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Down to Earth

Eroding image of Video & Cinemas

By AS M Nurunnabi

much of the shows projected

through satellite channels in-

dicate preponderance of vio-

Similar is the losing image

of city's video shops. It was time when the highly popular films — particularly in Bangla and The role that the video films and cinema houses has played in the world of entertainment has tended lately to lose much Hindi - and also action and of its attraction for a number of thriller films made roaring business for video shops. reasons. The video medium, The situation has now come which opened up a new horizon of popular entertainment since to such a pass that there is very little demand for such films. its inception in the seventies and progressively registered since it has now become easy to view them through satellite unchallenged supremacy over the years since then, seems to be channels. In some neighbouron the wane at present. The hoods, video shops are already

causative factor is said to be the facing a crisis on account of the new development. Some of such satellite channels which are inshops have already closed creasingly in vogue among the down. The conclusion is incity's TV owners. evitable that satellite TV is ir-Though initially a high tariff was charged for installation revocably eroding the foundation of video culture. of the new system, it is at present much less expensive, Some observers, however thanks to the cable operators. harbour misgivings about the With an initial deposit of Tk adverse influence of the fact 1500 or less and a monthly rent spreading phenomenon, since

lence and undertones of sex The new system has brought This is perhaps the inevitable to our homes a good number of TV channels which cover a price that has to be paid for large part of the globe. Now with technological advance. the push of a button, a worldof the city's cinema house. This wide fare of entertainment comprising cinema, news, caris mainly due to the poor and unhealthy environmental contoons, music, etc is presented dition in most of the city's cinbefore us. This also provides a wide scope for selection of TV ema houses. Even 20 to 25 years programmes. A trend is disago, these cinema houses procernible that a steadily growing vided harmless and healthy form of family entertainment number of people are avid for such entertainment through TV to the educated and cultivated

ranging from Tk 200 to Tk 300,

one can get this new facility

easily.

At the same time there are indications that this new trend has been posing a challenge to the popularity hitherto enjoyed by video films supplied by numerous video shops all over the city. In fact, this has already brought a slump in the business

Nepal's supply

minister resigns

politician accused by his col-

leagues of corruption stepped

down as Nepal's supply minis-

royal palace accepting the res-

ignation said Khum Bahadur

Khadka cited "ill health". But

the real reason was likely

protests by other members of

boycotted parliament Wednes-

day and Thursday to protest

Prime Minister Girija Prasad

had refused to sit on the same

cabinet with Khadka were

sworn in today following his

Jamuna Bridge

Installation of these equip-

ment are essential to measure

earthquake resistance capacity

of such structures during any

A proposal to install the ac-

earthquake, the sources added.

celerometer and displacement

sensor is now being prepared by

the BUET, sources said adding

that the proposal was still at a

equipment, worth about half a

million US dollars, was taken

at a meeting of the JMBA on

March 23, sources said. The

Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge is

scheduled to be opened for traf-

pment is part of the JMB

project", said a source adding

that the equipment would be

"Installation of these equi-

The decision to install these

From Page 1

Two junior ministers who

appointment of

Nepali Congress lawmakers

his Nepali Congress Party.

Khadka on Tuesday.

resignation.

side of the bridge.

nascent stage.

fic on June 23.

A statement issued by the

ter today, reports AP.

KATHMANDU, Apr 24: A

continued at some stage of the shows. Thereby causing great discomfort for the viewers. And some of the cinema houses previously equipped with AC have withdrawn those for greater commercial benefit of the owners. The underlying reason is that the AC-equipped show houses are assessed to higher

rate of capacity tax. The environmental situation in most the cinema houses in as bad outside as the one inside. The areas outside are frequented by touts, ticket black marketeers and some other anti-social elements. There are allegations that some sections of corrupt employees and even some owners of cinema halls are involved in the patronage of these elements.

When a new movie is released in any of these halls, it provides a field day for these elements to sell tickets in the black market at two to three times the normal rate. If the released movie is a box office hit, such black-marketeering of tickets continues for a longer period.

