The Daily Star

DHAKA MONDAY, APRIL 28, 1997

PACKAGES DOCUMENTS & FREIGHT WORLDWIDE

For more information call-Dhaka : 9565114, 607657, 887771, Chittagong : (031) 712127, Khulna : (041) 725008, N. Ganj : (671) 74336

FedEx Federal Express

The World on Time

DSE price index falls

From Page 1

venes by "implementing earlier promises and trading returns to normal."

Market sources attributed the fall to a spree of panic sale, induced by a whispering campaign, and alleged manipulations by a section of traders/brokers, bent on pushing the market further down, apparently to avenge filing of cases by the authorities against the bigwigs of the capital market.

Since April 2 when the SEC filed cases against 36 people, the DSE index until yesterday has shrunk by 28 per cent. The cases followed months of investigations by an independent committee, headed by Prof Amirul Islam, Vice-Chancellor of the Jahangirnagar University, which submitted its report on March 27.

The accused includes Chairman of the DSE Imtiyaz Ahmed, a number of other DSE members and some prominent owners of listed companies. They were charged with fraud allegedly for tailoring prices during a bull run between July and November last year.

It saw the All Share Price Index at DSE surging to 3647 points drawing thousands of small investors, swelling the ranks at the kerb market, who rushed for a slice of the pie.

But by the end of November the share prices began tumbling, the index sliding in a seesaw pattern despite intervention by the central bank.

The Bangladesh Bank had asked Investment Corporation of Bangladesh to buy shares and the banks to lend money to investors and brokers, announcing availability of a Tk 200 million fund.

But nothing worked so far. UNB quoted Dr Harunur Rashid, Chairman of SEC, as saying last night that he was considering a number of options to stabilise the market. "Some of them are continuation of the earlier measures," he said and added that the new measures are likely to be announced shortly. "But at the moment, I cannot disclose those." He was not available for further comments.

MA Huq Howlader, former honorary secretary of the DSE, told The Daily Star that the market fell because of heavy retail sale pressure as small investors lost their confidence.

The demonstrators yesterday marched through the Motijheel commercial area raising different slogans against the government for what they called failure in handling the situation in the country's capital market and against the DSE members for allegedly manipulating the share market.

The rally was addressed, among others, by Bangladesh Small Investors Forum leaders Moniruzzaman, Ali Zaman, Zahid Hossen, Atiqur Rahman, Mohammad Shahine and Saifuddin Babu.

2 killed, 20 hurt as villagers clash in Narsingdi

NARSINGDI, Apr 27: Two people were killed and 20 others injured, six critically was their rivals attacked them at a remote village in *char* area of Raipura thana today, reports UNB.

The dead were identified as Raisuddin, 40, son of late Alauddin, and Badaruddin, 35, son of one Nadu Mia of Milikhya village.

Police said the trouble between Abdul Hekim and his rivals Shahabuddin, Samon Bepari and Giasuddin began at about 10:30 am following an attack on Hekim's nephew Shahjalal.

After hearing about the attack on his nephew, Hekim along with his 20 supporters took position at a place of the village and swooped on 100 musclemen hired by his opponents.

Earlier on Sunday midnight, Shahabuddin, Samon Bepari and Giasuddin hired the goons from neighbouring Agalpara and Amirabad villages and kept them in their residences, police said.

The two groups had a long time enmity over establishing supremacy in the *char* area.

Of the injured, a youngman, Amiruddin was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital while five others — Shahjalal, Ibrahim, Ramijuddin, Monir Hossain and Ibrahim — were admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital.

Dhaka elected UNICEF executive board member

Bangladesh has been elected member of the executive board of UNICEF, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

The three-year term of Bangladesh tenure will begin on January 1, next.

The Asian group at the United Nations (UN) endorsed the election of Bangladesh to the UNICEF executive board unanimously on Friday night.

Bangladesh which has been making efforts to get elected for last four years, made a major success at the election to the prestigious governing body of the world's foremost children's agency.

UP chairman slaughtered in Natore

NATORE, Apr 27: A UP chairman was slaughtered by unknown miscreants at Sadar thana of the district early today, reports UNB.

Police said the assailants killed Abu Bakar Siddique, chairman of Khaijura Union Parishad and a local BNP leader, while returning home.

Meanwhile, police today arrested four people in connection with the murder.

BNP MPs Ruhul Kudddus Dulu and Prof Kazi Golam Morshed in a joint statement condemned the killing and blamed Awami League for it.

