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Holiday
 The offices of The Daily Star will remain closed today on the occasion of holy Ashura. Therefore, there will be no issue of the newspaper tomorrow.

Nepal heads for mid-term polls

KATHMANDU, June 9: The six-month-old minority Communist government in Nepal on today recommended dissolution of Parliament and holding of mid-term polls by November, reports AP.

"My government has decided to recommend early elections because of non-cooperative attitude of the opposition," Prime Minister Manmohan Adhikari told reporters after a two-hour meeting with the King.

Adhikari did not resign but acted to stave off a no-confidence vote by the Nepali Congress, the main opposition party, next week.

The King is consulting constitutional experts before taking a decision on Adhikari's recommendation, palace sources said.

"There is no question that Parliament will not be dissolved. I don't think the King will be ill-advised as it is the prime minister's prerogative to make the recommendation under the constitution," Adhikari said.

He acted swiftly as King Birendra convened a special session of Parliament on June 16 to decide a no-confidence motion against the government sponsored by the Nepali Congress.

The special session was requested by the Congress in its bid to oust the government.

The first Marxist government in Nepal came to power in the last November elections as the party emerged as the single largest group in 205-member Parliament with 88 seats. The Congress won 83 seats. The National Democratic Party got 20 members elected.

The minority government has survived so far with the support of the Congress and the National Democratic Party. The next general elections in Nepal are due only in 1999.

"We are negotiating with the NDP to form a coalition government and are confident of its support," said Sher Bahadur Deuba, leader of the Nepali Congress party in Parliament.

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BNP Narsingdi dist committee dissolved

By Staff Correspondent

The Narsingdi district committee of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) has been dissolved and a 15-member convening committee formed with Kazi Abu Emran as its chief, party sources said yesterday.

The convening committee would hold a conference within a month to elect a new committee.

The decision of dissolving the district committee came from the central leadership after more than a month of clashes between two factions of the party unit.

The sons of a BNP MP was killed in a clash on April 29.

Abdul Alim Mridha, MP and Shamsuddin Ahmed, MP, both from the ruling party, led the two factions of Narsingdi BNP.

Mridha was president of the just-dissolved committee.

EC plans convention of major parties

By Nazmul Ashraf

The Election Commission (EC) is planning a convention of major political parties for reaching a "national consensus" on ensuring that the next general elections are held smoothly and properly, according to official sources.

Some other steps, now being sorted out by the EC, include apprising the government of the latest development about the on-going voter registration and the issuance of identity (ID) cards for voters, and seeking amendments to the relevant electoral laws under which the EC is obliged to issue ID card to each and every voter before the next elections, the sources said.

The planned convention of the EC and the political parties having representations in the present Jatiya Sangsad is likely to take place on June 14 at the

Ashura today

By Staff Correspondent

Today is the holy Ashura, the 10th of Muharram.

The Muslim world, observes the day commemorating the supreme sacrifice made by Imam Hossain (RA) and his followers in the desert of Karbala for establishing truth and justice and upholding the cause of Islam.

Imam Hossain (RA), the son of Hazrat Ali (RA), the fourth Caliph of Islam, along with several of his followers embraced martyrdom fighting gallantly against some 30,000 well-trained soldiers of Yazid, on the bank of the river Euphrates.

The Muslim ummah considers the Karbala tragedy as a hallmark in the fight against all sorts of injustice, oppression and vices.

The day is a public holiday in Bangladesh.

Various religious and socio-cultural organisations in the

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Manzur murder case CID likely to arrest another rtd colonel

By Staff Correspondent

CID investigators are planning arrest of an army colonel who has just been retired early for his alleged involvement in the 1981 killing Maj Gen Abul Manzur.

The colonel, who was a major at Chittagong cantonment when Gen Manzur was killed, had been under close surveillance of the CID, sources close to the investigators said.

Major (ret'd) Kazi Emdadul Huq, one of the accused in the case, mentioned in a statement that the then major (now a retired colonel) was present with Lt Col Shamsur Rahman at the Combined Military Hospital in Chittagong during the autopsy of Gen Manzur. Emdad took custody of Gen Manzur from Hathazari police.

According to the autopsy report, Col (ret'd) Rahman, who is one of the three former army officials arrested in connection with the case, identified the body of the Gen Manzur before the medical officers.

One source, however, hinted that the just retired colonel might be sent abroad. CID sources said they had no knowledge of any plan to send him abroad.

Meanwhile, the investigators are preparing the documents to submit a chargesheet in the case by the end of this month.

