BLUE DART

PLEASE CONTACT:



Down to Earth

City's Card Phone Jinx

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. in many private shops and es-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

maladies - some of them rebe neglected. mained 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

Aussies 114/4

at tea

spie confirmed his emergence

as a world-class fast bowler by

taking seven for 37 in England's

172 in the fourth cricket Test at

But Australia's joy of dis-

Headingley Friday, reports AP.

mantling the England first in

nings in quick time was short

lived, as the home side quickly

struck back after lunch reduc-

ing the visitors to 114 for four

No accord yet

He said that on the other

From page 1

varnishes, tableware, kitchen-

hand, India received tariff con-

cessions in respect of 209 tariff

lines from Bangladesh for

products like coconut oil, pep-

removal of the quantitative

limits on a large number of

products under SAPTA agree-

ment and the proposed setting

up of a free trade area in the

SAARC region by the year of

2001 would further serve to ex-

pand India-Bangladesh bilat-

to a question on the Shukla

Commission report said it in-

cluded the transport optimisa-

tion study for international

linkages and transit, shipment

arrangement with Bangladesh,

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 en-

the Commission also recom-

mended for reviewing India-

Bangladesh trading possibility

and transit routes in relation

to the north-eastern states of

Shrimp fries

From page 1

fries imported from Thailand

and Indonesia in 1994 had

probably infected the shrimp

beds. Shrimp cultivators had

imported more than 100 crore

plement about 200 crore fries

gested 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 vi-

wants to impose quality control

on imported shrimps, it does

not have enough facilities at the

airport and land ports to en-

Meanwhile, the Food and

Agriculture Organisation has

taken up a programme to hold

two workshops on "Shrimp Cul-

ture in an Environment Fri-

endly Way" to train fisheries

department officials on pre-

vention of viral diseases of

held in Cox's Bazar from July

The first workshop will be

force the quarantine.

Although the government

ral disease.

shrimps.

The committee also sug-

baby shrimps in 1994 to sup-

netted from the Bay of Bengal.

The committee said shrimp

The minister of state said

try port for the north-east.

He said the Commission had

Myanmar and Bhutan.

Dr Ramaiah while replying

Dr Ramaiah said that the

per, oilcake, leather, tools etc.

at tea on the second day.

ware and others.

eral trade.

LEEDS, July 25: Jason Gille-

suffering from various

Provost of the hall. JCD leaders demanded that the hall would have to be returned to them. BCL leaders refused to accept their demand.

The VC then invited the student leaders for another round of talks at his residence last night. The results of the talks could not be known.

Surya Sen Hall, the VC said that he had nothing to say.

Meanwhile, BCL president Enamul Haque Shamim yester-

"We assured them that we will force those trouble makers to stay out of the hall even if they are legal residents of Surya

due to the stubborn attitude of the JCD leaders, he said.

permission of the authorities. "What we want is to implement that decision in case of

Road dividers

From page 1

ness houses use these 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 recomdone on both sides of the roads

chief engineer Shafiul Islam said he will look into the matter. He however said the current tree planting programme will continue.

structing medians and dividers at Janopath under Ward 85, Janopath under Ward 84. Nilkhet to Kataban crossing. Kakrail mosque to Star Gate, Kadamful Foara to Abdul Gani road park, Janopath under Ward 30, from Manwara Hospital to Maniknagar sluice gate, Ramna thana crossing to Kakrail 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 Diversion Road, Manik Mia Av-

25 to 27 and the second in Khulna from August 1 to 3. Experts from Sri Lanka and UK will speak at the workshops. **Editor**: Mahfuz Anam

Previously phone cards were available in banks. At present such practice seems to have been discontinued. Only at the GPO, phone cards are available. The absence of easy availability of phone cards works as damper on a large number of people who want to use phone cards. This only tends to encourage the business of private telephone shops which are mushrooming all over the city. The traders at these shops are reportedly reaping benefits at double the prescribed rates.

In this context, allegations are also made against some employees of the T&T department to the effect that they indulge in corruption by selling phone cards at higher rates to some of their selected parties who frequent card phone booths in the city and make their own mar-

gin of profit from sales. In the wake of the 20th century, we stand on the threshold of revolutionary changes in the world-wide telecommunication sector. The growing use of e-mail and internet is just the beginning. For the vast number of people in our developing country, card phones which once opened new vista of easy communication is in the throes of mismanagement and corruption. If it becomes possible to overcome these handicaps, there is no reason why the benefits of the card phone system can be made to reach the steadily growing

held on charge of extortion

SIRAJGANJ, July 25: Police arrested a Jubo Dal leader today from Mujib Road area in the town on charge of extortion, reports UNB

Police said Sakiuzzaman Saki, member of the district Jubo Dal committee, was arrested at 9 am when he went to

Dal president Ershadur Rahman Niru and general secretary Munshi Kamaluddin, in a joint statement, protested the arrest

They denied the allegation brought against Saki and de-

Showcause on Palash thana OC, constable

NARSINGDI, July 25: District police authorities have served a showcause notice on the Officer-in-Charge of Palash thana and suspended a constable for their alleged involve-

ment in a killing, reports UNB killed allegedly in police firing at Gayespur village in Palash thana on Wednesday night.

