Jute bag days

polythene bags, ministry sources

"We were assured by the Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) and the Bangladesh Textile Mills Corporation (BTMC) of suitable alternatives to polythene bags," a highly placed source said.

The BJMC mills have been working round the clock to produce jute bags of different shapes and sizes so that people can use them for shopping, AKM Manzurul Haque, Secretary of the corporation said. These bags would sell at between Tk 2 and Tk 5 apiece.

"We have given directives to our mills to produce jute bags and we hope these would reach the city markets before January 1 at afford able prices," he said.

The BJMC will deliver the jute bags by trucks to city markets including Karwan Bazar, Kachukhet Fokirerpool, Mahakhali, Gulshan, Thathari Bazar, Jatrabari and Amin

Moreover, the bags will be available at BJMC sales centres, he said. The corporation earlier had conducted a market survey to access the demand of various types

of bags and set its production target accordingly, he said.

In a major pro-environment move the cabinet on last Sunday approved the decision to ban use and marketing of polythene bags in Dhaka city from January 1, 2002. Excessive use of polythene bags

is seriously polluting the soil and water and adversely affecting the environment and the bio-diversity. The BTMC would also produce different types of cloth bags before

the ban takes effect, an environment ministry official said. He said manufacturers of paper packets and bags are expected to produce different types of products

to feed the market. "The ban on polythene would also open different avenues for investment in pro-environment

business," another official said. The European Union (EU) earlier proposed to finance a project to produce bio-degradable jute products and was ready to promise Tk 23

The ministry recently advertised for hiring manpower for the project,

PM opens CITF

Bulu and State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin also addressed the function held at Railway Pilot High School ground adjacent to the fair venue.

CCCI President Farid Ahmed Chowdhury, Vice-president MA Latif and Director Rahbar-e-Anwar also addressed the function, attended by among others, members of parliament, and political and business

"We have given priority to trade and industrial development," she said assuring all sorts of assistance in business promotion.

The Prime Minister expressed her happiness seeing the attendance of women entrepreneurs at

She recalled the importance attached by Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to development of Chittagong and said the BNP government during its 1991-96 term took pragmatic steps to build the port city as business capital of the

country.

Khaleda reminded that the present government inherited a ruined economy from the Awami League, which was further effected

taken a move to file anti-dumping

suit against a good number of

Indian varn producers on the

around that Indians are dumping

varn in Bangladesh at a price 20 to

25 per cent lower than the price

"The government is duty-bound to

safeguard its industry and see

whether there are any anomaly in

the export and import. But all the

moves have to be in line with the

Local industry sources said

Indian yarn producers are dumping

their products in the Bangladesh

market at a price that might even be

lower than the production cost with

the aim of capturing the whole

market and ruining the local indus-

entrepreneurs have to prove that

Indians are selling their yarn at a

price less than their domestic price

to succeed in their anti-dumping

ment that deals with the anti-

dumping and countervailing mea-

sures, Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya,

a renowned economist, said, "First,

Quoting Article 6 of GATT agree-

move, as per the WTO rule.

But the thing is that the country's

The commerce secretary said,

offered to other countries.

WTO regime.

by the terrorists attacks on the US. She reminded that the 76 per cent export-earning garment indus-

tries of the country were also crisis-

ridden while export of other items

was also on the decline Convention

FROM PAGE 12 dor Waliur Rahman, recently sent scores of letters to representatives of different professions and members of the civil society requesting them to be part of the convention

"The idea is to form a National Convention Committee of possibly 1,000 members. Basically, they would represent different professional and civil society groups while onus of the main preparatory works would remain with us, a 10 to12member core group," explained

Meanwhile, AL sources told The Daily Star that unprecedented secrecy was being maintained in disclosing names of the members of the National Preparatory Committee and anyone involved in the preparatory process of the

planned convention

Anti-dumping duty are selling varn at a lower price than their domestic price. We also have to look into whether there are any subsidy that has given some sort of

> to offer lower rate to Bangladesh." However, the WTO allows developing countries, like India, to subsidise their industries. The BTMA said India heavily subsidised cotton growers to keep cotton prices lower.

leverage to Indian yarn producers

In case of slapping any countervailing duty on Indian yarn, Dr Bhattacharya said there should be sufficient evidence of selling it less than their domestic price and there should be prior information of such measure.