"We are at the final stage of investigation and we are expecting to submit the

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Armed group kills teenage boy, stabs another

By DMCH Correspondent

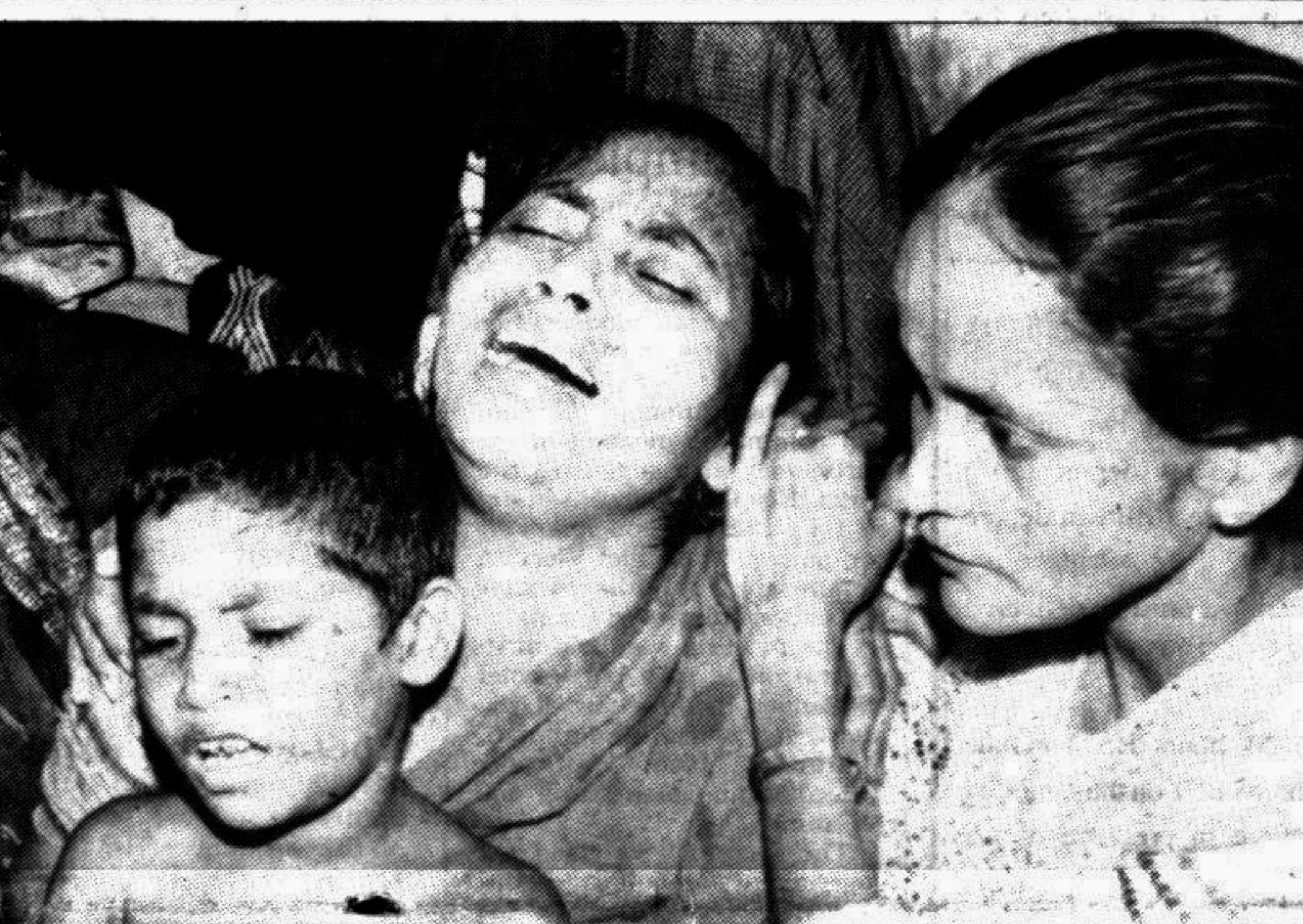
A teenage boy was murdered and a young man seriously injured by an unidentified armed group at West Jurain in Demra area of the city yesterday morning.

Mohsin, 17, who ran a work shop, reportedly was shot dead near Amena Dyeing Factory at about 6:15 am. The armed group also stabbed and shot Miraj Hossain, 22.

Mohsin, son of Tara Miah, died on the spot and Miraj was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition.

Police recovered the body but arrested none till filing of this report. A case was filed with the Demra thana.

The incident was a sequel to an old feud, police said.



