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Chetia, 2 others chargesheeted in 3 more cases

Police submitted charge-sheet in three cases against ULFA leader Anup Chetia and his two associates to the CMM court yesterday, reports UNB.

Mohammadpur police filed the cases against them on charges of trespass into Bangladesh, staying in the country illegally and possessing forged passports.

Earlier, they were chargesheeted in another case for illegal possession of foreign currencies.

Anup Chetia alias Golap Barua, general secretary of United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA), and his two associates, Laxmi Prasad and Babul Sharma, were arrested from the city's Mohammadpur area on December 21 last year.

Police filed four separate cases against the three after they were detained under the Special Powers Act and sent them to the Dhaka Central Jail.

Investigation Officer SI Farid Ahmed of Mohammadpur thana filed the chargesheets.

Default culture major barrier to privatisation: President Build social resistance against loan defaulters, corrupt TU leaders



President Shahabuddin

By Staff Correspondent

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday called for building social resistance against bank loan defaulters, corrupt bank officials and trade union leaders to protect the genuine entrepreneurs, businessmen and industrialists.

"Social resistance must be organised and, if necessary, all corrupt persons including bank defaulters must be socially ostracised," the President said in inaugurating a seminar on privatisation at a local hotel.

Attended by ministers, bureaucrats, chamber leaders, exporters and representatives from donor agencies, the seminar was jointly organised by the Privatisation Board and Rapport Bangladesh Ltd.

President Shahabuddin observed that the "default culture" was a major barrier to privatisation.

He said there was no improvement in sight in getting the defaulted money back though new laws were made, old laws were amended and the list of defaulters was being published in the newspapers.

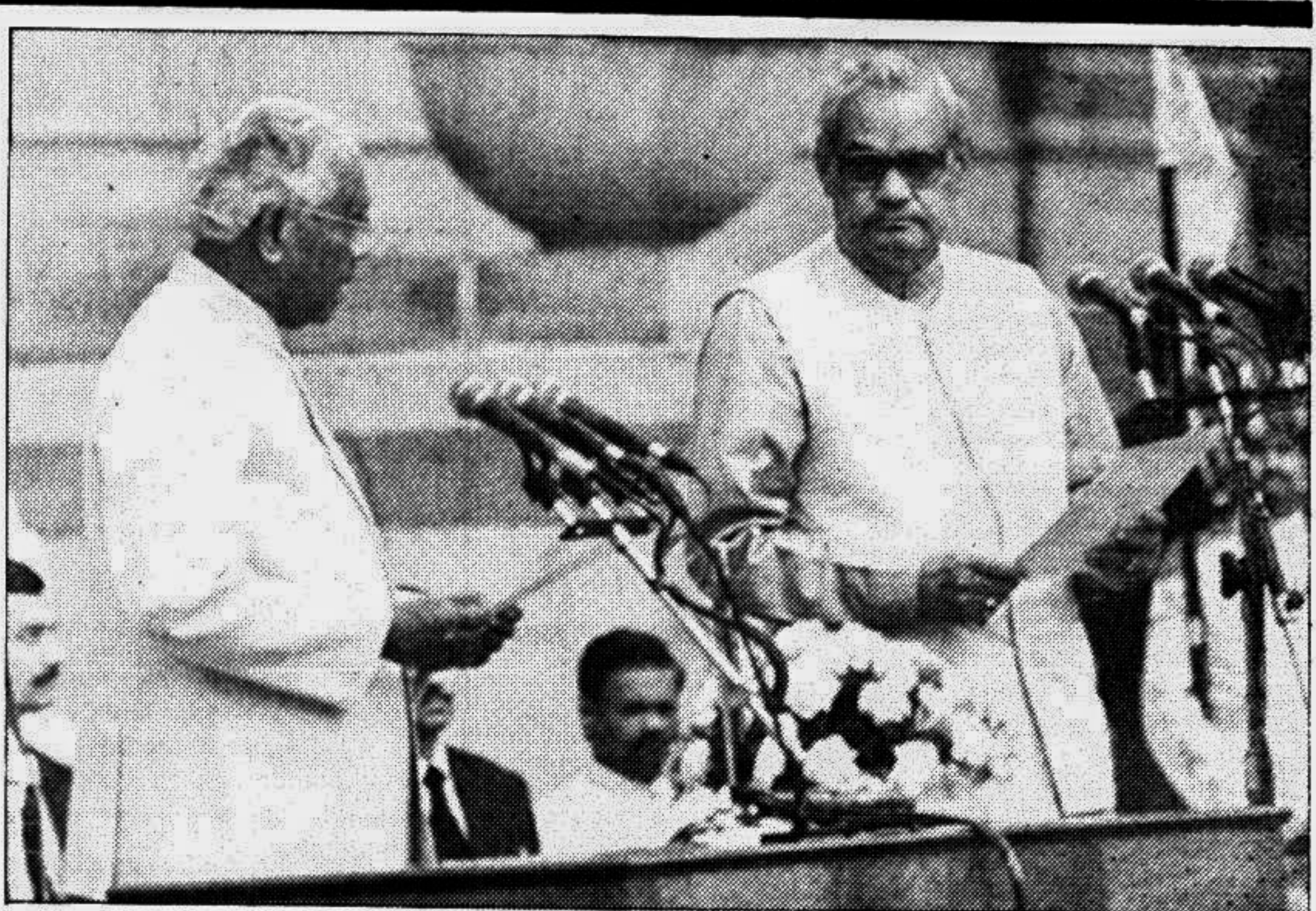
"On the contrary, the biggest loan defaulters belonging to different political parties even threaten the bank officials when they demand repayment," he pointed out.

