

## Bus service with 16 N-districts resumes

PABNA, May 31: The non-stop transport strike between the capital and sixteen northern districts was called off today, reports UNB. Union leaders said the strike was withdrawn following a meeting between the transport owners and workers of Dhaka and northern areas at Gabtoli bus terminal on Saturday. A committee was formed for smooth movement of transport and to oversee that there cannot be repression on the owners and workers of northern areas. Bus service between the capital and the 16 districts resumed today (Saturday). The meeting was attended by general secretary of Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation Habibur Rahman Khan, general secretary of Bangladesh Bus-Truck Owners Association Abdul Gafur Khan, president of Uttaranchal Motor Owners Association Baby Islam and general secretary of Uttaranchal Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation Shimul Biswas. Northern Transport Owners and Workers Associations jointly called the strike protesting the attacks at Gabtoli terminal on May 28.

## Mahbub's death Biman probe body report one-sided: CAAB official

Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) considers the report of Biman enquiry committee on the death of Mahbub one-sided, a bid to shift all responsibilities to CAAB shrugging off their own, reports UNB. "Before receiving autopsy report of Mahbub's body, how one could confirm the cause of his death," said a CAAB official, who, however, said he learnt about Biman report only from newspapers. The top official said Biman Bangladesh Airlines is supposed to be regulated by CAAB, but we are yet to receive any report from them. They can prepare any imaginary report as none from CAAB was not their committee. The Biman enquiry committee. See Page 12 Col 4

## Leakage of question papers: 2 JU teachers found guilty

From JU Correspondent A special session of the Jahangirnagar University Syndicate last night found two teachers and an employee of the Mathematics Department guilty of leaking question papers in the admission test on May 13. The top disciplinary body of the university also decided to serve show cause notices on six teachers of the department, the members of the admission committee, some students and employees to explain their conduct in connection with the first year admission test. Three high-powered committees were also formed by the Syndicate to suggest action against them by June 22. Earlier, a probe body formed in the wake of the scandal submitted its report on May 29.

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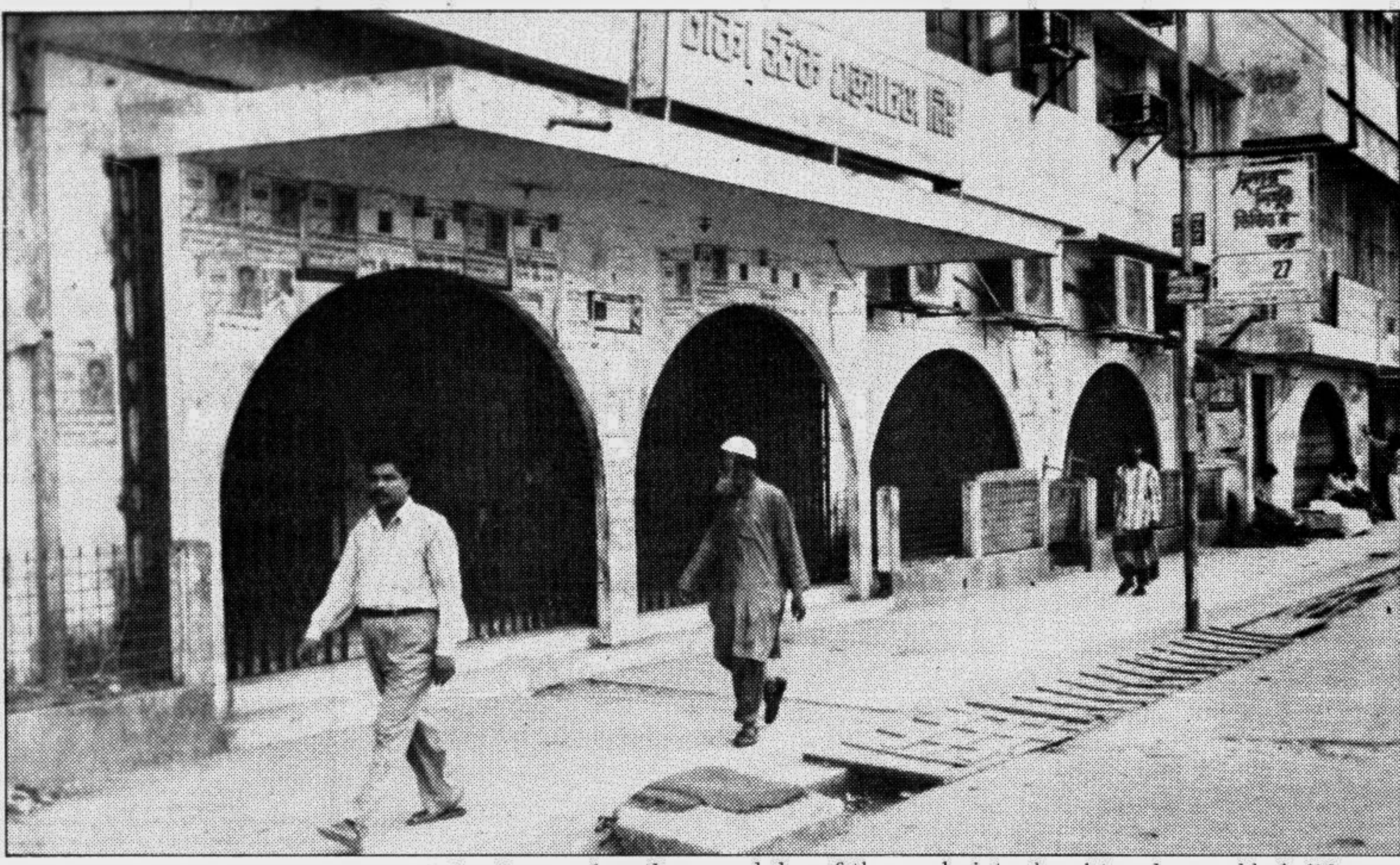
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The Dhaka Stock Exchange remained closed yesterday, the second day of the newly introduced two-day weekly holiday. — Star photo