Laloo Prasad

From Page 1

crats are accused of siphoning off 271 million dollars in government funds meant for buying cattle feed, the Central Bureau of investigation (CBI) said.

Among those to be charged is Laloo Prasad Yadav, a senior member of Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's Janata Dal.

CBI Director Joginder Singh took the decision to prosecute late today after "considering evidence and material on record and reports of other investigating officers," a CBI spokesman said.

"We also took the opinion of legal officers of the CBI before going ahead with prosecuting the accused," he said.

Khaleda at reception

From Page 1

BNP's present on the occasion.

Begum Zia presented a gold chain inscribed with *Aaitul Kursi*, a dinner set, a leather jacket and a cassette player to each of the members of the victorious cricket team including coach Gordon Greenidge and two commentators and a crest to the BCB President. Later they were hosted a dinner at the Purbani Hotel.

In her speech, Begum Zia termed the cricket team pride of the nation and said the nation's success in cricket world has not come overnight. "It's the outcome of long struggle by the persons in the field of cricket and their patrons. It's not a political success... credit goes to the players, organisers, coaches and lakhs of sports fans in the country," she noted. The cricketers had enhanced the image of the nation to the world community, she added.

She also highlighted various steps taken by the government of late president Ziaur Rahman and that of in the field of sports, especially cricket.

BOI drive

From Page 1

try.

But he observed that the power sector remained the "dark part" of the country's investment scenario since the generation of electricity has been far less than that of the requirement.

Chowdhury, however, informed that an additional 800 megawatt electricity would be available by the end of next year with the installation of three barge-mounted power plants. "It will not be adequate, but will ease the situation."

On the other hand, he appeared upbeat about the prospect of the energy sector. He quoted an international oil major that Bangladesh can export natural gas worth 500 million US dollars annually from the year 2001.

Earlier, FICCI chief Mahbub Jamil observed that the Industrial Policy and incentive package are excellent, but it would be very difficult to attract direct investment unless these are given legislative cover to make the policy provisions binding on all concerned agencies.

He also suggested removal of the contradictions between various government policies that still hang over to gain confidence of investors and ensure that no decision contrary to declared policy would be taken.

Jamil said the BOI should have the sole responsibility of taking all investment decisions which should be binding on all agencies. The Board should also be manned by the "commercially oriented people" and the chief executive should be in the office at least for five years.

The former prime minister said her government had taken up a project to build a cricket stadium of international standard at Moghbazar, now her successor also announced such a plan, she added.

"We had offered the Dhaka Stadium for the cricketers until the proposed cricket stadium was ready for use. I hope the same offer by the present government will be effective."

Turning to the nation's celebration of the victory, Begum Zia appealed to all to continue their patronisation of the cricket players to take the country to the final success.

She also stressed the need for government patronisation of the sports sector side by side with efforts for development in various other fields.

Saber Hossain Chowdhury appealed to all concerned to keep sports, education and economy above all political controversy and sought their cooperation in carrying forward the nation's success in the field of cricket.

Gordon Greenidge said, "It's difficult to express in words the feelings of winning the ICC Trophy.... This success is the beginning of a new era of the Bangladesh cricket...I hope with the change of government, the attitude towards the national cricket won't change."

Captain of the victorious cricket team Akram Khan expressed his gratitude to the people, particularly those who sent encouraging messages while they were in Kuala Lumpur.

Manager of the team Gazi Ashraf Lipu sought cooperation from the political parties so that political situation did not affect any international cricket match in the country.

Chief of the reception committee former state minister for sports Sadek Hossain Khoka referred to the Tk five lakh award given by the prime minister to each of the cricket stars, and said "the money was given from a fund raised by the BNP government through lottery."

Home minister

From Page 1

night.

Responding to a question from an acid-burnt victim, Major Rafiq asked the police to investigate the inconsistence between the first information report (FIR) and the statements of the acid-burnt victims.

Referring to the role of the media, Rafiq said, "The media can play a vital role to create public opinion against the crime and the criminals."

PM: Question

From Page 1

Education Board Ser Mohammad earlier apprised the Prime Minister of various problems and prospects of different education boards of the country.

Education Minister A S H K Sadique, Education Secretary Abdullah Harun Pasha, Dhaka Education Board Chairman Mohammad Tozammel Hossain, Comilla Board Chairman Dr. Azizur Rahman, Jessore Board Chairman Mohammad Afsaruddin Sheikh, Chittagong Board acting Chairman Prof. Moqbul Ahmed, Technical Education Board acting Chairman Mohammad Shah Alam and Madrasha Board Chairman Mohammad Yunus Sikder were also present on the occasion.

