

### BLUE DART EXPRESS LIMITED

ON BOARD COURIER EACH DAY EVERY DAY TO INDIA

PLEASE CONTACT: BANGLADESH AIR EXPRESS INT'L

For more information call Head Office: 9665114, Gulshan: 807657, 887771, Chittagong: (031) 712127, Khulna: (041) 725008

## Down to Earth

# City's Card Phone Jinx

By ASM Nurunnabi

Telephone is no longer regarded as an item of luxury. It has become an essential part of life. But in our country, it is not easy to have access to its benefits. Considering the difficulties in its easy availability, the system of card phones was introduced. This system, which brought about a developed means of telecommunication, made us feel optimistic about its expanding use.

Now what is the present state of the card phone system which showed promise of its usefulness when introduced? Great hopes were aroused that people who are deprived of the facility of owning a telephone, would no longer have to depend on the more fortunate telephone-owning neighbours or others to make necessary calls.

Before introduction of the card phone system, there was, of course, the coin box system in vogue in the city. But this system was found to be suffering from various maladies — some of them remained out of order, some did not become operational when coins were inserted, while some others spat out the coins.

While the coin-box system had one principal disadvantage that it could be used only locally, the card phone system opened up a new horizon for telecommunication, overcoming the drawback. Now this card phone system is faced with a sad plight.

Previously phone cards of smaller units were available. This had the advantage that one could keep in stock such cards for use as and when necessary. Now one has to buy a minimum of one hundred taka worth of phone card. This proves disadvantageous to people with small means, particularly the student community. This has led many, in increasing numbers, to the phone-call facilities available in many private shops and establishments dotting the city.

Question has arisen why phone cards of smaller denominations such as 25 and 50 units are not available. The answer given by the authorities is that since production cost for all kinds of phone cards is the same, it is more profitable to go in for production of cards with higher units. Besides, such cards are more in use for NWD and ISD calls. In such circumstances, the profit motive being the more compelling factor, the persons who like to buy cards with smaller units are tended to be neglected.

There are reportedly other complications in getting phone cards. According to a report, in an office of the Telephone Shilpa Sangstha at Fulbaria, there is a signboard indicating that phone cards are available there. But the strange thing is that no such cards are available there, whereas in front of that office, small traders are doing brisk business in the sale of phone cards with a good margin of profit.

### Aussies 114/4 at tea

LEEDS, July 25: Jason Gillespie confirmed his emergence as a world-class fast bowler by taking seven for 37 in England's 172 in the fourth cricket Test at Hedingley Friday, reports AP.

But Australia's joy of dismantling the England first innings in quick time was short-lived, as the home side quickly struck back after lunch reducing the visitors to 14 for four at tea on the second day.

### No accord yet

From page 1

varnishes, tableware, kitchenware and others.

He said that on the other hand, India received tariff concessions in respect of 209 tariff lines from Bangladesh for products like coconut oil, pepper, oileace, leather, tools etc.

Dr Ramaiah said that the removal of the quantitative limits on a large number of products under SAPTA agreement and the proposed setting up of a free trade area in the SAARC region by the year of 2001 would further serve to expand India-Bangladesh bilateral trade.

Dr Ramaiah while replying to a question on the Shukla Commission report said it included the transport optimisation study for international linkages and transit, shipment arrangement with Bangladesh, Myanmar and Bhutan.

He said the Commission had pleaded for a joint study with Bangladesh on the costs and benefits to both countries from trade and transit including the use of Chittagong Port as an entry port for the north-east.

The minister of state said the Commission also recommended for reviewing India-Bangladesh trading possibility and transit routes in relation to the north-eastern states of India.

### Shrimp fries

From page 1

The committee said shrimp fries imported from Thailand and Indonesia in 1994 had probably infected the shrimp beds. Shrimp cultivators had imported more than 100 crore baby shrimps in 1994 to supplement about 200 crore fries netted from the Bay of Bengal.

The committee also suggested the shrimp cultivators to use clean water, avoid artificial feed and to keep the density of shrimps in their farms low to stop further outbreak of any viral disease.

Although the government wants to impose quality control on imported shrimps, it does not have enough facilities at the airport and land ports to enforce the quarantine.

Meanwhile, the Food and Agriculture Organisation has taken up a programme to hold two workshops on "Shrimp Friendly Way" to train fisheries department officials on prevention of viral diseases of shrimps.

