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Speaker to keep records of punctuality

By Staff Correspondent
Members of both the Treasury and the Opposition benches in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday unanimously supported an announcement from the Chair that records of punctuality by the MPs would be maintained.
"From now on, I'll ask my office to list those members who attend the session in time", Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid told the House amid shouts and desk-thumping by all the members present.
The Deputy Speaker's announcement followed several BNP lawmakers' allegations that they were not given the floor to ask questions "despite attending the session before others".
Fazul Azim of the party claimed that BNP lawmakers keep on sitting since 10 am, the scheduled time for beginning of the morning sitting. But it is a "regular problem" that the sit-

Dacoits loot two trawlers, one killed in firing

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Apr 23: One person was killed and four others were injured when dacoits opened fire at two trawlers carrying salt on the river Buri-ganga near the Ajmiri Salt Industries at Pagla under Fatulla thana at around 3:30 am today.
Firing several rounds of gunshots, a gang of about 12 dacoits attacked the trawlers, MV Shamsu and MV Noor Alam, and looted money and other valuables. The trawlers were anchored for unloading.
One Mujibur Rahman, 30, who sustained bullet injuries, died on the way to hospital while Rahim, 20, Zakir, 40, Zahirullah, 21, and Abul Kalam, 24, were admitted to local clinics with bullet injuries.

A case has been filed with Fatulla thana in this connection.

JCD activist murdered inside cinema

JESSORE, Apr 23: An activist of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) was stabbed to death inside a cinema hall here this evening, reports BSS.
Police and eyewitnesses said, Bilu, 20, a JCD activist and two of his friends were attacked by a group of assailants inside the Tasbir Mohal Cinema Hall at about 7:30 pm following an altercation. Bilu, Enamul, 18, and Mahfuz, 18 were stabbed by the assailants during the altercation.
They were taken to Jessore General Hospital, where Bilu succumbed to his injuries.
His body was kept at the morgue for autopsy.
A case was registered with Jessore Sadar Thana. But none was arrested in this connection.

Sufia Kamal hospitalised

Ailing Poet Begum Sufia Kamal was admitted to Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University yesterday for check-up.
"Her condition has improved slightly. She is now at the intensive care unit," attending doctor Mostafa Kamal told BSS last night.
He said the poet is recovering as she can now move and talk. She is suffering from respiratory and kidney related problems.

Announcement

Final results of admission test for cadet colleges, announced yesterday, are being published on Page 5.

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Police 'silent spectators', later raid three halls BCL leader shot dead: Fierce gunbattle rocks DU campus

By DU Correspondent
An activist of Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League was shot dead and two others were bullet-hit on the Dhaka University campus during an hour-long gunfight with activists of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal yesterday noon.

Partho Protim Acharya, a Masters student of Mass Communication and Journalism and a central leader of BCL, was shot in the chest in front of the Surya Sen Hall canteen while he was leading a group of armed activists in the encounter with the JCD, witnesses said. He died shortly after he was rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. He was a resident student of Jagannath Hall.
The two injured students are Jewel and Jahangir. Jewel, a final year student of Zoology, was bullet-hit in the abdomen and Jahangir, a final year student of Political Science was injured in the head while watching the battle through a window of the Surya Sen Hall. They were admitted to the DMCH.

The trouble began when a JCD procession, coming from the city's Tejgaon College, was chased by the BCL activists near the Madhu's canteen in a sequel to a gunfight between the two organisations on the previous day when a truck driver was bullet-hit and a student was stabbed.

