Channel ban goes

# Pasha nabbed

brothers Syed Ashraf Jewel and Syed Mohammad Rivel in Mohammad-pur area on May 5,

2000. They were the sons of Amjad Hossain, a senior journalist and former editor of a monthly magazine, Detective

Pasha had gone to the residence of Hossain in a hijacked private car and called his son Jewel by name. As Rivel, an HSC student, came out. Pasha asked him to get into the car, took him to a nearby solitary place and shot him dead.

After about 15 minutes, he came back to the house and again called Jewel, a field worker of Proshika, for an 'urgent work". He took Jewel to a place at Lalmatia and gunned him

Hossain filed a murder case with Mohammadpur police accusing Pasha for the killings. Police arrested Mahbub, driver of the car but failed to arrest Pasha in the last two years. The driver was jailed.

After the killings, Pasha, a relative of Mockbul Hossain, former AL lawmaker from Dhanmondi-Mohammadpur area in the city, went into hiding.

The victims' family on many occasions had alleged that instead of arresting, police helped Pasha to leave the country. He returned to the country recently and fortified his position allegedly with the help of some ruling party leaders, sources

It was earlier alleged that despite repeated appeals by the victims' family, police did not arrest Pasha, who had been moving freely in Mohammadpur area since his return. The sources claimed that police could not arrest him because of his 'close links' with some local BNP leaders.

Pasha is also a FIR-listed accused in the Shamim-Masud murder case. They were killed at the PWD office at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city in April 1997.

He is accused in the Ashique murder case. Ashique, a contractor, was gunned down in Shahbagh area in the city in April 1997. Police arrested Pasha with firearms from near Sonargaon Hotel while he was fleeing after the killing. He was later released on bail. A case under the Arms Act against him is pending with Teigaon police.

Police sources said Pasha might be involved in the double-murder at Kazi Nazrul Islam Road in Mohammadpur on Sunday night.

The sources also claimed that Pasha recently met BNP lawmaker Nasiruddin Ahmed Pintu to save

While talking to newsmen at Mohamadpur thana, Pasha said, "I went to Kolkata after killing the two brothers and staved there for about five months. I also stayed at Ajmeer Sharif for six months and returned to the capital seven months aback. Since then I had been staying at my village home in Tangail.

He said he came to Dhaka seven days back and was staying at different places. He denied his involve-

"Section chief Okamura ... was in

charge of events to welcome the

Senegalese team as well as

accommodation, security and other

matters related to the training

found Okamura Saturday morning

expressing his apologies and

saying that he was exhausted," a

police spokesman said, adding that

the note made no specific mention

of Okamura's World Cup workload.

difficult because it was a new

experience for Fuiieda city staff to

handle the logistics of hosting a

World Cup team, said another city

because we have had to deal with

the language barrier, time differ-

"The work has been tough

spokesman Kazuhisa Akiyama.

But Okamura's job had been

Fujieda police said his family

"He left a brief note for his family.

camp," Matsumoto said.

shortly after he killed himself.

FROM PAGE 1

ment in criminal activities and claimed that he was implicated in the cases conspiratorially.

Asked about his involvement in killings, Pasha said he was a victim of politics. Claiming himself to be a member of Mohammadpur thana unit of ruling BNP Pasha said he was never involved with Mockbul

Our Staff Correspondent from Khulna reports: Four notorious criminals including Kala Jahangir of Dhaka escaped a police raid on Sunday on a fish farm at Baraipara under Rampal thana in

Acting on a tip-off, detective police of KMP raided the fish farm in the morning, but they escaped sensing arrival of police.

The four criminals include Shamim of Khulna city. He is an armed cadre of Purba Banglar Communist Party (PBCP) and wanted in several murder cases including that of Dainik Purbachal journalist Shaikh Harun-or-

Shamim is a close associate of Kala Jahangir, one of the most wanted listed criminals in Dhaka

### Transfer order on Hasina's aids stayed

The High Court yesterday stayed the transfer order on three official aides to former prime minister Sheikh Hasina and issued a rule nisi upon the government to explain why this order would not be declared illegal.

