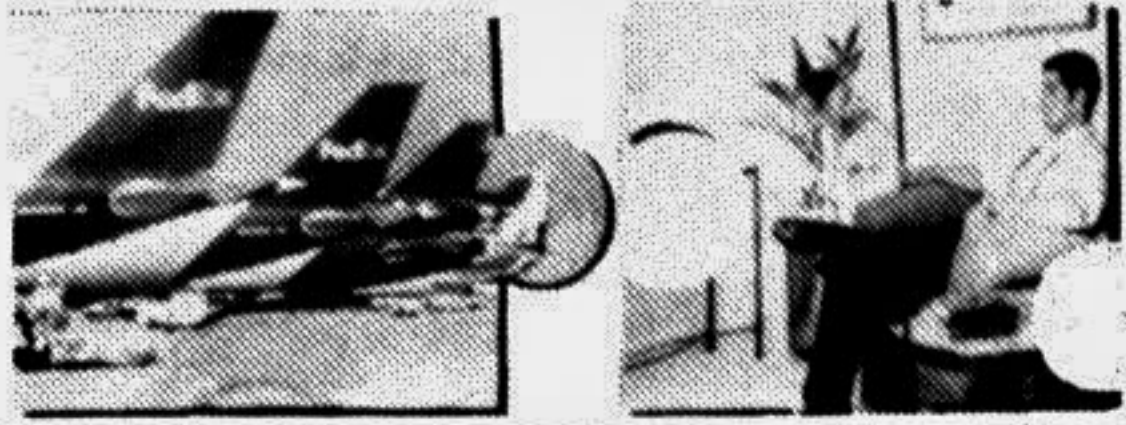
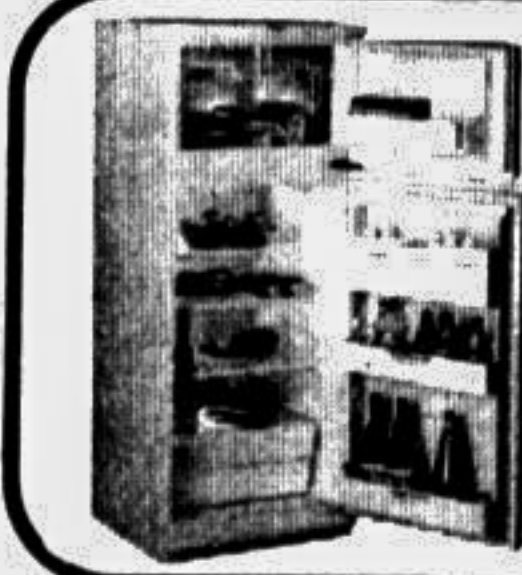


We do our piece so you can have your peace



Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd. Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

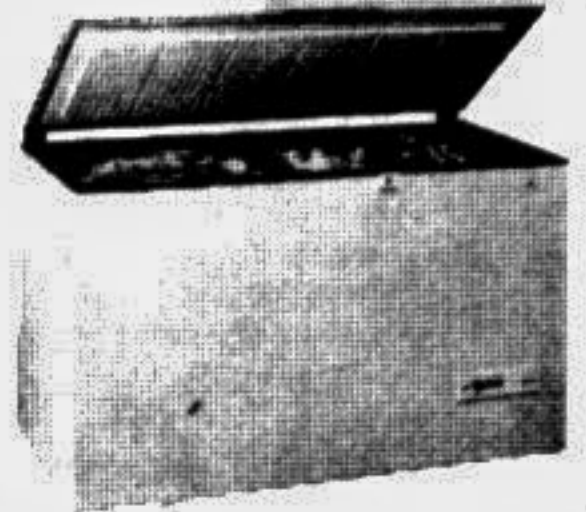
For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114, 9563927, 9130647, 894213, 808803 DEPT 9338931 Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108 Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, N.Ganj, Tel: 9714336



Refrigerator & Freezer

Transcom Electronics Limited Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg: 716353, 723578 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215



PM lays foundation stone Armed Forces Medical College to be open for all

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government is determined to ensure all types of modern medicine in the country as it has no desire to waste hard earned foreign currency for treatment abroad, reports UNB.

