected areas, the district civil surgeon said.

Scarcity of drinking water has added to the sufferings of the people in the flood-affected areas.

In Jamalpur, overall flood situation in 15 unions remained static while two more unions, Langalpur and Furpur in Melandaha thana were inundated yesterday.

Official sources said more than 1,000 people had been marooned in South Fulbaria, Shekervita, Dattapara and Nayapara areas of Jamalpur Paurasava.

## President, PM felicitate Clinton

President Abdur Rahman Biswas and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday felicitated the President of the United States of America William J Clinton on the occasion of the 220th Independence Day of USA, reports UNB.

On the auspicious occasion of the 220th Independence Day of the United States of America, I, on behalf of the people of Bangladesh and on my own behalf, extend to you excellency and through you to the people of USA our heartfelt greetings and cordial felicitations," President Biswas said.

In her message, Hasina expressed the hope that the existing bonds of friendship, cooperation and understanding between the two friendly countries will be further strengthened in the years ahead to the mutual benefit of the people of Bangladesh and USA.

## Lightning kills schoolgirl

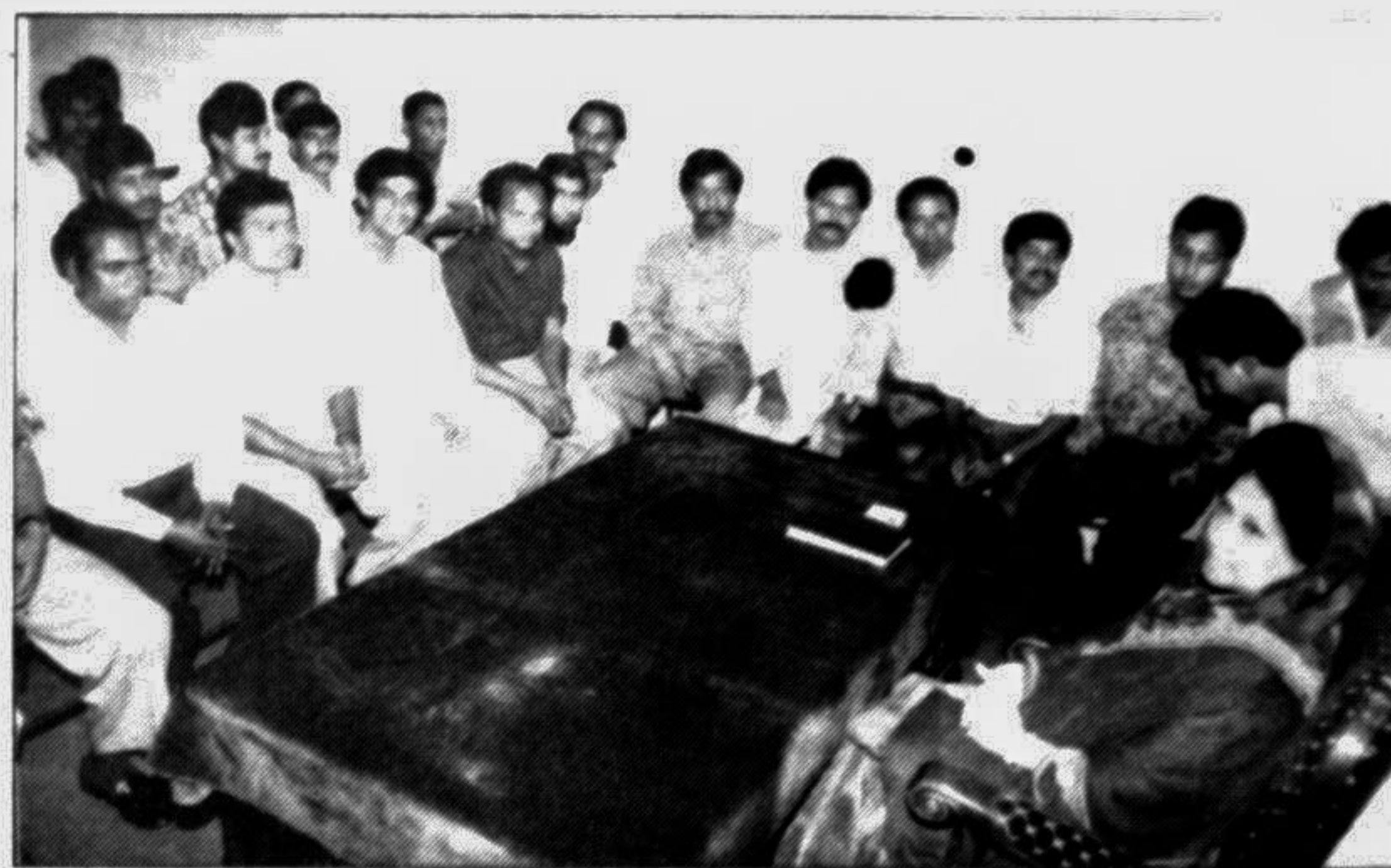
BARISAL, July 3: A teenaged schoolgirl was killed and her mother injured by lightning at Chakhar village in Banoari thana today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said Parvin Akand, 16, died on the spot when the thunderbolt struck them while they were going to a nearby pond during heavy rainfall.

