Federa Federal Express

The World on Time

SIGNED, SEALED & DELIVERED

From documents to packages, FedEx delivers peace of mind reliably to over 210 countries worldwide. Our integrated network of 550 planes, 37,000 vehicles and 1,20,000 people, promises smooth delivery every step of the way. We can even advise you on the status of your shipments; thanks to our unique computerised global tracking system. So the next time you have got to send a package, relax - call your FedEx agent BANEX to deliver your package hassie-free -

For more information call - Head Office : 9565114-7,Fax : 9565112 shan : 887771, Chittagong : (031) 712127, Khulna : (041) 25008



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing in Hong Kong yesterday.

foreign investors at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel - AFP/UNB photo

HK business leaders urged

Trust Company of the West, Invesco, Lombard Odier, Carlsson, LGT Asset Management, ABN Amro, Europacific, Sa lomon Brothers Asset Management, Regent, Ki Pacific and Wi Carr and UBS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said Bangladesh wanted to allow privately operated mutual funds and that the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) was working on a set of regulations to be in place shortly. "Through legislation and administrative encouragement, we intend to widen and strengthen the capital market," she said

Sheikh Hasina said Parliament had just passed the bill for establishment of Law Reform Commission which would continuously review and suggest changes in the legal framework to, among others, promote investment and establish nondiscriminatory, speedy and cost-effective environment for various markets.

She said although Taka is convertible on current transactions for locals, it is fully convertible for foreign investors, whether portfolio or direct. There is hardly any entry-bar on foreign direct investment or any restrictions on the flow of funds in and out of the country.

she added. The Prime Minister said that her three-month old government had initiated a pack age of measures to improve the legal framework, identify impediments to investment and to facilitate private sector participation in setting up export pro-

cessing zones. Sheikh Hasina said that her government had already eliminated the lock-in period, reduced the tax on cash dividends of listed companies, and removed capital gain taxes on stock sales and bonus shares. Besides, "we will evolve system to allow either underwriting

with guaranteed price or auctioning of public offer to assure that the companies gain full benefit," she added.

"Bangladesh wants to be a serious partner in the world economic community," she said, adding that Bangladesh is one of the most open economies among the developing countries. "We have no restrictions with respect to ownership, products or markets" she said and added that foreign investments were freely allowed.

Regarding direct foreign investment, she said, "We are keen to maintain political stability and with that in view we have initiated efforts to build national consensus. "Consistent and stable macro-policies should also comfort the potential investors," she added.

A telecommunication policy was being finalised, allowing three more cellular telephone operations in private sector while the BOI has been instructed to take steps for establishment of industrial parks to attract foreign investment.

The Prime Minister said that her government would welcome foreign investment in infrastructures like power, port and road. "The fund requirement are too large to be provided from public resources alone" she said adding, "therefore, we aim at completing all necessary reforms in laws, rules and policies as well as drafting standard contracts for electricity, gas and oil without delay to facilitate investment

in these sectors. The Prime Minister said that the BOI would take leadership in attracting foreign investment including relocation of industries, investment in development and exploitation of gas fields, electricity generation and distribution, improving port facilities, telecommunication, urban water and sewerage, airport development and major roads and bridges. We want that

BOI should be capable to make life easier for investors and in particular the foreign investors, she added

Turning back to country's political arena, the Prime Minister said that she had formed the government through a free and fair election, held under a neutral caretaker government. "Incorporation of this institutional arrangement in our Constitution is a major structural reform in our politics which holds the promise of stability under democratic pluralism."

"One of the important hallmarks is our emphasis on building consensus both within and outside Parliament on major issues including the process of reforms," she said.

The Prime Minister said that despite having adequate ports, road, railway networks, air links and telecommunications, the country is a very poor one. "We are in a hurry to develop," she added

"Come and invest in Bangladesh and grow with us' Sheikh Hasina told the investors, adding "have confidence in rain and sunshine that we have.

