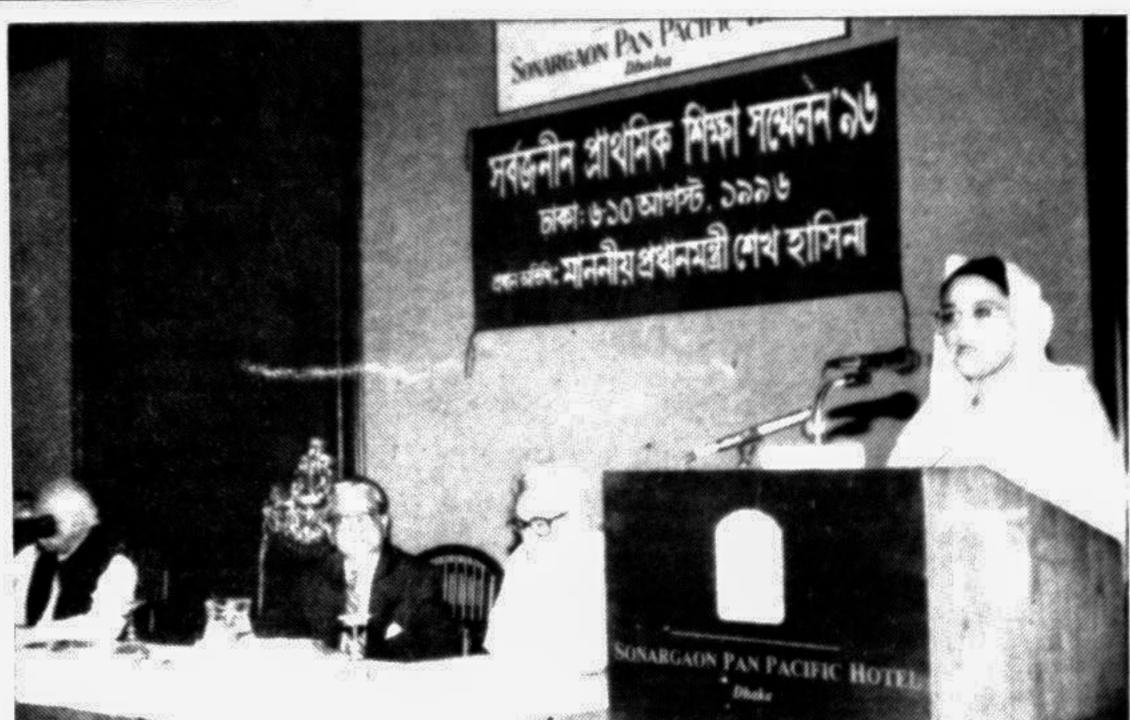
The World on Time

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at a city hotel yesterday.

## Proposed telecom policy handed over to PM

By Staff Correspondent

Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim informed the Jativa Sangsad yesterday that draft of a proposed telecommunication policy was handed over to the Prime Minister and it would be endorsed in the cabinet meeting soon.

Before finalising the policy. we will seek suggestions from everyone through holding of seminars. The aim is to root out corruption and get rid of rampant allegations of ghost billing," the minister said while answering to two questions and some supplemen taries during the question hour in the afternoon sitting.

Nasim said "ghost billing will be a matter of past" after full computerisation of the telephone system and gradual replacement of the analog system by digital system.

Replying to a question from Mirza Azam of Awami League Nasim said the government has a plan to install 1.38,500 digital lines and 13,700 analog lines in districts at a cost of Tk. 803 crore and 18 lakh during fiscal 96-97.

In the last financial year (1995-96), the government earned Tk. 167,06,75,408 from trunk-call bills, he added. Replying to another ques-

tion by BNP member Mohammad Mashiur Rahman (Jhenidah), Nasim said the present number of telephone lines in the country is 3,31,015 of which 3.17.572 are government connections and the rest 13,443 are private ones.

