

Announcement

Good news for young people from today The Daily Star launches a new weekly page — 'Teens and Twenties' — for our young readers. To be published every Saturday, 'Teens and Twenties' will cater to the needs and aspirations of college and university students, and of those of our young professionals.

We invite our readers of the above generation to write and participate in the activities of this page. 'Teens and Twenties' is YOUR page. Send in your write-ups and make the page all the more YOURS.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Body to probe IU incident

KUSHIA (Islamic University), Sept 9: A three-member enquiry committee was formed to probe into the Thursday incident on the Islamic University campus. At least 50 students were injured in a clash between students and a police at the varsity campus when some students put road-blockade, reports UNB.

10 tons of hashish seized in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, Sept 9: Authorities said Friday that they seized 10 tons of hashish hidden in cotton bales and arrested three people in what is believed to be the country's biggest drug bust, reports AP.

# Dhaka braces for today's Opposition 'siege'

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League-led opposition parties said yesterday they were fully prepared to enforce the 'Dhaka siege' today while the authorities imposed ban on processions and rallies in parts of the city.

Opposition sources said preparations have been completed to 'cut off the capital from the rest of the country' to press home the demand for a caretaker government for holding general elections.

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday prohibited organising rallies and processions at 12 strategic points around the Secretariat.

Police sources said around 10,000 police, Ansar, and BDR personnel would be deployed to avert possible trouble on the day.

The Awami League originally announced the 'siege'

programme nearly two months ago, which was later supported by the Jatiya Party (JP) and Jamaat-e-Islami, who have also been boycotting Parliament sessions since March.

The JP would organise a similar 'siege' programme on the day while the Jamaat would hold a rally near the Baitul Mukarram mosque in the afternoon.

Opposition sources said that the AL supporters would concentrate around the Secretariat while the JP workers would lay the 'siege' near Shapla Chatter.

"We would try to enforce the siege from 8 am to 2-30 pm," an Opposition source said.

Meanwhile, sources said government officials have been instructed to reach their respective offices before the Opposition agitation begins.

Newspaper transports and other emergency services would remain exempted from the 'siege' programme, organisers said.

Torch processions and agitations by the Opposition supporters in preparation for the 'siege' and a visible police preparation for the day created tensions.

Traffic movement in the city was thin yesterday while the long-distance buses remained parked at the terminals.

Sources concerned said inter-district transport services remained suspended since 11 am yesterday and it would continue till this evening.

"I don't know who has called the 'strike'. But I heard the transport owners decided not to operate their vehicles," See Page 12 Col 8

# AL, JP, Jamaat call half-day hartal tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

Three major opposition parties have called a half-day hartal in the capital on Sunday to protest what they said, the government's undemocratic acts to foil today's 'Dhaka siege' programme.

The call for a 6 am to 2 pm strike was given by the central leaders of the Awami League, the Jatiya Party and the Jamaat at their party meetings yesterday.

The AL central working committee meeting was chaired by AL chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina. The meeting was held at her Minto Road official residence.

The meeting noted with grave concern that the government had taken 'repressive measures' on Awami League leaders and workers to foil the Dhaka siege programme. An AL press release said.

