

Traders to be relocated

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the peak winter season.
"Since the market's structures were semi-concrete which were vulnerable to accidents of fire, we are planning to construct a permanent building there," said Mayor Khoka.
Asked what immediate initiatives the DCC is taking to rehabilitate the traders immediately, the mayor said, "The DCC is thinking to relocate the traders to other DCC-owned markets for interim period."
He said the DCC is incapable of financially compensating the traders who lost their merchandise and added that they have urged the government for extending financial help to the affected.
"Traders of the burnt-down market yesterday said they want the DCC to act immediately to help them resume business, without which it is almost impossible for them to survive."
"Now it is a matter of survival for me and for all of us," said Mohammad Selim, who claimed to have lost merchandise worth around Tk 30 lakh of his four shops in the market.
"All I need now is a place to sit, even if it does not have a roof, to restart business to feed my seven-member family," added Selim, tears running down his cheeks.
"The plan to construct a multi-storied commercial building after the fire incident reinforces the general notion among the traders that yesterday's (Sunday) incident was an arson," said one of the traders, on condition that he not be named.

Traders yesterday mourned Qari Mohammad Monzur Ahmed, muezzin (man who calls Muslims to prayer) of New Bangabazar Hawkers' Market Mosque, who died on the spot and offered Janaza at noon on Syed Nazrul Islam Road in front of the market.
Traders gathered in the market since morning and stared at the piles of ashes. They tried to throw some light on the mystery of the origin of the fire that the firefighters are yet to unravel and tried to console each other.
The air around the market was filled with smoke and burns yesterday. Smoke was emitting from the burnt-down merchandise and small blazes rose here and there every hour. A team of firefighters was deployed in the market since Sunday night, who were fighting frantically to douse flames until yesterday evening.
"The situation is now under control but these small fires may rise at any moment from the smokes until the burnt flammable rubbish is removed from the market," said Senior Staff Officer of Ramna Fire Station of the Fire Brigade and Civil Defence Dilip Kumar Ghosh.
Firefighters put out the fire in the building adjacent to the hawkers' market, which houses 22 film producing and distributing offices at about 11:00pm on Sunday, said witnesses.
DAMAGE ESTIMATE DOUBLED
President of New Bangabazar Hawkers' Market Committee Chowdhury Alam yesterday upped the damage estimates in Sunday's

incident to Tk 200 crore from his initial estimate of around Tk 100 crore.
He told The Daily Star yesterday that around 146 shops survived the blaze and some 50 were partially burnt. Owners of shops on the first floor, that also housed warehouses, suffered the most.
Asked what steps they are taking to rehabilitate the traders, Alam said, "DCC owns the market, we are only renters and they will decide about how to rehabilitate us."
The committee has verbally placed its demands to authorities for immediate rehabilitation and financial compensation for the affected traders, he added.
KMR Manjur, president of Bangladesh Film Producers and Distributors Association, said about 22 offices of the producers and distributors suffered heavily, as they lost invaluable films along with the negatives to the fire.
"There is no way these films can be reproduced and it is a major loss for the country," he said. "The fire has left some of our old and renowned directors and producers paupers."
He added the association would demand of authorities to rehabilitate them.
Environment and Forest Minister Shahjahan Siraj and former president and President of Jatiya Party HM Ershad yesterday visited the market at 1:00pm yesterday.
Police, who sealed off the market area since the fire broke out Sunday morning, clubbed onlookers and traders who gathered to talk to the minister.

Warning in the winds

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unusually cold spells in the shorter winters, not to speak of the ever-worsening floods that destroys life and property each year. The weather pattern is getting increasingly erratic, so much so that forecasters at the Met office are often at a loss.
The monsoon floods this year lingered unusually long and took an exceptionally catastrophic turn, submerging almost two-thirds of the country.
An unusual cyclone in the Bay of Bengal in May last year lasted for 10 days instead of the usual 6-7 days. Over this 10-day period, the cyclone became severe, then weak and then severe again before crossing into Myanmar.
Also last year, the country experienced a severe and intolerable cold wave in January, an equally unbearable heat wave coupled with an early flood in May, and an unusual cyclone. And now the monsoon has deficit rainfall and is called 'bad monsoon'.
The lowest temperature recorded during the cold wave that swept the country in January last year hit a 34-year low of 3.4 degrees Celsius in Rajshahi.
During last year's heat wave, the temperature soared to 43.4 degrees Celsius in Satkhira. This year again, the country faced severe heat waves in May and June.
Though it usually rains hard around July, last month's rains broke a 50-year record of 341 mm in 24 hours due to a depression in the Bay. Met officials said the depression took an abnormal twisting path not seen in 100 years.
Although the meteorological office has endeavoured to explain such erratic weather phenomenon as 'inter-annual variation', weather officials generally admit a change in climate citing a study that shows

