## Bill seeking death penalty for offenders introduced

A bill was introduced in Parliament vesterday seeking to provide for stiff punishment, including death penalty, for certain grievous offences against women and children. reports UNB

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury introduced the bill titled 'The Women and Chil dren Repression (Special Provisions) Bill, 1995

The bill seeks to provide death penalty for killing a woman or a child by using harmful, poisonous or corrosive substance, raping or gangraping women and children. and killing a woman for dowry.

Under the provisions, the offender will be liable to seven years to life imprisonment for damaging eye or eyesight, head or face, hearing ability, any part of the body of women and children by using harmful, poisonous or corrosive substance.

The bill calls for capital punishment for raping or gang raping. It also says, the offender will be liable to life imprisonment if he tries to kill or injure a woman and a child after raping.

It provides for life imprisonment to anyone found guilty of importing, exporting, buying or selling of a woman for engaging her in prostitution or illegal sexual acts.

#### JP office case: 4 more PWs examined

Four prosecution witnesses (PWs) including a lady official were examined by a special judge's court yesterday in a corruption case against deposed president Hussain Muhammad Ershad, reports

With yesterday's deposition, 17 PWs have so far testified in the Special Case No 50 of 1993 before Zinat Ara, Additional District and Sessions Judge (First Court), Dhaka and Special Judge.

Former Works Minister Mostafa Jamal Haider and former Works Secretary M A Rouf are co-accused with Ershad in this case which relates to the spending of state funds for the repair, renovation and refurbishing of an abandoned house (House No 104, Road-3, Dhanmondi Residential Area) for the use of the then ruling Jatiya Party. Maksuda Begum, assistant

director, Directorate of Government Accommodation, Azizul Haq, senior assistant secretary, Ministry of Finance, Ibn Ahmed, assistant secretary, Ministry of Works and S M Moshiur Rahman, head assistant, Maintenance Department of the PWD, Segun Bagicha who were witnesses to the seizure list, made their depositions vesterday.

The defence counsels declined to cross-examine most of the witnesses. PM calls for consensus

From Page 1 Col 7

"We have to identify our

strengths and weaknesses, our

flaws and virtues. Open discus-

sions in seminars like this can

make valuable contributions in

dergoing a historic transforma-

tion and the coming century

promises intense competition

among the nations of the world

for economic advancement

she added. "To survive in this

competition and to achieve

prosperity, we must move for-

ward with caution and fore-

The Prime Minister pointed

out that the free-market eco-

nomic programme has enabled

the government to increase

export earnings and enhance

domestic resources while a

new entrepreneurial class has

The main goal of the liberal

policies and structural reforms

has been to attain national self-

reliance through maximum

exploitation of all sectors of

room for complacence. We

have to reinforce and streng-

then our position," Begum Zia

we can carry forward struc-

tural adjustments without ex-

cessively harming any segment

of society. We have to realise

that faster implementation of

reforms programme would

marginalise some sections of

ssed the need for women's

development as an essential

ingredient of the human re-

sources development pro-

effort is meaningless without

the effective participation of

the people as greater issues of

development and politics are

filment of the basic needs of

the people and empowerment

of the poor," Begum Zia added.

"Democracy will have a firm

base only when politics re-

"No politician can avoid ful-

She said the development

The Prime Minister stre-

society."

gramme.

involved.

added. "We have to analyse how

"But we do not have much

the economy, she said.

also emerged in the country.

The new world order is un-

ternational realities.

this field," she said.

sight."

It seeks seven to ten years imprisonment for offenders using a woman for prostitution. for forcible marriage or sexual

The bill also provides for death sentence to anyone found guilty of killing a woman for non-payment of dowry. It says the offender will be given life imprisonment for smuggling or keeping hostage a

It says the trial of such offences will be held under a special tribunal to be set up at each district headquarters.

In a statement explaining the aims and objectives of the bill, the Home Minister said cases like women repression and killing have increased because of trafficking in women and children, raping, killing women and children, and nonpayment of dowry

He admitted that these grievous offences have been increasing despite existing laws like the Women Repression Act, the Anti-Dowry Act and the Children's Act."

