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Leasing out of link road Persons responsible to face legal action: Minister

By Morshed Ali Khan
The Ministry of Land will issue a show cause notice on the Land Reforms Board as to why a public road was leased out in Motijheel area, said State Minister for Land Rashed Mosharaf.
"We will take legal action against those involved in leasing out the road," he said while talking to The Daily Star at his Secretariat office yesterday.
He added that the public established its right by using the site as a link road for a long time. "No one has the right to take that right away."
The state minister said he had visited the site on Monday and ordered the ministry to start procedure to cancel the lease immediately.
See Page 12 Col 3

Mustafiz new Foreign Secy

AM Mustafizur Rahman, Bangladesh ambassador to China, has been appointed as foreign secretary in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, reports BSS.
He will replace incumbent Foreign Secretary Farooq Sobhan, said an official announcement yesterday.
Mustafiz, who joined the erstwhile Pakistan Foreign Service in 1964, served in a number of missions abroad, including New Delhi, Kathmandu, London and Washington DC. He also served as Director General and Chief of Protocol in the Foreign Ministry.
As Ambassador of Bangladesh, Mustafiz has been posted to Beijing since December 31, 1993. He also served as ambassador to the former Soviet Union and then to the Russian Federation with concurrent accreditation to Finland and Mongolia from December 1990 to December 1993.
See Page 12 Col 5

Edn Ministry's classified file stolen

By Staff Correspondent
A classified file containing a draft report on formulation of a national policy for Bengali and English medium non-government schools was stolen from the Ministry of Education at the Secretariat on August 31, ministerial sources confirmed yesterday.
Following the theft, the Ministry conducted an investigation and punished two of its employees by transferring them elsewhere.
The draft report, prepared by an 11-member committee over three months, focused on establishment, recognition and running of English and Bengali medium nursery, preparatory, kindergarten, secondary and O-level schools.

Star Magazine

Read all about Mother Teresa in this week's Star Weekend Magazine



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Is the Turkish Welfare Party facing closure?

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by Arshad-uz Zaman
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'Photo shows Diana's driver blinded by camera flash'

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Business

EASF hangs in balance due to govt-IMF dispute
Page 6

BNP out to take revenge on people for their verdict: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has said the major opposition BNP is out to take revenge on the people for their verdict in the last general elections by obstructing her government's efforts for the well-being of the people.
"They want to take revenge against the people who pulled them down from power and rejected them in the polls for stealing votes and plundering national wealth. That's why they're now out to foil our endeavour for good of the people," she said. The Prime Minister was addressing a press conference at the VIP lounge of Zia International Airport yesterday evening on her return from a six-day visit to Indonesia and the Philippines.
Asked to comment on BNP chief and leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia's threat of agitation to oust her 15-month-old government, Sheikh Hasina said, "...I don't know why they are giving such a threat. There's constitutional way for change of power. We'll resign when election comes... Why are they giving empty threats for ouster and creating fake issues for the purpose?"
In this regard, she advised BNP to recall what it had achieved during the first 14 months of its rule and said people forced the party to step down for its misdeeds.
"We haven't yet done anything like them," she said. Continuing, the Prime Minister said, "The person now extending such threats, had also sent to jail the plunderers in the autocratic government, also toppled by the people. But we did not send to jail anybody of our government after it was ousted though they plundered public wealth on a large scale."
She explained, "We wished to work together for building up the country and boost its economy. We hoped they would reciprocate our good gesture at least to wipe out their sins."
It will be a 'great mistake' on their part if they 'misinterpret our tolerance and liberal attitude as our weakness,' commented Hasina, also chief of Awami League.
Referring to corruption cases filed against some of those in the previous BNP government, she warned, "Legal steps will be taken (against them) and law will take its own course."
Hasina expressed her confidence that her government would overcome all problems and make the country self-reliant.
Reacting to the Opposition leader's terming her government a liar Hasina challenged her to prove the charge. "Such allegation does not fit in the mouth of one who cheats the people by speaking lies on a silly issues like her birthday."
The Prime Minister and Leader of the Jatiya Sangsad also said that she (leader of the Opposition Begum Zia) never attended the Business Advisory

