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UP polls from Sept 1-15

Elections to 4,468 Union Parishads will be held in September next. LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman said yesterday. Talking to UNB last night, he said steps would be taken to complete the UP elections from September 1-15. He said the Local Government Commission's report will formally be handed over to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today. The LGRD Minister will hand over the report to the Prime Minister at Ganobhaban. Members of the Commission will also be present. The Commission was set up See Page 12 Col 4

By-election to Manikganj-3 JS seat June 30

By-election to Manikganj-3 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad will be held on June 30, reports UNB. Election Commission announced the bypolls schedule through gazette notification yesterday. The seat fell vacant after the death of BNP parliamentarian Nizamuddin Khan on April 8. According to the schedule, the last date for submitting nomination to returning or assistant returning officers is June 8. Returning officer will scrutinize the nomination papers on June 9 while last date for withdrawal of candidature is June 14. The EC, in another gazette notification, appointed the deputy commissioner of Manikganj returning officer while thana nirbahi officers of Sauria and Sadar were made assistant returning officers.

HC orders release of 5 BNP leaders of Bagerhat

The High Court yesterday declared the detention of five leaders of Bagerhat district BNP and its front organisations illegal and ultra vires, reports UNB. A HC Division bench, comprising Justice KM Hasan and Justice M Awlad Ali, also directed the authorities to immediately release the leaders detained in Bagerhat sub-jail under the Special Powers Act. The leaders are BNP leader Iskender Hossain, Bagerhat district Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal general secretary Sawkat Hossain, JCD leaders Hero and Mizan and Jubo Dal leader Shahid. They were given a 30-day detention by Bagerhat district magistrate on April 24. Challenging the validity of the detention order, five separate writ petitions (*habeas corpus*) were filed before the HC division bench. See Page 12 Col 5

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 CIRDAP consultation on model village begins today: Greater participation of rural people to plan projects stressed

DSE index rises on higher volume Pages 6 & 7

DSE MARKET
 DSE price index 1228.30(+0.10%)
 Market capital Tk 10224.00cr
 Transaction in volume 44385cr
 Transaction in value Tk 993cr

CSE MARKET
 CSE price index 533.66(+0.23%)
 Market capital Tk 7883.03cr
 Transaction in volume 217615cr
 Transaction in value Tk 37036797.50

Rabbani flees, Pakistan recognises Taliban in full control of Afghanistan

MAZAR-E-SHARIF (Afghanistan), May 25: Taliban fighters moved swiftly today to assert their authority over this northern stronghold, whose capture a day earlier nearly completed a three-year campaign to unite Afghanistan under the white flag of the radically Islamic army, report agencies. The fall of Mazar-e-Sharif brought virtually all of Afghanistan — barring a few pockets of resistance — under one regime for the first time since the Soviet army ended a 10-year occupation in 1989. The Taliban now control about 80 per cent of the territory with the remnants of the opposition confined to the far northeast and the central province of Bamian. The strategic Salang tunnel on the main highway from Kabul to central Asia fell into the hands of Taliban today, witnesses told AFP. The highway had remained closed since the Taliban seized Kabul in September, following which President Burhanuddin Rabbani and his forces under Masood fled to the north. Former Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani has fled to Iran, Pakistani foreign minister Gohar Ayub Khan said today. General Abdul Rashid Dostum, arrived today in the Turkish capital, said a spokesman for the Turkish Foreign Ministry in Ankara. "General Rashid Dostum arrived in Ankara this morning," See Page 12 Col 8

Diarrhoea death toll now 23 Low-cost housing for cyclone victims in islands begins

A low-cost housing project for the landless people of the cyclone-hit islands was launched yesterday, said Jawadul Karim, Press Secretary to the Prime Minister. In his regular briefing at the Prime Minister's office, Karim told reporters last night, an Army contingent left Dhaka yesterday to start building the houses, initially in the St Martin's Island. Ten families would be accommodated in each unit of the 'Housing Barracks' — comprising 20 rooms, one tubewell, two toilets, verandah and kitchens as designed by the works division in the Army Headquarters. A ninety feet by 27 feet unit would cost Tk 3,11,000. Each family would get 243 sq feet of space. It would take an Army platoon three days to build each unit, said an Army officer showing a design of the 'Housing Barracks'. Replying to query, the Press Secretary, however, could not say how many units would be built or how much money was allocated for the purpose. He added that Bangladesh Red Crescent Society has taken up a programme to build 10,000 houses and distribute ration worth 30,000 US dollars among the cyclone affected people. Meanwhile, the death toll from last Monday's cyclone rose to 111 yesterday. Deaths from diarrhoea also rose to 23 yesterday from six the day before. Jawadul Karim said that a total of 4,932 people were attacked by diarrhoea in the cyclone. See Page 12 Col 3