On account of such situation. the educated and cultured sections of the citizens are generally averse to visiting a cinema

This trend is unfortunate, because the cinema houses are already facing a challenge from the emergence of video culture which allows a large number of people to enjoy a wide variety of films in the comfort of their homes. The challenge has been lately intensified by the foreign TV programmes available through satellite channels.

Sachin

ter marched marvellously to his 134 off 131, aided perfectly by his skipper Azharuddin who chipped in with 58.

Sachin's thunderous innings included 12 boundaries and three sixers as India went on to score 275 in 48.3 overs with six wickets to spare. He had scored his 14th ODI century on Thursday against the same side to secure India's berth in the final on a better run rate despite losing the match.

firmly placed on 248 for three.

The trophy-winning knock gave Tendulkar, who scored a total of 435 runs in five innings of the tournament, the playerof-the-match award and also lifted the Opel player-of-thematch prize, an Astra luxury

"I wish I could have many more birthdays like this," said an award-studded Tendulkar at the presentation.

Khaleda visits tornado-hit Pakundia today

of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will visit the tornado-hit areas at Pakundia in Kishoregani district today, reports UNB.

The tornado swept over five unions of Pakundia thana on

purchased with the project April 19. money.

From Page 1

also present. Azad had been in the Indian capital on a frace-day visit from April 21 as a special envoy of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee had accepted Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's invita ion and agreed to visit Bangladesh at a mutual convenient time, Azad said. The issues discussed during

his talks with the Indian Prime Minister were expansion and president of bilateral trade and management of common rivers, he said.

It has been decided that the Joint River Commission will meet every three months.

He had also talks with Home Minister of India L K Advani and Human Resources Development Minister Muroli Monohar Joshi.

Azad said during the talks. Indian Home Minister reflux of Bangladeshis to India.

quested him to stop illegal in-"We categorically have said that we have no knowledge of migration from Bangladesh to India in recent times. It stopped

Azad said the allegations of influx should be discussed at the consular level, and if necessary. Home Minister of both countries may talk on this.

tion is established, Bangladesh will look into it, he said, referring to recent return of 12 Bangladeshi children from In-

Advani has also requested Azad to sent back ULFA leader Anup Chetia who was arrested in Bangladesh.

laws of Bangladesh and has to face legal procedure here. Decision about him will be taken after legal process is over," he

commitment not to allow anybody to use its soil for carrying

During his stay in India, Azad also met Congress President Sonia Gandhi, former Indian Prime Minister I K Gujral and Congress leader Sharod Pawer.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No. 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi 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

air-conditioning facility. it is alleged that the facility is dis-

sections of the citizens. But the

At present, we observe a glar-

present picture is entirely dif-

ing insufficiency of facilities in

some well-known cinema halls.

Where there is provision for

From Page 1

After losing two partners -Ganguly (22) and Mongia (28),-Sachin added 120 runs for the third wicket along with skipper Azharuddin before he was trapped leg before by Kasprowich in the 45th over with India

BNP Chairperson and Leader

Delhi for friendly ties

tary Mustafizur Rahman was in 1947," he said

If any allegation of migra-

"Anup Chetia has violated

He reiterated Bangladesh's out "disturbing activities" against any country.

Jabbarer Boli Khela begins in Ctg today

CHITTAGONG, Apr 24: Jabbarer Boli Khela begins at Laldighi Maidan and its adjoining areas tomorrow as part of Baishakhi Mela, reports BSS.

The week-long mela has been turned into an annual fair for the city people, who pur-chase their household goods for one year from the mela. The mela areas covers one kilometre in and around Laldighi Maidan.

Late Abdul Jabbar, eminen social worker of Badarpatti, first organised wrestling competition in 1909 in order to build up strong youth forces for fighting British. The competition later became famous as

Jabbarer Boli Khela. A 51-member committee has been formed to make century old traditional mela a success.

Liquor tragedy

From Page 1

bers after the adulterated liquor sold by him caused the deaths. Bipul is a relative of Sankar, police added.