However, Dr Bhattacharya, also executive director of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), said, "Any country can impose countervailing duty without informing the other party in exceptional cases where the delay could cause irreparable damage to the local industry.'

Textile entrepreneurs have to ensure that the case to be framed is based on specific evidences, he cautioned terming the antidumping process quiet a complex

Awards FROM PAGE 1

Dhanmondi; Freedom Sohel of Malibagh Bazar Road, Khilgaon; Khandkar Tanvir Islam alias Joy of Indira Road, Tejgaon; Haris Ahmed alias Hares of Noorjahan Road, Mohammadpur; Khorshed Alam Alias Rasu of Siddeswari Lane, Ramna; Imam Hossain of Mohakhali Wireless Gate, Gulshan; Jabbar Munna of Razia Sultana Road, Mohammadpur: Abbas alias Killer Abbas of Ibrahimpur, Kafrul; Kamal Pasha alias Pasha of Kazi Nazrul Islam Road, Mohammadpur: Arman of Bara Moghbazar, Ramna; Moshiur Rahman Kochi of Ibrahimpur, Kafrul: Imamul Hossin alias Helal alias Pichchi Helal of PC Culture Housing, Mohammadpur; Mohammad Alauddin of Uttar Bari Tejgaon; Shamim Ahmed alias Aga Shamim of Abdul Hadi Lane, Kotwali and Jafar Ahmed alias Manik of Uttar Shahjahanpur.

Bin Laden

FROM PAGE 1 bin Laden, head of the al-Qaeda network that is blamed for the September 11 attacks on the US.

Habeel said bin Laden's support in Afghanistan had collapsed com-

"His supporters have no presence ... any more. There may be individuals here who have hidden, but altogether we can say that his resistance is over. His last remaining forces have fled to areas along the border with Afghanistan and Pakistan." he said.

Fuel price FROM PAGE 12

It urged the people to join the programmes.

Presided over by Saiful Haq, the meeting was addressed by among others Rashed Khan Menon Moniurul Ahsan Khan, Bimol Biswas, AFM Mahbubul Haq, Khalequzzaman, Dilip Barua, Morshed Ali, Abu Hamed Shahabuddin, Fazlul Haq Ripon

and Rezaul Islam Reza.
The Bangladesher Samajtantric Dal (BSD) brought out a procession in the city and held a rally at Topkhana Road demanding immediate withdrawal of the decisions.

Addressing the rally party leaders Khaleguzzaman and Bazlur Rahman Firoz said the enhanced energy prices will increase prices of essentials and fertiliser and raise transportation costs, affecting the people, particularly the farmers.

They said BNP had observed hartal when Awami League increased fuel prices during its rule but now it has increased the prices after coming to power.

They called upon the people to be united for a movement to protest the government decisions.

In a joint statement Ganotantrik Biplobi Jote (GBJ) leaders Badruddin Omar, Faizul Hakim, Hasibur Rahman and Uzzal Balo said, the four-party alliance government is taking "anti-people" decisions one after another after coming to power and called upon the people to protest those

The Consumers' Association of Bangladesh, Jatiya Samajtantrik Shramik Jote (JSSJ), Bangladesh Trade Union Federation (BTUF) Bangladesh Muslim League (BML), Bohumukhi Sromoiibi O Hawkei Samity, Bangladesh Chhatra ion (BCF) and Women's and Human Rights Forum (NWHRF) in a separate statements drawal of the decisions

Pintu

FROM PAGE 1 bankrupt company.

Pintu was later arrested by the DB within three hours after the GD was transformed into a regular case filed under sections 147, 148, 149 323, 285 and 385 of the penal code against Pintu and his seven accom-

The investigation official of the case yesterday went to the spot and questioned some people who were present during the incident.

