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## US Embassy's advice on DV visa theft

The US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday said any DV winner who has reason to believe that his or her appointment letter has been stolen should report this immediately to the National Visa Center, 32 Rochester Ave, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 03801-2909, USA, reports UNB.

The letter should include a recent photograph of the winner, his or her case number, signature, and basic biographic data. A copy of the letter should be sent to the Consular Section, US Embassy, Madani Avenue, Baridhara, GPO Box 323, Dhaka.

In a special release, the US Embassy said it encourages anyone whose letter has been stolen to notify local law enforcement authorities, who have the responsibility to uphold the laws of Bangladesh.

They cannot take action without information from the public, it said, adding that the US Embassy will be pleased to cooperate with Bangladesh authorities, but has no law enforcement authority in Bangladesh.

Recently some media articles have reported on irregularities involving the United States Diversity Visa (DV) Programme. The principal allegation concerns the theft from local post offices of DV correspondence.

It is alleged that the correspondence is held hostage by criminal elements until a fee is paid or the DV winner agrees to add an unqualified person, such as a spouse or child, to his or her family.

The US Embassy said it wishes to clarify that the theft and misuse of DV correspondence is unlikely to benefit anyone.

The Embassy's Consular

## GCO procession batoned, 25 injured

At least 25 students of Dhaka University were injured when police charged batons on a procession of Ganotantrik Chhatra (GCO) near the SAARC Fountain in the city's Kawranbazar area yesterday.

The processionists were going to gherao the Prime Minister's secretariat as per an earlier programme of the GCO demanding arrest of 'terrorists' from the DU campus and protesting the 'conspiracy' to ban student politics.

Nine of the injured persons were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They were Ziaul Huq, 32, Dipu, 25, Arun, 22, Shahidullah, 32, Elias, 18, Sultan, 20, Sujit, 22, Zahid, 22, and Tuku, 21, hospital sources said.

Referring to her recent visit to the northern region of the country, she said all rivers including the Padma had dried up following the water treaty. She quoted Indian newspapers as writing that the 30 year-water treaty had become ineffective within three months. In this regard, she termed the Awami League government as 'champion of signing unequal and useless accords.'

The Opposition Leader described the situation in the country as very bad and blamed the government for 'total failure.' She also advised the government to 'refrain from causing further injuries to the country' and step down immediately.

Under the Awami League government, Begum Zia said, the people are 'now deprived of all their fundamental rights.'

The BNP chief advised party workers to gear up political and organisational activities in their respective areas.

## Suharto

From Page 1  
 a special session of the People's Consultative Assembly, which only re-appointed the President to a new five-year term in March.

Hundreds of students who had been waiting at the parking lot of the house of representatives screaming 'hang Suharto,' jumped with glee and pumped their fists in the air when other students relayed the news.

But only hours later Wiranto countered that, 'abri (the armed forces) is of the opinion and understand that the statement by the house speaker that Suharto should resign is an individual stance and opinion although it was expressed collectively.'

He said the army was instead proposing to set up a council of reform drawing in figures from the government, the campuses and the council will work alongside the parliament and work hard,' he said.

Section has the original DV application letter, which includes the applicant's photograph, signature and basic biographic data. Access to these letters is controlled by the American staff.

Any DV applicant who appears for an interview is checked against the original application, and the Embassy investigates any significant discrepancies such as the addition of a spouse or children.

There are limits on the number of Diversity Visa available to applicants in Asia. Visas not issued in Bangladesh are routinely reassigned to neighbouring countries where there is a demand, such as Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Correspondence stolen from the post office ultimately costs deserving citizens of Bangladesh their opportunity to immigrate to the United States.

## Colombo summit : Dhaka still hopeful

Despite a cloud hanging over the prospect of the SAARC summit in Colombo following recent developments between India and Pakistan over nuclear tests by New Delhi, Bangladesh is still hopeful about holding of the 10th summit in July, reports UNB.

