## BLUE DART EXPRESS LIMITED

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# DOWN TO EARTH City's Labour Market

By AS M Nurunnabi

Dhaka city's labour market mainly comprises two seg ments: Those labourers who are engaged in regular jobs and those who work at various odd jobs of temporary nature. The latter class of labourers are known as floating ones who enjoy no security of their jobs. In the city's floating labour market, the maximum amount of daily wage does not go beyond Taka one hundred in the present circumstances. But in the matter of fixation of daily wage. the current price of the coarse variety of rice plays an impor-

In course of a survey recently conducted by the Institute of Social Welfare and Research. University of Dhaka, some important aspects of life of the city's labourers can be known The survey shows that the ma jority of these labourers are males, while there is a rising percentage of female labourers. Their age ranges from 12 to 40 vears in most cases with a small percentage of those who exceed that age limit. They are mostly illiterate but a sizable number of them received primary education.

These labourers are found to be involved in some trades and professions. The majority of them work as day labourers with no clear specification of the work they are called upon to do. They are mostly engaged for earth-cutting, earth-filling and other miscellaneous jobs. Next in terms of number, are construction workers possessing some degree of skill. Other classes of floating laboure: include semi-skilled m. carpenters, helpers of n. painters of buildings, garden-

ers, etc. On an average, most of the labourers are not able to get month. On this account, the average monthly income of labourers from wages gets reduced. Moreover, there are other factors, such as occa-

BCL activist

stabbed to

death in Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

of BCL and student of class nine

was stabbed to death on

Thursday night in housing es-

tate area under Khalishpur

The victim was identified as

Meanwhile, three out of 20

Rakibul Islam Rocky, 15. Police

said he died on way to hospital

after being stabbed by a group of

persons named in the FIR as ac-

cused have been arrested. They

are Delwar. 20. Kamal. 22 and

Rao granted bail

in 2 more cases

Prime Minister PV Narasimha

Rao, free on bail in one crimi-

nal case, was granted bail Fri-

day in another two cases. All

three go to trial later this

decided not to object in the

Delhi High Court when Rao ap-

Prosecutors unexpectedly

month, reports AP.

NEW DELHI, Nov 8: Former

thana.

youths.

Yunus 32.

KHULNA, Nov 8: An activist

sional illness or breaks in work availability, which tend to affect their earnings. The absence work of such labourers caused by such contingencies creates hardship as most of them have no savings to fall

It has been observed that most of the floating labourers assemble at specific points in city areas looking for work. Those labourers who are found physically suitable for work are picked up by contractors and carried in trucks in groups for various projects sites within or outside the city. There are oth ers who get work through their own initiatives or their friends and acquaintances.

Some of them don't get wages at prevailing market rates, as compared with regular workers. In such cases where they are compelled to accept work at comparatively low wages, their earnings are of necessity spent in buying food for themselves and their families, if any. In such situations, there is no question of keeping aside any margin of savings from their earnings.

The majority of floating labourers live in the city's slums or squatter settlements singly or with families, where possible. In cases where they live with their families, some of their wives and children work as domestic help in city homes or in other sundry jobs. Some of their womenfolk who work as domestic help in city get some measure of relief when they are given free food by the families for whom they work.

The survey shows that mainly physically active males constitute the bulk of the floating labourers of the city on their migration from villages. The causative factors for such work for all the days of a migration are well-known. By and large, because of their ignorance, lack of even rudiments of any education, or any agency to ensure unified activity in the matter of wages and working

conditions, they become easy victims of exploitation by interest quarters. Because of their constant battle with poverty resulting from whatever pittance they receive by way of wages. and their miserable conditions of living, they fall easy prey to various diseases.

In the city's labour market an important section is constituted by the city's rickshaw pullers and garment workers whose nature of work is less temporary. The garment industries are playing an important part in the alleviation of poverty to some extent, al though the wages offered by them are not satisfactory in all cases. It has been observed that a large part of labourers from rural areas has spilled over the city as rickshawpullers. They form an important element of our transport system and as such the continuance of this labour-intensive occupation can be foreseen

It is felt by observers that at present the big challenge before us is to create scope for expansion of the labour market. In this respect, the various poverty alleviation projects being undertaken by government, various NGOs and the Grameen Bank are expected to make substantial contributions, particularly in the fields of creation of self-employment opportunities and establishment of smallscale enterprises and cottage industries in rural areas which can ease pressure of migration to urban areas.