Meeting that lasted for about 90 minutes.
"I asked him to quit ministry and work full time for Jatiya Party. I advised him to think over the matter as I badly need him as full-time secretary general for the interest of the party," Ershad said.
Praising Manju for his sacrifice and contribution to the Jatiya Party as well as his organisational capacity, Ershad said he is a very conscientious man and would certainly understand the present need.
During his September 1 meeting with the Prime Minister at the Sangsad Bhaban, Ershad said, he had also told her to relieve Manju of the cabinet. He quoted the Prime Minister as saying that she would think over it.
Replying to a query, Ershad said Manju joined the Cabinet

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Ershad asks Manju to quit cabinet

Former President and Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad asked his party secretary general and Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju to quit the Cabinet.
He told UNB over telephone that he had asked Anwar Hossain Manju to relinquish the ministerial post and work full time to reactivate the party.
The JP Chairman said his party workers and supporters frequently questioned him about the dual position of JP as the party secretary general is a minister of the government.
Yesterday, Ershad and Manju had an exclusive meeting at the party's Baridhara office in the morning. The issue of Manju's resignation from the Cabinet of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina figured prominently during the one-to-one meeting that lasted for about 90

minutes.
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Security relaxed at Dudukchhari border for arrival of PCJSS team

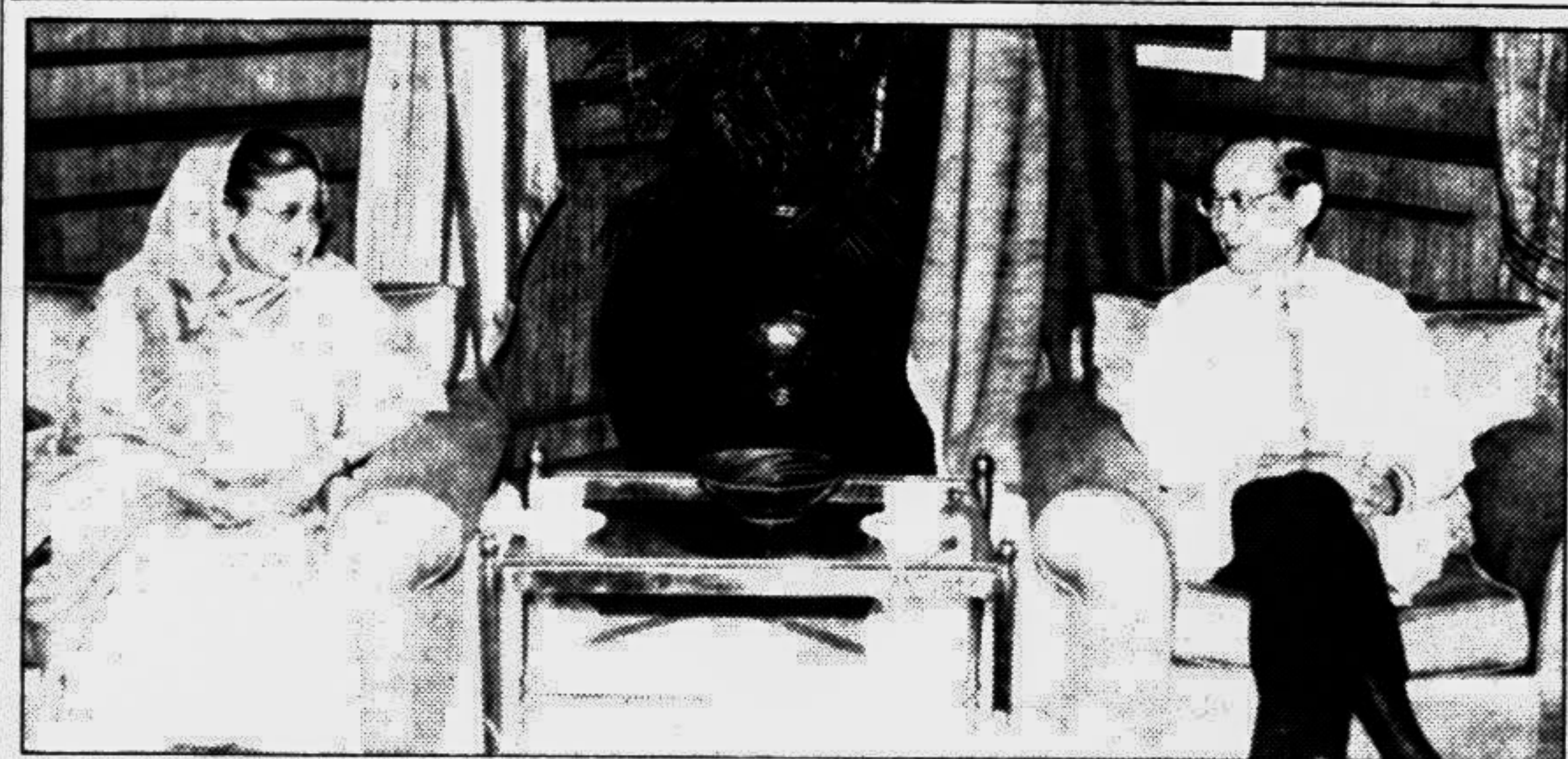
From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Sept 10: Security has been relaxed at Dudukchhari border village under Khagrachhari hill district from Wednesday evening, five days ahead of the 'peace talks' to be held on September 14 between the government and Parbatyia Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS), official sources said.
The security has been relaxed to facilitate arrival of the PCJSS team for the talks.
Eight security camps at Dudukchhari area have been withdrawn and five others "kept frozen". Those will be reestablished three days after the talks, the sources said.
The PCJSS team will be flown to Dhaka by helicopter from Dudukchhari in the morning of September 14 and back to the same place after the talks, official sources said.

