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20 hurt as BCL, Shibir clash on CU campus

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, Apr 26: At least 20 people including two police personnel were injured in a clash between the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League and Islami Chhatra Shibir on the Chittagong University campus this morning, police and university officials said.

Among the injured, three were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with serious wounds while the rest were treated at the university medical centre.

Police and university officials said.

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Transport workers beaten up in Khagrachhari: 8 injured

From Our Correspondent
KHAGRACHHARI, Apr 26: The bus and jeep operators have called an indefinite strike in the district following attacks on transport workers by a group of tribal people at Bijtala yesterday, leaving eight people injured.

The injured were admitted to the hospital. The condition of two of them, Amar Barua, 30, and Adhir Talukder, 40, were stated to be critical.

They were beaten with iron rods after an altercation with some tribesmen regarding the fare on the Khagrachhari-Mahalchhari route, workers said.

They said they would not operate any bus or jeep unless on the route the people responsible for the attacks were brought to justice.

'Prospective blocks should be explored by BAPEX'

By Staff Correspondent
The government should, instead of giving away all oil and gas blocks in the country to foreign companies for exploration, allocate the most prospective blocks 9, 10 and 11 to the state's explorer-BAPEX — in the greater interest of the nation, a leading geologist has suggested.

Dr Badrul Imam, Chairman of the Geology Department, Dhaka University, maintained that the current Production Sharing Contract (PSC) activities did not uphold national interest and the country would be heading towards an economic chaos if it went on to allow more than a dozen foreign companies.

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BNP rally at Ramna Batamool today

BNP will hold a rally at Ramna Batamool at 3 pm today as part of a 7-party alliance programme, reports UNB.

The alliance earlier announced the programme of holding a grand rally at Manik Mia Avenue in support of their demand to scrap the CHT accord and to protest the price hike of essentials and to resolve power, gas and water crisis.

But the programme and venue was changed as the permission for holding rally there was not given due to Parliament session.

Other partners of the alliance will also hold separate rallies in the city today.

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Two-day SAARC confce concludes 18-pt plan to promote information flow

By Staff Correspondent
The first SAARC information ministers meeting ended here yesterday adopting an 18-point 'SAARC plan of action' for greater cooperation among the member states in the field of media and information.

The 'plan of action' was announced by State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed at a press conference at Sheraton Hotel, SAARC Secretary General Naimul Hassan was present. Bangladesh information secretary Akmal Hossain also spoke at the press conference. The press conference followed a day-long working session, chaired by Abu Sayeed.

The objective of the meeting was to encourage greater flow of information among the member states to promote peace and harmony in the region, exchange of information materials in support of SAARC and all SAARC initiatives in important areas with special emphasis on trade and investment, social and cultural development, environmental protection and human resource development.

Akmal Hossain said, the 'plan of action' also aims at promoting optimum utilisation of available resources and facilities in the SAARC region to strengthen cooperation in the field of media and information and upgrade professional standard of media people through human resources development programmes. It also aims at exchanging new technologies.

The 'plan of action' also includes free flow of newspapers, periodicals, books, and other publications, reduction of postal and telecommunication rates for media transmission and information materials, increase in cooperation among news agencies of SAARC states and easier travel for media people within the region.

It further includes recognition to regional media forums, holding of annual conference of editors and working journalists from SAARC states, exchange of news among news agencies, etc.

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Shazneen murder Five on police remand, Shahid still at large

By Staff Correspondent
Five servants at the Gulshan residence of Latifur Rahman were placed on a seven-day police remand yesterday in connection with the killing of his youngest daughter Shazneen Tasnim Rahman on Thursday night.

However, police could not arrest the only accused in the murder — Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, 22 — another servant at the residence, till the filing of this report last night.

CID investigators have started probing the brutal killing of Shazneen, 15, the school-going daughter of the Chairman of Transcom Ltd.

Latifur Rahman alleged in the FIR that their servant Shahid abused and stabbed his daughter to death.

Police sources said a security guard at the house Humayun Kabir, who was among the five remanded, admitted that he had seen Shahid, his clothes blood-stained, leaving the house through its main gate on the night of the incident. But Humayun failed to give any satisfactory answer to the investigators why he did not stop Shahid from leaving the house.