The first workshop will be held in Cox's Bazar from July 25 to 27 and the second in Khulna from August 1 to 3. Experts from Sri Lanka and UK will speak at the workshops.

### Road dividers

From page 1

structures.

To make things worse, business houses use trees to hang hoardings and banners for advertisement. This adds to the visibility problem further, they observed.

"At different intersections of the city these trees blind the road users as they cannot see the on coming traffic," said a traffic official who recommended that the plantations be done on both sides of the roads rather than in the middle.

When asked, DDC's acting chief engineer Shaiful Islam said he will look into the matter. He however said the current tree planting programme will continue.

At present, the DCC is constructing medians and dividers at Janopath under Ward 85, Janopath under Ward 84, Nilkhet to Kataban crossing, Kakrali mosque to Star Gate, Kadamful Foara to Abdul Gani road park, Janopath under Ward 30, from Manwara Hospital to Maniknagar sluice gate, Ramra thana crossing to Kakrali church and SAARC Foara to Green road intersection. This part of the project will cost the DCC more than Tk 57.78 lakh.

The second part of the project which is awaiting approval will include construction of dividers, plantation of trees and making gardens at some places. It will cost Tk 48.8. These are Sonargaon Hotel to Tongi Division Road, Manik Mia Avenue and the island of Sangsad Avenue.

### Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Printed by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrali, Dhaka-1000 and published by him on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 500092-4, Commercial: 500091, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Email: dstar@bangla.net

## Taliban arrest hundreds of minorities in Kabul

KABUL, July 25: Taliban police units raided minority neighbourhoods in the war-weary Afghan capital, arresting hundreds of people believed to be loyal to the northern opposition, witnesses said today, reports AP.

The arrests came as anti-Taliban forces fought to within 20 kilometers (12 miles) of Kabul, and a convoy of 45 foreign aid workers evacuated the capital.

It was unclear how many people were arrested in the midnight raids, but remaining aid workers and terrified Kabul residents said they believed as many as 2,500 were taken into custody.

"It was I am when the Taliban arrived on tanks in my neighbourhood," said one resident who asked not to be named. "The Taliban surrounded the area and stormed into the houses, taking away my son and 55 other young men who live on my street."

Women wailed and shouted slogans condemning the heavily-armed police forces, he said.

The Taliban army, which controls roughly two-thirds of Afghanistan, including the capital, is battling a northern-based alliance, led by former military chief Ahmed Shah Massoud and Uzbek warrior Malik Pahalwan.

Most of the radically Islamic Taliban are from Afghanistan's majority Pashtun ethnic group. The opposition is made up largely of Afghanistan's minority groups, including Tajiks, Shi'ite Muslim Hazaras and Uzbeks.

Witnesses said police rounded up male members of Kabul's Hazara and Tajik communities and took them to jails around the city.

The Taliban has enforced a rigid brand of Islam, banning women from work and school and forcing men to grow beards. The opposition says the strict Taliban edicts are more linked to Pashtu tradition than Islamic law.

North of the capital Friday, Taliban soldiers hunkered down in bunkers and prevented journalists from traveling beyond them — 17 kilometers (10 miles) north of Kabul.

## Narayanan sworn in

NEW DELHI, July 25: Kocchil Ramani Narayanan was sworn in as the President of India here today, becoming the first "untouchable" to hold the post, reports AFP.

Narayanan, 76, succeeded Shankar Dayal Sharma to become the country's tenth President. Sharma's tenure began in July, 1992.

Flanked by a presidential guard of honour, he took the oath in Hindi. A 21-gun salute followed the ceremony in the central hall of parliament, which was also attended by Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral and other political leaders and state governors.

The former diplomat and journalist Narayanan became Vice President in 1992. He won about 95 per cent of the vote in the presidential election held earlier this month among around 5,000 national and state politicians.

He was official backed by all the country's mainstream parties. His victory has been interpreted as a triumph for India's so-called Hindu "untouchables" — today referred to as dalits ("oppressed") — who feature at the bottom of the Hindu social scale.

## One killed in road accident

KHAGRACHHARI, July 25: A speeding truck hit a young man, killing him on the spot at Panchhari thana of the district today, reports BSS.

