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PHILIPS

10 killed, 37 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least ten people were killed and 37 others injured in separate road accidents in Mymensingh and Gaibandha yesterday and the day before.

Of them, six people were killed and 30 injured in truck-jeep collision in Mymensingh and four people were killed and seven injured in two separate road accidents in Gaibandha.

Our Correspondent from Mymensingh reports: Six people were killed and 30 others injured, 11 of them seriously, in a road accident on Dhaka-Mymensingh Highway yesterday.

Police and witnesses said, the accident occurred when a Dhaka-bound truck with day labourers on board collided head-on with a Mymensingh-bound jeep belonging to CARE at Digharkanda at about 11:30 am.

The driver of the truck lost control over the vehicle and fell into a roadside ditch killing six people on the spot and injuring 30 others.

Of the dead, five were identified as Saidul, 14, Emdadul, 13, Shajahan, 15, Saiful, 25, and Ashadul, 25. The other person could not be identified till filing of this report.

The injured were admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital.

UNB adds: Four people were killed and seven others injured in two separate road accidents in Gaibandha district on Wednesday.

Nasir Bahini

From page 1

a 'bullet-proof jacket' and is planning to stay here and continue the acts of terrorism.

Nasir has the blessings of some influential political leaders and people in the police administration, according to sources.

As police keeps constant watch on the movement of Nasir, the ring leader also reportedly has paid some sources in police, sources said.

As a result, police, despite series of drives five months ago, could not arrest Nasir even after declaring a reward of Tk 50 thousand on his whereabouts.

A large contingent of police on Monday night raided a residential hotel at Chawkbazar on receipt of information that Nasir and his gang members were staying there. But police failed to round them up as they left the place well before police reached the spot.

Police said Nasir is wanted in more than 20 criminal cases. Nasir reportedly has accumulated a huge amount of money by illegal toll collection, ransom from affluent people and business tycoons and other means, sources informed.

Indian polls

From page 1

Gill said last month the parliamentary polls would cost India around 205 million dollars.

The Hindu nationalists, tipped to emerge as the largest party from the polls, responded by predicting they would win hands down.

"We are confident of winning a comfortable majority," a spokesman for the rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) said.

An estimated 60 per cent turnout is expected.

He said hundreds of thousands of police and paramilitary forces would provide security, moving from one area to another during polling.

Gill urged political parties to field clean, ideal candidates and to shun those with a criminal past.

Today's announcement came as each bloc, faced with the likelihood of a hung parliament, struggled to reach pre-poll alliance.

The political scenario was electrified three days ago when Sonia Gandhi, the widow of former assassinated prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, announced she would campaign for the beleaguered Congress (I) Party.

Police said a Rangpur-bound microbus hit a rickshaw van at about 8:00 pm on Dhaka-Rangpur highway killing three people on the spot and injuring seven others.

The deceased were identified as Rezaul, 30, Anwarul, 35, and Saiful, 25. The injured were admitted to Gabindaganj Thana Health Complex and Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

All the victims were travelling in the rickshaw van.

Local people put barricade on the Dhaka-Rangpur highway and damaged several vehicles following the accident. However, police removed barricade and brought the situation under control.

In another accident, Afsar Ali, 35, a gram police, was killed when he fell down from a speeding baby taxi at Bottola in Gabindaganj thana the same day.

Two separate cases have been filed with Gabindaganj thana in these connection.

Bangladesh consulate office in Lahore opens

A new Consulate General Office of Bangladesh has been opened in Lahore, Pakistan, reports UNB.

A leading businessman in Lahore Humayun Fareed has recently been appointed as the Honorary Consul General of Bangladesh.

A function was arranged on December 27 on the occasion where Speaker of Pakistan National Assembly Illahi Bakhsh Soomro was present as chief guest.

Bldg collapse

From page 1

tory Ltd collapsed at Kalurghat under Chandaganj thana of the port city.

Three of the injured were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital and the rest were released after first aid.

Police said the accident took place at about 2:30 pm when construction work of the roof was going on.