The High Court bench comprising Justice M A Matin and Justice Mazriul-Huq stayed the government order terming it illegal.

After hearing both sides, the court asked the government to give its reply by four weeks.

On May 2, Sheikh Hasina's PS-2 RAM Obaidul Muktadir Chowdhury, DPS Abu Alam Mohammad Shahid Khan and APS-1 Ibrahim Hossain Khan were transferred by the local government ministry as secretaries district councils of Borguna, Jhenidah and Kurigram.

On May 19, the order was challenged at the High Court Division of the Supreme Court that issued the rule nisi on the government.

Barrister Amirul Islam, Barrister Tania Amir, Advocate Monjil Morshed and Barrister Moksedul Islam moved for the petitioners, while Attorney General Hasan Arif and some other deputy and assistant AGs stood for the government.

These officials were transferred for several times in the last few months. Some departmental cases were filed against them in additional to sedition cases against Obaidul Muktadir and Abu Alam.

He couldn't take it!

(Okamura's suicide)," Matsuno

city last Thursday and is due to stay

until Wednesday. The team will

then fly to South Korea to play in the

World Cup opening match against

host the month-long tournament

Denmark, France, and Uruguay.

Japan and South Korea are to

Senegal is in Group A against

France in Seoul on May 31.

until June 30.

The Senegal team arrived in the

Akiyama said.

press conference.

he added.

soon in the first week of June.

increase in the heat Moreover, he said people were feeling the scorching heat as they

ence, and different customs. The city had decided to review the mental wellbeing of all its staff, cloudy. Fujieda Mayor Teruhiro

Matsuno expressed his regrets at a "We thought we were being careful in all aspects of our work as a (training) camp site, but I sincerely regret that it has come to this

weather for the next 24 hours said light to moderate rain or thunder shower accompanied by gusty or squally wind is likely to occur in a few places over Dhaka, Rajshahi, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and in one of two places over Barisal and Khulna divisions, Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged across the country.

next 72 hours.

### Body recovered in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police recovered the body of an undentified man wrapped in a sack from Adarshanagar area of Badda thana in the city yesterday.

Quoting the inquest report, police sources said there were marks of iniury in the victim's throat and he might have been strangulated. He was in his thirties.

On information, police went to the spot, recovered the body and sent it to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for

A case was filed with Badda thana in this regard.

#### DCC to fight mosquito

BSS, Dhaka

Dhaka City Mayor and Fisheries and Livestock Minister Sadek Hossain Khoka yesterday directed the officials concerned to prepare within next seven days a 15-day plan for mosquito control in the capital.

The city mayor, at a meeting with the health officials of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday morning, asked them to deploy all the health officials and employees in the anti-mosquito drive.

He also advised them to involve the elected ward commissioners, women ward commissioners, experts, representatives of sociocultural organisations, local leaders, elderly people of the concerned areas, members of non-government organisations in the mosquito control activities.

#### Observations

FROM PAGE 12

The Bench expressed the view that appointment of judges should follow a transparent and fair system. It is not enough to appoint a judge just by consulting the Chief Justice. Judges must be appointed through the full court reference of the High Court. it stressed.

#### Heat horror

fall, there was no sign of it. The people's miseries were accentuated by frequent power outages in Dhaka city, contributing further to a shortage of water.

BSS adds: The heat wave currently sweeping the country is likely to continue for another four to five days, as the amount of rainfall would not increase before May 24, Met office sources said yesterday. A Met official said that during the

last two days there was occasional relief because of gusty wind following rainfall in the Chittagong divi-

He, however, said the people would not get complete respite from the heat before the setting of mon-

The official pointed out that the less amount of rainfall amid low flow

were in a cooler weather during March and April when the rainfall was higher and the sky remained

He said the wind activity in the southern hemisphere prompted the increased rainfall in the country during the month of March and April and kept the temperature much

The Met office while forecasting

It also forecast no appreciable change in the weather during the

# 5 PWs in Shihab murder case cross-examined

**COURT CORRESPONDENT** 

Five prosecution witnesses, including complainant in the schoolboy Khondakar Shihab Ahmed abduction and killing case. were cross-examined in the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka

After four hours of crossexamination by the defence lawyers, Judge Hossain Shahid Ahmed adjourned the hearing till 10:30 am today.