The victim was identified as M Zahir of Tabalchhari village under Matranga thana.

## Policeman withdrawn on charge of seducing housewife

LALMONIRHAT, July 25: A hawilder of a police outpost in the town has been withdrawn for his alleged involvement in seducing a housewife, reports UNB.

The decision was taken following the filing of a case with 1st class magistrate's court by the victim, Afejan Bibi of Khochbari slum area in the town, on July 21. She accused hawilder Abdul Karim and constable Delwar Hossain.

The court transferred the case to sadar police to take legal action against the accused.

## Housewife Muslims held in Pakistan

From page 1

Local people on several occasions heard Sohana crying due to torture and they along with Sohana's brother went to the office of BSEHR on Thursday.

Mahmuda was sent to the court yesterday. Sohana was also sent to the court for recording her statement.

## Diabetes

From page 1

produce insulin, the hormone which regulates blood sugar levels and whose absence provokes diabetes.

The role played by retroviruses, transmitted in hereditary fashion from distant ancestors, in causing diseases is of increasing interest. They have been blamed for disorders which include AIDS, leukemia, multiple sclerosis and problems of the nervous system.

## Wedding

From page 1

post-wedding reception were scheduled to be held on July 24 and 26 respectively at the club of Jatiya Sangsad.

Defence counsel of Zobaidda Rashid, Mehnaz's mother had booked the club for the functions, which were cancelled by the authorities following suggestions by the intelligence agencies.

Advocate Mahbubur Rahman, an MP of BNP, was the counsel for Zobaidda when she, along with 19 others, was charged with the killing of Bangladesh Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

Zobaidda Rashid, however, was later discharged by the High Court from the Bangladesh murder case, of which the trial is now being held at the Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court.

## Alziz Bhai

From page 1

and some others as "killers of Salman Shah."

"Now tell me why one will be present at the spot if one has paid Tk 12 lakh to some people for any killing?" Aziz Mohammad said.

He categorically denied his involvement with the death and said he never saw Salman's wife whose name was also linked with him.

The business tycoon said he was barred from flying to India on Thursday on a personal trip. Immigration officials also impounded his passport.

"They simply told me that there is a general diary," he said.

He said he will make a statement at a press conference within a couple of days.

## Baitul Mukarram

From page 1

vanced towards the Bangladesh Avenue at around 2 pm, some pro-AL youths from near the party's central office chased them. Police lobbed one tear gas shell to disperse the rival groups. However, two IOJ supporters were injured in the clash between the groups but they managed to escape to the nearby stadium.

Then, the IOJ supporters engaged carrying sticks and entered into the mosque premises again. The pro-AL supporters, also with sticks in their hands and chanting various slogans, regrouped and came face to face with the IOJ supporters. At this stage, police chased the AL supporters and lobbed a number of tear gas shells.

At least seven people were injured in the half-an-hour melee. The situation calmed down at around 2:30 pm.