Our Staff Correspondent reported from Sylhet that at least 30 people were injured, 12 seriously, when the roof of an under-construction building of Jalalabad Gas and Transmission near Shahjalal Bridge collapsed at about 4 pm.

The 12 seriously injured persons were admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospital. The rest were released after first aid.

UNB adds: Among those admitted, eight were identified as Masud (28), Abdul Khaliq (50), Babul Mia (40), Kutubuddin (35), Siraj (25), Habib (25), Khoka Mia (20) and Gaus (15).

BTV: Cash lures men behind the show

From page 1

Sayed, State Minister for Information.

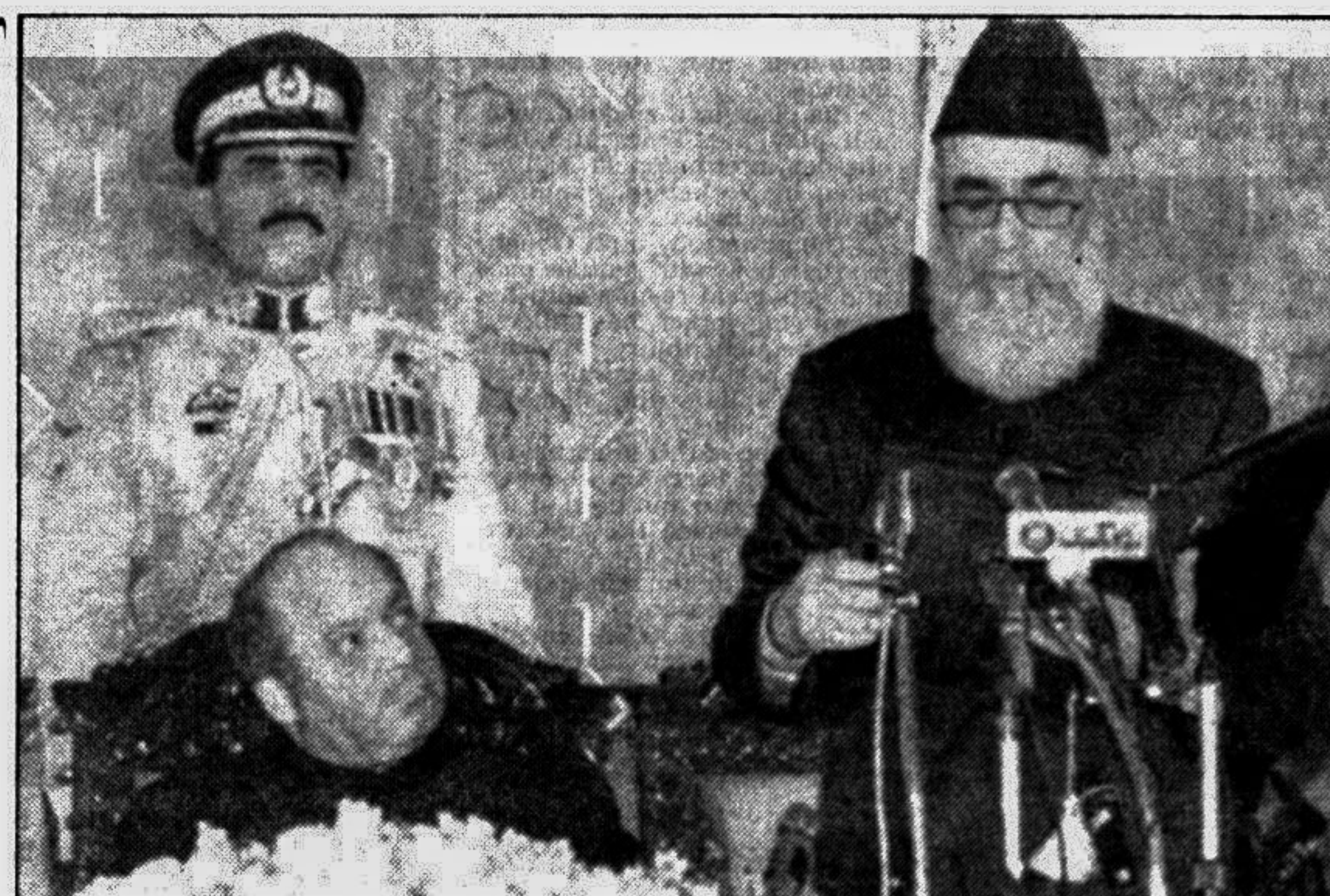
According to sources, most of the programmes that ATN's Bengali service puts on air are known to be produced by BTV personnel. "That's better customer for them these days than BTV," one source said.