## Ctg Port, many offices operate as usual

From Nurul Alam CHITTAGONG, May 31: Chittagong port, oil companies, business houses, commercial enterprises and many offices in the port city operated today while a cross section of people was critical of the government announcement of two-day weekly holiday on Friday and Saturday. Official sources said cargo handling went on as usual today as port workers attended their duties. But port office remained closed. The three oil companies — Meghna Petroleum, Jamuna Oil company and Padma Oil company — functioned and their oil terminal at Patenga remained open. See Page 12 Col 2

## Withdraw decision on 2-day holiday: BNP

Opposition BNP has sharply reacted to the government's sudden announcement of two-day weekly holiday on Friday and Saturday and demanded that the decision be rescinded, reports UNB. It said the decision would create an adverse impact on the overall economic activities, especially on industrial production and export-import sector. The two days' weekly holiday became effective from yesterday. In a statement last night, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said the government decision, which was taken bypassing all concerned, has created "doubt and question in the minds of the people." He said the government took the decision beyond the parliament, and without discussing with chamber bodies, trade unions, professional organisations or other representative social institutions. "Before taking and enforcing the decision, the government did not think it essential to discuss with any quarter. It did not explain what will be the social and economic advantages of the two-day weekly holiday," he added. He said the country would remain disconnected "economically" from the outside world for three days a week as Sunday is weekly holiday in most countries. Bhuiyan apprehended that the main objective of the gov-

## Most pvt offices function on second day of holiday

Star Report The newly introduced two-day weekly-holiday in government and semi-government offices, autonomous bodies, banks, educational institutions ended yesterday, leaving the city streets half-deserted of usual modes of transport. Most of the private businesses and commercial enterprises, mills and factories, including garment factories, functioned as usual. The stock exchanges in Dhaka and Chittagong remained closed as the banks remained closed. This affected businesses which were open. But Korb market traders in Dhaka's Motijheel Commercial Area transacted business. See Page 12 Col 7

## Kesri, Pawar ready to quit race for Sonia

NEW DELHI, May 31: Sonia Gandhi was at the centre stage of Indian politics today with the top brass of the country's oldest party offering to clear the decks for the reclusive widow to take charge, reports AFP. Sitaram Kesri, the present chief of the Congress (I) who faces a leadership challenge in next month's party elections, late Friday said he would quit the race if the enigmatic Sonia wanted to lead the party. Sonia is the widow of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, who was assassinated in 1991. Kesri said he had made her the offer previously, after her husband's death. "I had made the offer to her in 1991 and even today I am ready to withdraw if she agrees to become the party president in the interest of party unity," he said here. The Italian-born widow, after repeatedly refusing to enter Indian politics, joined the Congress this month. Since then, many party activists have asked her to take up the top job and refurbish the party's flagging image. His main rival Sharad Pawar, a member of the Congress decision-making body, who vowed to defeat Kesri on June 9 for presidency of the 112-year-old party, also said he would step aside for Sonia. Pawar, 56, had asked the party leadership to unanimously choose Sonia Gandhi, whose husband, mother-in-law Indira Gandhi and her father, Jawaharlal Nehru, led the



