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Shahabuddin

head of state. said a high offi

cial at the EC secreteriat ves

nominated acting president of

the country following the fall of

the government of H M Ershad

in December 1990 in the face

of a mass-upsurge led by the

Awami League, BNP and the

left wing parties. He was cho-

sen unanimously by the parties

to conduct the general elec-

tions to elect the country's

sgstem, President Ershad had

appointed Justice Shahabuddin

as acting president to hand

held under the caretaker gov-

ernment headed by Justice

Shahabuddin earned national

and international appreciation

as a free and fair one. He went

back to the Supreme Court as

the Chief Justice after the

Bangladesh Nationalist Party

formed the government. A few

months later, he retired as the

... After taking over as Prime Minister, Sheikh Hasina had

met Shahabuddin at his resi-

dence and requested him to

accept her party's nomination

as a candidate for the post of

declared the 'man of the year'

by The Daily Star in 1992 for

his role in heading the care-

taker government and holding

Olympics

From Page 1

called her 'our golden girl' and

archbishop Desmond Tutu ex-

horted Atlantans to help Cape

Town in its bid to secure the

Evans, who handed the

Olympics torch to Muhammad

Ali at Friday's opening cere-

mony and was one of the sen-

timental favourites of the

Games, suffered a bitter disap-

pointment when she failed to

qualify for the 400 metres

tion, Poland topped the

medals table with four golds.

Their athletes were fiercely

motivated by the memory of

their team leader, who died of

a heart attack after marching

in the opening parade on

champion Pawell Nastual dedi-

cated his medal to Eugeniusz

shock to all of us. Nobody ex-

pected it, but it has mobilised

all of our athletes,' he said, 'He

is looking down on us and

Leon Stukelj the world's

oldest Olympic medallist at 97

said he hoped to make the

Sydney Olympics in the year

BNP welcomes

From Page 1

secretary general of the Jatiya

Party and Minister for Com-

was made Acting President in

1990 with the consent of all

the then opposition political

parties, said Monju. "His role

as Acting President in holding

the general elections in 1991

was acclaimed nationally and

internationally," Manju told

newsmen at the parliament

claim at the time that it had

been victimised under the

tenure of Shahabuddin, Manju

shad, when asked for com-

ment, told newsmen that the

secretary general of the party

Suranjit Sengupta, Parliament

Affairs Adviser to the Prime

Minister as saying: "We have

selected the person who is

most acceptable to 120 million

people of the country. There is

no question about his accept-

ability as well as neutrality."

UNB news agency quoted

would give the reaction.

Jatiya Party chief H M Er-

said, "time has changed now."

When asked about JP's

Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed

2000 when he will be 101.

sharing our honours.

Three-time world judo

'His death came as a big

After two days of competi-

American swimmer Janet

2004 Olympics.

freestyle final.

Friday.

Pietrasik.

munications.

lobby.

President Nelson Mandela

first Olympic gold since 1952.

a free and fair polls in 1991.

Justice Shahabuddin was

The 1991 general election,

Under the then presidential

fifth parliament.

over power to him.

Chief Justice

president

From Page 1

Justice Shahabuddin was



Awami League General Secretary Zillur Rahman submitted the nomination papers of former acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed as the party candidate for the post of President to Chief Election Commissioner Mohammad Abu Hena at the Election Commission in the city — Star photo vesterday.

\$2.5b deficit budget announced in India

NEW DELHI, July 22: Indian Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram unveiled a fiscal 1996-97 budget in parliament here today crafted to reconcile the conflicting demands of free traders and communists in the new government.

Chidambaram, in a nationally television speech, released a budget for the fiscal year which began on April 1 which he said "remains steadfast on the course of economic reforms" while ensuring "growth with social justice."

He announced total expenditere fixed 1996-97 of 55.48 minon US dollars against total revenue of 55.93 billion dollars - a deficit of 2.55 billion dollars or 2.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP).

Increased emphasis was given to developing agricultural production, which rose by just 0.9 per cent in liscal 1995-96, while the budgets of the departments of rural development and education were nearly doubled.