'It's too early to say that the summit will not take place.....' said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

But the uncertainty about the summit on the seven South Asian leaders looms large as the Indian intelligence agencies considered advising Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee against visiting Colombo following the nuclear tests.

Talking to journalists in the Foreign Office yesterday, Abul Hasan Chowdhury said the SAARC Telecommunications Minister's conference will be held in Colombo on May 20-21.

## Water crisis

From Page 1  
 that kept the pumps non-functioning are responsible for the current shortage of water. Low voltage had caused 15 per cent less production, affecting residents of Dhanmondi, Mirpur and Green Road areas, among others.

The crisis has become acute in the old part of the city where more than 100-year-old Chandrahat water works is finding it difficult to maintain supply low due to voltage and mechanical troubles, WASA officials preferring anonymity said.

## Arrear salaries

From Page 1  
 the banks concerned, said an official handout.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Bangladesh Teachers' Association Federation Sheikh Abdullah and Secretary General Kazi Farooq Ahmed have congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Education Minister ASHK Sadique for the inclusion of non-government teachers in the national pay scale for the first time.

## Four lakes

From Page 1  
 Rajuk's move to investigate comes following recent reports in The Daily Star under construction irregularities in allocation of plots and indiscriminate filling up of Gulshan lake. The Minister for Housing and Public Works visited the lake area and asked Rajuk to conduct investigations.

Several complications were delaying the investigations. The four-member committee which would look into problems concerning Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara lakes, has already started its field work.

A Rajuk source said that the committee has asked Rajuk's Estate Section to provide plans and other documents of 'several structures and under construction structures along Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara lakes.'

The Estate section was going through 'tonnes of files' to find the relevant papers. The source said it was 'absolutely necessary' that Rajuk introduced computer database in its offices. This would not only save time and funds but would also help curb corruption, he added.

The other four-member committee would look into problems relating to Uttara lake and its adjacent areas to find out why the lake had narrowed down. Sources said massive encroachment has taken place in the Uttara lake area.

Rajuk officials were confused over how to deal with people who claimed to have bought the lakes from private owners. Some of them have already obtained their building plans approved by the authorities.

But as per a recent order from the Prime Minister's Office none will be allowed to fill up a lake or low-lying area without permission from the Prime Minister, a Rajuk official pointed out.



Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting repression on women and rape of children.

## AL patronising terrorists: BNP

BNP yesterday accused the ruling party of patronising terrorism across the country with a special mention of Feni which is 'in the grip of Joynal Hazari,' reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference in the city, Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said not only Feni but the entire nation is in the grip of terrorists unleashed by the government.

Mannan expressed grave concern at the deteriorating law and order situation. He said about 200 BNP activists were killed, a large number rendered disabled or maimed and thousands implicated in false cases during the 22 months' rule of Awami League.

'If the situation continues, the country will proceed toward a civil war,' he said and warned the government that it should bear all the consequences.

Pointing to the situation in Feni, BNP MP Mosarrif Hossain said Joynal Hajari had publicly declared that there is no need of police in Feni and he will perform the responsibility of picking up leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations and conduct their trial in his court.

Hajari, an MP of the ruling party, was described as the godfather of the terrorists of Feni where at least 20 BNP activists were killed since the Awami League came to power in 1996, said Mosarrif Hossain.

Mosarrif Hossain, who is also convener of Feni district, BNP, said terrorists not only resorted to attack and harassment on BNP activists but also on their relatives and innocent people.

## WTO ministerial meet begins in Geneva

A three-day ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Commemoration ceremony of 50 years of Multilateral Trading System (MTS) opened in Geneva yesterday, reports UNB.

This is the second ministerial meeting after the establishment of the WTO in 1995. The last one was held at Singapore in December 1996.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Tascal Couchequin, Federal Council in charge of Trade of Switzerland.