Death at Biman's landing bay still a mystery

The death of a young man at the landing bay of a Biman flight still remains a mystery as no one could trace how he was able to board the flight, reports UNB. Mamun, aged about 20, was found dead at the landing bay of Bangladesh Biman airbus 350 when it landed at Riyadh airport early Saturday. Officials at Zia International Airport and Bangladesh Biman said there could be three points where Mamun had boarded the landing bay. The points are Biman hanger where the airbus was from 10 am to 6 pm on Friday, number four bay where it was for about two hours from 6:15 pm to board passengers and the runway. But officials ruled out the possibility of his boarding the flight at runway for technical reasons. They also expressed their surprise that if he boarded at either of the two other points then how the 360 degree visual inspection allowed the flight to fly. See Page 12 Col 1

2 accomplices of Aslam held, arms recovered

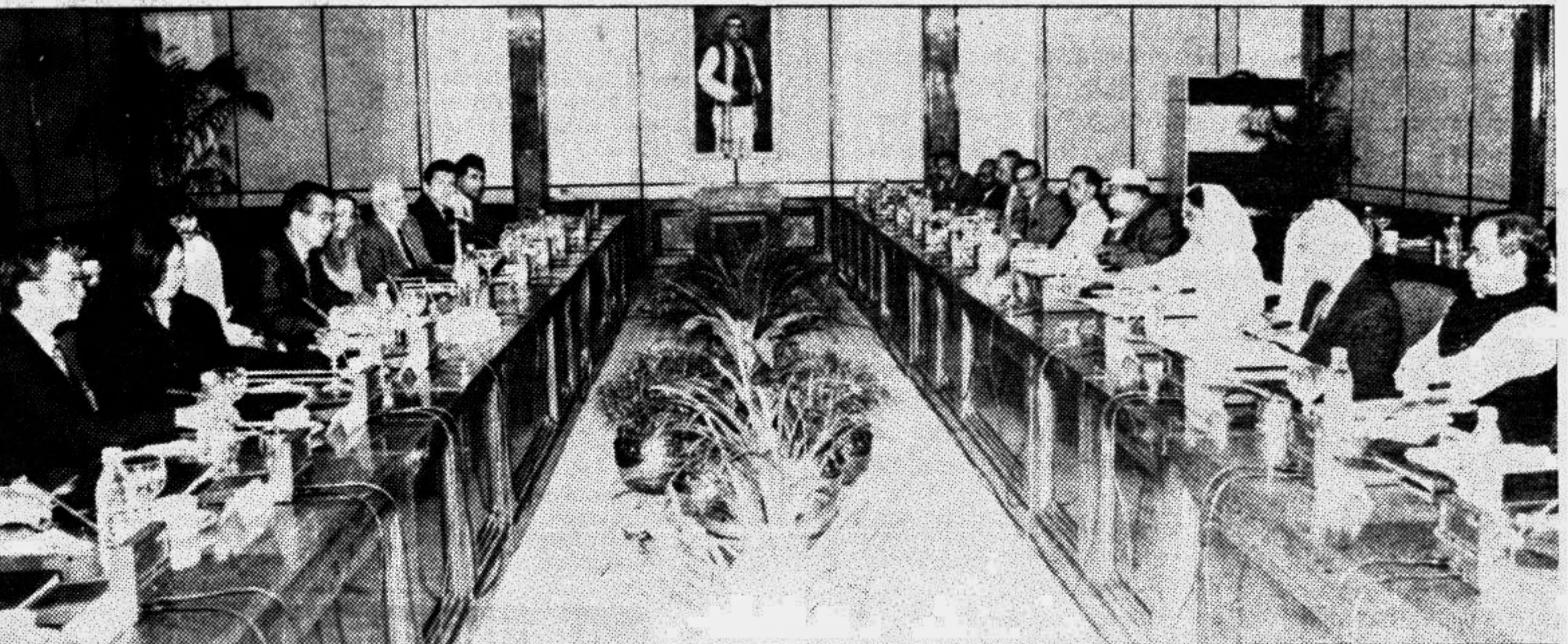
Police made two further arrests and recovered four foreign-made revolvers yesterday after gangster Sweden Aslam named two men to them. Aslam, presently on a seven-day remand, gave some information after five days of interrogation. Police raided at least 70 places and arrested Shariful Islam from Shamoli area and AKM Kazal Wahiduzzaman from Taltala area in the city. The two then led the police to different places for recovery of the firearms and 71 rounds of ammunition. Three revolvers and 65 rounds of ammunition were recovered from West Shantibagh area and another containing six rounds from the See Page 12 Col 7