If the proposed law is en acted, the Home Minister said, it would be possible to take tough measures against the offences relating to repression on women and children. Speedy trial would also be possible to dispose of cases under the Act, he added

#### Wrong choice of prey

By Staff Correspondent

A teenaged street mugger suffered a bullet wound and was rounded up by police for his wrong choice of prey in the city early vesterday morning.

llias, 19, allegedly ventured to mug Sahadat Hossain, a police sergeant who arrived from Chittagong in plain clothe near the Mirpur Ansar Camp around 6:30 in the morning.

When Sahadat pulled out his pistol and pointed it at Ilias he tried to run away by exploding crackers, police said.

Sahadat shot Ilias in his leg and nabbed him instantly, police added,

#### Arjun's reply to showcause today

NEW DELHI. Feb 5: Suspended Congress (I) leader Arjun Singh will submit tomorrow a detailed point-by-point reply to the showcause notice issued to him by the All India. Congress (I) Committee for alleged anti-party activities. reports PTI.

Mirza Hafiz

From Page 1 Col 5 needed to complete the ID cards, the Law Minister proposed to defer the matter for the day to discuss it with the

The speaker approved his proposal and deferred it for

volves around development."

· Noting that the emerging

global order would be one of

primacy of competition for

economic strength and power,

Foreign Minister Mostafizur

Rahman said that Bangladesh

is preparing itself "truly and

courageously" to face the new

order, despite its shortcom-

political democracy and eco-

nomic liberalism are integral

to the ideals and value system

of this country," he added.

"I have always believed that

Considerations for stronger

economic link would now play

a greater role than eyer before

in articulating the foreign pol-

icy agenda, he said. "This is

true of our foreign relations in

each of its aspects — bilateral,

As part of the foreign policy

reorientation, Bangladesh

would reinforce its commit-

ment to regional cooperation

in South Asia under the banner

of the SAARC, the foreign

minister said. "The most im-

portant lesson the recent

global changes has given to the

countries of South Asia as a

region is that there is no al-

ternative to devoting redou-

bled efforts to the strengthen-

should not only devise means

to consolidate and implement

progresses already made like

SAPTA, but also gradually in-

clude other core areas of co-

operation like investment, in-

dustry and finance, the minis-

"One of the major chal-

lenges for South Asia, and for

that matter for Bangladesh, is

how to make a departure from

a conflictual to a course of

meaningful cooperation for

mutual benefit which would

also enable the member states

to respond collectively to the

challenges posed and opportu-

also attended by a good num-

ber of diplomats, academi-

cians, researchers, social sci-

and military officials.

entists and senior government

The inaugural session was

nities offered," he observed.

ter pointed out.

The countries of the region

ing of the SAARC process."

regional and multilateral."

ings and setbacks.

#### Environment protection bill adopted

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday adopted two bills including the Bangladesh Environment Protection Bill. 1995, reports

Moved by Environment and Forest Minister Akbar Hossain the bill sought to create a legal infrastructure to protect and develop environment and con trol environmental pollution.

The House also passed the Bangladesh Merchant Shipping (Amendment) Bill. 1995, pi loted by Shipping Minister M K Anwar

The bill on environment protection makes it mandatory to take environmental clearance from the Director General of the Department of Environment for any new in dustry or development project except the specified class of industries decided by the government for relaxation from time to time

Under this law, the government may declare an area "ecological critical." if the eco-system of that area is threatened due to environ mental degradation. The government by notification could prohibit or restrict some activities in that area with a view to improving the environmental situation.

The bill prohibits plying of any motor vehicle with emits black smoke which is harmful to human health and the envi-

#### Complete Bangla grammar needed

By Staff Correspondent

Director General of the Bangla Academy Prof Mohammad Harun-ur-Rashid has stressed the need for introducing a complete grammar of the Bengali language.

He was addressing a discussion on the occasion of publishing the second edition of the Bengali-English Dictionary by the Bangla Academy at the academy yesterday.

Speakers at the discussion observed that there was no alternative to this dictionary in meeting practical demands. says a press release.