increasing temperature and rainfall over the years.
Published in 2000, the study undertaken by Saarc Meteorological Research Centre and based on data over a 30-year period from 1961-90 shows temperature rising by 0.0037 degrees Celsius a year along with a nearly 5mm increase in annual rainfall.
Environmentalists say the sea level rose between 10 to 25cm in the last century due to global warming and if the trend continues, a fourth of Bangladesh will go underwater within the next 25 years.
Climate researchers in reports prepared for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) had already predicted crop losses to floods in countries like Bangladesh, an increase in diseases like malaria and dengue fever, asthma and other respiratory diseases, shifting ecosystems resulting in total disappearance of some forests, desertification, etc.
Citing the last assessment report of the IPCC published in 2001, Dr Nasimul Haq, member of the South Asian action network of the IPCC, said Bangladesh would be most vulnerable to this crisis borne out of climate change. "We are already experiencing all of the things that the report said about extreme weather conditions."
Meanwhile, pivotal countries like the US have failed to approve the Kyoto protocol, which aims to reduce emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. To become binding, the protocol must be ratified by 55 nations accounting for at least 55 percent of global emissions in 1990.
The US accounts for 4 percent of humanity and yet is responsible for 25 percent of global greenhouse emissions. Compared to 1990 figures, a 17 percent increase in greenhouse gas emissions resulted in 2002.

Murder accused

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if he failed to pay the fine.
Witnesses and court sources said Ershad had obtained bail in the case from another court and appeared before the tribunal to confirm it. But the judge cancelled the bail and sent him to jail.
Enraged, Ershad hurled a shoe at the judge that hit in his chest.
The judge adjourned the court, filed a case against the accused and gave the verdict on the spot after a brief summary trial.
Ershad confessed to his misdeed and said he lost temper after cancellation of his bail, fearing his family would starve since he is the only earning member.
Meantime, Abul Kashem, former secretary of Patuakhali District Bar Association, said there are allegations of corruption and irregularities in judicial matters against Judge Majid.
Advocates had earlier observed a one-day token boycott of the court and gave ultimatum to authorities to remove him by January 15, 2005, he added.
When contacted, Majid said it might be a pre-planned incident, as the accused must walk to the dock barefoot. He said he had no knowledge of the allegations and lawyers' agitation.

How free would

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who were finally chosen as members of the Commission. Sources close to the selection team say the selection body is unaware of how and when the change of two names was made.
When the selection team submitted for the first time the six names to the president in mid-August, the file was sent to the law ministry for the PM's approval. At this point, the six names came out in the newspapers and the law minister, who is always sensitive about his domain, did not react to the press reports.
But when these names landed at the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the list was abruptly modified to include the names of M Maniuzzaman Mia and Maniuruddin Ahmed.
Mia, a former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, is well known as a supporter of the BNP while former chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission Maniuruddin Ahmed's records also show his obedience to the ruling party.
Commission Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan, who is probably the most elderly person to hold a highly responsible position in the country, also has a reputation of having weakness for the coalition government.
Justice Sultan is the chairman of Bangladesh Manabadhikar Bastabayan Sangstha, a human rights body founded by Communications Minister Nazmul Huda. Sigma Huda, wife of the minister, is the secretary general of the organisation.
Other than appointing a team of BNP loyalists at the Commission, the government has designed the anticorruption watchdog in such a way that it will have to depend on the executives time to time.
For instance, the government will provide secretarial assistance for the Commission and fix the organisational structure and budget of the secretariat. This leaves the scope for the government to squeeze budget if it is unhappy with the Commission's activities.
The Commission has been given the authority to formulate rules relating to its business. But it must seek the president's approval to the rules. Again, the president cannot approve them without consulting the prime