The government earned Tk 167,06,75,408 through trunk call bills in fiscal 1995-96, he said in response to another question

Nasim also informed the House that at present there were a total of 240 card phones in 213 thanas of the

To another question from Kazi Shah Mofazzal Hossain Kaikobad (JP-Comilla), the minister said the government has no plan to handover the Telephone Board to the private

Replying to Syed Ashraful Islam (AL-Kishoregani), he said there were 3.900 cellular phones in Dhaka city till June

The government's revenue income from cellular tele phones was Tk 2,58,27,256 from August 1993 to December 1995, the minister said.

He said the government was making arrangements to give licence to the private organi sations side by side with the present monopoly cellular

permission is also being given to the T&T Board to introduce cellular telephones, he said. hoping that this would reduce the connection cost and make the cellular telephones com-

# Litmus test for AL

From page 1

manipulating the polls gathered strength inside the party when the BNP suffered a debacle in the mayoral elections in the country's four major cities in early 1994. The top opposition party — AL — stunned the BNP by emerging victorious in the mayoral polls in Dhaka and Chittagong, the two biggest cities in the country.

Over-reacting to its declining popularity, as evidenced by the defeat in the mayoral elections, the BNP became too anxious to win in the Magura-2 by-polls, with the aim to avenge its defeat in the mayoral polls.

Nevertheless, the "facts", of the Magura polls results, failed to befool the people. Rather, the way the ruling BNP conducted the polls convinced the people of the opposition charges against the BNP.

The by-elections to the 16 vacated seats of the present Jativa Sangsad are in the offing. Six vacated seats by BNP and five each by the ruling AL and the JP, are to elect new

People are eagerly waiting to see the ruling party's role as far as ensuring fairness and neutrality in the holding of bypolls is concerned.

The Election Commission was blamed for failing to maintain its neutrality in conducting elections under all the successive party governments in the past. The EC was hailed both at home and abroad for ensuring fair polls under the non-party caretaker governments — the first in 1991 and again in June this year.

However, the BNP which failed to bag majority seats in the June 12 general elections brought charges of rigging and other malpractices against the caretaker administration as well as the AL that emerged as the majority party.

Already vocal against "harassment of its activists". the BNP is now contemplating launching of a full-fledged antigovernment street agitation even if it finds small lapses in the process of holding the ensuing by-polls. Thus, the BNP

is learnt to have been planning to discredit the AL government the same way the former was made during its rule.

ernment has created by taking several good decisions. They view that even losing one or

under a party government would have to evolve the mechanism of fairness to disprove its own statement, made during its agitation for polls under a non-party caretaker government.

### Sharifuddin MP

From page

Humayun Rashid Chowdhury in a message last night expressed deep shock at the death of Sharifuddin Ahmed MP, the Speaker conveyed his sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the peace of the departed

Hasina, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, Irrigation, Water Resources and Flood Control Minister Abdur Razzak Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru, former minister Dewan Farid Gazi, Sultan Mohammad Mansur Ahmed MP, M A Rafiq MP, Captain (retd) Tazul Islam MP, Emdadul Haq MP, K M Jahangir MP, and Awami League leader Dr Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin went to the hospital to see the body of the late

He will be buried at his

Baniachong family graveyard.

### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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# Fresh areas in greater **Barisal** inundated

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Aug 6: The overall flood situation in all districts under Barisal division further deteriorated vesterday follow ing heavy rain.

According to official sources, the embankments in Amtali, Betagi, Patharghata, Bamna and Sadar thana areas have been breached flooding thousands of acres of cropland In Patharghata thana alone, five kilometres of the embankment have been washed away. The on rush of flood water has damaged seed beds of aman and aus paddy.

In Pirojpur district. Tushkhali, Mirukhali, Baramachua and Telikhali unions have been inundated.

Heavy downpour this evening submerged the main roads of the town and its adjoining areas.

has eroded vast areas of land with standing crops, rendering some 1500 families homeless in Daulatpur thana.

According to official sources, the affected villages are Kachir Char, Kandirpara, Charpara, Choruikuri and Insafnagar. The border outpost at Insafnagar, one high school three primary schools, 4 mosques, and one graveyard have been devoured by river

The Thana Nirbahi officer of Daulatpur, Abdullahil Baki distributed Tk 20,000, 12.50 metric tons of wheat and 25 tins of biscuits among the affected people. More relief goods are needed, the TNO

UNB adds: Flood situation in and around Dhaka and

Narayanganj are likely to improve further in the next 24 hours while situation outside of Dhaka district will also im prove. The flood Information Centre bulletin said yesterday.