The meeting was followed by luncheon hosted by the Chairman of the Peregrine Tose in honour of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Hasina

From Page 1

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, Home Minister Major (Retd) Rafiqul Islam, Mayor of Dhaka City Mohammad Hanif, Minister of State for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, chiefs of the three services. Dean of the Diplomatic Corps and Ambassador of Palestine Mohammad Shahta Zarab, Charge d'Affaires of China in Bangladesh Du Liancheng and senior officials were present at the air-

One shot dead Moudud From Page 1 in Meherpur MEHERPUR. Sept 16: A

EC fail to respond to this, the BNP may decide not to take part in any election in future which will certainly be unfortunate for the smooth transition of democracy in Bangladesh," he

Representatives of embassies and high commissions of the United Kingdom, the United States, France, China, Australia, Japan, Germany, Italy, Belgium, Pakistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Thailand and the Netherlands attended the meet-

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP, M Morshed Khan MP and former ambassador MM Rezaul Karim

were present. Moudud said: "The EC has not played a fair and neutral role and has failed to exercise the powers it has under the law... The EC having failed to act independently has caused a great harm to the future of

democracy in Bangladesh. He alleged that the design of the government was to win this (Laxmipur-2) seat by any cost, which they had done successfully to the peril of the nation and at the cost of the future of

democracy in Bangladesh. The EC, he alleged, did not take any action despite repeated requests and applications submitted to the CEC about the situation in Laxmipur area.

He told a questioner that before going to court he would seek redress from the election tribunal, "but I know what would be the fate."

with his cousins were on the watch against possible attack. BCL Shibir clash

tack on their house at Kodalkati

village in Gangni thana last

miscreants climbed rooftop of

the residence of one Rezaul Haq

at 11 pm and shot his son, Ka-

mal, 20, to death when he along

Police said a gang of about 20

night, reports UNB.

KHULNA, Sept 16: At least 18 students were injured, four of them seriously in a clash between the activists of BCL and Islami Chhatra Shibir on the Paikgacha College campus yesterday.

in Khulna

From Our Correspondent

The college has been closed for an indefinite period.

Trader succumbs to burn injuries

SIRAJGANJ, Sept 16: A local trader, wounded in an accident last Thursday, succumbed to his burn injures today at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, police

said. reports UNB. The victim, Azhar Uddin, 55, owner of 'Glass House' in the town's SS Road, received severe burn injury from an explosion of a phenyl bottle at his shop on last Thursday.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

Transport strike in Barisal from today young man was shot dead and four others were injured with From Staff Correspondent bullets in a recurring gang at-

BARISAL, Sept 16: The Barisal District Road Transport Workers regional committee has called a transport strike for an indefinite period in 8 routes from tomorrow.

The decision was taken at a joint meeting of the leaders of the Barisal District Minibus Owners and Workers Union. The strike has been called following terrorist activities

and assault on a driver. The eight routes where the transport strike will be enforced are Barisal to Pirojpur, Bhandaria, Jhalakathi, Nalchity, Bakerganj, Baufal, Patuakhali, Barguna, Amtali and Khepupara.

Welcome shower From Page 1

Temperature in the capital, which rose to the season's highest on Sunday at 37.5 degree Celsius, fell to 35.2 degree Cel-

sius yesterday. The highest amount of rainfall was recorded in Patuakhali at 72mm followed by 60 mm in Barisal. Rainfall recorded in other places are: Satkhira-27mm, Bhola - 20 mm, Cox's Bazar — 12 mm, Khepupara — 10mm, Maijdecourt — 5 mm, Comilla - 4mm, Teknaf -4mm, Kutubdia — 4 mm and Chittagong — 1 mm.

5 killed

From Page 1 mondi thana in this connection and the incident was being investigated, police sources said. Minister of State for Housing and Public Works Afsaruddin Ahmed Khan and Minister

of State for Land Rashed

Mosharraf visited the spot.

WB offers grant to develop infrastructure for judiciary

By Mizan Ali

The World Bank has offered Tk 150 crore grant for infrastructural development of the judiciary, official sources said.

Negotiations for finalising the project is continuing, they said adding, if finalised the project is likely to take off within this fiscal year.

Development of the court buildings, computerisation of the court rooms and such, other facilities would be given priority in the infrastructural development project, the sources

"Once the court rooms are computerised, one can without difficulty obtain the copy of the judgment, as soon as it is pronounced," one source said adding, there are about 650 courts comprising those of district and sessions judge, additional district and sessions judge, subordinate and assistant sessions judge, senior assistant judge and assistant

Under the project, every judge will be provided with a computer along with a printer. The other facilities will include fax and photocopy machines.