During the cross-examination,

Khondakar Dildar Ahmed, father of Shihab as well as a prosecution witness in the case, told the court that on February 7 his son Shihab was abducted from in front of his (Shihab) school at about 5:15 pm. After the incident, Dildar

Ahmed informed his relatives about the missing of Shihab over telephone. In the meantime, at about 8:45 pm on the same day

including deviation from the original

structure plan and lack of watertight

hatches. The watertight bunk-head

the vessel was supposed to have

been fitted with as per the original

plan was practically non-existent.

The report also recommended that

from now on all vessels must be built

with watertight hatches to prevent

The shaky vessel hit by the storm

blowing at over 60 kilometres an

hour was further destabilised when

passengers from the lower deck

climbed on the upper decks to

escape the water flooding into the

lower deck. Inspection of the sal-

vaged vessel also revealed several

large holes in the steel plates that

were also eroded at many places

thereby reducing the plate thick-

ness. It also said surveyors of ves-

sels did not have the Ultrasonic

Thickness Gauge necessary for

inspector of DG-Shipping,

Mohammad Shafigur Rahman was

grossly negligent in his duty for

failing to lodge any case against MV

The report said the on-duty

measuring plate thickness.

such capsize

Dildar received a telephone regarding Shihab's wherabouts the complainant told the court.

"I wanted to know why they telephoned me. They replied that they abducted Shihab and they now want to meet me at Sreepur in Gazipur," the witness said.

The witness then informed the Sabujbagh thana of the incident but the authorities concerned at Sabujbagh thana requested him (Dildar) to go to Motijheel thana as the school of Shihab was under Motijheel thana Dildar Ahmed filed a General

Diary (GD) with Motijheel thana in this connection. Later, he tried to locate the whereabouts of Shihab Moreover, the abductors made several calls to the family of the victim from different card phone

booths and demanded Tk 20 lakh as ransom, the witness added. Dildar later filed a written petition to the Detective Branch (DB)

Salauddin on charge of overloading

as the vessel left the Sadarghat

Terminal for Rangabali with over

Surveyor AKM Fakhrul Islam sta-

tioned at the Sadarghat Terminal in

a recently issued survey report on

MV Salauddin-2 totally failed to

point out the many structural devia-

Surveyor of the Department of

Shipping, Mohammad Matiur

Rahman who is the head of all

government surveyors in the coun-

try and the only official responsible

for issuing survey certificates to

vessels, failed to conduct random

The report also blames the

owners of the vessel, Messrs Alam

and Brothers for deviating from the

original structure plan of the vessel

and the master of the vessel Abu

Zafar Howladar, a 3rd category

recommendations in disciplining the

water transport sector. They include

thorough amendment of the Inland

The committee came up with 36

master, for overloading.

surveys to check certified vessels.

Also, the Chief Engineer and

Moreover, the Engineer and Ship

4 shipping men guilty

400 passengers.

tions of the vessel.

year-old son and the DB police arrested two of the abductors on April 1 and recovered the decomposed parts of Shihab's body from three places in Bashabo and North Goran areas in the city as per statements of the culprits, the witness alleged.

office about the missing of his 13-

Shihab, a student of class seven of Motijheel Model School and College, was abducted from in front of his school on February 7. I ater, he was killed as he allegedly recognised one of the abductors.

Accused Monir Hossain Liton and Abu Syed were present in the court during the hearing. The four other accused Raju, Sabuj, Nasim and Rubel have been absconding since the incident.

Advocate Syeda Abida Sultana, Suja-Al-Faruq, Helal Uddin Ahmed and Sadeq-ur Rahman appeared in the court on behalf of the court.