A 'poetry recitation programme was also held at the 'lekhakkunja' at the academy yesterday afternoon with Syed Shamsul Haq in the chair.

Rafiq Azad, Humayun Azad, Tariq Suzat, Pradip Mitra and Asad Chowdhury recited poems at the function conducted by Md Nurul Huda and Asad Chowdhury.

Later, the Bangla Academy DG unveiled the cover of Mohon Raihan's newly published poetry book 'Ghatak Noi Pre-

#### 50 kutcha houses gutted in Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Feb 5: A devastating fire gutted some 50 kutcha houses including cash and valuable goods at village Kalanipara in sadar than early today, reports UNB.

The fire, originated from a kitchen of a house in the village raged through and quickly spread to the adjacent areas at about 3 am destroying goods and property worth Tk 75

Firefighters along with the help of the local people extinguished the fire after an hour.

The Local Government Chairman Samiran Dewan, Deputy Commissioner Md Ismail and Superintendent of

Police visited the affected area. Different social organizations have distributed aid among the fire victims.

## James P Grant remembered



to some children in Manikganj on Feb 5, 1994 during his visit to this country

By Staff Correspondent

James P Grant's dedication and contributions to the cause of children the world over were recalled at a memorial assembly organised by UNICEF in a city hotel vesterday.

"He was the champion of the cause of children," State Minister for Women and Children's Affairs Begum Sarwari Rahman said in a tribute to James Grant, executive director of the Unicef who died of cancer on January 28, two days "His love and compassion

for deprived children made him the oldest young man. He showed us how to nurture and we, in Bangladesh, started work based on his ideals," she Millions of children lived

to see adulthood because of him," said A Moyeen Khan, the State Minister for Planning. referring to Grant's commitment to immunisation and oral dehydration therapy (ODT) programmes. Although he did his greatest

work with the Unicef he had always been involved in international development, David N Merrili, the US Ambassador to Bangladesh, said of Grant's il lustrious career spanning over five decades. "He was not only an interna-

tional civil servant, he was also a great American. He began his life's work in China (where he was born) in the 40s and made his mark in the USAID, the State Department and the Overseas Development Council," Merrill added. There will-always be-a little

of James Grant in every healthy Bangladeshi child. He is in every hamlet of this country, Fazle Hasan Abed, Executive Director, BRAC said, recalling Grant's visit to Bangladesh in February '94. He was a simple man with simple ideas who, through his efforts, infused new and bigger life into the Unicef, Abed recalled.

a test case. If it works in Bangladesh, it will work any where,' he would say of pet projects such as the iodisation of salt and ODT." the Unicef Representative in Bangladesh Rolf C Carriere said in his speech. "He always took a personal interest in fieldwork and he brought children's issues out of the realm of charity into the realm of fundamental rights," Carriere added, re counting Grant's unflagging energy and vision

"For Grant, Bangladesh was

Through his leadership qualities and courage, Grant added credibility to the whole of the UN system, Dr. Eimi Watanabe, UNDP representative said. Continuing, she said Grand realised that no goals could be achieved without political commitment and thus he greatly appreciated the importance of regional bodies like SAARC, Grant had enriched the lives of those who had worked with him. Dr Watanabe added. "Grant was a realist and he

always went for simple projects that did not require much money but a lot of dedication and enthusiasm." M Asafuddowlah, Member, Plan ning Commission said in his tribute to the great man with the simplicity of a child. "He was a great friend of

Bangladesh and her people. Mahfuz Anam, Editor, The Daily Star said of James Grant He was not only a dreamer but also a tough task; master; an optimist, he brought the cause of children to the centre stage of global attention. Anam

Earlier, a children's chorus from the American International School. Dhaka rendered two songs and Manzur-I-Mowia recited one of his poems dedicated to Grant's memory. A short film on Grant's numerous visits 'abroad was also

#### From Page 1 Col 7 2 killed in city 4 held with drugs

By DMCH-Correspondent A special squad of the Narcotics Control Department An engineer and an unidenof the Dhaka sub region yestified boy were killed in road terday seized huge quantity of accidents in the city's Kallyanliquor and several bottles of pur and Mahakhali areas yes-Phensidyl from three separate raids and arrested four people Arif Ansari, 45. an engineer in these connections, reports

> died on the spot when a minibus crushed an autorickshaw at Kallyanpur around 1:00 pm. Ansari was in the autorickshaw. Police said, the minibus

driver fled, leaving behind his vehicle. The autorickshaw driver, whose name could not be known immediately, was seriously injured and admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). A boy aged about 10 was run

over by a bus at Mohakhali in the morning. He also died on the spot.