The CID police are now interrogating Bipul. Earlier, on April 15, another person named Vim Raj was ar-

rested at Gaibandha town for his alleged involvement in the sale of the adulterated liquor on the Bangla New Year Day. Gaibandha Sadar thana po-

lice seized 82 items from the School Lane residence of Sankar on Wednesday. His homeopathic shops in the town were sealed by police after the incident.

Meanwhile, all the patients who were admitted to the Gaibandha Sadar Hospital (GSH) were released on Thurs-Civil Surgeon of Gaibandha A S M Shahidullah said when contacted over telephone last night

"All the patients have gone home in good health. No new patient was been admitted", he

Asked if the patients were facing eye sight problem, he said, "Some of the patients complained of hazy eye sight. They have been advised to go to eye specialists at Rangpur Medical College Hospital"

Malaysia

From Page 1 ment in the van's undercar-

The Minister of Culture, Arts and Tourism, Sabbaruddin Chik has warned tour agencies that they could be prosecuted if foreign tourists overstay their visas and become illegal immi-

grants. He was commenting on the disappearance of 16 Chinese tourists whose visit passes had expired and were still in Malaysia.

Campus politics

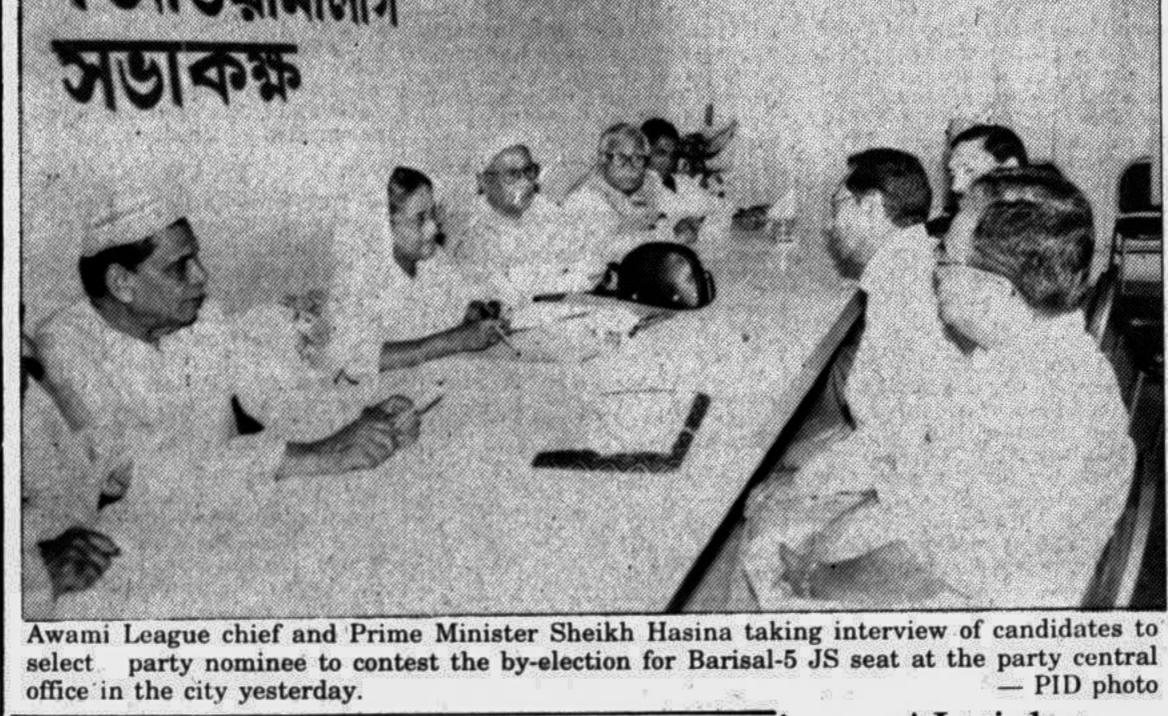
From Page 1

not be part of student politics. Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University Prof Abdul Mannan, when contacted, how-

ever said, "Student politics, in

its present form, should be

banned." "This is gangsterism in the name of students politics and we can do without it," he said.