Shipping Ordnance of 1976

empowerment of the BIWTA officials

to seize any vessel appearing to be

unsafe, setting up of marine courts.

giving specific responsibilities to the

BIWTA officials and activating and

empowering the inspectors of the

Department of Shipping. The chief

inspector should work independ-

ently and be accountable to the

The report maintained that 250

people perished in the Meghna

waters in the evening of May 3

although unofficial count puts the

The report highly praised the role of

the staff of MV Muladi, another

passenger vessel present near MV

Salauddin-2 when it sank. It said the

staff and other passengers of the

Muladi rescued 67 passengers from

the river by throwing all their life-

buoys into the river. Many staff of the

MV Muladi also dived into the river

and saved valuable lives, it said.

director general only.

casualty at over 400.

## **Badal's death**

FROM PAGE 12 family members.

track on it in such a short time.

Despite opposition by the repre-

sentatives of two distributors -- Abul

Khair Litu of M/S Nationwide

Communications and Humayun

Majid of M/S Translink, the meeting

try ignored the rest of the stake-

holders that include cable opera-

tors, television channels, including BTV, ETV, Channel-i and ATN

the distributors disagreed with the

decision on ban, the information

minister took a hard line saying that

the "influence of negative culture

meeting were surprised at such a

'quick change of mind'. The whole

thing may be reconsidered at the

Those who attended Sunday's

has to be checked".

Meeting sources said that when

Bangla, in changing its decision.

Interestingly enough, the minis-

endorsed the resolution on ban.

He was produced before the court in a critical condition and sent to the Narayanganj Jail.

In jail, his condition deteriorated

Jalal Ahmed, a police informant and driver of the DB of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP), was beaten to death. His body was found in the water tank on the rooftop of the DB office at Mintu Road in the city on March 25, 1999. He was reportedly killed over sharing of

manager of the DB office, were accused of torturing Jalal to death. The trial of the case began at the Fifth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka on March 12 last year. Earlier, two prosecution witnesses, one of them the complainant of the case, were cross-examined

made the people question the early next week, they said.

government's sagacity and motives. Despite repeated attempts last Viewers wonder what prompted night, neither Information Minister the government to rush headlong Tarigul Islam nor the information towards such a ban and then backsecretary could be contacted for

comments. The first decision came on Cable operators said four chan-Sunday at a five-hour joint meeting nels -- TV6, TV4, MCM and Fashion of the information ministry, different TV -- were banned by the previous TV channels, distributors and cable

government in 2000. "It is surprising as well as suspicious that the government changed its mind so quickly," said a member of the Cable Operators Association

of Bangladesh (COAB). M/S Nationwide distributes 27 out of 30 channels, while M/S Translink distributes the rest.

An official of the Nationwide told The Daily Star yesterday that the channels the government banned on Sunday broadcast their programmes in Pakistan, Malaysia, ndonesia and Middle East as well.

Translink proprietor Humayun Majid has said the government should ban the Indian channels if it wants to insulate the people from the "negative impact of alien culture". The government should ban some BTV-aired programmes like 'Chhayachhanda'

about their inability to pay the money. Hearing this, the detectives got furious and started beating Badal. They also tortured him with electric shock in the presence of

and he was shifted to the Dhaka Central Jail on May 13. Badal was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital the same day and succumbed to his injuries at about

Three DB personnel, including inspector Ziaul Ahsan and canteen

Shamim Reza Rubel, 24, a BBA student of the Independent team at his Shiddheswari residence under Ramna Police Station on July 23, 1998 and was tortured to death custody the same day.
Of the 14 accused, 11 including

Akram Hussain and Mukuli Begum, a local Awami League leader, are now detained in the Dhaka Central Earlier, 35 out of 62 prosecution

assistant commissioner of DB

witnesses were cross-examined and the hearing is at the final stage

#### Life term FROM PAGE 12

Kishorgonj, Parvin, 26, of Patuakhali, Fatema, 30, and Shefali, 20, of Bogra, Ramiza Khatun, 23, of Mymensingh, Fatema, 23, of Gazipur into going with them to India. As the women were being trafficked across the border, they were rescued by the BDR who also arrested the traffickers from Gobindapur village in Kaligonj upazila near the Indian border.

A case had been filed with the Kaligonj Police Station under the Women and Children Repression Act following which police submitted chargesheet against the accused after investigation.