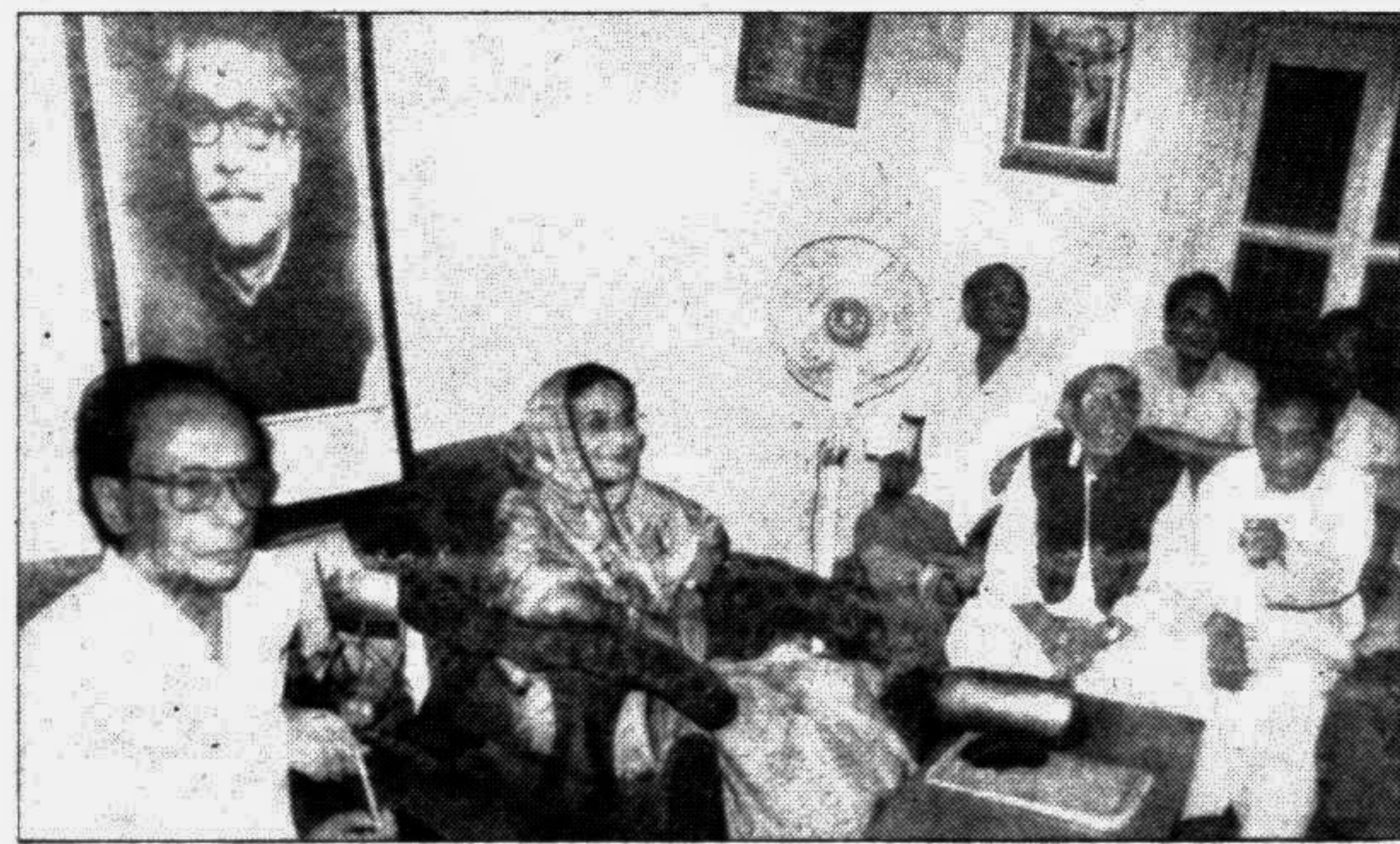
It alleged, the government See Page 12 Col 8

# Rallies, processions banned in some city areas

The Commissioner of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police yesterday issued an order prohibiting holding of any gathering, procession and demonstration in certain areas of the capital for 24 hours in view of the Dhaka siege programme by certain political parties today, reports BSS.

The 24-hour prohibition order, effective from midnight of yesterday has been issued out of apprehension of breach of peace at the Bangladesh Secretariat and adjoining areas in the context of the Dhaka siege programme, according to a police press release.

The areas where holding of any gathering, procession and demonstration has been prohibited are House-Building Finance Corporation, Purana Pallig, Southern part of the middle link road between the GPO and Baitul Mukarram. See Page 12 Col 7



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina presiding over an emergency meeting of the party's working committee at her Minto Road residence in the city yesterday. AL General Secretary Zillur Rahman, Presidium members Abdus Samad Azad and Abdul Mannan are also seen. — Star photo



The low lying areas of the city were submerged in yesterday's downpour. This picture was taken from Fakirerpool area. — Star photo

# New widely accepted compromise in Cairo

CAIRO, Sept 9: A compromise has been widely accepted on the abortion controversy which has held up the UN population conference, delegates said, reports AFP.