Ties with Dhaka excellent, says Inderfurth

New US Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian Affairs Karl F Inderfurth yesterday hoped for better relations and strengthening of cooperation between Dhaka and Washington, reports UNB.
He was talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport in the afternoon on arrival here for a three-day visit to Bangladesh.
Inderfurth flew in here from Kathmandu in the last leg of his familiarisation tour of five South Asian nations. He has already visited India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Nepal.
Referring to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's meetings with the members of the American government during her visit to

PG Hospital Nurses to announce fresh programmes today

By Staff Correspondent
The striking nurses of the Bangladesh Medical University (formerly PG Hospital) will announce a fresh agitation programme at a meeting in front of the Jatiya Press Club today.
This was decided at a meeting of the striking nurses at the Bangladesh Medical University (BMU) yesterday.
The nurses went on an indefinite strike on August 12 demanding withdrawal of the



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina with Philippine President Fidel Ramos who made a farewell call on her at her hotel suite in Manila yesterday. — PID photo

Fraud alleged by Bangladesh Bank Showcause notices on IFIC Board, Sohel, Salman & MD

By Toufique Imrose Khalidi and Inam Ahmed

A Bangladesh Bank inquiry has found alleged evidences of fraud and gross violation of banking rules by business tycoons Salman Rahman and Sohel Rahman and the International Finance and Investment Company (IFIC) Bank Ltd in rescheduling loans of a company in which Beximco has an interest.
The Rahman brothers have already been asked by the central bank to say why they should not be removed from the IFIC Board and be prosecuted to safeguard the interest of the depositors, according to IFIC Bank sources.
The IFIC Board has also

been asked to reply why legal actions should not be taken against it to stop activities of the bank that go against the interest of the depositors and to ensure proper management of the bank.
Sohel Rahman as chairman of IFIC received a similar notice with accusing fingers at the Board, which has to explain why legal action would be taken against it.
In another notice, managing director of IFIC Abbas Uddin Ahmed has been told to explain why he would not be removed from his job and face legal action. In another letter addressed to the managing director, he has

been asked to take punitive action against the IFIC executives involved, failing which he would be held responsible.
The notices dated September 2, gave them 15 days to respond, the sources said.
The scam has been brought to the notice of the Prime Minister, sources at her office said. Her reaction could not be known.
The IFIC managing director wouldn't say anything about it, calling it "a matter of secrecy".
The IFIC Board of Directors meanwhile met yesterday to discuss the issue.
See Page 12 Col 4

HSC results today

Results of the HSC (Higher Secondary Certificate) examinations of 1997 under five education boards will be published today, reports UNB.
An official handout on Tuesday said the results will be available at the examination centres after 4 pm. Examinees have been asked to have their results from their respective colleges or centres.
The results will not be available at the Education Board ofices, Education Ministry or newspaper offices, the handout added.

Sit-in in front of Rajshahi Edn Board

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Sept 10: Several student organisations today stage sit-in in front of the Rajshahi Education Board to protest the decision of cancelling the examinations of several thousand HSC examinees.
They announced to continue sit-in programme until the decision was withdrawn.
The officials and employees of the board could not enter the office due to sit-in starting from early morning.