Mentioning the government

measures, he said the present

government, after assuming

power, has been continuing ef-

forts to reach agreement with

India to establish and protect

the country's legitimate right

over the international rivers

The minister said the gov-

ernment held 10 meetings

with India at the secretary.

minister and prime minister

levels. The Bangladesh Prime

Minister raised the issue at the

48th session of the United Na-

tions on October 1, 1993 as

there was no progress in these

that the Bangladesh foreign

minister also reiterated the

Farakka problem in the follow-

He informed Parliament

bilateral level meetings.

record low water level.

including the Ganges.

#### Tk 11300cr loss due to Farakka increase of salinity, fall of both From Page 1 Col 5 inoperative because of the

On a tip-off, the team dur-

ing their operation at Bagbari

in Mirpur thana seized 65 bot-

tles of the banned syrup and

arrested three people for pos-

In another drive, the squad

arrested one person and

seized 240 cans of liquor from

his possession at Nayabazar in

Kotwali thana of the city. The

cans were kept inside a mi-

Cases were filed with re-

sessing the drugs.

crobus.

spective thanas.

The minister said Bangladesh will continue to raise the issue of water-sharing of international rivers, including the Ganges, at national and international levels until the country's legitimate right over the rivers is established. He informed the House that

the government has constituted a body - the Water Resources Planning Organisation (WARPO) - under the Water Resources Ministry to formulate a national water policy. He, however, said that it is

very difficult to formulate any such policy until the shares of international rivers are en-Detailing the present situa-

tion of the common and bor dering rivers, Majid-ul Huq said India's unilateral withdrawal of water by constructing illegal infrastructures over the common rivers, including the Ganges, resulted in a desertification process in the northern part of Bangladesh. The environmental balance

is also in the process of being destroyed, he said listing the negative impact on the country's landscape and hydrological process due to construction of infrastructures by India. These are: the raising of the

river beds due to siltation,

changes of river courses, re-

duction of land moisture and

underground and surface water levels which create negative impact on supplying water for agriculture, industry, water transportation; fisheries and household chores, and reduction of forest land in the coastal areas because of rising salinity. The minister said that out

of the 230 rivers passing through the country, 57 are international rivers. And with India alone there are 54 common or border-side rivers. Bangladesh is being deprived from controlling most of the common or border-side rivers as their sources are outside He informed the House that

the Indian authorities have built various infrastructures like dams, barrages, crossdams, control-structures, groyens and spars in 40 places on the upstream of 25 rivers that also result in erosion in Bangladesh. Majid-ul-Huq said farmlands

in the Ganges basin in the country are faced with 'severe crisis' because of the unilateral withdrawal of water by India during the dry season. Referring to low flow at the

Hardinge Bridge point of the

in 1993 and 1994, he said all

the pumps of the Ganges-

ing session of the world body. The Prime Minister, Huq said, also raised the issue of the water-sharing problem with the neighbouring country at the conference of the heads of government of Commonwealth countries held October

21, 1993 in Cyprus.

He further told the House that the Prime Minister had a discussion with the Nepalese Prime Minister on water re-Ganges during two dry seasons sources during her visit to the Himalayan country on November 22-24, 1993. Kobadak project had become

#### Call to intensify agitation for trial of 'war criminals'.

By Staff Correspondent Leaders of the Nirmul Committee exchanged views with leaders of different student organisations yesterday and called for intensifying the agitation for trial of war crim inals including Golam Azam.