In the Brahmaputra basin the Bramaputra at Aricha registered slight and the Teesta at Kaunia rose by 12 cm during the period.

Brahmaputra, the Buriganga. the Lakhya, the Turag and the Kaliganga of the basin recorded fall at all points.

### ROK president praises Khaleda

South Korean President Kim Young Sam has appreci ated former Prime Minister and BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia for her cooperation during the tenure of her office, reports UNB.

the ROK President said: "You have established democracy in Bangladesh and made great achievements in last five

Kim Young Sam highly praised Begum Zia for her eminent leadership which, he

riod had developed a closer ties than any time before.

Kim Young Sam hoped that cooperation between the two countries would further be strengthened in the time

# **Budget discussion**

Md Nasim stood up and said that Alim has destroyed the cordial atmosphere of the House by giving false statement quoting a report from a paper

Rising on a point of personal explanation Rab said that Alim gave an untrue statement involving his name quoting the newspaper report. "My name was not linked with the newspaper in question and I shall give a reply to Alim when I will deliver my speech on the budget," he said.

exceptional one Akram ister Shah A S M Kibria for working hard on it and presenting it before the Sangsad in the shortest possible time. The structural reforms, re-

deliver the goods to the people, he said.

Akram said though the burden of foreign loan has increased manifold during the last 21 years the lot of the vast

### Shopkeepers chase extortionists in city

A group of extortionists fired gunshots when some shopkeepers refused to pay them money and chased them near the Mitford Hospital in the old part of the city yesterday afternoon.

the armed gang demanded money from the assistant of a medicine shop near the hospital at about 5 pm. As the assistant refused to pay them, the local people meanwhile informed the other shopkeepers of the matter.

chased the extortionists. Extra police force was deployed in the area following the incident, police said.

improved at all. On the other hand a few fortunate including head of the government, ministers, their party men, and rent seekers have amassed huge wealth and built their for tune at the cost of the people. he added

particularly thanked the Fi vide impetus to the agricultural sector and augment food grains production, he said.

the law and order across the country so that people could live in peace.

communication system between Dhaka city and Narayangonj town, he said commuters were now facing extreme difficulties in their movement between the two places. Train communication between the two important points has stopped. So is the BRTC service much to the hardship of commuters. Now it takes hours to come to Dhaka from Narayangani and vice versa although only half an hour should be enough for it, he said. As Akram resumed his seat the Speaker adjourned the House at 10.50 PM today till 4 pm tomorrow.

## 2 labourers fall from 7th floor

Two labourers were killed after falling from the seventh floor of an under-construction yesterday.

The victims were plastering the walls on the seventh floor of the 11-storied building being constructed for the Air Force officers, police said.

# Countervailing steps

From page 1

these cases have been filed by the USA. Among these, one case was lodged against Bangladesh

Dr Joardar explained that the Agreement on Subsidies and Counter-vailing Measures was initialled to ensure marketing of products at commercial prices and the estab lishment of a transparent procedure of investigation with elements of international scrutiny for verification of transparency of national laws, procedures and proceedings. The Uruguay Round Agree-

ment on Safeguards permits imposition of temporary tariff and quantitative restrictions on an emergency basis to protect a specific domestic industry against unforeseen increase of import of any product which threatens to cause serious damage to that particular industry.

Before further removal of quantitative restrictions like those in the Import Policy Order 1993-95, Bangladesh has to carefully assess the long-term implications of such removal, he suggested. Explaining the Agreement

on Anti-Dumping Dr Joardar

said that it was adopted to pro-

tect interest of traders against

"predatory" dumpers who has

control over domestic and in-

ternational market and intends to oust competitors within a short period of time by selling his product at prices even below the marginal cost. The discussants observed

that some local products were facing unfair competition from imported goods from countries

DCCI President Ali Hossain said that following the agreements, tariff barriers had decreased around the world but increasing non-tariff barriers had a slowed down trade of the

emphasised the need for empowering and reinforcing the Tariff Commission which would act as the Investigation Authority in Bangladesh for the World Trade Organisation.