Delegations led by Commerce Ministers of 132 member countries of WTO, observer, delegations, International Organisations, NGOs and others joined the ceremony.

Ambassador John Weekes of Canada in his capacity as the

Chairman of WTO General Council and Director General of WTO Renato Ruggiero addressed the function.

BSS adds, an eight-member Bangladesh delegation led by Tofael Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries, participated in the opening ceremony.

On arrival in Geneva Tofael participated in a meeting of the commerce ministers of SAARC countries.

The SAARC ministers decided to coordinate their activities in the ministerial meeting with a view to forging a common stand on matters of mutual interest relating to trade in the region, as well as globally.

The date of the conference has also been shifted to May 28 from May 22, the sources concerned said.

The date was shifted because the work on the huge pandal and the latrines was more than halfway through. Workers at the site said yesterday that it took them at least a week to complete the job. They said it would take them more than two days to dismantle the structure.

Many asked to know how much money had been wasted in the process and what measures have been taken to restore the garden after the structures will be removed.

## Minor girl raped in Bandarban

From Page 1  
 BANDARBAN, May 18: An 11-year-old girl was violated at a village in Lama thana here today, reports UNB.

Police and hospital sources said the girl, a class three student of Ballachar government primary school, was raped allegedly by Abul Kashem, 24, of Khatimkh village. She was going to school when Kashem intercepted and violated her.

Local people, later, rescued the girl and sent her to Sadar hospital in a critical condition.

They also nabbed Kashem and handed him over to the Lama police.

A case under Women and Children Repression Prevention Act was filed with Lama police.

## Shazneen

From Page 1  
 man's residence, have already given a judicial statement before a magistrate confessing that he killed Shazneen.

However, a CID official said confession of one person could not establish a guilt. It was one of the many evidences. There could be something more in it (the murder case), the official added.

CID sources said the investigators were verifying Shahid's confessional statement and other statements which they recorded during interrogation of eight other accused persons.

The question of involvement of more than one person in the killing case as it was not so easy to stab a young girl to death in the way Shazneen was murdered, a CID official said.

## Press Council's advice not to publish names of rape victims

Bangladesh Press Council Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan yesterday advised newspapers not to publish the names and identities of the violated women and children while making such reports, reports BSS.

In a statement, Justice Khan referred to some recent press reports and said for this, the life of the victims became more unbearable which was not desirable at all.

## Clinton, Blair urge Sharif not to conduct N-test

LONDON, May 18: Calling India's nuclear test 'a very sad thing,' President Clinton said today he hopes to persuade leaders of Pakistan to avoid a response that triggers widespread nuclear proliferation. 'We've got to find a way out of this,' he said, reports AP.

He and British Prime Minister Tony Blair made a 30-minute call together to Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to set out the case for not testing a nuclear device. White House spokesman Mike McCurry said before the President left for Geneva.

The President and Blair set out the case for not testing a nuclear device,' McCurry said. 'They said a decision not to test would be strongly supported by the international community.'

McCurry said that Sharif 'made no commitments' but explained the difficulties he faces in making the decision.

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## Venue shifted

From Page 1  
 pected 15,000 guests for the half-day event.

Official sources said that following the report, the Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned to shift the venue 'immediately.' An emergency meeting of the Deputy Commissioner, Dhaka, Chief Engineer of LGED, Director of Public Health Engineering Department and other LGRD Ministry officials then decided to shift the venue.

The date of the conference has also been shifted to May 28 from May 22, the sources concerned said.

The date was shifted because the work on the huge pandal and the latrines was more than halfway through. Workers at the site said yesterday that it took them at least a week to complete the job. They said it would take them more than two days to dismantle the structure.

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## CMC student

From Page 1  
 year's HSC examination. He was coming by the bus from the campus to attend his classes.

As news of Salehin's death spread, all the classes of Chittagong Medical College were suspended today to mourn his death and protest the killing. A tense situation was prevailing in the college campus.