Another report adds: A snatcher was beaten to death by the angry villagers in Gouranadi thana this afternoon. Witnesses said the villagers caught Panna Howlader, 25, red-handed as he tried to snatch valuables from a Grameen Bank employee at Kasemabad village and beat him up mercilessly. He succumbed to injuries on way to hospital.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia exchanging views with Jubo Dal leaders at the BNP's Kakrail office in the city yesterday. — Star photo

## EC to propose formation of electoral reforms body

The Election Commission is going to propose to the government for formation of a commission on electoral reforms for bringing about further improvement in the existing laws and rules for the sake of ensuring fairer and more transparent elections, Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena said yesterday.

In an interview with BSS the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) felt that there were some flaws, limitations and inadequacies in the existing laws and rules relating to elections, which should be addressed to strengthen the Election Commission and to ensure greater effectiveness of its work.

The CEC said the proposed commission comprising jurists, representatives of political parties, government and the Election Commission might examine the whole gamut of the issues involving elections.

The proposed commission may examine the related laws of the neighbouring countries and other advanced countries and study the recommendations and suggestions of various domestic and international bodies and groups who observed the just-concluded general elections.

## Hijacker beaten to death in Barisal

BARISAL, July 3: One hijacker was beaten to death at Kashemabad helipad under Gouranadi thana yesterday, police said, reports BSS.

One Panna Howlader, 25, along with his two accomplices were caught red-handed by the mob while they were trying to snatch money and other belongings from one Nurul Islam, a businessman. The mob beat up Panna who has later admitted to the Gouranadi thana health complex in a critical condition. Panna died there, police said.

A case was lodged with Gouranadi thana police in this connection, the source added.

## Govt to gear up reforms

From Page 1

procedures to create a tax realisation system where the tax-payers would feel comfortable in paying tax.

In this regard, he said, the National Board of Revenue (NBR) has already taken various steps to simplify the return-form for the self-assessment tax payees.

He also reaffirmed that no private financial, commercial and industrial establishment would be nationalised, and the private sector will be the driving force behind the economic growth of the country.

Kibria also assured that measures would be taken to maintain balance in international trade policy and removing imbalance in imports and exports.

Referring to the interim budget announced by the caretaker government, he said the new government might bring some change in the budget as an elected government. But it preferred stability in economic affairs.

"But stability does not mean stagnation. If necessary, we won't hesitate to take any step for the sake of industry and trade," he said.

The finance minister said the government would take steps to ensure macro-economic stability and growth in gross domestic product (GDP) needed for the country's existence and alleviating poverty.

Citing low productivity as a hindrance to accelerating economic growth, he said steps will also be taken for enhancing productivity, linking it to the wage to reach the benefit of increased productivity to

garding the complaints made by certain political parties and candidates about rigging in the elections, the CEC said such complaints could not be considered on the basis of mere allegations or generalities.

Abu Hena said the legal remedy available under the existing laws is the presentation of an election petition under Article 49 of the Representation of the People Order (RPO). The election petitions are to be heard by the election tribunals, he added.

The CEC observed that there may or may not be any merit in the 39 complaint petitions received by the Election Commission. The party-wise break up of the complaints against rigging and adoption of other malpractices were: 21 by BNP, 8 by Awami League, 6 by Jatiya Party, two by Jamaat-e-Islami, one by Workers Party and one by CPB.

The CEC pointed out that on the polling days of June 12 and June 19, a good number of complaints received verbally or in writing were attended to promptly by the Election Commission.

The CEC said the election tribunals would hear the petitions made in a proper manner and presented with concrete evidence.

The Election Commission has constituted 61 election tribunals throughout the country.

Replying to another question regarding inordinate delay in disposing of the election petitions by the election tribunals, the CEC said for expeditious disposal of the petitions, the Commission has suggested to the government the establishment of permanent election tribunals to deal with the election petitions.

The CEC said if it was not possible to set up such tribunals in each district, the government could set up at least six exclusive tribunals in six divisions of the country. These steps could help immensely in the disposal of election petitions within a short time, he added.

