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VOL. VII NO. 101 REGD. NO. DA 781

BAISHAKH 22 1404 BS.

DHAKA MONDAY, MAY 5, 1997

ZILHAJJ 27 1417 HIJRI

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

Share market scam cases transferred to District Judge's Court

By Staff Correspondent
 The cases against brokers and listed company owners allegedly involved in the recent share market manipulation were transferred to the court of the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka from the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday following petitions by the accused parties.
 All the accused, except those who got stay orders from the Court of the District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka earlier, appeared before the CMM's court.
 The cases against the directors of Beximco, Shinepukur Holding Limited, and Doha Securities Limited were stayed by the District and Sessions Judge's Court earlier.
 Imtiaz Hossain and Runa Alam could not appear due to illness. They submitted medical certificates to the court.
 The case against the Securities Consultant Limited was not transferred as two of the accused directors of the company did not appear in the court.

New SEC advisory council

Star Report
 The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) has reorganised its advisory council with 20 members drawn from different sections of the society, according to a notification of SEC.
 The committee, headed by Chairman, SEC, includes former adviser to the caretaker government Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud and the Presidents of the Dhaka and Chittagong Stock Exchanges.
 Other members are Secretary, Banking Division, President, FBCCI, President, MCCI, President, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Managing Director, ICB, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

DSE Council meets today

By Staff Correspondent
 A crucial meeting of the board of councillors of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) will be held today to decide the fate of incumbent leadership of the board.
 The DSE leadership have so far resisted pressure to quit following cases against some of them, including its chairman, accused in the share market scam cases.
 DSE sources said intensive parleys were held yesterday between groups of members of the country's premier exchange to find a way out of the stalemate.
 At least 60 DSE members and councillors held a close door meeting at a city hotel last night.
 Convened by Enayetullah Rahman, a member of DSE, the meeting had a stormy discussion on restoring the market credibility by a new leadership for the board.
 Three members of the board offered to resign. They are Raquib Rahman, Khorshed Alam and Azam Choudhury, meeting sources said.

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Country to face 230 mw extra power shortfall for 3 more days

By Staff Correspondent
 The country suffered a 570 mw power shortfall yesterday in addition to the normal loadshedding of 200 mw a day, due to the burst of a transformer of a gas turbine at Ashuganj power plant on Saturday.
 According to officials of the Power Development Board (PDB), the total loadshedding during the peak hours till 1:00 pm yesterday was 770mw. Loadshedding was reduced to 430 mw after 8:00 pm.
 A power shortfall of around 230 mw, in addition to the normal loadshedding of 200 mw, may continue for the next three days, the officials said.
 Meanwhile, the record loadshedding severely disrupted normal life and economic activities, and increased the sufferings of the people across the country for the second day yesterday.
 Shortage of water supply mainly caused by power disruption has added to the suffering of the people.
 Mills and factories met with a serious setback while normal work in offices was hampered due to the power disruption. The situation appeared worst in hospitals and clinics.
 The chairman of DESA talking to The Daily Star last night said that they had received 567 mw electricity from the PDB. According to him it was at least 233 mw less than the demand.
 The crisis is being managed through areawise loadshedding, he added.

The transformer burst at Ashuganj station which led to closure of the national grid caused the additional power shortfall, officials pointed out. The incident also had a 'cascading effect' at Ghorashal power station, resulting in stoppage of power supply through the east-west inter-connector.
 Immediately before the burst of transformer, power generation at Ashuganj plant was recorded at 530 mw and that at Ghorashal plant at 630 mw.
 According to official sources, power generation at Ashuganj was restored to 340 mw on Saturday night, and by 1:00 pm on Sunday, it rose to 480 mw.
 Ghorashal plant which was
 See Page 12 Col 8