Detectives are also looking for seven people who were with the MP during the intrusion. Several teams of the DB have already started a manhunt for the associates of the

A top DB official yesterday said they were also looking for some associates of the MP who were involved in criminal activities in the

Pintu is also the president of the central unit of BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the activities of which were suspended earlier.

Meanwhile, most JCD leaders and activists except those loyal to Pintu were reportedly very pleased with his arrest and detention

A number of JCD leaders on Dhaka University campus yesterday said Pintu's other accomplices should also be arrested immediately to make the campus free from outsiders and terrorists, DU sources

They blamed Pintu for destroying the image of the JCD by recruiting different committees of the student

In the absence of Pintu, DU unit general secretary Mostafizul Islam Mamun will lead the Pintu group on the DU campus. Pintu's two other close associ-

ates, central joint secretary Benaiir Titu and international affairs secre-Harun-ur-Rashid Shishir alias "dog Shishir", stay at Survasen Hall

SAARC Summit FROM PAGE 12 issues have always taken the front

seat at SAARC. Article One of the SAARC Convention on Suppression of Terrorism states that murder, kidnapping, use of explosives and hostagetaking are acts of terrorism and Article Two of the same says any two or more member countries can agree to expand its sweep.

India, Pak close airspace

Pakistan has said it has frozen the assets of the two groups which were declared international terrorist organizations on Wednesday by the United States and arrested the

Singh said those actions meant nothing because the arrested leader was quickly freed and the freezing of assets was announced "three to four days in advance so all remaining accounts were emptied out." Singh said Pakistan needs to

show by its actions that it has seri-

ously joined the US-led coalition against terrorism.
"If you have joined the international coalition against terrorism. please act in accordance with what you have stated as your objective in

joining the coalition," Singh said. India has already withdrawn its ambassador from Pakistan, and banned bus and train service as of Jan. 1. Singh said the new moves were necessary because "Regretta-

been fully grasped in Pakistan.' "The totality of rejection by the entire cross-section of our country's opinion about Pakistan's continued sponsorship of cross-border terrorism and promotion of terrorism as an instrument of state policy has not been appreciated" by Islamabad, he

Meanwhile, Defence Minister George Fernandes has said India's troops will be fully deployed on the Pakistan border by this weekend, the defense minister said Thursday adding that the government is still emphasizing diplomacy to end terrorism by Islamic militants based across the frontier.

"In the next two to three days, the deployment process will be completed and the forces will be ready for any eventuality," Fernandes tolo Press Trust of India during a tour of border posts in Jammu-Kashmir and Siachen glacier, near the Chinese and Pakistan borders.

Ordeal for school-goers

vacant every year.

Admission tests for these schools will be held on January 8, 10 and 12. Admission forms can be obtained from the respective schools through depositing Tk 50.

The Ministry of Education has placed the 24 government schools in the city under three categories. Schools under category "A" are:

Government Laboratory High School, Mirpur Government High School, Motiiheel Government High School, Khilgaon Government High School, Nawabpur High School, New Government Girls High School, Islamia High School and Mohammadpur Government High School. Admission test for these schools will be held on January 8. Schools under category "B" are:

Motijheel Govt. Girls High School, Narinda Government High School, Dhaka Govt. Muslim High School, Banglabazar Government Girls High School, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar High School, Government Science College (School section), Dhanmondi Girls High School and Armanitola Government Girls High School. Admission test for these

Meanwhile, hundreds of guardians and their wards thronged the premises of Viqarunnisa Girls School in the city as the three-day long tests for admission into class of the school began yesterday.

As many as 4,538 forms have been sold against a total 540 seats of the school's both sections at Baily road and Dhanmondi, putting the examinee-seat ratio at over 8.

girls, yesterday completed admission procedures for class I to enrol as many as 200 students There is heavy rush for admission into these reputed schools as guardians are naturally eager to see their wards get into one of them so

examination for students Out of the around 200 schools in the city, only 24 are public where tuition is subsidised by the government. Both admission and tuition fees are relatively much higher in

schools will be held on January 10.

