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The World on Time

Ban on shrimps

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## FM to discuss situation with EU envoys today

By Govinda Shil

steps to persuade the European Union to withdraw the ban on Bangladesh's shrimp export to the EU member states, officials

A meeting was held at the State Guest House Padma yesterday to evaluate the effect of the ban on the economy and devise of persuading the EU to lift the ban.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, State Minister for Fisheries and Livestock Satish Chandra Roy, EPB vice Chairman Faisal Ahmed Chowdhury, Privatisation Board Chairman Dr Zafarullah Chowdhury, Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association Golam Mostafa, and FBCCI president Yussuf Abdullah Harun attended the meeting.

Talking to The Daily Star at Padma Guest House, the State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury said the government had been considering the matter with due importance. "We will do our best to resolve the issue," he said.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad will meet the Ambassador of the European Union countries today to discuss the situation arising out of the ban.

The exporters would be allowed to ship their consignments reaching the EU destina-

From page 1

out any provocation by the

workers who were peacefully

observing the strike. According

to SKOP, 10 persons were hit by

17 national-level labour organ-

isations, called the 24-Hour

strike to press home their 8-

point charter of demand that

includes fixation of a minimum

wage of Tk 3000 per month for

private sector workers, imple-

mentation of the Wage Com-

mission Award of 1991 in the

private sector, stoppage of dis-

investment of the public sectors

industries and enterprises and

The labour leaders made the

re-opening of the already laid-

final decision of going ahead

with the shut-down, following

the failure of negotiation with

government representatives

at 6:00 am yesterday, move-

ments of trucks and buses in-

side big cities as well as the in-

ter-district road communica-

tions were suspended. The rail

and riverine communication

was also disrupted due to the

strike. The Railway Control

Room in Dhaka told The Daily

Star that the SKOP activists

detained the Chittagong-bound

mail train for two hours and

the Dhaka-Chittagong inter-

city train Probhati for three

hours in places between Pahar-

hampered activities in Chit-

tagong and Mongla ports as the

delivery of goods to and from

the ports were disrupted due to

claimed that the industrial

workers successfully observed

the strike in all the industrial

belts in Dhaka, Chittagong

Khulna, Rajshahi, Barisal

Comilla and Faridpur. They

also condemned the incidents

in which the striking workers

came under alleged attack by

hoodlums hired by various fac-

tory owners across the country.

Lok Sabha told

Indo-Bangla land

boundary

demarcation

work continues

dian government has been

holding regular discussion and

field surveys in cooperation

with Bangladesh authorities

towards completion of bound-

ary demarcation between the

two countries, Minister of State

for External Affairs Ms Kamala

Sinha told the Lok Sabha to-

tion from an opposition mem-

ber she said the demarcation of

land boundary between

Bangladesh and India was yet to

boundaries, yet to be demar-

cated, were 36 km in West Ben-

gal, three km in Assam and 1.6

km in Tripura. Additionally,

rivers Sonai, Ichhamati,

Kalindi, Raimangal and

Harighanga in the West Bengal

sector also needed to be demar-

Bangladesh boundary confer-

ence was held in Dhaka on July

She said the last Indo-

155 km of fluid boundary on the

Ms. Kamala Sinha said the

In a written reply to a ques-

day, reports BSS.

be completed.

cated, she added.

18-24 this year.

NEW DELHI, July 30: The In-

The SKOP leaders yesterday

The shut-down partially

tali and Fouzderhat.

non-plying of trucks.

During the strike that began

off industries.

Tuesday midnight

The SKOP, a conglomerate of

bullet in the incident.

### Tripartite meet fails to resolve Rohingya problem

COX'S BAZAR, July 30: A tripartite meeting among government officials, UNHCR representatives and leaders of Rohingya refugees here today failed to resolve the problem that arose out of anti-repatriation stand by a section of the refugees.

The meeting, held for the second consecutive day today at Nayapara refugee camp, ended inconclusively as leaders of the Rohingya refugees were firm on their eight-point demand which include suspension of repatriation till democracy is restored in Myanmar.

