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Larma resents 'flouting of accord on CHT bills'

By Special Correspondent
Parbatta Chattagranama Sanghati Samity Chairman Jyotirindriyo Bhopiroyo Larma has expressed his resentment at what he said flouting of the understanding reached between him and the government on the four CHT bills.
He told BBC Bangla service last night that there are five 'inconsistencies' in the bills the government had placed before parliament, two of which has already been passed.
Earlier, Larma held talks with a government team in Dhaka for three days last month in the wake of complaints by the PCJSJ that the government had deviated from the CHT agreement while preparing the four CHT bills.
See Page 12 Col 1



BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia leading a procession of her party MPs to the Bangabhaban yesterday. — Star photo

Khaleda leads team to Bangabhaban

BNP seeks Presidential intervention 'to keep JS operative'

By Staff Correspondent
The BNP has sought presidential intervention in "keeping the Jatiya Sangsad operative by allowing the Opposition to play its due role" in the House.
"We've urged the President to do the needful for keeping the parliament operative. Now it's up to him what measures he'll take to this end", Opposition Chief Whip Khandakar Delwar Hossain told newsmen at the end of an 80-minute meeting between the President and BNP lawmakers at the Bangabhaban yesterday.
BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia, along with some of her party MPs, met President Shahabuddin Ahmed after leading a march from her Minto Road official residence.
Asked if he had requested the President not to assent to the CHT bills, Delwar Hossain did not give a direct reply. "The President has the authority to prorogue and even dissolve the parliament", he noted.
In reply to another question, Delwar said his party was just abstaining from attending the parliament proceedings following "denial of their right to speak" on amendments to the CHT bills proposed by them.
"We'll review further developments in the parliament... We're ready to go back there tomorrow provided we're allowed to speak on our amendment proposals", he said. BNP's return to the House was subject to further discussions by the party lawmakers on fresh developments there, he added.
The BNP lawmakers' march began at 11.50 am from Minto Road and reached the Bangabhaban some five km away in an hour. Begum Zia, while leading the march, sometimes went on foot and sometimes by car.
The marchers carried placards inscribed with different slogans against the CHT agreement and the government of Sheikh Hasina. At the forefront of the march, there was a big banner demanding scrapping of the "anti-constitution" CHT accord.
The marchers raised full-throated slogans. They were also joined by a large number of BNP workers and supporters.
See Page 12 Col 4

BNP procession in support of tomorrow's hartal

City BNP yesterday brought out a procession in the capital from Ramna Restaurant to drum up support for tomorrow's countrywide half-day hartal, reports UNB.
As part of a two-day programme to mobilise support in favour of the hartal, city BNP will bring out a torch procession today from its city office at Nayabazar.
BNP and its six allies have called the hartal from 6 am to 12 pm in protest against the passage of one of the Bills on CHT peace accord and 'snatching of the rights' of the Opposition MPs to speak in the House.
The big procession started at 5.30 pm. Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, See Page 12 Col 7

Cabinet approves proposal to form Wages Commission

The Cabinet yesterday approved a proposal to constitute the National Wage and Productivity Commission '98, reports UNB.
The approval was given at a cabinet meeting held at Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.
It also approved the procurement policy of Irri-Boro and maize during the current season.

Sect employees postpone today's programme

The leaders of Bangladesh Sachibalaya Karmachari Sangjukta Parishad met Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her Jatiya Sangsad office yesterday evening and announced postponement of their proposed march schedule for today in response to her call, reports BSS.
During the meeting they submitted a memorandum containing some demands.
The leaders include Mohammad Shah Alam, Mohammad Mujibul Haque and Syed Mohiuddin.

Manju no more JPPP dy leader

Communications Minister Anwar Hossain Manju has been relieved of the position of the deputy leader of the JP parliamentary party, reports UNB.
Dr TIM Fazy Rabbi has been given the new responsibility.
Party Chairman HM Ershad conveyed his decision in a letter to JP Whip Adv Fazole Rabbi.