Board Committee to meet Monday to decide fate of 6,686 examinees

From Our Correspondent
RAJSHAHI, Sept 10: The 11-member Rajshahi Education Board Committee will meet on September 15 to decide the fate of about 6,686 HSC examinees whose examinations were to be cancelled due to alleged irregularities.
A member of the committee told this correspondent that the committee's decision is likely to go in favour of the students.
Another member informed this correspondent that the results of 6,230 examinees is likely to be published as per the order of Senior Assistant Judge. These retained students allegedly appeared in the examinations changing their colleges without legal transfer certificate.
See Page 12 Col 3

40 hurt as boiler pipe bursts at garments factory

By Staff Correspondent
At least 40 workers were injured when a boiler pipe burst at a garments factory at Uttara in the city yesterday.
Many of the injured workers, mostly women, fainted as steam leaked through the pipe and engulfed the fifth floor factory of Palmar Garments Ltd at Bally Complex in Uttara Sector-3.
Police said the boiler pipe at Lakshma Fashion Ltd on the second, third and fourth floors of the same building burst at about 11 am, at point close to the Palmar Garments.
More than 200 workers were

IMF suggests reduction in domestic credit growth

Suggesting a tight financial policy, the IMF asked for reducing domestic credit growth by limiting bank borrowing by the government and curbing the central bank's lending to banks, reports UNB.
In its annual report released yesterday, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) suggested Bangladesh to quickly develop a comprehensive programme for privatisation and reforms—mainly in the financial sector.
... top priority should be given to the early reform of the closely related problems in the financial sector and public enterprises," said the report released in a news conference at the Bangladesh Bank.

The IMF identified prolonged delays in implementing structural reforms as one of the main reasons for the economy's lacklustre performance over the past few years.
Establishing a strong record of fundamental and sustained reforms would help Bangladesh mobilise needed external assistance, noted the report that focused on growing economic integration.
IMF Representative in Dhaka Jan Bove, who released the report, praised some of the government measures, like enhancing fertiliser and fuel prices and reform initiatives, but said the pace of reform

Bangabandhu Murder Case I didn't know where I was being taken: PW-12

By Staff Correspondent
The twelfth prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case yesterday said that he heard gunshots at Bangabandhu's residence within three to four minutes after he was deployed at the entry point of Rd No 32, Dhanmondi, along the Mirpur Road on August 15, 1975.
"I remained posted at the entry point of Rd 32 along the Mirpur Road till about 5:30 am and was withdrawn to the eastern side of the Mirpur Road at about 5:45 am," Assistant Lance Dafadar (dismissed) said before the district and sessions judges court during cross-examination.
Six trucks had moved out in a convoy from the parade ground of the Unit at the cantonment and came together upto Farm Gate, he said adding he was not aware where the other trucks had gone after that.
"I had boarded the truck thinking it a part of the exercise programme of the night parade," Maj Farook did not come along with us during that time," the PW-12 added.
Asked why being a tank operator, he had boarded the truck, Huq said there were 32 tanks in the Unit and the

strength of operators was about 70.
When a defence lawyer suggested that he knew they would be dropped from the truck at the entry point of Rd No 32 along the Mirpur Road on that day, the PW-12 said, "It is not true."
"I was not aware of the location of Bangabandhu's residence before the incident or after its occurrence," he said adding that he came to know about its location after the house was converted into a museum.
"Col Jamil was not killed at my duty point on that day," Huq said.
"At one stage during my duty there I, however, saw some soldiers," he said.

See Page 12 Col 7

Bangladeshi boys cherish meeting Mother Teresa hours before she died

NEW DELHI, Sept 10: Four Bangladeshi students on a world bicycle tour will cherish for the rest of their lives the memory of their meeting with Mother Teresa in Calcutta hours before she died, reports India Abroad News Service.
"It was a dream come true. It was as if a light was glowing in her and all our problems vanished from our minds the moment we saw her," Bangladeshi student Abu Sufian was quoted as saying by the daily The Statesman.
"I could not believe it. We met here barely 10 hours before her death," said Sufian.
"It was always my dream to meet Mother Teresa and with great hopes, we went to meet her on that fateful day," said his partner Jahangir Alam.
The four students had reached the Mother House at about 9:30 a.m. but were not allowed to meet the Mother as she was unwell. It was only when they said they had come from Bangladesh and were on a world tour to promote peace that they were given permission.
"She came on a wheel-chair and blessed us. She even presented us with lockets and even asked about our mission. And when she came to know that we are out to propagate for a conflict-free world, she was particularly delighted," added another Bangladeshi cyclist Arif-uz-Zaman.
"She also saw the cycles we were taking for our world tour. Despite illness, she insisted on looking at them," said Asad-uz-Zaman, another team member.
The foursome spent more than half an hour with the Mother and filmed the entire meeting on their video recorder, the Statesman reported.
"My life is made. This is a possession that I am going to keep all through my life. Her voice, her pictures, are going to be there for me whenever I need for solace," said Zaman.
"She asked about our plans to propagate our motto," said Abu Sufian. "She also said that she will visit Bangladesh next year, but now this will never happen," he lamented.