Vajpayee's move to end infighting

NEW DELHI, Apr 24: Hindu nationalists today appealed to partners in India's ruling coalition to end increasing infighting, saying it was denting the image of the month-old gov-

ernment, reports AFP. The rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) which leads the multi-party coalition, said the dozen allies in the government must 'exercise restraint (and not voice) contentious issues publicly.

and credibility of the coalition government," BJP spokesman K Sharma told reporters. He said parties in the Hindu nationalist-led coalition

should take up their differences

with Prime Minister Atal Be-

"This is eroding the image

hari Vajpayee.

AP adds: Vajpayee sent a high-ranking envoy to southern India today to talk with an angry ally who could bring down his government.

The envoy, senior Bharatiya Janata Party leader Jaswant Singh, flew to Madras, capital of Tamil Nadu state tonight. Press Trust of India news agency reported. He was expected to meet with Jayaram Javalalitha tomorrow.

Singh made a similar trip last month when Jayalalitha threatened to derail Vajpayee's government even before he could take the oath of office. Jayalalitha has the support of 30 lawmakers Vajpayee needs to win any confidence vote.

Then, Singh reportedly persuaded Javalalitha to withdraw demands that the rival party in charge of Tamil Nadu, which she once controlled, be dismissed and that a politician close to her be named finance

minister. This time, Jayalalitha is insisting that Vajpayee fire Commerce Minister Ramakrishna Hegde and Urban Development Minister Ram Jeth-

BNP candidate

From Page 1 man Sarwar. Convenor of Barisal district unit of BNP, Abdur Rashid Khan, organizing secretary of Barishal divisional unit of BNP and Syed Moazzem Hussain Alal, Vice-President of

Jativatabadi Jubo Dal.

has accused the government of hatching a conspiracy to snatch away the seat of Barisal-5 constituency. "The oust-government movement will be started from

UNB adds: Mannan Bhuiyan

Barisal if any rigging takes place in the by-election," Bhuiyan told a public meeting at Jingira Eidgah in Keraniganj yesterday.

He alleged that the government that had failed in all sectors was trying to divert the public attention by creating unrest in the country.

Presided over by Nafizuddin, the meeting was also addressed by Amanullah Aman MP, Nazimuddin Alam MP, Mujibur Rahman and Advocate Sultan Naser Chowdhury.

From Page 1

night. Hemayet had brought

Shahidul to Latifur Rahman's

residence about one and a half

lodged with Gulshan police.

said he had last talked to his

daughter in her ground floor

bedroom at about 8 pm. Then he

went to the first floor of the

house where he was entertain-

stayed back in her room.

to Shazneen."

ing some friends. Shazneen

hearing the scream of our old

servant, Moslem Hawlader, at

about 10:15pm," said Rahman.

"He was screaming and saying

'see quickly what has happened

Her body soaked in a pool of

blood, Shazneen was lying on

the floor in front of the bath-

room door, Rahman said. She

was wearing only a kameez

while her black panty was

found her dead," said Rahman

"I examined her pulse and

pulled down to her left knee.

"I came downstairs after

Latifur Rahman, in an FIR

years ago.

malani, who she alleges are charged with corruption.

She succeeded in having a third fired after a member of her party had to quit the cabinet because of graft charges.

Javalalitha's demands have set off public squabbling among members of the 20-party governing coalition led by Vajpay ee's BJP. Friday, BJP vice president Krishnan Lal Sharma appealed to parties to resolve their difference in private.

After general elections in February and March. Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party emerged as the largest party in Parliament, but without the majority needed to rule without

Khaleda blames

From Page 1

Begum Zia warned that the government could not stop its inevitable fall by resorting to such repression on political opponents. "This will only accelerate the movement and hasten

the fall of the government." The opposition leader said the violence over a trivial matter at the highest seat of learning surpassed all records of terrorist acts by pro-Awami League BCL in educational institutions across the country.

