

Implement PM's pledge, BCS coordination body demands

By Special Correspondent
The BCS Coordination Committee has expressed "strong resentment" at what it said the government's failure to implement the Prime Minister's pledge made on January 5, "to remove intra-cadre disparities, promotions at the levels of deputy secretary and above and upgradation of 321 posts in different tiers of administrative cadres."

A meeting of the central executive council of the coordination committee on Thursday reiterated its demand for implementation of the PM's See Page 12 Col 1

Lankan FM due today

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Lakshman Kadirgamar arrives in Dhaka tonight to invite Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina to attend the 10th SAARC summit in Colombo, reports UNB.

Kadirgamar is expected to call on the Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina tomorrow and discuss matters relating to the SAARC.

He will hand over a letter of formal invitation from Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumartunga to Sheikh Hasina. Kadirgamar will also call on Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad.

Before leaving for New Delhi on Sunday night, the Lankan Foreign Minister is expected to hold a press conference at the airport.

Prof Mahmud to address BUET teachers tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
Prof Iqbal Mahmud, who resigned as Vice Chancellor of BUET on May 4, will address the teachers of the university tomorrow to persuade them to resume work, according to official sources.

The teachers of BUET are on an indefinite strike since May 5 at the call of the BUET Teachers Association.

"I have decided to address the teachers on Sunday with an aim to restore normal academic life in the BUET," Prof Mahmud told The Daily Star last night.

Meanwhile, the BUET Teachers Association at a general See Page 12 Col 5

Misappropriation Ex-treasurer of Nat'l Shooting Fed arrested

By Staff Correspondent
A former treasurer of National Shooting Federation was arrested yesterday on charge of misappropriation of fund.

Nuruzzaman Munna was arrested yesterday morning following a case filed with Gulshan thana by Afzal Karim, the general secretary of the federation on May 28, police said.

Earlier, Mir Daulat Hossain, a former general secretary of the federation was arrested on Thursday on charge of possessing illegal arms.

DU alumni convention today

By Staff Correspondent
The Dhaka University Alumni Convention '98 will be held at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) today.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the day-long programme at 10 am.

Inside Today

Article

Planned Development, Painful failures

Column : Beneath the Surface
by Abdul Bayes
Page 4

Business

Drug traders post agents at RMCH for business
Page 8

Supplement

A two-page supplement on National Day of Sweden, on pages 6 & 7



Trespass into ZIA remains a regular feature

By Staff Correspondent

People were seen scaling the fence of Zia International Airport (ZIA) unhindered and moving freely in the airport, near Jashimuddin Avenue of Uttara Sector-4. Many others were seen fishing in the low lying areas of ZIA near the runway. Local people said the airport's security fence was not properly erected. They said a section of people were regularly trespassing into the airport area although signboards were put up here and there warning of prosecution. "Police sometimes patrol the area but these people know when they come and keep hiding," said the owner of tea stall near Jashimuddin Road. In May last year, a young man sneaked into the wheel carriage of an aircraft bound for Riyadh. He was found dead when the plane landed there.

Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara lake area

Many bldg plans approved between '95 & '97 cancelled

By Morshed Ali Khan

Rajuk has cancelled 'several' building plans in Gulshan-Banani and Baridhara lake area, approved by it between 1995 and 1997. Rajuk officials said.

They however did not disclose number of plans cancelled.

A top official of Rajuk's Authorised Section however said that at least 21 of those approved plans "bore evidence of irregularities during the process of allocation and plan approval." He refused to say whether all of those were cancelled.

Rajuk's move to identify irregularities in plot allocation and approval of building plans came following a series of reports in The Daily Star recently on indiscriminate filling up of the lake for residential plots secretly.

When asked how those plots

were allotted and plans approved despite the irregularities, a Rajuk official admitted "manipulation by top officials" but blamed the then government for "influencing and pressuring".

Rajuk sources said that most of these "influential" beneficiaries had earlier obtained plots through Rajuk's "secret allocation". "But Rajuk failed to hand over those plots because, in most cases, the lands had already been grabbed by a well organised and well informed gang operating inside the Rajuk," said the official.

As those "desperate" beneficiaries started to hammer Rajuk's top men for plots, it then resorted to demarcate whatever open space and lake areas were available. "The situation was such that the then Rajuk Chairman was even seen allot-

ting plots from a map on his table, with the 'beneficiaries' sitting around him," disclosed a source explaining how the lake and its green space was sold out.