### Juice Extractor

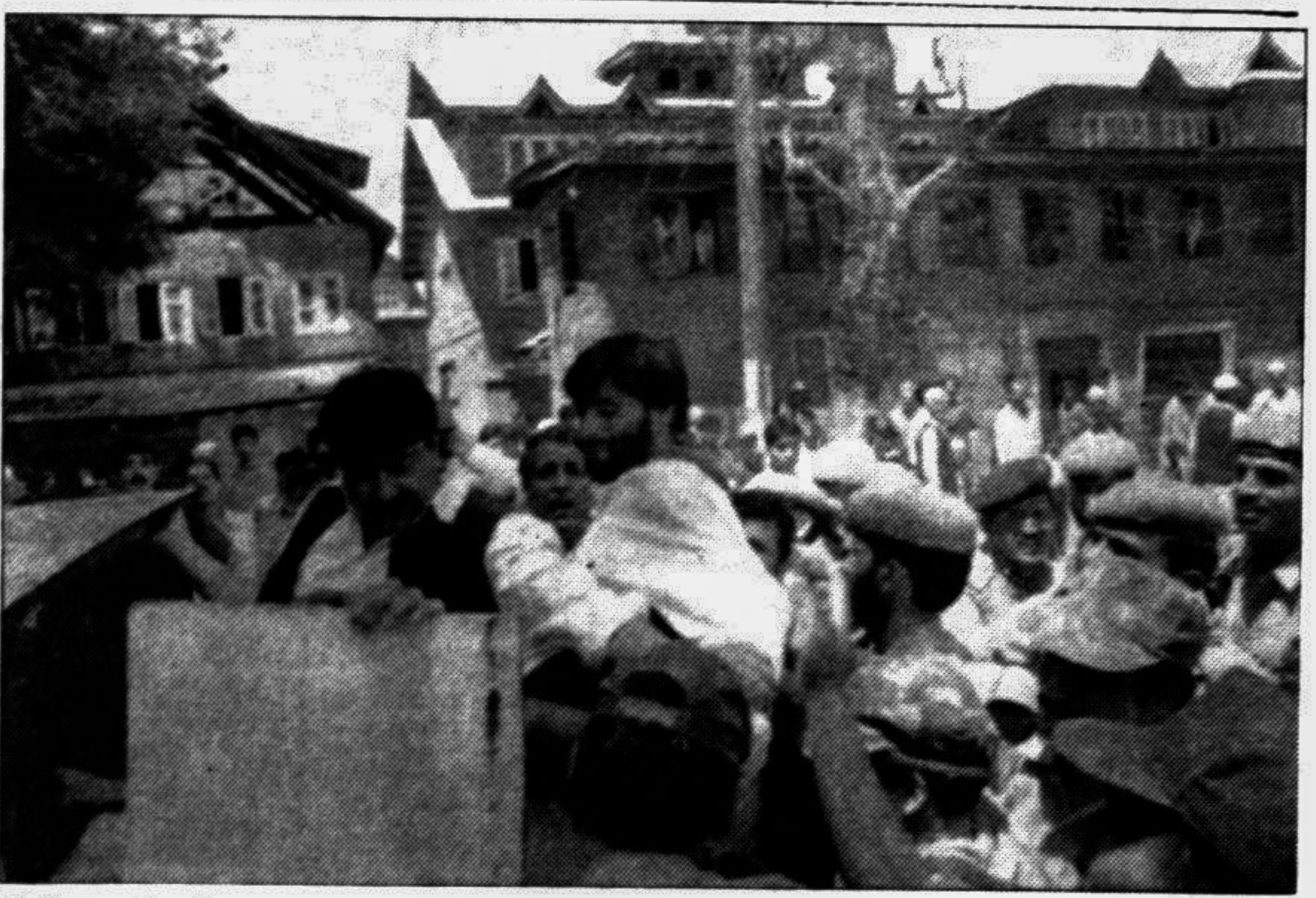
Backed by Guarantee

Let's make things better

PHILIPS

Transcom Electronics Limited  
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V.  
for lighting products, radio and TV sets

Dhaka: 815306-9, 819625-9, 889993  
Ctg: 716353, 723578, Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215



Indian police force a senior Kashmiri separatist leader Mohammad Yasin Malik into a police vehicle in Hazratbal, district of Srinagar yesterday. — AP/UNB photo

## Rocks hurled at Farooq Abdullah

# Two top Kashmiri leaders held

SRINAGAR, July 25: Police beat up protesters who hurled rocks and rotten apples at Kashmir's chief executive when he showed up for prayers at the holiest shrine in the state today, reports AP.

A dozen people were injured when police charged at the crowd with nightsticks, witnesses said. None of the police, however, was in uniform, they said.

The violence broke out when Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah was about to be honoured with a cap by the priests of the Hazratbal Mosque, the holiest Muslim shrine in Kashmir. The ceremony coincided with the week-long celebrations of Milad-un-nabi.

A volley of rotten apples and rocks fell on the makeshift dais outside the shrine. Abdullah was not hurt and his guards quickly hustled him away.

The crowd shouted anti-Abdullah slogans and raised chants in support of independence.

Meanwhile, police detained two top leaders of the Hurriyat Conference, an umbrella group of 32 pro-independence groups, who were heading to the Hazratbal shrine. Police said Yasin Malik and Abdul Ghani were likely to make anti-state speeches to the gathering of 200,000 people.

On Thursday night, police ordered four other Hurriyat leaders to stay at home, an official said on condition of anonymity.

The Hurriyat called for a two-day strike from Saturday to protest Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral's visit to Kashmir.

Gujral is expected to lay the foundation stone for a railroad line to link Srinagar with the winter capital, Jammu.