She said the violence by BCL in Dhaka University was an at tempt to weed out JCD from the DU campus. The BNP Chairperson said

the people have become fed up of the Awami misrule. The ruling party is being isolated from the people and turned into a 'political orphan, she said. She alleged that after de-

stroying the country's agriculture, industry, trade and administration the government now out to destroy the academic institutions and push the country into a civil war.

She said the violence on the DU campus and attack on JCD by armed cadre of BCL and its hired goons is part of its deep-

rooted conspiracy. The opposition leader demanded immediate release of the arrested leaders and workers of JCD and steps for their return to their respective halls. Otherwise, she warned that the government will have to bear all the consequences.

perform their duty neutrally. Sylhet gunfight

She also asked the police to

From Page 1

Officials said that during the clash, over 200 villagers from Boul attacked their rivals. Both the sides used lethal weapons and firearms in the clash.

Condition of two bullet-hit persons — Aziruddin, 20, and Mashuk, 25. — was stated to be critical. They were admitted to Osmani Medical College Hospi

A case has been filed. However, none was arrested.

Different parts of her body,

including the neck bore several

stab injuries. A pool of blood

was also found on the floor.

Stains of blood were found on

Shazneen's bed and on the wall

of her room. Besides, the bed

"As I raised an alarm, the

guests and other people in the

house rushed to the scene and

saw what had happened." On

enquiry, it was found that one

of the servants. Shahidul alias

Shahid, son of Siddig Mollah,

village Danga Durgapur, thana

Moksedpur, district Gopalganj.

was missing. One of the four

kitchen knives, a medium sized

one, was also missing from the

kitchen. Rahman said in the

dence, "I believe that Shahidul

alias Shahid fled the house af-

ter raping and killing my

daughter Shazncen between 8

pm and 10:15 pm. I also suspect

that some others might be in-

volved to it." Rahman further

Given the preliminary evi-

in the FIR.

was ruffled.

AL ticket

From Page 1 views are, Shahanara Abdullah, wife of Chief Whip of the Jatiya Sangsad Abul Hasnat Abdullah, Joinal Abedin, a freedom fighter, and two businessmen, Bazlur Rahman and Rahimul Haq.

Party sources said last night that names of AL presidium member Amir Hussain Amu and AL contestant for the seat in 1996 general elections Mahbubuddin were also heard as possible nominees for the bypolls. However, they did not appear before the ALPB yesterday.

FAO regional ministerial meet begins in Yangon

The 24th Regional Ministe-rial Meeting of Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) began in Myanmar capital Yangon yesterday, reports UNB. Minister from 26 countries,

including Prime Minister of

Tonga, are participating in the meeting, according to a message received in Dhaka. Myanmar Minister of Agriculture and Irrigation Maj Gen Nyunt Tin was elected chair-

man of the ministerial session. Earlier, Bangladesh Deputy Minister for Food Dhirendra Debanath Shambhu, who is attending the meeting, called on FAO Director General yesterday

morning. The FAO executive lauded the agricultural and food security programme of the Bangladesh government.

Suicide after killing son

From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, April 24: A

Sautal man allegedly committed suicide after killing his minor son yesterday noon at Sarala village under Nachol thana in Chapainawabganj district.

According to police, the Sautal man, Lunku Soren, killed his five-year-old son Silon Soren and then killed himself by hanging. Police said, Lunku Soren

worked as a day labourer under one Iskan Ali, a land-lord in the village. Iskan Ali tried to violate Lunku's wife in his absence on April 8 but failed as Lunku appeared there suddenly. Lunku then went to the villagers for justice. The villagers fined Iskan Ali Tk 9,000 and ordered him to pay the fine by April 23.

