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DCC by-polls

the ward is 26 111 out of which

Parveen Alim, wife of the

10.787 votes, were cast, the per-

slain AL leader and Commis-

sioner, Haji Alim, was elected

from Ward 62. She got 4,656

votes in 13 pooling centres

BNP-backed candidate Ahmed

Abdul Aziz Papon got 2,073

votes while Nurul Karim Jin

nah got 1,262 votes. There are

22,039 votes in the ward of

which 9,298 were cast. The per-

centage was 42.19 yesterday in

election was held due to the

death of BNP backed candidate

Quaiyum Khan swept the by-

polls by securing 7,295 votes.

AL backed candidate Al Haj

Abul Kalam obtained 5.363

votes. Md Ishak, another can-

in the Ward, 14,033 (38.54 per

cent) were cast in the 17 centres.

Officers, 254 Assistant Presid-

ing Officers and 508 Polling Of

ficers for the by-elections.

Polling started at 8 am and

Japan to provide

help for utility

services of UPs

technological and project assis-

tance to develop integrated

complex for effective function-

ing of the utility services of

Union Parishads in Bangla-

when a high powered Japanese

delegation led by Morimasa

Kanamaru met with Minister

for Local Government, Rural

Development and Co-operatives

Zillur Rahman at his office yes-

Talking to the delegation

Zillur Rahman said in view of

rural development Union

Parishad would be made more

powerful, effective and people-

has planned to re-organise all

the levels of local government

for education, health-care, em-

ployment and alleviating

poverty of its large section of

oriented, the handout said.

during the meeting.

real face.

she alleged.

State Minister for LGRD

Syed Abul Hossain and Secre-

tary, local government division

AHM Abdul Hye were present

Khaleda

tion, had begged pardon for

their misdeeds of the 1972-75

period. But after assuming the

power, they again showed their

to erase Bismillah from Consti-

tution hurting the sentiment of

the Muslims in the country."

reiterated her warning to the

government not to sign any wa-

ter-sharing accord with India at

gum Zia reached Palerhat, a

tense situation was prevailing

as the dais erected for the BNP

chairperson was damaged, al-

legedly by ruling party ac-

tivists. Begum Zia used a hand-

mike to address the gathering

At Kazir Dighirpar and

Mondaltoli, cracker explosions

from a fairly long distance were

heard as Begum Zia and Barris-

ter Moudud were addressing the

meetings. However, no unto-

Moudud Ahmed, Mohammad

Shahjahan MP, Jainal Abedin

Faruq MP, local BNP leader ad-

vocate Shamsul Alam and

Chhatra Dal leader Abul Khair

Bhuiyan also addressed the

Shamsunnahar Khwaja Ah-

sanullah, Ehsanul Kabir and

Lokman Hossain Bhuiyan ac-

companied the BNP chief who is

due to address some other elec-

tion rallies in the Laxmipur-2

constituency tomorrow.

BNP central leaders Begum

meetings.

BNP candidate Barrister

ward incidents were reported.

the cost of country's interest.

The leader of the Opposition

When the motorcade of Be-

"The Awami League is trying

From Page 1

He said present government

The assurance was made

Japan is willing to provide

continued till 4 pm.

desh, reports UNB.

terday.

oriented.

common man.

Out of a total of 36,412 votes

The EC engaged 42 Presiding

didate, obtained 560 votes.

In Ward 16 where the by-

From Page 1

centage being 41.31.

the 13 centres.



Queue of female voters at the Lalbagh Government Primary School centre during byelection in ward no 62 of the Dhaka City Corporation yesterday. Star photo

## Parliament tidbits

From Page 1

Chair warned the minister that he had then only two minutes in hand.

"I'm afraid of red light since I met an accident while I drove speedily after seeing a red (traffic) light on the street many days ago." Chowdhury told the Speaker.

Referring to a comment by the state minister, the Speaker remarked. "The way you've spoken does not establish your claim that your legs were shaken while you spoke in the '91 parliament.'

Two more lawmakers, one each from the Treasury and the Opposition benches, yesterday delivered their speeches in the typical style of addressing public rallies leading all the mem

bers to burst into laughter. Rafigul Islam Bakul of the BNP, during his deliberation said "Bhai O Bonera..." and gave a pause. Abul Momen also pronounced "Bhayera Aamar" and

#### Technical fault in int'l dialling system

By Staff Correspondent

The Telegraph and Telephone (T&T) Board will lose several lakh taka due to a technical fault in the international dialing system detected vesterday morning, said a

source at the T&T. The defect could not be rectified ti'l the filing of the report at 11.15 last night. According to the source, several thousand outgoing calls were canceled due to the technical fault. However. the International Subscribers Dialing (ISD) system was oper-

#### Maghbazar exchange

UNB adds: The Maghbazar International Trunk Exchange remained inoperative since 12.30 pm yesterday due to a technical fault.