A senior police official said that the investigation till yesterday showed that Shahid killed and abused Shazneen in her bed room at about 10 pm on Thursday. However, they were yet to find out whether some others were involved in the incident of abusing and killing Shazneen.

Gulshan police produced the five servants including Humayun Kabir.

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Bangladesh qualify for Asian Youth finals

Sports Reporter
Bangladesh stormed into the final round of the 8th Asian Youth football championship with a 11-0 routing of Guam in their last Group Five qualifier in the Nepalese border town of Birganj yesterday.

The national under-16 team, who went into the match looking for at least a draw to earn a passage into the final round, ran over the lowly-rated Guam to complete their resounding campaign with a hundred percent success. The defeat completed a whitewash of Guam who lost all their three matches by humiliating margins.

With this win, Bangladesh qualified as unbeaten champions for the 10-team final round to be held in Qatar next September. The home team did not concede a single goal. This is the second time an age-group selection of Bangladesh qualified for the final round of any Asian level meet since the success of another U-16 team at Rajshahi way back in 1992.

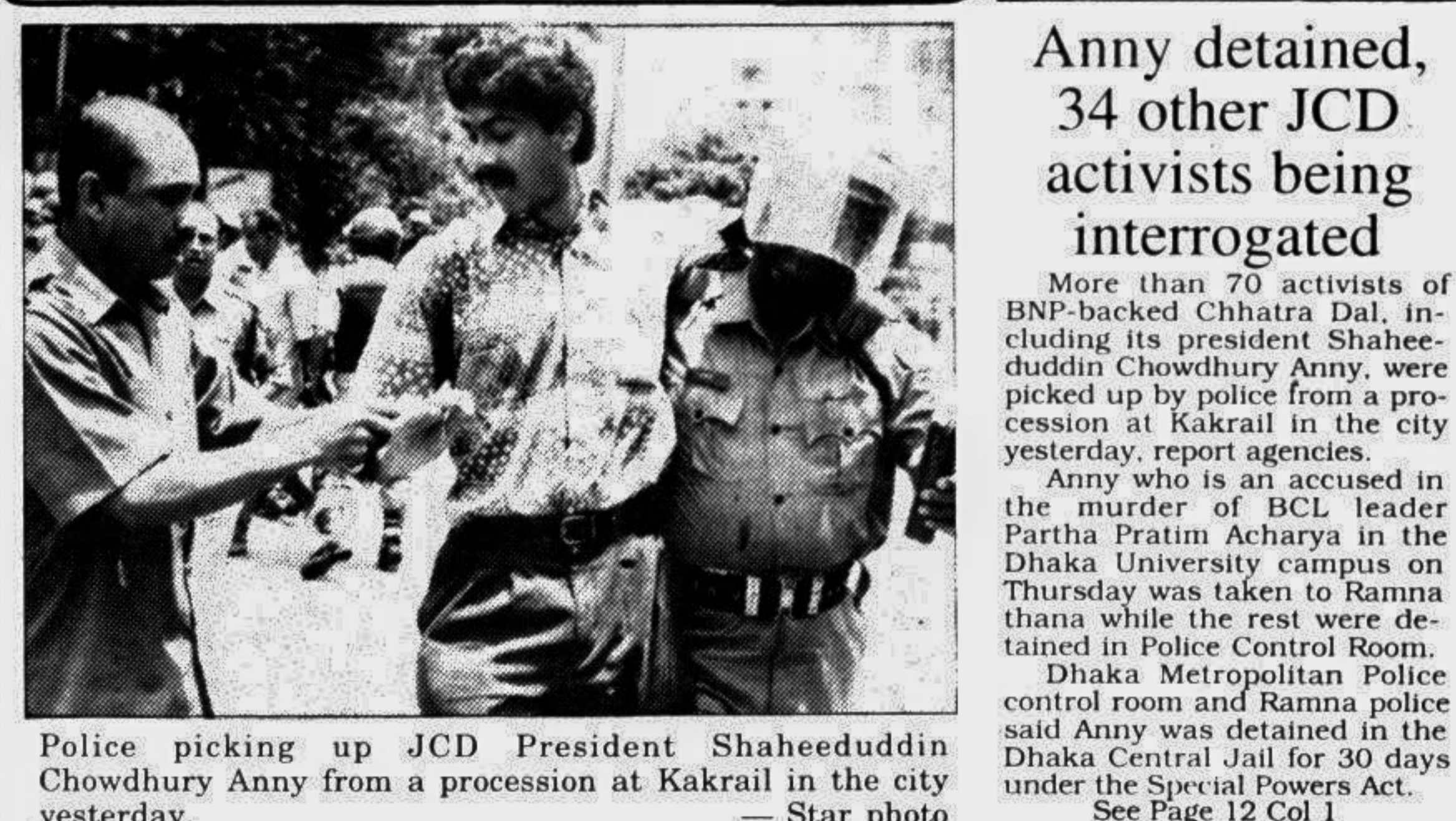
In an one-sided affair, Bangladesh led the first half 5-0 before adding another six goals without any reply to record their third consecutive victory in style.