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, World Bank Mission Chief Pierre Landell-Mills and Privatisation Board Chairman Kazi Zafarullah also spoke on the occasion.

The President said that there was hardly any country in the world where people borrow money from banks but never repay. "Some borrowers who pretend to set up industries and take loans, do not do so, but divert the money for other purposes."

He further said that the country's industrialisation was being hampered by trade unions which were often used by political parties.

Criticising the role of the



Indian President K R Narayanan (left) swears in new Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee at the presidential palace in New Delhi yesterday. —AP/UNB photo

Housewife raped in Rajshahi, one arrested

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Mar 19: A housewife was gang-raped by some miscreants in her house at Pathanpara in the city last night.

Police arrested one Mokbul in this connection.

The 25-year-old victim was sleeping at her house in a slum at Pathanpara when a group of five miscreants entered her house by breaking open the door at around 1 am and gang-raped her.

In the morning, the victim went to Boalia thana to file a case but the police at first refused to take the case. She disclosed the names of the alleged rapists as Mokbul, 35, Shahid, 28, Jalal, 25, Moynuddin, 26, and Kamal, 25.

Alleged rapist remanded, girl released from CMH

By Staff Correspondent

The six-year-old girl who was raped inside the CMM's court building in the city on CMH yesterday afternoon.

Police said the girl, Maria (not her real name), was taken to CID custody. Women police and CID officials received Maria and her father from the CMH at about 1 pm.

Maria was later taken to the Razabagh Police Hospital, police officials said, adding that the girl was keeping well.

Meanwhile, CID investigators were interrogating the alleged rapist Obayedul Matbar alias Mora, 25, who was placed on a three day remand. Obayedul was arrested from Narayanpur village in Faridpur early hours of Wednesday.

CID sources said the investigators did not take Obayedul before the victim for identification.

Implementation of accord BNP dissatisfied at ruling party's role

By Nazmul Ashraf

A four-member BNP delegation yesterday met Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury at his chamber to inform him about the party's observation on the progress of implementation of its recent agreement with the government.

The BNP team led by Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof Badruddoza Choudhury expressed dissatisfaction at the ruling party's role as regards implementation of the accord, the two parties signed on March 2.

Chief Whip of the Opposition in Parliament Khandakar Delwar Hossain, BNP vice-chairman MK Anwar and the Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan were the three other members in the delegation.

The BTV's coverage of the parliament proceedings dominated the one hour discussion, starting at about 3 in the afternoon, meeting sources said, adding that the BNP alleged 'gross violation' of the agreement in this regard.