The meeting, held at the Bangabandhu Avenue office of the committee, also discussed future programmes including the representatives conference of February 10 and the founding anniversary of the organisation the following day. Convener of the Committee

Syed Hasan Imam chaired the meeting, which was attended by Abdur Razzak, Kazi Aref Ahmed Nurul Islam Nahid Molazzal Hossain Chowdhury

#### Biplobi Communist Party leader hacked to death

From Our Correspondent JHENIDAH, Feb 5: A local leader of Biplobi Communist Party (Haq Group). Abdus Shahid Lal, 30, was hacked to death allegedly by armed cadres of the outlawed Sarba hara Party near Arabpur bus stoppage here early today.

Police sources said the miscreants put up barricades en the road near the Arabpur bus stoppage at 2-30 am today and took Shahid Lal to a nearby bush where they chopped him into pieces. Lal was returning home from Dhaka A case was registered with

Jhenidah police but no arrest was made till filing of this report last night.

#### LDF protests price-hike By Staff Correspondent

The Left Democratic Front

(LDF) staged a rally and brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting the price hike of essentials and demanding early elections under a neutral caretaker government. Hundreds of LDF activists

took part in the rally and the procession. The procession was intercepted at the Bangla Motor crossing while it was proceeding towards the Prime Minister's office. Earlier, the LDF rally in front of the Jativa Press Club

was addressed by Nirmal Sen. Rashed Khan Menon, MP, Khaleguzzaman, Mujahidul Islam Selim, Hasanul Huq Inu, Mahbubul Hug and Naim Ja-

## Kazi Zafar

of Kazi Zafar Ahmed violating a government restriction.

hangir were present.

The Bureau in its case said the former prime minister and education minister ordered the Text Book Board, Dhaka to deposit one crore taka in the branch of Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI) Ltd violating government restriction on depositing money in a non-banking institution like the BCI.

As per the directive, the then chairman of the Text Book Board deposited the said amount to the Bangla Bazar branch of the BCI. The BCI was shut down on

April 28, 1992, and for this reason the Board could not draw the deposited money.

#### Indo-Bangla ties From Page 1 Col 4

ture in the future to sustain a much larger volume of export to India than is possible at the moment. They also agreed that to

create an enabling atmosphere for promoting exports from Bangladesh, India should immediately remove all tariffs and quantitative restrictions on a list of Bangladesh's principal exports to India, the summary paper given by the CPD said.

It was also mentioned in the paper that special attention was given to the comparative advantage of Bangladesh to enhance exports to the northeastern regions of India. It was argued at the dia-

logue that "in the absence of trade restrictions from India, it would be mutually advantageous for industries to be set up in eastern side of Bangladesh to be targeted for the north-east Indian market," the summary paper said. In such circumstances ma-

ny Indian industrialists would be inclined to invest in industries located in Bangladesh rather than to supply goods to the north-east from more remote plants in India, it added. Other issues addressed at

the dialogue were related to the advantage of regular consultations on macro-economic policy so that exchange rate or interest rate policies in one country which could be detrimental to the other country. could be anticipated.

# The Midnight Rile

#### Bosnian govt, Serbs agree on safe route for civilians

SARAJEVO. Feb 5: Bosnia's Muslim-led government and rebel Serbs agreed Sunday on safe route for civilians in and out of Sarajevo, a government spokesman said. The agreement permits people in government-held parts of the city to cross the airport into the suburb of Butmir. From there, they can go to government-held central Bosnia then on to Croatia and elsewhere, said Hasan Muratovic, reports AP.

#### Algerian leader decapitated ALGIERS. Feb 5: A leader of Algeria's National Liberation

Front (FLN). Ahmed Kasmi, has been decapitated, security services said today. Kasmi, a member of the central committee of the FLN - formerly Algeria's sole political party - was abducted Tuesday. Only his head was recovered Thursday in a railway station at Khemis-Miliana, west of Algiers the evening daily Horizons quoted security services as saying reports AFP

# JCD, employees clash in BAU: 15 hurt

MYMENSINGH, Feb 5, Gun shots and crackers rocked the Bangladesh Agricultural University (BAU) campus today during a clash between students and employees of the university reports UNB.

