## BLUE DART

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## DOWN TO EARTH Some Civic Headaches In City Life

Bottled water has been gaining increasing popularity in our country. There are some seven or eight brands of such bottled water in the market. The increased consumption of such bottled water has been perhaps promoted by the concern of citizens who are after pure drinking water free from any pollution. But the big issue is whether the biological quality of bottled water in our country is beyond question. We may not perhaps get an unequivocal answer in this behalf.

We are told that bottled water is basically any portable water available in any sealed container for sale. The source of such water may be springs. wells, municipal taps and other sources and the water may be distilled, carbonated, ozonated. filtered, etc. In principle, bottled water should not contain more than 100 aerobic bacteria count per mililitre and no coliform bacteria at all. But in practice what we actually find may be disconcerting.

A group of researchers reportedly tested, in course of a recent survey, some bottled waters of various brands from various shops in Dhaka city. According to their findings, total aerobic bacterial counts were beyond the acceptable limit in most of the samples tested. Echerichia coli, Kiebstelia, Pseudomonas bacteria were found present in some sample bottles. In the opinion of the researchers, if bottled water is not produced under good manufacturing practices, it can be the

source of various diseases From their work, the researchers have found that bacteria can survive and even proiferate in bottled waters kept

From Page

She said at the end of 21

years of movement for democ-

racy and realising the people's

right to food and franchise, the

serve the country.

people put their trust in us to

community is an inseparable

and glorious part of our na-

tional entity," Hasina said and

lauded their contribution to

national history, culture and

as a Bangla-speaking nation

"We are indebted" to Buddhist

monks, known as Shid-

dhacharya, whose famous

works 'Charyapada' are recong-

nised as the oldest in Bengali

The reign of the Buddhist

rulers like Pal, Dev and Barman

from 7th till 12th century was a

golden era in the history of

Bengal, the prime minister

said, adding that the historical

fame of that era spread to dif-

ferent parts of South East Asia

crossing the boundary of this

at Parbatipur, Pandit Bihar at

Chittagong, Shalban Bihar at

Mainamati in Comilla, Sitakot

Bihar at Dinajpur and the Bud-

dhist monasteries at Dhamrai

and Savar in Dhaka were set up

with the patronisation of the

Buddhist kings as educational

She said Sompur Mahabihar

Recalling the past, she said

"We believe, the Buddhist

liefs.

heritage.

literature.

sub-continent.

for long periods. There may be secondary growth as some bac teria die and provide nutrients for the growth of other bacteria. such as enteric pathogens. It has been reported in various research journals that bottled water can be the source of the causative agent in outbreaks of cholera and typhoid as well as causing traveller's disease.

There are good reasons for suspicion that bottled waters of our country may not be of good quality and need to be investigated by public health authority and other investigators.

shops, a few samples of bottled water which contained fungus growth came to our notice. This testified to the deteriorated condition of the bottled water. Another strange thing was that most brands of bottled water were found to bear the seals of the Bangladesh Standards and Testing Institute (BSTI). This naturally gives impression of the good quality of the bottled water. Inspite of this, the deteriorated samples of bottled water in some cases give rise to the question whether such products, as a matter of rounne, pass through the due process of quality control. This question seems to call for specific answer by the competent authorities in order to dispel any possible suspicion as to the quality of bottled water.

Another cause for civic headache relates to the Guest Control Ordinance which restricts entertainment of more than 100 guests at social functions. This law has been in the statute book for a long time. The number of guests permissi-

PM: Govt pledge-bound

ble under law might have varied from time to time in the past, but the concept of control of guests due to economic exigencies has always been there. The characteristics of our social ethos might have prompted many not to take the law seriously. Since a question of change of social outlook is involved, such passive attitude to law is not considered desirable. The people of means have the option to entertain additional guests by paying extra fees within the purview of the law. Any predilection to bypass the law by taking advantage of position of power or influence is fraught with the possibility of detection by magistrates, in which case there may be cause for social embarrassment to the sponsoring parties.