## Arms recovered in Ctg: 4 held

CHITTAGONG, July 25: Detectives of Chittagong Metropolitan Police recovered one foreign made sawn-off gun, two light guns, seven cartridges and arrested one wanted accused from Eskandar colony under Chandganj thana here this evening, police said, reports BSS.

Police sources said that Habib and Maznu were involved in drug trading.

## Schoolboy shot in city

A schoolboy sustained bullet wound yesterday in a cross-fire in city's Sutrapur area, hospital sources said, reports UNB.

Shahin, 14, son of Moslemuddin of 37/2 Bahadurpur Lane, received injury in his abdomen while he was crossing through Gosaibari Lane at 4 pm.

Shahin, a student of class VIII of Faridabad High School, was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

## BUET experts

From page 1

The automation system to be provided by Tandem has no provision for public display of trading and it also does not provide any Management Information System (MIS), specially in the tender document. In the absence of these, the effectiveness of the DSE management will be seriously hampered and the public need for information will remain unfulfilled, the report said.

The report was discussed in the last DSE council meeting which said that the apprehensions were not correct, sources in the DSE said.

The company obtained the bid through an open tender by defeating other competitors, the meeting was informed.

## Mosquito nets

From page 1

said a physician who worked during the epidemic in the areas.

"A net is soaked into a container carrying Synthetic Pyrethroid. The treated net will work for 12 months. The insecticide will act as a contact poison. When a mosquito comes in contact with the insecticide, it dies within 24 hours. This process works very effectively in areas where it is cheap too. One litre of Synthetic Pyrethroid can be used to treat 75 nets of the size of 2 metres x 1.5 metres," he said.

To contain the deadly disease, the government with recommendations from WHO introduced Malaria Eradication Programme (MEP), specially in the CHT districts of Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Bandarban and in Cox's Bazar, considered endemic zone. Over 2,500 people died of malaria in the four districts in the last seven years.

WHO has a special fund for control of malaria in the region. It gives about Tk 1 crore annually to contain the disease. The government has a target of 25 per cent reduction of malaria deaths by the year 2000.

## ADB loan

From page 1

project cost of 42.2 million US dollars, under the other accord.

The Second Primary Education Sector Project will focus on developing primary education facilities in Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions.

It will also strengthen the institutional capacity of the National Curriculum and Textbook Board, and provide textbooks and other instructional materials to the very poor students in the underserved areas.

Also giving importance to poverty alleviation drive, the government and the NGOs would help organise mainly women into groups to provide them with small loans for participating in the livestock programmes.

The project will reduce poverty of rural communities, particularly of women, by providing them with microcredit and related service.

It will also strengthen and develop the capabilities of the Department of Livestock Services to plan and manage livestock development at village level.

## Asia Cup

From page 1

ter reducing them to 30 for five, but withstood both the weather and a tough target on Thursday to defeat Bangladesh and qualify for the final.

Tendulkar, whose team lost 11 of their 16 one-dayers this year, said the win over Bangladesh could mark a new beginning.

"We deserved to be in the final after coming so close to beating Pakistan," the 24-year-old said. "Winning is always a good feeling and we have to continue like that."

The Indian captain, rated as one of the world's best batsmen, said the Sri Lankans can be beaten, even at home.

"No side is unbeatable in one-day cricket, the Sri Lankans have done better than us in recent times, but that will not demoralise the boys."

The Indians realise that Sri Lanka's powerful batting lineup led by smashbuckling opener Sanath Jayasuriya, is the main stumbling block.

"We must not allow them to build a huge score," coach Madan Lal said. "The bowling and fielding will have to be tight all through."

The Indians left the Sri Lankans off the hook in the league after removing Jayasuriya first ball and the explosive Aravinda de Silva in the third over.

"At nine for two, India should have won but we gave away too many loose runs to Ranjunga," Madan Lal said. "We can't give them a second chance."

Bad weather, which almost ruined India's chances, will again play a crucial role as more rain has been forecast over the weekend.

A reserve day has been set aside for the final at the Premadasa Stadium, but if a result is not possible on both days the rivals will be declared joint winners.

The Indians have won the Asia Cup in all four appearances since the event was introduced in 1984. The only other winners were Sri Lanka who took the title at home in 1986 when India withdrew for security reasons.