Situation at Thanchi tense

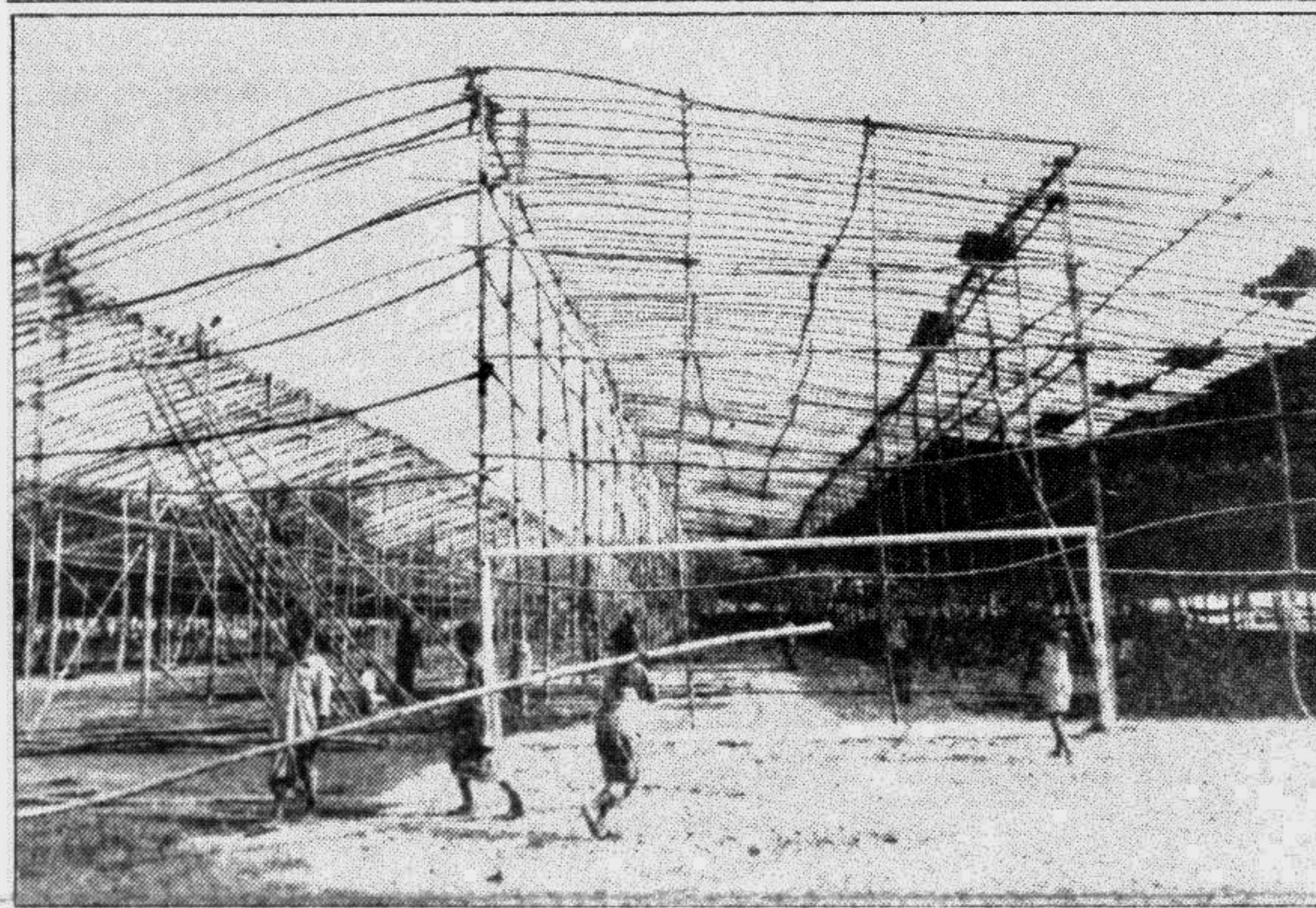
BANDARBAN, May 4: A tense situation has been prevailing in Thanchi thana where three people, including a BDR personnel, were killed in a gunfight between security forces and Shantibahini men on Friday night, reports UNB.
 Administrative activities in the thana headquarters have come to a virtual halt as all offices remained closed due to the absence of officials and employees.
 The pantyky officials and employees left the tiny, trouble-torn hilly town of Thanchi for the district headquarters or other places fearing further trouble.
 Meanwhile, Parbatya Chattagram Sarbadalya Oikya Parishad at a meeting here today demanded an official statement on the Thanchi gun-battle between the terrorists and the securitymen.
 They urged the government to meet their 7-point demand by May 8 (Thursday) before the
 See Page 12 Col 7