The BNP leaders complained to the Speaker that the BTV's coverage was biased, motivated and half-hearted, said a meeting source.

Regretting the dropping of the BNP's Akter Sangsad programme, covering highlights of the day's proceedings on every working day, the BNP team also suggested the recorded business of the House should be broadcast later in a neutral manner.

The BNP delegation also brought to the notice of the Speaker that the government was yet to declare the venue for

CUTA polls Pink panel bags all but 2 posts

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 19: Prof Hamida Banu of Physics department and Dr Siddiq Ahmed Chowdhury of Political Science department have been elected President and General Secretary respectively of Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA).

The election was held today and 406 teachers out of the 450 cast votes.

Two panels — Pink panel backed by Awami League and White panel backed by BNP and Jamaat — contested the polls. However, Pink panel candidates bagged all the posts except two — that of general secretary and a member.

The other elected office bearers are: Shah Alam of Law Department — Vice President, Md Imdadul Haq of Statistics Department — Joint Secretary and Dr AMM Alamgir of Botany department — Treasurer.

43-member cabinet sworn in Vajpayee takes oath as PM

NEW DELHI, Mar 19: A Hindu nationalist politician became India's 13th prime minister today, roping in 42 leaders from 19 political parties into his cabinet that he hopes will rule India for five years, reports AP.

All but one of the six governments that have been in power since 1989 have collapsed within a year following differences of opinion among the coalition partners.

"I have a pledge to redeem, I have a promise to fulfill," said Atal Bihari Vajpayee, a moderate among the rightwing Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, after he sworn-in as prime minister. "I am grateful to the people of India who have given me an opportunity to serve."

Vajpayee's immediate task is to win a confidence vote in Parliament next week since he does not have a clear majority in the legislature. Two major opposition groups have planned to vote him out. But abstentions among some parties may save Vajpayee.

If Vajpayee loses, the Congress Party could try to form a government with other parties.

The BJP's top leader, Lal Krishna Advani, was appointed minister for interiors, a powerful post. A former bureaucrat, Yashwant Sinha, was chosen finance minister. Sinha served in the same job for four months in another government and is widely considered to be a supporter of free-market reforms that were begun in 1991.

PTI adds: Vajpayee today took oath at the head of a two-tier 43-member BJP-led coalition ministry which includes top BJP leaders LK Advani, Murli Manohar Joshi and Sikander Bakht and a number of new faces but excludes Jaswant Singh, who was widely tipped to be the finance minister.

Leaders of allied parties including Ramakrishna Hegde, Surjit Singh Barnala and George Fernandes were also included into the cabinet which will have 22 members including the prime minister.

Ram Jethmalani, a Shiv Sena-backed independent member in Rajya Sabha, was also sworn in.