A new compromise proposal for the 116-page draft action plan aimed at limiting world population growth was widely accepted although the Vatican and a few countries like Malta and Ecuador still have reservations, delegates said.

The Vatican said in a statement that it welcomed much of the proposal on a disputed paragraph on abortion, and that this 'position constitutes a substantial but not complete identification with the text of the paragraph.'

It said it 'withholds its assents' until other areas of the action plan where abortion is also mentioned are dealt with.

The proposed compromise text on the abortion paragraph

uses the World Health Organization definition of unsafe abortion as 'a procedure for terminating an unwanted pregnancy either by persons lacking the necessary skills or in an environment lacking the minimum medical standards or both.'

It changes a reference to 'legal' abortion — objected to by the Vatican — to abortion that 'is not against the law.' It also says abortion should not be encouraged as a method of family planning, its legality should be left to individual countries and that women with unwanted pregnancies must be treated with compassion, not punishment.

The text has the backing of the United States, European Union and Nordic nations, and some Muslim states, including Iran and Pakistan.

AP adds: With a hard-bargained compromise position See Page 12 Col 3

# Downpour in city

By Staff Correspondent

The city experienced a downpour yesterday that left many roads and low-lying areas inundated.

Traffic movement was disrupted in the city in the afternoon as many of the roads in Shantinagar, Kakrail, Rajarbagh, Moghbazar, Gopibagh, Tikatuli, Green Road, Gandaria, Postagola, and Mirpur areas had gone under one to two feet deep water. Normal life was disrupted.

The Ramna and Dhanmondi lakes rose sharply due to the rainfall.

The Met office recorded 18 mm rainfall during the day in the city. The temperature varied from 25.5 degree Celsius to 29 degree.

Many of the districts also experienced rainfall yesterday. The highest rainfall of 70 mm was recorded in Bogra. The rainfall in other areas was: Barisal and Mymensingh 40 mm each, Majdicourt 36 mm, Chuadanga 35, Rajshahi See Page 12 Col 7

# Four run over by trains

By DMCH Correspondent

Four persons were killed in two separate railway accidents in the city yesterday.

Three persons including two women were killed when a train coming from Mymensingh ran over them at Banani rail gate at about 8 am yesterday.

The victims who died on the spot were not immediately identified.

In another rail way accident an unidentified person aged about 60 was knocked down by a speeding train at Kawran Bazar railway crossing at about 1:30 pm yesterday.

The victim died on the spot.

Police sent all the bodies to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

# Bosnia to get all means for self-defence OIC for referendum in Kashmir

ISLAMABAD, Sept 9: Islamic states ended an extraordinary session here today with strong support for a referendum in Kashmir which Pakistan described as a concrete achievement, reports AFP.

Pakistani Foreign Minister Asaf Ali said the resolution adopted at the special meeting of the 51-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was 'strong in denouncing human rights violations in Kashmir.'

It shows stronger support on the issue than the previous conferences, he added.

All praised the 'excellent unity and cooperation' achieved at the conference, 'although our adversaries had been trying to sow seeds of discord.'

Diplomats here said the establishment of an OIC contact group on Kashmir was the conference's 'modest' achievement.

From Pakistan's point of view, it was a step to internationalise its decades-old dispute with India, they said, pointing out that India had always insisted on a bilateral approach on Kashmir.

However, the diplomats doubted the consensus demonstrated at the OIC would be maintained on a 'neutral ground' like the United Nations General Assembly, as many Islamic countries have strong economic relations with India.

All told reporters after the conference that Pakistan would be going to the General Assembly with 'cautious optimism' about the passage of a resolution in Kashmir, over which India and Pakistan have fought two of their three wars.

OIC Secretary-General Hamid Al-Gabid said the contact group on Kashmir would help bring about a unified stand at the United Nations.

"I appeal to the Indian government to hold a sincere, earnest dialogue with Kashmiris and Pakistan," Gabid said at the end of the three-day extraordinary session.

The conference had asked Gabid to establish contact with India and Pakistan and 'the true representatives' of the Kashmiri people to promote a just and peaceful settlement of the issue.