minister.
Furthermore, the Anti-Corruption Commission Act (ACCA) says if the Commission ever faces any problem in its activities due to vagueness of ACCA's description of its power and responsibility, the government can give clarifications issuing gazette notification.
Although the ACCA says the Commission members can only be removed in the same way a Supreme Court judge is removed, in reality the government can remove a member through an executive order. The reason is -- the Supreme Court is a constitutional body while the Anti-Corruption Commission is not. It is not protected by the constitution.
Law Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday at a press conference expressed hope that the Commission would function independently.
When pointed out that Justice Sultan is a controversial person and its member M Maniuzzaman Mia is known as a pro-BNP intellectual, Moudud said, "Let us have faith in the new body and in their new role."
Explaining the nature and scope of the anti-graft body, the minister said it would be a self-ruled commission free from any government or administrative interference.
It is not fair to bring politics into everything, Moudud said, "Let us see how they function and how far they fulfil people's expectations."
The minister said partisan appointment would not matter as soon as they take oath. "Whatever may their past be, they must forget it the day they take oath."
Moudud said the Commission would begin functioning within next one month. But this will be only possible if the government is sincere as past records show the government wasted a lot of time in forming the Commission.
The ACCA was placed in parliament 17 months ago and passed 9 months ago. The selection body placed six names back in August and the government took three months to pick three from the panel.
For the commission to kick-start, it needs a secretariat, a secretary with well-defined job status, a prosecution unit, other officials and staff, and rules and regulations for their jobs.

AL plans big

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five days before the programme to mobilise local leaders and workers and the commoners, sources said.
The main opposition plans to gather people from at least 35 districts that the 900-kilometre human wall will not cut across. Besides, participation of people from 17 districts that are adjacent to the proposed human wall route will be ensured, said the party sources.
AL central working committee (ALCWC) members sit in an urgently called meeting today to chalk out the plans to make the programme a success. The meeting will form teams with central leaders to tour the districts, sources said. The ALCWC meeting will be held at party's Dhanmondi office at 5:00pm.
Meanwhile, leaders of the mainstream opposition parties attend a meeting at the office of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) this morning to finalise the preparatory visits of the leaders to the 18 districts at the end of this month.
"Some leftist parties want to make the visits separately while the Awami League and others prefer joint teams comprised of leaders of all the parties," said a source.
AL policymakers will sit in a meeting with AL President Sheikh Hasina after she returns from the US on the first week of December. After about one-and-a-half-month tour in the US, Hasina may return on December 4.
"We are doing utmost to make the no-confidence human wall a success and demonstrate that people have no trust in the present government for its failure to govern the country," AL Organising Secretary Saber Hossain Chowdhury told The Daily Star.
Saber, also the political secretary to the leader of the opposition, said central leaders will team up with the local leaders and workers to prepare for the programme.
Front organisations of the AL are also gearing up for the December 11

programme. In a couple of days, teams of the Awami Jubo League, youth front of the AL, will begin touring the 18 districts to assess the party's organisational condition there. By November 30, the teams will report back to the Jubo League high command.
Jubo League Chairman Jahangir Kabir Nanok yesterday told The Daily Star that from December 5 coordinators from the central unit of the organisation would be staying at the 18 districts and 48 upazilas to monitor the preparations.
Leaders of all the front organisations will attend a meeting with the AL policymakers ahead of the human wall programme, he added.
11-Party meeting
Leaders of the 11-Party alliance will hold rallies in the districts and upazilas from December 3 to December 6. Joint rallies of the left alliance will urge people to join the December 11 human wall to show no-confidence in the present government. The parties under the alliance will make separate preparations as well till December 2 for the human wall programme.
A meeting of the left 11-Party alliance drew up the programmes yesterday with Ganoatari Party leader Azizul Haq in the chair.
Workers Party President Rashed Khan Menon told The Daily Star that the 11-Party meeting finalised its plan to make the human wall a success.
On the possibility of touring the districts altogether with the AL and JSD leaders, Menon, also the convener of the 11-Party alliance, said, "We are optimistic about such an allied tour and a fresh decision in this regard will be made at tomorrow's (Tuesday) meeting of the opposition leaders."
Panka Battacharya, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Alhaj Abdus Samad, Bimal Biswas, Mafizul Islam Khan Kamal and Ruhin Hossain Prince, among others, attended the meeting.