The international trunkcall cannot be made through the operators of the exchange due to the fault, said a T&T press re-

The T&T authorities, however, made a temporary arrangement for the ISD subscribers to make phone-call through the Mahakhali International Exchange.

#### PM at PATC

From Page 1 The Prime Minister said the world is changing very fast with the innovation of new science and technology. To cope with that, she said, there is no alternative to training for development of professional excellence of different cadre officials of

the civil service. She said her government will provide all support for the development of the Academy. Expressing her hope that BPATC would grow up as one of the famous institutes in South Asia, Hasina said, "I want to see

The Prime Minister stressed that training programmes should be made realistic and suitable to present time to increase efficiency and working

it as a centre of excellence."

skills of the officials.

She also emphasised the need for bringing back the image and glory of the administration, lost during autocratic rules due to partisanship, flattery and massive corruption.

The inaugural function was also addressed by Education Minister ASHK Sadek, Advisor of the training course Nilufar Begum and BPATC director AZM Shafiqual Alam. BPATC's Rector AZM Shamsul Alam

presided. The Prime Minister later visited the library of the centre.

consequently begged apology of the Chair and said. "The habit has developed by addressing

public rallies. The ruling party legislators thumped their desks to encourage Bakul while he was narrat ing his courageous role in the War of Liberation but they stopped doing so soon after the BNP MP started castigating the post-independence AL regime.

Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf, while criticising the BNP for not accepting Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman as Father of the Nation, said "The Jamaat-e-Islami (members) once did not recognise Bangladesh but later applied to get citizenship of Bangladesh Similarly, you (pointing his fingers to the BNP lawmakers) will also accept it one day when the number of your seats (in the parliament) is reduced from the

present 110. The minister added: 'We had been in the Opposition for long 47 years.... you please remain there (in the Opposition) for five vears", the minister com-

AL lawmaker Abdul Latif also speaking on the same is sue, told the House, "BNP's denial of the 'Father of the Nation' is like a baby who sometimes refuses to call his father 'Abbu'

\* \* \* \* As Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan of BNP charged the Speaker for allowing the Ministers to deliver lengthy statements uninterrupted and stopping the microphones of his party lawmakers, the Chair told Bhuivan, "Haven't you seen today that the microphones of the ministers have been stopped? But your microphone is still

Earlier in the afternoon sitting, microphones of Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak and State Minister for Labour Abdul Mannan were stopped after their allotted time ex-

pired. A smiling Mannan Bhuiyan then remarked, "Mr. Speaker you try to run the House smoothly and as per rule. But you're often seen to be guided by the ministers.

#### Students attack CU transport office: 5 injured

CHITTAGONG, Aug 28: Five staff, including an officer of Chittagong University transport pool were injured when a group of angry students attacked the transport office to-

day, reports UNB. Campus sources said the student who came from Chittagong town by buses and trains turned violent as they did not find any transports to reach the main campus. They also damaged the furniture and window panes of

the office. Transport Director Rabiul Hossain and two drivers -Mostafa and Babul Chandra -

were among the injured. Another report adds: A discussion meeting on Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rah man scheduled for today could not be held due to internal conflict of pro-Awami League Chhatra League.

#### Flood

From Page 1 lowlying areas and charlands of Godagari, Paba and Bagha thanas of Rajshahi district and some areas of the Rajshahi City. A portion of the town protection dam was badly damaged

at Bulonpur. Char Ashariadoha, Basudevpur and Deopara unions of Godagari thana were affected. One hundred and thirty houses

have been washed away. One Idris Ali, 70 drowned yesterday bringing the death toll to six.

#### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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ment yesterday, reports UNB.
The country's literacy rate. however, was 44.30 as per a sample vital registration (SVR) Ishan : 887771, Chittagong : (031) 712127, Khuina : (041) 25008 in 1995, Education Minister ASHK Sadek said in a written reply to a question from Dr Rus-

#### tam Ali Farazi (JP-Pirojpur). PM to address BFUJ special delegate

confce Aug 31 The special delegate conference of the Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) will be held on August 31 at 10 am at the National Press Club, a BFUJ press release said in the

city last night, reports BSS. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will be the chief guest at the inaugural session of the conference while State Minister for Information Prof. Abu Say-

eed will be the special guest. Delegates from Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) Chittagong Union of Journal ists (CUJ), Khulna Union of Journalists (KUJ), Jessore Union of Journalists (JUJ), Bogra Union of Journalists (BUJ). Dinajpur Journalists Union (DJU), Rajshahi Union of Journalists (RUJ) and Mymensingh Union of Journalists (MUJ) will

participate in the conference Issues relating to national policy on newspaper industry. freedom of the press. Wage Board Award, housing complex for the newsmen, journalists welfare trust would come up for discussion in the working session of the conference.

#### Thousands marooned in Bhola

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Aug 28: At least 10 thousand people were ma rooned as a large portion of the town protection embankment in Kathia, Ilisha and Murad Safiullah unions of sadar thana of Bhola district has been washed away by flood water.

A portion of the embankment has also been washed away in Charfasion thana Standing crops on about four hundred acres of land are under

water. Several hundred people have taken shelter on the Dhania embankment. The TNO of sadar thana visited the spot ....

#### JCD BCL clash in Sirajganj: 15 injured

SIRAJGANJ, Aug 28: The RM Degree College in Kazipur was closed today following a clash between the activists of pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal that left 15 people in jured from both sides, reports

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted when the processions of the two rival groups were crossing the college campus at about 11 am. Later, the angry BCL workers

set ablaze two motorbikes of local BNP leaders.

#### People aged seven or more, who can at least write a letter, were considered literate in the

The Dhaka district has the highest literacy of 68.3 per cent. followed by southern Jhalakathi with 60.3, according to statistics presented in Parlia-

Dhaka tops literacy rate

The lowest literacy rate of the country was 27.7 in Sherpur district, followed by 32.1 in Jamalpur, 32.2 in Nawabganj, 32.4 in Gaibandha and 32.8 in Kurigram district Literacy rate in all districts

of the Barisal division was over 40, except Bhola where the rate was only 33.4. The rate was 58.4 for Pirojpur, 52.1 for Barisal. 48.3 for Barguna and 43.1 for Patuakhali.

Sylhet has the highest liter-acy rate of 44.1 in the Sylhet division, Rajshahi district in Rajshahi division has 47.4, Khulna district in Khulna division 59.3 and Chittagong district in Chittagong division

The rate of literacy was 47.5 in both Dhaka and Barisal divisions while it was 39.3 for Sylhet division, 39.6 for Raishahi. 43.6 for Khulna and 46.2 for Chittagong.

#### Zia didn't help me face Aug 15 tragedy, says Gen Shafiullah

The then army chief Lt Gen eral (rtd) Shafiullah said in Parliament that his deputy, Zi aur Rahman, did not cooperate with him in facing the August 15 tragedy, reports UNB.

Instead of helping me Deputy Chief of Staff Gen Zia was busy pleasing Major Daleem and Rashid," he said making the disclosure on the military putsch while speaking on national budget last night.

Responding to allegation by some BNP members, Gen Shafiullah said he was bludgeoned to express his loyalty to Khandaker Mustaque as there was no alternative for him at that time of convulsion

The soldier-turned-lawmaker said the Dhaka Brigade Command was his source of power, but the brigade commander didn't carry out his command. On the contrary, the Dhaka Brigade Commander fol lowed Deputy Chief Zia's order.

"I would not have felt loneliness had Zia performed his responsibilities. Shahullah told the House.

However, for time constraint, the former army chief could not complete his version on the August 15, 1975 coup. which killed country's founding president Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib and toppled the Awami League government.

#### Ershad meets From Page 1

polls. They also complained about lack of financial support from the party for poll expenses, the sources said.

Some of them pointed out that "rumour mongering in the news media surrounding the (party) chief' also affected the image of the party

When contacted JP secretary general Anwar Hossain Manju said the 'second position lead ers' (in the June 12 polls) came to meet the party chief. He did not elaborate. The JP won 32 seats in the

June 12 elections.

## Charles-Di divorced

From Page 1 be known as 'Diana, Princess of

The split brings down the curtain on a marriage between a virgin bride and the heir to the British throne 12 years her senior that began before hundreds of millions of television viewers at Londons' St Pauls' Cathedral in 1981.