When contacted, police super Khandoker Shaheb Ali said that a showcause notice was issued on OC Sirajul Islam and constable Motaleb was suspended. He, however, said Arzan was wanted in a dacoity

rant was issued, the Supreme Court in New Delhi instructed police not to arrest Yadav until it heard his petition challenging the state court's denial of

mobbed Devi, but she barely managed to mumble a reply to a volley of questions. "I will work for the develop-

ment of the state," Devi said. Her husband then took over the news conference, saying Devi had authorised him to speak. "The legislators expressed

confidence in her leadership. She has the same philosophy for development of the state," Yadav said.

ter will now tour the flood-hit regions of the state soon. Devi, 41, has stayed in the background all her life, raising their nine children. She quit school after the eighth grade.

group from Gujral's party after it became clear the charges against him would make it impossible for him to continue as president of the Janata Dal Party. While one faction demanded Yadav's resignation and another cautioned that his departure would weaken the party, the turmoil raised questions about the stability of Gu-

Yadav's new party has pledged its support to the governing United Front coalition, but is not formally a member. United Front leaders discussed the Yadav issue today, but put off a decision on whether to retain three politicians close to him as federal cabinet minis-

Taliban arrest hundreds of minorities in Kabul

KABUL, July 25: Taliban police units raided minority neighbourhoods in the warweary 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

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

Narayanan sworn in

NEW DELHI, July 25: Kocheril Raman 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 be-

come the country's tenth Presi-

dent. 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 lead-

ers and state governors. A 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

Gas bubbles have reduced, claims Occidental

MOULVIBAZAR, July 25: The situation at Magurchhara Gasfield has improved further as spouting of gas bubbles has reduced, officials of Occidental said here today, reports UNB.

They said that gas bubbles are now limited in one-eighth square kilometre area around the well that blew up on June

The security zone, however, is still dangerous. Entry into the zone, surrounded by barbed wire, has been declared prohibited for the public.

Meanwhile, construction of six small wells, each of 30 feet deep and 5-inch radius, was completed and the wells were ignited to reduce pressure of gas. But, installation of the rig is

still uncertain as the site for the digging of relief-well could not be fixed till this evening. The rig is still lying at Fenchuganj and it will be brought here tomorrow.

Eden College

From page 1

The college authorities on Thursday closed the college sine die and asked all the resident students to vacate the hostels following clashes between the activists of Chhatra League, student wing of ruling Awami League and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student front of opposition BNP.

Wedding

From page 1

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

Defence counsel of Zobaida 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 Zobaida when she, along with 19 others, was charged with the killing of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

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

From page 1

vanced towards the Banga-

bandhu 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 sup-

porters were injured in the

clash between the groups but

they managed to escape to the

grouped carrying sticks and en-

tered 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 sup-

porters and lobbed a number of

injured in the half-an-hour

melee. The situation calmed

down at around 2:30 pm.

At least seven people were

tear gas shells.

Then, the IOJ supporters re-

nearby Stadium Market.

Baitul Mukarram Earlier, hundreds of police-

> detectors before allowing them into the mosque. From early morning, police in two vans with loudspeakers fixed atop, repeatedly announced that Section 144 had been imposed in the area.

> Talking to newsmen after the munazat, the Khatib expressed his satisfaction that the Jumma prayers were held peacefully. The trouble had already begun when the newsmen were talking to the Khatib. Asked about the trouble outside, he said, "The mosque authorities have nothing to do with it. The state apparatus will take