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League president and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina while four each by BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, and detained Jativa Party chairman H Besides, one seat each was

vacated by Tofael Ahmed. Abdur Razzak and Mohammad Nasim of Awami League, M Saifur Rahman and Col (retd) Oli Ahmed of BNP and Anwar Hossain Manju of JP

Rangpur-5 (Vacated by H M Ershad): M Nazmus Sakib Pradhan (Ind), Mofazzel Alam (Ind). M Shah Alam (JP) Khandaker Golam Mostafa Batul (BNP), Ansarul Hag Mia (Ind), H M Ashigur Rahman (AL) M Abdur Rauf Mia (Ind). Haresuddin Sarkar Bir Pratik (Ind) and Abdul Gani Mondol (Ind)

Rangpur-6 (Vacated by H M Ershad): M Mashiur Rahman (Ind), M Rezaul Sarkar Rana (Ind), M Abul Khaver Shamim (Ind). M Nurunnabi Sarkar (Ind). M Abdul Wahed Mia (AL). Nur Mohammad Mondol (JP). M Ikramul Haq Khan (BNP) and M Matiar Rahman Chowdhury, an Awami League leader, who filed nomination

M Ershad): A K M Mayeedul Islam (BNP). Mozzammel Hossain Lalu (JP). Rukunuddowlah Sarker (AL), A Jalil Sarkar Rahman (Khelafat Andolon).

Wage Board and implementation of dearness allowances in all newspapers and news agen-Rahman Khandaker (AL).

hammad Nasim): Dr Mohammad Selim (AL), Advocate Lutfar Rahman (JP), Mahbubul Islam Talukdar (BNP) and M A Salam (Ind).

Bagerhat-1 (Vacated by Sheikh Hasina): Sheikh Helal Uddin (AL), Abdul Hye Bachchu (JP) and Sheikh Ohiduzzaman Tipu (BNP). Khulna-1 (Vacated by

Sheikh Hasina): Sheikh as independent).

Hawladar (BNP) and Alhaj M Matiur Rahman (AL).

Shariatpur-1 (Vacated by Abdur Razzak): Dewan Golam Mahbub (JP), Sardar A K M Nasiruddin (BNP) and Master

project the causes which lead to pandemonium," he said.

but it did not televise in what context she used it. "It's the duty of the opposition to pinpoint government activities for which the opposition members may some-

told the newsmen. But the ruling party, he said, must have tolerance and avoid unnecessary attack on the opposition which may pro-

voke quarrel. Replying to a question, the

A number of opposition MPs have submitted notices regardof news and picture.

Former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali said he felt embarrassed as the Speaker did not give him floor. "I had discharged the duty of Speaker for five years. I stood for floor on two days or three, but the Speaker did not give me the

Former Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and Opposition Chief Whip Khandaker Delwar Hossain also

two were vacated by Awami

candidates Rangpur-2 (Vacated by H M Ershad): M Anisul Haq Chowdhury (AL). M Ali Sarkar (JP). Advocate Aftab Hossain (BNP) and Major (retd) M Nasimuddin, a Jatiya Party leader, who filed nomination paper as independent

as independent

(Ind). Mamtazul Hasan Karim (Ind), Kafiluddin (Ind), Fulu (Gono Forum) and M Khalilur Bogra-6 (Vacated by Begum

Bogra-7 (Vacated by Begum

Khaleda Zia): Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu (BNP). M Shafigul Hasan (Ind), M W diul Haq (AL). Aminul Islam Sarkar Pintu (JP), Amirul Momin Mukta (a JP leader filed nomination as independent) and T M Musa (an Awami League leader filed nomination as independent).

Pirojpur-2 (Vacated by Anwar Hossain Manju): Tasmima Hossain (JP), Abdul Wahab

Mujibur Rahman (AL).

### From page 1

noisy scenes, but it does not

Referring to Begum Zia's comment on Monday, he said the BTV cast her speech for 17 seconds only, focusing on

times utter harsh words," he

BNP leader said the opposition BNP was waiting for the Speaker's decision regarding the call-attention notices

ing the BTV's partial telecast "If we cannot be satisfied with the Speaker's decision, then our parliamentary party will take decision in this re-

partial presentation of news.