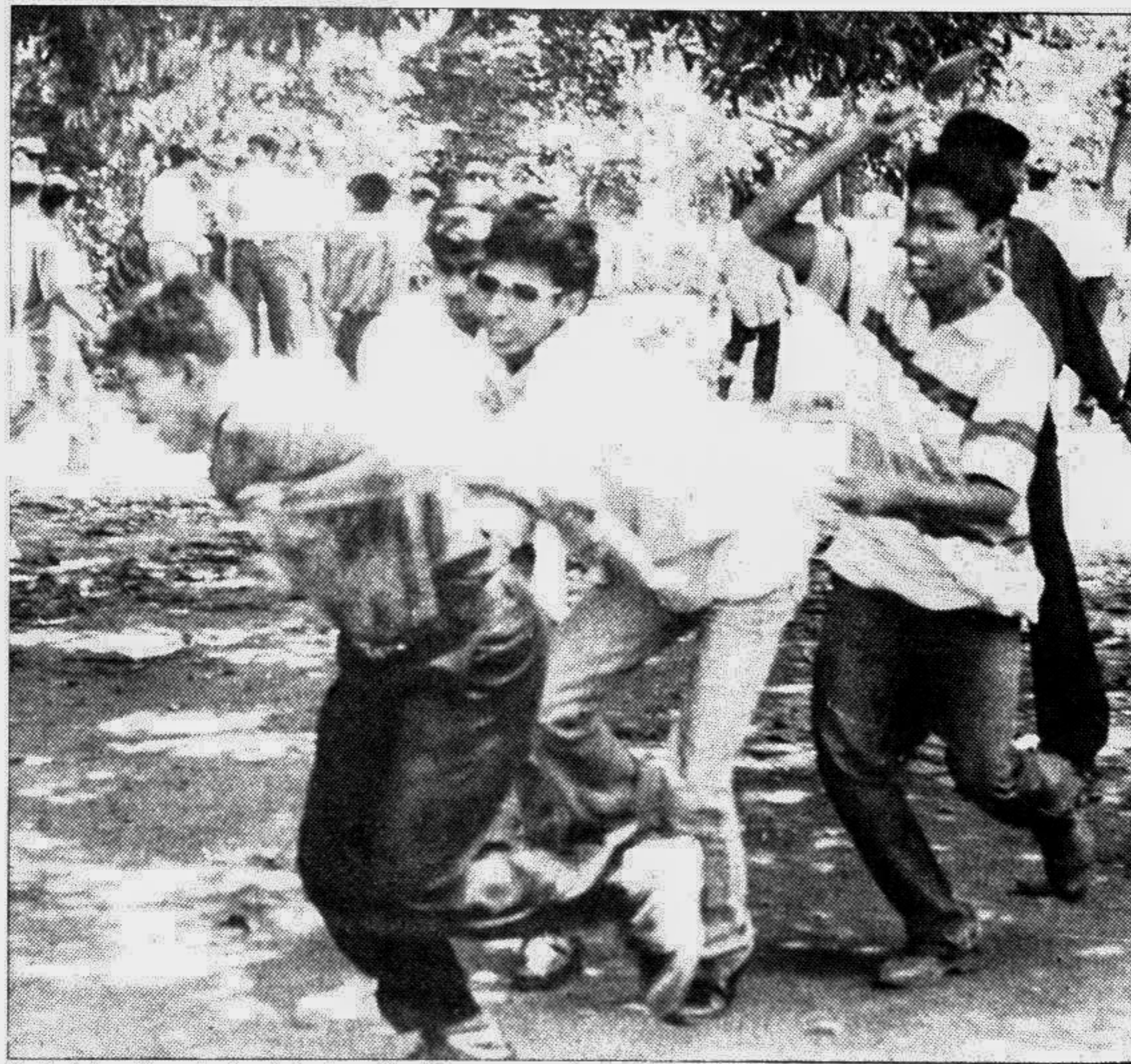
An uneasy calm was prevailing on the campus since then. In the face of the sudden attack yesterday, the JCD activists ran towards their "safe zone", Jasimuddin, Ziaur Rahman and Bangabandhu hall areas, witnesses said. But the BCL activists continued the chase, firing shots.

Reaching near the Jasimuddin Hall, the JCD activists also started firing shots from in front of Ziaur Rahman Hall. Partha was shot at that time, witnesses said. A cow, owned by an employee of Jasimuddin

BCL blames JCD for DU killing

By DU Correspondent
Bangladesh Chhatra League held the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal responsible for the killing of its leader Partho Protim Acharya yesterday.
Chhatra League, the student wing of ruling Awami League, also announced a three-day programme to protest the killing of Partho on the Dhaka University campus.

The programmes were announced at press conference held yesterday evening at the Madhu's canteen of the Dhaka University.
Black flags will be hoisted at the party office and the activists will wear black badges today. Mourning processions would be organised across the country tomorrow and demonstration will be held on Sunday.



Activists of a student body attacking a member of the rival student body with a cleaver during clashes on the Dhaka University campus yesterday. — Star photo



Bullet-hit Partho being rushed to DMCH from the DU campus yesterday. He succumbed to his injuries later. — Star photo

JCD announces agitation programme

By Staff Correspondent
They Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will bring out processions throughout the country at district headquarters tomorrow in protest against the police harassment during the search in three DU halls and the BCL attack on JCD activists on the DU campus yesterday.
Announcing an agitation programme at a press briefing at the National Press Club yesterday evening, JCD President Shahid Uddin Choudhury said, "On Sunday we will gherao the Dhaka University Vice Chancellor's office and his residence. The same day, we will block all DU transports from operating."