Bangladesh had earlier recorded a 4-0 win over Sri Lanka in their inaugural match before defeating hosts Nepal by a solitary goal on Friday.

According to a faxed message received here last night, Anwar Faisal Echo led the demolition operation of Guam with four goals in the second session.

Although Johnny, the kingpin of Bangladesh's success in their previous matches with a

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Police picking up JCD President Shaheeduddin Chowdhury Anny from a procession at Kakrail in the city yesterday. — Star photo

Govt officials likely to be brought under tax net

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday hinted at bringing the government officials under the income tax net, reports UNB.

"Tax is a law and it is supposed to be applicable to all," Kibria told the business community in response to their demand.

He added, "Nowhere in the world there is such rule that government servants will not pay income tax."

Kibria was addressing the 19th meeting of Advisory Committee of the National Board of Revenue at the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Bhaban.

He said the Government officials were exempted from payment of income tax in the post-independence emergency period. But now they should come within the purview of tax law, he added.

The Finance Minister responded to the problems of the business community and the budget proposals placed by FBCCI President Yussuf Abdul-Jah Harun.

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HC showcase for contracts between BCIC, KAFCO & others

By SC Correspondent
The High Court yesterday directed the government to show cause as to why the contracts between BCIC and KAFCO and foreign companies including Marubeni should not be cancelled, rescinded or modified.

A division bench of the HC comprising Justice K M Hasan and Justice Syed Tofazzel Islam issued the *rule nisi* upon a writ petition filed by Advocate Shahid Nazmul Bari, grand nephew of Hossain Shahid Suhrawardy.

In the writ petition the contract was termed as contrary to public policy.

It was said in the petition that the concessionary contracts were referred by the Minister of Commerce and Industries Tafaal Ahmed on March 24 in the Jatiya Sangsad and was reported in the newspapers on the next day.

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EC postpones activities Barisal-5 byelection schedule stayed

By SC Correspondent
The High Court yesterday ordered stay of the byelection schedule for the Barisal-5 Jatiya Sangsad constituency, which fell vacant following the death of Dr. Ehtesamul Huq Nasim Biswas, a BNP MP.

The division bench of HC comprising Justice K M Hasan and Justice Syed Tofazzel Islam also issued a *rule nisi* calling upon the Election Commission to show cause as to why the byelection schedule should not be declared to have been issued without lawful authority and is of no legal effect.

The court fixed May 19 for hearing the *rule nisi* and appointed Barrister Rafiqul-Hoque, Advocate M Nurullah and Mahmudul Islam as *amicus curiae*.

It was argued in the writ petition filed by Mahubuddin Ahmed, known as SP Mahub and an Awami League contestant for the seat in the June 1996 general election, that as an election petition challenging the election of Dr. Ehtesamul Huq Nasim Biswas is pending, no byelection can be held.

The byelection schedule fixing April 26 for filing of nomination paper, April 27 for scrutiny, May 6 for withdrawal of candidature and May 24 for the polling, was published on April 15.

Advocate A F Hasan Arif moved the writ petition.

Meanwhile, the Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) has postponed all election activities in Barisal-5 constituency yesterday following the stay order by the High Court. BSS quoting Election Office sources said.

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Anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla's death today

The 36th death anniversary of Sher-e-Bangla AK Fazul Haq will be observed today, reports UNB.

To mark the day, various socio-cultural organisations have drawn up elaborate programmes.

The programmes include laying of wreaths at his mazar, discussion, Qurankhwan and milad mahfil.