The WB, under its institutional development fund, has also offered an additional Tk 1.88 crore for the Law Reforms Commission (LRC) and the Judicial Training Institute (JTI) and for documentation of the library of the Ministry of Law

and Justice, the sources added. The LRC and the JTI have been set up, housed in the old High Court building, for bringing about overall improvement in the judiciary.

The seventh Jatiya Sangsad in its first session approved the

Young man killed in city

By Staff Correspondent A young man, who was found fatally injured on Tongi Diver-

sion Road under Tejgaon thana

in the city, succumbed at the Dhaka Medical College Hospi tal (DMCH) yesterday morning. Idris, 25, a worker of a motor garage in Sutrapur area, was found lying beside the road with serious assault and stab injuries at about 2 am yesterday. Mobile police took Idris to the

DMCH where he succumbed to

his injuries at about 6 am, police sources said. An unidentified gang reportedly kidnapped ldris, son of Kalu Khandaker of Munshiganj, from Dayaganj, Sutrapur area Sunday night, the sources

The gang assaulted ldris and left him in Tejgaon area. The reason behind the reported killing could not be known immediately.

Sutrapur police said that they did not have any information in this regard.

3 extortionists held in city

By Staff Correspondent Detective Branch (DB) police arrested three extortionists when they were collecting toll from a house at Razabazar in

the city Sunday evening. The arrested were identified as Ashiqur Rahman alias Jamal. Javed Jahangir alias Hridaya and Nazrul Islam, police said. The arrested were the active members of an organised terrorist gang in Tejgaon thana area, police added.

The BD team held the three gang members when they entered the residence of a businessman. Earlier, on Sunday morning the gang picked up the businessman and threatened to kill him.

They also sent a letter to his family members saying that he would be released if they paid a toll of Tk 10,000, police said. Later, after being assured by the family, the three went to the house at around 7pm Sunday to collect the toll money, police

concept of local government,

Prime Minister's Parliamen-

tary Affairs Advisor and a pre-

sidium member of the ruling

Awami League Suranjit Sen-

gupta said: "It should be com-

prising representatives elected

directly by the people and

should not be mere extension of

bureaucracy across the coun-

member of the recently formed

Local Government Commission

(LGC), further said: "The local

bodies should have power to

collect revenue, plan their re-

spective budgets and assert

their positions in implement-

ing the development pro-

grammes taken up by the cen-

at a meeting yesterday finalised

a set of questionnaire to be cir-

culated among a cross section of

people for their opinions on the

possible structure, powers and

functions of the local govern-

ments at different tiers of ad-

ministrative units of the state-

18 questions would be circu-

lated among different cate-

gories of citizens including

lawyers, writers, doctors, jour-

nalists, union parishad mem-

bers and chairmen immedi-

sion was constituted at the di-

rectives of the Prime Minister

on September 1. The Commis-

sion is headed by Rahmat Ali.

The other members of the

Commission are Suranjit Sen-

gupta of Awami League, Advo-

cate Fazle Rabbi of the Jatiya

Party (JP), A T M Shamsul Hug

The eight-member Commis-

ately after it is printed.

Meeting sources said, a set of

Meanwhile, the Commission

tral government."

craft soon.

Sengupta, who is also a

LRC, which was constituted through an executive decision gazetted on April 7, 1994.

The Bill relating to the JTI was, however, passed in 1994 but the previous government could not appoint its Director General and other officials to make the institute functional.

Former chief justice FKMA Munim has been appointed the chairman of the LRC while Justice Naimuddin and Justice Aminur Rahman Khan are two members of the body. Justice Badruzzaman has

been appointed Director General of the JTI while Iktidar Ahmed has been appointed its Director. Two posts of Deputy Director and three posts of Assistant Director are yet to be filled up by judicial officers of the rank of subordinate judge and assistant judge respec-

The JTI is going to start a training programme for its first batch of 60 judicial officials by the end of the year, sources con-

Upgradation of Deputy Secy's pay scale protested

By Staff Correspondent

Engineers have protested the government's decision to increase the pay scale of deputy secretaries to Taka 7100 from Taka 6300 saying this would create disparity among differ

ent cadre services. An extended meeting of the engineers service and social welfare committee and executive committees of different engineers' associations vesterday expressed deep concern over the new decision.