It is generally admitted that it is not easy to regulate the trend of migration from rural areas. The fast expanding economies of the city caused by the rising growth of industrial and commercial activities combined with the availability of easy means of communications attract a large number of migrant labourers in the hope of getting employment for sur-

# Time to study nation's true history: President

By Staff Correspondent

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday called upon the historians to come forward to let the new generation know the true history of the country.

The President was speaking as chief guest at the inaugural session of the three-day eleventh conference of Bangladesh Itihash Samity (Bangladesh History Association) and an international seminar on the occasion, held at the National Museum auditorium. The conference and the seminar on Bangladesher Itihash: Swadhinatar Panchish Bachhar, is being held marking the country's Silver Jubilee of independence. Chaired by AKM Mohsin

president of the Bangladesh Itihash Samiti (BIS), the conference was also addressed by Prof Abul Kalam Azad Chowdhury Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University and Prof Sharifuddin Ahmed, secretary of the Samiti.

The President said that opportunity to study the true history of the country has been opened up under the present

Imran Khan's party

to contest Feb polls

istan's former cricket hero Im-

ran Khan announced today that

he would contest general elec-

tions in February at the head of

his recently formed party, re-

come into Pakistan's politics,

Khan, surrounded by members

of his Tehreek-i-Insaaf (Justice

Movement) Party, told a news

conference. "The people of Pak-

istan are fed up with the same

faces and corrupt money."

"It is time for fresh faces to

ports Reuter.

ISLAMABAD. Nov 8: Pak-

democratic system. There is no scope to limit the periphery of history. Fragmented history can not earn confidence," he

He said the allegation that objective study of history was neglected in the country is no baseless. Such allegations can be raised if history is cultured with specific political purpose.

President Shahabuddin stressed the need for making history a compulsory subject at secondary level. He also felt the need for a national institution for higher research in history. Congratulating the organis-

ers of the conference and the seminar. Shahabuddin hoped that works of eminent historians and researchers of the country would contribute a lot to evaluating the failures and achievements in the 25 years of Bangladesh.

"We have to take lessons from past mistakes to go ahead," he said The conference is being par ticipated by delegates from in

dia, Japan and USA.

### Young man hacked to death in city

By Staff Correspondent A young man was hacked to death in Khilgaon area under Shabujbagh than in the city on Thursday

The victim was identified as Oliullah alias Swapan, 22, son of Emdadul Hug of North Bashaboo. Police recovered the body from a room of youth club at Tilpapara in Khilgaon at about 7 pm. There were deep cut injuries in the neck of the body. police said

### Train derails at Hajiganj: 25 injured

CHANDPUR. Nov 8: Three luggage vans of a passenger train derailed at Hajiganj rail way station here this evening snapping communication in Chandpur-Chittagong route, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the Laksham bound train from Chandpur met with the accident just after it had departed from the Haji ganj station at about 7:20 pm Some 25 passengers sus

tained injuries while jumping out of the train.

Railway officials at Chand pur said the rail tracks in the route were very old.

# Chowdhury 'Illegal acts' of police

From Staff Correspondent SYLHET, Nov 8: Eighty members of Moulvibazar District Bar Association have called a requisition meeting on Sunday to discuss 'illegal acts'

of Moulvibazar police in arrest ing a person from the Eilash (court room) The lawyers said Kamalgan police, on suspicion, arrested Abdal Hossain, a union parishad member, in a murder

case. The District and Sessions Judge of Moulvibazar granted him bail on October 17. But. Kamolganj police again arrested him on November 1 and produced him in the magistrate's court the next day. The District and Sessions Judge again granted him bail on November 3. Later, when Abdal went to

the magistrate's court on November 5. To give 'attendance, police dragged him from the ejlash, the lawyers alleged. Then on orders from the

magistrate, police brought him back to the court, they added.

### From Page 1

Nasini and fourteen other senior army officers were re-

"I look forward to hearing from you regarding this important issue," the letter added, a faxed copy of which was made

# Azhar to wed

for 36 Tests, and replaced by Sachin Tendulkar.

Azharuddin had been under fire since India's defeat in the World Cup semifinal to eventual champions Sri Lanka in March. He was often accused in the media of "not being fo-

Trophy final on Wednesday. The competition also involved Australia.