Defence spending was raised by a marginal 270 mil lion dollars to 7.94 billion dol-

In a bid to increase revenue, the finance minister

widened the corporate tax net.

introduced a special customs duty of two per cent and proposed raising 1.4 billion dollars through disinvestment in

state-owned companies. Import duties were slashed, however, on a range of items including colour television and computer components telecommunications equipment, edible oils, medical supplies, plastics goods and

Noting that the United Front coalition government which took office on June 1 was made up of "political parties of different complexions and different ideologies. Chidambaram said they were united in wanting "faster economic growth and social jus-

He announced the removal of a number of state controls on agriculture and industry increased spending on poverty alleviation, reforms of the tax system and pledged to broaden and deepen reforms of the capital markets.

"We will keep our economy open and competitive in order to encourage more foreign trade and attract more foreign investment," he said. "Above all, we will observe fiscal and monetary prudence."

Demirel's visit to Dhaka

From Page 1 The interest of Turkish investors in Bangladesh was evident as some have already started arriving to look for opportunities in Bangladesh market in such sectors as jute. jute goods, fresh food, vegetables, sea food and garments. A delegation of Turkish businessmen representing various trades was waiting in the envoy's office to receive economic information on Bangladesh while the envoy was being interviewed.

The ambassador said a cement factory in the private sector is likely to be set up shortly, which perhaps could export cement besides fulfilling domestic requirements.

A joint meeting of the newly established Istanbul-Dhaka joint chambers of commerce would be take place shortly and it would be participated by representatives from the garments, textiles and cement manufacturers, the envoy said. Besides, from the 25th to 29th of the current month, a mixed delegation of businessmen headed by the Vice President of the Istanbul Chamber of Commerce would be visiting Bangladesh.

Turkey would also organise a single country fair in Dhaka from September 7 to 11 at the National Museum.

The Turkish government has already invited several important persons including the Minister for Telecommunications, Energy Secretary and the Chairman of Petro-Bangla and several others, who are due to visit Ankara shortly.

"With these visits, there would be newer agreements," the ambassador said. Speaking about industriali-

34 arrested from ZIA

By Staff Correspondent Thirty-four persons were arrested on different charges at Zia International Airport (ZIA) during the last few days. police said.

private cars were also seized from the airport. Cases under traffic laws

Four microbuses and two

have also been lodged against eight owners of vehicles, the police added.

sation Turkey, the envoy noted that there had been tremendous strides and it has attained the fourth rung in the field of telecommunications and occupies the seventh position in

production of fibre optics. Stating that 65 per cent of the GDP in his country comes from industrial products while some 60 per cent of the population live in urban areas, he mentioned that Turkey had made significant economic progress and now it even "produced jet fighters of F-16 series with zero default."

Kemal Ozcan Davaz said a Turkish language course had been set up at Dhaka University in 1994 and every year 20 scholarships are being offered to graduates to study in Turkish Universities.

A Turkish firm will open a school in Gulshan which will start operating on August 15. It will later be formally inaugurated by President Demirel. Some 200 students are expected to be enrolled at the

Responding to a question, the envoy said his government wants set up a Cultural Centre of Turkey near the Kemal Ataturk Avenue in Dhaka.

Recalling the historical ties between the two countries, he said the famous Muslim saint. Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA), came all the way from Konya in the

14th century.

The ambassador was happy to note that Kemal Ataturk was remembered with admiration in Bangladesh. Poet Nazrul Islam was widely known in his country and several of his works were translated in the Turkish language, he noted. The works of several other Bangalee poets like Farrokh Ahmed, Jashimuddin and Syed Ali Ahsan were also translated, he added. Paintings by Zainul Abedin, SM Sultan and Shahabuddin were also known in

Turkey. Kemal Ozcan Davaz, a career diplomat who arrived in Bangladesh seven months ago, is very enthusiastic and determined to create a new chapter of fruitful and meaningful cooperation between the two countries. The envoy who is an excellent photographer, has already taken nearly 1000

pictures in Bangladesh. "I never feel that I am in a foreign country," he remarked.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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The Baily Star _ China keen to set up industries

China wants to set up fertiliser, sugar and paper indus-tries besides making further investment in energy and telecommunications sectors of

Bangladesh, reports UNB. The offer was conveyed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina by Chinese Ambassador in Bangladesh Zhang Xujiang when he called on her at the PM's office yesterday morning.