President Shahabuddin Ahmed and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina have issued separate messages on the occasion, recalling the glorious role of late Fazul Haq in developing the socio-economic condition of poor farmers.

Sher-e-Bangla Jatiya Smriti Sangsad and Bangladesh Jatiya Bakitto Gobeshana Kendra will jointly observe the death anniversary of the great leader.

They will organise a Qurankhwan and lay wreaths at his mazar at 7:30 in the morning.

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Sonali Bank denies press report

The Sonali Bank (SB), in a rejoinder to a report published in the Daily Star under the headline "Sonali Bank's UK branches face closure," has made the following points:

1. It is not true that Sonali Bank's UK branches are facing closure.
2. As has been the case with some other foreign banks operating in the UK, Sonali Bank too, according to the advice of the Bank of England and with the approval of the government of Bangladesh and Bangladesh Bank, took up restructuring programme to convert its UK operation into a corporate body which will be a wholly owned subsidiary of Sonali Bank. The authorities of Sonali Bank in the UK are going ahead with the reform programme with the help, support and cooperation of the Bank of England. Some disgruntled employees of the

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Jatiyatabadi Mahila Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding trial of the killer of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman. — Star photo

Change in JS Order of the Day triggers brief BNP walkout

By Staff Correspondent
A change in the Order of the Day by the Chair triggered an unscheduled debate in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday, leading to a brief walkout by opposition BNP lawmakers.

The disorganised walkout lasted about 30 seconds.

Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandakar Delwar Hossain rose on his feet as soon as Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid dropped call attention notices on issues of public importance from the day's agenda after the question-answer session was over.

Challenging the decision, Delwar asked the Deputy Speaker what prompted him to drop the item from the agenda and urged him to go by the schedule.

In reply, the Deputy Speaker explained that he preferred dealing with the passage of the Employment Bank Bill, the third item in the Order of the Day, before other issues, considering the time needed for the purpose.

"Many of the members leave the House when the day's sitting approaches adjournment. If the notices are disposed of earlier, most of the members leave after speaking on their own notices," said the Deputy Speaker.

Amid shouts from the Opposition bench, the Deputy Speaker assured the House that the notices and points of order would be heard later on the day and pointed out that there were such instances in the House in the past.

But it did not satisfy the Opposition Chief Whip, Delwar said. "There were enough reasons for such changes in the past. But what is the reason today for changing the agenda?"

AL city unit yet to have a full-fledged body

By Reaz Ahmad
The Dhaka city unit of the ruling Awami League has been functioning without a full-fledged committee for the last one year.

The last council session of the city AL was held on April 27 last year.

Except the two top posts of president and general secretary, composition of the 57 member executive committee of city AL is yet to be announced. A few days after the last council session, party chief Sheikh Hasina had nominated Mohammad Hanif and Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya to retain the posts of city AL president and general secretary respectively.

Though one third time of the new term of the city AL committee has elapsed, the names of other office bearers still remained unannounced, resulting in grave frustration among the party rank and file.

Office-bearers of the previous committee yet pay occasional visits to the party's central office at Bangabandhu Avenue as both their president and general secretary have to remain busy with their other responsibilities — Hanif as Mayor

See Page 12 Col 5

Kidnapped man thrown from fourth floor

By Staff Correspondent
A gang of kidnapers threw a young man from the fourth floor of a building as police went to rescue him and one of his friends on Distillery Road in the old part of the city yesterday morning.

The victim, Azizul Huq, 26, a foreign exchange trader, sustained severe injuries and was under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital last night.

Aziz and Kawsar, 25, were allegedly kidnapped by the gang from Swamibagh area under Sutrapur thana on Saturday.

They were abducted allegedly over a dispute over foreign exchange trading. Aziz resides in Munshirtek locality in Swamibagh area.

Police failed to trace Kawsar till filing of this report last night. However, two persons who were arrested by Sutrapur police yesterday claimed that they released Kawsar from the fourth-floor flat on Distillery Road Saturday night.

Sutrapur police identified the arrested men as Anwar Hossain and Anwarul Islam, both

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The Board of Directors, Officers & Staff of Reliance Insurance Ltd.
deeply mourn the tragic death of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, the youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Transcom Group and present Chairman of Reliance Insurance Ltd.
We pray to Allah for eternal peace of the departed soul and also for granting strength and fortitude to the bereaved family to bear this irreparable loss.