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Let's make things better PHILIPS



Leader of the Tebhaga Andolon Ila Mitra called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganobhaban yesterday -PID photo

Speakers at a seminar on

Local Government Structure

proposed yesterday to introduce

district minister or district

governor system for more effec-

tive and coordinated develop-

ment work at the grassroots

The Engineer's Services and

Social Welfare Committee of

the Institution of Engineers.

Bangladesh was attended by

chairman of Local Government

Commission Advocate Rahmat

presented in the seminar one by

Dr Ali Ahmed, an eminent edu-

cationist and another jointly

renowned social scientist and

Monowar Hossain Chowdhury.

additional chief engineer of

Local Government Engineering

the commission would propose

which would be based on the

Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed and

Advocate Rahmat Ali said

by Dr Nizamuddin Ahmed, a

Two keynote papers were

The seminar organised by

level, reports BSS

Department

### Khaled Mosharraf wanted to restore chain of command in army

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A discussion on "7th Novem ber Freedom Fighters and Sol diers Killing Day" was held at the Engineers' Institute audi torium in the city yesterday reports BSS.

The meeting was presided over by Captain (retd) Humayun Kabir BP, chairman of Shaheed Khaled Mosharraf Smriti Parishad. Noted writer Shawkat Osman spoke on the occasion as the chief guest

The speakers demanded the trial of the killers of the father of the nation, four national leaders, and the freedom fight ers and soldiers - Khaled Mosharraf, Col. Haider, Col. Huda and others

They said that Khaled Mosharraí wanted to restore the chain of command in the army and law and order in the country. He had no intention at all to take over power, they added.

The speakers urged the freedom fighters to be united to Minister Sheikh Hasina for establishing the spirit of independence and democracy.

(retd) Abu Osman Chowdhury. columnist M R Aktar Mukul and Professor Abdul Mannan

thrust was given in the workshop to broaden the mental faculty and human values of the

Referring to the call of the Father of the Nation to build up an exploitation-free prosperous "Sonar Bangla" Sheikh Hasina said Bangabandhu felt the necessity of "Sonar Manush" (golden men) for building the Sonar Bangla." The present workshop is aimed at producing 'golden people' who would be capable of building a nation as per the dream of the Father of

The Prime Minister called upon the organisers and partic ipants to turn Tungipara and model thana which would show the path of the whole nation to build a society where there would be no hunger, poverty, illiteracy and diseases.

Centre would be set up at

Later, the Prime Minister held a brief meeting with the teachers of Bangabandhu College. She listened to various problems of the college and as-

sured the teachers that those would be looked into phase by

### Govt women colleges to be set up in 16 dists

GOPALGANJ, Nov 8: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today declared that 16 government women colleges would be set up in 16 districts of the country.

guardians and students of the Sheikh Fazilatunnessa Mahila College here this afternoon on the occasion of unveiling the plaque of the college the Prime

colleges," she told amid cheers of the students, teachers and

guardians.

Earlier, the Prime Minister laid the foundation of Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni auditorium at the Shilpakala Academy premises here.

place of proximity to the rural people after the union council They said in poor country like Bangladesh only stages of local government bodies are advisable and these could be

that nomenclature of upazila in

lieu of thana could be meaning-

ful because of the next possible

Dr Ali Ahmed, stressed the need for introducing local government structure based on two stages. He also proposed for district governor system of administration in lieu of the deputy commissioner system for making administration democratic.

formed the local government bodies as our constitution dictates. The structures had been formed by different rules on various occasions to serve their political interest, he said adding the local government bodies used to act as the agents

Chief Engineer Local Department Quamrul Islam Siddique took part in the discussion on the papers while vice president of the committee M A K Azad presided over the func-

An armed gang looted cash and electronic devices worth about Tk 2.7 lakh from the office of a cable network owners association and control room of a network at Kakrail in the city Thursday afternoon, police

The gang of about 10 people attacked the office of the Bangladesh Satellite Cable Network Owners Federation and the control room of Excel International at about 1:30 pm. according to the FIR filed with

They took away seven satellite receivers and some electronic devices, a computer, a telephone set and Tk 50,000.

Two separate cases have been lodged with Ramna thana in this regard. None was arrested in this connection till

From Page 1

The NU Deputy Controller of Examinations, Shahadat Hossain, told UNB that all preparations for smooth holding of the examinations have been completed.