The most recent blow to Rajuk's plan approval procedure came over the last six months. The Authorised Section, after receiving an application for plan approval, is supposed to check various aspects including documents of the land and its use as per the Master Plan, whether the area is commercial, residential, open space and or lake. After verification, the plan goes to the Building Construction Committee (BCC) for final approval. The BCC consists of an architect, an Authorised Officer and a Town Planner and is headed by the Rajuk's Member Planning.

But for the last six months See Page 12 Col 1

Outside mediation on Kashmir rejected

Delhi rules out any unilateral concessions over its N-plan

NEW DELHI, June 5: New Delhi, facing appeals from the five nuclear powers for restraint following its nuclear tests, today defiantly ruled out unilateral concessions over its nuclear programme or accepting outside mediation on its Kashmir dispute with Pakistan, reports AFP.

A statement from the foreign ministry said India's tests last month, which sparked a tit-for-tat response in neighbouring Pakistan, said it backed world-wide nuclear disarmament.

It also rejected outside mediation over Kashmir, which has caused two wars between India and Pakistan.

It headed existing nuclear treaties as "deeply flawed and discriminatory".

On Kashmir it said "we reiterate once again that there is no room for any outside involvement of any nature whatsoever in this process."

Earlier Pakistan today

voiced "satisfaction" over the meeting of five major powers in Geneva, saying it showed the global community recognised the urgency in addressing the security crisis in South Asia.

"We note with satisfaction" that the meeting adopted a "comprehensive approach" to peace and security in South Asia and addressed "not only the non-proliferation issue but also the threat to peace and security" a Foreign Office spokesman said.

The five permanent members of the UN Security Council also stressed "the need for a solution of the core issue of

Jammu and Kashmir," he added.

Supporting resumption of bilateral talks with India for resolution of outstanding issues including Kashmir, the spokesman said such a dialogue "needs to be supplemented by a broader multilateral process to promote durable peace in South Asia."

Foreign ministers of the United States, Britain, China, Russia and France after an emergency session on Thursday called on India and Pakistan to stop nuclear testing and pledge to cooperate closely to prevent a nuclear arms race in South Asia.

The ministers condemning five nuclear tests by India and six similar explosions by Pakistan last month committed to "bolster the non-proliferation regime, and to encourage reconciliation and peaceful resolution of differences between India and Pakistan."

See Page 12 Col 8

Hectic preparations in Ctg Long marchers to get food, accommodation

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 5: The Chittagong chapter of BNP has started a hectic campaign here to drum up support for its long march towards the Chittagong Hill Tracts to protest the CHT accord, party sources said.

"We are expecting a gathering of more than one lakh people in front of Chittagong circuit house in the morning of June 10 to head for Khagrachhari hill district," said Mir Md Nasiruddin, president of Chittagong city committee of BNP.

He said that mass-contacts in all the wards of the city and surrounding thanas had already been initiated to encourage the people to join the long march.

Nasiruddin said all preparations are underway to receive BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia and long marchers from Dhaka on June 9.

"We have booked a number of halls, community centres, rest houses and hotels to provide food and accommodation to about 60 thousand long marchers from Dhaka." The long marchers will have an overnight stay in the port city on June 9.

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See Page 12 Col 1

Vehicles emitting 'black smoke' Offenders to face tough action

By Shehab Ahmed

The authorities will launch a drive today against motorised vehicles emitting 'black smoke,' polluting air in the city.

"This time we are going to be tough against the offenders," Director General of the Department of Environment A R Khan told The Daily Star.

He said the offenders would be given warning stickers, a third sticker would be counted as 'marching order,' preventing the vehicles from plying on the streets again.

Besides the smoke belching vehicles, the drivers who use loud horns would also be prosecuted.

So long fines were imposed but it proved ineffective, he pointed out.

Besides DOE personnel carrying out checks at different points in the city, there would be a mobile team with smoke detectors.

The city has been experiencing a severe problem of air pollution, the main offenders being autorickshaws, which use a harmful cocktail of leaded petrol and engine oil.

The two-stroke autorickshaws number about 30,000 in the city.

The government recently decided to phase out those by re-

ducing road permits for three-wheelers using inefficient engines.

While India and Nepal have phased out the models based on 'fifties' technology, these are still being imported from India by Bangladesh. The old models have to use 'air cleaning filter' in India.