At least 15 employees and students were injured, five of them seriously in the clash that ensued over the buying of university admission guides at about 11:30 am near the TSC Employees Union of the

university called an indefinite work stoppage from tomorrow demanding adequate security for their members. Nearly a dozen rounds of

shots were fired and at least 10 crackers exploded during the fight in which the office of the BAU Employees Union was rampaged Witnesses and police said

the JCD activists reportedly severely beat up admission seeker Badal, son of an employee of the BAU, after he purchased an admission guide brought out by workers of the Islami Chhatra Shibir Hearing the incident, victim's father working at the

administrative building rushed to the spot along with his colleagues and exchanged hot words with the JCD support-At one stage the students had attacked the employees

and rampaged the Employees Union office before the clash spread throughout the campus. Newly-elected president by the BAU Employees' Union 4 of a family

#### held in Ctg: Arms recovered CHITTAGONG, Feb 5: Police arrested four members of a

family and recovered arms and ammunition after an encounter at Nawazispur village in Raujan thana Saturday night, Two unauthorised Pakistan-

made guns, one LG and 21 rounds of ammunition were recovered from the scene. Police also recovered for-

eign cosmetics and electronics including a television set worth Tk 20,000 reports UNB. Acting on a tip-off that 11

miscreants are hiding in a house, police raided the house of Hridoy Ranzon Acharya at about 10:30 pm. At one stage of the operation, police said, the gangmen.

opened fire to escape arrest. Some 50 shots were fired from both sides during the twohour-long gunfight. The arrested are house owner Hridov Ranjon Acharya. Smrity Acharya, Swapan Achar-

ya and his wife Savya Rani

Basher were admitted to the Mymensingh Medical College Hospital. Tense situation prevailed in and around the campus. Additional police has been deployed in the area.

Employees Union Hiru Mia,

former GS of the union Liakat

Ali, Abdul Jalil and Aminul

Later in the afternoon, a meeting of the disciplinary committee of the BAU Academic Council was held with the Vice-Chancellor of

the chair JS: Speaker From Page 1 Col 4

Constitution assigned to the legislature, executive and judiciary clearly demarcated roles, each controlled by constitutional provisions and no one organ generally overlapping with the other .... At the beginning of his rul-

ing the Speaker described the "point of order" raised by the Chief Whip. Khandaker Delwar had earlier said the HC issued the rule before the Speaker carried out his responsibility as per Article 67 (2) of the Constitution and Section 177 and 178 of the Rules of Procedure (ROP) of Parliament. The Chief Whip also said

constitutional rights of the Speaker and infringed the sovereignty of Parliament. On the same issue, two treasury bench members had

that the HC rule breached the

submitted two notices. BNP MP Nurul Islam Moni submitted two notices - one under Section 164 and the

the ROP — demanding discussion on the matter. Some of the members including the law minister raised objections against any discus-

other as per Section 147 of

Razzak Ali said he had permitted Moni to discuss the issue according to Section 149 of the ROP and Moni took part in the discussion

sion on the issue

The notices under Section 164 were now with the Privilege Committee. Razzak Ali said he read the

HC ruling very carefully. Abdur Rob Chowdhury also raised some points on the mat-

The Speaker said the matter is very important for the future of democracy and people's aspiration. Considering the importance of the matter, the Chief Justice formed a larger bench to hear it, he noted.

The matter has been discussed in the House for several hours and "I don't think there is further scope to discuss the issue." the Speaker said.



#### RUPALI INSURANCE COMPANY LTD. APPRECIATION

The Board of Directors of Rupali Insurance Company Limited wishes to express its heartiest appreciation and gratitude to the investing public who have generously subscribed to the public issue which has been oversubscribed by about 5 (Five) times. This shows the profound respect and trust the company enjoys as a premier insurer of

With this renewed trust and confidence reposed in the company the Board of Directors is determined and fully committed to provide a much better service to its valued clients in 1995 and the years thereafter.

general business in Bangladesh.

With the approval of the Board.

KHUSHI MOHAN PAUL

Company Secretary

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# Idris Ali. Vice- Chairman of the