The Chinese diplomat said China had adopted open market economic policy and the developing countries would get its advantage

Prime Minister Hasina, responding to a request, said her government was considering the proposal for starting work on the proposed Shahjalal Fer-tiliser Project while final clearance for building the fourth friendship bridge over river Korotoa had already been gi-

Responding to Chinese offer for financial assistance for constructing a power-generating plant at Barapukuria Coalmine Project, where China has its involvement, the Prime Minister said the government would consider if the loan is of easy

Referring to trade imbalance between the two coun tries. Sheikh Hasina requested

the Ambassador to influence his government to import more goods from Bangladesh

to narrow down the gap.
Recalling deep historical relationship between China and Bangladesh, the Prime Minister and the Chinese Ambassador both termed the existing relationship as excellent and hoped that it would

strengthen further in future. She mentioned that her govérnment would maintain bilateral relations with China on the basis of Bangladesh's firm belief in "One China" policy treating "Taiwan" as part of the People's Republic of China.

Prime Minister Hasina also emphasised the need for expanding cooperation and relations among the Asian countries as these countries face common problems like flood, poverty and natural disaster.

Accepting the invitation of the Chinese premier to visit China, Hasina also requested the envoy to convey her invitation to Li Peng to visit Bangladesh

The Bangladesh Prime Minister also invited the Chinese President to visit Bangladesh at a time when he will visit India and Pakistan late this year.

12 ROs for JS by-elections appointed

The Election Commission (EC) yesterday appointed 12 returning officers and 26 assistant returning officers for conducting by-elections to the 16 vacant seats of the Jativa Sangsad scheduled for September 5, reports BSS

The deputy commissioners of 12 districts and nirbahi offi cers of 26 thanas covering the vacant constituencies were selected returning officers and assistant returning officers, an EC press release said.

The districts are Rangpur Kurigram, Bogra, Sirajganj Bagerhat, Khulna, Bhola, Pirojpur, Shariatpur, Sylhet, Laxm ipur, and Chittagong. Thanas are Taraganj, Badarganj, Mithapukur. Peerganj. Ulipur. Bogra Sadar, Gabtali, Kazipur, Fakirhat, Mollahat, Chitalmari Batiyaghata, Dakop, Bhola Sadar, Kawkhali, Bhandaria, Jajira, Shariatpur Sadar, Goainghat, Jaintapur, Raipur, Laxmipur Sadar, Meerershwarai. Chandanaish and Satkaniya

JS visitors From Page 1

advised the visitors in general to abide by the code of con-

According to the rules printed on the back of the visitors pass, a visitor is barred from laughing or making any sound while in the gallery. Smoking, drinking and even gossiping loudly is also forbidden in the visitors gallery. Some visitors once again

violated the code of conduct on the fourth working day yesterday. They clapped when Jatiya Party chief H M Ershad walked a few steps towards Kader Siddiqui, a ruling party MP, on the JS floor yesterday afternoon.

Two accused in Sergeant Farhad murder held

By Staff Correspondent Two brothers accused in the killing of a police sergeant in 1994 were arrested from a shopping centre in the city yesterday.

brother Sirajul Islam Faruk were picked up during a raid on the first floor of Cosco Market under Kotwali thana at about 6:30 pm. police said. According to police

sergeant Farhad was shot dead near Jagannath University in the old part of the city on March 3, 1994.

The two brothers were be ing interrogated till last night.

Jailbreak

Four securitymen may be produced in court today

The four arrested security personnel of Dhaka Central Jail are likely to be produced before the court after the end of five days remand today, CID sources said.

The CID arrested the securitymen — Shayesta Khan Abdus Salam Sarker, Md Robiullah and Mujibor Rahman Khandaker — on July 17 following the escape of 13 pris oners from the Dhaka Central Jail on July 15.

gation of the arrested security personnel. However, police declined to give any details for the sake of the investigation.

PM's directive to solve problems

SSC roll codes

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday advised the Chairman of Dhaka Education Board and authorities concerned to find a solution to the problem centering writing of roll codes of SSC examinees this year who could not come

own called the chairman of Dhaka Board and the authorities concerned to her office and discussed the matter with them after her attention was drawn to news items concerning the unsuccessful examinees and their guardians over the last few days.

part in a movement against the them that there was no need

New law in UK

The British government has tabled new legislation to curb immigration racketeering and bogus asylum applications, reports BSS.

gration Advisory Service recently. Home Office Minister Timothy Kirkhope said that the Asylum and Immigration Bill would effectively hit the racketeers and bogus asylum seekers attempting to abuse Britain's great tradition of hospitality, according to a mes-High Commission in Dhaka.

