

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA
 TEL: 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

NESTOMALT
 MALTED FOOD DRINK
 কর্মবাস্ত মানুয়ের জন্য স্বাস্থ্যকর পানীয়

India resumes construction of road along border

From Our Correspondent
RANGPUR, June 8: Indian authorities, aided by the BSF, have resumed construction of a road along the zero point of the border at Patgram thana, ignoring protest by the BDR, sources in the BDR said today.
 Indian roads and highways officials had earlier started construction of a road along the border pillar Nos. 806 and 807 but stopped it following protest by the BDR.
 But they resumed the construction work on Friday under the cover of the BSF. More than one hundred people including roads and highways officials are engaged in the work, BDR sources said.
 The BDR has lodged a written protest with the BSF to stop construction of the road along the zero point of the border, but the work is going on, the sources said.
 See Page 12 Col 2



A section of Secretariat employees held a rally in the Secretariat yesterday. — Star photo

Dhaka protests landing of IAF chopper at Chunarughat

The government yesterday said a protest was lodged with the Indian government for the landing of an Indian Air Force helicopter inside Bangladesh territory at Chunarughat in Habiganj district recently violating Bangladesh airspace, reports UNB.
 A press release issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said, "Attention of the Ministry has been drawn to reports that have appeared in a section of the press recently about the landing of an Indian helicopter at Chunarughat in Habiganj district on the 20th May 1997."
 Quoting reports received from concerned government agencies, the Ministry said an Indian Air Force helicopter landed at Chunarughat in Habiganj district on May 20, at 1815 hours. The helicopter carried six persons in uniform and one in civilian dress.
 See Page 12 Col 1

PM's directive to Chief of Staff Armed forces to be engaged in development activities

MYMENSINGH, June 8: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the government will engage the armed forces in development activities of the nation, reports UNB.
 "There is a great potential in you as a disciplined and well-trained force... This potential has to be used for the development of the nation," she told officers and jawans of 19th Infantry Division at the Darbar of the cantonment.
 The prime minister said she had already directed the chief of army staff to involve the army personnel in some development activities and constructive works.
 She said the Armed Forces are the symbol of nation's integrity and sovereignty, and for this reason it should be kept out of all sorts of political controversy.
 "Entangling the army into political controversy is never desirable," she said, "but a certain quarter is making false statements concerning the army and the Awami League."
 They are trying to confuse the people dishing out false and distorted information with an evil motive, she told the Darbar function, adding that the dream of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman was to build a modern and skilled armed forces.
 The momentum which was created in rebuilding, improving and modernising the army during the rule of the Father of the Nation had been hampered in every step in last 21 years, she observed.
 "The national army was then used for aggrandising ambition of the power mongers. In a planned manner, conflict, controversy and indiscipline and confrontation were created in the army, which resulted in many unwanted incidents in the army," she said.
 For the evil interest of power hundreds of army officers and jawans were sacked and many innocent army men lost their lives without trial or staged trial, she added.
 Lauding the contribution of Armed Forces at home and abroad, the prime minister said the praiseworthy role of army in facing disasters is well-known now. They have also earned name and fame abroad for their glorious role in the UN.
 See Page 12 Col 6

Construction of BDR guard room at Benapole stopped

From Our Correspondent
JESSORE, June 8: Work on the construction of a BDR guard room at the Benapole checkpoint has been stopped following protest from India.
 The Commanding Officer of BDR, Jessore, Lt Col Monzur Kabir told The Daily Star that the work was stopped as the 1975 Indo-Bangladesh border agreement prohibited the construction of such structure within 150 yards from the zero line on both sides of the border.
 Asked about how the customs warehouse and a BSF guard room were constructed on the Indian side opposite the Benapole check-post within 150 yards in violation of the border agreement, the Col. said these were constructed before his joining here last year and no protest from Bangladesh was lodged, he said.

Kibria tells seminar in city Bangladesh Bank is fully autonomous

From Our Correspondent
DHAKA, June 8: Finance Minister SAMS Kibria said yesterday.
 "Bankruptcy laws and other financial laws will be enacted in a month or two," he said at a workshop on banking sector reforms, jointly organised by the Federation of Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) and the American Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) at a local hotel.
 "You will see dramatic changes in the banking sector within a couple of months," the Minister said. He also referred to the Banking Reform Committee, Law Commission, Financial Loan Court Act and Bankruptcy Act and said vigorous application of these laws will improve banking business in the country.
 The Finance Minister put emphasis on independent functioning of the central bank bringing back discipline in banking and financial institutions and said the Bangladesh Bank is "completely autonomous" and the banks are supervised more than ever before.
 "I wondered when they (BB) proposed me for autonomy, I don't see any interference by the government in the central bank's activities. The government now encourages the bank to function independently."
 See Page 12 Col 1