They demanded that the pay scales of all engineers serving in different cadres be increased to Taka 7100

The engineers also demanded that the 50 per cent selection grade for officials of different cadres after completion of ten years of service be ex tended to all engineers.

(Tuesday)." "The programmes

will be chalked out at tonight's

meeting," he said but declined to

give any idea about the move-

letter of Majid-ul Huq, a senior

member of the party Standing

Committee, may be determined

at today's meeting. Huq resigned

from the Standing Committee

on Wednesday last showing

Moudud Ahmed and Salahud-

din Quader Chowdhury would

be included in the party's pol-

icy-making body, another

member of the Standing com-

mittee said "it will be decided by

decide till yesterday whether it

would field a candidate in the

October 15 by-poll in Habiganj

2 constituency. It was learnt

that a local BNP leader, Zakaria

Khan Chowdhury, submitted

his nomination paper

yesterday, the last date for fil-

ing nomination paper. But the

leadership in the capital de-

clined to say if Zakaria was a

party nominee or an indepen-

dent candidate. "It is expected

that a final decision in this re-

gard will be taken at tonight's

Standing Committee meeting."

the Standing Committee mem-

Mother Teresa

taken to hospital

Teresa was taken to a Calcutta

hospital to be examined by her

doctors today after she fell from

her bed and complained of light

New system of local bodies

and Ajhar Ali — former bureau-

crats turned Awami League ac-

tivists — Professor Borhanud-

din Khan Jahangir of Political

Science Department of Dhaka

University and Taherunnesa

Abdullah, an internationally

recognised development ac-

istry Hasnat Abdul Hye has

been appointed member-secre-

erence, the Commission will

prepare a report within 90 days

from the formation of the body.

It will also suggest a mecha-

nism for coordination among

different tiers of local govern-

ments. The members of the

Commission met four times so

source, after receiving the re-

port of the Commission, the

LGRD ministry will send it to

the cabinet for a policy decision

on the issue. Eventually, the

government will go for legislat-

ing a law for local government

in the light of the Commission

tional obligation of the gov-

ernment to enact laws to im-

plement the idea of local gov-

ernment run by elected repre-

tion reads: "Local government

in every administrative unit of

the republic shall be entrusted

to the bodies, composed of per-

sons elected in accordance with

cal governments, the same Ar-

ticle of the Constitution says

that each local body "shall, sub-

ject to this Constitution and

Defining functions of the lo-

Article 59 of the Constitu-

However, it is the constitu-

report, the source added.

sentatives of the people.

According to a highly placed

tary of the Commission.

Secretary of the LGRD min-

According to its terms of ref-

tivist.

headachesness, reports AP.

CALCUTTA, Sept 16: Mother

Meanwhile, the BNP did not

the party Chairperson.

Asked whether Barrister

The fate of the resignation

ment programmes.

personal grounds.

BNP From Page 1

Friday, family sources said

56, of Shalgaria in the town and his wife, Khaleda Begum, 45, Friday evening.

in Saudi Arabia for the last 17 years, were returning to their residence in Sira Aabida from Abha town. The bodies will reach their

village home next Friday, the sources said.

transfer of

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Sept 16: Dr Sheikh Alimuzzaman, Director, Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital (SBMCH), stands released today following allegations against him.

hospitals.

transfer of Jainal Abedin, Administrative officer of the SBMCH.

Later at a press conference

any other law, perform within

the appropriate administrative

unit such functions as shall be

prescribed by Act of Parlia-

ment, which may include func-

tions relating to - (a) adminis-

tration and the work of public

offices: (b) the maintenance of

public order; (c) the preparation

and implementation of plans

relating to public services and

According to Article 60 of

the Constitution, it is also an

obligation of the government to

enact law conferring "powers on

the local government bodies ...

including power to impose taxes

for local purposes, to prepare

AL leader Sengupta told this

their budgets and raise funds."

correspondent: "We are politi-

cally committed to setting up of

effective local governments at

different administrative tiers.

Besides it was one of our major

pre-election pledges that we

would go for strong local gov-

ernments run by elected repre-

ernment of Bangladesh Nation-

alist Party (BNP), the govern-

ment of Sheikh Hasina will

meet both the constitutional

and political obligations to set-

ting up of local governments."