Bangabandhu murder case Proceedings stayed for 4 weeks

By SC Correspondent
 The High Court yesterday ordered stay of all further proceedings of the Bangabandhu murder case for four weeks.
 The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominor Rahman passed the stay order upon a criminal revision petition of Zobaidda Rashid, one of those charged with the murder of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman and others.
 The petition was filed challenging the charge framed by the Session Judge, Dhaka against Zobaidda Rashid on April 7.
 The court also issued a rule directing the government to show cause within two weeks as to why the murder charge against Zobaidda Rashid should not be set aside.
 The court while issuing the rule directed the defence counsel to supply the annexed documents to the prosecution side within seven days.
 The grounds of the charges framed against Zobaidda Rashid are baseless and unfounded, argued Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, Counsel for the accused-petitioner.
 The defence counsel submitted that there was no material to frame charges against his client in this case.
 He further submitted that out of 74 prosecution witnesses mentioned in their statements made to the police under section 161 of the CrPC about the presence of Zobaidda Rashid at Bangabandhu in the oath-taking ceremony of Khondker Mushtaque
 See Page 12 Col 4

HC issues rule upon DU VC

A High Court Division Bench yesterday issued rule upon the Dhaka University Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of the Senate and Registrar to show cause as to why the resolution of the Senate forming an enquiry committee to investigate the administrative and financial irregularities in the university shall not be declared to have been adopted without lawful authority, reports BSS.
 The senate adopted the resolution on January 30 this year to form a seven-member enquiry committee headed by DM Akhtaruzzaman to investigate the administrative and financial irregularities, corruption, nepotism, and partisanship in the university during the period from 1990 to 1996.
 The bench comprising Justice Muhammad Mozammel Huq and Justice Mohammad Hasan Amin stayed the operation of the resolution till hearing of the rule.
 Professor of Statistics Muhammad Shafiqur Rahman and former vice-chancellor Prof Emazuddin Ahmed filed a writ petition challenging the resolution adopted by the Senate of Dhaka University on January 30, 1997.



Preparations are going on for the national council of Awami League at the outer stadium in the city. — Star photo

AL national council begins tomorrow Amu, Selim and Jalil likely candidates for GS post

By Reaz Ahmad
 The two-day national council of the ruling Awami League begins here tomorrow.
 Prime Minister and AL president Sheikh Hasina will open the council at the Outer Stadium at 3 pm. About 5,000 councilors and delegates are expected to attend the council, according to party sources.
 The triennial council was shifted four times earlier. The last council of AL was held in September, 1992.
 Party general secretary Zilur Rahman will present his report to the council after the inauguration. The draft report was approved by the 65-member AL Central Working Committee (ALWC), the highest policy-making body of the party, on Thursday last. The ALWC met again last night to discuss some amendments to the party's constitution.
 Chairman of the party's sub-committee on amendments Abdul Mannan, told The Daily Star yesterday, "No major changes are proposed. Just a few minor changes to make the party more work-friendly."
 With some 2,500 party councilors preparing to elect a new ALWC at the session, the focus is on election of a new general secretary of the party. There is widespread speculation that a new general secretary might be chosen from non-minister party leaders. Some senior AL leaders told this correspondent that Sheikh Hasina was not willing to over-burden any of her cabinet colleagues with the
 post of party general secretary.
 Names of two AL presidium members, Amir Hussain Amu and Dr Mohammad Selim MP and joint secretary Abdul Jalil are being heard for the post.
 Amu and Jalil failed to get elected in the last parliamentary election. Selim now the by-election in one of the two Sirajganj seats vacated by his brother Mohammed Nasim.
 A number of party leaders and workers, contacted by this correspondent, indicated that all the aspirants were trying to avoid a 'visible race' for the general secretary post. Talking to this correspondent Jalil said, "The party chief will make the final choice." He claimed that during the past 10 months, he
 See Page 12 Col 1

