

### Sony murder Court orders attachment of movable prop- erty of Muki, 5 others

**COURT CORRESPONDENT**  
The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka yesterday (Sunday) accepted the charge-sheet in the Sabequn Nahar Sony murder case. Magistrate Mamun-Al-Rashid, after scrutinising the case diary (CD) and other documents, issued the order. The Court also issued arrest warrant against the six absconding accused including Mokammel Hayat Khan Muki and ordered attachment of their movable property. The Detective Branch (DB) of police submitted the charge-sheet  
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## CNG conversion snails on few gas fillers

**JULHAS RIPON**  
Lack of adequate CNG fuel stations has contributed to the slow progress in conversion of petrol-run vehicles into CNG-run ones for improvement of air quality and environment in the city. The government has a plan to set up 120 CNG fuel stations in and around the city by 2006 but not more than six are likely this year, sources said. More than 7000 CNG-run vehicles, which include cars, minibuses, pickup vans and auto-rickshaws are to queue up in only 11 CNG (compressed natural gas) fuel stations in the city for hours every-

day. Some two lakh automobiles ply the city streets now, emitting smoke containing toxicity and other substances harmful for human health, sources in the Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) said. Government initiatives to improve the environment are not yielding much result due to lack of 'emergency arrangement' for setting up adequate number of CNG-stations, they said. The government had taken a Mega Dhaka Clean Fuel Project (CFP) involving \$113.5 million to set up over 120 CNG stations in and around the city, but it is progressing 'very slowly', sources in the sector

said. The project is funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB). The RPGCL (Rupantarita Prakritik Gas Company Limited) and the GTCL (Gas Transmission Company Limited), both concerns of the energy ministry, will set up the fuel stations. RPGCL will set up 26 stations in the first phase. It will also import 300 CNG-run buses and 2000 CNG auto-rickshaws. A highly placed source in the RPGCL told The Daily Star that they are going to sign an agreement with the government this month to forward the project. It will also sign a loan agreement of 10 million euro  
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### Govt sets a ceiling on four-stroke 3-wheelers

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The government will allow only 10,000 four-stroke three-wheelers and as many taxicabs on the city roads. Besides, no mini vehicles of such types would be allowed in the Dhaka city in a bid to keep the traffic jam under control, Communications Minister Nazmul Huda told BBC yesterday. Asked whether 40,000 more three-wheelers would be allowed to hit the city streets, Huda said the government has no such plan, for such a step will aggravate the traffic jam.  
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Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hands a gold medal to an engineer at a three-day convocation of the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) in Chittagong yesterday (Story on page 3). PHOTO: PID



## Aman drive a little too late

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi**  
The aman procurement drive is getting little response from growers and millers in the 16 northern districts as it started late and market prices of aman paddy and rice are higher than the government-fixed procurement prices. The food directorate launched the drive on January with targets of procuring 70,000 tonnes of rice and 122,640 tonnes of paddy. But in the first four days of the drive till

Saturday, only 48 tonnes of rice and 62 tonnes of paddy could be procured in the 124 upazilas of the 16 districts. The government this season is purchasing rice from the millers at a price of Tk 1280 per quintal (Tk 1075.20 per 84 kg sack) and paddy directly from the growers at Tk 840 per quintal (Tk 336 per 40 kg). No rice could be procured in 14 districts out of the 16. Only in Natore and Thakurgaon, 39,200 tonnes a  
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### 75pc DCC shops goes on lottery

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
The Ministry of LGRD and Cooperatives and the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) yesterday decided that 75 per cent of the shops of the DCC would be allotted through lottery. Earlier, the LGRD ministry proposed that 90 per cent of city corporation shops would be allotted through lottery and the rest from the mayor's quota. The DCC and the ministry formulated a policy to this end, which would also be applicable to all other city corporations. The policy aims to check irregularities and corruption in allotment of shops of city corporations, sources said. The policy was finalised at a review meeting of the DCC held with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair. The DCC mayor, Minister of State for LGRD Ziaul Haq Zia, Deputy Minister for LGRD Ruhul Quddus Talukder Dulu and other high officials attended the meeting. At the meeting, DCC Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka expressed  
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## Six to vie for one seat in govt schools

**STAFF CORRESPONDENT**  
About 30,000 students will scramble for about 5,000 seats in 24 government schools in the city for the academic session 2003, sources said. Distribution of admission forms of the 24 government schools, which began on December 26, was complete yesterday. This year more forms were sold compared to those of last year, sources said. The sale of forms soared as many parents have targeted more than one school for their wards, they said. When contacted, officials at the Government Laboratory High School said they have sold 3,520 forms against 284 seats for different classes. The school sold 2,600 forms against 240 seats for class I, 150 forms for six seats for class II, 250 forms for eight seats for class III, 150 forms for six seats for class IV and 300 forms against 20 seats for class VI. "There was tremendous pressure during distribution of form as guardians were eager to get their wards admitted into good schools,

numbers of which are reducing," a teacher of the Government Laboratory High School said. Admission forms of the government schools are available at the schools for Tk 60 each. The non-government schools, however, have not fixed any price for their admission forms. So, in most cases, they are charging much more than the government schools. Preparation of question papers and evaluation of answer scripts for admissions to the government schools will be conducted centrally like the previous year, which, according to the education ministry, brings transparency to the entire process of admission. Admission tests for class I to IX in the 24 government schools are scheduled for January 9, 11 and 13, said an official in the Department of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education. Last year, the education ministry split the city's government schools into three categories. Sources said admission tests for A category schools will be held on January 9, for B category on January 11 and for C category on January 13, with uni  
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	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Jan 6		5-26 pm
Jan 7	6-43 am	

  

Prayer Timings		
Jan 6		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fair	5-30	6-00
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	3-50	4-05
Maghrib	5-33	5-38
Esha	7-30	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