Alleged rapist in Ctg produced in court

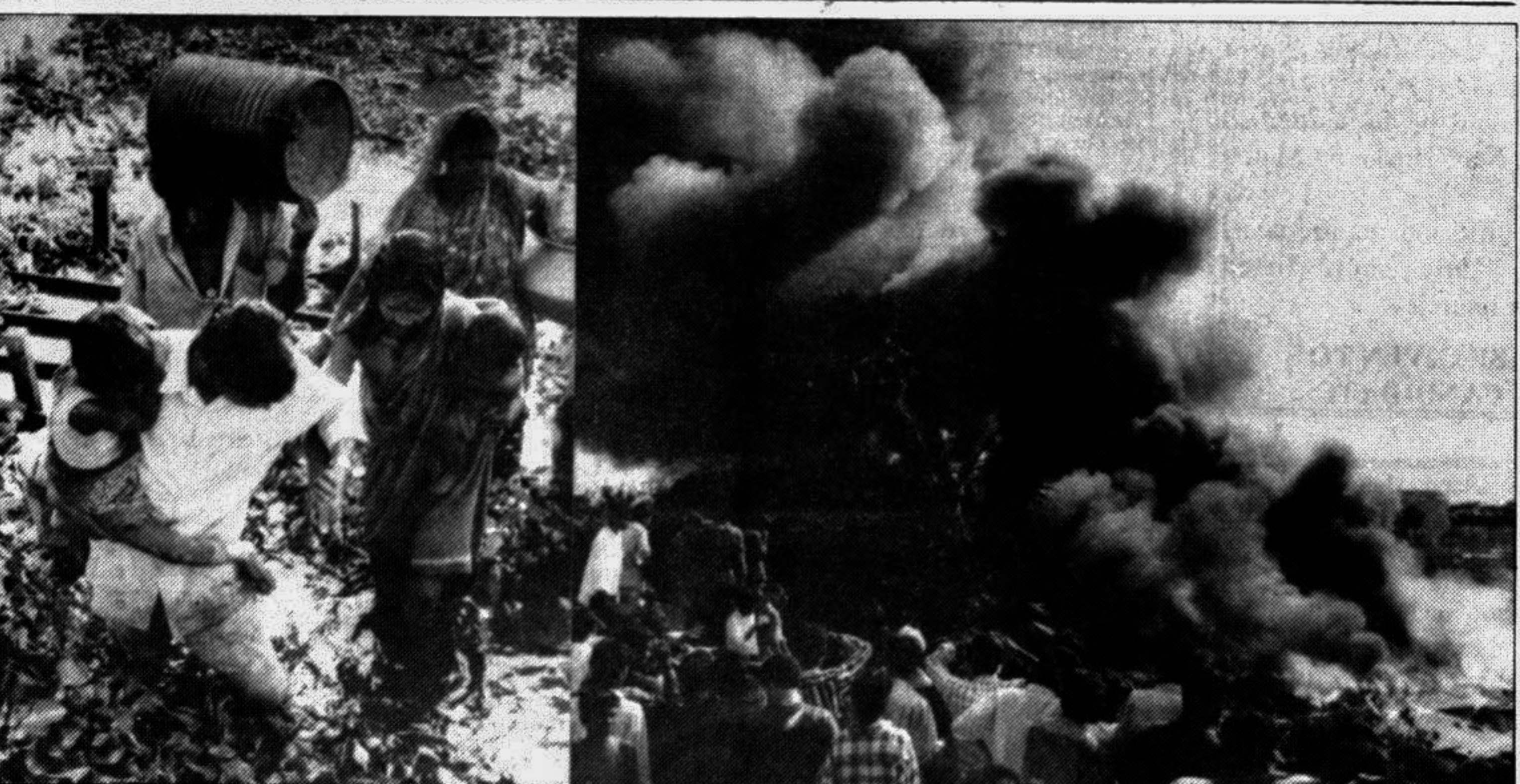
From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 18: The alleged rapist arrested by police on charge of violating a minor girl inside a ward commissioneer's office at Enayetbazar in the city yesterday, was produced before a court and later sent to jail, police said.

Meanwhile, the 10-year-old victim was kept under safe custody of Kotwali police after recording her statement.

Police said the victim would be sent to Chittagong Medical College Hospital tomorrow for medical examination.

The alleged rapist Jahangir was caught by police aided by mob on Wednesday afternoon when the victim raised a hue and cry.



(Right) Columns of smoke from the burning slum at Mahakhali in the city yesterday. (Left) Slum dwellers moving to safer places during the fire. —Star photo

Suspect in Banani double murder placed on remand

By Staff Correspondent

The suspect in the killings of two security guards of adjoining houses at Banani in the city early Wednesday, Faruk, was placed on a three-day police remand yesterday.

Gulshan police yesterday recovered the blood-stained parjati of Faruk which he was wearing during the incident, police sources said.

Police produced Faruk before the CMM's Court yesterday, praying for a seven-day remand. But the court granted a three-day remand.

Several hundred shanties gutted at city slum

By Staff Correspondent

Several hundred shanties were gutted in a fire at a slum behind the Chest Diseases Hospital building in city's Mahakhali area yesterday afternoon.

Fire Brigade sources said the fire, originating from an earthen oven, engulfed the shanties, accommodating about 500 families, within an hour and a half from 2:45 pm.