HSC examinees clash with police in Barisal: 50 injured

From Our Correspondent
BARISAL, May 4: At least 50 HSC examinees and 10 policemen were injured in a clash here today.
 Police and witnesses said, the HSC examinees staged a demonstration in front of the DC office at about 11 am protesting the decision to shift the seats of the examinees to another college. As soon as HSC examinees started moving towards the DC office, police intercepted them. To control the situation, police made baton charges, lobbed rubber bullets and tear gas shells.
 Nine examinees — Majbar, Suman, Khokan, Swapan, Monwar, Reaz, Shameen, Masud and Jahangir — were arrested. The injured police personnel — Sahadat Hossain, Md Israt Ali, Humayun Kabir, Masud Howlader, Maniruzzaman, Khashinath, Md Munir, Farid Hossain, Rafiqul Islam and Ali Hossain were admitted to hospital.

Fake medicine factory found: 4 held in city

By Staff Correspondent
 The CID police unearthed a factory producing spurious medicines at Shabubagh in the city Saturday, police said last night.
 Besides, the CID team arrested four persons and recovered a large quantity of spurious medicines of various brands popular in the country. The police also seized the raw materials used in making spurious drugs.
 The arrested were identified as Babul Miah, Shamsuzzaman, Abdul Majid and Abdus Salam.
 Police suspect they are the members of an international gang involved in manufacturing and selling spurious drugs
 See Page 12 Col 5

BGMEA request turned down BNP compelled to call hartal in Ctg: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent
 BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has turned down a BGMEA request not to go for any political programme like hartal that affects the export-oriented garments sector.
 She, however, told the leaders of the Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) that their proposal for keeping the garments sector out of the purview of hartal would be considered in future and declined to make any announcement to this effect.
 "We can't but go for tough programmes like hartal for the sake of protecting the country and its people including you the businessmen by ousting this anti-people government," Begum Zia, also leader of the opposition in Parliament told a
 BGMEA delegation which called on her at her Minto Road official residence in the city. The BGMEA delegation was led by its president Mostafa Golam Qudus.
 She said her party was compelled to call a hartal in Chittagong division on May 6 because the authorities failed to punish the killers of two party workers in Feni and continued 'repression on party workers'.
 About a BGMEA request to spare the garment factories in Chittagong during the May 6 down-to-dusk hartal, Begum Zia said, "It's not possible now... The exemption just before a day will cause adverse reaction among the people."
 She advised the BGMEA
 See Page 12 Col 6

Golam Hafiz gets anticipatory bail

By SC Correspondent
 Mirza Golam Hafiz, former Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs, has been granted anticipatory bail by the High Court Division in a corruption case.
 Upon a prayer of the petitioner on surrender before the court, the division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominor Rahman granted the bail.
 The Bureau of Anti-Corruption on April 21 last lodged a criminal case with the Officer in-Charge of Tejgaon Police Station against Mirza Golam Hafiz.
 It was alleged in the FIR that in 1993 while the accused was the Minister of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs upon abusing his official power illegally amended the registration volume by including 64 acres of government khas land with his own land under the North Ramchandrapur Mouza, Savar, Dhaka.