'Most of the donated blood not screened before transfusion'

Recipients are at high risk of acquiring transmissible infections as blood for transfusion is not screened both in government and private hospitals, according to a report published in the treatment, reports UNB.
 Since about 90 per cent of transfused blood in Bangladesh comes from professional blood donors, most of the donated blood is not screened for transfusion, according to the research report of New York-based Population Council.
 It said professional blood donors, the main source of transfused blood, have a high chance of acquiring sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS, and hepatitis B and C.
 The study by Population Council, an international research organisation, also found laboratory facilities for diagnosis of syphilis, hepatitis B and AIDS were not available in most of the health centres.
 Population Council research fellows — Sharif Md Ismail Hossain and Ismat Bhuiyan — and its country representative Kim Streatfield conducted the research.
 For the research 288 professional blood donors were selected.
 The study found almost all the professional blood donors illiterate and had never heard about HIV/AIDS. Their mean and median monthly income is Tk 1,420 and Tk 1,200.
 It said more than 60 per cent of the blood donors are addicted or habituated to some kind of substance. Over 30 per cent of them had suffered or were suffering at the time of interview from penile ulcer or purulent urethral discharge, indication of syphilis or chancroid and gonorrhoea.
 Nearly 60 per cent of the blood donors had suffered from jaundice sometime in their life. A possible indication of hepatitis B or hepatitis C.
 Surprisingly, 14 per cent and over 20 per cent of professional donors have been selling blood knowing that their blood is positive for syphilis (VDRL) and hepatitis B respectively.
 See Page 12 Col 5

4 boys rescued, 9 child traffickers arrested

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, June 8: Police arrested 9 members of an organised gang of child traffickers and rescued four minor boys at Jakiganj border last night.
 Police said, the gang took four minor boys — Rubel, 8, Julhas, 7, Ibrahim, 7, and Kamal, 6, of Haimchar in Chandpur district to the village Darabab, six kilometres off the Jakiganj thana headquarters yesterday. They brought these boys and kept them in the house of one Abdus Sattar.
 The arrested members of the gang were identified as: Shafiqullah alias Shahjahan, Abdul Hossain, Khokan, Mostafa, Sirajul Islam and his wife Shahana and Abdus Sattar.
 The four minor boys informed police that Abdul Halim and Shahjahan advised them all to call him father, till all of them reach Dubai. Police also recovered the children's passports duly stamped with visas for Dubai.
 On interrogation, arrested members of the gang said they were taken to the village Karati in Karimganj thana here was...
 See Page 12 Col 1

2 held for child trafficking in Kishoreganj

KISHOREGANJ, June 8: Two child lifters were caught red handed while lifting a child from Kishoreganj railway station here today, reports UNB.
 They were identified as Hamida Khatun, 35, wife of Gaudu Miah of village Aribaria in Hossainpur thana in the district and Shefaly Begum, 40, wife of Zakir Hossain of village Durgapur of Banchcharampur in Comilla district.
 Eyewitnesses said Farida Khatun, 8, daughter of Abdul Muhi of village Karati in Karimganj thana here was...
 See Page 12 Col 1

Ruling, opposition leaders' concern JS standing bodies should be formed without further delay