Accordingly, Lunku went to Iskan Ali's house yesterday to collect the money. But Iskan Ali, instead of paying him, claimed that Lunku owed to him Tk 30,000 and showed documents. Ali beat him and his minor son and drove them

away from the house. Being ashamed and dispaired, Lunku Soren slaughtered his minor child and then committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree with a rope. A case has been filed with Nachol thana in this connec-

tion. Countrywide police hunt on

am yesterday.

Police filed a case in this connection under Section 302/34 of the Cr PC As the news of the brutal murder spread, hundreds of

said in the FIR lodged at 2:05

friends, well-wishers and admirers of Mr and Mrs Latifur Rahman rushed to their resi-The flow of visitors, stunned and deeply shocked, continued throughout Thursday night and

Friday. They included Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia, ministers, former ministers, leaders of political parties, MPs, diplomats, business leaders, elite and others, expressing their profound grief at the killing of Shazneen. Tearful classmates, teachers

and friends of Shazneen also visited Rahman's residence. A large number of people participated in the namaj-ejanaza and burial of Shazneen

at Banani graveyard.

Parliament okays Yeltsin's candidate for PM at last

MOSCOW, Apr 24: Parliament confirmed Boris Yeltsin's candidate for prime minister on the third and final vote today ending a month-long political standoff that nearly brought the dissolution of the legislature, reports AP.

"It's your and our common victory," Yeltsin told his nominee Sergei Kiriyenko at a Kremlin meeting immediately after the ballot.

The vote was a lopsided 251-

25 in favour of Kirjyenko, who

had previously faced strong re-

sistance from the Communist Party and other opposition groups. He needed 226 votes to be confirmed. The outcome was a key victory for Yeltsin, who had refused to offer any other candidates to lead a new Russian government. Yeltsin and Kiriyenko

and try to re-energise stalled economic reforms. "I realise that for many of you this decision required a lot of courage," Kiriyenko told

will form a new Cabinet soon

lawmakers after the vote. "Today's vote clearly shows that none of us needs great upheavals and we all need a great

Russia," he added. As acting prime minister for the past month, Kiriyenko has led a government that handled routine matters, but did not maké major policy decisions. Boris Nemtsov, the acting first deputy premier, said the backlog of pressing economic issues would force the new Cabinet to work "on weekends and nights.

Dormitories From Page 1

Chhatra Dal (JCD). Many residents of Jasimuddin, Ziaur Rahman, Bangabandhu and Surva Sen halls left their dormitories, fearing fresh clashes.

Besides, there are apprehensions about clashes among rival factions of BCL on control of these halls. These halls, earlier con-

trolled by JCD, were captured by

BCL activists following the killing of their leader. "Armed outsiders" belonging to BCL have joined them to strengthen their position in these halls, witnesses said adding they were guarding the entrances of the dormitories

despite police presence. No JCD activist was seen on the campus yesterday. JCD had already announced an agitation programme which include gherao of the office and residence of the VC on Sunday.

Armed police were deployed at different strategic points on campus to avert fresh violence. Meanwhile, activists of BCL wore black badges and brought out mourning procession on the campus yesterday. A rally chaired by BCL DU unit president Bahadur Bepari, was held

at the foot of Aparajeya Bangla. The rally was addressed by, among others, BCL president Enamul Huq Shamim and general secretary Ishaque Ali Khan Panna. They demanded immediate arrest of those involved in the killing of Partha.

24 remanded

From Page 1 Those place on remand included joint convenor of JCD DU unit Selimuzzaman Selim and former Army Lieutenant Shahidur Rahman, a high po-

President of BCL DU unit Bahadur Bapari has filed a murder case with Ramna thana, accusing 25 people including JCD President Shahiduddin Chowdhury Anney, Habib-un-Nabi Sohel and the former army officer now on police re-

lice official said last night.

Besides, police filed two cases in this connection Thursday night.

Only signboards From Page 1 was up to twice the allowable

The sources pointed out that the noise pollution originated from three sources - vehicular traffic, industries and other human activities. As per Bangladesh standard, gazetted in August 1997, in residential areas the permissible noise level is 50 decible, in commercial areas the limit is 70 decible and in industrial areas the

A DOE environmentalist

said in addition to severe air, water and industrial pollution in the city, noise pollution was alarmingly on the rise. Noise pollution might cause high blood pressure, headache, indigestion, peptic ulcer and insomnia, she said.

limit is 75 decible.