He added, "If by Sunday the VC fails to ensure the safe return of the JCD activists to their respective halls we will announce fresh agitation programmes from Monday."
The JCD leaders demanded the arrest of the miscreants responsible for the yesterday's violence on the campus. They claimed that more

20 killed as storms hit 7 districts

At least 20 people were killed and more than 50 others injured as nor'westers along with lightning hit different parts of the country yesterday, reports UNB.

The storms swept over Chittagong, Habiganj, Sirajganj, Faridpur, Pirojpur, Feni and Cox's Bazar districts, leaving a trail of devastation.
In Chittagong, four people, including three of a family, were killed in house collapse at two villages in Mirersharai thana during a severe nor'wester in the early hours.
The dead were identified as Soleman, 14, of village Aburhat, and Sanowara Begum, 35, and her two minor boys, aged four and seven, of Shahergol.

Witnesses said some 200 dwelling houses, standing crops on 3,000 acres of land, two school buildings and a carpet mills were also damaged in the storm that hit the thana at about 3:30 am.

UNB Correspondent from Habiganj reports: Lightning killed five people and injured three others in the district.

Hafizur Rahman, 20, of village Pratham Rekha in Baniachang thana, Narayan Das, 27, and Naru Das, 26, of village Mukta Rekha, Mayna Mia, 55, of village Sardarpur and Afzal Mia, 60, of village Bara Sardarpur in Nabigonj thana died on the spot as lightning struck them at about 12 noon.
The injured were identified

as Nani Das, 20, and Swarajit Das, 22, of village Mukta Rekha. They were rushed to Nabigonj Thana Health Complex.

Ful Mia, 18, of village Tapal in Sadar thana was also injured in another lightning. His condition was stated to be critical.
In Sirajganj, three persons were killed and some 18 others were injured when lightning hit them in Raiganj and Shahjapur at about 4 pm during a nor'wester.

District officials confirmed the deaths but could not immediately give the identity of the victims.

The nor'wester damaged a large number of houses in Belkuchi, Kamarkand, Shahjapur, Raiganj, Tarash, Ullapara and Sirajganj sadar. A large number of trees were also uprooted and crops on vast tracks of land damaged.

Traffic on Dhaka-Bogra highway was suspended for more than one hour as uprooted trees blocked the road at several points.

UNB Correspondent from Pirojpur said: Nor'westers accompanied by heavy rains swept over the district, leaving two persons killed and dwelling houses and crops damaged late Wednesday night.

Nasima, 10, of village Sohadgal in Swarupkathi thana was killed in a house collapse while Avijit Roy, 40, of Durgakathi village in Bhandaria

Fifth Plan: Tk 1960 bn investment outlay, 7pc GDP growth target

By Staff Correspondent
The Fifth Five Year Plan (FFYP) (1997-2002) was officially announced yesterday with an estimated investment outlay of Tk 1960 billion (42.50 billion US dollars) and an annual GDP growth target of seven per cent.

The FFYP put emphasis on good governance and private investment.
Releasing the plan documents at a press briefing in the city, State Minister for Planning, Science and Technology Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir said

the increase in investment outlay has been proposed keeping in view that military and administrative expenditure would diminish.
The proposed investment would help increase the country's Gross Domestic Product by seven per cent on an average, generating more than 63 lakh new jobs by the year 2002. At

the end of the plan period, GDP growth might rise to 8:30 per cent.

Of the proposed investment — the highest so far — 56 per cent or Tk 1,101 billion would come from private entrepreneurs and 44 per cent or Tk 859 billion from public funds.

See Page 12 Col 7

Highlights

Main features of the Fifth Five Year Plan, according to UNB are:
* Total investment outlay Tk 1960 billions.
* Annual growth target 7 per cent.
* Private sector's investment envisaged at Tk 1,101 billion or 56 per cent of the total.
* Ninety per cent of the private sector's investment will be in the public sector.
See Page 12 Col 1

Unocal proposal to develop Shahbazpur gasfield

By Shariar Khan
US company Unocal, which has been pursuing an integrated energy scheme in the country's western region, has recently proposed to the government to award it the Shahbazpur gasfield in Bhola.

In a recent proposal, Unocal suggested that as signing of an agreement on the Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP) was being delayed, the government could award the Shahbazpur field to the company when it would announce names of the bid winners in the Second Round Block Bidding. The WRIP aims at developing Shahbazpur gasfield, discovered by BAPEX in 1995, and building inter-regional pipeline and power plants.
The company has also proposed an Integrated Fertiliser Project (IFP) to utilise "private sector" gasfields in Sylhet and

Shahbazpur and to develop gas pipelines and fertiliser plants, sources said.