He had invited leaders of the umbrella Hurriyat (freedom) conference of Kashmiri militant groups to come to Islamabad to explain their case to him during the conference. But India earlier this week refused to allow them to travel to Pakistan.

A Pakistani move to raise the Kashmir issue at the UN Human Rights Commission had fizzled out in March on an Iranian withdrawal.

Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, at a news conference here today, was cautious again.

"We believe in a peaceful solution of the problem," he said, stressing that Iran was opposed to interference in the internal affairs of any country.

The Foreign Minister today See Page 12 Col 1

# Transport strike in city Road links with rest of country disrupted

Road communication between the capital and the rest of the country was disrupted yesterday due to an indefinite strike called by Dhaka Road Transport Association (DRTA), reports UNB.

The association representing transport owners enforced the strike Thursday evening to protest harassment of the owners and workers by police in the name of 'long ship' through which one could be fined up to Tk 5,000.

Fifteen transport owners and 15 workers were reportedly injured in a clash with police at Fulbaria bus terminal on Thursday following altercation between a police sergeant and a minibus worker.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Bus-Owners Association has suspended plying of bus-minibus from Gabtoli bus terminal for today due to non-fulfillment of its demands for repair of roads and removal of See Page 12 Col 6

# US plane crash kills all 131 on board

ALIQUIPPA, Pennsylvania, Sept 9: The plane banked to the right, rolled a few times and headed straight down. There was a muffled boom. Then the sky turned bright with flames as a black cloud of smoke mushroomed into the air, reports AP.

It was "like the whole world was exploding," according to one person who saw the USAir jetliner nose-dive into a ravine Thursday.

All 131 people aboard Flight 427 were believed killed. It was the deadliest crash in the United States since 1987 and USAir's fifth fatal crash in as many years.

"I haven't seen anything like it since World War II," said James Albert, chairman of the Beaver County Commission. "I was in the infantry, and I saw a lot of bad stuff, but this looks like somebody went through with a giant claw."

The USAir flight originated in Chicago and was to stop in Pittsburgh before continuing to West Palm Beach, Florida.

Air traffic controllers lost contact with the plane when it was about seven miles (11 kms) from Pittsburgh International Airport, said Pat Boyle, a spokesman for the Allegheny County Department of Aviation. There was no indication of a problem on the flight.

Investigators hoped to gain some clues from the plane's black box, which records flight data. An emergency worker said the box was recovered.

The Boeing 737-300 crashed in a rocky, heavily wooded ravine.

A pilot, nurse and paramedic landed in a medical helicopter and walked through the site moments after the crash. They saw bodies, luggage. See Page 12 Col 7

# British MPs for early end to political impasse

By Nurul Kabir

The visiting British parliamentary delegation has expressed concern over the present political impasse and said that if the crisis continued further it would definitely affect the nation's economy.

In an interview with The Daily Star yesterday, Conservative Party MP and leader of the six-member delegation Michael Colvin and Labour Party MP and a member of the team Andrew Bennet expressed this view.

They also suggested the leaders of the opposing camps in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS), whom they have already met, to resolve the crisis soon within the purview of parliamentary rules and customs, the British MPs told The Daily Star.

Bangladesh needed more investment and the country's infrastructure needed to be improved, the delegation leader said.

"While the government and the Opposition are crying over alleged ballot rigging in a particular constituency, the investors are getting frightened."

Supporting Colvin's contention, Bennet said "Capital is very mobile today, it even takes no time to migrate if political stability is not ensured in a country."

On the Opposition boycott of parliament sessions to press

home its demand for holding general elections under a caretaker government, both the British MPs said, the proposed provision for a caretaker administration was unprec-

edented in a democracy, while boycott of House proceedings was inconsistent with parliamentary democracy.