"Yes, I often hear complaints that they are doing programmes for ATN but it is difficult to get an evidence," Sayed said.

Director General of BTV Syed Salahuddin Zaki said, "We issued circular upon receiving complaints but, need specific evidence before taking any action."

A two-week investigation into the affairs of the lone local television network by this correspondent produced stunning results.

During a recent visit to Rampura television centre, a BTV producer showed a bank check for Taka 42,000 that he received as remuneration for an ATN programme that he worked for. A high level official of BTV told this correspondent that in recent months BTV rejected some 13 dramas produced under



Rafiq Tarrar, the newly elected president of Pakistan, taking oath at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad yesterday. Tarrar was nominated by Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and his Muslim League party. (Story on Page 8)

EPB directed to formulate guidelines

50 pc GSP certificates, quota to be issued on past performance

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed yesterday instructed the Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) to formulate guidelines for the distribution of GSP certificates and quota among readymade garments exporters, reports UNB.

He also directed to distribute 50 per cent of the generalised system of preference certificates and quota among the exporters on their past year's performance and keep the rest 50 per cent open for the registered exporters.

"In no way, the GSP certificates and quotas can be handed over," the minister said while giving the instructions at a high-level meeting on the problems in the textile sector, held at the Commerce Ministry.

The meeting discussed the issuance of GSP certificates, quota distribution, refixation of the rate depreciation in knit-garments, providing cash incentives to the fabric suppliers and adjustment of value addition for knit and woven garments.

It constituted a four-member committee to recommend suggestions to fix the domestic value addition and the rate of depreciation. The committee has been asked to submit its report within 15 days.

Tofael said the government is providing balanced support to all the sub-sectors of the textile industry and is ready to give all assistance to keep the upward trend in export growth in

the sector.

"We want to build a self-reliant economy with concerted efforts from all, including people's representatives, government officials, professionals and businessmen," he told the meeting.

The minister highlighted the need for healthy growth of the textile sector and said textile is one of the industries which were announced by the government as thrust sector for export trade.

So, the government is taking measures to protect the interest of all involved in the industry, from the producers of yarn to the exporters, he said.

Rangamati pourasava upgraded

The government has elevated Rangamati Pourasava to first class status, meeting the long-standing demand of both tribals and Bangladeshes in the hill district, reports UNB.

LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman formally gave the approval at a simple function at his Secretariat office yesterday. State Minister for LGRD Mofazz Hossain Chowdhury Maya was present.

The decision to elevate the status would expand the Rangamati poura area, develop its infrastructure and provide modern civic amenities.

Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Faruq Chowdhury, Industries Secretary KM Izazul Haq, acting Secretary of the Textiles Ministry Shamsuzzaman Chowdhury, and officials from the National Board of Revenue, Bangladesh Bank and other departments were present at the meeting.

Oust-govt movement after Ramadan: Mannan Bhuiyan

BNP will neither go to parliament nor join the proposed dialogue with the government unless the CHT accord is scrapped, said party's secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, reports UNB.

Addressing a discussion meeting of Jatiya Party (J-P) in the city yesterday, Bhuiyan said the government is involved in a conspiracy to sell out the country through the accord.

"A united movement for ousting the government will be started after the Ramadan," said the BNP leader.

The JPZ-M organised the discussion at Diploma Engineers' Institute on the occasion of 12th founding anniversary of the party.