ALWC okays 27 more dist committees

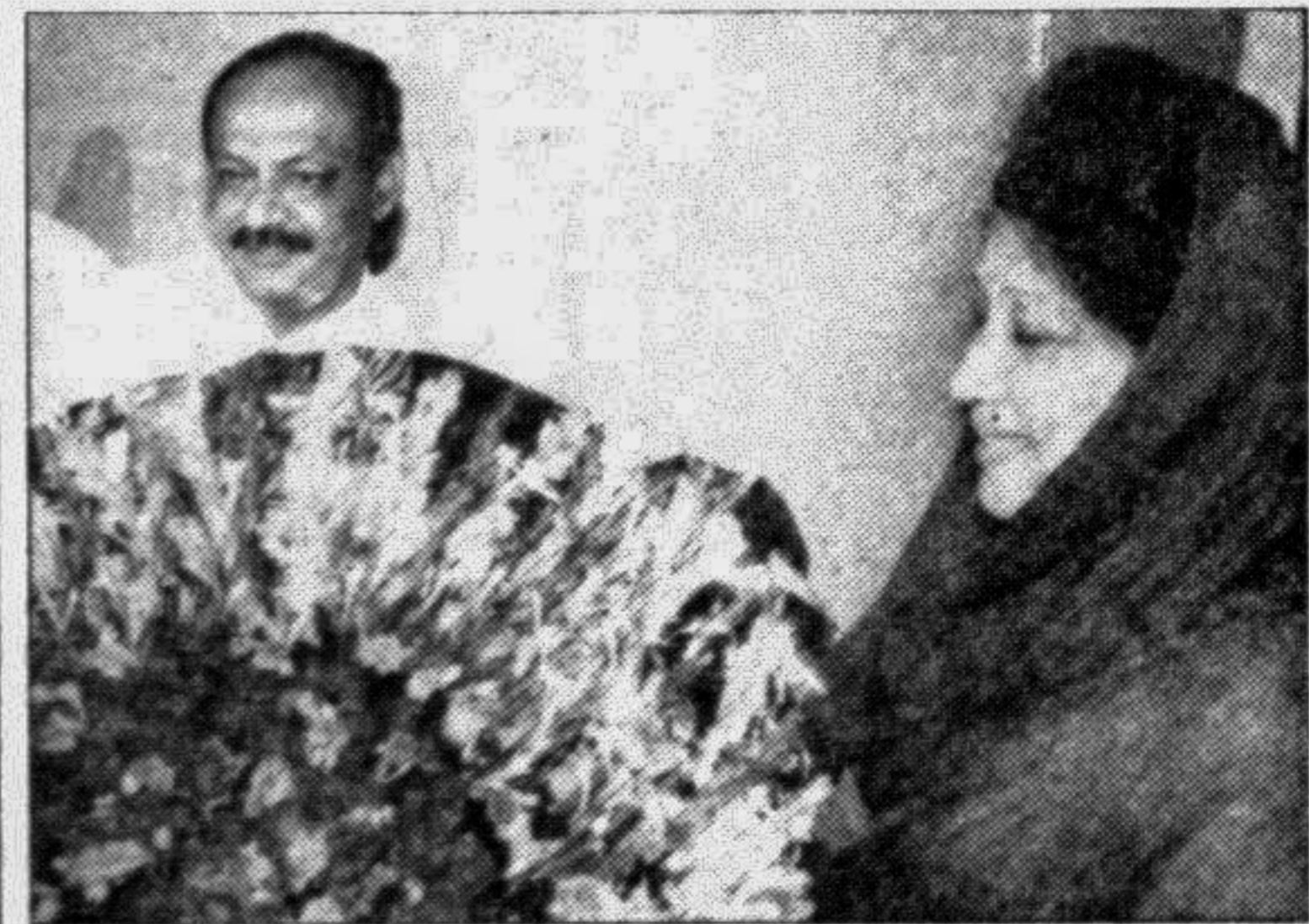
By Staff Correspondent
 The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALWC) would have to nominate councillors from party units in some 20 districts for the party's May 6-7 national council, party sources said.
 Full-fledged executive committees of those units could not be formed or their councils could not be held.
 New executive committees of 27 district units were approved by the ALWC last night while 22 others got approval on Thursday last. For the remaining district units, ALWC would have to nominate councillors for representing those units in the national council.
 The ALWC meeting, adjourned earlier on Thursday night, resumed at 7 pm last night at the Ganabhaban with
 See Page 12 Col 1

