

Police squads to curb car thefts in city

By Staff Correspondent

Three special police squads have been formed to check car thefts which have increased alarmingly in recent times.

According to press reports, 521 cars were stolen last year, of which 403 vehicles disappeared from the capital alone. The number of stolen automobiles stood at 440 in 1992.

The increased police vigilance was immediately reflected in the BNP MP mugged in city

By Staff Correspondent

A female parliamentarian fell prey to muggers in the city yesterday and was robbed of her gold chains.

Anwara Habib, a Member of Parliament of the ruling BNP, was waylaid by a group of three to four muggers at road No 5, Dhanmondi yesterday afternoon. She was stabbed on her left arm and robbed of two chains.

The MP was going to her daughter's house at Paribagh from her residence at Dhanmondi Road No 15 by a Rickshaw.

The muggers sped off on an autorickshaw leaving the MP bleeding. She was later given first aid at a nearby clinic.

A case was lodged with the Dhanmondi police but no arrests had been made till writing of this report last night, almost 12 hours after the incident.

Withdrawal of VAT

From Page 1 Col 7
"responsible for destruction of the national industries," and compensations for the sufferers. Enactment of laws for rehabilitation of sick industries was also demanded.

It also demanded a White Paper on the allocation of money and actual expenditure in respect of various projects since the independence of the country.

The committee also urged the authorities to stop selling public sector units at throw-away prices to what it called, "vested quarters".

Since Article 34 of the State Acquisition Act contradicts with the fundamental rights, it should be repealed. One of the Articles of the Arthartha Adalat is: For any appeal against its verdict, one is to deposit 50 per cent of the borrowed money. Such a law is also against the fundamental rights. This, too, should be repealed", Alauddin Ahmed said.

Demanding withdrawal of VAT on local products, the committee suggested the setting up of a commission comprising the people's representatives, civil servants and representatives from commerce and industry. All VAT, tariff values and tax structures should be framed on the basis of the recommendations of this commission, it was suggested at the press conference.

Chakma refugees' return

From Page 1 Col 4
and headed by Thana Nirbahi Officers, will receive the tribals.

Local authorities at Ramgarh and Tabalchhari have also arranged temporary shelters for the tribals before their final rehabilitation in their own homesteads in different areas of the hill tracts, the sources said.

Meanwhile, Tribal Rehabilitation Committees have been formed from the village to national levels to ensure quick rehabilitation of the returning tribals.

Security forces and members of the law enforcing agencies at different levels have been asked to ensure the security of the tribals.

Measures for rehab

Meanwhile, an official announcement yesterday said that the Bangladesh government had taken measures as per the law and the Constitution of the country to ensure safety and security of all, including the Chakma refugees, in the hill districts.

It said that in the light of the existing situation, as well as taking into consideration all other aspects, the government has decided to assist the returnees in their rehabilitation.

An official press release said that the government would give a lump sum of Taka ten thousand to each returning family as house building and agricultural grant.

Each returning family will be given a free weekly ration of 21 KGs of rice, and a monthly ration of four KGs of pulses, two KGs of soyabean oil and two KGs of salt for six months (26 weeks), it said.

The government, it said, will give two bundles of CI

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by Mediaworld Ltd. 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed at City Publishing House Ltd, 90 Kakrabi, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4. Advertisement: 500091 (Direct). Fax No: 88-02-863035. GPO Box No: 3257. Cable: DAILYSTAR DHAKA.



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina and party leaders interviewing an aspirant for the Magura II seat of the Jatiya Sangsad at the party's Bangabandhu Avenue central office yesterday. The seat fell vacant following the death of AL, MP Asaduzzaman. — Star photo

19 envoys visit Moulvibazar, Srimangal

MOULVIBAZAR, Feb 12: Nineteen foreign mission chiefs on an outing from the capital visited today ongoing development projects and saw the landscape of the district in the vicinity of hills and falls, reports UNB.

According to sources, a number of government employees are allegedly involved in the ring. They help the crooks dispose of the vehicles with forged registration papers.

CU student shot dead

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 12: Unidentified gunmen this evening shot dead a student of the Chittagong University on the Chandanpura Road in the city here.

The assailants attacked Nurul Alam, 26, while he was going to a mosque for offering his tarabi prayers, witnesses informed. He was rushed to the Chittagong Medical College where he was pronounced dead.

After killing Alam the gunmen fled the spot amid volleys of gunfire. Later police recovered the body.

The cause of the attack and the political identity of the victim are yet to be ascertained.

But the Islami Chhatra Shibir here, though not claiming the victim as one of its activists, blamed the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal for the incident.