Ctg port to do overtime to ease container congestion

UNB, Dhaka
Responding to a request made by the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) to remove container congestion, particularly in this peak season of apparel trade, the Chittagong Port Authority has decided to extend raw materials delivery hours till 8:00pm.
All sheds of the port will remain open till 8:00pm and time for downloading full container load has been extended up to 10:00pm. In special cases, services will be provided for extra time also, a BGMEA press release said yesterday.
All the banks attached to the port will remain open till 8:00pm, the press release added.
The BGMEA has requested shipping lines to issue delivery order (D/O) up to 8:00pm, considering latest circumstances.

JCD leader shot dead in Kushtia

UNB, Kushtia
A local leader of Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was shot dead by unidentified assailants at Katdohar Char village in Mirpur upazila in the early hours yesterday.
The dead was identified as Imran Hossain, 26, son of Badsha Master of the village and president of Kushtia union JCD.
Police and locals said a gang of eight called Imran out of Ashraf's house where he was asleep at about 1:30am and shot him point blank. He died instantly.
The motive for the killing could not be known.

PM reiterates

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of independence.
Near and dear ones of seven Bir Shresthas and a number of Bir Uttoms, Bir Bikrams and Bir Pratikhs or their heirs met the prime minister at the ICC to apprise of their various problems and demands.
The demands include employment for family members, financial assistance for their treatment and wedding of their daughters, construction of roads and naming roads and educational institutions after freedom fighters in their respective areas.
Some gallantry award-winners also demanded due place in history and introduction of identity cards for them.
The prime minister gave a patient hearing to all those present and gave some instant directives to the ministers and secretaries to sort out the problems of the freedom fighters and members of their families.
The prime minister announced that valiant freedom fighters would be included in the government delegation to perform Hajj from this year.
She said the demands of the freedom fighters will be examined and necessary measures taken as per rules and regulations.

3 outlaws killed

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Masud, while other outlaws managed to escape, Rab sources said.
Following their statement, Rab and police team went to the village Dohokola to nab GMP district chief Mukul Hossain at about 3:00am.
As they were crossing Dohokola field, the GMP cadres opened fire on the joint team. The law enforcers returned fire, triggering a two-hour-long gun battle.
Trying to escape from police van, Ashraf and Masud were caught in 'crossfire' and died on the spot.
Two Rab members, two police sub-inspectors and five constables, and two Ansar personnel were injured during the gunfight, police said.
Police retrieved two rifles and 23 bullets from the spot.
Police sent the dead bodies to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.
Meanwhile, elder brother of Ashraf in a statement to local newsmen claimed that his brother was a businessman who had no connection with crime or any underground activity.
In Jhenidah, Rab arrested outlawed Biplobi Communist Party (BCP) leader Shahjahan alias Sahaj from his house at village Jugruidha in Moheshpur upazila of the district on Sunday evening.
Following his statement, Rab raided village Arutia in the upazila to seize his hidden firearms.
The Rab team came under attack of armed BCP men when they reached the village at about 4:00am.

Sahajahan, caught in 'crossfire' during fierce shootout between Rab and criminals, died on the spot.
Janajuddho faction of outlawed Purbo Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-ML) slaughtered a trader at village Chakarpur in Damirhuda upazila in Chuadanga.
Janajuddho men picked up Biswanath, a small trader of Dudhswar village in Jhenidah on Sunday morning, took him to Chakarpur village and slaughtered him there.
Police recovered his body from a paddy field of the village and sent to Chuadanga Sadar Hospital for autopsy.
BNP leaders
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expressed the hope the government will withdraw the cancellation order for the party's sake.
Meantime, the government is yet to take any decision on recruitment of another 35,000 employees under different ministries, divisions and departments, although similar allegations were raised against it.
Sources said many ministries have already completed the recruitment and some others finalised the process. The authorities are now awaiting a government decision about it, they added.
A cabinet minister told The Daily Star the remaining process will be completed if the government withdrew the Saturday's decision.