Lichis, the juicy summer special, are there in basketful at the Badamtali wholesale market in the city for Tk 250-400 per thousand. — Star photo

## Tk 108cr RCC budget for '97-98

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, May 31: Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation (RCC) Mijanur Rahman Minu today announced a budget of Tk 108 crore 51 lakh of the corporation for the 1997-98 financial year. There is no proposal for new taxes in the budget the Mayor said while announcing the budget at a press conference at the conference hall of the RCC. The Mayor said that the government would provide Tk 50 crore as project aid and Tk 30 crore as development grant for implementation of various development programmes of the corporation during the next fiscal year. Mijanur Rahman Minu said that the revenue income of the corporation from tax, fees and others would be over Tk 21 crore 49 lakh.

## Six alleged cattle lifters beaten to death in Demra

By Staff Correspondent Angry villagers lynched six persons suspecting them to be cattle-lifters at a village in Demra thana in the early hours of yesterday. Police said they recovered bodies of the six unidentified persons — aged between 25 and 30 — from a river islet, Dasherkerandi in the Balu river. Police found the bodies lying on a marshy paddy field at Dasherkerandi at about 11 am yesterday. The victims sustained fatal assault injuries and died on the spot at about 3 am, police said. Most of them were wearing lungi and under garments. Demra police took the bodies to the Mitford Hospital morgue for autopsy. Police suspected that the six came by an engine boat from Ruppaj or Sonargaon areas in Narayanganj district. Local people said that a gang of cattle-lifters came to Dasherkerandi village at about 1:30 am by engine boat. Some people of Dasherkerandi and nearby Meradia caught six of them. Police suspected that the villagers beat them out of a pent-up anger over stealing of 14 cattle from the village on May 17 night. A case was lodged with Demra thana in connection with the theft by Abdul Karim of the village. After the May 17 theft, the villagers of Dasherkerandi made arrangement to guard the village at night, police sources said adding that the six alleged cattle-lifters were caught after they landed in the village and approached towards the dwellings. Police interrogated some persons in the area and filed a case under Section 302/34 with Demra thana in connection with the killing. Senior police officials visited the spot while the bodies were kept in the Mitford Hospital morgue last night.

## Re-excavation of Gorai slows down

By Staff Correspondent Re-excavation of the Gorai river under the Food for Work programme has slowed down due to bureaucratic wrangling between the ministries of water resources and relief. The Ministry of Water Resources, which is supervising the re-excavation work, is saying that the pace of the work was very slow as the Ministry of Relief was not granting adequate quantity of rice for the project. On the other hand, the Ministry of Relief is saying that the supply of foodgrain was "appropriate in terms of cost." The government started excavation of the Gorai in March under the food for work programme with an initial sanction of 20,000 tonnes of rice by the Prime Minister. Water Resources Ministry officials said. So far, 16,000 tonnes of rice has been received by the Water Resources Ministry for the project, they added. The Relief Ministry later informed the Water Resources Ministry that the Prime Minister's sanction was in terms of See Page 12 Col 3

## Hazaribagh tannery waste polluting fresh areas

By Morshed Ali Khan Tannery wastes, now being diverted into low lying areas near Rayerbazar outside the Dhaka flood protection embankment, are destroying a vast stretch of arable land and all sorts of marine life. WASA officials in charge of the drainage said the wastes had to be diverted to the new area as the old channel was blocked by a recently built tannery. Previously, the lethal wastes flowed into the river Buriganga from the Hazaribagh Sluice, further downstream. Water Development Board (WDB) sources said the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) was yet to give them the necessary pa-

## JP council in October

Jatiya Party Presidium at a meeting last night decided to hold the party's next council in October, reports UNB. The meeting called to decide whether it would play a "pure opposition" or a partner of the government, as demanded by three rebel leaders, was marked by demonstration by a section of party workers. Several dozen party activists gathered in front of Asiatic Printers and chanted slogans in favour of "unity" as the meeting began at 8 pm with JP Chairman HM Ershad in the chair. "We have primarily decided to hold the council in October," JP additional secretary general Nazim Rahman Manjur told waiting newsmen during the meeting. Of the three rebel leaders, Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury joined the meeting while Kazif Zafar Ahmed and Shah Moazzem Hossain did not. Party sources said the meeting also discussed organisational matters, including the See Page 12 Col 2