### Musharraf meets top brass The past week has seen a surge

Coast Guard under the command of the army and the navy were taken

as part of the preparations. Indian paramilitary personnel are deployed in parts of India's International Border and Line of Control which divide India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir

Singh said if there is any firing or mortar attack by Pakistan on the International Border and Line of Control, India would take immediate retaliatory action Asked if the latest moves made

by Indian on the operational side are indicative of its preparation for going to a war with Pakistan, Singh cryptically said "you are reading what you have to read, I am doing what I have

Gen V P Malik, the former Army Chief who had led India to a successful campaign in Kargil against Pakistan-backed intruders in 1999 told a television news channe Sunday night that the decisions to place paramilitary forces and coast guard under army and navy command are taken when a war is considered imminent.

On Saturday last, the cabinet committee on security asked Pakistan to recall its High Commissioner to India Ashraf ered a step-up in New Delhi's diplomatic offensive against Islamabad for the latter's aiding and abetting terrorism in Jammu and Kashmir

Jaswant Singh indicated India might consider more measures to

mount the pressure on Pakistan including withdrawal of Most Favoured Nation (MFN) treatment to Pakistan in trade

Meanwhile, Vajpayee is expected to pay a three-day visit to Jammu and Kashmir from today to meet senior officers of the army and other security agencies.

AFP from New Delhi adds: India is preparing for all-out war against said yesterday, as troops on both sides of the disputed border again pounded each other with artillery shells and militants launched more attacks on Indian army bases. They are preparing for war.

said political analyst Raja Mohan, a former member of the National Security Council, a think tank that advises government on military "These are steps towards war,"

he added, referring to an increased mobilisation announced by the government late Sunday following a meeting between Vajpayee and his security advisers. Other defence and security

analysts quoted in the Indian press yesterday concurred that the increased mobilisation -- bringing all paramilitary forces in border areas under the control of the army takes India a step closer to war. This meets a key requirement of war preparedness and this is a clear

signal to Pakistan and the rest of the

world that India means business."

defence analyst Brahma Chellanev

Of the total Tk 9410 crore spend-

ng of the ADP during the period,

Tk 5671 crore was local currency

component and Tk 3739 crore was

in project aid. Now, if the govern-

ment thinks the same will happen

with next year's ADP, it might not

have to worry much about the

revenue implications. But then, low

quality projects and their protracted

told the Hindustan Times.

in attacks by militants in Indian administered Kashmir, starting with massacre last Tuesday at Kaluchak military camp, near the southern winter capital of Jammu. In that attack, three militants

killed 32 people before they were themselves gunned down. Most of

(ambassador) to New Delhi being given his marching orders on

The bloodletting continued yesterday, with police announcing that two Indian soldiers were killed the early hours of the morning when armed militants attacked two security camps. The first attack took place on the base of the 38 . Rashtriya Rifles, the Indian army's counter-insurgency force, at Manjakot, Rajouri, 171 kilometres from Jammu, around 2:00 am local

time, police said. They said three militants opened fire on the camp, killing one soldier and injuring two others. Other soldiers returned fire and fighting continued for an hour before the militants escaped in the darkness.

should at least hold it back.

Reducing the Tk 19,000 crore ADP

to Tk 16,000 crore was a nudge

towards that end. But if the ADP at

stake again goes as high as Tk

19,000 crore-plus then it will be a

signal missed," noted Dr Debapriya

The other logic for bigger public

expenditure could have been the

relatively low off-take of private

investment to generate domestic

demand. But experience of last

couple of years shows that the

impact of public expenditure in

crowding-in private investment has

been limited due to the absence of

structural and institutional reforms.

Even the low wage good prices

"I trust that the policymakers are

aware of the situation. They are

possibly being compelled to accom-

modate competing investment

demands coming from various

interested quarters. Taking cue from

past experience they are possibly

assuming that Tk 19,000 crore will

not be spent and so, there will be no

need to generate additional

resources. They are creating a

programming illusion. Programming

and implementing agencies won't

be serious as even the Tk 16,000

crore revised ADP of FY02 may not

could not do the trick.

Bhattacharya.