An inter-ministerial team from Dhaka joined today's meeting, held from 1 pm to 6 pm. The team included one official each from Foreign Ministry, Home Ministry and Disaster Management and Relief Ministry. The UNHCR was represented by Gyuen Van To, head of its Cox's Bazar sub-office.

by both the government and UNHCR that their demands would be considered, militant refugee leaders did not agree to give up their anti-repatriation agitation, launched on July 20.

## Salman death case Palash on police

Palash, 17, who was arrested from the residence of Neela Chowdhury, mother of late filmstar Salman Shah, was taken on two-day police remand after he was produced before the CMM's court yesterday. reports UNB.

Police prayed for a sevenday remand, but Chief Metropolitan Magistrate Shamsul Haq granted two days' remand. None prayed for his bail, court sources said.

### Prices of shrimps fall

KHULNA, July 30: Prices of shrimps have fallen by about Tk 3000 per maund following the ban on its entry into EC countries.

Shrimps growers and exporters have sharply reacted to the EC decision.

# Chairman of

By Staff Correspondent Mohammad Fazlur Rahman, Chairman of Rahman Group, in a statement yesterday said his company has Tk 15 crore unrealised loans with Sonali Bank for which he has already applied for reschedul-

The statement also said, the group does not have Tk 29.28 cr defaulting loans with the bank as reported in The Daily Star and said the unrealised loans were created because of stocklots in his garments factory created during the political

and that he had not used any influence to take the loans.

not resorted to irregularities in receiving the loans. However, The Daily Star report was based on the findings

From page 1

and Salman F Rahman, al-

legedly abusing their position

as directors, which now stands

Soiltech International Limited,

which has been described by

BICL as its subsidiary, holding

82 per cent of its paid up shares

obtained loan and credit facili-

ties from EBL by pledging its

share certificates and by issu-

ing a corporate guarantee. He

lently denying its liabilities to

repay the loan amount. "The

outstanding debt in the said ac-

count is about Tk 19 crore,

which the BICL is liable to pay

as a guarantor since the liabil-

ity of the guarantor is co-exten-

sive with the principal debtor".

is seeking liquidation of the

BICL under the Company Act,

1994, he told the court, adding

that the BICL was operating al-

legedly without a licence from

the Bangladesh Bank, violating

the Section 31 of Banking Com-

pany's Act and Section 4 of the

Financial Institutions Act,

sociation shows that it is an in-

vestment company and finan-

cial institution. "Their object

clause is To advance, deposit

and lend and to discount by

selling bills, notes, warrants

and other negotiable instru-

BICL's memorandum of as-

Therefore as a creditor EBL

he said.

1993.

claimed that BICL is fraudu-

He further told court that

to Tk 19 crore, he claimed.

of the Bangladesh Bank.

The guards said the factory owners had locked them up with the seals after the incident. One guard said that there was an emergency exit on the sixth floor where the workers were seen using ladders to get out. "We do not know how far

ments, to reinvest money on

deposit, loan and otherwise ac-

Financial Institutions Act and

banking business as defined by

the Banking Company Act,

1991. It needed licence from the

Bangladesh Bank under the

Banking Company Act. They

are conducting business violat-

ing the relevant provisions of

the acts, hence they have com-

mitted offences punishable

with imprisonment under Sec-

tion 30 of Financial Institu-

tions Act", he alleged and fur-

ther claimed that it is "defraud-

company must be a public lim-

ited company having a mini-

mum of Tk five crore as paid-up

capital. But BICL had an autho-

rised capital of Tk 10 lakh only.

Therefore, it violated the rele-

vant rules of the banking and

financial institutions acts.

which is a punishable offence."

he claimed. It is only a private

the BICL had furnished guaran-

tees to different banks and in-

stitutions of nearly Tk 500

Bangladesh Bank, IFIC Bank

Sonali Bank, Janata Bank,

Agrani Bank, Uttara Bank, Ru-

pali Bank, IPDC, CDC (UK), DEG

(Germany), FMO (Netherlands),

ADB, ANZ Grindlays Bank,

dard and Chartered Bank.

crore. The creditors are Arab

But, the counsel for EBL said,

limited company, he opined.

"As a Financial Institution a

ing the creditor banks".