We find another cause for civic indiscipline when we observe cycle rickshaws in some cases carrying three passengers instead of the usual two on the city streets. The rickshaw is a delicate contraption for which the normal load of passengers is quite enough. To lure the rickshawpuller to carry extra passenger burden with the incentive of payment of extra fare is not considered a wise proposition in view of the fact that the extra load of a passenger may interfere with effective control of the vehicle in an environment of traffic congestion. This tendency was found more pronounced among young passengers, both male and female, who do not seem to realise the potential hazard involved. It behoves the traffic police to play a helpful role by way of discouraging such potentially hazardous practice.

### 2 rival groups clash in city

At least two people were inured in a clash between two rival groups at Chankharpool near Shahidullah Hall of Dhaka University yesterday. reports UNB.

Police said the rival groups clashed in the evening over establishing supremacy in the area. They exploded a series of hand-made bombs and chased each other for about an hour creating panic in the area.

The injured. Ripon and Saju, were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH)

with splinter wounds. Police arrested two youths from the spot. They were identi-

fied as Piaro and Billal.

#### Fertiliser loot: One arrested in Barisal

BARISAL, Sept 20: Police ar-rested a man here today in connection with the looting of some 300 bags of fertiliser from

a cargo vessel, reports UNB. The cargo vessel ran aground at a char in the river Meghna in Hizla thana of the district on

September 17. The arrested was identified as Mojibul Haque Moju.

Police had recovered 86 bags of looted fertiliser from a shop of Takerbazar in Hizla on Thursday. They also picked up shopowner Khorshed Alam Tipu for questioning.

#### Khairuzzaman From Page 1

at the Banani graveyard. "Khairuzzaman was also brought there. His health condition was poor, a family source said.

Earlier, Reeta Rahman, wife of Khairuzzaman, had applied to the home ministry for his release on parole for attending his mother's janaza and burial.

On August 13, Khairuzzaman, along with two other former army officers, Col (retd) Faroogur Rahman and Col Shahriar Rashid Khan were picked up from the city for alleged "involvement in activities threatening lives of some important persons." They were sent to the Dhaka Central Jail under the Special Powers Act of 1974 with a 30 days detention which was later extended by

another 90 days. On September 10, the CMM had issued warrants of arrest against the three former army officer's - Farooq, Shahriar and Khairuzzaman — after the €ID formally took up the November 3, 1975 jail killing case, filed with the Lalbagh He added that after the dethana earlier. bris are cleared, his office

The CMM, on September 10, had placed Khairuzzaman on seven days' remand on a CID prayer for interrogation in the jail killing case. However, he was yet to be taken to the CID custody for interrogation, official sources said.

Farooq was placed on a fresh CID remand for five days on Thursday for interrogation in the same case. Shahriar was also taken to the CID custody vesterday. Earlier, Shahriar was granted remand for seven days by the CMM on prayer from the CID.

Gowda govt under fire for sacking Gujarat govt

NEW DELHI, Sept 20: India's centre-left rulers faced a was echoed in editorials. barrage of criticism today for forcing the sudden sacking of a state government headed by ri-

val Hindu nationalists, reports Reuter. The Hindu Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) was joined by a string of newspapers in denouncing the decision by Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda's cabinet on Thursday to recommend dismissal of the 3JP-led government in western Gujarat

state. President Shankar Daval Sharma, who under his limited constitutional authority had no power to reject the recommendation, sacked the 18-month old Gujarat government despite its having won a trust vote in the state assembly on Wednes-

The federal government said it was forced to act because the voting took place in an environment of disorder and violence.

But the BJP's claim that the

#### move smacked of politics ahead Stagnant water pumped out

By Staff Correspondent Stagnant rain water was pumped out from different city areas vesterday.

City dwellers on Thursday experienced the worst water logging in years following in termittent heavy rains since Tuesday.

Dhaka WASA set up 19 pumps at four points of the metropolis to pump out the stagnant water Meanwhile, the Met Office

recorded one mm rainfall in the

capital from 6 am to 6 pm yesterday It also forecast cloudy sky and rain accompanied with gusty wind in the city today.