Hanif, Maya

From Page 1

conveyed the decision to Sheikh Hasina in a meeting at Gonobhaban last night.

After a meeting with the presidium members of the party, the AL president nominated Hanif and Maya as president and general secretary of city AL for a three-year term.

Names of the office bearers and other members of the city committee would be announced after the holding of AL national council on May 6-7, sources in the party said.

Both Hanif and Maya confirmed their nomination last night to The Daily Star and said the full-committee would be announced soon.

Financial Loan Court

From Page 1

tion for enacting a new statute said, "The Artha Rin Adalat Ain, 1990, has undergone many amendments and it will be better if a new law is enacted."

Various amendments made to the said law from time to time are all scattered. If further amendments are made incorporating the recommendations of the LC, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to arrange all the amendments comprehensively, he noted.

Asked whether the existing law was insufficient, Justice Ahmed said, "The problem is in the implementation of the law. The quality of administration of justice can never be better than the quality of the person who administers justice."

The LC report said that it took up review of the law after considering the opinions and suggestions of various agencies, financial institutions including banks, lawyers, judges, debtors and members of the public.

A working paper with provisional recommendations was prepared on the basis of opinions and suggestions received by the LC and it was then circulated among the judges, lawyers and bank officials for their views.

Some of the final recommendations of the Law Commission on the Artha Rin Adalat (ARA) are:

"The presiding judges of the Artha Rin Adalats should be appointed to deal exclusively with suits under the Act alone. They should not be burdened with trial of cases of any other jurisdiction. Where there are more than one ARAs, the District Judge may evenly distribute suits among the presiding judges.

"Provision may be made restricting grant of adjournment of hearing for the filing of written statement by the defendant for two times only and if the defendant fails to file written statement within the time so fixed, the suit must at once be fixed for ex parte disposal.

"In no case the premptory hearing of a suit can be adjourned for more than three times on a party's prayer. In case, adjournment is sought by any party after the third adjournment, the prayer shall be rejected and the suit shall be disposed of according to law.

"Subject to the provisions of the Act, the decree passed by the ARA shall be a decree for recovery of money and shall be a final decree.

"Provision may be made for issuing a combined order of attachment and sale of property of the judgement-debtor immediately after drawing up of the decree and not later than seven days therefrom.

"For this purpose, a list of the property on the security of which loan was advanced should be mentioned in the plaint by appending a schedule thereto. After publication of the sale proclamation, the procedures provided in the Code of Civil Procedure upto the stage of delivery of possession of the property to the auction purchaser may apply.

"The execution proceeding shall be taken in the record of the suit itself and no separate execution case after the passing of the decree need be filed.

"The execution shall also proceed if an appeal is field against the decree unless stay of execution of the decree is granted by the appellate court. If the record is called for by the appellate court, the execution shall continue by opening a part file with copies of the necessary papers from the record."

BTV programme
Letter sent to Khaleda for participation

The Bangladesh Television has taken up a plan to telecast a special programme live on the national problems with the participation of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament together, reports BSS.

The television authorities has taken the decision in view of the people's keen interest to know about the opinions of the government and the Opposition on different problems of national importance, said an official handout yesterday.

It said the Director General of BTV sent a letter on April 6 to the Leader of the Opposition inviting her to participate in the live programme and the letter was also received at her Minto Road office.

It was mentioned in the invitation letter that editors of the national dailies would directly question them in the proposed question-answer based programme.

Lightning kills 3 in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Apr 27: Three persons were killed by lightning in Santhia and Faridpur thanas today.

They were streak by lightning while working in the field early in the morning. A young girl was also injured.

Sisters raped

From Page 1

vehicle and went to the Bharaura Tea Garden area where they violated the two sisters in the presence of their mother.

A case was lodged with the Srimangal police yesterday accusing ten persons.

The two arrested were identified as Nirmal and Dulal.

The two girls were medically examined in the Moulvibazar Sadar Hospital today.

Second ODI
Windies 14/2 in six overs

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, Apr 27: Brian Lara was out first ball as rain interrupted the second one-day international with West Indies struggling against India today, reports Reuter.

West Indies were 14 for two from six overs when play was stopped at Queen's Park Oval.

When the game was able to resume, it was decided the cut-off time between innings would be adjusted and followed by a shortened lunch break.