Constable held for snatching

RANGPUR, May 25: One police constable along with two others were arrested last night by Kotwali police for snatching Tk 50,000 from a trader and the entire amount was recovered from their possession, police said today. The money was snatched from a local trader Kamruzzaman at 11:30 pm last night. The victim immediately informed the Kotwali police. A police team led by the OC of Kotwali thana arrested all three snatchers and recovered the money within two hours. The arrested snatchers are Shahinor, a constable of Khulna Metropolitan Police, Manik and Mokaddes. Constable Shahinor of KMP came here few days back on leave. — Star photo

Standard of university education falling

The standard of education of universities in the country is showing a declining trend, according to the annual report of the Public Service Commission (PSC), released recently. The observation was drawn on the basis of results of university graduates appearing at the BCS examinations. According to the report of the PSC, 10.19 per cent of the candidates passed the written examinations in the 13th BCS which declined to 9.16 per cent in the 15th BCS. The pass marks in written test is 45. The 14th BCS examinations were only for the education cadre. Of the total of 37,593 candi-



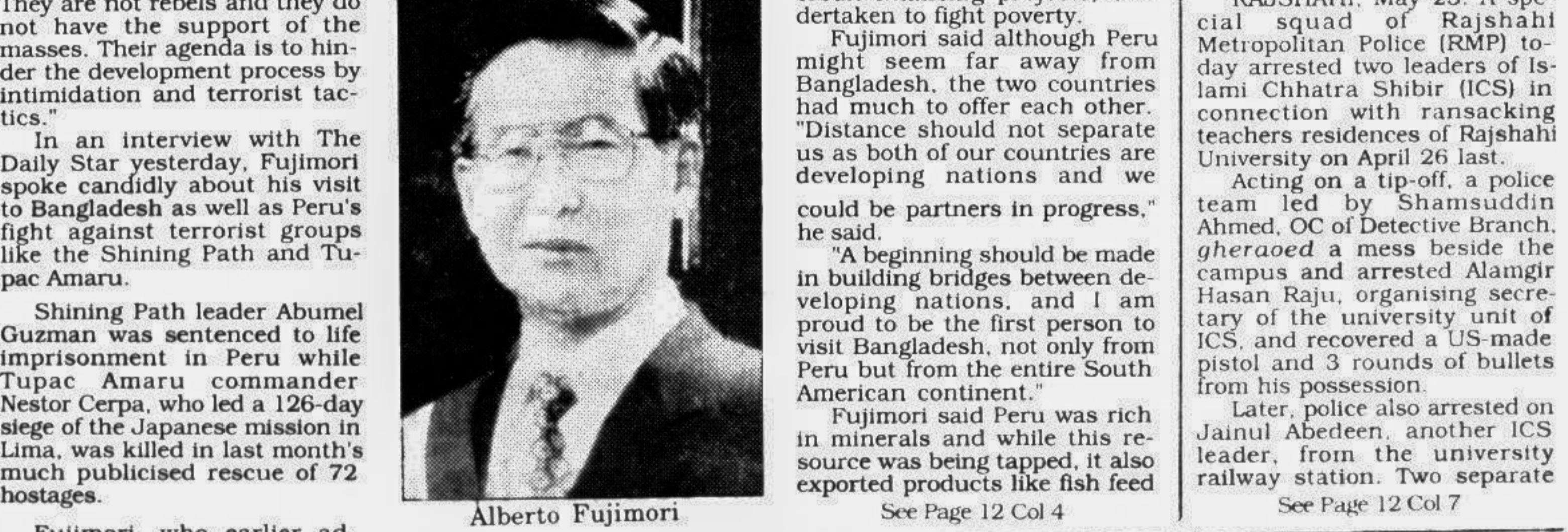
Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori leading their respective sides at the official talks held at the International Conference Centre in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Two accords signed: JC soon Dhaka, Lima for closer economic cooperation

By Staff Correspondent
 Bangladesh and Peru have agreed to foster closer bilateral economic co-operation and learn from each others experiences in the days ahead. The understanding was reached at the formal talks between the countries held here yesterday. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and visiting Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori led their respective sides in the hour-long talks held at the International Conference Centre (ICC) in the morning. After the talks, the two sides signed a 'Basic Agreement on Technical and Scientific Cooperation' while the chamber bodies of the two countries also signed a 'Protocol of Cooperation'. Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, who was present in the talks said, briefing newsmen. After the brief signing ceremony at 12:45 pm the Bangladesh Prime Minister and the President of Peru shook hands and exchanged the agreed documents. At the talks, President Fujimori and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and President Fujimori agreed that the two countries had many things in common and vast scope to learn and gain from each other's experience. Both the sides also agreed to give scope to the private sectors to take initiatives for promoting economic cooperation for mutual benefit. They underscored the need for fortifying the South-South co-operation, the foreign secretary said. President Fujimori mentioned his interest in micro-credit. He said that in some parts of Peru, micro-credit programmes were launched but, he was eager to take advantage of Grameen Bank's experience in further expanding his country's micro-credit programmes. Prior to the official talks, the Peruvian President paid a courtesy call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina. He also visited a Grameen Bank project and bought some 'Grameen Check'. See Page 12 Col 1