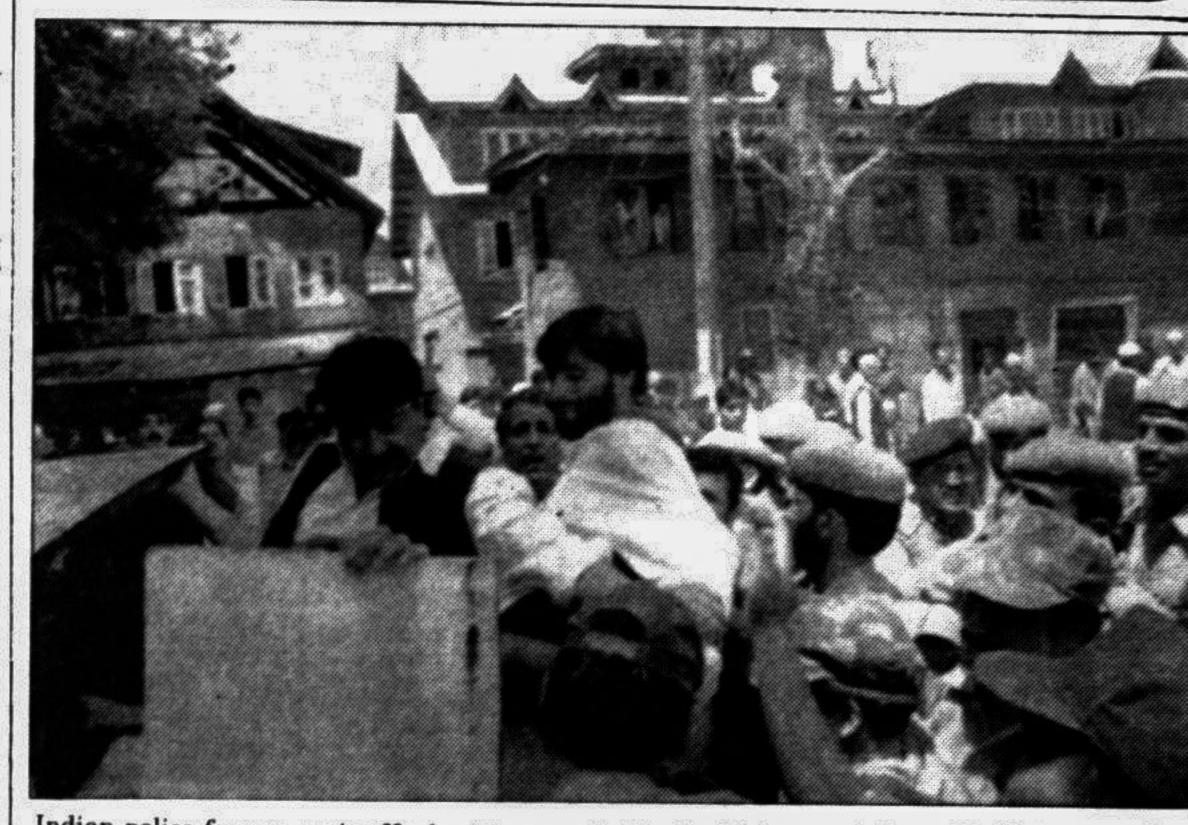
Aske he said, i will give my reply within the stipulated time."

Juice Extractor



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

Rocks hurled at Farooq Abdullah

Two top Kashmiri leaders held

SRINAGAR, July 25: Police beat up protestors 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

The violence broke out when Chief Minister Faroog 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 Miladunnabi A volley of rotten apples and

rocks fell on the makeshift dais action against the accused. Dozens of Sunni

Muslims held in Pakistan From page 1

LAHORE, July 25: Heavilyarmed police raided offices and mosques today, rounding up dozens of extremist Sunni Muslims in a bid to end religiously motivated violence wracking Pakistan's eastern Punjab

province, reports AP. Violent clashes between Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim groups have left 150 dead in Punjab since the start of the

Punjab authorities have arrested hundreds of activists with militant sectarian groups since the crackdown was launched last month. Police

said most of the arrested were released after questioning. A spokesman for the militant Sunni group, known as Guardians of the Friends of the Prophet, expressed outrage over the raids.

Federal authorities are drafting legislation that would give security forces sweeping powers to search, arrest and detain suspected militants.

Rohingyas

From page 1

Kutopalong. The RRC assured the UNHCR officials that the government always followed proper procedures in the repatriation and do so in future.

Meanwhile, militant refugees in the two camps continued demonstrations against repatriation and they refused to take their weekly ration for the fifth day yesterday.

Armed with arrows, bows and slings the refugees were seen lying on the entrances to their camps. They pasted posters on walls with slogans in four languages — Bangla, English, Burmese and Arabic.

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 outside the shrine. Abdullah was not hurt and his guards quickly hustled him away. The crowd shouted anti-Ab-

dullah 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 Kash-

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

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). These were clearly shown as integral parts of the DSE automation plan 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 ar-

"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 the CHT and is cheap too. One litre of Synthetic Pyrethroid can be used to treat 75 nets of the size of 2 metres x1.5 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 Khagrach hari, 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 1.1 crore annually to contain the disease The government has a target of 25 per cent reduction of malaria deaths by the year 2000.