Replying to another question regarding a candidate exceeding the stipulated expenditure of Taka 3 lakh, the CEC observed that the existing laws in this respect are not sufficiently effective. Under the existing laws, a candidate is required to submit a statement of his expenditures during the elections within 15 days of the gazette notification of the names of the returned candidates.

The statement of expenditures submitted by the candidates to the returning officers remains open for inspection by any person for a period of one year, he said.

She cautioned the people against what she called moves to snatch people's rights by raising slogans for cheap populism.

"Our party believes in constructive politics and is committed to safeguarding democracy and democratic rights of the people," said Begum Zia.

Chaired by city Jubo Dal chief Abu Sayeed Khokon, the meeting was also addressed by, among others, Mirza Abbas, Giasuddin Choudhury Khokon, M Anwar Hossain, Nabi Solaiman, Nasiruddin Patwari, Anwar Hossain Lulu and Alamgir Hossain.

EU move

From Page 1

said it came from within and outside Bangladesh.

Every second T-shirt worn by a European Union citizen originates in Bangladesh, which last year exported nearly 200 million of the garments.

The spokesman said the new export forms were printed on special security paper with three-dimensional watermarks and a unique serial number.

If successful, the scheme will be expanded to other countries with major exports to the EU.

Dacoity

From Page 1

Later, following the confessions of the arrested persons, the police recovered the money and some of the gold ornaments including two chains, eight rings, two pairs of ear rings.

## Body to probe irregularities in distribution of newspaper ads

A high-powered committee has been formed by the Information Ministry to investigate the irregularities in the distribution of newspaper advertisements, reports agencies.

The committee will submit its report within the next 15 days.

Meanwhile, a 12-member delegation of the Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP) met the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office yesterday evening and discussed with her multifarious problems of the industry.

The Prime Minister told the leaders that advertisement would be distributed to newspapers on the basis of proper ad policy.

She told them that a committee was being formed to probe anomalies in the distribution of newspaper advertisements.

The Prime Minister, instantly directed State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Sayeed, present in a meeting with a delegation of the Parishad, to sit with the BSP leaders and discuss precisely the problems facing the newspaper industry.

The BSP leaders resented the allocation of 70 per cent advertisements to two trust newspapers — The Bangladesh Times and Dainik Bangla.

They also demanded allocation of newspaper quota on the basis of audit system.

The Prime Minister assured the newspaper owners' association of looking into the problems, while State Minister Abu Sayeed agreed at the meeting to sit today with the BSP leaders for an appraisal of the situation.

Among the BSP leaders who attended the meeting were Ahmedul Kabir, Kazi Shahed Ahmed, Enayetullah Khan, Mizanur Rahman Mizan and Syed Mesbauddin.

## 68 young girls held in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested 25 men and 68 young girls from different parts of the city yesterday allegedly for their anti-social activities.

Special teams of the Detective Branch and police from different thanas arrested them during raids on residential hotels, beauty and massage parlours.

## Khaleda

From Page 1

tion at all tiers, she hoped. The former prime minister reminded them of various steps undertaken by her government to help the youths become self-reliant by giving them loans without collateral and also late President Ziaur Rahman's initiatives in this regard.

Alleging that repression was going on the activists of the pro-BNP youth and student activists across the country, Begum Zia said the youth community should take the lead in doing away with all sorts of injustice in the society.

The BNP chief demanded that 'oppression and harassment' of her party activists be stopped immediately. Otherwise, she warned, her party along with the people would resist any attempt to undo people's rights, democracy, independence and sovereignty of the country.

She cautioned the people against what she called moves to snatch people's rights by raising slogans for cheap populism.

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## The Midnight File

### 18 killed overnight in Kashmir

SRINAGAR, India, July 3: Eighteen people were killed overnight in Kashmir, including ten members of one family, as continuing violence gripped the strife-torn state, police said today, reports AFP.

## Fertiliser situation reviewed

## Defaulting dealers to face punitive action

The government yesterday charted comprehensive measures for smooth and adequate supply of fertiliser to farmers, reports UNB.

The national coordination committee on distribution of fertiliser at a meeting adopted the measures and warned the dealers of punitive action in case of lapses.

It decided to take measures, including cancellation of dealership, against the dealers who fail to lift and supply urea as per contractual terms.

The meeting, held at Industries Ministry with Industries and Commerce Ministers Tofael Ahmed in the chair, noted that adequate measures had already been taken for meeting the fertiliser requirement of the country upto September 1996.