UNB adds: Dhaka City Corporation set up 15 pumps in different points of the city yes terday to pump out stagnant wa

"DCC has done this to remove public suffering although it is officially not responsible for maintaining the city's drainage system," said a DCC official

Thursday's unprecedented waterlogging, according to experts, occurred mainly due to faulty drainage system in the

#### 185-member JASAS city committee

An 185-member executive committee of Dhaka city unit of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Samajik Sangskritik Sangstha (JASAS) has been formed with noted actor Khurshiduzzaman Utpal, Faizullah Faiz and Mizanur Rahman Mizan as its president, general secretary and organising secretary respectively, reports BSS.

A press release issued here vesterday said Rezabuddaula Chowdhury and Wasimul Bari Rajib, president and general secretary respectively of JASAS central committee approved the new committee.

of important assembly polls in populous Uttar Pradesh state

"The imposition of president's rule is a needless invitation to the charge that the (federal) government was looking for ways to finish the BJP through extra-political means," the Times of India said in an editorial titled "Shame and Scan-

The northern state of Uttar Pradesh, which has more than 130 million of India's 930 million citizens, goes to the polls in late September and early October to elect a new state legisla-

The BJP, which draws its strength from the northern Hindi-speaking belt, has high hopes of capturing Uttar Pradesh, which has produced seven of India's 10 prime minis ters and is considered the nation's choicest political prize

The Indian Express said the cabinet's decision was "not only irregular, but politically motivated," and aimed at helping BJP rebels survive in Gujarat. The government in Gujarat

advanced states, was sacked af ter pandemonium broke out on Wednesday on the floor of the assembly Opposition lawmakers, led by the Congress Party, were

one of India's most industrially

protesting against a decision by the acting assembly Speaker -BJP member — to suspend all opposition legislators before the government won a trust

Scuffles broke out in the as sembly, and members hurled microphones at each other Several lawmakers and journalists were injured in the

#### Yarn worth Tk 20 lakh looted

From Our Corespondent NARAYANGANJ, Sept 20: A gang of armed dacoits looted 175 cartons of varn worth about Tk 20 lakh from two textile mills in Bhulta under Rupgani thana of the district early to

The gang of about 15 dacoits came in a truck and attacked Polli Textiles and Soleman Textiles at Aduria on Dhaka Chittagong highway at about 2 am, police sources said.

Tying down the guards of the two adjoining mills, the gang loaded the truck with yarns and sped away, sources added. Two separate cases have

#### I eresa wants to meet Pope

CALCUTTA, India, Sept 20: Mother Teresa, recovering in hospital from a fall, was quoted as saying today she wants to meet Pope John Paul II in Rome to wish him good health, reports AP.

A cardiologist laughed when a sister from Mother Teresa's order, the Missionaries of Charity, told him that she wants to travel to Rome.



## **Hand Mixer**

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#### Special flights from UAE soon to ferry 20000 Bangladeshis

Star Report

Special flights from the UAE to Dhaka are likely to be arranged shortly to ferry over 20,000 Bangladeshis staying there without valid documents. according to official sources.

More than 400 Bangladeshis were sent back from the UAE in five flights on Thursday, Immi gration sources at Zia International Airport (ZIA) said. Over 1.50.000 people from

different countries including Bangladesh, India, Pakistan Philippines and Egypt are likely to be sent back as the government of UAE has introduced a new Residence Law, according to reports.

Amnesty was offered to thousands of workers staving there without valid documents till September 30.

Sources said ambassadors of the countries, concerned were seeking extension of the deadline to ensure smooth departure of their citizens

Officials at ZIA said 600 to 700 people might return from the UAE today

#### BNP demands withdrawal of 'false cases'

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) vesterday con demned the attack on party's Sonargaon thana unit leader Shahjahan Member and filing of false cases against its 46 activists in Habigani ahead of the October 15 byelection in Baniachang constituency, reports UNB.

In a statement, party joint secretary Haris Chowdhury held 'Awami terrorists' responsible for the attack and de manded immediate arrest and punishment of the culprits.

Shahjahan Member was seriously injured as the terrorists beat him up mercilessly at the thana BNP office premises on Thursday. The attackers also ransacked the office, Haris al

In another statement, he blamed the district and police administration of Habigani for filing of 'false cases' against 46 leaders and workers of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in the district ahead of the byelection there.

He termed it as a 'conspiracy and demanded immediate withdrawal of the cases.