However, there was no information about any casualty in the incident till last night. Eight units of fire fighting vehicles from five city stations rushed to the spot and brought the blaze under control after

Vehicles damaged, barricade at Nilkhet 5 including DU student killed in road accident

By DU Correspondent

Five people, including a newly married couple and a student of Dhaka University, were killed as a truck hit an autorickshaw at Katabon crossing near the campus yesterday morning.

Of the five, four died on the spot while Razzak, a resident of Senpara in Mirpur, succumbed to injuries at Dhaka Medical College Hospital later.

Abdul Malek, a third year student of Marketing Department of DU; his friend Akhter and Akhter's mother and wife were going to Zia International Airport. Akhter was scheduled

Ordeal of a Bangladeshi worker in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Mar 19: A Bangladeshi worker was beaten with iron rods and locked inside a welded-shut bathroom stall for two days for trying to flee his employers, AP quoting local newspapers reported Thursday.

Police rescued Khandaker Sadek Ali, 25, after receiving an anonymous tip that he was being held captive inside an Ipoh toy factory, the newspaper Star said.

Khandaker had tried to escape from a van-load of workers March 12 as they were being

Prices of meat, vegetables up

By Staff Correspondent

Prices of onion and garlic marked a steady fall while those of beef, chicken and vegetables were up in the city markets this week.

Onion was selling at Tk 18 to 20 per kg yesterday against Tk 36 to 40 last week. Garlic was selling at Tk 20 to 24 per kg on the day against Tk 28 to 36 in the previous week. Traders at the Kawran Bazar wholesale market told this correspondent that a substantial quantity of onion was being imported after the government reduced duty on its import in the first week of this month.

Price of onion had jumped to Tk 50 per kg in the city markets

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৮
Dhaka International Trade Fair '98

বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা আন্তর্জাতিক বাণিজ্য মেলা '৯৮-এ ১৯টি দেশ তাদের পণ্য সামগ্রী নিয়ে অংশগ্রহণ করেছে। রপ্তানীযোগ্য দেশী পণ্যেরও বিপুল সমাহার। আগামী ২১শে মার্চ, ১৯৯৮ইং তারিখে এ মেলা শেষ হতে যাচ্ছে। আর মাত্র ১ (এক) দিন বাকী।

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মেলা কর্তৃপক্ষ

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Dhanmondi Lake : No move to recover encroached land

By Morshed Ali Khan

Lack of initiative to recover encroached lakeside land is seriously hampering the Dhanmondi Lake Development Project, sources concerned said.

The developers did not have access to the encroached areas to do the work as per design. DCC sources alleged there was a 'reluctance' to take steps to recover 'acres' of land illegally occupied by a number of residents having their houses by the lake.

In the last meeting of the Dhanmondi Lake Development Committee, held in the first week of February, committee members and senior government officials were 'reluctant' to raise the question of land recovery, sources attending the meeting disclosed.

"When one of the senior members insisted on taking steps to recover the public land it was decided that the matter would be discussed in the next committee meeting," said a source, adding that the 'next' meeting was yet to take place.

Explaining the extent of encroachment, DCC officials said that from Road No-2 upto Road No-27 several encroachment had taken place. They said as per original map, a footpath runs through both sides of the entire lake but in reality it hardly exists.

They pointed out that one resident at Road No-2 raised a wall with corrugated iron sheets on the lakeside land. When the developers went there

Finance Ministry's 'no' to new mission in Vienna

By M Anwarul Haq

Dhaka's plan to open a diplomatic mission in Vienna has faced a setback due to objection from the Finance Ministry, according to official sources.

Some logistic work was already completed to implement an earlier government plan to open a full-fledged resident mission in the Austrian capital besides two other missions in the capitals of the Maldives and Jordan.

The Foreign Ministry's bid to open an embassy in Vienna came almost six months after

the Austrian government expressed its desire to provide free accommodation for it, the sources pointed out.

However, the Finance Ministry recently decided not to allow the opening of Vienna mission immediately, ostensibly due to shortage of funds.

The Foreign Ministry recently closed down the mission in Harare, capital of Zimbabwe, to financially support the opening of Vienna mission, diplomatic sources said.

State Minister for Foreign