Students of Chittagong University also boycotted classes after the incident.

Meanwhile, the authorities of Chittagong University have suspended all classes of the university for three days from tomorrow to ward off any untoward incident following the killing of Salehin.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Emergency Committee representing all the Deans of University with Acting Registrar Mahbubul Huq presiding.

It was also decided in the meeting that police will conduct search operation in the student dormitories every evening so that the outsiders could not stay there.

The Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA) today expressed profound shock at the killing of Salehin.

In a statement, Prof Mohammad Shah Alam and Prof Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury, acting President and General Secretary respectively of the CUTA conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved family.

Sharif that 'Pakistan might emerge stronger' by avoiding a resumption of nuclear tests.

But in Islamabad, Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub told the Associated Press Pakistan would proceed with a test. 'It's a matter of when, not if, Pakistan will test,' he said.

At a news conference, Clinton urged India to sign a global test-ban treaty, presiding that step would ease tensions.

'I do not want to see us slip back. We were on the right track as a world and I don't want to see us slip back,' the President said.

Meanwhile, former President Jimmy Carter criticised the Clinton administration's response to India's nuclear tests.

## Tk 7 lakh gold chains seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent  
 Customs officials at the Zia International Airport recovered 1,433 grams of gold chains worth about Tk 6.70 lakh from a female passenger of a Biman flight from Abu Dhabi yesterday morning.

A Customs surveillance team intercepted the woman when she was approaching towards the green channel after arrival at 5.22 am aboard the BG-024 flight, said a press release.

Customs men, on suspicion, scanned the luggage of the passenger and asked her whether she had any gold bar or ornaments. As the woman replied in the negative, the Customs officials searched her body and recovered the gold chains hidden in three small pouches wrapped with scotch tape.

## Goods stolen from Uttara Motors office : one held

By Staff Correspondent  
 Share certificates, Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs), electronic goods and Tk 17.7 thousand in cash were stolen from the head office of Uttara Motors Ltd at city's Dilkusha commercial area late Sunday night.

Police arrested Md Dulal, a hired security guard of the office, in this connection.

Dulal, a guard from Watch and Watch security company, was found unconscious when the staff came to the Dilkusha office at about 9 am yesterday. They also noticed that the office rooms were ransacked, said a press release of Uttara Motors Ltd yesterday.

The business house suspected involvement of Delwar Hossain, another guard of the security company, in the theft. Delwar's duty schedule at Uttara Motors Ltd was from 10 pm Sunday to 8 am Monday. However, he was absconding till last night.

Dulal told police that he became unconscious after Delwar fed him bread and banana at about 9 pm Sunday. Delwar reportedly came to the Uttara Motors office about an hour before his duty was scheduled.

Motijheel police recovered some iron rods used to break the vaults, ironshelves and drawers.

## President's options

From Page 1  
 Money Bills.

We have not had the chance to examine all the thousands of amendments that the BNP had tabled on these Bills. But to the best of our knowledge the question as to why these Bills were tabled as Money Bills was never raised in those proposed amendments.

Articles 81(1) and 81(2) clearly specifies what can and what cannot be introduced as Money Bills. So if the Opposition MPs had understood the implication of it all, they could have very rightly raised questions in the parliament as to the legitimacy of these Bills being introduced as Money Bills. Law requires that before introducing Money Bills, prior permission of the President needs to be taken. We have confirmed that such permissions were obtained.

Having missed its opportunity to raise a legitimate issue inside the parliament the opposition's current expectation that the President can do something is unrealistic. It was the job of the opposition, which it failed to perform. Regardless of the President's views his hands are definitely tied. Within the framework of the law he has no option but to give assent to these Bills within the stipulated time.

We think all sides need to clearly understand the above Constitutional provisions so that the President is not misunderstood either by the opposition or anybody opposed to the CHT Bills.

## ATTENTION

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