Assailants stab

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with three men," Abul Kashem, a street urchin who was sleeping on the footpath 10 metre from the spot, told The Daily Star.
"As the attackers released him after a while, the man collapsed to the ground and the assailants rushed to the car and sped away," he said.
The roadside tea-stall owners said they could not realise Kamal was stabbed as he stood up pressing his left chest with his hands and walked to the hospital emergency gate.
"He told doctors at the emergency department that he was stabbed," a 40-year-old tea-stall owner said preferring anonymity. "He was profusely bleeding at that time."
When the doctor asked him whether he was shot, Kamal answered in the negative and fell unconscious. He died minutes after his admission.
Witnesses said the armed attackers returned to the area in the same car 10 minutes after the killing, dragged a rickshaw-passenger to a nearby lane and mugged him.
Some pedestrians then chased the attackers while some people from adjacent Department of Women's Affairs threw bricks forcing them to flee towards Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue.
Ramma police took Kamal's body to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital in the morning.
Morgue sources said Kamal died of a deep stab wound in the chest. The attackers also stabbed him in the nose and forehead.
The victim's brother Abul Kashem received the body after autopsy in the morning. After namaz-e-janaza at the Planning Commission in the afternoon, he was buried at Banani Graveyard.
Youngest of their eight brothers and three sisters, Kamal was a bachelor.
Kashem filed a case with Ramma Police Station against three unknown youths for the killing.
But police failed to arrest anyone till filing of this report at 7:00pm.

"We're trying our best. But it could be easier for us if we could know the motive of the killing," Mahbubur Rahman, officer-in-charge of Ramma Police Station, told The Daily Star last night.
He however said the attackers came in a yellow cab. "We are looking for the car."
"It seems the killing was planned one as the attackers took no money or other valuables from the victim," said the police officer.
Later, the Detective Branch (DB) of police took over the case and DB Inspector Ziaul Hasan was tasked with the investigation.
Failing to ascertain any reason for the killing, the victim's relatives said they did not know about Kamal's enmity with anyone. Locals also praised him as an amiable man.
Shell-shocked, CEC MA Syed did not attend office yesterday. "I got the news at 1:00 in the night and he (CEC) broke down after hearing it at 2:30am," his wife told The Daily Star.
Bangladesh Civil Service Economic Association expressed deep shock at Kamal's death and conveyed condolences to his bereaved family.
Army man killed
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account of the incident.
The gunman fired blank shots and sneaked into deep forest.
Immediately after the incident, army contingents launched operation in the area to recover the gun and nab the miscreants. They picked up three people for interrogation.
Lieutenant Col Iftekhar told journalists that strong contingents of army and BDR have been sent to Janchhari to nab the miscreants, cordoning different areas.
The GOC of Chittagong visited the spot.
Civil society here yesterday expressed deep concern and condemned the killing of the army man. They demanded immediate arrest of the "tribal miscreants" involved in the killing.

Jailed husband

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the last eight years, has already been granted bail in all other cases against him including three murder cases, Naik said.
"If the government does not come out with any other case or detain him (Zardari), he will be released," Naik said.
The court has set bail at one million rupees (16,666 dollars), he said.
A cabinet minister confirmed the government would release Zardari.
"We will respect the court verdict and release him," Information Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed told AFP.
"I hope the opposition parties will respond in a positive manner," Rashid said, referring to opposition parties' plans to launch a movement against President General Pervez Musharraf.
Zardari has been in jail on corruption charges since his wife's second term as premier ended in 1996. Bhutto governed Pakistan from 1988 to 1990 and from 1993 to 1996 and now lives in self-exile in London.
Benazir told Dubai-based ARYONE television channel she "had been waiting for this moment for the last eight years."
Zardari is currently at a hospital in the southern port city of Karachi where he is receiving medical treatment.

Sunni cleric

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Two bodies, one confirmed as a soldier, were found earlier on Sunday dumped on a busy street in the New Mossul neighbourhood after nine other corpses were discovered Saturday in a nearby industrial area.
Kurilla explained the slain soldiers were probably seized on their way to their barracks at a US base, where a contingent of 500 of them had been sent to take part in US-led operations, which started last week, to wrest the city from rebel control. Despite the US show of force, insurgents have struck back at Iraq's fledgling security forces and waged an intimidation campaign to spread fear among Iraqi recruits.
US commanders have promised tough action against insurgents, whom they say are only creating the perception that they are in control.
"We are going to deny them freedom of movement," said Kurilla, promising more raids and sweeps against rebel hideouts.