Party's co-chairman Kazi Zafar Ahmed urged BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia to announce a programme of long-march towards Chittagong Hill Tracts to press for cancelling the agreement.

Ershad tells founding day function JP to be a different type of opposition

Despite persistent plea from the mid-ranking leaders for anti-government street agitation, Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad said his party will continue to play the role of constructive opposition, reports UNB.

"We'll be a different type of opposition by playing our due role both in and outside the Parliament," he said, addressing a meeting marking the party's 12th founding anniversary in the city yesterday.

Hundreds of party workers chanted slogans demanding agitation programme and the mid-ranking leaders echoed their wish addressing the meeting at the Engineers' Institute auditorium.

But Ershad, who seemed to think differently, limited his 45 minutes' speech hardly criticising the government and describing the JP government's successes. He was, however, very critical about the CHT peace accord.

The JP chief termed the agreement anti-constitutional and demanded a discussion in parliament on the accord. "After discussing in Parliament, the agreement should also be sent to the Supreme Court to seek its opinion whether it is anti-constitutional or not."

According to the former

President, during whose government the peace process began in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the accord is contradictory to articles 1, 29(1), 29(2), 65(1), 143 and 144 of the Constitution.

The JP chairman asked the government to fulfil its election pledge of giving autonomy to radio and television, scrapping the Special Powers Act and uprooting terrorism. "People will teach you a good lesson if you violate your commitments," he warned.

"Unless the Special Powers Act is cancelled, we can't say democracy has been established in Bangladesh," JP Secretary General and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju told the anniversary meeting.

Additional Secretary General Nazimul Rahman Manzur stressed the need for a specific political guideline for running the party. "A party should not be treated as a chamber or federation. A specific stand and policy should be continued," he said.

Without elaborating, Col (ret'd) Zafar Imam said a party can't maintain a double standard. "We should be clear as to why we will support one or work against another."

Echoing the front organisations' leaders, Hasanuddin Sarkar urged the party Chairman to announce programme so that the workers can launch street agitation after the Ramadan. "They want specific policies and hope you will do it," he said.

BNP boycotted '86 polls for financial reason: Ershad

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad rejected a proposal of imposing martial law immediately before he had resigned in 1990 following the opposition movement, reports UNB.

"The then army chief General Nooruddin had requested me to impose martial law, but I refused it," he said, addressing his party's founding anniversary meeting in the city yesterday.

"My reply was that there'll be no further martial law in Bangladesh. The law martial law will be that of Allah," the former President said, describing the decision as 'very correct'.

Ershad also told the meeting that BNP had boycotted the 1986 general election "not on political ground, but for financial reason."

"I'm writing all these...I will unmask them through my book," said Ershad, who called the Awami League's participation in the election a 'wise decision'.

The JP chief, however, refuted Sheikh Hasina's allegation of media coup in the election. "If we had done it, JP would not have got only 152 seats, rather it would have clinched a landslide victory with 220."

Biman's F-28

From page 1

the F-28, which crash-landed in Sylhet recently, for decoding to help determine causes of the accident.

Since the grounding of the F-28 aircraft, a day before the crash landing and damage of its twin, Biman is incurring huge losses in terms of revenue.

It is also causing inconvenience to passengers as its four-aircraft domestic fleet has been reduced to only one ATP.

Earlier in June last year, another ATP skidded off the runway while landing in Chittagong, putting it out of operation.

The lone ATP is now carrying passengers in four to five out of nine daily flights everyday, with far less load than F-28.

But Biman management failed to arrive at a decision on where to send the F-28 for major check and overhauling because of influential quarters lobbying for their respective companies, they represent.

The surveys of Lloyds, underwriters of the damaged F-28, left Dhaka on Wednesday after preliminary assessment of the damages.

Their report will determine Biman's insurance claim for six million dollars.

Narayanganj Chamber of Commerce and Industry, pleads innocence and produces piles of documents supporting him.