Question papers and vigilance teams with necessary instructions have already reached their respective examination centres, he said.

# RU authorities' warning to

RAJSHAHI UNIVERSITY Nov 8: Rajshahi University authorities have warned the striking officers and employees of the university to return to work by tomorrow, or legal action would be taken against them. University Registrar issued the order vesterday following a Syndicate decision, taken on Nov 6. regarding the strike. The

Oikya Parishad (OEOP) went on an indefinite strike Nov 4 to press home its demands.

DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

# Body of launch

in Barisal

BARISAL, Nov 8: Launch Owners' and Workers' Associa tions here enforced a 24-hour strike till 9 am tomorrow protesting what they said killing of a 'master' of a passen-

off the Saheberhat launch ter

Witnesses said that following an altercation over launch fare, a group of people attacked the launch and beat up its em-

against 20 persons. Police arrested five people in this con-

in all routes from Barisal after

the body was recovered.

pealed a lower court's decision to deny him bail on charges of conspiring to commit forgery

# Illegal logging rampant

From Page 1

political solution to the CHT problem we cannot do anything," said the Divisional Forest Officer, South

Logging in all natural forests in the country is banned since 1985. The ban will continue till the year 2000. In CHT, afforestation programmes started in the later part of the last century and continued 'on and off'

until mid-eighties. "We are allowed to fell only mature plantation in the reserve forest and immediately replace it with several others to maintain the cycle," an official said, "Felling of large number of trees can be seen but we have no

say about it," he said. "When a generation has no children it automatically goes into extinction, we are faced with the same consequence in

the Hill Tracts," he added. According to statistics available at the Divisional Forest Officer's (South) office. there was no afforestation in the southern region of the CHT in 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1996. In the years 1993, 1994, 1995 only 'a negligible area' came under

afforestation. Vast forest areas are also

owned by private landowners. These lands are popularly known as 'Joat Bhumi' According to the existing law, authorities' permission for logging in the area can be given to these private owners only in

special circumstances. "If an owner is in need of money for marriage, education, treatment and other emergency social matters, he applies to us for permission for logging in his own forest. We forward the prayer to Dhaka for final approval," said another official.

Locals, both Chakmas and Bengali settlers, said once there is a political solution in the area, social forestry schemes can be taken up. This should be done giving due consideration to the traditional "Jum" cultivation, practised by the tribal

people, some of them opined. The forest officials claimed that under the existing law in it was hard for anyone to transport unauthorised timber.

But Rangamati town abroads with saw mills and furniture shops displaying modern furniture made of quality timber. The saw mills keep running day and night to cope with the arrival of fresh supply everyday.

### **Editor: Mahfuz Anam**

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# 24-hr strike ends today

master recovered

From Staff Correspondent

ger launch. Meser Ali, master of 'ML Zubayer, had been missing since he fell into the river Kirtonkhola during a brawl between some passengers and employees of the launch on Thursday. His body was recovered from the river half a mile

minal this morning.

ployees A case has been lodged

nection. The launch owners' association stopped plying of launches

> From Our Correspondent KUSHTIA, Nov 8: Classes of Islamic University will resume tomorrow The university was closed on

IU reopens

today

September 26 following clashes between BCL and Shibir activists which left one killed and hundreds of students injured. Meanwhile, BCL activists held a meeting at Shaikhpara Bazar near the University this afternoon protesting the gun at-

tack on its president Shamsul Islam Zoha. It was reported that some unidentified gunmen fired at Shamsul Islam Zoha last night when he was coming towards Kushtia by a motor cycle. But he

escaped unhurt.

bankruptcy.

Pakistan

From Page 1 In his lengthy charge sheet, Leghari accused Bhutto of saturating state-owned industries and government departments with friends and relatives. In one year Bhutto's government reportedly gave more than 1,000 people jobs with the staterun airline that was already over staffed and teetering on

The Pakistan Steel Mills was barely surviving following a year at the helm by Usman Faruqi, a close friend of Bhutto's jailed husband, Asif Ali Zardari.

Zardari, who also was Investment Minister in his wife's government, has been at the center of a number of corruption scandals and has been labelled 'Mr. 40 Per cent', a ref erence to the alleged commissions he charged businessmen wanting to invest in Pakistan.