# 86 nominations valid

Following is the list of valid

Kurigram-3 (Vacated by H

Khaleda Zia): M Mamunur Rashid (Islami Oikya Jote), M Zahurul Islam (BNP), Golam

Sirajganj-1 (Vacated by Mo-

Harunur Rashid (AL), Santosh Roy (Ind), Advocate Gazi Abdul Bari (BNP), Advocate Latifur Rahman Labu (JP) and Panchanan Biswas (an Awami League leader filed nomination

# TV: Ruling party

only one word of Begum Zia.

gard," he said without elaborating what decision BNP could take if the BTV continued its

Sylhet-4 (Vacated by M Saifur Rahman): M A Hannan (JP) Imran Ahmed (AL). Alhai

Mostafa Allama (Jatiyatabadi Awami League), Nurul Haque (BNP). M Sayfur Rahman (Bangladesh Islami Dal), Khandaker Mominur Rab (Ind) Moulana Abdul Maliq (Islami Oikya Jotel and Mohammad Ali Advocate (Jamiate Olama Is-Laxmipur-2 (Vacated by Begum Khaleda Zia): Harunur

Milon (Ind), Syed Belayet Hossain (Ind). Rezaul Karim Liton (Ind). Delwar Hossain (Ind). Col (retd) Zafar Imam (JP), M Shafiullah (Ind) and Tofael Ahmed (Ind) Chittagong-1 (Vacated by Begum Khaleda Zia): Amiya Shankar (Ind), Mohammad Ali Jinnah (BNP). Nuruddin

(Ind) and Haji Jalal Uddin (a BNP leader filed nomination as Independent). Chittagong-13 (Vacated by Oli Ahmed): Alhaj Nazrul Islam Chowdhury (AL). Abul Kashem [JSD-Rab]. Mamtaj Begum

and M Idris (Ind). (By-election to Bhola-1, vacated by Tofael Ahmed, has been withheld due to a stay order of the court).

Party position

Khelafat Andolon Jatiyatabadi Awami League Bangladesh Islami Dal Jamiate Olama Islam Independents

### Maid steals gold. ornaments

A maid allegedly stole cash and gold ornaments worth about Tk 3.28 lakh from a house in Baitul Aman Housing Society at Shyamoli in the city

Mohammadpur police arrested one Rahima Begum, 37 who had introduced the maid in the house, police said. According to the FIR filed

PIA passengers From page 1

istani nationals A total of 74 Pakistani nathem to enter into the country

sent back to Pakistan by the return flight of PIA on Thursday afternoon. They were reportedly arrested on their arrival at

The rest 54 of the group. waiting for the next available flight of PIA, were stranded at the transit lounge of ZIA. Official sources said one of them

taken against the illegal arms holders who will not give up the weapons by the deadline.

It has been learnt that there are illegal arms across the country, the announcement said. "Recovery of the illegal arms, ammunition and explosives is a must for law and

government's drive for curbing acts of violence, one of its avowed priority.

### Foreign Secy

From page 1

sues in the bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India. with particular focus on the issue of permanent sharing arrangement of the Ganges waters and reduction of the large trade gap which is adverse to Bangladesh.

includes senior officials of the ministries of foreign affairs, water resources and commerce respectively.

Bangladesh to their respective Indian counterparts, with whom he is expected to call on during the visit The Bangladesh foreign secretary's visit is a part of the process of dialogue between the two governments at various

levels which has been set in motion following the assumption of the new governments in Dhaka and New Delhi.

Our Correspondent from Kushtia adds: The river Padma

Nasim said Alim had op posed the liberation war and killed many freedom fighters at that time. He urged the Chair to allow A S M Abdur Rab to explain his position on the newspaper report as quoted by

Terming the proposed national budget as a balanced and thanked Finance Finance Min-

form in the financial sector and budget discipline initiated by former finance minister Saifur Rahman have failed to

By Staff Correspondent

According to local people

Later, all shopkeepers

DCCI member Taufiq Ali

exporter could drain out all resources of the latter. Therefore, there should be a common pool to face such litiga-

He laid stress on improving

building at Tejgaon in the city Matiur Rahman, 35, and Saber Ali, 22, sustained serious injuries as the bamboo scaffolding collapsed at 11 am.

like India and China were but no measure has been taken against this.

Debapriya Bhattachariya said that there should be a common

pool of resources, organised by the government, to meet all problems faced by traders and businessmen under these agreements. He noted that a single litigation by a country like USA against a Bangladeshi

immediately Decision has been taken to make the Fifth Wage Board for journalists, press workers and general employees of newspapers and news agencies, constituted under 1974 Act, func-

> salaries, allowances and other benefits, an official handout said in the city yesterday, reports BSS. The term of the Fifth Wage Board constituted on December 26, 1995, ended on June 25 1996

tional immediately to fix their

The present government has taken steps to make the Wage Board operational immediately to announce its award. The Fifth Wage Board has already announced 30 per cent

interim dearness allowance

effective from January 1, 1996. The government is deter mined to take all necessary steps to ensure full freedom to objective journalism and newspapers in the interest of proper development of democracy and to increase salary, allowances and other benefits of the working jour nalists, press workers and general employees of news agencies and newspapers.

The government has sought

cooperation from all to main-

## Newspapermen's rally today

called upon all concerned to make today's rally in front of the National Press Club followed by a procession towards the Prime Minister's office a success, reports BSS The programme was an nounced demanding the im-

mediate extension of the Fifth

Committee leaders vesterday

The Central Coordination

The leaders in a statement yesterday said during the programme a four-hour work stoppage would be observed from 11 am to 3 pm today in all newspapers and news agen-

BCL extended

meet ends

By DU Correspondent

The two-day extended meeting of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of ruling Awami League ended yesterday with a call to stamp out terrorism from society. The meeting started on Monday with its president Enamul Haq Shamim in the

chair also expressed its firm

### determination to make the country free from illiteracy as declared by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

JS tidbits From page 1 reading from the question-answer script while speaking on the target and the achieve-

ment of revenue earning from 1972-73 to 1995-96. The reason for Akhtar's conduct was revealed later when he wanted to know from the Chair if he would cover his face with the papers in his hand or cover the lense of the TV camera because of what he

called BTV's "distorted" broadcast of the Opposition role the day before. A brief but lively discussion took place on the rule that MPs should bow their heads while entering the House.

Treasury bench member

Begum Sajeda Choudhury, on a

point of order, drew the

Chair's attention that Leader of

the Opposition Begum Khaleda Zia, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof Badruddoza Choudhury and Opposition chief whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain did not abide by the Prof B Choudhury then rose and argued that no Muslim could bow his head to anybody

except Allah. "The religion I've

faith in doesn't permit me to

do so," he said referring to a

committee now examining a

proposal to replace the provi-

Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury told the House, "Till the rule is amended, I will be happy to see no disregard. It's the House, not the Speaker to be respected." When Barrister Nazmul Huda of BNP rose to speak on

the issue, the Speaker said, "I

did not give floor to Mr Barris-

ter for many days. That's why I

Getting the floor, Huda said,

"I think, it's very risky to bow

now give him the floor."

head in the present situation in the House. "Maybe, it's for you," the Speaker responded Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Choudhury was not in the House while the Chair was attempting to request her to

place a Bill.

On her return, Matia Choudhury said, "I went out to have a glass of water finding myself in a volley of points of order. I don't know if points of order can be raised during placing a bill.

Transcom Electronics Limited

From page 1

Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V.

for lighting products, radio and TV sets.

Candidates

Awami League

Monday night.

with police the family members of Baitul Aman Housing Society went out of their house Monday morning leaving the

tionals arrived at ZIA by a PIA flight on Thursday morning with illegal documents. Immigration officials did not allow

Karachi airport as the Pakistan immigration identified the Bangla-speaking people as Bangladeshis.

## on Sunday.

Surrender arms From page 1

order and peace in public life." The ultimatum came in line with the new Awami League

The foreign secretary is carrying written messages from the Prime Minister and the foreign minister of

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the Universal Primary Education Conference '96

She hoped that the recommendations would be prepared in the light of Dr Qudret e Khuda Commission report and

connections. Besides the private sector

Political analysts say that indulging in the polls malpractices, as was done by the previous governments, would damage the image the AL gov-

two of the seats, it vacated, to the opposition through a fair polls would earn it much Critics are also questioning as to how the AL government would guarantee fairness in the by-polls as the party once viewed that no election could be held neutrally if it is held Therefore, the party in power

Prime Minister Sheikh

### Hasina From page 1 to update the curriculum. The Prime Minister assured the organisers of the conference that the recommendations of the conference would be given due consideration

those would help in formulating a permanent education The inaugural session was presided over by chairman of the preparatory committee of the conference and former education secretary Kazi Fazlur Rahman and addressed by former education secretary of India Anil Bordia, Executive

Director of BRAC Fazle Hossain

Abed and Dr Manzoor Ahmd of

6 candidates

From page 1

the UNICEF

Tasmima Manju to contest for the Pirojpur-2 seat, vacated by her husband Anwar Hossain Manju, secretary general of the party and communications minister. The JP has also nominated Mozammel H. Lalu, brother of

H M Ershad for the Kurigram-

3 seat, one of the four seats va-

Bangladeshi food

From page

General (retd) K M Shafiullah

MP and former high commis-

sioner to UK Ms Shegufta

Yasmine MP and British high

cated by Ershad.

for 1996-97.

commissioner Peter J Fowler Finance Minister S A M S Kibria who was the special guest at the inaugural function urged the expatriate Bangladeshi to utilise the five per cent primary shares in the stock market reserved for

them in the proposed budget

the caterers, bulk of whom are

from Sylhet, the finance minis-

ter said that facilities in the

Osmani Airport there would be

improved so that air-bus can

land in next few years.

Referring to the demands of

Jailed Myanmar national dies From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, Aug 6: A Myanmar national who has

been serving a prison term

since 1995 died at the

Chittgong Medical College

Hospital this morning, police

and hospital sources said. Thom, a fisherman, was sentenced to imprisonment in 1995 for fishing illegally in the territorial waters of Bangla-

He was admitted into the

According to hospital

Chittagong Medical College

Hospital on July 30 when he

sources. Thom was suspected

fell sick.

to be an AIDS patient. 2 Bills passed From page 1 ate with Bangladesh for achieving success in the area. They suggested that the government try to improve re-

search facilities for the two

institutes by mobilising local

The passage of another bill

— the Bangladesh Agriculture

Research Institute (amendment) Bill, 1996 — was postponed at the request of the agriculture minister request. According to Matia Chowdhury, some amendments, proposed by a special parliamentary body, which had scrutinized the bill last week, were found missing. The Speaker acceded to her request to send the bill back to the parliamentary committee. However, the bill proposed that the Bangladesh Agricul-

ture Research Institute be

turned into an apex body of

different organisations with a

view to strengthening the In-

stitute. She also informed the

House that the minister con-

cerned would be made the

chairman of the body, while

the Speaker could nominate

two MPs as members of the

body.

The Dharla, the old

In a message to Begum Zia.

said, led the country towards development and prosperity Recalling her visit to South Korea in May 1995, the ROK President remarked that the two countries during that pe

tain peace and discipline and proper atmosphere in this remajority of the masses has not

The Awami League member nance Minister for giving top priority to agriculture in the preparation of the budget. A lump allocation of Taka 100 crore in the budget for the agricultural sector would pro-

Referring to deplorable

# in city, die By Staff Correspondent

They died while being taken to the Combined Military Hospital

developing countries.

# 5th Wage Board to be made operational

M Ershad.

candidate

Rabbani (Jamaat) and Asadur

spoke on the occasion.

Rashid (AL), Barrister Moudud Ahmed (BNP), Abdul Mannan

Ahmed (Ind). Engineer Mosharraf Hossain (AL). Ali Ashraf Chowdhury (JP), Jafar Uddin Ahmed Chowdhury

(BNP), Sirajul Islam Siraj (Ind)

BNP Jatiya Party Jamaat-e-Islami JSD (Raj) slami Oikva Jote Gono Forum

By Staff Correspondent

maid alone.

as none of them was carrying genuine Bangladeshi passport. Twenty of them, mainly women and children, were

# had escaped from the airport

The Bangladesh delegation