Unocal held a discussion with the government late last month on this Integrated Fertiliser Project, outlined on the sidelines of its earlier scheme, the Western Region Integrated Project.
According to its proposal, Unocal will set up two fertiliser plants on the other side of Jamuna in the western part of the country. This would cut down fertiliser distribution price, the US company said.

Besides, fertiliser could be exported to India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.
Unocal holds 42.5 per cent partnership with US company Occidental in blocks 12, 13 and 14 which cover the Sylhet-Netrakona region.
The company made a "controversial entry" into the Shahbazpur gasfield by signing a Letter of Intent (LOI) with the Energy Ministry in January last year. The government, which had declared in 1996 that no block or gasfield would be given to any foreign company without any competitive bidding, violated its own policy and signed the LOI with Unocal for a term of one year.
On the basis of the LOI, Unocal submitted its WRIP proposal and initiated an agreement in mid-'97. However, no agreement was signed with Unocal till date as its proposals aimed at "heavy profit on its side and poor promises for Bangladesh," the sources said.
Petrobangla had termed the WRIP an "unbalanced proposal having inflated investment figures". Besides, the proposal had

Probe reports submitted: 5 held, cases against 16

CHITTAGONG, Apr 23: The three-member enquiry committee, formed here to probe the question paper leak-out of the ongoing SSC examination, has submitted its report, says UNB.

On the basis of the report, police today arrested five people, including an SSC examinee from Mirersarai thana, and filed a case against 16 people under Section 4 of the Examination Law-1980.
The arrested are Masuda Akhter, an examinee of Korherat High School, Shahidul Islam, Kamaluddin, Ashrafuz-zaman and Anwar Hossain.
In her confidential statement to the police, Masuda said Kamaluddin, a binder of the BG Press, had sold the question papers to her brothers. She was caught while photocopying the question paper of Physics.
Another two-member enquiry committee was also formed to probe the leak-out of the question papers of the on-going SSC examinations.
They were identified as To-fazzal Hossain Pandit, Amjad Hossain, Yusuf Ali, Ishaq Ali Khan, Kawsaruddin, Shamsul Alam Bakul, Abdul Khaleq Mia and Shaiful Islam.
A CID official said last night that the same gang was also involved in the leak-out of question papers in previous years. Last year a case was filed with Uttara thana in this regard.
During a joint operation by CID and the Special Branch of

8 more BG Press men held Kamal got Tk 40000 for leaking out question papers

By Staff Correspondent
Police arrested eight more employees of BG Press yesterday from city's Tejgaon area in connection with the leak-out of question papers of the on-going SSC examinations.

They were identified as To-fazzal Hossain Pandit, Amjad Hossain, Yusuf Ali, Ishaq Ali Khan, Kawsaruddin, Shamsul Alam Bakul, Abdul Khaleq Mia and Shaiful Islam.
A CID official said last night that the same gang was also involved in the leak-out of question papers in previous years. Last year a case was filed with Uttara thana in this regard.
During a joint operation by CID and the Special Branch of

police arrested them, all binders of confidential section, from BG Press yesterday.

Earlier, police arrested Kamaluddin alias Musa and Abul Hashem from BG Press on Wednesday for their alleged involvement in question paper leak-out.

Kamaluddin was produced before the CMM's Court yesterday and was placed on a 3-day remand. But Hashem was released.

Police were searching for some other persons for their alleged involvement in the incident.
UNB adds: Based merely on a See Page 12 Col 7

British cos planning to invest more: Fatchett

By Special Correspondent
British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, Derek Fatchett MP, ended his two-day visit to Bangladesh saying there are potential for more investment by companies from the UK.
"We have discussed areas of potential for future investment, in infrastructure, oil and gas sectors," the minister told newsmen before leaving for home last night.
Replying to a question, he said British companies are "feeling comfortable" in Bangladesh. They have a strong presence. They are planning to increase investments", he added.
Fatchett said that recent

findings of gas have helped bring a positive image for the country and cited British company, Cairn's involvement in the Sangu gasfield, which they have completed in time.
But he stressed the importance of infrastructure in attracting more investments.
The minister said that a delegation of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industries is going to visit Britain in May to promote trade relations between the two countries.
Responding to another question, he said the fund for South Asia would help promote development in the region which has potential to grow into tiger economies.