Elects to DU bodies today

By DU Correspondent

The teachers of the Dhaka University will elect their representatives to the University Syndicate, the Academic Council and the Finance Committee today.

The elections of the three policy-making bodies will be held at the Teachers' Students' Centre (TSC) from 9 am to 1 pm.

Teachers from three panels — White, Blue and Pink — are contesting for six posts each in the syndicate and Academic Council and one post in the Finance Committee.

Sheets to each family for building houses.

The government will either give a pair of cows, as draught animals or *in lieu*, Taka 8,000 to each of the returnee families, having cultivable land, subject to verification that the family owned the land.

The official announcement said that the government decision with regard to exemption of agricultural loan of up to Taka 5,000 would be applicable to the returning families as well.

It said that the question of writing off of the other bank loans of the returnees would be considered sympathetically.

It said the general amnesty declared by the government until June 30, 1994 would be applicable with regard to all Emergency-related cases and also with regard to warrants of arrest against unsettled cases.

It said that the returnees would get back their land and that the tribals would not be rehabilitated in clustered villages.

The question of restoring the jobs of those who were in service before leaving Bangladesh in 1986 would also be considered. The questions of seniority and service benefits would also be considered under the existing service rules, it added.

It further said that arrangements would be made for taking special examinations for the students who will bring with them their SSC and HSC certificates from the schools and colleges set up at the refugee camps in Tripura state of India.

The opportunities for readmission into schools and colleges would be expanded for the students in the returnee families, it said.

Clinton, Yeltsin agree to stop killing in Bosnia

WASHINGTON, Feb 12: President Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin agreed Friday to work together to stop the killing in Bosnia as the United States put new limits on its share of any future peacekeeping burden, reports Reuter.

Clinton and Yeltsin finally connected on a long-distance call after 48 hours of telephone tag, which was seen by some as a reflection of Russian displeasure with NATO's February 21 deadline for a pullback of Serb artillery ringing Sarajevo.

We had a very good talk, and we agreed that we had the same long-term objective, which is achieving a just peace agreement, and the same short-term objective, relieving the shelling of Sarajevo, and we agreed there would be further discussions today at the UN, Clinton said.

4 held with fake passports at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

Customs and Immigration Department arrested four persons with fake passports when they tried to board a Bangladesh Biman flight for New York Friday at the Zia International Airport.

The arrested were later handed over to Cantonment police.

The four were held under Section 54 of BPC, according to the Cantonment police.

Pakistan for impartial monitors in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Feb 12: Pakistan asked India today to accept the stationing of impartial monitors along the border in Kashmir, after New Delhi again blamed Islamabad for the ongoing strife in the Himalayan state, reports AFP.

If India believed its own propaganda, it would agree to station UN observers or other impartial monitors along the dividing line of control in Kashmir between India and Pakistan, a Pakistani Foreign Office spokesman said.

The whole world knows full well the reality of the situation in Indian-occupied Kashmir, the spokesman said, reacting to a statement by New Delhi's External Affairs Ministry Friday.

The ministry, rejecting a US official's reported statement comparing the situation in Afghanistan to Kashmir, said that Pakistan-sponsored terrorism was the major hurdle to peace in Kashmir.

India holds the southern two thirds of Kashmir while the northern third of the disputed region is controlled by Pakistan.

The spokesman said the 600,000 Indian troops in Kashmir area much larger military presence than the

Police said the incident occurred when a *shashid* (arbitration) was being held in the house of one Babu Miah over a boundary dispute with his neighbour. The opposing group, armed with deadly weapons, swooped on the assembly. They also fired about 45 blank shots, it was alleged.



Shahjahan Siraj, MP, addressing a meeting at the National Press Club in the city yesterday organised to condole the death of Abdul Quddus Makhani. — Star photo

Hundreds of Cubans flock to US mission for visa

MEXICO CITY, Feb 12: Cuban police surrounded the US mission in Havana on Saturday after hundreds of people flocked there thinking American visas were available, Cuban sources said, reports AP.

Havana residents reached by telephone from Mexico City said more than 300 people converged on the waterfront mission in the Vedado district Friday night because of a rumour that the US Interest Section was giving visas to anybody who wanted them. US officials said the rumour was untrue.

The residents said most of the people were from Havana's Miguel de Padron neighbourhood, a poorer area where black market activity flourishes.

The number of arrests was not certain, but residents said witnesses told them many of the 300 or so were detained. They said many youths relaxing on the Malecon, a popular oceanfront walk that passes in front of the interest section, also were detained.

The US Interest Section handles American affairs in Havana. It is located in the building that housed the US Embassy before Fidel Castro took power in 1959 and the countries severed diplomatic relations.

Officially the section is a part of the Swiss Embassy.