### Leader of the Opposition and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a public meeting in front of the party central office in the city Thursday marking November 7. -Star photo Khaleda: Movement

From Page 1

Protesting the government move to provide India with transit facility, Begum Zia said the ruling party wants to allow India to transport its goods and arms and ammunition from one state to another through Bangladesh.

"They want to give India a corridor through Bangladesh in the name of transit or Asian Highway. But people will not allow them to do so. Well resist this attempt at any cost," said the Leader of the Opposition.

Castigating the government for the plan to import electricity from India, she said India has not enough electricity to export. But the government has become desperate and is creating power disruption intentionally to justify its plan.

"Once they threw the people

into danger by allowing India to commission the Farakka Barrage and now they want to endanger the country by import ing power from that country. This way they want to make Bangladesh a province of India," she said. The Leader of the Opposition demanded immediate release of

all BNP leaders and workers ar-

rested during the last four and a

half months. "They are un-

leashing attack on the people.

now is the time to make counter-attack. She said that terrorists pa tronised by ruling party are not only attacking the BNP supporters, but also the common people. Even Dr Moyeen Khan, who is a Member of Parliament was attacked by the AL terror

On the other hand, she said the country's economy is facing a disaster with stagnancy in the export situation and overall economic activities. Foreign entrepreneurs are afraid of investing their money Bangladesh, she observed. The Leader of the Opposition reiterated her allegation that the opposition was not being allowed to speak in the Parlia-

ment and the state-owned tele-

vision was broadcasting onesided and distorted programme on parliamentary proceedings. Begum Zia demanded with drawal of the case filed against the Khatib of Baitul Mokarram National Mosque saying that it was part of a conspiracy against the religious sentiment of Muslims. She also criticised the rul-

The BNP chairperson said the people had cast their votes for BNP in the June 12 election. But the Awami League was declared winner by the Election Commission through massive rigging and terrorism, she al "They (Awami League

wanted to assume power this

year by hook or by crook. Be-

cause they want to make an al

ternative to the 25-year slavery

ing party for not uttering Bis-

treaty with India which will expire in 1997." Begum Zia said. She also criticised the for mer caretaker government for not playing its due role in holding a free, fair and neutral election. "It acted as a party government, it always favoured a

The meeting was also ad-

dressed by central leaders of BNP and its front organisations, including party Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan. It was followed by a cultural function presented by artistes of Jatiyatabadi Sama jik Sangskritik Sangstha. Earlier in the morning

particular party.

leaders and workers of BNP visited the mazar of late president Zia and placed wreaths there.

### a structure of local government strengthen the hands of Prime Constitution. Engineer Monowar Hossain Chowdhury in their paper said The function was addressed by State Minister for Land Althat union council is tradihaj Rashed Mosharraf, Salma tionally recognised as institu-Khaled Dr Nilima Ibrahim. tion of the common people. journalist Rahat Khan. Major They said the union council could be considered as the pri-General (retd) CR Datta, Col.

# Moulvibazar Bar calls requisition

meet tomorrow

# Nasim

leased from their confinement on June 14, 1996. I am disappointed to learn that they have been punished without the benefit of a free and fair hearing in which they could participate with legal counsel.

available to The Daily Star.

### From Page 1 in August after being in charge

cussed" after his highly-publicised romance. Both Azharuddin and Tendulkar played in the Indian team that beat South Africa to triangular one-day Titan

Kamal stadium

Seminar on local govt structure

Dist minister or governor

system proposed

Dr Ahmed gave a detailed historical background on the country's local government structures and said "we have not

of the central government." Government Engineering

work effectively. The papers recommended

### PM: youths From Page 1

participants.

the Nation.

Speaking on the occasion Obaidul Kader declared that the country's 271st Jubo Training Tungipara.

reports BSS. Addressing the teachers.

Minister said that the government had a plan to set up at least one government women college in each district. "The Fazilatunnessa Mahila College will be one of these 16

The Prime Minister also laid the foundation of Sheikh

union council and upazila The writers advised to abolish the divisional administrative set up including office of the divisional commissioner.

mary stage of local government bodies. Hossain said any body lower than union council like village government would not

> Electronic devices worth Tk 2.7 lakh

looted in city By Staff Correspondent

said yesterday.

the Ramna thana.

last night, police said.

# Degree exams

clude on December 30. On completion of theoretical examinations, the practicals will be held in centres at the district head-

# striking staff From RU Correspondent

Syndicate also approved some demands of the striking staff. The Officers and Employees