On his visit, he said it was a successful one and he hoped to come back again. He said he had meetings with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, ministers of commerce and home and state minister for planning besides meeting the state minister for foreign affairs, Abul Hasan Choudhury, who saw him off at the airport. Fatchett also had a meeting with Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia.
"Key bilateral issues were discussed. There are no areas of disagreement with Bangladesh," Fatchett told reporters.
He said during his meetings with Prime Minister and the

'Pakistan has consolidated democracy in last 2 yrs'

By Staff Correspondent
Pakistan's democratic polity has undergone major structural changes and its democratic institutions have been greatly strengthened in the last two years.
He observed that political issues should be resolved in parliament through debates. Respect for each others opinion could help stabilise democratic institutions and culture, he said.
In a brief statement before seeing off the British minister, Abul Hasan Choudhury said that with Britain are many faceted and strong. He recalled Britain's role in 1971 War of Liberation. "It remained indel-

Leader of the Opposition, he discussed progress of democracy and building up of democratic institutions, which he noted are key to stability to attract more investments.
He observed that political issues should be resolved in parliament through debates. Respect for each others opinion could help stabilise democratic institutions and culture, he said.
In a brief statement before seeing off the British minister, Abul Hasan Choudhury said that with Britain are many faceted and strong. He recalled Britain's role in 1971 War of Liberation. "It remained indel-

day. Mushahid, who is a former journalist, said there were three important changes that improved and consolidated the democratic institutions. The first change was in the quality of leadership, the second was in the sphere of Pakistan statecraft and the third in the development of institutions.
He said Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has been successful in making qualitative changes in leadership. He has been able to enlarge the support base and reach out to the largest

Teenage girl murdered at Gulshan

By Staff Correspondent
Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Transcom Group, was murdered at their Gulshan residence between 10 and 10:30 last night, according to family sources.
She was 15 and was a student of Class IX at Scholastica School.
The murderer slipped inside the house and killed the young girl in her room with a sharp weapon.
Till the writing of this report, police was investigating at the scene of the murder.

Housewife abducted at Gulshan

By Staff Correspondent
A young housewife was abducted allegedly by a gang from the city's Gulshan area on Tuesday.
Quoting the FIR filed by the husband of the victim, police said a gang of about fifteen led by one Anwar abducted her from a market at Gulshan.
The gang forcibly took the woman with them when she went there for marketing, police added.
None, however, was arrested till filing of this report last night.

Rape at Gopibagh: One arrested

By Staff Correspondent
One person was arrested Wednesday night in connection with the gang rape of a 26-year-old woman at a slum in the city's Gopibagh area Monday night.

Demra police identified him as Shaikat, 25, from the locality. He was arrested after the woman filed a case with the thana on Wednesday.

The victim, mother of four, is still under police custody and is likely to be taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital today for medical examination, police sources said.

BNP demonstrates in front of Titas Gas Bhaban

Dhaka City BNP staged a demonstration in front of Titas Gas Bhaban in the city's Kawranbazar area yesterday protesting what it called a government conspiracy to sell gas to India ignoring country's interest, reports UNB.
It also submitted a 7-point memorandum to the concerned authorities, warning of a vigorous movement if the move to export gas to India and increase gas tariff at home is not halted.
Several hundred activists of the city BNP and its front organisations marched in a procession from Ramna Park towards the Titas Bhaban and held a brief rally before handing the memorandum to the authorities.
The rally warned against signing of any agreement on gas exploration and exploitation sacrificing the country's interest.
It demanded installation of the new gas lines and uninterrupted gas supply in the city.
The rally was addressed among others, by city BNP convener Sadeq Hossain Khoka, Mirza Abbas, Abul Hasnat, Barrister Rafique and Selima Rahman.

19 Bangladeshis among 722 held in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 23: Malaysian police have detained 722 illegal immigrants, 19 of them are Bangladeshis, posing as construction workers at the site of a new government administration centre south of here, reports AFP.
Police spokesman Asri Yusuff said 105 police personnel launched a surprise check at the multi-billion-dollar Putrajaya site Wednesday after noticing the camp to be unusually crowded.
"It was packed and on checking, we found 722 without valid documents or with no documents at all," Asri was quoted as saying by the New Straits Times newspaper.
Among those detained were 588 migrants from Indonesia, 19 from Bangladesh, 24 from Myanmar, three from Pakistan and one Indian who possessed no documents.
Another 134 comprising 88 Myanmars, 32 Indonesians and 17 Pakistanis were believed to be using forged passports, he added.
Malaysia, concerned about an influx of illegal immigrants, especially from crisis-struck Indonesia, has stepped up security measures.
There are an estimated 2.2 million foreign workers in Malaysia, of which some one million are believed to be illegals.