# Cassette scam case

Dainik Sangbad and Daily Janakantha -- and former Justice of the High Court Division Naimuddin Ahmed from the contempt charge. The court observed that Ershad

had tried to influence the judiciary. In case of the Manavzamin editor, it observed that an editor or a journalist has the freedom to publish authentic information and the whole truth, not partial truth. But the Manavzamin editor failed to do this. Talking to The Daily Star vester-

day. Ershad said he had done nothing to influence the judges. "I talked with the judge after one month of the Janata Tower graft case verdict." he said. Matiur Rahman told newsmen

that he had done any no wrong, as Ershad had confessed to his conversation and the judge concerned had resigned. A High Court division bench sentenced Ershad to five years in

jail and fined him Tk 3 crore in the Janata Tower case in August 2000. He talked to a judge of the same bench, Latifur Rahman, during the course of the trial. Manavzamin published a report on the basis of the taped conversation in September the same year.

The High Court bench after

going through the cassette yesterday observed that the allegation of monetary transaction between Ershad and the judge was not proved. However, the court was sure that he tried to influence the

trial process. About Justice Latifur Rahman, the bench said the conduct of the judge may be considered dishonest and the supreme judicial council could have probed it. Latifur Rahman resigned after the cassette scam case started.

After the Manavzamin report was published, it created quite a sensation and the then attorney general, Mahmudul Islam, brought the issue to the notice of the court. The court then issued a rule against Ershad and the tabloid for contempt of court. It also issued rules against three other newspapers -- Ittefaq, Sangbad and Janakantha -- and a retired judge Naimuddin Ahmed for making

comments on the issue Earlier, the High Court summoned Ershad and played the audiocassette before him and the former president confessed that it was he who was talking on the phone.

Attorney General AF Hassan Arif told The Daily Star yesterday that the verdict was a milestone in the country's judicial history.

#### NCB branch

FROM PAGE 1

Industries.

As per the plan, the banks will close 500 loss-making branches in three phases by December. The banks are Sonali, Janata, Agrani, Rupali and two specialised banks Banglades Krishi Bank (BKB) and Rajshahi Krishi Unayan Bank (RAKUB).

While giving the branch closure plans, the banks brushed aside any possibility of any of the staff becoming redundant and said the staff will be absorbed in the nearest branches and will be given special task to recover defaulted loans.

#### Shanu surrenders FROM PAGE 12

11.00am. "I don't want to lose the post of ward commissioner. I want to take oath on parole, if my petition for bail is rejected again," Shanu said on his way to the Khulna Jail. Shanu is one of the five listed

Shanu turned up at the court at

election. Sources said Shanu's surrender was in consultation with a top leader of the BNP, who assured him of his release on bail.

criminals who won the post of ward commissioner in the May 25 KCC

BSS adds: The court has scheduled the hearing on his bail petition for May 27.

# A case of programming illusion, again

across the fact that never in the last one decade or so revenue earnings had registered a matching growth. Exception is FY92 when resource mobilisation witnessed a big jump of 21.7 per cent thanks to the introduction of VAT.

But since then the result is mostly double-digit growths on the lower range barring some years when it even dipped to single digits. Revenue collection was especially poor since FY96 when it clocked a 9.2 per cent growth. In FY97 it was 10.5 per cent, in FY98 it was 9.5 per cent, in FY99 it was even as low as 4.9 per cent. During the recent vears, revenue growth rates were 8.4 per cent and 13.2 per cent in FY00 and FY01 respectively.

able to keep pace with public expenditure growth," said Dr Debapriya. "Notwithstanding, public expenditure-GDP ratio is one of the lowest in Bangladesh compared to other developing countries and the binding constraint is low growth in revenue flow. This has been accentuated by a low foreign assistance flow in tandem with stagnation in non-tax revenue collection. And all these have landed the country in a structural problem in the area of

"Revenue receipt has not been

Revenue budget has however always remained quite expansionarv. From FY96 to FY02, current expenditure expanded on a doubledigit growth barring in FY97 and FY02. In FY96 it grew by 14.7 per cent, in FY97 by 6.1 per cent, in FY98 by 15.7 per cent and in FY99 by 15.6 per cent. During the last two fiscals (FY00 and FY01) revenue expenditures increased by 10 per cent and 12 per cent respectively. And who knows where it will end up in FY03 with 25.000 staff from different projects being absorbed in

the revenue budget. "The absorption of staff from projects into revenue budget is a paradoxical stance since there is a hold on recruitment of competent manpower through the competitive BCS examinations. In the long run, this will have a bearing on the quality governance," warned Dr

Debapriya. "Opportunities could be

created for the private sector and

the NGOs to chip resources for

infrastructure development and

poverty alleviation projects.