DMCH. dozens of men and women were looking for their missing relatives. The on-duty medical officer at the emergency said they DMCH and the PG Hospital while two garments workers

were admitted there. "We have also sent about half a dozen garments workers to other hospitals," the medical officer said. A frail looking girl lay unconscious on the hospital bed. A young man sat on the bed and rubbed her head. The man said he was a driver who brought her to the hospital. A wailing woman burst into the emergency and demanded to see her daughter. The woman was then seen heading for the

# Khatib

From page 1

replying to the show cause no-

Family sources of Moulana Obaidul Haq told The Daily Star last night that the Khatib, in his reply, denied any involvement in the incident at the Miladunnabi function on July

President Shahabuddin Ahmed, who was chief guest at the function, had left the venue without delivering his inaugural address as some people shouted and threw shoes at the

Later, at a governing body meeting, the Islamic Foundation decided to serve the show cause notice on the Khatib. The governing body meeting was presided over by State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam.

Shahidul Haq, son of Moulana Obaidul Haq, told this correspondent over telephone that the reply was sent by a messenger

Morshed Hossain, Director General of the Islamic Foundation, could not be reached over telephone last night to confirm whether the Foundation received the reply.

# Sources said the DSE au-

Local people taking away the body of a female garments worker who jumped from the 3rd floor of the garments factory at Mirpur in the city yesterday evening.

- Star photo

stricken workers tried to rush down, workers at lower floors shouted that fire also broke out downstairs, he said. All, who ran down, at once turned back and started running upstairs again flaming fire at the lower floor.

were shouting 'save me, save me' as others stamped them to escape from a fire that did not occurred. We ran upstairs but could not go far because people from upstairs were trying to come down. There were scores of women fell and were seen lying on the small stairs - the only exit for about two and half thousand workers in the build-

Shahabuddin, an elderly security guard said that at one point he saw people trying to break the steal window grills. "Screaming girls were begging for help". Shahabuddin added he saw the window grill of one floor ripped open by the workers and a roll of cloth hanging outside. "Panicked workers started to descend using the

there, about 20 minutes after the incident. Thousands of onlookers gathered outside. As the policemen tried to take the injured persons in their vans, the onlookers turned into a mob and started attacking the police saying. "Where are you taking the dead bodies? Are you trying to hide them?" The mob started throwing brick bats at police. The pitched battle left at least ten policemen injured, one of them seriously, and several police vehicles damaged, eyewitnesses said.

Zakir, another witness said the mob also attacked the fire brigade vehicles which were

was stewrn with brick bats. More than one hundred riot policemen were present at the site while several hundred onlookers were hanging around. The main gate of the building was locked by several guards. The stairs, hardly five feet wide. looked dirty. The staircase was further shortened as large wooden wastebins were placed on each floor. Every entrance

police driver was fighting for and the dead transferred to the Suhrawardy Hospital and the At the Suhrawardy hospital,

had received seven bodies from Mirpur. Five policemen were treated and then referred to the

### evacuated, rooms sealed

The Surya Sen Hall was evacuated yesterday under the

agreement signed between the student organisations and the Dhaka University authorities. The evacuation started at about 10 am amid tight secu-

rity. The provost, the house tuwere sealed. Some rooms were searched

by police, official sources said. As per the agreement, only bona fide resident students would be allowed to enter the hall after checking their identity

The university started functioning yesterday after a six-day unscheduled closure as the JCD called off its strike. But classes were not held in most departments as the transports of the university remained stranded on the campus due to the SKOP strike.

# Ctg city BNP

From page 1

and M Najimuddin - joint secretaries; and AKM Khorshed Alam and Md Idris - assistant organising secretaries.

members are Abdullah Al Noman, M Morshed Khan, MP Khashru Mahmud Choudhury, MP, M Zahiruddin Khan, Dr AFM Yusuf, Sirajul Islam Choudhury and Shahjada Enayet Ullah Khan.

The committee has been empowered to co-opt 11 more members.