Kirkhope reaffirmed that to fear from the new legislation. Genuine refugees would. from persecution that they But Britain as a society

could not bear the burden of llegal immigrants who seek to obtain publicly funded services, including social housing and social security benefits, that they have no right to re-Kirkhope noted that the

benefit changes incorporated in the Bill had already produced a substantial reduction in asylum applications since their introduction in February. In March applications lell by seven per cent on the pre-

out successful, reports BSS.
The Prime Minister on her

She also called two representatives of the guardians of unsuccessful candidates taking board, to her office, and told for any movement against his as she had already asked the authorities concerned to find a solution.

to stop bogus asylum seekers

In a speech to the Immisage received from British

anyone lawfully entering the United Kingdom had nothing as always, get the protection

vious year, in April by over 25 per cent, in May by 50 per cent and in June by over 50 per cent.

Finance Minister Shah AMS

Vacuum Cleaner

Compact & ultra light

Kibria told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that the outstanding foreign loans stood at Taka 64,105 crore till June 30, 1995, reports BSS.

ter said per capita loan amounts to Taka 5,355.50.

He said the government had been repaying the loan at the rate of Taka 1700 crore annu-

5656 crore to Bangladesh during the period between January 1, 1991 and May 31,

be taken in this respect on

Replying to a question from Gautam Chakravarty (Tangail)

that investigation against the allegations of over invoicing by industrial entrepreneurs will be undertaken. He said Bangladesh Bank has been taking steps in this direction. The finance minister.

reply to a question from Dipankar Talukder (Rangamati), said with the improvement of recovery rate of house building loans, the government had been thinking of providing same loans at district and thana levels.

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

Post Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim informed the House that there are 696 telephone exchanges in 64 districts of the country.

In reply to a question from Zafrul Islam Chowdhury (Chittagong), the T and T Minister said a non-government organisation namely "Sheba Telecom" had been given permission to set up digital exchanges with NWD facilities in 194 police stations and their adjoining areas

Nasim, in reply to a starred question from Shah Hadiuzzaman (Jessore), said there are 3,31,015 telephone subscribers in the country of whom 1,54.986 are in capital

Mashiur new **ERD Secy**

By Staff Correspondent Water Resources Secretary

Dr AKM Mashiur Rahman has been transferred to the Economic Relations Division (ERD) as secretary while Banking Division Secretary Dr ATM Shamsul Huda has been transferred to the Water Resources Ministry as its secretary, said a PID handout yesterday

ERD Secretary Md Lutfullahil Majid's request for voluntary retirement has been ac-

Fresh areas inundated

From Page Dharla, Brahmaputra and downstream of Ganges are in

Our Faridpur Correspon-

dent says, flood situation in four thanas turned serious with the rise of water level in the rivers Padma and Arialkha that inundated fresh areas and caused erosion which devoured several villages.

The affected thanas are: Charbhadrasan, Sadarpur, Bhanga and Faridpur sadar.

Six villages — Sonar Mondal Dangi, Altaf Tahshilder Dangi, Imam Paul Dangi, Raja Mondal Dangi, Bahirchar Dangi and Mohammad Matubbar Dangi in Sadar thana were devoured by the erosion.

In Gaibandha, Thousands of people were affected as the vast tracts of land was inundated.

The affected areas include

Khaleda From Page 1

ferent places. Leaders and workers of Bogra Sadar and Gabtoli thana BNP also met with Begum Zia and apprised her about their activities.

Begum Zia asked them to strengthen the party by gearing up organisational activities and motivating the people to assemble under the banner of

The local BNP leaders strongly demanded of the party chairperson to nominate her elder son, Tareq Zia, for a local parliamentary constituency (Bogra-6 or 7) in the coming by-election.

BNP to return

From Page 1

were unanimous on making the parliament effective. The Speaker also assured of running the House by strictly following the JS Rules of Procedure and sought cooperation from both the sides, he added.

Zillur Rahman, who is also LGRD and Cooperatives Minister, further said that the tripartite discussions, convened by the Speaker, were held in a very cordial atmo-Opposition Chief Whip

Khandakar Delwar Hossain hastened to add that the Speaker had assured that their rights as Opposition lawmakers would be protected and they would be allowed to speak as per the rules.