"We're trying to build up an improved, disciplined and self-sufficient healthcare system to reach the services to the doorstep of the people," she said laying the foundation of the Armed Forces Medical College at Dhaka Cantonment in the morning.

The Prime Minister said the armed forces is a disciplined institution, and the physicians from this medical college will be able to contribute to national health system after meeting the demands of the force.

The Armed Forces Medical College, likely to commence its academic activities in 1999, will be both for the members of the armed forces and for the public.

Hasina said the Army Medical Corps has earned national reputation for its professional skill and extending improved healthcare service.

The well-organised and disciplined armed forces of the country have been praised at home and abroad for their patriotism, professional skill and efficiency, she said.

"We want to build up a more modern, skilled and stronger force in future."

The government is pledge-bound for the development of the armed forces and to keep them beyond all controversies, she added.

The government has taken up some specific measures for overall development of the healthcare system, she said adding that despite limitations, steps have been taken to increase the number of physicians and nurses.

Hasina said the work to

Vienna

Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury told The Daily Star he hoped that the Finance Ministry will seriously reconsider its decision keeping in view the importance of Vienna as an international diplomatic capital.

After New York and Geneva, Vienna houses the headquarters of several important UN and international agencies. The headquarters of UN Industrial Development Organisation (UNIDO), and International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and UN Social Issues Secretariat are in Vienna.

The Inter-governmental Agency on Narcotics and Drugs is also headquartered there.

Bangladesh's ambassadorial-level missions in Europe now stands at 11. These are in London, Paris, Rome, Brussels, Geneva, The Hague, Moscow, Madrid, Bonn, Stockholm and Warsaw.

Meanwhile, Dhaka also needs to examine seriously the opening of missions in some other European capitals including those of Norway and Hungary. Both these countries have resident missions in Dhaka. Bangladesh is the largest recipient of Norwegian assistance in Asia while Hungary is considered one of the fastest emerging economies in East Europe. If an embassy is opened in Austria, Bangladesh will have 46 ambassadorial level missions and 10 sub-missions worldwide, diplomatic sources pointed out.

Meanwhile, two full-fledged missions — one in the Jordanian capital of Amman and the other in the Maldives, capital of Male — will be opened shortly.

After the opening of the Male mission, Bangladesh will have resident missions in all the SAARC countries.

Encroached land

From Page 1 to do their job, he threatened them of serious consequences. One retired army officer at Road No-2A built sheds on the road obstructing the whole passage.

At Road No-6A an apartment block has been extended on the public land.

At Road No-5A a castle-like building has been built encroaching about three kathas of public land.

At the Road No-27 (old) part of the lake, behind the police outpost of Road No-23 (old), a building has been built narrowing the actual lake. They said several other buildings and boundary walls in that part totally obstruct the passage as planned in the lake development design.

formulate a complete health policy is going on and medical university has been set up to facilitate higher studies for the physicians. "We're working sincerely to reach healthcare services to all people of the country."

Army chief Lt Gen Mustafizur Rahman and Brig Manjur Ahmed Mollah also spoke on the occasion.

Stalemate at BUET continues

Star Report The stalemate at the BUET continued yesterday.

Meanwhile, witnesses said some teachers yesterday heckled students and tried to provoke them when they were peacefully demonstrating during a strike called by the All Party Students Union.

The strike was called to press home the demand for a separate aptitude test for architecture admission seekers as well as protest what the students said misbehaviour by some members of the engineer-dominated BUET Academic Council.

In the morning, according to witnesses, when the BUET students gathered at the main gate to lend support to fellow learners from the Architecture Faculty, the teachers led by Dr Shamuzzaman Basunia, director of student welfare, threatened them with dire consequences and abused them.

Dr Basunia, however, denied his involvement. "I was nowhere near the scene. And I have never tried to provoke the students," he said last night, speaking over phone.

Later at a press conference at the Institution of Architects (IAB) in the evening, students flanked by their resigning teachers and former students recounted the incident. Scores of architecture students were found sitting on the floors of IAB building.

"Instead of solving the main problem, they are playing the dirty tricks employed in village politics," the students told the press conference. The students who spoke requested anonymity fearing punitive action by authorities.

All 362 of them have declined to register themselves for the next level in protest against the new aptitude test, which is similar to the one for the engineering admission seekers. Fifteen teachers out of a total 22 have also resigned in protest.

