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VOL. VIII NO. 92 REGD. NO. DA 781 INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com> BAISHAKH 12, 1405 BS DHAKA SATURDAY APRIL 25, 1998 ZILHAJ 27, 1418 HIJRI 16 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

Barisal-5: Four face interview for AL ticket

By Staff Correspondent
Four nomination seekers appeared before the Awami League Parliamentary Board (ALPB) yesterday for interview to contest the by-election for Barisal-5 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The seat fell vacant following the death of BNP lawmaker Dr. Ehteshamul Haq Nasim Biswas on March 12 this year. Nasim Biswas was the son of former President Abdur Rahman Biswas.

The 11-member ALPB met for two hours in the afternoon at the party central office here with party chief and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Those appeared for interview were:—
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BNP announces candidate today

By Staff Correspondent
BNP will announce today the name of its candidate for contesting the by-election for Barisal-5 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad. Abdur Mannan Bhuiyan, secretary general of the party said yesterday.

BNP Parliamentary Board, with party chief Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair, interviewed four nomination-seekers on Thursday night in the city.

Those aspiring for BNP ticket are, Zamal Biswas, a son of former president Abdur Rahman Biswas, Mujibur Rahman—
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JP nominates candidate

By Staff Correspondent
Jatiya Party has nominated its Barisal district unit organizing secretary Moniruzzaman Khan Faruq as the party candidate for contesting the by-election in Barisal-5 seat of the Jatiya Sangsad.

The nomination was finalised at a meeting of the JP Parliamentary Board (JPPB), held here on Wednesday with party Chairman H. M. Ershad in the chair, a party press release said yesterday.

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Supplement

Today's 16-page issue of The Daily Star contains a three-page special supplement on SAARC Information Ministers' Meeting
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Students' 'yes', teachers' 'no' to ban on campus politics

By Aminul Islam

An overwhelming majority of students of Dhaka University want a ban on student politics but a large number of their teachers oppose it.

This was revealed in a recent study titled "Teacher-Student Relationship: Dhaka University Perspective," conducted by the Department of Mass Communications and Journalism at the university.

A total of 105 students and 51 teachers were interviewed on a random basis. Sixty-four per cent of the students covered by the study identified student politics as the "immediate cause" of various problems in the university, including terrorism. They felt student politics should be banned immediately.

On the other hand, Only sixteen per cent teachers supported the idea," the study report added.

A total of 62 persons were killed on the Dhaka University campus over the last 24 years in clashes among different student organisations.

The teacher-student relationship, which is not "satisfactory" now, is further deteriorating day by day, the study said.

Majority of the students said that a large number of their teachers were involved in political activities and suggested that the practise should be banned.

Fifty-one per cent of the students covered by the study believed that teachers' politics should be banned for restoring normal academics atmosphere in the university. At least 71 per cent of the DU teachers are "actively involved" in politics, it said.

The study also revealed that 70 of the teachers admitted that they were involved in active politics and that it affected their academic activities.

The study, however, did not mention anything about the opinion of the teachers on banning teachers' politics on the campus.

Five per cent of the students opined that instead of banning student politics, student organisations should be separated from political parties.

Most of the students said that the academic atmosphere in the universities was being severely affected by the "negative trend" in the national politics and they were not affiliated with any student organisation.

Vice-Chancellor of Dhaka University Prof AK Azad Chowdhury, when contacted yesterday, refrained from giving his comment on banning student politics on the campus on grounds that he would be "misunderstood."

"I am mentally devastated. I would not like to make any comment on the issue," he said.

Vice-Chancellor of Jahangirnagar University Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury said that he was not in favour of "totally" banning the student politics on the campus.

"Violence of any kind should be avoided," he said.

Murder of teenage girl at Gulshan Countrywide police hunt for suspect, 18 being interrogated

By Staff Correspondent

Police are looking for a servant of Transcom Ltd's Chairman Latifur Rahman, suspected of murdering his youngest daughter Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, at their Gulshan residence Thursday night.

Three special teams of police were conducting search in different areas of the country to arrest the only FIR-named accused, Shahidul alias Shahid, aged about 25.

Police said Shahid, son of Siddiq Mollah of Moksdepur (thana in Gopalganj), was working as a domestic help at Latifur Rahman's house on Road No. 83 in Gulshan-2 for about one and a half years.

A student of Class IX in Scholastica School, Shazneen, 15, was found dead, lying in a pool of blood on the floor of her bedroom at about 10.15 pm on Thursday. She had been stabbed at least 20 times. A three-inch deep wound was found in her neck. Preliminary investigation showed that she was also raped, police said. Shazneen was the youngest of three sisters and a brother.