Replying to a question, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof. Badruddoza Choudhury also confirmed his party's joining the JS session today.

The ruling party was represented at the tripartite meeting by Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Zillur Rahman, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim, Chief Whip of the House Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Rahmat Ali and Abdus Shahid. The BNP was represented by Prof Badruddoza Choudhury, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Saifur Rahman, Khandakar Delwar Hossain, K M Obaidur Rahman Salahuddin Quader Choudhury Nazmul Huda, and Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain.

pourashava and rural hats and bazar and cropland. In the paura area Baniarjan, Sandarfara, Purbaramarjani, Munshipara were the worst af-

With this, some 830 villages

refuge. Road communication between the district headquarters and Kazipur thana remained suspended as the Sirajganj-Kazipur road went under water and a portion of

water. In Jamalpur, flood situation improved slightly with the water level of river Jamuna receding by 17 centimetres at

tween Jamalpur and Sherpur resumed yesterday after a sixday disruption due to flood.

fected by the recent flood. A Tangail report says, erosion by the Jamuna in Nikrail

At least 50 houses of village Nalsia under Nikrail union were devoured on Saturday last and over 200 houses went into

the river this week. Beluabandha and Konabari villages of the union were worst affected. Besides four villages under Kakua union of Tangail Sadar thana have been

From Page 1

customs hall will be ready which will ease the pressure both on the customs officials and the passengers. Chowdhury said.

Another big problem that incoming passengers used to face is the hassle of the porters, baggers and thiefs who tried to grab whatever they could from the passenger. The ZIA authorities have taken steps to stop such ha-

drive-way outside the terminal building to stop outsiders from getting inside the guarded area, he said. As a result, passengers can

being harassed by porters and outsiders. "We will put up another fence in the car park area to ensure safety to the parked cars and the taxi stand and public transport stand will be

shifted to near the cargo building," he added. Meanwhile, the authorities have decided to sell the tickets for visitors to enter the terminal building themselves Already, it has not extended the lease agreement for ticket

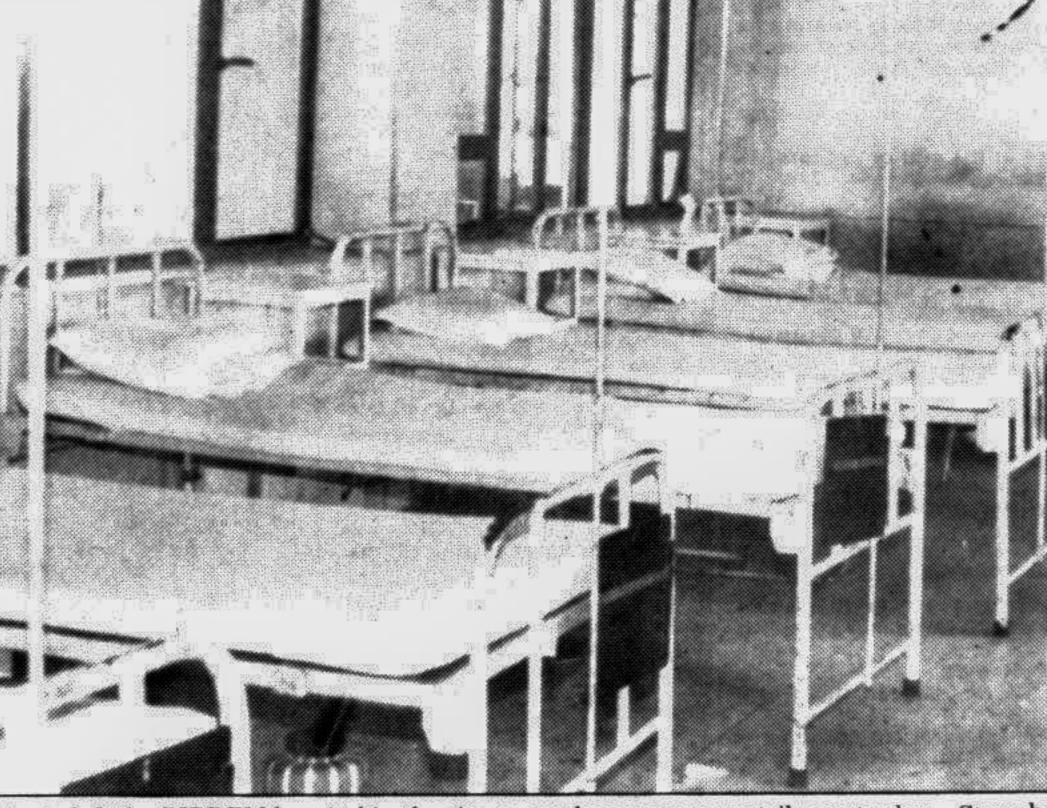
This way we will be in a better position to filter out unwanted visitors," the direc-

88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA.