Colvin said, "there is no such example of holding elections under a caretaker government in the world, except-

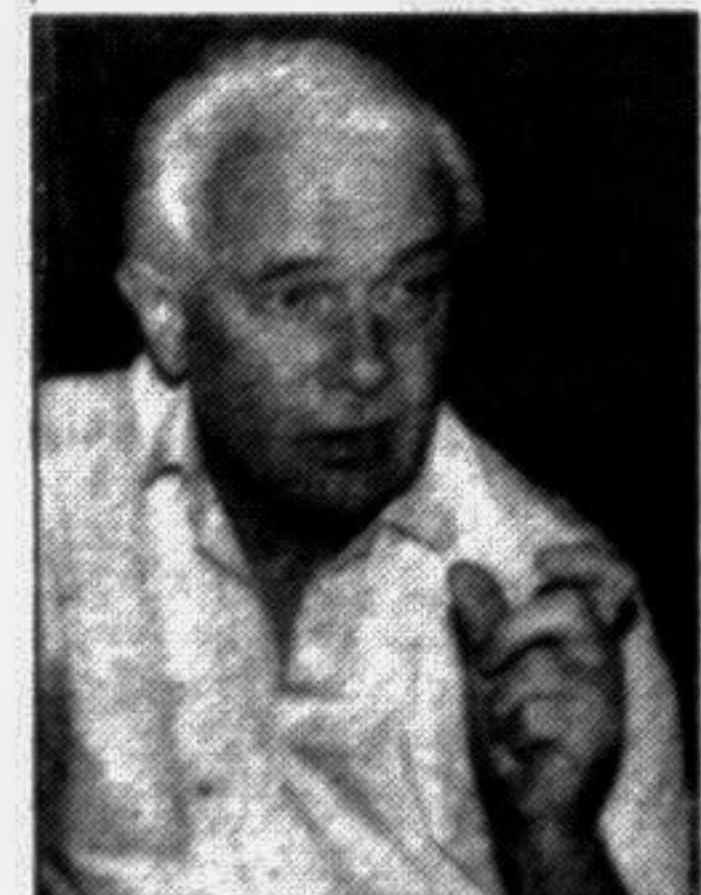
ing in the cases of some nation's transition from military dictatorship to democracy."

Andrew said "the ruling party is entitled to run the government, while the Opposition is

supposed to assert ideas in a democracy."

Replying to a question, Andrew, who belongs to the Opposition bench in the House of Commons, said "the boycott is not consistent with the norms and customs of parliamentary democracy."

"The best way to put pressure on the government is not to cooperate with the treasury bench to see that the government side is busy inside the House day and night," ruling Conservative MP Colvin noted.



Michael Colvin



Andrew Bennet

# Attack on cars, minibuses of a bridal party

Unruly youths damaged several cars and minibuses of a bridal party at the Jatrabari area of the city yesterday evening.

Some passengers told BSS over phone that the youths with rods and hockey sticks attacked the cars which included three minibuses. The bridal party was returning from Gajaria under Munshiganj district.

The wife and daughter of BSS special correspondent Delwar Hossain were injured in the attack on their car.

Our staff correspondent adds: A group of young men damaged a windshield of the car of retired Major General K M Shafulah at Jatrabari in the city yesterday.

The youngsters pelted stones at the car when Shafulah was on his way to Ruppaganj, Narayanganj, from Dhaka around 9 in the morning.

Shafulah filed a General Diary (GD) with the Demra police but no arrest was made, said police.

Shafulah, a former chief of army staff, joined the Awami League recently.



**RAJUK Commercial Plot Auction Notice**

Most suitable Commercial-Cum-Residential Plot No-101 & 103 having road facilities on two sides at Dhaka Mymensingh Road, in Sector-7 of Uttara Model Town, Dhaka measuring more or less 715.25 Sqr. metre (10 Katha 11 Chhattak) and 702.70 Sqr metre (10 Katha 8 Chhattak) respectively will be allotted for 99 years' lease, on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form with terms and conditions to be obtained from Sonali Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment of Tk 200/- (Taka two hundred) only in cash for each set (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from the intending bidders up to 2:00 PM on 25-9-94 for Plot No-101 and up to 2:00 PM on 27-9-94 for Plot No-103.

The auction will be held on 26-9-94 for Plot-101 and on 28-9-94 for Plot-103 in conference room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10 AM.

**Chairman**  
DPP-3806/6/9 Rajdhan Unnayan Kartipakkha, Dhaka  
G-1393