2 lakh women, children trafficked to ME in 20 yrs

About two lakh women and children of Bangladesh were trafficked to the Middle East in last 20 years, reports UNB.
This was revealed in the country paper of Bangladesh presented at a two-day SAARC Workshop on Violence Against Women that began in the city yesterday.
The paper, quoting unofficial sources, said that a large number of women and children are also trafficked to India and Pakistan.
The country paper said Bangladesh government is concerned at the growing phenomenon of trafficking in women and children.
"The problem needs to be ad-

ressed from a regional perspective, since trans-border trafficking from areas of poverty to areas of prosperity involves more than one country," it said.
Given the regional nature of trafficking, the paper recommended that it is necessary to approach the problem from a common perspective, and to suggest common remedies.
The paper, however, observed that the statistics on trafficking is not very reliable and tend to grossly underestimate the magnitude of the problem.
It said statistics compiled from eight newspapers were also seen improbably lower. In

1996, media reports showed that 45 women and 84 children were recovered and 70 traffickers arrested.
On the other hand, newspaper scanning from January-June period of this year shows that 257 people were trafficked while 104 people arrested for trafficking.
The reports also show that 32 trafficking cases were filed and two GDs were lodged during the period. Police was generally informed in 24 other cases.
The paper said the government is well aware of the situation and enacted a number of laws to combat trafficking.
The Penal Code of 1860, Suppression of Immoral

Trafficking Act 1993 and the Women and Child Repression (Special Provision) Act 1995 provide deterrent punishments to the offenders.
The paper said as in other sphere of violence, law enforcement in case of trafficking has remained inadequate, particularly because of weakness in investigation and the difficulties in gathering evidence.
"More is needed to be done in terms of rehabilitation of the victims and conducting public campaign for creating awareness," the paper suggested.
It said women groups are active against trafficking in the field of creating public awareness and advocacy, providing

shelter and legal support to the victims.
Since the 90s, women groups have networked to raise the issue of trafficking in regional forums.
Under the banner of South Asian Alliance Against Trafficking, women groups have come together to make personal representation to the SAARC summit meeting in Male in May 1997.
Alongside advocacy, support for victims of trafficking needs to be channelled into more systematic and effective measures for rehabilitation in the country of origin and settlement in the country of destination, the paper said.

LEGAL NOTICE

It is hereby notified that the agreements executed by and between my client MRS MUINA BASHAR, W/O SYED MUHIBUL BASHAR of HOUSE: 45, ROAD: 4A, DHANMONDI, DHAKA-1209, and M/S BAY DEVELOPMENTS LTD represented by its MANAGING DIRECTOR, MR IFTEKHAR A KHAN of 114, GULSHAN AVENUE, GULSHAN, DHAKA-1212 for doing joint business of property development covering property at ROAD NO: 5A, DHANMONDI being PLOT NO: 58 (OLD 173G), DHAKA-1209, under the name and style "WESTLAKE" project and property at ROAD NO: 93, GULSHAN RESIDENTIAL AREA, DHAKA, being PLOT NUMBER CEN (A) 15A under the name and style "TEAKWOOD" project have been terminated with effect from 24-5-97 and 31-8-97 respectively. My client and the owners of the above-mentioned properties have disassociated and disengaged themselves from the aforesaid joint business projects and mercantile transactions under the terminated agreement. Their plots of land as mentioned above are no more available under abovementioned projects. My client has no responsibilities whatsoever or connection with M/S BAY DEVELOPMENT LTD in respect of above projects. Therefore anybody dealing with or transacting any business in respect of above projects may do so keeping in view the fact of termination of agreements as referred to herein above. It is hereby further notified that my client and the owners of the properties also do not have any connection, association and responsibilities with regard to above projects with reference to their properties both at DHANMONDI RESIDENTIAL AREA and GULSHAN RESIDENTIAL AREA as described herein above.

MAHBUBUR RAHMAN
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