She was laid to rest at the Banani graveyard yesterday afternoon after autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, family members said.

Meanwhile, Gulshan police took into custody at least 18 people, including Hemayet, an uncle of the alleged murderer. They were being questioned last night.



Shazneen

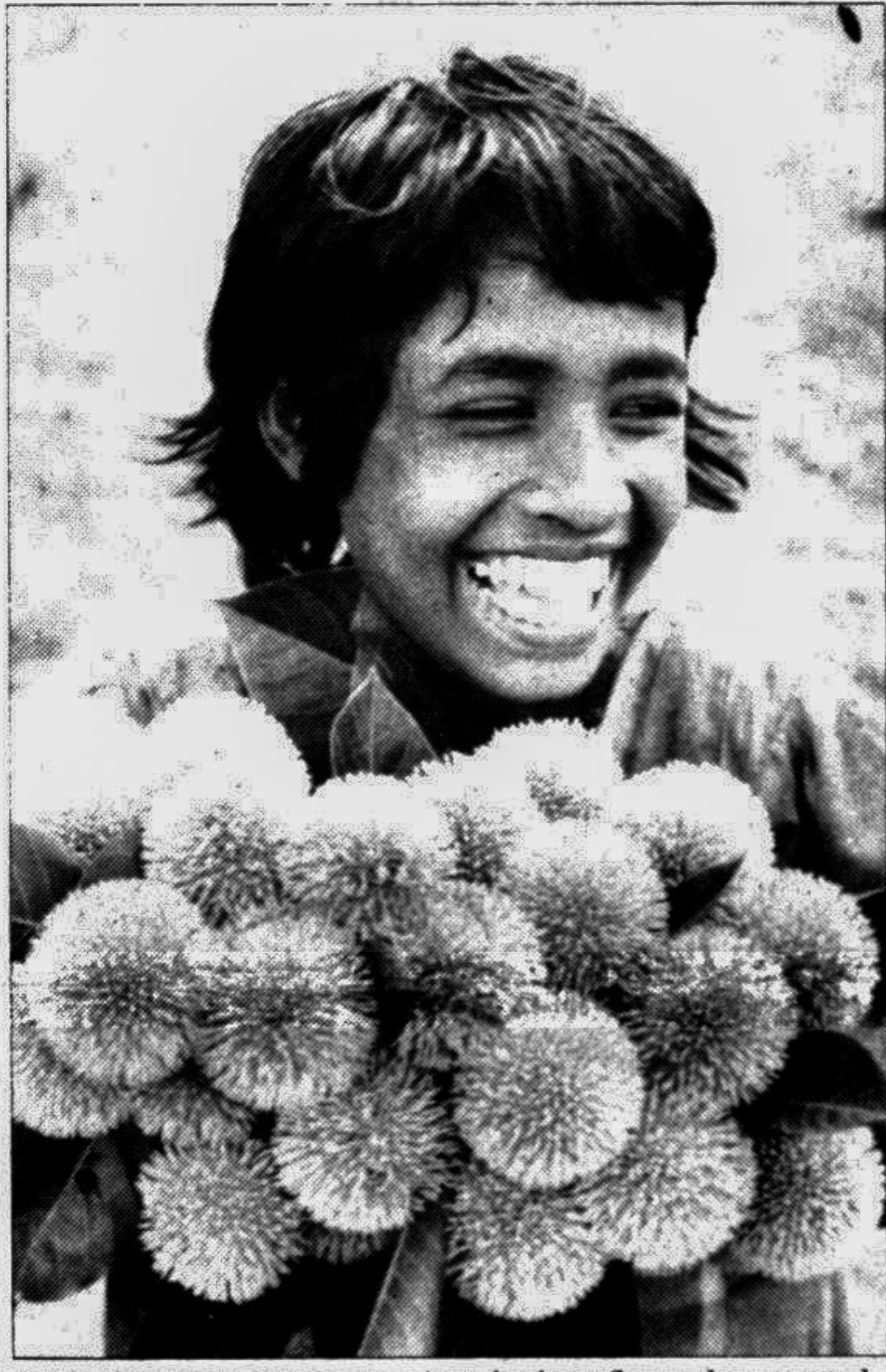
DU clash: 24 on police remand

By DU Correspondent
Twenty-four persons including a joint convener of JCD and a former army officer, arrested from the Dhaka University campus, were placed on a two-day police remand yesterday for interrogation.