Their argument is that the new test would not help select "the right kind of talents" and thus create distortions in the academic atmosphere.

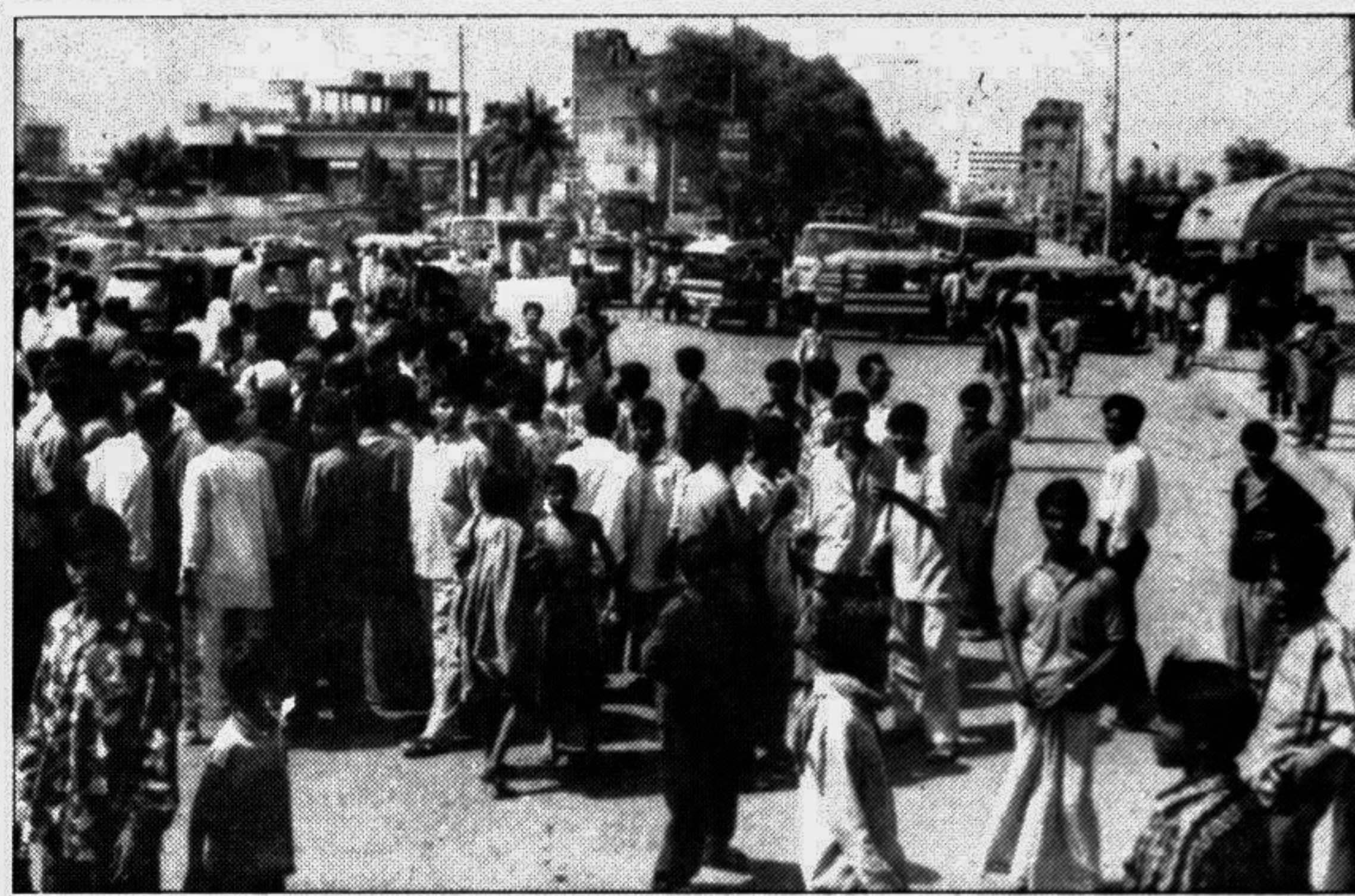
Plying of heavy vehicles thru DU areas banned

By DU Correspondent The Dhaka University authorities have prohibited plying of all kinds of heavy and commercial vehicles through the university areas, according to a DU press release issued yesterday.