At one stroke, he can cite some 10 big names in business who have defaulted but haven't been 'harassed' as he has been.

"I have paid back some 20 crore taka in interests during 1995-97," is how he would try to make his point. Or, he would refer to a recent Bangladesh Bank letter withdrawing the restriction on lending to one of his companies.

A newsmen scares him more than anything else. Once, several months ago, an Agran Bank decision to write off interests was reversed following a press report.

Investment Corporation of Bangladesh
Investors' Department
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Investors interested to buy right shares of Olympic Industries Ltd through their accounts are requested to contact ICB offices and submit written purchase instructions alongwith deposits (if required) by 12-01-1998.

Assistant General Manager
Investors' Department

GD-06

Ever changing colour of a defaulting borrower

From page 1

He seems important, but is he right?

More than a year ago, the finance ministry said that Fazlur Rahman, despite being a big defaulter, had been made director of the three government-controlled banks and borrowed money from Agran, Janata and IFIC banks, and had big sums of interests written off "in a manner that violated all rules and regulations".

Based on the ministry statement, the Bangladesh Bank sent inspectors to four branches of Agran Bank, one of IFIC and another of Janata Bank.

The findings were amazing. Twenty businesses were found to have been owned by Fazlur Rahman. Agran branches in Tanabazar and R K Das Road in Narayanganj were his early partners. At that time,

he was importing palm oil, soda ash and coconut oil.

In one of the early instances of his getting undue favours from the banking system, on January 15, 1984, he had Agran's Tanabazar branch write off Tk 26.36 lakh in interests. His business with the branch continued and resulted in another interests write-off four years later — this time Tk 1.27 crore. The Board was indeed generous to him, as reflected in its memo.

Similarly, the bank's principal branch in Dhaka was being extremely nice to him. For defaulting loans originating in early 1989, he was rather awarded for the second time on October 1995. In two phases, he made the bank agree to forget some Tk 36 lakh in interests due to him. He was still unhappy, and was asking for more.

Fazlur Rahman does not

have anything to do with Agran's R K Das Road branch in Narayanganj at the moment. But Messrs. Narayanganj Enterprise, which according to central bank inspectors, is owned by his elder brother Prof Rezaul Karim, a BNP MP, does.

The bank's Board was found to have approved a Tk 5.27 lakh loan write-off proposal.

The IFIC bank proved better for Fazlur Rahman.

There were four accounts for three of his companies. Loans remained unadjusted and got changed into different categories. And at least twice, the interests were written off — first, Tk 75 lakh in February 1993 and then again Tk 1.40 crore in October 1995. The exercise yielded an extremely favourable repayment schedule for the rest. He defaulted again.

However, his another deal with IFIC — which was shifted from the bank's Motijheel

branch to one in Narayanganj — was found 'regular'.

His style with Janata was a bit different. He was defaulting and getting the loans — to the tune of Tk 6.4 crore, or who knows how to find the actual figure — rescheduled. Application was filed in October 1996. The central bank inquiry said it all amounted to benefitting from loan write-offs "in an indirect way".

He would open LCs with banks, cancel them, and then wouldn't accept the bank's charging him the fees. Sonali Bank responded to his plea one (Tk 4.45 lakh), an instance he used to try a similar favour from Janata's Chamber, from loan write-offs (Tk 9.30 lakh).

While the inspectors wondered how he could manage, his associates in business lobbied for him, on several occasions, to retain him as director of

state-owned banks.

In 1995, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was "thanked" by the leaders of FBCCI, Dhaka and Narayanganj chambers of appointing him a Rupali Bank director. Similar letters went to the finance minister.

The scenario changed with a new government taking over in 1996. But Fazlur Rahman had friends pushing his case. In July 1996, Afzal Hossain, president of Narayanganj Chamber, wrote to the finance minister to plead for retaining him on the Rupali Board.

Last October, the FBCCI sent him as its representative to a meeting of Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Karachi, which he considers a feat belying allegations against him.

But, confronted with the questions, Alhaj Fazlur Rahman, a former president of

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