They were arrested following Thursday's clash between ruling party-backed BCL and BNP-backed JCD which left one student killed and several injured.

The arrested were produced in the CMM's Court yesterday. The court placed them on police remand.

Police earlier released 41 students, who were also picked up during the incident from Ziaur Rahman, Bangabandhu and Jasimuddin halls.



With the rainy season nearing, kadam flower has started blooming. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

Students of three halls leaving dormitories

By DU Correspondent
An uneasy calm was prevailing on the Dhaka University campus yesterday following Thursday's armed clash between activists of two rival student organisations that left one killed and several injured.

Partha Pratim Acharya, a student of the University and a leader of the BCL, was shot dead during the clash between ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and BNP's student front Jatiyatobadi.

Khaleda blames 'BCL, its hired goons' for DU violence

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday expressed concern over the violence by 'armed cadre of Chhatra League and its hired goons' on the Dhaka University campus on Wednesday-Thursday, reports UNB.

"I'm shocked and aggrieved" over the tragic death of a student in the violence that also left many teacher-students injured, she said in a statement.

She accused the Awami League student wing for the rampage, arson, indiscriminate firing and beating up of innocent students on the campus and said that police had arrested more than 200 JCD activists and helped the BCL to capture three halls ousting JCD.

Dacoit shot dead in Ctg by his accomplices

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 24: An alleged dacoit was shot dead by his accomplices this afternoon at Raja Colony under Chandgao thana, police said.

Md Morshed 27 died on the spot at 5 pm when his rivals shot him following a dispute over sharing looted goods.

Later, police rushed to the spot and recovered the body. But the killers fled the scene.

SAARC information ministers' confce begins today

The first-ever SAARC Information Ministers' Conference begins in the city today, reports agencies.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the two-day conference at the International Conference Center (ICC).

The conference will deal with an eight-point agenda. State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed told a press conference in the city yesterday.

Bangladesh will place a six-point proposal for consideration of the SAARC information ministers.

The proposals are: Setting up of a Dhaka-based SAARC Information Center, SAARC Information Research and Training Center, SAARC Media Development Fund, visit exchange of media personnel among the member states, exchange of radio and television programmes and joint collaboration in print and electronic media.

The state minister said holding of the conference is a rare pride for Bangladesh as it is expected to further consolidate the friendly relations among the countries of this region.

"Of all the achievements under the SAARC framework so far, this event will remain as a milestone," he told the newsmen.

"The mass media is no more a media for recreation, rather it has come up as main source of information to develop the industry, commerce and other sectors," said Sayeed who will chair the conference.

Describing information as a powerful medium in today's world, Prof Abu Sayeed said Bangladesh would like to see more and more exchange of information among the SAARC countries in the greater interest of 125 crore people of the region.

Five information ministers from Bangladesh, Pakistan, India, Nepal and Sri Lanka will attend the conference.

Accelerometer to be installed in Jamuna Bridge

By Staff Correspondent
The Jamuna Multi-purpose Bridge Authority (JMBAA) has decided to install accelerometer and 'displacement sensor' for measurement of any possible displacement in the bridge due to impact of heavy traffic or earthquake, according to sources.

Three accelerometers will be installed on each side of the bridge to record 'ground motion' while the displacement sensor will be installed on the western side.

Vajpayee govt for friendly ties, FM says on return

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said the new government of India pledged to maintain a cordial and friendly relationship, as it was in the past between the two neighbouring countries, reports UNB.

"There will be no change in bilateral relations, including Ganges Water Sharing Treaty," Azad told reporters at the airport on his return home from New Delhi.

State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury received him at Zia International Airport, Foreign Secretary—
See Page 12 Col 1

Liquor tragedy: One more held at Gaibandha

By Staff Correspondent
One more person has been arrested in connection with the illegal trading on liquor at Gaibandha that caused death of about 100 people there recently.

Gaibandha police, when contacted yesterday, said Bipul, 35, son of one late Harish Chandra of Krishnapur village under Palashbari thana was arrested by plainclothes DB police on Tuesday.

According to police, Bipul allegedly held the main accused, Rabindranath Sankar, flee to India with family members—
See Page 12 Col 3

Maternal malnutrition alarming: 3 women die every hour

By Staff Correspondent

Complications relating to pregnancy, aggravated by malnutrition, kills at least three women every hour in the country.

This was stated by Khondaker Mizanur Rahman, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Health at a seminar on "Maternal Nutrition", held in the city yesterday as part of the on-going National Nutrition Week.