The decision was taken as an immediate reaction of the road accident at Katabon crossing near the university which left five persons dead including a student of the DU yesterday morning.

The decision was taken at an emergency meeting held with the Vice Chancellor Prof A K Azad Chowdhury in the chair.

The speed limit for the vehicles plying through the university areas has been fixed at 25 miles per hour.



Tempo drivers barricaded Agargaon road for three hours after a group of extortionists beat up some tempo drivers at Farmgate area yesterday. —Star photo

Migrants file discrimination suit against Australian govt

SYDNEY, Mar 19: Nearly 3,000 migrants launched a class action suit against the Australian government today claiming racial discrimination over new visa regulations, reports Reuters.

The 2,800 migrants say the Australian government had breached the racial discrimination act by introducing a new special visa category for people from Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Lebanon, Iraq, China and the former Yugoslavia.

The new visa which came into effect last October grant people from the six countries the right to apply to upgrade their temporary visas to permanent residency if they arrived in Australia before November 1, 1993.

The class action represents migrants from Indonesia, Fiji, Bangladesh, the Philippines, Tonga and Ghana.

Alleged rapist

From Page 1 tion yet. Maria told CID earlier that she would be able to identify the rapist.

Obayedul used to do small jobs in the court area for about a year. CID sources said they were now collecting evidence of the rape.

Meanwhile, a medical board formed at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital in connection with the rape was likely to examine Maria next week.

Hanif should resign: Abbas Demand for 'Metropolitan govt' is a 'whitewash'

By Staff Correspondent

Former Mayor of Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) Mirza Abbas has said his successor Mohammad Hanif deprived him of victory in the last mayoral election by making false pledges to people of the city.

"Therefore, I want him to resign with effect from the day he took office," the former mayor said at a press briefing yesterday at his city residence.

Referring to recent statement by incumbent Mayor Hanif that his pledge for mosquito eradication in the city was a mistake, the former mayor said Hanif had resorted to 'deception' to get elected.

"Hanif lured the people to vote for him, by making pledges of freeing Dhaka from terrorism and eradicating mosquitoes and now he is saying 'I made a mistake'," said Abbas.

He also accused Hanif of 'politicising' the DCC. "Keeping the DCC building free from politicisation does not mean Hanif did not politicise it. He has politicised the DCC by allocating funds to ward commissioners from his party," Abbas alleged.

About illegal rickshaws he said trade unions affiliated to the Mayor's party were issuing thousands of number plates. "Is it not a failure of the Mayor and his party?" Abbas asked.

The former mayor also blamed Hanif for spending public funds for unnecessary works and for 'massive corruption'. He cited 'corrupt practices' concerning Matuail dumping ground and said, "at Mugdopara, they filled up 90 per cent of a low-lying area with rubbish and now the Mayor has allocated Tk one crore to fill it up."

Abbas said that during his mayorship, he used to spend Tk one crore yearly to fight mosquito menace successfully, but now Hanif cannot control mosquito even by spending Tk nine crore annually.

He said Hanif's outcry for a Metropolitan Government is a 'whitewash over his failures'.

In response to a question he said, "They cannot find any corruption charge against me."

Housewife burnt alive in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Mar 19: A housewife was burnt alive while her husband and a child suffered serious burn injuries when their hut at Chhadmari area of Fatullah thana caught fire in the small hours of today.

The victim, Rahima Akhtar, 22, was burnt alive while her husband, Nazrul Islam, 35, and their four-year-old son Rahim, received grave injuries when their shanty at the Chhadmari slum caught fire at around 1 am, police said. The family was sleeping while the fire broke out.

Police said the fire may have originated from a lamp while local people apprehended that the shanty might have been set on fire as a sequel to enmity.

Injured Nazrul and his son were sent to a hospital in Dhaka.

Vajpayee

From Page 1

Former Congress ministers Rangarajan P Kumaraman-galam, who joined BJP just before the elections, and Congress rebel Buta Singh, elected as an independent from Rajasthan, were inducted into the cabinet.

Uma Bharti, Maneka Gandhi, Sukhbir Singh Badal, Dalit Ezhilmalai, Vasundhara Raje and Ram Naik were among the 21 ministers of state sworn-in to give representation to various coalition partners and states.