Revenue expenditure should be put

"There is a demand for infusing creativity in the design of public expenditure portfolio", continues Dr

#### under a de facto moratorium so that it does not increase in real terms."

'The tendency to increase development expenditure without a proper and credible project screening process due to political reasons also overrides whatever rudiments of system are there. The moot issue continues to be enhancing quality, determining priorities and ensuring effectiveness of public expendi-

And so, when one sees that the next year's ADP is also going to include projects to support the much-vaunted goat-breeding programme, many an eyebrow are raised. In India in the 1960s, a similar goat breeding project was launched amidst a lot of fan fare. And the result was a sheer wastage of money as people cheated on the government and took credit just by showing the same goats again and But the government may

always think that the size of the

ADP does not matter as long as

project implementation remains

as low as this year's. According to

third quarter implementation figures

of the IMED, the July-March imple-

mentation rate of the ADP was only

42 per cent, down from last year's 54

per cent for the same period.

implementation are equally damag-"If the budget is framed under demand side pressure, it will have the tendency to result in an overambitious revenue target which will undercut the credibility of the fiscal programming. Alternately, a higher level of borrowing from the banking system or savings mop-up will become inevitable," the CPD executive director pointed out.

> continuation of the post-flood fiscal trend underwritten by moderately expansionary monetary policy will snowball into increased public debt. And, it will consequently result in an increase in already high domestic debt service liability, which is now equivalent to about 16 per cent of total revenue expenditure. "FY2003 should be a year of

There are apprehensions that

fiscal consolidation. If we cannot revert the trend immediately, we

the dead were the wives and children of soldiers The slaughter triggered a sharp deterioration in relations between India and Pakistan and saw Islamabad's high commissioner

Saturdav. On Sunday, three soldiers and a paramilitary trooper were killed in an attack on an army camp in Chasana at Reasi, near the southern town of Udhampur.

be fully implemented." But this will again be a wrong way of managing public finance. The cause of fiscal discipline will be harmed. Possibly, the finance ministry is being overridden by certain political expediencies, which undercut the integrity of policymaking process in the coun-

"Regrettably, over the period we could not put in place a sound system for initiating public expenditure projects, to scrutinise their rationale and develop their components which will be insulated from interference in allocative decisionmaking process

"It was a general expectation that the incumbent government will initiate a transparent process which will take a close and critical look at public expenditure portfolio including both on-hand and pipeline projects.

"Desirably it will be done by an agency that is outside the system having no vested interest in the projects. Precisely for this reason we advocated for a Public Expenditure Review Commission. However, such a commission will not be a substitute for a sound internal control system," Dr Debapriya concluded.

#### Power

work mostly in offices.

ply could not be restored.

FROM PAGE 12 Karwan Bazar power outage

Meanwhile, several meters of power cables at the Banani substation under DESA caught fire at 4:50pm disrupting power supply at Gulshan, Dhaka Cantonment, Kafrul and parts of Badda. When the report was filed at 8:00 power sup-

"We had a record 630 megawatt

load of electricity in the areas yes-

terday, exceeding the previous high

of 580 megawatt. The increase in

occurred several times disrupting

load may be the main reason behind fire in the cables," said an official at the sub-station.

DESA Chairman Brig. Gen. Abdur Rab and member Abdul Mannan visited the spot. "It is too early to say how long it will take to repair the cables but experts said it may take several

hours before power supply resumed in the areas." said the official. Meanwhile, officials believe that the power supply situation in the city will not improve in weeks to come "The load is increasing everyday We cannot match the demand," said

an official of the PDB. The PDB chairman was not available for comments as he is currently visiting Washington, USA.