Agriculture, Food, Disaster Management and Relief Minister Begum Motia Chowdhury was present at the meeting, which worked out specific plans to ensure availability of fertiliser to the farmers at fair price to meet the demand of the remaining period of the current year, particularly pick demand-period commencing from February 1997.

The whole gamut of issues concerning demand, production, stock and overall supply of urea fertiliser was reviewed in the meeting. Effective courses of action were evolved to ensure availability of adequate quantity of fertiliser at the farmers level. In this perspective, all concerned were

## Writ challenging election to women's seats

By SC Correspondent

A writ petition challenging election to the 30 reserved seats for women in the Jatiya Sangsad before the bye-election to 16 seats has been filed in the High Court Division.

The 16 seats were vacated by those elected from more than one constituency.

In the petition, filed by Abu Bakar Siddique, an advocate of the Supreme Court, it has also been prayed that an injunction be issued on holding elections to the reserved seats before completion of the election to all the 300 directly elected seats of parliament.

## Nominations

From Page 1

Rouf Asha (Nilphamari, Lalmanthar and Rangpur), Mrs Shahana Sardar (Kurigram and Gaibandha), Mrs Quamrunnahr Putul (Jaipurhat and Bogra), Prof Jannatul Ferdous (Sirajganj and Pabna), Prof Zinatun Nesa Talukder (Nawabganj and Rajshahi), Shahin Morwarra Huq (Naogaon and Natore), Anjumana Ara Jamil (Kushina, Meherpur and Chuadanga), Mrs Rehana Akhtar Hira (Jhenaidah-Narail and Magura), Aleya Afroz (Jessore and Satkhira), Begum Mannujan Sufian (Bagerhat and Khulna), Nargis Ara Huq (Patuakhali, Bogura and Bholia), Mrs Mahmuda Sawgat (Barisal, Jhalakathi and Pirojpur), Chitra Bhattacharya (Tangail, Tahura Ali (Jamalpur and Sherpur), Jahanara Khan (Mymensingh), Sabita Begum (Netrokona and Kishoreganj), Martum Begum (Manikganj and parts of Dhaka district), Barrister Rabeeya Bhuiyan (Dhaka), Mehar Afroz (Gazipur and Narsingdi), Sagufa Yesmeen (Narayanganj and Munshiganj), Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury (Rajbari and Faridpur), Prof Khaleda Khanom, (Gopalganj, Madaripur and Shariatpur), Syeda Zebunnesa Huq (Sunanganj and Sylhet), Husna Ara Waheed (Moulvibazar and Hobiganj), Dilara Harun (Brahmanbaria and parts of Comilla), Prof Panna Kaiser (Parts of Comilla and Chandpur), Razia Matin Chowdhury (Feni), Noakhali and Lakkipur), Mrs Zeenat Husain (Chittagong) and Prof A Thin (Rakhai) (Cox's Bazar, Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban).

## ALPP

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The ALPP meeting will be held at the Sangsad Bhavan cabinet room at 7:15 pm.

Earlier, the first meeting of the ALPP on June 20 empowered Hasina to choose the Deputy Leader of the ALPP as well as the Chief Whip and whips of the party in the Sangsad.

Later, Hasina selected Abu Hasnat Abdullah, MP, as Chief Whip. She, however, did not name the Deputy Leader of the ALPP and three whips till yesterday.

Talking to this correspondent yesterday, a minister said, "we will discuss our choices for the posts of Speaker and Deputy Speaker in the coming ALPP meeting."

The minister, who talked on condition of anonymity, declined to say whether or not Awami League was willing to offer the post of Deputy Speaker to Jatiya Party, which is a partner in the AL-led government.

Sources in the AL said that the leader of the ALPP was keeping the options and choices guarded secret till those come up for discussion at the ALPP meeting.

## Check wastage

From Page 1

Mahmud talking about his short three months' experience, "Crosses of taka are allocated on the basis of region, political or bureaucratic bias, checking of which is a challenge for any government."

Pierre Landell-Mills, chief of the World Bank's resident mission in Dhaka, taking the floor, supported the views of Prof Yunus and said there must have a long term vision in development.

However, he said there can be remarkable improvement in education, health or other sectors without any change of technology just by simple policy change, improvement of governance efficiency and decentralisation.

Landell-Mills contradicted with the study's finding that low and stable prices for staple grains have positive effect on poverty alleviation saying that farmers are highly responsive to prices. He said agricultural production dropped in the 1990s because of price collapse.

He also expressed concern over the transfer of poverty from the rural areas to the urban areas and said the efficiency of family planning programme must be improved for long term sustainability.

Others present in the discussion were Abu Abulhassan, DG, BIDS, and KK Nielsen, Charge d'Affaires, Royal Danish Embassy.