Put in to bat, West Indies lost opener Stuart Williams (3) and Lara (0) to consecutive balls from fast bowler Venkatesh Prasad.

West Indies lead the four-match series 1-0.

Road barricades on Dhaka-Rajshahi highway

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 27: The people of Puthia thana put up barricades on the Rajshahi-Dhaka highway from 10 am to 2 pm today demanding release of twenty two villagers arrested by police last month.

The arrests were made after a case was lodged by one Beauty Begum, accusing them of having harassed her in various ways.

BCS preliminary test May 2

The 18th BCS preliminary objective test will be held on May 2 at 3:30 pm in Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna and London, reports UNB.

The instructions regarding the test and seat arrangement have been published in national dailies, said an official handout yesterday.

The published instructions have also been displayed at the head office of Public Service Commission in Dhaka and its regional offices in Chittagong, Rajshahi and Khulna.

Bangabandhu

From Page 1

Earlier, the examination of the prosecution witnesses in the Bangabandhu murder case in the court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka was adjourned till April 29, following a petition from the defence for transfer of the case from that court.

Rechargeable Beard Trimmer

Backed by Guarantee

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

Dhaka: 815306-9, 819625-9, 889993
Ctg.:716353, 723578, Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

Let's make things better.
PHILIPS

Japanese aid to continue, says envoy

Star Report

Japan has expressed its satisfaction over the current political developments and stability in Bangladesh.

The Japanese Ambassador to Bangladesh Yoshikazu Kaneko told The Daily Star yesterday his government was happy over the political situation. "You are doing very well," he said.

"Political stability is a key to development," Kaneko said adding, Japan will continue to extend its cooperation to Bangladesh.

When asked about the ODA's warning of a decline in Tokyo's assistance to Dhaka, Kaneko said his government 'never expressed such a view.'

Japan released over 250 million US dollars as grant to Bangladesh last fiscal.

Sadat College teachers continue strike

TANGAIL, Apr 27: Teachers of Sadat Government University College continued their indefinite strike for the second day today, reports UNB.

Campus sources said the teachers went on strike Saturday protesting the attack on the office of Economics department by a group of outsiders.

The outsiders ransacked the office as the authorities refused to consider their illegal prayers for admission into first year honours course of the department.

Different student organisations, including Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, Chhatra League and Chhatra Samaj brought out separate processions on the campus today protesting the attack.

Loan from UCBL: BB claim denied

By Staff Correspondent

Md Abul Khair Chowdhury in a statement yesterday said that the notice issued under section-17 of the Banking Company Act against him is illegal, baseless and without any power.

He claimed that he had not taken any loan or credit facility from United Commercial Bank Ltd and that he is not involved in any way with the loan mentioned in the Bangladesh Bank statement.

"As such, there cannot be any question of repayment or of having my connection with the said loan and the notice under section-17 of the Banking Company Act is not and cannot be applicable for me," the statement read, "I have accordingly replied to the said notice."

Power plant

From Page 1

sulting firms for the Meghnaghat Power Project — KNM Engineering and Mott Eubank — were also present.

Inaugurated by Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan, some 40 representatives of the five companies attended the meeting.

The Meghnaghat Power Plant project is partially being financed by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the BPDB. The ADB will provide 50 million US dollars while the BPDB will provide land and other infrastructure support.

Another pre-bid meeting with six foreign companies on setting up a power plant in Haripur will be held at the Power Cell office tomorrow.

Classified loans

From Page 1

cent), Al-Baraka (41.79 per cent) and Uttara (39.89 per cent).

UCBL's total classified loans stand at Tk 217.63 cr, of which bad loans are Tk 165.51 cr, doubtful loans Tk 36.64 cr, and sub-standard Tk 15.48 cr. City Bank's classified loans stand at Tk 303.45 cr, of which Tk 255.73 cr are bad loans, Tk 27.74 doubtful and Tk 19.98 sub-standard loans. Arab-Bangladesh Bank's total classified loans stand at Tk 241.54 cr, of which Tk 146.21 are bad loans, Tk 36.29 cr doubtful loans, and 59.04 cr sub-standard. Islami Bank's total classified loans stand at Tk 242.55 cr, of which Tk 159.55 cr are bad loans, Tk 42.21 cr doubtful and Tk 40.79 cr sub-standard loans. Al-Baraka's total classified loans stand at Tk 230.26 cr, of which Tk 166.03 cr are bad loans, Tk 43.09 cr doubtful and Tk 21.14 cr sub-standard loans. NCCBL's total classified loans stand at Tk 81.57 cr, of which 64.76 cr are bad loans, Tk 2.36 cr doubtful loans and Tk 14.45 cr sub-standard loans. BASIC's total classified loans stand at 10.27 cr, of which Tk 17.47 are bad loans, Tk 1.36 cr doubtful loans and Tk 2.25 cr sub-standard loans. Prime Bank's classified loans stand Tk 0.08 cr.