EU agrees

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groups: quick deployment and military efficiency. We must not allow these two factors to be called into question. That would negate the basic reason for this ambitious project," he said.
The troops would be used for operations outside the framework of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation, such as missions in support of the United Nations.
DSE trading
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The index gained 25.69 points yesterday.
Explaining the reason behind the current boom, the DSE chairman said the market saw interest in banks as the financial institutions will close their books in the coming months. They are expected to offer attractive dividends.
Of the Tk 47.13 crore total transactions yesterday, only 10 issues accounted for more than Tk 30 crore. The rest 177 issues traded on the day only netted Tk 17 crore.
The chairman observed that the market is sustainable and there are no unusual indications.
"We are carefully observing the market and will take actions immediately if any irregularities are found," said a SEC official.
Showcause
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and class IV employees last month was greeted with widespread allegations of corruption in the recruitment process. Later on Sunday a government directive cancelled the recruitment.
Meanwhile, people who had been recruited, are looking for the clique that received kickback promising them the jobs.

Taiwan targets

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million dollars in investment in Bangladesh mainly in textile and knitting industries.
A number of companies have already purchased land in the northern region for setting up industries, he informed the conference.
"As regards business with Taiwan there is no objection from China," said MA Awal, referring to his recent meeting with the Chinese ambassador in Dhaka.
He informed that Bangladesh would open a trade liaison office in Taipei very soon. "It's now under process." Such an office would be highly welcomed by Taiwanese private sector, a member of the delegation said.
"We, the private sector, want your government to open an office in Taipei to give us a window for trade and investment interactions," said Roland Tsai, chairman of the Taiwan Garment Manufacturers Association.
He felt that the expiry of quota after 2004 would not cause any setback to Bangladesh's apparel sector, rather it may turn a boon in disguise since quality is maintained and design improved.
China and India appeared to be the two big winners in post-MFA era,

but products from a single country alone cannot serve customer needs of all importing countries, he viewed.
Moreover, Chinese exports may face trouble as various trade and textile associations in USA are lobbying for limiting imports from China. The US trade authorities have already imposed certain limits on Chinese exports in a number of categories, he cited.
"But Bangladesh has lacking in material supply," he pointed out and said the country could make fortune out of the post-MFA situation by ensuring quality of fabrics and improved finishing of products.
Taiwanese external trade-promotion officials claimed that the two-way trade amounted to \$650 million in 2003, with imports from Taiwan accounting for 90 per cent.
Taiwan is a major supplier of textile and garment machinery to Bangladesh. Electronics, industrial equipment and automobile parts are also among the items Bangladesh imports from Taiwan.
Taiwan has about \$100 billion investment in mainland China and exports from Taiwan make up 35 per cent of total Chinese exports, external trade officials said.

Commission to start

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"Two names were changed when two persons on the list of six wanted to withdraw," he said.
When pointed out that it is also a public belief that the commission's Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan is a controversial person, and its member M Maniuzzaman Mia is known as a pro-BNP intellectual, Moudud said, "Let us have faith in the new body and in their new role."
Replying to a question as to how people could expect fair play and justice from such a body when judges of the higher courts are appointed considering their political affiliation, the law minister said, "Such appointment does not matter as soon as they take oath of office. Whatever may be their past, they must forget it the day they take over big responsibility."
The government on Sunday formed the much-awaited independent anti-graft watchdog, an election pledge of the three-year-old BNP-led coalition, with Justice Sultan, a former High Court judge, as its chairman, and M Maniuzzaman Mia, former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University, and Maniuruddin Ahmed, a member of Pay Commission, as members.
Commission sources meanwhile

said the three-member body will hold its first meeting today.
The government also abolished the Bureau of Anti-corruption (Bac) under the Anti-corruption Commission Act, 2004. About 20,000 cases are pending with the Bac.
With the abolition of the Bac, the new commission will determine the future of Bac officials accommodating the competent ones in it while the government will decide the fate of the rest.
The commission will take over all corruption cases and investigations initiated by the Bac. A special judge, under the new Act, will conduct the corruption cases. The commission will not require prior permission from the government to file a case or withdraw it.
Meanwhile, gloom prevailed at the Bac office in Segunbagicha yesterday. All officials and employees, including the director general (DG), attended the office. But the DG did not sign any files, sources said.
The staff looked anxious and discussed their future in the changed situation. They also pondered over how the commission will scrutinise their performance for absorption of a section of them in the new body.