By Reaz Ahmad
 Delay in the formation of parliamentary standing committees has become the main concern of lawmakers as the Seventh Jatiya Sangsad goes into its fifth session tomorrow.
 Due to sharp differences between the ruling Awami League and opposition BNP on the composition of standing committees, key fora in a parliamentary form of government, those could not be formed even in nearly 11 months since the present parliament went into its first session on July 14 last year.
 Article 246 of the JS Rules of Procedure reads, "Parliament shall, as soon as may be, after the inauguration of each new Parliament, appoint the Standing Committees on each Ministry..."
 Talking to The Daily Star, leaders of both AL and BNP have expressed their eagerness to bury the difference in their respective stands on the issue so that the committees could be formed during the coming session of the Sangsad. When approached, they also did not rule out the possibility of back stage parley in this regard during the fifth session.
 The process of formation of standing bodies had to start late for some necessary amendments to the JS Rules of Procedure. Though the JS committee on Rules of Procedure finally came up with its report during the fourth session of parliament, it was placed before the House with a 'Note of Dissent' signed by three BNP deputies including the Deputy Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition Chief Whip.
 All the lawmakers irrespective of their party affiliation appreciated the suggestion of non-minister becoming heads of the JS standing committees, but BNP has strong objections about the size and composition of those.
 BNP wants expansion of the committees each to comprise 12 members instead of 10 now, and proportionate representation of the parties in parliament. But the report placed in the House by the Speaker on May 14 said that each committee would consist of not more than 10 members and did not suggest accommodation of MPs in accordance with their parties' strength in parliament. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury had, however, told the House that further amendments to the report would be entertained from MPs. Accordingly, many lawmakers, particularly of the ruling party, appreciated the suggestion of non-minister becoming heads of the JS standing committees, but BNP has strong objections about the size and composition of those.
 BNP wants expansion of the committees each to comprise 12 members instead of 10 now, and proportionate representation of the parties in parliament. But the report placed in the House by the Speaker on May 14 said that each committee would consist of not more than 10 members and did not suggest accommodation of MPs in accordance with their parties' strength in parliament. Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury had, however, told the House that further amendments to the report would be entertained from MPs. Accordingly, many lawmakers, particularly of the ruling party, appreciated the suggestion of non-minister becoming heads of the JS standing committees, but BNP has strong objections about the size and composition of those.
 See Page 12 Col 7

Bypolls: Six submit nomination papers

By Staff Correspondent
 Six candidates submitted their nomination papers at the Election Commission (EC) office in the city yesterday for contesting the June 30 by-election in the Manikganj-3 Jatiya Sangsad constituency.
 The nomination papers will be scrutinised today and the last date for withdrawal of candidature is June 14. The EC will also verify whether the candidates are bank loan defaulters or have any criminal record. Yesterday was the last date for submission of nomination.
 The Manikganj-3 seat fell vacant following the death of BNP MP Nizamuddin Khan on April 8.
 The constituency covers 9 unions under Satura thana and 7 unions under Sadar thana.
 See Page 12 Col 5

Young man stabbed to death in city

By Staff Correspondent
 A young man was stabbed to death at Mirpur in the city yesterday afternoon, according to police.
 Police said the victim was identified as Titu, 24, who used to sell meat in the area. Previous enmity might be the cause of the gruesome murder.
 The mother of the deceased, Rashida Begum, lodged a case accusing six persons.
 According to witnesses, Titu when returning to his house in the Barriburud slum area at Mirpur had an altercation with some of his friends at around 1:30 pm yesterday. Titu was stabbed when he was passing the same area about half an hour later, police said quoting witnesses. He died shortly afterwards, police said adding the assailants fled immediately after the killing.
 According to Mirpur police, one has been arrested so far.

BCL factions clash on campus CU Syndicate seeks PM's intervention

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, June 8: A tense situation is prevailing in Chittagong University following clashes between two rival groups of the Bangladesh Chhatra League, campus sources and police said.
 The clashes that took place on Thursday and Saturday left several students injured.
 Meanwhile, the Chittagong University Syndicate held an emergency meeting today to discuss the latest development on the campus. The Syndicate meeting called on the Chancellor of the University Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for taking timely action to defuse the explosive situation on the campus, according to a press release of the university.
 "We make a fervent appeal to the Chancellor to look into the matter considering our helpless condition and limitations to tackle the situation," the Syndicate said.
 The meeting also urged the political leaders to cooperate in restoring a peaceful and healthy atmosphere in the university.
 The Syndicate meeting has banned rallies, processions and provocative slogans on the campus, the Rail Station and in Road No. 1 till June 30, the press release added.
 The meeting requested the law enforcing agency to take into custody armed terrorists moving on the CU campus.
 The students have been advised to carry their identity cards with them.

HC terms use of 'danda beri' on prisoners illegal

By SC Correspondent
 The High Court yesterday directed the government to show cause within two weeks as to why the provisions of the Prisons Act and the Jail Code relating to the application of batons, 'danda beri', on the prisoners should not be declared unconstitutional.
 In the particular case of one Fazul alias Hafiz alias Hafizur Rahman alias Happy, the HC also directed the government represented by the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Inspector General of Prisons, Sub-Jailer, Jhenidah and Medical Officer, Jhenidah to show cause as to why the continuous restraints of the prisoner in bar fetters should not be declared to be without lawful authority and unconstitutional as being violative of fundamental rights under Article 27, 31 and 35 of the Constitution.
 Upon a writ petition filed by Salma Sobhan, Executive Director of Ain-o-Shalish Kendra, the division bench of the HC comprising Justice Mainur Reza Chowdhury and Justice MA Aziz further directed the respondents to show cause as to why the prisoner shall not be brought before the HC so that it may satisfy itself that he is not being held in an unlawful manner.
 Advocate Nizamul Huq Nasim and Md Asaduzzaman appeared for the petitioner.
 It was alleged in the petition that the prisoner has been continuously restrained with 'danda beri' since August 17, 1994, date of his conviction.
 He is facing tremendous problems in walking and he has been lying down inside the jail for last 33 months, submitted.
 See Page 12 Col 8