## IPU confce ends with call for action to boost HR

national conference of parliamentarians ended in Beijing today urging global action to boost human rights, end hunger and curb the scourge of antipersonnel land mines, reports Reuter

The 96th conference of the inter-parliamentary union (IPU), which gave foreign legislators a rare chance for debate in China on human rights, won the host nation plaudits from both organisers and a watchdog

### Salman threatened to commit

commit suicide back in 1992. his wife Sameera said yester-

The threat was given when she refused to accept his proposal for a secret marriage. Sameera said while talking to a group of newsmen at a house at

Dhanmondi in the city Asked whether Salman had developed a tendency to commit suicide. Sameera said: "He threatened me to commit sui-

She told a questioner she did not really know the reason be-'suicide' of hind the Salman. "But he had strong emotional conflicts with her mother and he often broke

Replying to another question. Sameera claimed that rerelation with a film actress which was "beyond friendship" nitely say that the relation eventually influenced Salman to commit suicide."

Asked about allegations by Salman's parents that he was killed and she had a hand in it. Sameera said. "Let the second autopsy report come out."

## Garments workers iterate demand

terday staged a demonstration in the city demanding introduction of weekly holiday in garments factories, reports

the National Garments Workers Federation held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the afternoon with its president Addressing the rally, its leaders said garments workers,

particularly the women, are being affected physically, mentally and socially as they can't enjoy any weekly holiday. They warned of abstaining

from work every Friday if the weekly holiday is not implemented in the garments facto-

#### prisoner exchange with Russia GROZNY, Russia, Sept 20:

Chechen rebel spokesman Movladi Udugov said the reporters were to have been released today but the Russians said they would not free them for the time being."

therefore, decided to suspend all prisoner exchanges so long as these two journalists have not been freed," he told AFP.

Udugov said he had received reports that the two journalists. one of whom is Salman Betelguyev, director of Chechen Independent Television, had been tortured.

the Russian national security advisor, Udugov said.

the cabinet. All of them, however, sought 'blessings' so that the rumours come true. Meanwhile, none in the AL

caucus could definitely say that the Prime Minister was going for expanding the cabinet soon while some of them admitted that they had also heard the rumours. They did not rule out such a possibility.

Ashikur Rahman are to be inducted for regional representa-tion from Chittagong and Rangpur, Nahid as one of the blue-eyed boys of the party chief. Sheikh Selim as a senior party MP as well as a member of the Sheikh family and A K M Jahangir as a young party MP who has won for the third time consecutively.

BEIJING, Sept 20: An intergroup often critical of Beijing. Non-binding resolutions on rights, food issues and landmines adopted by the meeting embraced a wide range of international concerns, said IPU secretary-general Pierre Cornillon.

countries. Human rights group Amnesty International, which has long been critical of China's treatment of political prisoners and limits on free expression. also praised Beijing's approach.

"The Chinese ... had a big

role in this success and in the

building of this atmosphere.

Cornillon told a news confer-

ence after the close of the five-

day meeting, a talking shop for

around 600 members of par-

liament from more than 100

'It is notable that the resolu-... on human rights protec tion is actually based on the Chinese draft," said Rory Mungoven, Amnesty's Asia Pacific Programme Director. This is exactly the type of

positive engagement we would like to see China make with the international human rights debate." Mungoven told a news briefing in Beijing China is highly sensitive to foreign criticism of its rights

record and on Tuesday blasted a call from a western conference delegate for less repression in Tibet as ill-informed and inappropriate. Proposed Bandarban

#### power project hangs in balance BANDARBAN, Sept 20: The

proposed hydro-electric power project in the hill district is now hanging in the balance because of contradictory feasibility reports submitted by two foreign companies, reports The project was first con-

ceived in 1966 and a Canadian company suggested three 50megawatt generators to produce 150 MW of electricity by creating a dam on the Sangu river.

Eighteen years later, in 1983-84 fiscal, the project was included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for setting up a 150 MW generator instead of three at an estimated cost of 275 million US dollars.