Zia constituted a special par-

liamentary body comprising

members from both the Trea-

sury and Opposition benches of

the country's fifth Jatiya

Sangsad. But the committee

failed to come up with a report

tion of the fifth Jatiya Sangsad.

the parliamentary body con-

cerned got automatically de-

on the issue. With the dissolu-

The government of Khaleda

"Unlike the preceding gov-

sentatives of the people.

Sengupta added.

economic development."

Satinelle Removes hair by the root Transcom Electronics Limited Official licensee of Philips Bectronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets

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

things better **PHILIPS**

Let's make

Backed by Guarantee

Tornado hits 2 villages in Manikganj

From Our Correspondent MANIKGANJ, Sept 16: At least 39 houses were damaged and more than 5 persons injured in a tornado that swept over two villages of Saturia thana today. The affected villages are Kushtia and Nabonidhan. The ADC (general) along with TNO visited the spot. Further details were not available.

College girl commits suicide in city

By Staff Correspondent A college girl reportedly

committed suicide at North Badda under Gulshan thana in the city early yesterday Maksuda Begum, 22, daugh-

ter of one Sirajul Alam of Purbapara, North Badda, hanged herself from the beam of their tin-shed house. The family members found

Makshuda, an HSC student of Siddheswari Degree College, hanging in her room and informed the Gulshan thana. Police rushed to the spot at about 8:45 am and took the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy police said.

The reason behind the suicide could not be known immediately. An unnatural death case has been filed with Gulshan thana.

Bangladeshi couple killed in Saudi road accident

PABNA, Sep 16: A Bangladeshi medicine expert and his wife were killed in a highway accident in Saudi Arabia on here today, reports UNB.

Dr Mohammad Firoz Khan,

died on the spot at Khamij in Saudi Arabia when their private car collided with a jeep Dr Firoz and his wife, living

Protest against SBMCH Director

In protest, some 1200 3rd and 4th class employees of two hospitals in the town — the SBMCH and the Barisal Sadar Hospital - put under lock and key the administrative office and the outdoor sections of the

They also demanded the

the employees said, they would cripple all work in the hospitals, except emergency, if their demands are not met within 72

BGMEA for further Taka devaluation

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) has urged the government to further devalue the Taka so that garment exporters can retain competitiveness in the world market.

"One dollar equal to 50 taka may be the appropriate exchange rate for the exporters now," said BGMEA president Redwan Ahmed at a press conference on the forthcoming Bangladesh Textile and Apparel Exposition (BATEXPO) at a city hotel yesterday. The three-day BATEXPO-96 begins on October 3 at a city hotel.

Quoting exchange rates in the neighbouring countries. Ahmed said, Bangladeshi exporters can retain competitiveness only through further devaluation of the Taka.

He pointed out that in the last couple of years, the wage of workers increased substantially while the cutting and making charges of readymade garments declined significantly. "So the only way out for us to sustain is to devalue the Taka against the US Dollar."

ported by reducing taxes and duties for the sake of economic development of the nation. Exports of Bangladesh's ready-made garments are in-

creasing at an annual rate of 27

per cent, Ahmed said. "We expect that the upcoming BATEXPO will attract a record numbers of overseas traders," Ahmed said. BGMEA's initiative to eliminate child labour from the garments industries

has been hailed by the major importing countries, he said. The BGMEA will eliminate child labour and arrange schooling programmes for all the retrenched child workers by October 31 this year, he said.

Three BGMÉA teams have already visited Australia. Japan, Hong Kong, Germany. Belgium, England, the Netherlands, and the USA to promote Bangladesh's exports in those countries, Ahmed said

We hope, buyers from all of these countries and some other countries will visit the fair." Ahmed pointed out. The press conference was also attended by Joint Secretary, Textile Cell of the EPB. Mazharul Huq. BG-MEA vice-presidents Khalilur Rahman Chowdhury and Shahabuddin Ahmed. Treasurer Sirajul Huq, and members Mahfuzur Rahman and Atigul

Islam. Ahmed pointed out that Bangladesh was currently producing 70 per cent of the accessories used in the export-oriented readymade garments sector. It uses more than 2.5 bil lion yards of fabrics. About 96 per cent woven and 35 per cent knitted fabrics are imported from India, China, South Korea, Hong Kong, Pakistan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Japan, he said.

Bangladesh earned 2488 million US dollars last year. exporting 63 types of garments and apparel items. The country is the 5th largest supplier of readymade garments to the EU countries and the 6th largest exporter to the US market.