JS goes into budget session tomorrow

The Jatiya Sangsad goes into budget session tomorrow, reports UNB.
 The budget for fiscal 1997-98 is expected to be placed in the House on June 12. This will be the second national budget of the Awami League government.
 The first budget under the Awami League government was placed in the first session of the Seventh Parliament in July last year, but it was prepared by the caretaker government of Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman.
 Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria will present his second budget before the House for consideration.
 Kibria will place a revised budget of the 1996-97 fiscal year along with the new budget.
 The forthcoming budget session is likely to be a lengthy one. There will be general discussion on the budget when the members from both Treasury and Opposition benches will...
 See Page 12 Col 3



Kuerten wins French Open

PARIS, June 8: Unseeded Gustavo Kuerten became the first Brazilian ever to win a men's singles title at a Grand Slam tournament here today when he defeated two-time former champion Sergi Bruguera of Spain 6-3, 6-4, 6-2, in a dramatic French Open final, reports AFP.
 The 66th-ranked 20-year-old South American, playing in only his third Grand Slam tournament, showed no stage-fright in front of a packed Roland Garros Centre Court crowd and completed his win in 1 hr 50 mins.

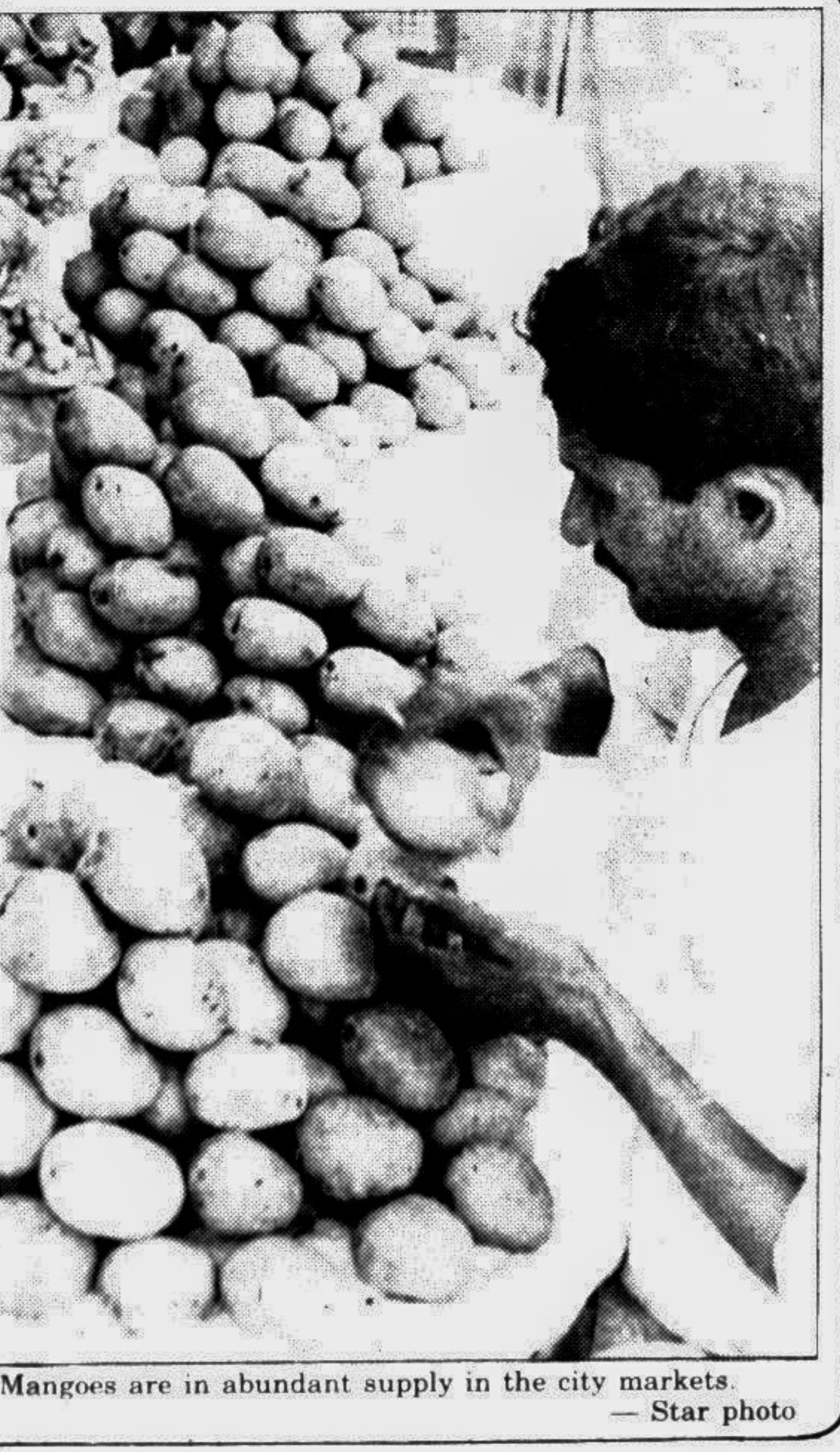
7 probationary ASPs sacked

Seven Assistant Superintendents of Police (ASPs) were terminated from their services yesterday on disciplinary grounds during their training period, reports UNB.
 The sacked probationary ASPs are: Ali Hossain Fakir, Zillur Rahman, Saidur Rahman, Monir Hossain, Fazlul Karim, Masud Hasan Pulok and Mosharrat Hossain.
 Sources said the seven along with 61 other ASPs came to Dhaka to take part in a two-week training course on Special Branch and Criminal Investigation Department.
 All the 68 police officers who passed the 15th BCS (Police) exam joined in Sarda Police Academy as probationary ASP on November 15, 1995. They were commissioned on December 3, 1996.

Inside Today
Article
Early General Elections in Turkey
 Column : The Horizon
 This Week
 by Arshad-uz Zaman
 Page 4
Focus
Law and Our Rights
 National security laws in Bangladesh; and the impact of religious fanaticism on women in Bangladesh.
 Page 5
International
 Cong (I) delegates to elect new party president today
 Page 8
Business
 BCL, north-eastern Indian chamber sign MOU to promote trade
 DSE index posts 27-point rise
 Pages 6,7

Tk 50cr mangoes damaged in N-region every year