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BUET VC resigns: Teachers' assoc goes on strike today

By Staff Correspondent
Vice-Chancellor of BUET Prof Iqbal Mahmud resigned yesterday, according to official sources.
All the 71 teachers of the university holding administrative posts also resigned from their posts, the sources said.
Sources close to the Vice-Chancellor told this correspondent that the university authorities came under "constant pressure" from the government for reinstatement of the 13 teachers who resigned earlier.
The Vice-Chancellor faxed his resignation letter to the secretary to the Chancellor of BUET at noon yesterday, the sources said.
But the VC could not be contacted despite repeated attempts till last night. The Prime Minister is the Chancellor of the university and the education secretary is the secretary to the Chancellor.
Of the four Syndicate members, two nominated by the government, Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury and Prof Nooruddin Ahmed, also sent their resignation letters to the secretary to the Chancellor through fax following the VC's resignation, the sources said.
When contacted last night, the secretary to the Chancellor confirmed that he got the resignation letters. After the VC's resignation, heads of 16 departments, directors of six institutes and provosts and assistant provosts of the eight residential halls of the university resigned from their administrative posts yesterday, the sources said.
They submitted their resignation letters at the VC's office, the sources said.
Some of the resigning teachers when contacted last night confirmed their resignation from administrative posts. "I submitted my resignation letter to the VC's office at 1 pm," Prof Khaleda Rashid, head of the Architecture department told the Daily Star.
President of BUET Teachers' Association Prof Abdur Razzak also confirmed resignation of the teachers from their administrative posts.
Meanwhile, the BUET Teachers' Association in an emergency meeting yesterday evening decided to go on an indefinite strike.
See Page 12 Col 3

Shahid's family bewildered

By Staff Correspondent
The actions of Shahid, confessed killer of Shazneen, have bewildered his family members — father, mother, three sisters and a seven-year-old brother at their village home at Bhangadurgapur, in Gopalganj.
"I have disinherited my son. He is a total disgrace to the family. We never thought Shahid could do it," Siddiq Mollah told CID with tears in his eyes. "Let him die. We don't want to know what will happen to him," the 45-year old father wailed.
It took about eight hours for the CID inspector and his team to reach Shahid's village home, about 60 km from Gopalganj town.
Siddiq Mollah is a day labourer. His wife Bhanu, a member of a village women development group, is raising a small poultry farm at their house, CID sources said.
Siddiq told CID Shahid read up to class two at their village school. Second among three daughters and two sons of Siddiq Mollah. Shahid first came to Dhaka at the age of eight as a domestic help at an engineer's house.
Shahid worked at the engineering office.
See Page 12 Col 2

Shazneen murder 6 remanded, Shahid's bail prayer rejected

By Staff Correspondent
Shahid, the confessed killer of Shazneen, and five other servants at Latifur Rahman's Gulshan residence were placed on another two days' CID remand yesterday.
The CID is still investigating whether there was any other person behind Shahid in committing the crime, sources in the CID said.
After expiry of the first phase of remand, the six were produced before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court in the afternoon under tight security.
The CID prayed to the court for seven days' remand for Shahid and five days for the five servants. But the court granted two days' remand for the six.
Earlier, Shahid was remanded for five days on April 28 and the five others for seven days on April 26.
Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, youngest daughter of Latifur Rahman, See Page 12 Col 7



Shahid at the CMM's court yesterday. — Star photo

Rehabilitation of JCD activists may be delayed

By DU Correspondent
The rehabilitation process of the displaced activists of Jatiyatadabi Chhatra Dal (JCD) in the four halls of the Dhaka University may be further delayed as the JCD had submitted lists of its displaced activists of only two halls till yesterday, campus sources said.
As per the agreement with the DU Syndicate, the JCD was scheduled to submit lists of their activists ousted from the four trouble-torn dormitories of the university. JCD submitted lists of Surya Sen and Bangabandhu halls.
After getting the list of all four halls, a meeting of the Provost Standing Committee will decide when the rehabilitation process will begin, the sources said.
Earlier, the DU Syndicate See Page 12 Col 3

CU halls raided, 7 Shibir activists held

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 4: Police arrested seven activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir during a pre-dawn raid today on the dormitories of Chittagong Government College.
Meanwhile, some students stormed into the office of the Dean of Law Faculty at Chittagong University at about 9 am today and damaged the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, police and university sources said.
A few classes were held at the university today as most of the students could not come from the city because the shuttle train did not ply, sources at the university said.
See Page 12 Col 3

Rape victim faces threat, barred from filing case

From Our Correspondent
BARGUNA, May 4: A teenage rape victim could not file a case even after ten days of the incident in the face of alleged threat to her life by some influential people including political leaders and launch supervisors at here.
It was alleged that Asma Begum, 13, was raped by one Abul Hossain 30, an oilman of a launch, MV Paira-3, while she was returning to Barguna from Dhaka on the night of April 24.
Talking to newsmen today, Asma Begum said Abul Hossain forcibly took her to a staff room of the launch and raped her.
Hearing Asma's cry, the launch authorities rescued her from the room and asked her not to file a case, assuring her that she would be married to Abul Hossain, she said.
They later offered her Tk. 5,000 and told her to reconcile with Abul Hossain. Asma said, "As I refused the proposal, influential people threatened me of dire consequences if a case is filed."
Asma worked as a maid at a house in Dhaka and was returning to her village home.
See Page 12 Col 6

JP opposes, BNP absent Khagrachhari hill dist bill passed

By Staff Correspondent
The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the Khagrachhari Hill District Local Government Council (Amendment) Bill, 1998.
The bill on Khagrachhari hill district and a similar bill on Bandarban district were earlier accepted by the Sangsad on Sunday for immediate consideration. The Rangamati Hill District Local Government Council (Amendment) Bill, 1998, was passed on that day.
The bill on Khagrachhari was passed at 8:40 pm yesterday by voice vote with Jatiya Party lawmakers voting against it.
Legislators belonging to the main opposition BNP did not attend proceedings of the House yesterday. On Sunday, they walked out of the House twice and did not return till adjournment of the session last night.
In the absence of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Abdul Matin Khasru, Deputy Leader of the House and LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman proposed passage of the bill on Khagrachhari.
Before Suranjit Sengupta of the Treasury Bench and Md Shahadat Hossain of Jatiya Party spoke briefly on their proposed amendments to the bill. Two amendments proposed by Sengupta were accepted by the House by voice vote for inclusion in the bill.
Earlier, the Speaker named over 50 lawmakers belonging to AL, BNP and JP to speak briefly on their respective amendment notices. But, except Sengupta and Shahadat, there was none to speak.
The two amendments proposed by Sengupta and by the House accepted concern articles 26 and 64 of the bill. In Article 26, it was said earlier that "Khagrachhari Mong Chief" and "Rangamati Chakma Chief" could join meetings of the hill council. Now, in the amended form, the words "Khagrachhari" and "Rangamati" were dropped.
In Article 64, it was said earlier that the general bar on land transfer without prior approval of the hill council would not be applicable on lands recorded in the names of the government or the local authority. In the amended form, the words "or the local authority" were dropped.
Before, the bill was passed, Zillur Rahman spoke briefly, responding to amendment no- See Page 12 Col 6

DMCH: No Scope for psychological treatment of rape victims

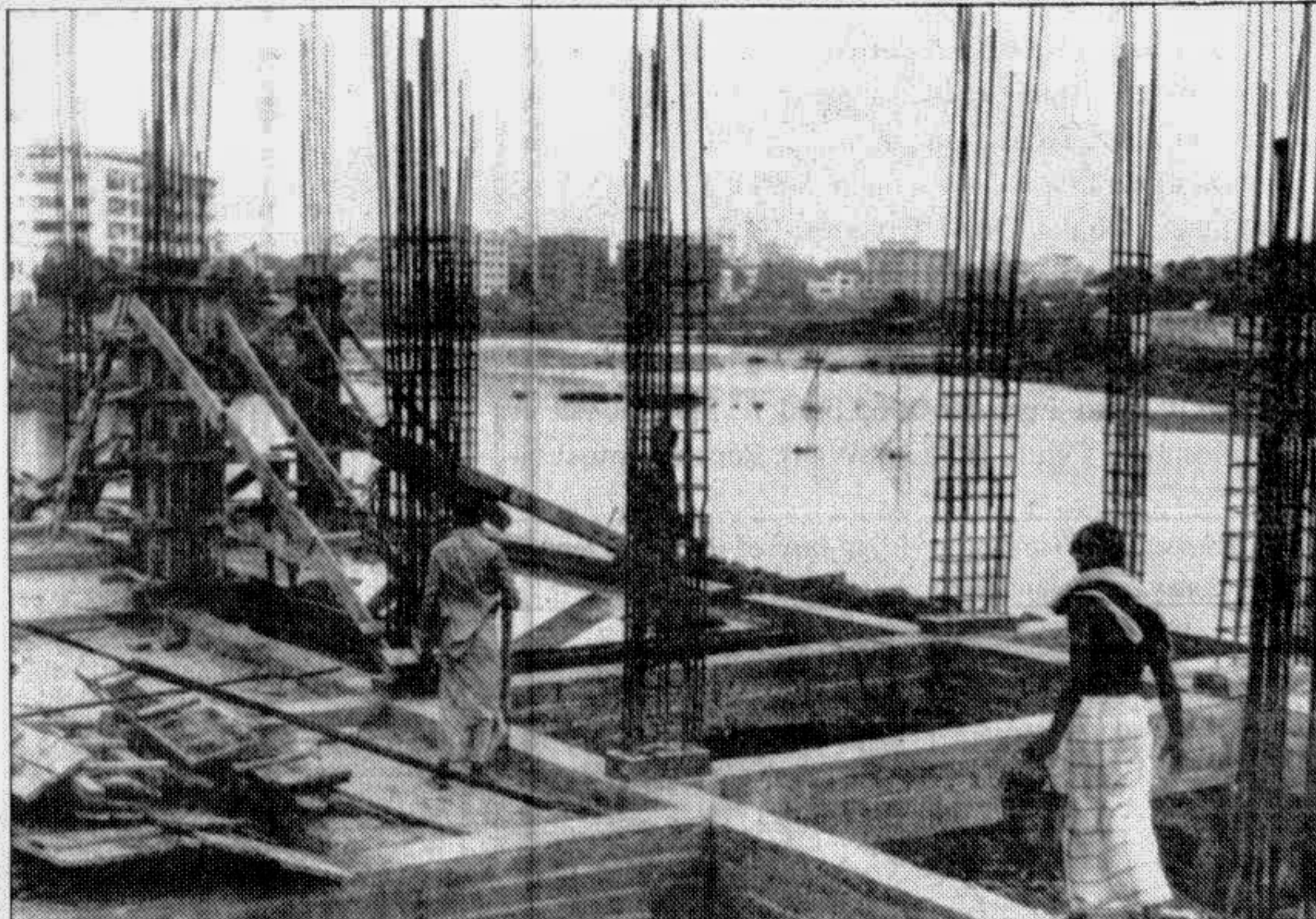
By Naimul Haq
The Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) does not have facilities for special care including psychological treatment for rape victims.
A rape victim, after necessary treatment, is sent to the female ward. But women's organisations feel that the victims should be kept in a separate unit for psychological treatment.
Director of the hospital Badrul Munir, when contacted said, "I agree there should be a separate unit for psychological treatment of rape victims."
Roushan Ara Khanam, Resident Surgeon of Gynecology unit at the DMCH also said that the hospital should have facilities for psychological treatment of a rape victim.
She said, "We now have instructions from our hospital director to take special care of any rape victim. We must, at the same time, have arrangement for psychological treatment."
When contacted, a leader of Naripakkho, a women organisation said that proposals were given to the government for providing facilities for psychological treatment of rape victims at hospital. But there has been no response, she said.
See Page 12 Col 1

Growing crimes worry top trade bodies

By Staff Correspondent
Six top business chambers and associations of the country in a joint statement yesterday expressed their deep concern over the prevailing law and order situation and urged the government and all political parties to "save the social fabric from irreparable damage."
They said that the morale of the business community is now being devastated by the unabated occurrences of abduction of businessmen, rapes and attacks on women and children almost everyday and urged the government to take deterrent measures against the criminals, irrespective of their party affiliations.
The statement was signed by R Maksud Khan, president of DCCI, Laila Rahman Kabir, president of MCCI, Rokia A Rahman, president of Bangladesh Employers' Association, Mostafa Golam Quddus, president of BGMEA, Mirza Ali Behrouz Ispahani, chairman of Bangladesh Jute Mills Association and M Shahjahan, chairman of Bangladesh Textile Mills Association.
"The country's trade and industry is deeply worried over the break-down of law and order and increasing criminalisation of the society," the statement said. "The business community recognises that the government alone is not responsible for criminalisation of the society. Nor is it alone responsible for the deficiencies of the law-enforcing agencies in dealing with the situation," it added.
"Nevertheless, the government is accountable because it has been entrusted with the task of governance and it is good governance which can establish rule of law," the statement noted.
"The first threat to rule of law is criminal dependence of major political parties. Political parties, and we say emphatically that all political parties, seem to have developed a mindset that they need armed criminals to ensure support for their political programmes. The unholy alliance which had developed over decades between the political parties and the criminals, have brought about a near collapse of rule of law," the statement read.
"The business community can not remain silent to such a situation. They have for long dealt with *mastans* and other hoodlums to remain in business. Their morale is now being devastated by the unabated occurrences of abduction of businessmen, rapes, attacks on women and children, almost everyday. Such crimes are no longer confined to the streets See Page 12 Col 6

Gulshan Lake up for grabs-IV Construction boom over vast area sold out to individuals

By Morshed Ali Khan
Another stretch of the Gulshan Lake measuring more than half a kilometre, has been sold out to individuals, according to an on-the-spot investigation.
The sold out area from Kemal Ataturk Avenue in the north to Gulshan Section 1 has been demarcated by concrete pillars as per the size of each plot.
At places 'skeleton-like' concrete structures have emerged from the lake. In the extreme northern side near the Kemal Ataturk Avenue, the pillars are hidden under thick water hyacinth.
From the Banani side of the same spot, dozens of such plots in the lake have already been extracted by earth-filling. Several plot owners have already started piling work. On the Gulshan side, construction of several buildings is underway in the lake.
A developer at an under-construction site in the lake on the Banani side said he will construct a "massive" apartment bloc across the lake. He said that he obtained the land allocation from the Rajuk "few years ago."
At Road No 35, long-time residents of the area alleged that they were deceived by Rajuk. "We bought the plot because there was a lake here as Rajuk told us," a resident told this correspondent. "Now they have sold the entire lake and everyday new developers are moving in."
The resident who did not want to be named said that a year ago he had personally lodged a complaint with the Rajuk but nothing has been done.
Sources in Rajuk claimed many plots were sold out from the lake during Ershad's rule. "The former President would ask the Chairman to go to his office with the Gulshan Model Town land index and order him to chalk out plots from the lake and its adjacent areas with a pencil in his hand," said a source.
He said, during the BNP rule, many of those plots allocated during Ershad's rule were either cancelled or "frozen" and then allocated to new batches of individuals. Asked what "frozen" meant, he replied, "After allocating a low-lying plot, Rajuk has to fill it up before the land can be registered. Since we did not earth-fill those, the land remained unregistered and so See Page 12 Col 6



An under-construction structure at the end of Road No 35 on Gulshan Lake, encroaching upon more than 50 feet of the lake. — Star photo

Gunfight: Five hurt in city

By Staff Correspondent
At least five people were injured in a gunfight between two rival groups at Moneswar Lane near Jigatola in the city yesterday morning.
Police and hospital sources identified two of the wounded as Abdul Halim and Abul. Halim, who received bullet injuries, was under treatment at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital while Abul was admitted to the Orthopaedic Hospital.
The clash erupted between the two rival groups over taking control of two residential halls of the Institute of Leather Technology and establishing supremacy in the locality, according to Lalbagh police.
At least 10 rounds of gun- See Page 12 Col 3