But the project could not be launched for want of necessary funding from foreign assis-

### US troops

From Page 1

Director John Deutch told lawmakers Thursday Appearing before the Senate

Intelligence Committee, Deutch called the development 'very bad' and said the Iraqi leader 'will continue to challenge' the United States and its allies. The stark assessment from a

top Clinton administration official bolstered Republican criticism of President Clinton's efforts to contain Saddam. Reuter adds: Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan

has broken weeks of silence on

the Iraq crisis and spoken out

against any US military strike on southern neighbour Iraq, the Turkish press said today. "America could attack Iraq again and enflame the situation. But we don't want an increase in tension," the Hurrivet newspaper quoted Erbakan as

journalists. "One of the causes of the situation in Iraq is America's failure to put forward an unambiguous, clear and lucid solution to the Iraqi issue," he said.

saying at a private lunch on

Thursday for leading Turkish

Other papers carried similar remarks and quoted him as saying that three Turkish soldiers a day were dying in southeast Turkey in attacks by Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) rebels who have bases in Kurdish-held north Iraq.

#### US co keen From Page 1

by power shortfall, sources concerned pointed out.

Unocal is already co-working with another US company, Occidental, in the Surma basin in hydro-carbon exploration. Occidental last year signed two production-sharing contracts under 'unsolicited negotiation with the government for exploration in Netrakona-Sylhet region and is likely to drill the first well in Sylhet in Decem-

Although the government had closed doors for 'unsolicited negotiation' in July last, Unocal is unofficially lobbying with it over Shahbazpur," one source said.

According to an expert in the Energy Ministry, an investment of over 235 million US dollars is required for developing the gas field, building a 210 MW power plant and setting up a 71 km 132 kv line for utilising the power. Shahbazpur gas field was

discovered in November last by BAPEX, hydrocarbon exploration wing of the Petrobangla, after two years of operation at a cost of about Tk 40 crore. But following confirmation of a reserve of over 0.40 trillion cubic feet of gas a few months later. Petrobangla decided to 'seal' the gas field as it could not be utilised.

Police drag away top Kashmiri separatist leader Abdul Ghani Lone during a protest demonstration against elections in Sringar yesterday, a day ahead of the state's third - AFP/UNB photo round of key assembly polls.

## Lankan navy seize two Indian trawlers: 30 held

COLOMBO, Sept 20: The navy has seized two Indian trawlers and arrested 30 people including eight Indians, after the boats were detected in Sri Lankan territorial waters, a military official said today, re-

The boats, apparently ferrying Tamil civilians fleeing the civil war, were caught Tuesday off Talaimannar, on the northwestern coast about 235 kilometers (147 miles) north of the capital, Colombo.

The Indians, along with 21 Sri Lankan civilians who were on the two vessels, had been handed over to a nearby police station, said Capt Panduka Senanyake, a military spokesman in a statement. Tamil civilians fleeing the

fighting between government troops and Tamil Tiger rebels. have been crossing over by boat to refugee camps in neigbouring India. More than 56,000 Sri Lankan Tamils are living in refugee camps in southern India since 1990 after fighting be-

tween Tamil separatists and

government troops escalated.

Another 54,000 have been

repatriated to the Sri Lanka in the last four years. Repatriation stopped in March after fierce fighting erupted in areas the refugees

were to return to. Meanwhile, at least three opposition political supporters were killed when unidentified gunmen fired at a van returning after a court case in northwestern Sri Lanka, police officials said.

Seven people, including two women bystanders, were also injured in the shooting at Negombo, about 30 kilometers north of the capital, Colombo. The supporters of the opposi-

tion United National Party had attended a court case in Negombo where two people, including the son of a former minister were being charged for involvement in an earlier clash in which two supporters of the governing Peoples' Alliance were killed.

Sporadic clashes between the United National Party, which was ousted from power in August 1994, and the Peoples' Alliance have been reported in the last few months.

#### barracks in Kashmir: 12 hurt SRINAGAR (India), Sept 20: A rocket fired into Indian army barracks in Srinagar, the

soldiers, police said today, reports AP.

Kashmir capital, injured 12

was injured in those attacks. acting on orders from "higher

authorities" seized copies of the region's two main newspapers Daily Aftab and Srinagar Times — as they were being prepared for printing Thursday night. The papers apparently included calls by militants for anti-election demonstrations

ing, hoping to head off any protests following weekly Muslim prayer services.