Holy Cross School, another reputed educational institution for

that they need not change schools till the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations, the first public

steps were being taken to avert war. "At the moment, India places great emphasis on its diplomatic

efforts," he said. Although troops and weapons such as tanks and rocket launchers were being moved toward the borders of the nuclear-armed neighbours, the routine daily gunfire across the frontier was at a normal level for the second day Thursday, an Indian army spokesman said on

condition of anonymity.

A Pakistani military spokesman said there were no exchanges of fire, but that Pakistan had matched India's troop buildup. Witnesses in Karachi said Thursday that antiaircraft guns had been deployed at the port and other major installa-

"Relations between these nations are at their lowest ebb," Brig. Cmdr. Muhammed Yakub Khan of the Pakistan army told journalists on a visit to the front line in Kashmir on Wednesday. "When the troops are sitting eyeball to eyeball and there is so much hatred for each other... there will be no such thing as limited war."

There was no indication that either side had deployed nuclear weapons which are believed stored in unassembled form.

Tension between the neighbors has risen since a December 13 suicide attack on India's Parliament that New Delhi says was carried out by two Pakistan-based Islamic militant groups with the support of Pakistan's spy agency.
In Islamabad, Maj. Gen. Rashid

Quereshi, speaking for the government, told a news conference Thursday that Pakistan would act against the Islamic militants if it received evidence against them from a neutral party. "If there is such evidence availablé... Pakistan will take action against whoever is responsible.

Panicked border villagers in Jammu-Kashmir and Punjab provinces continued to pack furniture into tractor-trailers and trucks moving their belongings away from the frontier while trying to sow seed in their fields. "I don't know what the govern-

ment thinks, but in all this, the poor suffer," Punjab farmer Bhajan Singh

AL govt imposed

best performance in military sub-

Company Under Officer Md. Saifuzzaman was given the Osmani Gold Medal for best academic feat. Being adjudged the champions in the inter-company competitions, Mostafa Company received the BMA Colour for the winter term.

Khaleda Zia hoped that the professional skill and standard of training of BMA cadets will continue to improve and assured all possible assistance in this regard.

She said Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman had provided prestigious "National Standard" to the BMA in 1979, only five years after its establishment. He hoped that the fame of this institution would spread worldwide, she said. The Prime Minister asked the

graduating cadets to be ever vigilant in performing their difficult duty of safeguarding the country's independence and sovereignty. Khaleda recalled the contribution

of members of the armed forces during the Liberation War and asked the young officers to derive inspiration from the sacrifices of their predecessors The Prime Minister said the bold

and impartial role of the armed forces during the October 1 general election had increased people's trust in them. She also mentioned the role of the army in the Hill Tracts. during natural calamities and in building the country's infrastructure.

Referring to the participation of the armed forces in various peacekeeping missions of the United Nations, she said the skill and the goodwill of Bangladesh's forces are spreading worldwide.

Besides earning respect for the country, she said, members of the armed forces are also bringing in foreign exchange and enriching the economy. The role of the members of

Bangladesh armed forces in various peacekeeping missions was highly praised at the Millenium Summit of the United Nations, she said. The Prime Minister spoke of the

recent passing out of female officers alongside men from the Naval

Academy. Referring to the ongoing training of female cadets in BMA. Khaleda Zia wished them all suc-

She said it was Shaheed President Zia who opened the door for women in uniform-service by creating the opportunity of enrolling women in the Ansar and VDP and setting women's quotas for all government and semi-government

The Prime Minister said moral values, lovalty, strong discipline and continuous training are the key to success in a soldier's life. "The practice of all these will improve vour professional knowledge and skill and that is what the nation expects from you all," she told the young officers. Ministers, members of parlia-

ment, diplomats, senior civil and military officials and relatives of the graduating cadets witnessed the colourful parade conducted by BMA Adjutant Captain Mohammad Kamrul Hasan. Chief of Naval Staff Rear Admiral

Abu Taher Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal M Rafiqul Islam and Defence Secretary KM Ehsanul Hag were present on the occasion.

The parade over, parents and designated guardians decorated the newly commissioned officers with the rank of second lieutenant

Fares up FROM PAGE 12

Bus and truck owners associations will sit with officials of the ministry concerned soon before raising transport fares, sources said.

Rush of vehicles at filling stations

was witnessed yesterday as most of those remained closed on Wednesday night. Meanwhile, the Bangladesh

Petroleum Dealers' Association condemned Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's decision raising the fuel prices "unlawfully". In a press release, it also held

BPC responsible for the fuel crisis in

Separation of judiciary

Bhuiyan talking to The Daily Star last night said his party would fulfil its election pledge on separation of the judiciary. However, he said, "In order to

separate the judiciary, discussion with the opposition is required. That is why the opposition should come to the parliament " Earlier, the caretaker government had taken an initiative to separate the judiciary from the executive wing by implementing the

tives. But it stopped the process at

the request of Khaleda Zia before she took over power as prime minisof the judiciary. The order was aimed at making the judiciary

executive wing. Sources said there has been no instruction to the law ministry to start work on the issue and so, it is not possible to table any bill on separation of the judiciary in the next session of the narliament

almost free from the influence of the

There has been a long-standing demand for judicial separation and after the fall of the autocratic Ershad government, all political parties including the Awami League and the BNP had promised to take steps in

1991, Salahuddin Yusuf, an AL lawmaker, placed a bill in this regard, which was then sent to the selection committee of the parliament. But it never saw the light of the day as the BNP forgot its election

1996 elections and again it was

equivalent amount applicable to the

mported product in taxes. The local

trader, who in this case will be a

citizen or company of Bangladesh.

will have to ship the goods by road

or surface transport to another point

forgotten as soon as the AL came to

In this context, one Mazdar Hossain along with some judges filed a writ and the High Court on May 7. 1997 instructed the government to separate the judiciary. According to the verdict, it was not necessary to amend the constitution passing of some bills to form a ensure sufficient freedom to the

The government then appealed against the verdict and the Appellate Division accepted it partially on December 2, 1999 and gave a fresh verdict. The Appellate Division dismissed the High Court's orde and gave the 12-point directive to the government.

The government again filed a review petition against two of the 12point directives formation of a wage commission and judicial service commission. But the court on June 21, 2001 rejected the review petition and instructed the government to separate the judiciary After the caretaker government

come to power, law adviser Barrister Ishtiag Ahmed took initiatives to implement the 12-point directive in July. He told a Bangladesh Press Council function that 'he would not return home without separating the judiciary first'. The caretaker government finalised the draft for setting up the judicial service, pay commission,

three rules and regulations for

suspension and removal of court

employees and an ordinance to effect these steps. The draft was prepared for the

election victory, BNP chief Khaleda Zia reported asked the caretaker chief, Latifur Rahman, to keep the issue for the next government to decide as it was embedded in the BNP's election manifesto. Accordingly, the caretaker government dropped the issue.

On December 4, Prime Minister Khaleda Zia told a programme of judges that the judiciary would be separated in 'due time'. Meantime, Barrister Ishtiaq in

January this year told a public programme that 'governments come and go. Before coming to power, they promise judicial separation. Once in power, they forget it.'

Election expenditure

FROM PAGE 12 less than 100 candidates. The expenditures mentioned in the provision include those for "general propagation" of the party's manifesto, policy and aims and the polls expenses of all its candidates.

As per the provisions, political parties have to submit statements on expenses to the EC within 60 days of the election, showing opening and closing balance of funds on the date of completion of election in all constituencies and the total amount received by the parties as donation or otherwise during the

Contravention of the law is punishable with fine up to Tk ten

All the 1933 candidates in the October 1 election have submitted their expenditure statements to the returning officers concerned, which showed that none of them exceeded the official ceiling of Tk 500,000, EC

They also alleged "gross disparity" Many of these traffic policemen in promotion of field level police live in slums and lead a pathetic life

DMP traffic staff

officials. A sergeant might have to wait for 20 years to be promoted as Inspector. Once he is promoted to the rank of Inspector, his right to family ration is taken away and he hardly gets any additional financial benefit. These officers do not have any government accommodation in the city and are required to rent houses, they said

Constantly exposed to extremely polluted environment these men often contact severe diseases and their medical facilities are virtually non-existent. The police hospital is in a sorry state where patients are required to pay for all vital drugs, they said.

For a simple traffic policeman or a constable, life is even harder. With a ridiculous monthly salary of around Tk 2,740 including all benefits, a traffic policeman is required to be on duty for a minimum of eight with the hope that at retirement he would get a lump sum and would be able to buy a piece of land or open a business. According to police sources, many of the city's 1,452 traffic constables and 97 Havildars remain

tory problem and gastric are the most common diseases among traffic policemen. "You see, in India and in many other countries, if a sergeant prosecutes or fines a motorist, the officer receives about 60 percent of the amount the state realises from the offender," said a traffic sergeant Last month the traffic department

constantly sick. Jaundice, respira-

realised Tk 1.5 crore as fines, he "Give me an incentive to do my job properly, then if I do not do it you

can punish me." he said.

they said.

Air pollution project

from the WB to monitor vehicle emission. The tests are providing training to the personnel and the data collected through the tests will form the basis of a national emission

level the sources said The project work also suffers due to lack of coordination with the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) which provides fitness certificates to motor vehi-

Most of the vehicles, specially buses and trucks, emit black smoke as they use diesel with 0.5 per cent sulphur, which is injurious to health.

Sources in Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC) said they have already put forward a proposal to the authorities for importing diesel with point 25 per cent sulphur to reduce air pollution. The proposal is yet to be placed

before the Cabinet. But the biggest headache for AQMP is the failure of authorities to stop use of 'straight mineral lubri-

cants' with petrol by auto-rickshaws. Despite a ban imposed early this year, two stroke engine vehicles are

using lubricant without proper additives, which is one of the major causes of air pollution on streets,

The BPC imports lubricant mixed with proper additives and it is supplied in sealed containers. But unsealed inferior quality lubricant is freely availability in the market, which has defeated the purpose of prohibiting use of 'straight mineral lubricant'.

Neither the BPC nor the Department of Environment which is running the AQMP has the manpower to enforce the ban, they said.

Meanwhile, the DOE started 'auto clinics' for auto-rickshaw drivers from Saturday, where about 2,000 drivers would be given basic training on proper use of lubricant in their vehicles.

They would also undergo medical check-up to find out affects of air and noise pollution on them.

Such check-up organised by the WB earlier found most of the drivers suffering from congestion in chest. high blood pressure and hearing

we have to prove that the Indians 36 killed in Bogra

FROM PAGE 1 women and three children. Both the buses were damaged beyond repair. But all killed were the passengers of the Mim Paribahan

Fire fighters with the backup of

the locals rescued the injured and

took them to hospitals. At least 40 persons were admitted to Mohammad Ali Hospital and different clinics in Boara town, with many shifted to Dhaka later. Witnesses said a section of local

people looted the damaged buses

immediately after the accident.

Police seized both the buses and a

case was filed in this connection. Of the dead, eight were identified immediately: Ratan, 21, Shahin, 22, Shah Alam Rana, 35, Titu Mia, 40, Suman, 17, Afsar, driver of the bus, Moshfiqur Alam, Bazlur Rahman,

Mofiz Uddin and Zahurul Haq.

Police Abdul Baten and Deputy Commissioner Shahid Uddin Ahmed of Bogra visited the spot. UNB adds: Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed profound shock at the loss of lives in

the Bogra road accident.

Additional Superintendent of

In a condolence message, the

prime minister prayed for salvation

of the departed souls and conveyed

profound sympathy to the bereaved Khaleda also wished the injured being treated in different hospitals and clinics an early recovery.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina has also

expressed deep shock at the loss of lives in the road accident. She also expressed condolences to the grieving families.

mainly resulted in the revenue shortfall. The government's net borrowing also shot up during July-October period by 27.93 per cent. The total domestic credit increased by 19.27

The point-to-point inflation rate was 1.71 per cent in September this vear, which was 2.16 per cent during the same period last year. Yesterday's opening balance of

sector increased by 17.42 per cent.

US\$1,260 billion which was slightly above \$1.53 billion a year ago. However, remittance flow showed a upswing with a 20.53 per

increased by 6.62 per cent. per cent during July-October period

Meanwhile, the meeting approved new designs of notes for Tk 500, Tk 100 and Tk 10 denominations. Portrait of Banglabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman will be replaced by historical structures in

The meeting also approved the bank's annual report for 2000-2001.

Economy

ner cent while that to the private

foreign exchange reserves stood at

cent increase during July-November period of this fiscal. During the same period last fiscal, it

Opening of LCs declined by 5.56 of the current fiscal.

sovereign judicial service, separate pay commission for judges, among other things, would Supreme Court's 12-point direc-

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court gave the 12-point directive on June 21 this year following a 1997 writ on the independence

this regard if voted to power. After the BNP came to office in

pledge.
The issue re-emerged in the

final approval at the last meeting of the Council of Advisers held on Nothing wrong in re-export

because of the transportation factor

and adding the businessman's

In the garment sector as well,

It is an open fact that prices of

oring the prices down. Similarly,

commission. The Bangladesh transport sector will grow in busiof India, where a Bill of Entry has to be made and the goods unloaded. ness volume. At both points of entry and exit, the customs officials will have the over a billion-dollar trade is conright to check the cargoes. The ducted through opening back-to-back L/C, essentially a re-export products initially marked for re item after value addition. export will be fruits and the likes. As per the formulated rules, the reexport of a cargo brought in from an most goods in the seven eastern Indian destination has to be restates of India are higher than those exported within four days of being available in Indian mainland. There lifted from the port of entry to is indeed a scope for shipment of another Indian destination. goods to these states, which will would quicken the pace of reexporting procedures with minimal goods of the eastern states could be bureaucratic tangles and other shipped elsewhere much to their related hassles. The provision of economic advantage and will prove bank quarantee for applicable taxes cost-saving for the end users, while if the goods are actually imported for use in Bangladesh ensures economic safeguard against any unde-

process of re-export.

back to the port of origin or pur-

chase. The re-exporter will have to

ensure a value addition of at least

ten per cent on the value of imported

goods. This margin includes the

cost of transportation plus the profit

for making the business deal.

giving scope of business for re-The re-export scheme, it seems sired sale of them while in the prowill have multi-faceted ramifications cess of shipment. The trader will like bolstering trade earnings of Bangladesh and giving a new scope and opportunity for the country to actually have to open a back-toback L/C for involvement in the cooperate in economic terms with Therefore, goods brought into Bangladesh from any part of India all its neighbours, India, in particuwill have to be sold in any other part There have been talks of opening up on a large-scale transit and transhipment arrangements of India. At worse, it could be hauled

canvass. Both issues risk fomenting In fact, the shipment process of goods in Bangladeshi carriers will political sensitivities. automatically give a value addition What could be attempted first is of at least ten per cent, if not more, to treat transit and transhipment on

> countries. Statistics speak poorly about our own regional trade. There is only three per cent of trade within the SAARC countries. In ASEAN. the regional trade figure is 42 per cent and European Union over 50 per cent. The EU aside, ASEAN grew by burying mutual distrust and suspi

a regional basis instead of a bilateral

arrangement, which will prove

advantageous to all South Asian

But before that we must remember that Hong Kong is an excellent example of economic growth through its re-export business, particularly with China. While in Hong Kong and Singapore to a certain extent, re-export means sending goods to a separate country rather than their origin, it means a separate region in the context of Bangladesh. Bangladesh should be able to

get Indian, Nepalese and

Bhutanese business supports in re-

export. What is good for Bangladesh business will also be good for our neighbours. between Bangladesh and India and Fven the former commerce Bangladesh and its neighbours -minister should be happy if re-Bhutan and Nepal -- for quite some export means more business for time. There is limited transit available at this point of time -- mostly Bangladesh whatever it may be bilateral and nothing on a regional called.