Conditions in Cuba have deteriorated since the collapse of the Soviet Union, which propped up the communist is-

land with financial and military aid.

Virtually everything is rationed or unavailable. Cubans try to make the dangerous 90-mile crossing to Florida almost daily, often in nothing more than inner tubes.

The percentage of pass in the BA examinations is 42.67 while that in the BSC examinations is 42.42.

The examinations were held during June-July last year.

Of the successful candidates in the BA examinations, six got first class while 1520 were placed in the second class and the rest 11,232 in the third class. Among the first class holders, Md Durul Huda of Bogra Government Azizul Haq College secured the first position followed by Md Hujjatullah of Pabna Government Edward College and Abdur Rashid of Rajshahi Government College. All three were external candidates.

Nobody secured first class in the BSC examinations. While 147 passed in the second class, 1421 were placed in the third class.

Shafiquzzaman AL nominee for Magura-2 seat

The Bangladesh Awami League yesterday unanimously nominated Shafiquzzaman Bachchu for the elections of Magura-2 seat reports BSS.

The nomination was given by the Awami League parliamentary board meeting held at its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue with party chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Shafiquzzaman is the eldest son of late Sangsad Member Asaduzzaman. Former Chhatra League leader Shafiquzzaman Bachchu is now holding the post of Health, Population and Environment Affairs Secretary of the Magura district unit of the Awami League.

Pollwatch body faults EC

By Staff Correspondent

Failure to stop violations of election rules and conduct the polls on January 30 strictly in accordance with the rules have tarnished the image of the Election Commission (EC), noted the joint conveners of the National Steering Committee for observing the City Corporation Elections, 1994 at a discussion meeting in the capital yesterday.

More than 8,000 people have died in the Indian-administered zone of Kashmir since 1989 amid a Muslim campaign for freedom, which New Delhi calls a secessionist drive inspired by Pakistan.

At the discussion meeting the joint conveners — Dr Hamida Hossain and Justice KM Subhan, speaking about their observations regarding the polls, said, the voters' list was faulty, the polling booths were not adequately manned by security forces and there were instances of false voting.

The meeting, organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Law and International Affairs, was presided over by Syed Ishaq Ahmed, Bar-at-Law. The Honorary Director of the Institute was present on the occasion.

Justice Subhan pointed out that the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) had given repeated warnings against the violation of election rules but actually he had taken no action against those who violated the rules.

The CEC went to the extent of saying that he would be a muscleman three times more powerful than a single muscleman, if necessary, to ensure free fair and peaceful polling. Such statements only undermine the image of the EC, Subhan said.

However, he observed, the turnout of voters was satisfactory.

Hamida Hossain said a survey among 900 families in the Eskatan-Nayatola area had found that 40 per cent of the eligible voters' names were missing from the list.

Slum dwellers, in general, were not enlisted as voters although they are permanent residents of the city, she pointed out.

The expenditure limit of Tk five lakh for the mayoral nominees and Tk 50,000 for the ward commissioner candidates also proved to be absurd. Almost none of the candidates, it seems, kept within the limit, she pointed out.

They also criticised the EC for not allowing the 450 Steering Committee members to monitor the polls although the EC provided ID cards to the JASAS, Subhechcha and Khan Foundation members.

It also criticised the EC for not allowing the 450

Steering Committee members to monitor the polls although the EC provided ID cards to the JASAS, Subhechcha and Khan Foundation members.

Meanwhile, the Business

Advisory Committee of the Jatiya Sangsad, stood sharply divided over whether further discussion on the issue of the judges' appointments were necessary.

The treasury bench representatives in the committee felt that the discussion on the issue was now completely unnecessary after the crisis had been amicably settled between the Chief Justice and the government, and especially since the judges had already taken their oaths of office on the day (Thursday).

The minister reportedly accused him of being 'partisan' for not following the custom of formally congratulating the new judges as the ex-officio president of the Bar Council and the Leader of the Bar.

On that day the Supreme Court Bar Association had also passed a resolution expressing reservations about the appointments and deciding not to felicitate the new judges.

After leaving his resignation letter with Wadud Khandaker, Haq left the office without taking the official car, the sources said. He then went to a relative's residence in Uttara and stayed there Thursday and Friday.

Haq could not be contacted even after repeated attempts by this correspondent during the two-day episode. Family members at his residence, when contacted over telephone, informed that he was staying in Uttara and could not be reached there.

The family members, when asked, could not confirm or deny reports of his resignation and said they had only heard the news in a BBC broadcast.

Bangladesh Foreign Minis-

try officials said Dhaka has no conflict with the two documents.

They referred to the fact that Pakistan, not being a sign