Landell-Mills' remark draws sharp protest from Saifur

Former finance minister Saifur Rahman yesterday strongly protested a remark made by World Bank's Dhaka mission chief Pierre Landell-Mills at a seminar that he (Saifur) called businessmen dishonest, reports UNB.

Landell-Mills, speaking at a seminar on privatisation, pointed his finger to Saifur Rahman and quoted him as saying businessmen are dishonest and not trustworthy.

Saifur Rahman was sitting in the front row of the audience. Apparently annoyed, Saifur Rahman immediately sent a slip to Landell-Mills. When Landell-Mills concluded his deliberation, Saifur Rahman stood up and said, "I strongly protest what Landell-Mills said about me. I never made such a comment about businessmen."

Sitting grim on the dais, Landell-Mills did neither defend himself nor regretted his remark.

However, Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, during his speech, tried to assuage the feeling of the former finance minister who is widely respected.

"Mr Saifur Rahman is a senior politician, he cannot make such a comment about the entire business community," said Tofael.

He added: "We are all talking about some of the businessmen who are dishonest. None of us are blaming the businessmen community as a whole."

Saifur Rahman was seen nodding his head in approval of Tofael's observation.

The function was held at Hotel Somargaan. President Shahabuddin Ahmed was present as the chief guest.

Trade fair concludes tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

The month-long 7th Dhaka International Trade Fair (DITF) at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar will conclude tomorrow.

The largest international exhibition in the country was inaugurated by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on February 22 and it will be formally closed by Finance Minister S A M S Kibria at a simple ceremony tomorrow.

On an average 50,000 people visited the 7th International Trade Fair every day, organisers said. Exhibitors from 19 countries participated in the fair.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan visited the fair yesterday.

Expressing satisfaction over the performance of this year's trade fair, Tofael Ahmed told this correspondent that this

Ordeal

From Page 1 transferred from one factory to another in Ipho, 200 kilometres north of the capital, Kuala Lumpur.

He was caught by other factory workers, who beat him with iron rods and wooden planks before sealing him inside a bathroom with wire mesh, leaving a hole large enough to push food through, police said.

Police said the man was found in weak condition. They arrested 10 men, including the factory's manager, who face up to two years in prison if convicted.

BNP-Speaker

From Page 1 public rally — either Manik Mia Avenue or the Panthapath — as agreed in the accord. Besides, no progress was reported regarding restructuring of the 14 parliamentary standing committees and formation of the rest.

Other issues covered in the March 2 agreement that facilitated BNP's return to the House after six months, such as withdrawal of 'political cases' against the BNP leaders and workers also came up for discussion.

On his part, Speaker Humayun Rashid Choudhury reportedly told the BNP leaders that he would take immediate steps on the formation of the Sangsad Committees under his jurisdiction and pointed out the ministerial committees were to be constituted by the House.

As the BNP leaders wanted to know from the Speaker about the fate of the party's applications seeking cancellation of the seats of two of their MPs for joining the government, the Speaker reportedly replied he would soon take appropriate steps in this regard.

The opposition leaders also urged the Speaker to use his good offices to influence the government to implement the accord properly.

Shanties gutted

From Page 1 over an hour.

Local people said the fire started at the east end of the slum known as 'Shat-tala Bashti'. The blaze quickly spread to the nearby huts.

Fire Brigade personnel had to damage a number of huts so that the blaze could not spread. The extent of damage could not be known immediately.

No case was lodged with Gulshan thana in this regard till filing of this report last night.

Students of Dhaka University put up a barricade at Nilkhet crossing protesting the killing of a fellow student and four others in a road accident near the campus yesterday. —Star photo

Student killed

From Page 1 to leave for Qatar, where he worked, yesterday morning, his relatives said.

Police failed to trace the killer truck and its driver till the filing of the report last night.

The bodies of the victims were handed over to their relatives after autopsy.

Witnesses said when the autorickshaw was passing through Katabon crossing, the speeding truck hit it and sped away. The autorickshaw was badly damaged and caught fire.

Abdul Malek, son of Abdur Rahman of Savar, was a resident of Sir AF Rahman Hall of DU.