The Bangladesh Bank figures did not show any loan classification for relatively new comers Southeast, Dhaka, Al-Arafah, Dutch-Bangla and Social Investment Banks.

Pubali Bank had the highest Tk 285 cr shortfall in loan provisioning, followed by Uttara Tk 193.98 cr, Al-Baraka Tk 109 cr, City Tk 74 cr, UCBL Tk 54 cr, NCCBL Tk 41 cr, IFIC Tk 34 cr, NBL Tk 10 cr, and BASIC Tk 3.39 cr.

Among the foreign banks, Indosuez had Tk 72.09 cr classified loans which has been shown as bad loans. Standard Chartered ranks second with Tk 12.81 cr classified loans, Habib Bank ranks third with Tk 9.85 cr classified loans. However, most foreign banks have made provisions for their classified loans.

RU: 125 held

From Page 1

The demand was made at an emergency meeting of the syndicate, held with acting Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque in the chair.

The meeting demanded immediate arrest of the culprits who were involved in the incident on the campus. It also expressed concern over the activities of the law-enforcing personnel who were on duty on the campus and urged the authorities concerned to take proper measures so that congenial academic atmosphere could prevail in the institution.

It vehemently condemned the attack on the residence of some teachers and their sons by the Islamic Chhatra Shibir activists.

The meeting observed that the Zoha Hall is the base of the ICS and outsiders and it decided that except the examinees none will be allowed to remain in the hall from now on upto June 10 next.

Rajshahi University Teachers Association president Prof. Shahidul Islam and General Secretary Prof Abbas Ali today strongly condemned the unprecedented terrorism of Islami Chhatra Shibir and demanded their immediate arrest. They also demanded immediate removal of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner.

Canadian parliament dissolved

OTTAWA, Apr 27: Governor General Romeo Leblanc dissolved the Canadian parliament today and called a general election for June 2, Prime Minister Jean Chretien announced, reports AFP.

JP reception to ICC Trophy winners today

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Party (JP) will host a reception for the ICC Trophy winning Bangladesh cricket team at 7:00 pm at Sonargaon Hotel in the city on Saturday, said a party press release issued last night.

IDB VACANCY

Islamic Development Bank-Bangladesh Islamic Solidarity Educational Wakf (IDB-BISEW) of international standard has been established with financing from Islamic Development Bank to-
* provide assistance towards the education of Bangladeshi Muslim Students and to support and maintain orphanages in Bangladesh.

The wakf is managed and administered by a high powered "Mutawalli Committee" Mutawalli committee is looking for highly qualified & reasonably experienced Bangladeshi Nationals for the following posts for management, maintenance and operations of its newly constructed prestigious 20 storied high-rise commercial building located at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka.

Manager-1
Pay (consolidated) : Tk. 50,000.00 Per month.
Qualifications & Experiences MBA or Masters in Management /Marketing/Economics with minimum 10 years' experience in property / real estate management, and contract administration of high-rise commercial complex.
Age : up to 50 years

Maintenance Engineer-1
Pay (consolidated): Tk. 50,000.00 Per month.
Qualifications & Experience: Graduate in Electrical /Mechanical Engineering having minimum 10 years experience in the maintenance and repairs to electro-mechanical systems (HVAC system, Elevators, Escalators, DTW & Pumps, Fire protection system, Sub-station, Telephone Exanchange, CATV, PA system, etc) in high-rise commercial buildings
Age : up to 50 years.

Accountant-1
Pay(consolidated) : Tk.20,000.00 per month.
Qualifications & Experience: Masters of Commerce with Accountancy having minimum 8 years experience in any reputed organization in the relevant field.
Age :Up to 40 Years (age upto 50 years for deserving candidates).