Drug traders clash in city: 3 injured

Three young men were wounded in a clash between two rival groups of drug trader in city's Naya Paltan area yester-

received splinter injury during the armed-clash over sharing of money. All of them were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

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

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

evening, police said, reports Acting on a tip-off, detectives raided a hide-out of Tipu

Sultan, the accused and recovfrom his possession.

war Hossain alias Bhutto from Chotapool here last night Meanwhile, Panchlaish police arrested two persons with a

light gun and two cartridges from an autorickshaw at Muradpur here today. The arrested persons were produced before the court and

separate cases were filed with

respective police stations.

Asia Cup

year, said the win over Bangladesh could mark a new beginning. "We deserved to be in the final after coming so close to

11 of their 16 one-dayers this

good feeling and we have to continue like that." The Indian captain, rated as one of the world's best batsmen.

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 swashbuckling opener

Sanath Jayasuriya, is the main stumbling block. "We must not allow them to build a huge score," coach Madan Lal said. "The bowling

tight all through." The Indians let the Sri Lankans off the hook in the league after removing Jayasuriya first ball and the explo-

third over. away too many loose runs to Ranatunga," 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

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.

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ON BOARD COURIER EACH DAY EVERY DAY TO INDIA

By ASM Nurunnabi

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

tablishments 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

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

DU talks From page 1

But after going to the hall,

When asked about the situation at the university and the

day blamed JCD for the 'stalemate'. Shamim said that he had even asked the JCD leaders to submit a list of BCL workers who appeared to them as trouble makers.

Sen Hall," Shamim told journalists. Efforts to bring peace failed

On the other hand, Nasir Uddin Asim, JCD DU unit convenor, said a decision was taken recently at a meeting of the provosts' standing committee that the activists of student organisations, who want to stay in a hall with which he is not attached, could stay with the

this hall," he said.

structures. To make things worse, busi-

mended that the plantations be rather than in the middle. When asked, DDC's acting

At present, the DCC is con-

enue and the island of Sangsad

number of its users. Jubo Dal leader

the Japani Building Market in the town to collect illegal-toll. Meanwhile, district Jubo

manded his immediate release.

suspended

A young man, Arzan, was

Laloo quits From page 1

Minutes after the swearing in ceremony, journalists

Yadav said the chief minis-

Yadav led a break-away jral's government.

One killed in

road accident KHAGRACHHARI, July 25: A

under Matiranga thana. Policeman withdrawn

for his alleged involvement in seducing a housewife, reports The decision was taken following the filing of a case with 1st class magistrate's court by the victim, Alefjan Bibi of

stable Delwar Hossain. The court transferred the case to sadar police to take legal

Housewife

due to torture and they along with Sohana's brother went to the office of BSEHR on Thurs-Mahmuda was sent to the

ing her statement.

Diabetes

From page 1 produce insulin, the hormone which regulates blood sugar

levels and whose absence prowhich include AIDS, leukemia,

Aziz 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

involvement with the death and said he never saw Salman's wife whose name was also linked with him. The business tycoon said he

pounded his passport. "They simply told me that there is a general diary," he

He said he will make a

statement at a press conference

within a couple of days.

ut the show cause. level

day, reports UNB. Habibur Rahman, 30. Maznu, 25, and Jalaluddin, 35,

arrested one wanted accused from Eskandar colony under Chandgaon thana here this

ered the arms and ammunition Doublemooring police in another drive recovered two light guns and arrested one An-

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

beating Pakistan," the 24-yearold said. "Winning is always a

said the Sri Lankans can be

and fielding will have to be

sive Aravinda de Silva in the "At nine for two. India should have won but we gave

more rain has been forecast over the weekend. A reserve day has been set

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neighbourhood," said one resi dent 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 Massood 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 mi-

nority 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 strick Taliban edicts are more linked to Pashtu tradition than Is-

lamic 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.

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

on charge of seducing housewife LALMONIRHAT, July 25: A havilder of a police outpost in the town has been withdrawn

Khochbari slum area in the town, on July 21. She accused havilder Abdul Karim and con-

Local people on several occasions heard Sohana crying

court yesterday. Sohana was also sent to the court for record-

vokes 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

multiple sclerosis and problems of the nervous system.

paid Tk 12 lakh to some people for any killing?" Aziz Mohammad said He categorically denied his

was barred from flying to India on Thursday on a personal trip. Immigration officials also im-

men in full riot-gear were deployed around the national mosque. Since 12 noon, police checked musallis with metal

measure