Heroes back home

From Page 1 bowler Hasibul Hasan Shanto was also injured and missed the whole tournament. So we were also a weaker side.

When asked about the opponents, Akram also rated Fiji, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea as good sides Manager Gazi Ashraf Lipu

said that they had a planned

tour this time. He said his team

was well prepared to face the

UAE side in the final. "We had discussed about all the UAE players before the match and had our own plans to neutralise them. Once we dismissed both the UAE openers in the early hour of their innings. I was more than sure of our vic-

tory," said the proud

Bangladesh manager. About his team's performance, Lipu said, "Our batting was going great guns all through the tournament except in the final when the middle order collapsed. This is very usual in cricket. I was a bit frustrated when we lost our ninth wicket yesterday as we had a very poor score at the time. But thanks to Saiful and Salauddin who played a responsible knock taking the team score beyond the 200 mark. I think that was the turning point of our win yesterday. A 200-plus score had a big morale-boosting effect on our

boys to fight the battle." The manager emphasised on the importance of a team physiotherapist. He said a physio was a must for any international team.

A beaming BCCB president Saber Hossain Chowdhury, MP, was elated about the victory. Talking to The Daily Star, the BCCB boss said, "This victory was nothing but the outcome of a disciplined team work. With half of their strength, as four of the most senior players are facing a ban and Shanto injured, I think they have done a marvelous job.

This report would be incomplete without a few words about Hasibul Hasan Shanto, the right-arm medium-pacer who

suffered a leg injury during a practice session before the tournament and missed the whole tourney. A pale Shanto was standing in a corner of the VIP lounge when his teammates were exchanging pleasantries with all and sundry. Shanto said, I am sorry about my injury. It's my bad luck. But I can tell you this will not continue and I will be allright very soon to serve the nation with the

A large number of cricket fans also gathered outside the VIP enclosure to welcome their

The team is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her office at 6 pm this evening.

UP member shot dead in Kushtia

From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Sept 16: A member of Kursha Union Parishad under Mirpur thana was shot dead by three assailants here

The reason behind the killing of Abdur Rahim, 38, was not known. The killers who left the spot immediately after the murder

this afternoon.

could not be identified. Police rushed to the place of the incident and sent the body to the Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

A case has been filed with

Kushtia police station.

Nomination

From Page 1 Khan Chowdhury, Suranjit Sengupta of Awami League, Abid Ali Chowdhury, Tofazzal

Hossain Chowdhury and Krishok Mohammad Sadeq. According to the poll schedule announced by the Election Commission, scrutiny of the nomination papers will be held today while the last date for withdrawal of candidature is

September 23.

UGC: Private varsity

From Page 1 the People's University of

Bangladesh. According to the major conditions described in the act, the private universities must have

at least two faculties, which

will have "appropriate and in-

tensive curricula" approved by the UGC. The universities will have a reserve fund of Taka one crore in a nationalised bank while the teachers' salaries and students tuition fees must be made public. Five per cent of the total seats of the universities must be

reserved for "poor but meritori-

ous" students who will study free of cost. Each faculty of the universities must have "appropriately qualified" teachers as directed

by the UGC. The private universities can start operation in any place at their initial stage but must be shifted in their own premises with at least five acres of land

within five years. According to the Act, the President will be the chancellor of the private universities and he will appoint their vice chancellors, and treasurers. The universities will be run by at least a nine-member syndicate. council of directors, and regency council or trustee board. Besides, they will have a nine-

member academic council, a faculty or school of studies, curricula committee, finance committee and an "election committee.

All academic plans, curricula, syllabuses, must be approved and monitored by the

The UGC Chairman said, "The time to evaluate the private universities is yet to come as they are still in their initial stage ... but we should encourage them in view of the situation in the arena of the higher education in the country.

Prof Yazuddin said the objective of allowing universities in the private sector lay in the fact that only 11 state-run universities in a country of 12 crore people are not enough to provide higher education to all the eligible students.

"The private universities are accommodating at least some students who otherwise would have gone abroad at the cost of expensive foreign currencies," he said.

The Education Ministry and UGC sources said at present there are about 60,000 students studying in the state-run universities. They, however, could not give the figure of student enrollment in the private universities as there is yet to be any review or report on them.

He, however, observed that capital machinery could be im-