Office Secretary-1
Pay (consolidated) : Tk. 15,000.00 Per month.
Qualifications & Experience: Graduate from any discipline Skill in computer use with Word Perfect, dBase, Microsoft word, Microsoft Excel, etc are required. The applicants should have good speaking and writing ability in English. Age : Up to 35 years.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their 6 (six) copies of applications with CV supported by necessary documents along with recent passport size photographs to the following address by May 06, '97

Candidates with Third division / class in their academic career shall not apply for any of the above posts.

Md. Anowar Hossain
Member Secretary, Committee of Mutawallis, IDB-BISE Wakf.
&
Joint Secretary (Admn & Middle East), Economic Relations Division (Room -14, Block-16), Ministry of Finance, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.

Hasina: Struggle hard for next 4 yrs

From Page 1

neers' Institution. Hundreds of grassroots level leaders and workers of the party also attended the inaugural session that stretched upto the Suhrawardy Uddyan.

AL presidium member Begum Sajeda Chowdhury who is in charge of overseeing party councils of units under Dhaka Division, also addressed the inaugural session, chaired by Mohammad Hanif. City AL joint secretary Advocate Qamrul Islam conducted the opening session.

Ministers, AL presidium members, advisors, party MPs and senior leaders of the party's central and city committees were also present. AL leaders sitting in the front row included, Abdus Samad Azad, Tofael Ahmed, Amir Hussain Amu, Begum Motia Chowdhury, Nooruddin Khan, Abdul Jalil, Prof Abu Sayeed, Obaidul Kader, and Prime Minister's Political Advisor Dr S A Malek.

City AL general secretary Mofazzal Hussain Chowdhury Maya presented a report covering the period from September 16, 1992 when the last council of the unit was held. Joint secretary of the city chapter, Akhtarul Alam, read out an obituary reference condoling the deaths of party leaders and workers in the last couple of year. Later, all stood in silence for one-minute to show respect to the departed souls.

In her 80-minute speech, Sheikh Hasina touched on almost every aspect of activities of her party, its past and future "success" of her 10-month old government, Opposition activities, role of the Jatiya Sangsad, economic prospect of Bangladesh, proposed power import from India and law and order with a particular reference to repression on women.

"Criminals, after being nabbed by police are getting advantage of bail. We are now actively considering enactment of tougher laws to curb acts of terrorism, acid throwing, rape and other repression on women."

About import power from India, Sheikh Hasina claimed that the previous BNP government had initiated the process through the then Bangladesh high commissioner (presently Bangladesh foreign secretary) to India.

Recalling the legacy of military rule in the post-'75 era, the AL chief said, "Over the past years we just heard cries of widows and children in cantonments when generals, one after another, themselves as presidents of the country, violating army acts."

She critisized BNP's demand for resignation of the Chief Election Commissioner and claimed "unlike during their BNP's rule, all by-polls held so far under the Awami League rule were free and fair manner."

She alleged that some BNP leaders did corruption while in power and that its workers were now involved in terrorism. She also deplored that despite a fervent call from her, BNP did not join her 'consensus government.'

The Prime Minister said that the BNP chairperson found faults with the present government from outside the parliament but "she did not participate in a single meeting of the JS Business Advisory Committee. She did not even take part in House discussions on important policy issues like Ganges water treaty, industrial policy etc."

The Prime Minister also regretted that despite an invitation from the BTV to join a special live programme, Begum Zia did not respond. She asked State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed, also seated there, to send another invitation letter to the Leader of the Opposition in this regard.

"I had made the same proposal for a TV dialogue between her and me when she was the Prime Minister and I was the Leaders of the Opposition. But there was no result," Sheikh Hasina recalled.

Sheikh Hasina said that Bangladesh created a "positive image" in the world in the last 10 months. "Previously, Bangladesh was portrayed as a country of corruption and misrule, terrorism and famine, and with a government suffering from indecision. Now, the image of the country is bright and to donors, it stands as a prospective country," she said.

She also said that the prospect of foreign investment, has brightened now because of the governments policy. In this regard she also mentioned allowing of private export processing zones. She hoped that the growth rate of the economy in the current financial year will exceed the target.

Sheikh Hasina announced her government's plan to build low-cost houses for low-income groups who would own the houses by paying in small installments like house-rent. *Khas* lands will be distributed among landless people in rural areas, she said.

Sheikh Hasina also spoke about the ideology of AL politics, terrorism-free campus, development of energy sector, efforts for population control, peace, progress in Chittagong Hill Tracts, 'power pole sabotage' and various other issues.

In his presidential speech Mohammad Hanif said none should be arrogant after having power. "Arrogance of power leads to immediate fall."

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