From page 1 creants identified themselves as members of outlawed Biplobi Communist Party before they picked up Kazi Mainuddin alias Manik Kazi, 50, who was wit-

The outlaws fled away with recently after serving a long jail

Three people, identified as Abdul Halim Mollah, 36, Oliar Gazi, 50, and Mahbubur Rahman, 35, died instantly during the firing. One Hannan, 17, who was admitted to Khulna General Hospital with serious injury. died this morning.

Two of the injured were admitted to Narail Government Hospital and the rest seven to Jessore and Khulna hospitals.

up at Mirzapur village as a tense situation is prevailing there. Deputy Commissioner Ashraf Uddin Ahmed and Police Super Sheikh Mohammad Sajjad Ali visited the spot.

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# PHILIPS

### **DSE AGM** today

By Staff Correspondent

The Annual General Meeting of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) for 1995-96 fiscal year will be held at the DSE Bhaban this morning.

thority obtained permission from the High Court Division of the Supreme Court for holding the delayed AGM. The AGM was scheduled for December 21 last year but could

not be held as two members of

the exchange complained that

the notice for the meeting was not served accordingly. According to rules, the notice for the AGM has to be served at least 15 days ahead of the scheduled date. The DSE had served the notice only 13 days

before the date. Following the company law. the DSE had to get permission from the High Court for holding the delayed AGM.

Though the main agenda for the AGM is to pass the annual account, the director's report and appoint an audit firm for the next year, the members can raise some issues for discus-

Insider sources said the AGM will be crucial as a number of controversial issues might be raised at the meeting following last year's share market scandal and changeover in DSE council body.

### Road link with Sylhet snaps again By Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, July 30: Direct road communication between Sylhet and rest of the country snapped again as part of the newly built pontoon bridge at Shaistagani submerged yesterday afternoon following sudden rise of water level in the river Khowai

The pontoon bridge was built after the main bridge over river Khowai at Shaistagani on Dhaka-Sylhet highway got damaged by flood waters on July 13. The new bridge opened on July 25 for traffic.

# Surya Sen Hall

By DU Correspondent

tors and the leaders of BCL and JCD were present when the students evacuated the hall. Later, all the rooms of the hall

The executive committee

### BCP activists

nessing the match along with some 3,000 spectators. Manik Kazi, a former member of the underground party, who had surrendered to the government and returned to his village

A police camp has been set

### 13 killed, 157 hurt in Jerusalem blasts

JERUSALEM, July 30: Two suicide bombers blew themselves up in a crowded outdoor vegetable market Wednesday afternoon, killing 13 people and wounding more than 150, police said, reports AP.

The bombings, for which there was no immediate claim of responsibility, led US President Clinton to postpone a new initiative by envoy Dennis Ross to try and break the impasse between Palestinian and Israeli negotiators.

Ross had been scheduled to start talks in the region on Thursday. No new date for his trip was set.

The blasts tore through a lane in the Mahane Yehuda marketplace, the city's main fruit and vegetable market at about 1:15 pm local time (1015 GMT), when the market was packed with shoppers.

Police initially said 18 people were killed, but later lowered the number to 13, including the two suicide bombers whose dismembered bodies were found at the scene. They

### Depression weakens

Monsoon depression over northwest Bay off Orissa-West Bengal coast moved northwestwards and crossed the Orissa-West Bengal coast near Balasore of India at 6 pm yesterday, reports UNB. It now lies as a land depres-

sion over eastern Orissa adjoining West Bengal, according to a special weather bulletin. The depression is likely to

move in a northwesterly direction and may weaken gradually. Monsoon is strong over the north Bay. Maritime ports of Chit-

tagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla

have been advised to keep

hoisted local cautionary signal No 3, due to strong and vigorous monsoon. All fishing boats and trawlers over the north Bay

have been advised to remain in

### JRC follow-up meeting held

shelter till this evening.

A follow-up meeting of the just concluded meeting of the 32nd India-Bangladesh joint river commission was held at the Water Resources Ministry yesterday, reports UNB.

Presided over by Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak the meeting elaborately discussed the necessary measures to implement the decisions taken at the JRC meeting held in Dhaka.

The Minister instructed all concerned to finalise the preparatory measures regarding the water sharing of Teesta river after collecting necessary information.