The mother of Mohsin waiting after receiving the news of the killing of her son by gunmen in Jurain area of the city yesterday. — Star photo

Gheor AL leader shot dead

MANIKGANJ, June 9: A local leader of the Awami League was chopped to death and another of the Jatiya Party kidnapped in broad daylight by unidentified miscreants at Becharakanda Bazar in Gheor thana today, police said, reports UNB.

District Awami League has called a half-day hartal in the district on Monday in protest of the killing.

Witnesses and police said a group of youths armed with randoos, hockey sticks and other lethal weapons came to the bazar in a microbus and a jeep and attacked the two.

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Arms ban on Bosnia an 'instrument of genocide'

WASHINGTON, June 9: Bosnian Prime Minister Haris Silajdzic today said the arms embargo on Bosnia has become an instrument of genocide, who was told by Vice President Al Gore that the United States will not change it position, reports Reuter.

"I leave the White House knowing that the position has not changed," Silajdzic said after talks with Gore.

The arms embargo has become an instrument of genocide and a failure... you use a therapy for three years and you know that therapy is not helping you but killing you, what do you do? You change the therapy," he said.

"We leave the White House knowing that the position will not change in the near future

Construction of JMB approach road resumes

SIRAJGANJ, June 9: Construction of the approach road on the western end of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge resumed today after 22 days, reports UNB.

The work was suspended on May 18 due to an indefinite strike called by the technical workers to realise their eight-point demand, including pay-hike and issuance of appointment letters.

The strike was called off after a successful meeting between the workers' leaders and the labour directorate officials.

A South Korean company, Sam Whan Corporation, is implementing the construction of the approach road from Naika in Rajganj thana and Syedabad in sadar thana of the district.

Mubarak, Rabin minimise their differences at Cairo summit

CAIRO, June 9: Egypt and Israel turned a new page in relations at a summit in Cairo today, adding to the optimism about the prospects for faster progress in Israel's talks with Syria and the Palestinians, reports Reuter.

US Secretary of State Warren Christopher brought President Hosni Mubarak and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin together for their first meeting in four months at a time which he said offered new opportunities for Middle East peace.

Rabin said he had cleared up most of the misunderstandings between Egypt and Israel, which have wrangled this year over nuclear proliferation, Jerusalem and the pace of peace talks.

"I believe we turned a new page in the Egyptian Israeli relationship, one that is promising as we build for the future," added Christopher, who is on his 13th Middle East tour.

"We've taken another step to transform the region towards peace and make peace in the region irreversible," he told a joint news conference with Rabin and Mubarak.

"Now Egypt can play a full role in encouraging both the Palestinians and Syria to make progress with Israel," added a senior US State Department official.

Rabin said, "The visit... was meant to remove all sorts of misunderstanding or what seemed like misunderstandings."

He blamed what he called inaccurate reports on what is happening in the negotiating process between us and the Palestinians and apparently a lack of clarity about what was happening or could happen between us and the Syrians.

"I think that a large part of the misunderstandings were removed," he told reporters on his plane.

Mubarak tried to minimise the gravity of their differences. "With any two countries sometimes there are some clouds that affect relations. Sometimes there are misunderstandings but these are sorted out through meetings, he said.

But Mubarak gave no date for his first visit to Israel and Rabin told reporters he had not asked him to.

Asked about this at the summit, he said

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Time for voter registration further extended

The Election Commission yesterday further extended the time limit of the registration of voters up to June 15 on special consideration, reports BSS.

The Election Commission in a press release said the time limit for registration of voters has been extended to enable the eligible voters who have not yet been able to fill up the voters forms to enlist their names as voters.

The eligible voters who have not yet been able to fill up the voters' form have been requested to do so to the enumerators by June 15. The time limit for this purpose will no more be extended.

CSE body meets tomorrow

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 9: The executive committee of the newly formed Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) will hold a meeting on June 11 to discuss the way for starting its operation formally.

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NEWS BRIEFS

One dies in Barisal road mishap
 From Staff Correspondent
 BARISAL, June 9: One person was killed and 25 others were injured when a minibus skidded off the road and fell into a roadside ditch at Rupali here this morning. The dead was identified as Mostafa Kamal, 30. Five seriously injured were admitted to the Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital.

2 more BCL leaders held in Sirajganj
 SIRAJGANJ, June 9: Police arrested two more local leaders of the Awami League-backed Chhatra League Thursday night and today on charge of arson. The arrested are: Fariduzzaman of the BCL town committee and Faruq Ahmed of the Sadar thana committee. The arrests were made after the local unit of the pro-BNP Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) filed several cases against the BCL leaders accusing them of setting fire to 30 houses and a cinema hall in the town on June 1, reports UNB.