"It is estimated that iron deficiency or anaemia among women alone causes loss in agriculture production to the tune of five billion dollars over a period of ten years," he said.

Organised by Unicef in collaboration with the Institute of Public Health Nutrition (IPHN), the seminar was attended by a number of doctors, health specialists, researchers and women rights activists.

Dr T O Kyaw-Myint, Chief of Unicef's Health and Nutrition Section, DR Ferdousi Begum of Sir Salimullah Medical College Hospital, Dr Khurshid Talukder of the Institute of Child and Mother Health (ICMH) and Yeakub Patwary of Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP) presented key-note papers on international and national perspectives relating to various issues of maternal nutrition.

Around 25 per cent maternal deaths are associated with anaemia and haemorrhage. Malnutrition is inherited by about 50 per cent children, he said.

Mizanur Rahman said maternal mortality rate is 4.5 per 1000 live births. "This is among the highest in the world," he said.

There are 890 private and public hospitals in the country now with a total of 34,786 beds, of which 27,544 are in the public sector and 7,242 in the private sector—
See Page 12 Col 8

Sachin marks his birthday in style

Sports Reporter
Sachin Tendulkar celebrated his 25th birthday in style with his 15th one-day ton which helped India lift the Coca-Cola Cup in Sarjah last night, scoring a sweet revenge against arch-rivals Australia.

Australia's 272 in 50 overs looked paltry as the little mascot—
See Page 12 Col 2

115 Bangladeshis held in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Apr 24: Malaysian authorities have detained 115 Bangladeshis citizens suspected of working illegally in the country, a newspaper reported, says AP.

In two separate raids, the police caught 95 people at a private home and rounded up 20 more Bangladeshis in an abandoned house, The Star reported today.

Police also detained a Malaysian suspected of smuggling in the Bangladeshis.

Those found without valid documents or work permits would be sent to a holding camp for deportation.

The repatriation effort is part of a widespread crackdown on illegal aliens working in Malaysia. The move comes as the Southeast Asian country struggles to recover from the regional economic crisis and free up jobs for its own people.

More than 10,000 Indonesian illegal aliens have already been ousted since January.

In a bid to curtail employment of illegal aliens, Malaysian Director-General of Immi-gration Aseh Che Mat has told businesses that they could face charges for recruiting foreign workers through improper channels.

In Johore Bahru, 280 kilometres south of Kuala Lumpur Thursday night, six illegal immigrants tried to sneak into Malaysia from Singapore in a modified van.

Customs officers found the five Thai men and a woman hiding in a special compartment—
See Page 12 Col 3

50 injured in Sylhet gunfight

From Staff Correspondent
SYLHET, Apr 24: A gunfight between the residents of two villages in Gowainghat thana of the district left over 50 people injured yesterday afternoon. Of them, ten sustained bullet wounds.

The clash erupted after the villagers of Boul cut the embankment on the Nayakhel Jalmohal. They have been in conflict with the villagers of Kandigram over the possession of the Jalmohal for a long time, sources said.

Directors of the Board of Mediaworld Ltd and The Staff of The Daily Star

QULKHWANI

The Qulkhani of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, youngest daughter of Mr & Mrs Latifur Rahman, will be held on Sunday, 26th April, 1998 after Asr prayers at House No. NE(J)4, Road No. 83, Gulshan-2.

All relatives, friends and well-wishers are requested to attend the Qul and pray for the departed soul.

Only signboards, no mobile court



The Department of Environment has put up signboards at several points in the city showing the allowable sound limit of 45 decibel. —Star photo by A K M Mohsin

By Morshed Ali Khan

In an unusual move to fight the fast increasing noise pollution, Dhaka City Corporation (DCC), with the collaboration of the Department of Environment (DOE) has put up signboards at different points in the city, informing people of the allowable sound limit.

In Dhanmondi, near Road 15 on the Satmasjid Road, one such signboard has been placed in front of a private school. Amid blaring horns of trucks, buses and cars, and the unbearable noise from autorickshaws and tempos, the signboard stands out to call the area a 'silent zone' and restricts the sound limit to 45 decibel.

DOE sources said they had suggested putting up signboards following an official survey last year. DCC has put up several similar signboards in the city. DOE's digital sound level metres found that noise pollution level at 20 spots — inside and outside schools and hospitals —
See Page 12 Col 7

deeply mourn the tragic death of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Transcom Group and Director Mediaworld Ltd.

We pray that Allah, in his infinite mercy, grant eternal peace to the departed soul and also grant strength and patience to the members of the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.