# Rocket attack on Indian army

Police believe the rocket was fired by Muslim militants fighting for independence in Kashmir. The attack late Thursday on the Brain Nishart barracks came two days before local voting that the separatists

Also late Thursday, grenades were hurled at two security force camps in Srinagar. No one Local police saying they were

Security troops closed off

downtown streets today morn-

#### suicide: Sameera By Staff Correspondent Film star Salman Shah. who allegedly killed himself by hanging, had once threatened to

cide in 1992 when I refused to accept his proposal to wed him in secret.

down and wept like a child," she cently Salman had developed But, she added, "I cannot defi-

## for weekly holiday The garments workers yes-

In support of their demand. Mujibur Rahman in the chair.

# Chechens suspend

Chechen rebels said today they had suspended prisoner exchanges with Russia on grounds that Moscow had failed to free two Chechen journalists as agreed.

"The Chechen side has

The release of the two had been agreed on Tuesday during a meeting between separatist leaders and Alexander Lebed,

#### Cabinet From Page 1

their possible induction into

According to the speculations, Mosharraf Hossain and

#### Hasina recalled with gratitude the role played by Bishuddhananda Mahathero and Pan-ALCWC meets From Page 1

and cultural institutions.

meeting of the ALCWC. Talking to this correspondent AL joint secretary Abdul Jalil said that the upcoming meeting would mainly focus on party organizational matters. Replying to a question on the main opposition party's preparation for street agitations he said "the meeting will take stock of the latest political developments". "It will opt for a

go-slow line", he added. Awami League presidium member Amir Hussain Amu said as the national council session of the party in sched-uled for December, the ALCWC meeting will focus on various organizational matters including completion of district and thana-level council sessions by mid-November.

About expansion of the cabinet, a ranking leader of the party who is not a member of the cabinet gave an impression that it was unlikely till President-elect Shahabuddin Ahmed takes over on October 9. Party chief Sheikh Hasina's

recent discussions with differ-

ent political parties on the con-

cept of 'national consensus'

may also come for review for a

party rank and file.

#### Printed & Published by A. S. Mahmud, Managing Director, on

behalf of Mediaworld Ltd, 52, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000, from DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

# By AS M Nurunnabi

In course of stray visits to some neighbourhood medicine

dit Jyotipal Mohathero in the country's Liberation War along with other members of the Bud dhist community. She also lauded the role of the Bouddha Krishti Prachar Sangha in spreading education and helping the distressed people, and assured that the gov-

ernment would do its best to help the organisation in their humanitarian activities. Responding to demands representation of Buddhists in the government, higher education, bringing back archaeological finds taken by Pakistan. India and Britain, and the preservation of historical Buddhist sites — the prime minister

said that the government would look into all these with sympa-The function was also addressed by Health Minister Salauddin Yusuf, Dhaka city Mayor Mohammad Hanif, State Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan, State Minister for Religious Affairs Moulana Nurul Islam, Saber Hossain Chowdhury MP. Chairman of Dharma-Wheel

Foundation of Taiwan Reverend Master Kuang Shin and Dr Pranab Barua. President of the Sangha Suddhananda Mohathero, who presided over by the function, presented to the prime minister a crest and also a few rare pho-

tographs of Bangabandhu

inaugurated the newly-con-

Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

#### structed International Prayer Hall and the 25-bed Nikkio Niyano Clinic at the Kamalapur Darmarajik Mahabihar.

Earlier, the Prime Minister

RAJUK plan

From Page 1 the system. The city has already grown into a megacity." "People's consciousness must be there when they are constructing a building. For instance, they should know that while constructing a building. they should do curing (sprinkling of water) for at least 28 days. If they do not abide by

the building rules then they

themselves, their neighbours

and the whole society are at

risk," Khadem said.

Khadem said that his office had already allocated Tk 50,000 for removal of the debris of the building which collapsed on Monday killing five persons and injuring one. "We have also engaged 100 labourers to speed up the work and have set up a task force comprising an engineer and an architect to oversee the operation," Khadem said.

would recover the money spent

for the operation from the

owner of the building. "If neces-

better understanding among the sary we will file a case against the owner," he said. **Editor: Mahfuz Anam** 

City Publishing House Ltd, 90, Kakrail, Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091 (Direct), Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: