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The Executive Committee of

National Economic Council

(ECNEC) yesterday approved 22 projects involving an estimated cost of Tk 4754.48 crore, including foreign aid of Tk 2264.74

crore, reports UNB.

The approval was given at a meeting of ECNEC with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the

The projects include Con-struction of Veterinary Hospi-

tals at district level, setting up of National Cardiology Institute and Hospital (2nd phase), Development Projects of Dhaka University in the Fifth Five

Year Plan, Construction of

teachers' flats and students

dormitories at Dhaka Univer-

sity, Female Secondary Educa-

tion Stipend Project (2nd

Phase). Application of Radia-

Materials: Pilot Plant, Con-

struction of Bhairab Bridge, 36

Feeder Roads in South Western

Region, Procurement of a high-

powered Tug Boat, Construction

of 500 flats for government of-

ficials on hire-purchase basis

at Mohammadpur and Lalma-

tia Housing Estate, Construc-

factory in

Gazipur

The workers called the

strike from today to press for

the payment of arrears and

2 JCD activists

arrested at

Mymensingh

From Our Correspondent

lice arrested two activists of

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal in-

cluding the vice-president of its

district unit, Tanvir Ahmed

Tanna, from a JCS procession

to protest arrest of JCD leaders

The procession was brought

Police said they were ar

rested when the processionists

ransacked some shops and a

truck loaded with electronic

goods at Natun Bazar and

Atharabari areas in the town.

MYMENSINGH, Apr 26: Po-

reports UNB.

overtime bills.

tion Processing Technology for



tion of two Working Women's

Hostels in Dhaka, setting up a TV Relay Station at Ukhia and

setting up of a Cooling Tower for Sylhet (Fenchuganj) Com-

authorities concerned to inves-

tigate the irregularities during

the implementation of projects.

Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister directed the

She suggested the officials to

avoid construction of sky-scrappers within the Dhaka

Metropolitan City area. The

Prime Minister, however, ad-

vised to construct such build-

ings outside the city area. Sheikh Hasina also directed

the Dhaka University authori-

ties to make a provision of a

common kitchen on each floor

during the construction and ex-

pansion of students' residential

destroy forest and hillocks dur-

ing development activities

tary to the Prime Minister, Sec-

retaries, Governor of Bangladesh Bank and senior officials

She reiterated her call not to

Ministers, Principal Secre-

bined Cycle Power Plant.

22 projects involving

Tk 4754.48cr approved

Transcom Electronics Limited
Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg.: 716353, 723578

Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

Let's make things better.

PHILIPS

Qulkhwani of Shazneen held

By Staff Correspondent Qulkhwani of Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, Chairman and Managing Director of Transcom Group and Director of Mediaworld Ltd. was held yesterday after Asr prayers at the Gulshan residence of the

Braving inclement weather, several thousand people, including diplomats, politicians, parliament members, officials, journalists and businessmen attended the qulkhwani.

They prayed for the salvation of the departed soul and expressed their sympathy to the members of the bereaved fam-

Shazneen

From Page 1 mayun Kabir before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday. The four others are Hemayetullah, Yasin, Shafiqur Rahman and Faruq.

Our court correspondent reported that following a police prayer. Metropolitan Magistrate M A Hannan ordered seven-day remand for the five servants.

Police, in a report to the court, said that the five were suspected to be well-informed about the killing.

Meanwhile, police picked up a friend of the alleged killer, who is also known as 'Shahid' from the city's Mirpur area Saturday night. Gulshan police took 'Shahid' and some other relatives of the accused to different areas of the country in an attempt to arrest the murderer.

The investigators also questioned a friend of Shazneen who had last spoken to her over telephone before she was mur-

Besides, police had taken fingerprints of about 20 people and sent those to the CID laboratory for examination. The fingerprints included the those of the servants at the house.

Earlier, two maids at the house — Parvin and Minu — in separate statements to the court accused Shahidul of murdering Shazneen.

Condition of arrested young man critical

By Staff Correspondent

The young man who was arrested by Mohammadpur police from Sia Mosque area on Friday is now in a critical condition at the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

When contacted, police said that they had arrested Harunor-Rashid while he was suspiciously roaming by an autorickshaw in the area.

Police claimed that they recovered a machete, a knife and two crackers from the autorickshaw on which he was mov-

But elder brother of Harun while talking to our DMCH correspondent alleged that police beat him up mercilessly inside the lock up as a result of which he became unconscious.

Harun was admitted to the DMCH in an unconscious condition at about 11 pm on Friday. As his condition deteriorated, he was shifted to ICU at about 12:30 pm yesterday.

Anny

From Page 1

They said, another 73 JCD activists were picked up from the Kakrail and Ramna Green areas when they gathered there to march to the Dhaka University for a planned gherao of the office and residence of the vicechancellor.

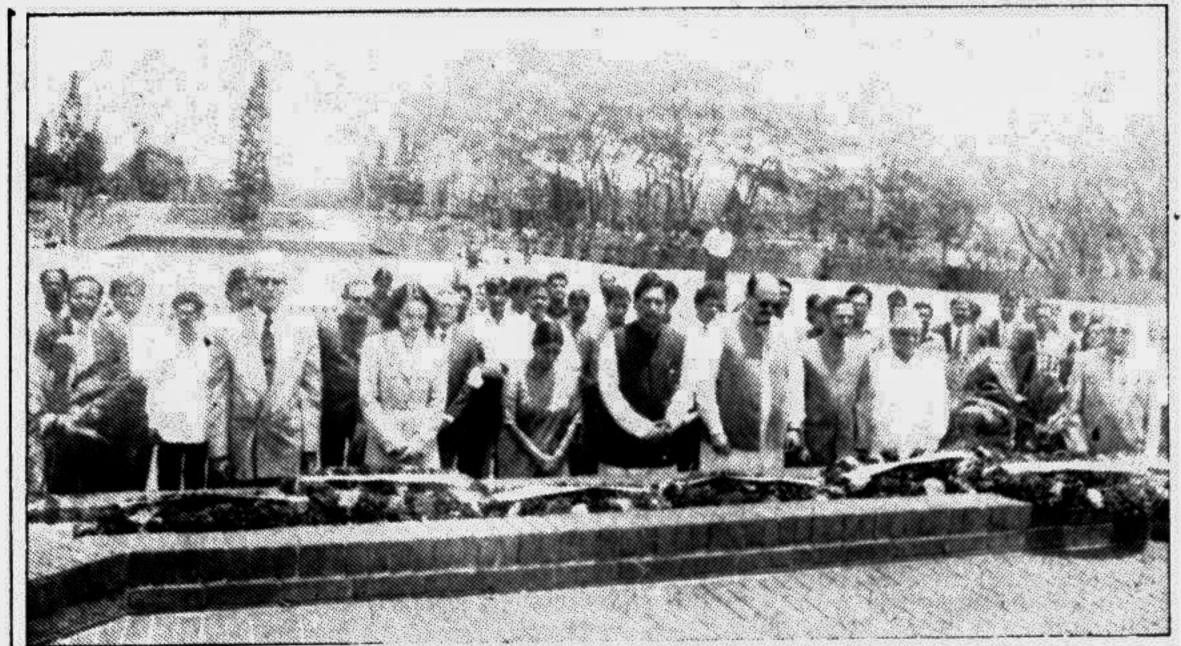
The control room sources said, of them, 39 activists were released later. Rest of them are being interrogated in connection with the murder cases filed by police and BCL leader Bahadur Bepary on Thursday.

The JCD activists damaged about 15 pass..., vehicles near Kakrail protesting police re-

pression. The JCD was scheduled to assemble at Ramna Batamul before taking out a procession to gherao the lice and residence of the vice-chancellor to protest police repression and demanding expulsion of outsiders from three residential halls from where they were ousted Thurs-

A group procession led by JCD president was gong toward Ramna Batamul. Heavy police contingents stopped the procession in front of the Diploma Engineers Institute at Kakrail. The police encircled the processionists, beat them up and picked up most of them, wit-

nesses said. Group processions moving towards Ramna Batamul from different parts of the city were halted on way. Police used batons to disperse the processionists, said witnesses.



Information ministers of SAARC countries placed wreaths at the National Memorial at — PID photo Savar yesterday.

Employment Bank Bill '98 passed

The Jatiya Sangsad last night passed the Employment Bank Bill, 1998 aimed at resolving the unemployment problem by involving the youths in economic activities through self-employment, reports UNB.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, who piloted the bill, said the proposed bank would provide loan to the unemployed youths to set up income-generating projects, and impart technical and administrative training to the jobless on management and marketing.

The bank will be set up under the care of the Bangladesh Bank and with financial support of different commercial banks and financial institutions.

The approved capital of the proposed bank will be Tk 300 crore. It will be divided into three crore ordinary shares of Tk 100 each.

A 12-member management board of the Bank will be constituted. The government will nominate a chairman as head of the board.

Defending the setting up of the Employment Bank, the Finance Minister said it will be a specialised bank to give financial support to the unemployed youths who have the initiatives to set up self-employment projects and create new jobs.

Earlier, about 30 BNP lawmakers opposed the Bill and demanded eliciting public opinion before it is passed by Parliament.

The opposition MPs questioned the efficacy of the proposed Employment Bank when the banking sector is suffering

from liquidity crisis and the government is borrowing

money from banks to run the

administration. They argued that there is no need for setting up a new bank in the public sector with a capital of Tk 300 crore when a chaotic situation prevails in the nationalised banking sec-

CU clash

From Page 1

cials said that the clash began at around 10 am centering on the incident of tearing of posters in a residential hall The clashing activists of the

ruling party backed BCL and Jamaat-e-Islami backed Shibir exchanged brick-bats and used lethal weapons during the hourlong fight, witnesses said. Police fired blank shots and

lobbed tear gas shells to dis-

perse the clashing groups. But none was arrested, police said. Proctor of Chittagong University Dr Khan Tawhid Osman told this correspondent that the trouble started at a residential hall over an altercation between the supporters of the two rival factions which immedi-

However, BCL and Shibir blamed each other for the clash.

premises.

ately spread to the faculty

Meanwhile, tension remained high on the campus and additional police force, mostly in riot gear, were deployed to foil any attempt of fresh vio-

was reading out the names of

the MPs, who suggested elicit-

ing public opinion on the bill.

After reading out the names, he

found the Opposition bench

empty. The Deputy Speaker

then commented," Have they

walked out? How did it hap-

that there was no logic for such

a walk-out. Finding the BNP

lawmakers returning to the

A visibly cheerful Deputy

House, a smiling PM thanked

Speaker then told the opposi-

tion members, "I could realise

JCD strike

From Page 1

Police picked up some 70

JCD activists including Anny

from a procession at Kakrail in

the city. Police also used batons

on the processionists, witnesses

said. The processionists were

heading towards the Dhaka

University to gherao the office

and residence of the Vice-Chan-

cellor as per their earlier an-

of police interruption, could not

to gather at the Ramna Batamul

for proceed towards the univer-

sity. But police interrupted

their processions going there

held at the university but atten-

dance of students was thin.

Buses of the university, how-

Meanwhile, classes were

BCL brought out a procession

on the campus mourning the

death of its leader Partha Pro-

tim Achariya and held a rally

at the Aparajeo Bangla. The

rally was addressed by among

others BCL President Enamul

Haq Shamim and General Sec-

retary Ishaque Ali Khan Panna.

arrest of those responsible for

the killing of Partha. Partha

was shot dead during a gunfight

between JCD and BCL at the

Bangladesh Chhatra Union

also brought out a separate pro-

cession on the campus demand-

ing immediate action for

restoring academic atmosphere

university on Thursday.

on the campus.

They demanded immediate

from different directions.

ever, did not move.

The JCD activists, in the face

JCD activists were scheduled

nounced programme.

enter the DU campus.

and welcomed them.

that you walked out."

The PM rose again to say

Change in JS Order

pen?"

From Page 1 Speaker's decision and said it was correct. "If the Opposition feels aggrieved by the decision. they may speak out their

grievances", he said. At this stage, Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, quoting from the Kaul, said "the Speaker's decision is binding on all the members and he is not bound to cite any reason for his decision. as demanded by the Opposition Chief Whip."

Replying to Delwar's comment that she had guided the Chair in taking the decision, Sheikh Hasina said, "It's a custom that the Speaker consults the Leader of the House while running the affairs of the House... Law does not allow questioning the Speaker's rul-

The PM claimed that she had no prior knowledge of the day's agenda but termed the Deputy Speaker's decision perfect.

"The mandatory questionanswer session was even dropped from the agenda during BNP government", the Leader of the House said.

Given the floor again, the Opposition Chief Whip referred to Article 71(6) of the JS Rules of Procedure and argued against the change in the Order of the

Day. Another BNP MP, Abdul Mannan, also shouted at the Chair showing a copy of the Rules of Procedure. Mannan also sought the floor but was not given. Angered by this, Mannan hit his desk several times with a book in his hand.

As the Chair started dealing with the Employment Bank Bill, the Opposition Chief Whip said it was violation of rules and led a walkout. But most of the BNP lawmakers were seen unprepared for it. Some of the BNP MPs were seen sitting on their chairs when Delwar were asking them to follow him while some others took some time to walk out.

The walkout took place at a time when the Deputy Speaker

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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change of data through E-mail services and Internet, arrangement for regular exchange of TV and Radio programmes, regular exchange of joint production of documentaries and films. training for SAARC media people, model guidelines on transnational satellite broadcasting in the region, a study on the financial and technical feasibility of establishing a SAARC satellite, a feasibility study on setting up of a SAARC information centre with media production, research and training units and a SAARC development fund.

18-pt plan

From Page 1

The meeting agreed that an appropriate mechanism should be set up to oversee the implementation of the SAARC 'plan of action.

Bangabandhu murder Hearing resumes

The trial proceedings in Bangabandhu Murder Case resumes at the special ejlash of Dhaka District and Sessions Judge Court today after a weeks recess, reports UNB.

Investigation Officer of the case ASP Abdul Kahhar Akan, also the 61st prosecution witness of the case, will be crossexamined by the lawyers appointed by the state for the absconding accused.

Clash at Adamjee Jute Mills

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ. Apr 26: The supporters of two CBA leaders of Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) were locked in a two-hour clash from 6:30 pm today.

Police and witnesses said the clash erupted when the supporters of CBA president Rehanuddin Rehan attacked the people of another CBA leader Mujibur Rahman Mondal as a sequel to power struggle between the two

leaders. The feuding groups blasted cocktails and exchange gunshots during the clash.

BAPEX

From Page 1

panies in all the blocks. Dr lmam was speaking at a discussion meeting organised by the Economic Reporters Forum at the Jatiya Press Club vesterday,

The geologist said that before finalising the second round bidding, the government must review the outcome and profitability of the existing PSCs and amend those clauses which undermined the interest of the nation.

He expressed his frustration that BAPEX had not been given a single block to explore.

Dr Imam, who had experience of working in a large oil company, noted that in countries like Malaysia and Indonesia, it was mandatory for for eign companies working under PSC to take the local exploration companies as partners.

Dr Imam gave a rough estimate of the "economic aspects" of Sangu gas, developed by British company Cairn under a PSC for block 16. Due to the agreed gas purchase rate which is much higher than the local price, Petrobangla will incur an annual loss of over Tk 50 crore by purchasing 60 billion cubic feet of gas from Sangu. Besides, Petrobangla will have to pay Tk 46 crore corporate tax for Cairn as per the PSC terms. Thus the total loss for Petrobangla will stand at about Tk 97 crore annually.

"If the government can subsidise Sangu gas, why can't it give Tk 100 crore to BAPEX instead?" Dr Imam asked.

The geologist rejected all rumours that Bangladesh was floating on gas and there might be 80 trillion cubic feet of gas deposit. He said, at best Bangladesh could strike around 30 tcf gas. He opposed the view that gas

should be exported. Bangladesh's energy was directly gasbased and there was no alternative source of energy. "Our reserve is so small that we should not think of export right now," he added.

Clash at garments Six judges to take oath today

attended the meeting.

taken up there.

The six judges appointed to the High Court division of the GAZIPUR, Apr 26: A clash Supreme Court are expected to between the workers and owntake oath as additional judges ers of a garments factory here this morning, reports BSS. today left five people injured The are Abdul Quddus, Joint

Secretary, Ministry of Law, The clash erupted at about 10 Barrister Md Mozammel Hosam as a group of people reportsain, Barrister A B M Khairul edly hired by the owners at-Haque, Barrister Latifur Rahtacked the striking workers of man. Advocate Md Abdul Aziz Fortuna Garments in the mornand Advocate Bijan Kumar Das.

Dacoity at city house

Dacoits took away Tk two lakh in cash, gold ornaments and valuables from a flat at Gandaria under Sutrapur thana

The took gold ornaments, valuables and cash and left the house after half an hour, police

A case was filed with Sutrapur thana in this connection but police could not arrest anyone till last night.

evaluate the success and failure By Staff Correspondent

in the city yesterday morning. Police said a gang of four

youngmen knocked the door of the second floor flat of Shafigul Islam at about 11 am. As an inmate opened the door, the armed men stermed inside. Brandishing arms they confined two inmates in a room and forcibly took keys of several almirahs.

AL city committee

From Page 1

of the city and Maya as a minis-

in the town today.

in Dhaka.

ter of state. When contacted for his comment on such delay in ommittee formation, Hanif just said, "The 1997 council entrusted the party president with the power to announce a new committee". He hoped it would not take much more time and the AL chief would nominate a full-fledged committee.

Failing to hold councils of the 15 thana units under the city AL in time, the council of the city AL was organised in April last, preceding the national council of the party.

Late, councils of the thana units were completed in six months. But formation of not a single committee has been announced till date.

Though the issue of delay in committee formation came up repeatedly for discussion at meetings of the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) in recent months, no significant development was seen in that

A number of grassroots level

their frustration that after coming to power following years of struggle and democratic movement, in which city AL had a great role, the party leadership was now 'neglecting' the issue of committee forma-A senior leader of city AL

leaders and workers expressed

told this corespondent "It is our routine duty now to organise rallies in the city and discussions on various occasions though we have no committee for the last one year and there is no inspiration among leaders and workers". He said, "May be our party president is too busy with her state functionings as

the premier and she could not make time to sit over formation of a new committee for the party's city unit" AL presidium member Abdul Jalil, however, said that it

would not take much time now that "we'll be able to forward a list of full committees of all thana units of the city to the Prime Minister so that she could give her mandate".

Kibria: Govt officials

From Page 1 Kibria said there was no alter-

native to it. But trade was liberalised in 1993-94 so hastily that a lot of small import-substitution units faced closure or turned sick, he added

"Now, we can't go back, nor

can we do anything except adopting corrective measures," he said and assured that the sick industries will see a quick solution. About the problem of sick

industries, Kibria issued a note of warning against those trying to reap political gains out of it. "It's an economic problem which we want to deal with economically

The Finance Minister regret-

ted that the people who made their fortune by evading taxes did not avail of the opportunity extended by the government to make their money white by way of investment. He admitted many loopholes

in tax collection. "Our tax management is so faulty that one can easily evade the tax and stay well. This is why they haven't taken the advantage. said Kibria. Yussuf Abdullah Haroon

listed lack of infrastructure facilities like power and gas. mismanagement in banking sector and ports, as major factors discouraging local entrepreneurs.

The Finance Minister ad-

mitted that there was loopholes in banking sector in the past and it is still there. FBCCI President proposed that the government officials

and employees be brought under

income tax net. He also suggested for raising income tax ceiling to Tk 100,000 in view of the present living cost. The Federation chief called for changes in NBR, freeing the tax structure from corruption

and reforming the tax laws to

encourage the tax payers.

4 fall sick after taking poisonous liquor in city

Four people fell sick after taking poisonous liquor at Hazaribag area of Lalbagh thana yesterday, reports UNB.

Police found them lying un conscious on the road at Boubazar area of Hazaribagh and brought them to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

SAARC Secy-Gen calls on PM

SAARC Secretary General Naeem-U-Hasan called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Sangsad Bhaban office yesterday, reports UNB. Naeem, who came here to at-

ministers meeting, informed the Prime Minister about the progress and preparations of the next SAARC summit to be held in Colombo. He also apprised her about the implementation of the rec-

tend the SAARC information

ommendations undertaken at the last SAARC summit held in the Maldives. The Prime Minister thanked the Secretary General and stressed the need for effective

cooperation in different fields among the SAARC member countries. "The cooperation should further be intensified, especially for poverty alleviation in the

region," Hasina told the SAARC Secretary General. Secretary Foreign

Mustafizur Rahman was pre-

Committee soon to evaluate success, failure of SAARC'

SAARC Secretary General Naeem U Hassan called on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at his office yesterday, reports UNB. They also discussed matters

relating to the present activities

and expansion of the SAARC Secretariat. Hassan told the minister that formation of a committee. comprising eminent personalities from the SAARC member countries, is under process to

of the association. Samad Azad also exchanged views with Hassan on the threenation - Bangladesh, India and Pakistan — trade summit held in Dhaka recently.

Protesters disrupt Ghulam Ali's Bombay concert BOMBAY, Apr 27: A Pak-

istani singer was forced to pack up Sunday by nearly 100 rightwing Hindu nationalists who stormed the concert hall in this financial capital of India, reports AP.

"We shall not allow any Pakistani singer to perform in India because no Indian singer was welcomed in that country. a protester announced after grabbing the microphone. "Go back to Pakistan.

As the activists belonging to Shiv Sena party damaged the equipment, singer Ghulam Ali retreated to his hotel room. The Shiv Sena is known for

its anti-Muslim rhetoric. A coalition of Shiv Sena and Bharatiya Janata Party is governing Maharashtra state, whose capital is Bombay. Two months ago, Ghulam

Ali, famous for light classical singing, held a concert in Bombay without any disruption. "I have no idea why this happened. I am not aware if

there is any political link," Ali told reporters on Sunday. "But nothing can stop the music. This has never happened to me in this country. I will be

happy to perform in Bombay again," he said. Shiv Sena also is opposed to Pakistani cricketers playing in Bombay, its stronghold. Some years ago, the party supporters dug up the ground to prevent an India-Pakistan cricket match. But the Pakistani artists and

Youth soccer

players face no such problems

From Page 1

in other Indian cities.

brilliant hattrick against Sri Lanka and the all-important goal against Nepal, failed to live up to his usual self, it was Azad who opened the floodgate in the 13th minute.

Sujon added the second six minutes later while Dipu struck twice in the 25th and 37th minutes. In between, Hanif scored the fourth goal in the 35th minute. The second half, however,

belonged to Echo, who completed his treble with strikes in the ninth, 22nd and 26th min-To add to the Guam misery,

Azad scored his second goal of the match 13 minutes into the post-lemon session. Dablu struck the tenth in the 36th minute before Echo put the last nail in the Guam coffin, scoring his fourth goal two minutes from the final whistle. The tiny South Asian na-

will certainly try to forget the bitter memories of Birgani, where they conceded a mindboggling 29 goals in three matches. Mohiuddin Ahmed, the High

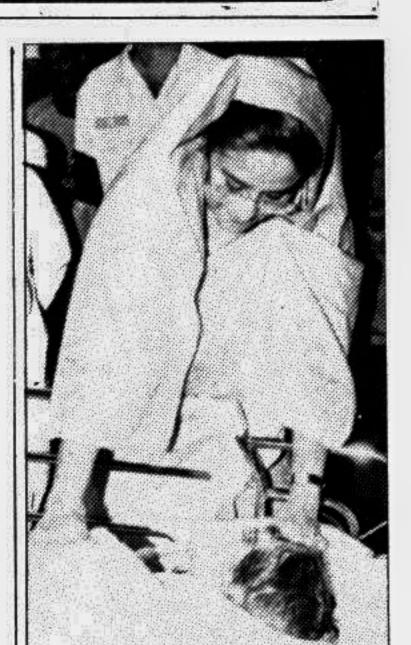
tion, who hung like a punching

bag in the four nation meet,

Commissioner of Bangladesh in Nepal, witnessed Sunday's Bangladesh team: Rafique,

Kamal, Tito, Biplob (Chandan). Sujan, Hanif (Prantosh). Dablu (Obaidur), Azad. Echo. Dipu and Johnny.

Guam team: Not available



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina visited ailing poet Begum Sufia Kamal at the Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University Hospital in the city yesterday. - PID photo

Mugger held with arms, snatched money at Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 26: Local people caught an alleged mugger from Agrabad commercial area today after he and his accomplices snatched two bags containing money of a pharmaceutical company, witnesses said. The mugger, identified as

Raju Banik, was later handed over to Doublemooring thana. A bag containing Tk 4,73,000, snatched from the officials of the company on board a car, and one light gun were recovered from the possession of

the arrested mugger, police said.

Put two other muggers fled from the scene with another bag of money containing over Tk three lakh, police said. Police and witnesses said the three muggers who came by an autorickshaw had attacked the officials of the pharmaceutical company at around 12:30 pm at Agrabad road. The company of-

positing the money. Kidnapped man

ficials were on their way to the

branch of a foreign bank for de-

From Page 1

aged about 30. Quoting the FIR, police said a gang of about five men led by Anwar Hossain and Nazu called out Aziz and Kawsar from Aziz's Munshirtek house at about 6:30

am Saturday. The attackers forcibly took them to Liakat's house and later shifted them to Anwar Hossain's fourth floor flat in a building on Distillery Road. The abductors held the two hostage inside the flat and beat them up. At one stage they also threatened to kill them, police said quoting the FIR filed by Az-

izul Huq yesterday. Acting on a tip, police rushed to the spot yesterday morning to raid Anwar Hossain's flat. At

the time the gang threw Aziz down from the fourth floor. Sutrapur police arrested the two while the others in the flat

KAFCO

From Page 1

managed to escape.

Referring to the Minister's statement, the petition said that the nation is losing a lot of money and until the day of judgement KAFCO would not be a profitable organisation.

It was also alleged in the petition that the contracts benefited the foreign owners only and depleted the national resources of gas owned by the public and the nation at large.

Sher-e-Bangla

From Page 1 The two organisations will

also hold a discussion meeting on the life and contributions of Sher-e-Bangla A K Fazlul Haq. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Awami League leader Amir Hossain Amu, State Minister for Information Prof Abu Saveed and

meeting. The discussion meeting will be followed by a milad mahfil.

State Minister for Jute AK

Faezul Haq will address the

Byelection

From Page 1 Four candidates submitted

their nomination papers to the Returning Officer and Deputy Commissioner of Barisal M Alauddin yesterday for contesting the byelection. The names of the candidates are: Advocate Md Majibar

Rahman Sarwar (BNP).

Maniruzzaman Khan Farook (JP). Krishak Md Sadek (Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolon) and Sheikh Mohiuddin Ahmed (Ganatantrik Sarbahara Partyl. No Awami League candidate.

however, submitted nomination paper, the sources said.