Rafigul Islam Kazal and his

By Staff Correspondent

Police sources said that they gathered 'important information' during the interro-



Patients left the BIRDEM hospital in the city as employees were on strike yesterday.- Star photo

Strike at BIRDEM

From Page 1 staff members and cancellation of a recently introduced con-

tract system in recruitment of

The emergency department was however exempted from the purview of the strike. On an average, about 2000 patients get treatment at the outdoor department of the 400-bed hospital daily.

A well placed source at the country's only diabetic hospital said that both the Health Minister and the Health Secretary were apprised of the situation in the hospital yesterday. But the government was yet to take any initiative to end the deadlock. "I do not think we can do

anything regarding the employees' demands till the BIR-DEM Council meets Wednesday on urgent basis," commented Secretary General of BIRDEM Dr Fasih Uddin Mahtab adding, "the council is the supreme authority regarding any decision." The main tussle between

the authorities and the employees is the difference of opinion regarding the service rules for employees, he noted. "There is no alternative to

the contract system if we want

to ensure better service at the BIRDEM," he said. President of the Employees Welfare Association Kabir Ul Alam alleged that the authorities were giving a wrong impression about the contract

system to create confusion.

"Why are the authorities afraid of the 1992 service rules?" he posed the question and noted that the 1992 service rules were framed by a committee consisting of representatives from the Welfare Association, Officers' Club and the authorities. Kabir Ul Alam also denied

the authorities' claim that the association leaders and authorities at a meeting Saturday had agreed on some of the employees' demands saying, "it's totally false. We did not agree on anything."

House about measures taken by

the government to realise the huge unpaid overdue loans. The measures included filing cases against defaulters with the financial loan courts. direct sale or auction after requisition of project/mortgaged property and the sale of

property of project directors.

faulters have been disqualified

Besides, the bank loan de-

Overdue loans

From Page 1

from participating in general elections and local government elections, and for appointment to be board of directors of a Moreover, they were also disqualified for fresh loans for any new project and debarred

from being designated as CIPs

(commercially important per-

Responding to a supplementary of MA Bari, the finance minister said that the government would not interfere in sanctioning loan by the banks which provide credit under specific rules and regulations.

sons), Kibria said.

Per capita foreign loan Tk 5355.50

Transcom Electronics Limited

Dhaka: 815306-9, 819625-9, 889993 Ctg.: 501082, 503578, Khuina: 20304, Bogra: 6215

Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets

Replying to a written ques-tion from Kazi Sirajul Islam (Faridpur), the finance minis-

ally from the revenue budget. Replying to question from M Shahidul Islam (Jhenidah). Kibria said the World Bank IDB and ADB had respectively given development project as-sistance worth Taka 5014 crore, Taka 88 crore and Taka

The finance minister, replying to a star marked question from Maulana Delwar Hossain Saidee (Pirozpur), referred to the steps being taken to realise loans from the defaulters He said the government had been seriously considering to publish a list of loan defaulters and necessary measures would

he said the foreign exchange reserve on June 30, 1996, was 2038.56 million US dollars (approximately Taka 8490.59 crore) He told another questioner

In Sirajganj district, flood situation deteriorated further as 363 more villages in three thanas were inundated yesterday (Monday).

in eight thanas of the district were flooded so far affecting more than four lakh people. The authorities opened 64 flood centres where a total of 42,780 flood victims took

the road washed away by strong currents of the flood

Bahadurabad in two days. Road communication be-

According to unofficial sources, about 3.12 lakh people in the six thanas of Jamalpur district were af-

union under Bhuapur thana has sharply increased.

affected by erosion.

In another one year, a new

rassment of passengers by erecting two iron fences in the

now get on their cars without

selling by a private party from this year

tor said.