## Computerisation of DU library yet to start

By Aminul Islam Talking to The Daily Star, he said an independent internet server will be set up in the university so that the students and teachers can get full time service. It will cost Tk 50 thousand. He said the second phase of the project in which the entire library will be brought under computer network will start "as soon as we get the fund." All the groundworks have already been completed and "We are now waiting for fund and we expect that the Finance Ministry will allocate the required fund," the VC said. "We are also contacting the UNDP for fund to complete computerisation of the library," See Page 12 Col 7

## Sugar mills staff to barricade roads June 12

From Our Correspondent FARIDPUR, May 31: A meeting under the auspices of the Faridpur Sugar Mills employees union was held here this morning protesting the govt's decision to denationalise 13 sugar mills. Presided over by Shamsur Rahman, President of the Faridpur Sugar Mills employees union the meeting was addressed, among others by Abdul Jalil Panna, President, Bangladesh Sugar Mills employees Federation and Baduzzaman, general secretary of the Federation. As part of the protest programme, the employees will block the roads in and around the 13 mills on June 12, and observe a sit-in in front of the Industries Ministry on June 16.

## Population Council study on blood screening Donors, recipients at great risk of transmittable diseases

A study revealed a dismal picture of blood screening and testing in relation to HIV and AIDS in the capital city, reports UNB. The inadequacy has been in terms of both quantity and quality of the facilities, said the study conducted by Population Council, an international health research organisation. The major problems found include unsatisfactory level of knowledge of the technical personnel including the medical professionals about routes of transmission of HIV, diseases transmittable through unsafe blood handling and unsterilized blood transfusion. Even the authorities of the centres were found to be somewhat indifferent about the problems, said the study of the council's research fellows — Ismail Bhuiyan and Sharif M Ismail Hossain — and its country representative Kim Streatfield. Added to this, they said, is a lack of supply of protective materials such as gloves, masks, aprons and others. On the other side of the problems is also the poor handling of the screening kits by the suppliers which make the test result inaccurate. Unless adequate measures are taken to improve the condition, the technicians, blood donors and recipients will continue to be at great risk of the diseases transmittable through blood, the researchers opined. They visited seven screening centers, including five government, and 14 blood banks, including seven government-controlled. They interviewed 11 technical personnel of blood screening centres, five of them MBBS physicians. Only seven had specific training in HIV screenings. The researchers also interviewed 14 individuals representing blood banks and 19 technicians. Government bank technicians had diploma while the rest did not have any formal degree. Private blood bank report See Page 12 Col 1

## Mehedi killing: Another held

By Staff Correspondent Another person was arrested yesterday in connection with the murder of Mehedi Hasan at Tejgaon in the city early Friday. Police was arrested Mostafa, 30, from the Tejgaon industrial area, interrogating him last night. Meanwhile, Sher Ali arrested following the murder was placed on a two-day remand yesterday. Police said Sher Ali, 27, was produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court which granted the remand. Mehedi Hasan alias Babu, aged about 21, was found dead with stab wounds near the BG Press Staff quarters at Tejgaon at about 4 am on Friday. The authorities of Habibullah Bahar University College in a statement yesterday said Mehedi Hasan, son of Asaduzzaman, was not admitted to the degree as reported earlier.

## Paula Jones' case against Clinton Key evidence hidden to avoid theft

WASHINGTON, May 31: Key evidence in which a woman describes "distinguishing characteristics" of President Bill Clinton's genitals has been hidden to avoid theft before the sexual harassment case against Clinton gets under way, a US weekly said Friday, reports AFP. The lawyers for Paula Jones claim the description will prove that Clinton exposed himself to her in a hotel room in Little Rock, Arkansas, six years ago. Jones claims that Clinton — who was at the time Governor of Arkansas — had a state trooper escort her to the hotel room, where he dropped his trousers and asked her to "kiss it", a proposition she declined. The 700,000 dollar suit got the green light Tuesday when the Supreme Court ruled an acting president is not immune to civil suits for his private acts. Jones, a former Arkansas state employee, has claimed she could provide "distinguishing characteristics" of the President's genitals to prove her claim. Three envelopes containing signed copies of a two-page affidavit with the description have been hidden, each at a different spot, by Jones' lawyers, "to avoid theft, tampering or premature inspection by White House moles," US News and World Report said. The weekly said it will publish the claim in its issue that See Page 12 Col 4



Paula Jones

## Bill submission date extended

The final date for submission of some bills for the financial year 1996-97 was extended up to June 2, reports BSS. As per Finance Division notification, the final date was May 31, but it was extended due to declaration of Saturday as weekly holiday, an official handout said. The concerned categories of bills are arrears pay bill, travelling allowance bill from January to April and contingent bills, grants, sanctions under revenue heads.