From M A Ali
NATORE, June 8: Mangoes worth about Tk 50 crore are damaged every year in the northern region of the country due to lack of proper processing and quick transportation facilities, experts and traders said.
 According to the Mango Research Centre at Chapainawganj, the average annual yield of mango in this region is about 2.50 lakh tonnes.
 Talking to this correspondent, Horticulturist Quamruzzaman said that of the total output in the region, about 25 per cent is consumed locally.
 He also said around 15 per cent of the mango output is damaged by storms and pest attacks. If there is a mango processing unit in this region, these mangoes can be processed into products.
 A trader from Dhaka Abdul Zalat Hawaladar, told this correspondent at Rahonpur in Chapainawganj that they faced problems due to lack of quick transportation facilities.
 Mango markets in the region operate from May to August.
 Nanda Prokash Agarwala, a trader from Chittagong, said most of the mangoes here are taken to other places by trucks. "And it takes 2 to 4 days for a mango-loaded truck to reach Chittagong as these are to wait for a long time at Nagarbari ferry ghat for getting serial."
 Another trader, Mawla Box from Dhaka, said "Very often, our trucks have to remain stranded at the ferry ghat for 2 or 3 days causing the fruit to rot."



Mangoes are in abundant supply in the city markets. — Star photo

ULFA explodes bomb narrowly escapes death

GUWAHATI, June 8: The Assam Chief Minister, Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, today narrowly escaped death when a powerful remote controlled bomb, planted by ULFA militants, went off just after his motorcade passed near the Nilachal hills in the city, reports PTI.
 Official sources said that a powerful remote controlled device exploded minutes after the chief minister's car in the convoy passed through a road, near the Nilachal hills, in front of the Lalit Bharati College.
 One person, Kalpanath Deka, was arrested by the police from the spot.

Lightning kills 2 in Laksam

COMILLA, June 8: Two people including a housewife were killed by lightning and 150 houses were partially damaged during a nor-wester that lashed four unions of Laksam thana in last two days, reports BSS.
 Hospital and police sources said Jorina Begum, 22, was killed and 150 houses were damaged during the hour-long nor-wester that lashed Bulain, Perul, Belghar and Bagmara unions this morning.
 In another incident, Habibur Rahman, 32, a police constable was killed by lightning at Borashalgar under Devidar thana last evening when he was returning home.