Fujimori tells The Daily Star Distance shouldn't be barrier to becoming partners in progress

By M Anwarul Haq
 Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori has said states should stand together and make concerted efforts to root out terrorism for the sake of poverty alleviation and national and international development. Fujimori said, "Terrorists are not friends of the people. They are not rebels and they do not have the support of the masses. Their agenda is to hinder the development process by intimidation and terrorist tactics." In an interview with The Daily Star yesterday, Fujimori spoke candidly about his visit to Bangladesh as well as Peru's fight against terrorist groups like the Shining Path and Tupac Amaru. Shining Path leader Abumel Guzman was sentenced to life imprisonment in Peru while Tupac Amaru commander Nestor Cerpa, who led a 126-day siege of the Japanese mission in Lima, was killed in last month's much publicised rescue of 72 hostages. Fujimori, who earlier addressed a press conference, pointed out that there were leftist groups which commanded a lot of respect in Peru. But they were non-violent and were participating in the national development process. His country could not afford violence and terrorism, he added. Fujimori said fighting poverty and unemployment was the primary agenda of his government and uppermost in the minds of Peruvians. Eight per cent of Peru's population was unemployed while 45 per cent was under-employed. The Peruvian President said micro-credit schemes were being organised to alleviate poverty and that one of the main reasons for his visit to Bangladesh was to see the country's micro credit financing projects. He said he had close contact with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina during the micro-credit summit in Washington and there was worldwide appreciation of Bangladesh's micro-credit financing projects, undertaken to fight poverty. Fujimori said although Peru might seem far away from Bangladesh, the two countries had much to offer each other. "Distance should not separate us as both of our countries are developing nations and we could be partners in progress," he said. "A beginning should be made in building bridges between developing nations, and I am proud to be the first person to visit Bangladesh, not only from Peru but from the entire South American continent." Fujimori said Peru was rich in minerals and while this resource was being tapped, it also exported products like fish feed See Page 12 Col 4



Alberto Fujimori

N'ganj phone exchange goes digital today

From Ehsanul Haq
 NARAYANGANJ, May 25: The much-awaited 6000-line digital telephone exchange will be inaugurated here today, replacing the 43-year-old analogue exchange. Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim is due to open the new exchange at a simple ceremony at the Kalibazar Telephone Bhaban at 3 in the afternoon. Earlier on Friday night, the digital telephone lines were put into operation on an experimental basis. According to T and T office sources, of the 6,000 digital lines, 5,000 will replace the existing analogue lines while 1,000 new lines will be given. The new exchange called 'UT-100 Multi-digital Exchange' See Page 12 Col 8

JS budget session from June 10

The budget session of Parliament begins on June 10 at 4 pm, reports UNB. President Shahabuddin Ahmed summoned the fifth session of the seventh Parliament, said an official announcement yesterday. The national budget for 1997-98 financial year is likely to be placed in the Jatiya Sangsad on June 12. A brief six-day pre-budget session, the fourth of this Parliament, began on May 10 and was prorogued on May 15. UNB says: Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria yesterday held a pre-budget discussion with Jatiya Party MPs who made some important recommendations on revenue earning See Page 12 Col 8

Yasmin was raped, murdered, magistrate testifies

From Our Correspondent
 RANGPUR, May 25: Trial of Yasmin rape and murder case resumed today in the District and Sessions Judge's Court, Rangpur. All the nine accused were on the dock. They are charged under Section 201(34) of the penal Code for lapses in duty, concealing facts and trying to destroy 'alamat' and divert the case. The court today recorded testimony of 1st Class Magistrate Selina Shahadat of Dinajpur who conducted inquest and 2nd autopsy of the body of Yasmin on August 30, 95 after it was exhumed under court order. See Page 12 Col 7

Two RU Shibir leaders held: Arms recovered

From RU Correspondent
 RAJSHAHI, May 25: A special squad of Rajshahi Metropolitan Police (RMP) today arrested two leaders of Islamic Chhatra Shibir (ICS) in connection with ransacking teachers residences of Rajshahi University on April 26 last. Acting on a tip-off, a police team led by Shamsuddin Ahmed, OC of Detective Branch, gheraoed a mess beside the campus and arrested Alamgir Hasan Raju, organising secretary of the university unit of ICS, and recovered a US-made pistol and 3 rounds of bullets from his possession. Later, police also arrested on Jainul Abedeen, another ICS leader, from the university railway station. Two separate See Page 12 Col 7

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