Badal, who had been in Qatar for the last eight years, came home recently and married Sakera about one and a half months ago. He was the son of Golam Mustafa, an employee of Philosophy Department of DU.

Yesterday morning, they were on way to the airport from the DU Staff quarters at Nilkhet.

The bodies of the victims were handed over to their families after autopsy at the DMCH morgue. A case was lodged with Dhanmondi thana in this regard.

PM: Dhaka to benefit

From Page 1 Bangladesh and on my own behalf, our heartfelt felicitations and warmest greetings on your assumption of the high office of the Prime Minister of the Republic of India."

"As an elder statesman of India who has dedicated his life to the service of his people, you will no doubt bring to the august office a new vision that will see your great country reach a new and higher level of overall development."

Hasina said, "We have no doubt that as neighbours, we too will immensely benefit from your acumen and your leadership in our common cause to further strengthen and consolidate our bilateral relations."

"I extend my full cooperation to work with you for the betterment of our bilateral relations," she said.

Another Begum Zia

In another message, BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia felicitated new Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

She hoped that Vajpayee would be able to accomplish the noble task of promoting the well-being of his people and all-round development of his

তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিশন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিঃ (পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী) ফোন: ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭, ৯৫৬৩৬৬৮, ৮১৯৩৭৯ (দিবা রাত)

বিশেষ দৃষ্টি আকর্ষণী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর পরিবহণ ও বিতরণ নেটওয়ার্ক পাইপ লাইন "প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস নিরাপত্তা বিধিমালা, ১৯৯১" অনুযায়ী মাটির নিচে স্থাপিত। ভূ-গর্ভস্থ বিভিন্ন ব্যাসের গ্যাস পাইপ লাইন কোন কারণে ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হইলে শ্রাব্যবিক্রমিত হইবে গ্যাস প্রবাহ বিল্লিত হয়, গ্যাস বিতরণ ও সরবরাহে সমস্যা দেখা দেয় এমনকি দুর্ঘটনার কারণে জানমালের ক্ষয়ক্ষতি হইতে পারে।

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের "প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস নিরাপত্তা বিধিমালা, ১৯৯১" অনুযায়ী সকল উচ্চচাপ সম্পন্ন গ্যাস পাইপ লাইন ও পূর্তকর্মের মধ্যে নির্দিষ্টকৃত নিরাপদ দূরত্ব বজায় রাখিতে হইবে এবং উক্ত নিরাপদ দূরত্ব লঙ্ঘন করিয়া কোন ব্যক্তি কোন সংরক্ষণীয় পূর্তকর্ম স্থাপন করিতে পারিবেন না। বিধিমালায় আরও উল্লেখ আছে যে, কোন জন-উপযোগিতামূলক সংস্থা উহার সেবা প্রদানের স্বার্থে গ্যাস পাইপ লাইন কর্তৃপক্ষকে আগাম অবহিত করিয়া ও নিরাপত্তা ব্যবস্থা অক্ষুণ্ণ রাখিয়া প্রয়োজনীয় কার্যকলাপ পরিচালনা করিতে পারিবেন।

ক্রমবর্ধমান উন্নয়নের ধারায় নতুন নতুন শিল্প কারখানা, প্রতিষ্ঠান, জনবসতি ও সড়ক জনপথ বিস্তার লাভ করিতেছে। কোথাও কোন প্রকার খনন বা নির্মাণ কাজের পূর্বে সেখানে গ্যাস লাইন আছে কিনা উহা নিশ্চিত হইয়া এবং স্থাপিত গ্যাস লাইনের নিরাপত্তা বিধানের জন্য যথাসময়ে তিতাস কর্তৃপক্ষকে অবহিতকরণসহ প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাস নিরাপত্তা বিধিমালা অনুসরণ করিবার জন্য সশ্রদ্ধিত সকলকে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

গ্যাস একটি মূল্যবান প্রাকৃতিক সম্পদ। গ্যাস ব্যবহারের নিয়মকানুন মানিয়া চলুন এবং গ্যাস লাইন রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ ও নিরাপত্তা বিধান সহায়তা করিয়া জানমালের ক্ষয়ক্ষতি রোধ করুন।

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ/৯৪/৯৭-৯৮

জিডি-২০৬

Editor: Mahfuz Anam Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrai, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net