Heatwave grips Pakistan
 ISLAMABAD, June 9: Dozens of faithful were hospitalised after fainting in intense heat today, as thousands of minority Shi'ites joined nationwide processions on the occasion of holy Ashura. At least ten people required treatment in Rawalpindi city after flagellating themselves with chains fitted with knives, an ancient mourning ritual here, reports AFP.

PRE-BUDGET INTERVIEW

'Public and private sector investments remain low'

The economy has failed to grow at the desired rate as both public and private sector investments continue to remain low. The short-term economic outlook is also not good, observed Prof Muzaffer Ahmad, a leading economist of the country who is currently associated with the Institute of Business Administration of the Dhaka University.

In a pre-budget interview with The Daily Star, Prof Ahmad said neither the efficiency nor the effectiveness of management of the public or private sector economy has improved. On the current political scenario, he said it reflects the lack of vision of the people in the corridors of power.

He was interviewed by Rashed Mahmud Titumir. Following is the excerpts:

The Daily Star (DS): How do you evaluate the performance of the economy? What are the problem areas?

Muzaffer Ahmad (MA): The economy has not grown at the desired rate. The rate of public sector investment has remained below the planned rate and the rate of private sector investment is still quite low. The rate of direct foreign private investment has behaved mysteriously. The rate of public sector savings has not increased. The rate of public sector savings has not picked up while the household savings rate has marginally increased. Financial deepening has not increased nor has the pace of the mix between revenue and development expenditures justified? What should be the priorities in the next budget?

MA: There has been no qualitative improvement in the human resource development area — both education and health sectors have been marked by inefficiency, wastage and ineffectiveness. Public sector poverty alleviation programmes suffer from bureaucratisation and lack of participative interaction from below. NGO poverty alleviation programmes, though better targeted, are not cost-effective and are largely donor-dependent. There is no ideal mix of revenue and development expenditure; nor is our development expenditure free of non-development components. The goal set by the government is downgrading the government. This should start with minimising the number of ministries, directorates etc and delegating many activities to democratic local governments where participative interaction is feasible.

DS: What are your views on the on-going economic reform programmes? Do you think the thrust of the reforms are in the right direction? What programmes gainfully targeted? Is

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Prof Muzaffer Ahmad

SAARC trade unions for close cooperation

Increased cooperation among trade unions of the region in the greater interest of the working class was given maximum emphasis at the SAARC regional trade union seminar in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

Cooperation of the governments of SAARC region was also sought towards the trade union activities aiming at raising the standard of working condition as well as ensuring jobs of the workers in the present changing situation.

The three-day seminar was inaugurated by Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali at a city hotel in the morning.

With trade unionist and chairman of the seminar or

ganising committee Nurul Islam in the chair, the inaugural function was also addressed by Secretary General of the World Federation of Trade Unions (WFTU) Dev Kumar Ganguly and Director of ILO office in Dhaka Paul J. Baily.

Trade union representatives from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka and host country Bangladesh attended the seminar.

Shawkat Ali said the countries in the region were always exploited by the West and the North which had prompted late President Ziaur Rahman to bring all countries of the region into a common framework.

Speaking about the trade union movement, he said

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Govt committed to phase out child labour: Shawkat
 Labour and Manpower Minister Mir Shawkat Ali yesterday reiterated the government's stand for a gradual and phased reduction of child labour from all sectors including garments in Bangladesh with a simultaneous programme for their rehabilitation and education, reports BSS.

He was talking to the US Ambassador to Bangladesh David N Merrill and UNICEF

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Rajuk Commercial Plot Auction Notice

Most ideally located Residential-Cum-Commercial Plot No. 15 and 18 measuring more or less 334.57 Sqr. Metre (5 katha) each on Road No. 113/A at Gulshan, Dhaka will be allotted for 99 years lease on open auction.

Applications on prescribed form to be obtained with terms and conditions from Janata Bank, Rajuk Bhaban Branch, Dhaka on payment on Tk 500/- (Taka five hundred) only in cash (non-refundable) and will be received by the Deputy Director (Estates) from intending bidders up to 2.00 PM on 2.7.95 for Plot No. 15 and on 4.7.95 for Plot No. 18.

The auction will be held on 3.7.95 for Plot No. 15 and on 5.7.95 for Plot No. 18 in the conference room, 3rd floor of the Rajuk Bhaban, Dhaka at 10.00 AM.

Chairman
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