Another DOE official said the prescribed penalty for the noise polluter was only Tk 100 at the maximum. He quoted official records and said no noise polluter was ever penalised or prosecuted. "This is because we never had a mobile court to catch the polluter," he said.

He emphasised the need for . mobile courts in the country to detect noise polluters and fine them on the spot. "We can do it so simply because the noise level metre is very handy and instantly responsive."

The lengthy process of tak-

ing some one to the court under

the Bangladesh Environmental

Conservation Act is very dis-

couraging, he pointed out.

"I don't see any grounds for joy." Zyuganov snapped. "The government's course should be revised. In Washington, the White House welcomed Kiriyenko's confirmation. "We look forward to and ex-

A gruff Gennady Zyuganov,

the Communist Party leader,

could not hide his displeasure.

joyed with Prime Minister (Viktor) Chernomyrdin," said press secretary Mike McCurry. Lawmakers had rejected Kiriyenko twice in the past two weeks by solid margins. But many swallowed their pride to-day and supported Kiriyenko to avoid the disbanding of parliament's lower house the State

pect a close working relation-

ship with him, as we have en-

Duma. If Kiriyenko had lost, Yeltsin would have been empowered to the dissolve the legislature, call early elections and simply appoint Kiriyenko

as prime minister. Before the vote, Zyuganov said his faction would again oppose Kiriyenko and did not fear the dissolution of parlia-

"We are not afraid of new elections. We are a serious party and we willenot change our decision to vote against Kiriyenko," Zyuganov said. But it appeared that many

Duma members, including

dozens of Communists, chose

not to vote. Only 276 ballots were cast in the 450-seat house. SSC maths exam: Gen calculator

allowed The SSC examinees will be allowed to use general calculator instead of scientific calculator during the examination in general mathematics, said an official release last night, re-

One arrested on charge of raping

ports BSS.

Police arrested a young man on charge of raping a maid at Uttara in the city on Thursday

night, reports BSS.

Uttara police said Ataur Rahman Ata, 28, a mechanic, raped the girl when the residents of the house went to a hospital.

The security guards of the house caught the culprit as the victim informed them of the incident.

The victim was admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospi-A case was registered with

Uttara police. Businessman

From Page 1 session, police from Khan Ja-

han Ali thana said . The BCL activists had goneto the village in a microbus to kidnap the businessman, Rezaul Karim, because he had refused to pay them toll earlier. The microbus has been seized and a case filed with Khan Jahan Ali thana, police

SAARC confce

From Page 1 represent their respective countries while the Maldives will be represented by a threemember delegation and Bhutan by its Charge d' Affaires in

Meanwhile, Indian Minister for Information and Broadcasting Sushma Swaraj arrived in the city yesterday to attend the conference. State Minister for Informa-

tion Prof Abu Sayeed received

her at the Zia International

Dhaka

Airport.

The first-ever meeting of SAARC Information Ministers will play a significant role in strengthening the regional and cultural ties among the SAARC countries. Sushma Swaraj said. "I hope we'll be able to reach an understanding," she said,

Sri Lankan Minister for Post, Telecommunications and Media Mangala Samaraweera also arrived in the city yester-

talking to reporters at the air-

He will lead a three member delegation at the conference. Information Minister Prof Abu Sayeed received the Sri Lankan delegation at the airport.

Talking to newsmen on his arrival at the airport, Samaraweera said the developing countries are the victim of western media imperialism. "We have to face the situa-

tural integrity and creating public awareness," he said. Malnutrition

tion through upholding our cul-

From Page 1

vate sector. The bed-population ratio is approximately 1:3.450. he added. The country produced 24,638

graduate doctors over the past two decades, brining the doctorpopulation ratio to 1:4,870 now, he said.