### Bankruptcy Act

From page 1

bring about a fundamental change in the whole picture of default loan, now totaling some Tk 15,000 crore in both private and public sectors.

The sources said a salient feature of the law is that not only the banks, but also the general public — creditor or debtor - could file cases in the courts under the new law.

The creditor can file a case seeking repayment of loan, but a debtor can seek to declare himself bankrupt if his or her debt is more than Tk 20,000.

The court can confiscate the property of a bankrupt person, barring a few the value of which should not exceed Tk 300,000.

said 157 people were injured. Dozens of ambulances lined up along Jaffa Road, one of Jerusalem's busiest streets, to carry away the dead and injured. Several children were among the seriously hurt. A 14year-old boy was seen with a badly mangled leg, and rescue workers were seen trying to revive a boy about 8.

Radio reports said the two bombers apparently drove to the market together disguised in black coats with white shirts and ties - perhaps in an effort to look like ultra-Orthodox Jews. Each carried a briefcase packed with 10 kilograms (22 pounds) of explosives, the reports said.

Bomb squads at the scene picked up blackened nails. packed into the bombs to in-

crease their deadly impact. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, speaking at one of the hospitals where the injured were taken, said Israel expected Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and his government "to begin fighting terror as it was supposed to and hasn't done un-

til now. Words of condolence were not enough, he said, "what we expect is action.

Palestinian officials condemned the attack, and Arafat called Netanyahu to express his condolences.

Meanwhile Jordan and Egypt, the two Arab countries at peace with Israel, expressed sorrow Wednesday over the two bombs that ripped through a crowded market in Jerusalem. killing 13 people and wounding

### EC asks Dhaka

From page 1

of the complaints of the EC, I ensured the cancellation of 383 certificates under category-A which were totally "false" and asked the EPB for strict adherence to the procedures and requirements of the EC in issuing GSP certificates.

The EPB, he said, is maintaining strictly the EC rules of origin in issuing GSP (generalised system of preference certificates since January 1997.

Stating the difficulties in canceling past GSP certificates. he said it will create legal disputes, political difficulties and hasten an economic recession with its resultant impact on female employment, poverty alleviation and other socio-eco-

nomic consequences. In reply to this argument, Gozalez said: "While you have all my sympathy for the problems and the embarrassment that the withdrawal of incorrect GSP certificates may cause in Bangladesh, I urge you to understand the decision is based on legal obligations and not de-

pendent on political will." He said EC has taken decision to grant derogation to some Asian LDCs but Bangladesh is not included in this group for non-withdrawal of the previous incorrect certificates although EC is really committed to support the efforts of all LDCs, including Bangladesh to widen their ac-

cess to foreign markets. Bangladesh now could only issue GSP certificates for threestage locally transformed products, the EC vice-president said. Bangladesh garments export

to EU countries is provided with 12.5 per cent duty exemption to the importers if yarn, fabrics and garments are produced lo-

Recently the EC has derogated the rule from three-stage to two-stage local transformation for some Asian LDCs, including Nepal and Bhutan.

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**Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

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Federal Express

The government has taken tions on or before August 15. Meanwhile, Bangladesh's Embassy in Brussels informed the Ministry of Commerce yesterday that a 'Standing Committee' of the Commission

would review the decision on November 30, 1997. However, quoting sources at the EU meeting held in Brussels recently, the embassy further said, "If the organisational standard and credibility of competent authority could be developed, the ban might be

> 1997, subject to inspection by the EU's veterinary inspectors BFFEA President Golam Mostafa told this correspondent that Bangladesh needed at least two months time to complete the shipments for the already processed shrimp the price of

lifted even before November 30.

which is about Tk 200 crore. The European Union imposed the ban following alleged unsatisfactory physical and infrastructural facilities at the fish processing plants in the country.

Bangladesh has urged the EU

to send another evaluation or

inspection mission by Decem-

ber this year to check and verify the eligibility of establishments of the processing plants. In a letter to the EU of Tuesday, the Fisheries Ministry

said, Bangladesh invested a huge amount of capital in this sector and the sudden ban will 'seriously jeopardise' the economy of Bangladesh.