'Environment Court' soon to check pollution

A high-level meeting yesterday adopted some important measures, including setting up of 'Environment Court', to check pollution, reports UNB.
 The meeting of National Environment Committee, held at Prime Minister's office with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair, decided to introduce more double-decker buses in the capital city to reduce the spread of black smoke, particularly spewed by the auto-rickshaws.
 The control air pollution caused by the black smoke of motor vehicles, the meeting decided to convert the vehicles for the use of compressed natural gas instead of petrol and diesel.
 The committee also decided to approve the draft rules under the provisions of Environment Protection Act 1995 for taking strict measures against the unfit vehicles.
 The meeting, second of its
 kind, also considered introducing ring roads and regulating the use of two-stroke engine vehicles to curb air pollution. First meeting of the committee was held on January 27, 1993.
 About industrial pollution, it recommended that working capital be provided to the industries that have taken environment-protection steps. It also recommended introduction of environment laws to check industrial pollution.
 The meeting, in principle, approved the decision to introduce 'Environment Court' comprising government officials and representatives of professional groups.
 The Prime Minister stressed the importance on implementation of the decisions of the meeting, saying some important decisions that were taken in the first meeting were not implemented properly.
 See Page 12 Col 2

Five killed, 11 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent
 Five people were killed and eleven injured in road accidents in Dhaka and Gazipur yesterday.
 UNB reports: Three people, one of them a college student, were killed in separate road accidents in the city yesterday.
 Police and hospital sources said Iqbal, 22, died on the spot when a speeding truck ran over him at Shanpara in Demra thana at about 7 pm. He was a student of the Suhrawardy College.
 An unidentified man, aged about 35, died on way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital after he was knocked down
 by a minibus at the Kalyanpur bus stand at about 2:30 pm.
 Another unidentified man, aged about 40, succumbed to his wounds at the DMCH in the morning. He was injured when a bus hit him in front of the Dhaka Polytechnic institute at about 7 am.
 BSS adds: Two people died and eleven others were injured in separate road accidents in Ershadnagar and Majukhan areas of Gazipur yesterday.
 Police said one Harunur Rashid, 40, was killed on the spot and six others were injured in an accident at Ershadnagar
 See Page 12 Col 5



BGMEA president Mostafa Golam Qudus presenting a bouquet to BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday. — Star photo

Rule on govt: Anticipatory bail for Khoka

Former State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadek Hossain Khoka was granted anticipatory bail in criminal case yesterday, reports UNB.
 The High Court also issued rule on the state for showing cause as to why the petitioner should not be granted anticipatory bail.
 The BNP leader appeared before the High Court praying for anticipatory bail.
 The court ordered the bail to be obtained to the satisfaction of the Deputy Commissioner of Dhaka.
 A Division Bench of the High Court
 See Page 12 Col 5

US Peace Corps to resume programme in Bangladesh

The US Peace Corps has decided to resume its programme in Bangladesh after a lapse of 33 years, reports UNB.
 "Absolutely, the conditions are ripe and present political climate is conducive to the re-establishment of the peace corps project in Bangladesh," Ms Kathleen Corey told newsmen at the American Club yesterday afternoon.
 Ms Corey, Peace Corps Country Director in Sri Lanka, came here on April 27 to study the need for the corps in Bangladesh and discussed the matter with a number of senior government officials.
 The objectives of the Peace Corps are to help the people of interested countries to meet their needs for trained men and women in different sectors, like health, education, rural and community development, as well as to promote a better understanding between the people of the United States and people served.
 "After my visit, I am very impressed by ongoing development works in Bangladesh... A lot of positive development works are going on in this country," she said, adding Peace Corps wants to contribute to these developmental efforts.
 The Peace Corps wrapped up its programme in 1964 after operating in the erstwhile Pakistan for three years.
 Replying to a question, Ms Corey said the Peace Corps undertakes its programme only in the countries which show interests. She said several months ago, they had got invitation from the Bangladesh government to resume its programme here.
 Asked when they will start operation, the Peace Corps officer
 See Page 12 Col 4



Kathleen Corey

2 killed, 7 hurt as train rams trolley on level-crossing

JAMALPUR, May 4: A passenger-trolley carrying the disciples of a locally renowned saint was rammed by a train on Shahjapur level-crossing in Melandah thana today, leaving two dead and seven wounded, reports UNB.
 Melandah TNO office sources said the Jamalpur-bound 212 down train from Bahadurabad ghat ran over the trolley bound for the mazar of Durmut Shah Kamal (RA) when it came onto the line at the same time as there was no gateman on the crossing.
 The trolley driver, Malek, 30, and an unidentified woman
 See Page 12 Col 5

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