Within five years, tabloid The delegation of Japan Innewspapers were reporting the ternational Co-operation Agency hailed the government's first signs that the marriage was in trouble. step to make the Union Parishad pro-people and mass-

Problems based on basic incompatibility and Charles' continuing love for Camilla Parker Bowles pushed Diana into attempting suicide. The glare of the media spotlight ruined any chance of reconciliation and the couple separated in 1992.

The divorce leaves Diana one of the most eligible women in the world but Charles faces anguish over his 26-year relationship with Parker Bowles. whom many Britons blame for the breakdown of the marriage.

#### Terms of divorce settlement

LONDON, Aug 28: Under the terms of their divorce settlement, Charles and Diana will continue to share responsibility for their two children, Prince William, 14, and Prince

Harry, 11, report agencies. \* Diana loses the coveted title "Her Royal Highness" and will simply be 'Diana, Princess of Wales.' Buckingham Palace has said she will still be regarded as a member of the royal family. \* She will continue to have a

residence at Kensington Palace

in London, continue use of the state apartments in St James's Palace for entertaining, and continue use of royal flights. \* The financial side of her settlement with Charles has not been disclosed. But The Sun, the

tabloid that broke the story of the final divorce agreement, said she will receive a lump sum of 17 million pounds (26.35 million dollars) from him. \*Under the settlement terms Diana's private office will be moved to Kensington Palace from St. James's Palace, where Charles lives. British media re-

ports said Diana will receive

400,000 pounds (620,000 mil-

lion dollars a year) from

Charles to run the office.

A survey in today's Daily Telegraph newspaper showed 56 per cent of Britains clergy believe that Charles should not become king if he were to marry Parker Bowles.

Even if he remains unmarried, 40 per cent said that, as an adulterer, he was unfit to be king. Opinion polls have shown deep public hostility to the idea of Parker Bowles as queen.

Charles has said he has no intention of remarrying. But he has continued his relationship with Parker Bowles, whom he met in 1970 when Diana was just nine years old, and whom he has called the 'love of his

The couple were photographed together in Wales last weekend and Charles, 47, has bought Parker Bowles lavish gifts including a horse and a 25,000-pound (39,000 dollars)

As the divorce was finalised, the Prince was in Balmoral. Scotland, holidaying with his sons William, 14, and Harry, 11, and his mother Queen Elizabeth.

Diana, who always loathed the royal family's summer holiday of outdoor pursuits at Balmoral, remained in London and was due to attend a lunch with the English National Bal-

When the couple's decree nisi, the first stage in their quickie divorce, was granted six weeks ago, Diana was unable to contain her grief and was photographed crying. She called her decision to agree to the divorce the saddest day of her life. But her engagement with the ballet, one of the handful of causes of which she remains patron after resigning from almost 100 charities six weeks ago, was arranged in May.

Although the Princess once said that she would prefer a satisfying career to having a man in her life, she is widely expected to remarry. She is said to long for more

children, especially a daughter. "Diana must learn to put the bad times behind her. She must look to the future - which is rosy. There will be no shortage of handsome men beating a path to her door, offering the happiness she craves," said The Sun, one of the tabloid newspapers whose reports on the furmoil of her marriage led to its breakdown.



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**PHILIPS** 

#### Gunshots fired on DU campus

By Staff Correspondent Around 20 rounds of gunshots were fired near the Teacher-Student Centre at the Dhaka University last night

campus sources said. The incident reportedly followed a clash between the ac tivists of Chhattra League (BCL) and Jatiyatabadi Chhattra Dal (JCD) at the Shamsunnahar Hall at about 8:30 pm, the sources said.

During the clash, a leader of the hall unit of the JCD was also manhandled by the rivals. sources said adding that the hall authorities however brought the situation under control

Within half-an-hour of the incident at Shamsunnahar Hall, gunshots were also fired from Hakim Chattar near Rokeya Hall and from behing the Shamsunnahar Hall

sources informed. The details of the incident could not be known immedi-

#### EC to publicise JS bypolls results from 5pm

The Election Commission (EC) will publicise the results of coming September 5 by-election through government and private media from its secretariat conference room from 5 pm on the day, reports UNB.

The Commission will also issue cards to observe and col lect the election results. Each political party and media will get two cards, said a press release yesterday.

interested political parties or media have been requested to contact with Public Relations Officer of the Commission Mesbah Uddin Ahmed in this regard. His phone number is 814176

#### Pabna SP killing Coach driver surrenders in court

From Our Correspondent PABNA, Aug 28: The driver of the coach that killed the Superintendent of Police, Pabna and three others in a road accident on August 16 surrendered before the court here today.

The bail prayer of Majharul Islam alias Tia, the lone accused in the case, was rejected by the presiding Magistrate. The tragic road accident occurred when a Rajshahi-bound

passenger coach collided headon with a jeep carrying SP Jamsheduddin Bhuiyan and three office staff near Maligachha on the night of August

The jeep fell into a roadside

#### ditch killing all four on board. 2 killed as bus tempo collide in Jhenidah

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Aug 28: Two persons were killed when a Kushtia-bound passengers bus collided head on with a tempo near Jhenidah Cadet College

this morning. According to police and witnesses, the accident occurred at about 9:45 am.

Tempo passenger Abdus Sattar 40, of village Chandpur in Suffripa thana died on the spot while another injured passenger, Moulana Tajul Islam, 45, of Laudia in Jhenidah Sadar thana succumbed to his injuries at the Jhenidah Sadar Hospital.

An injured woman was also admitted to the hospital, police

Both the bus and tempo drivers managed to fled away.

### An appeal

From Page 1 town, Zahurul Haq expressed his 'hatred' about the political culture in the country and alleged that the local police administration had totally failed to play its due role.

"While police found it rather easy to open fire on agitating people, they have failed to seize the bus that crushed the college student and also failed to arrest the driver and conductor of "that bus," he regretted.

Police at Bogra Kotwali Thana, who could not move out for the last couple of days due to public protests, admitted that they were yet to seize the bus.

Tears rolled down his cheecks as Zahurul Haq described how he had got the saddest news of his life on August 24. "I was at my work place, Mohammad Ali Hospital. At around noon a dead body and an injured person were brought there. As no doctor was immediately available, I first attended the injured. Later, when I moved to see the face of the dead person. I found that he was none but my son.

and another son - all were weeping as some neighbouring women were describing to this correspondent how Ratan became a victim of the firing "Ratan went out of the house in the morning to go to his school to know whether the schedule for his pre-test examinations was announced."

Haq, his wife, one daughter

## Prof Emajuddin protests ministers' remarks in JS

Prof Emajuddin Ahmed has protested the remarks in Parliament of the Education Minister, Post and Telecommunication Minister and a ruling party member following his resignation as Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University, reports

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In a letter to Speaker Hu-mayun Rashid Chowdhury on Tuesday Prof Ahmed described contents of their statements as 'untrue and concocted' and requested him to expunge those from the proceedings of the He termed the remarks of

Education Minister ASHK Sadek as 'fabricated,' of Post and Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim as 'discourteous' and of Sheikh Fazlul Karim Selim MP as "acrimo-

The letter to the Speaker of Prof Ahmed, who had tendered his resignation as VC on August 24 amidst violence on the DU Campus, was made available to the press vesterday

"I was compelled to quit as it has become impossible for me to play an effective role as Vice-Chancellor," he said while explaining the reasons of his resignation to the Speaker. "Mr Speaker, in my resigna

tion letter. I did not make any complaint. Whatever complaint is there is against me, against my inability. I have failed to run the university in the present situation," said Prof Ahmed Describing the statement of

the Education Minister as 'regrettable," he demanded that the Speaker read out his resignation letter in the House to apprise the nation of the facts. Prof Ahmed claimed that during his tenure as VC from

November 1992 the university

was not closed for acts of terror ism even for a single day. He, however, admitted that six students were killed during his tenure. Three of them were killed in intra-party clash of Chhatra League (S-P), two due to internal conflict of Chhatra

tween BCL (S-P) and BCL (K-C). Prof Ahmed said the Educa tion Minister had spoken of the incident in which Prof Abdul Mannan Chowdhury and Dr Arefin Siddique were assaulted, but he did not mention ransacking of the room of Prof Ershadul Bari that led to the inci-

Dal and another in a clash be-

dent of assault He charged the Post and Telecommunication Minister

#### Servant

From Page 1

something wrong informed Ranna thana immediately. A police team rushed to the spot. Police also found sever injuries in the head of the victim. They sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital

(DMCH) morgue for autopsy. Meanwhile, one Kuddus, 22 of Sribordi thana of Sherpur district, who stayed with Shafiq the previous night was missing following the incident. The family member who first entered the room also did not find Kuddus in the flat at the

time, police added 'A friend of Shafiq, Kuddus often visited the house and

staved with him. According to family members Shafiq had an altercation with Kuddus late Tuesday night. The motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Alal a cousin of Shafiq filed murder case with Ramna thana police said they were investigating the incident.

with threatening him and scandalising his personal life on the basis of untrue informa-

Prof Ahmed alleged that the Education Minister had interfered in his appointing provosts of different residential halls. "As per Dhaka University Ordinance 1973, the Vice Chancellor has the authority to appoint the

He mentioned various academic achievements and infrastructural development during his four-year tenure. A congenial academic atmosphere was restored and session jam reduced in the university during this period, he added.

#### All-party meet

From Page 1

transport workers following the recent killings and related incidents in Bogra, ensuring safe movement of vehicles. Tk one crore compensation for the losses incurred by them due to the violent incidents and hartals in Bogra since August 22.

Party Students Unity (APSU) put up a road barricade at Sathmatha yesterday, causing a day-long halt to traffic movement at Bogra town. APSU has also planned to enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal

in Bogra today to press their

various demands that included

On the other hand, the All

raising of the amount of compensation to the families of the victims of recent violence in the Meanwhile, the Deputy Commissioner of Tangail when contacted last night, told The Daily Star that the district administration had convened a joint meeting of the students

and transport workers at 4 pm today (Thursday) to resolve the This correspondent, on his way back to Dhaka yesterday morning, saw that agitating students of Sadat College put up road barricades in front of the college and at some other

nearby places to stop movement of vehicles. They, however, allowed small rickshaws and tempos to ply and requested passengers

#### not to pay extra fare. BNP ready

From Page 1 mills and factories in the private sector. He said his party

will help the government in re-

opening the closed mills. He added that they would cooperate the government in making the nationalised industries into profitable concerns. Referring to food deficit, the

former food minister said it was caused by both drought and flood. He assured the government of BNP's help in meeting the food deficit. There was a food stock of 10

lakh tons when BNP left power,

he said and advised the gov-

ernment to sell the rice before it

is spoiled in the godowns. Bhuiyan listed economic achievements during the BNP rule and said per capita income rose to 265 US dollar in 1995-96, GDP growth was 4.7 per cent

in 1994-95 while the literacy

rate was 42.06 per cent. The BNP leader suggested reduction of taxes on public transport to ease the communication problem, granting autonomy to radio and TV, scrapping of the Special Powers Act, formation of Wages Commis-

## Agri sector growth

From Page 1

Total fertiliser consumption also registered a lower growth or 6.63 per cent in recent years compared to a robust growth of over 10 per cent in the late 1980s. In terms of nutrient contents, this deceleration is more pronounced, the review added.

Comparing the growth of tube-well irrigation between the late 1980s and early 1990s, the review revealed a slowdown of growth, from 10.59 per cent during the 1984-85 to 1989-90 period to 7.60 per cent during the 1990-91 to 1994-95 period. The review attributed this slowdown to deceleration in growth in both shallow and deep tube-well irrigation in the early 1990s

compared to the late 1990s. The declining surface water levels caused its share in total irrigation to decline from 49.4 per cent in 1984-85 to 29.4 per cent in 1994-95, contributing to a considerable deceleration in growth in total irrigated areas during the early and mid-1990s (only 2.50 per cent) compared to the late 1980s (8.39 per cent).

The review also said that there had been a steady decline in the acreage devoted to rice cultivation.

The declining trend in rice acreage was identified by the reviewers as a matter of concern especially when this had not been accompanied by corresponding increase in acreage of

non-rice crops. Dwelling on deep tube-wells (DTWs), they said DTWs are technically feasible in only 130 thanas and asked the govern-

ment to devise alternative ways for making DTWs financially attractive to farmers in these

"The poor financial performance of DTW, particularly in comparison to STW and LLP. dictates that in areas where STWs can operate, a phasing out of DTWs might be encouraged," the review pointed out. The government's internal

procurement of foodgrains as a policy for both augmenting public stock and offering price support to farmers during the harvest seasons also showed a declining trend in recent years. the review said.

"In any case, procurement programmes has hardly been effective in providing price support in the past," it pointed out.

About rice price, the review said that although the low prices of rice was a boon to the poor urban consumers and made a favourable dent in poverty profile, this definitely had adverse impact on produc-tion incentives to the farmers.

With trade and exchange rate liberalisation, the review said that it would have a significant implication for public welfare since a high proportion of con-sumer budget is spent on rice.

"While ensuring adequate supply of rice at affordable prices to consumers will largely depend on the country's ability to achieve higher yield in an environmentally sustainable manner, the government has to formulate an effective mechanism to deal with price shocks to minimise its adverse effects," the review suggested.

#### sion with the representatives of workers, and separation of judiciary.