Our Narayanganj corre-

spondent reported that seven

persons were injured when

Ansars fired on a group of in-

dustrial workers who attempted

SKOP strike: 40 hurt

to forcibly enter into the Wisdom Fabrics located in Dapa Idrakpur area under Fatullah thana in the morning. Of the injured, Majnu (26), Kamal Hossain (28), Shaheed (26). Hanif (28) and Liton (12) were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) while Maron Ali (30) and Manik (10) were admitted to the Narayangani Hospital. Among

are passers-by while others are workers of different factories at the Fatullah industrial belt. According to police and wit nesses, the same group of work ers also stormed into seven

other factories in the same

the victims, Manik and Liton

None was arrested in connection with the attacks on the factories but preparations were on by the owners to file cases in this regard until filing of this report at 9.30 pm. During the SKOP strike, the export-led garments factories

operated under lock and key

while the Adamjee Jute Mills

and other industries at Rupganj and Araihajar operated unin-However, all modes of transport excepting rickshaws went off the Dhaka-Narayangani and the Narayanganj-Demra highways. A number of scooters

and rickshaws were damaged in Narayanganj town in the morn-Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reported that the industrial and transport workers and sea-port labourers abstained from work. Work in mills, factories and other industrial establishments remained suspended. All modes of

transports remained off the Our Chittagong correspondent reported that in the Chittagong Export Processing Zone. attendance of the workers was about 40 per cent as the workers could not come from distant areas due to unavailability of transports. The attendance of workers in most of the mills and factories at the industrial belts of Nasirabad, Kalurghat Sitekunda and Potenga was

### also thin. N-reactor

Besides, Nuclear Safety and Radiation Control Committee of the AERE and three other committees were analysing the latest development.

BAEC, on July 21, sent a

separate team for inspection.

From page 1

The team apprised the Commission in writing after visiting the reactor. Two expert committees were formed on July 23 to suggest ways for re-installing the Decay Tank after repair and re-activating the reactor for interim pe-

A high-powered committee

comprising scientists and tech-

nologists of BAEC, nuclear ex-

perts of Dhaka University and

BUET has also been formed to place a detailed report before the Commission immediately. Assistance from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and General Atomic Inc. USA, could be sought, if necessary, after the two committees submit their reports, the press release said. As per rule, the IAEA was informed of the inci-

dent on July 28, it said.

From Our Correspondent

Despite repeated assurances

remand for 2 days

From Our Correspondent

Clarification by Rahman Group

turmoil He said all these loans were granted after review of the Board of Directors of the bank

He said, his companies had

### 23 killed in stampede they went," one of them said. As hundreds of panic-Outside, top police officials were seen arriving in expensive four wheelers. The Home Minister arrived with the IGP and visited the spot, surrounded by of ficials. Briefing the officials, a police officer said twelve people were already dead. The injured "We could not move. Women life and the injured workers

cloth as rope." By the time, police arrived

trying to help the workers. At about 8 pm the whole area

was locked and a seal put around the locks.

EBL seeks liquidation of BICL Salman F Rahman and Sohel F Rahman of Beximco, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, Ministry of Finance and Registrar of the Joint-Stock Company.

Barrister Mahmud said that BICL had given an undertaking to lend Tk three crore and Tk 26.7 crore to Beximco Infusion Limited, whereas the company's authorised capital is Tk 10 lakh. Besides, it had undertaken to pay back loans taken from EBL, IFIC and AB bank on a score of fictitious accounts, on detection of which they admitted their liabilities and furnished corporate guarantees to repay the loans, he noted. But . nothing had been paid back, the

Justice Mohammad Fazlul

Karim, hearing on behalf of the regular judge of the bench Justice Monowaruddin, who is indisposed, asked him what would be the benefit of EBL if the BICL is liquidated. The counsel said that he was seeking its liquidation because his clients' debtor had been doing business illegally, in doing so i had obtained loan from his client and other creditors by what he claimed 'fraudulent misrepresentation', quire share, stock, bond debenture etc.', which business can only be carried out by a finan-

cial institution, investment

counsel claimed

Banque Indo-Suez and Stancompany or a bank," he alleged. "Its business activities falls The petition impleaded as party these creditors and within the definition of financial institution as given in the