A strong lobby recently managed to bend rules for importing 5,000 autorickshaws. But the move had been thwarted, sources concerned

Charge-sheet in Rubi murder case within a week

By Staff Correspondent

The Detective Branch of police is likely to submit the charge-sheet in Rubi murder case within a week, police sources said last night.

Mother of a three-year-old girl, Rubina Akhter alias Rubi was stabbed to death allegedly by a domestic servant at her flat at Shantinagar in the morning of May 29.

The DB police so far arrested four persons, including the See Page 12 Col 5

said.

A R Khan mentioned that the government has decided to phase out autorickshaws and encourage plying of more buses on the city streets. At least 200 double-decker buses will be put on the city streets to help commuters and improve the quality of air.

Besides autorickshaws, trucks and buses with dilapidated and inefficient engines are also contributing to air See Page 12 Col 7

Mystery shrouds death of 2 infants

By Staff Correspondent

Mystery still shrouds the death of two infants, both aged about two months at a slum adjacent to Azimpur Colony in the city on Thursday.

The infants were identified as Pinky and Raza.

After preliminary investigation till yesterday, police suspected that the babies were killed by jacksals.

An official of Lalbagh police said last night that considering the type of injury on Pinky's body and the location of the See Page 12 Col 4

'Rajuk to stop filling lake at Uttara'

The existing status of the lake in Uttara model town will be maintained at any cost to ensure a better environment in the area, Rajuk Chairman M Azizul Haq said yesterday, reports BSS.

Talking to the residents of Uttara at the office of Uttara Sector 5 Welfare Association, the chairman said a committee has already been formed headed by an Executive Engineer for this purpose.

He said Rajuk would stop filling the lake and efforts would be taken to recover the See Page 12 Col 4

AL activist shot dead at Khulna

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 5: An Awami League activist was gunned down allegedly by two of his associates at 4, Basupara Road in the town at about noon today.

The deceased was identified as Rezaul Islam Raju, 22.

He was rushed to Khulna Medical College Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

According to eyewitnesses, Raju was shot from point blank range when he was gossiping at a tea stall near his residence.

The alleged killers were See Page 12 Col 5

Khokon murder: Case against 5, none arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Police could not arrest anyone till yesterday in connection with the murder of Khokon allegedly by extortionists at Malibagh in the city on Thursday.

Khokon's elder brother Syed Bashirul Haq lodged a case with Ramna thana accusing five people in the killing, police sources said.

An official at Ramna thana said at least three of the accused were wanted in various criminal cases with different thanas in the city. He, however, declined to give the names of the FIR-named accused.

Syed Shafiqul Haq alias Khokon, 28, was shot dead by a gang of six.

Police suspected that See Page 12 Col 3

8 killed, 5 injured in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least eight persons were killed and five others injured in road accidents in Kushtia, Rajshahi and Chittagong yesterday.

Of them, three persons were killed in Kushtia, three in Rajshahi and two in Chittagong.

Our correspondent from Kushtia reports: Three people were killed and three others critically injured when a truck tried to overtake two others on Kushtia-Jhenidah road near LGED office yesterday.

The truck hit a rickshaw van from behind and its passengers and driver were killed. They were identified as Alea Parveen, 20, Beloka Begum, 65, and

Karam Ali, 32, the van driver.

The three injured persons — Aled Ali, 28, Mizanur Rahman, 20, and Babu, 34 — were admitted to Kushtia General Hospital. Their condition was stated to be critical.

Police seized two trucks but the drivers managed to flee. Police also sent the bodies to Kushtia General Hospital for autopsy.

Our Rajshahi correspondent add: Three persons were killed when a truck carrying 180 bags of sugar overturned and fell into a roadside ditch near Atghori square under Bagha thana yesterday morning.

See Page 12 Col 1

Monsoon clouds only a few days away

By Special Correspondent

The monsoon clouds are on way to Bangladesh, remaining only a few days away, promising rains that would bring a pleasant end to the hot and humid weather, meteorologists said.

Dark clouds bearing huge rains are currently hanging over the North-East Bay.

"These were making a steady march towards Bangladesh coast but halted their advance suddenly. But we are expecting a normal monsoon this season", Director of Meteorology Department Sajedur Rahman told The Daily Star yesterday.

He said he is making the prediction on the basis of any abnormalities in the atmospheric circulation over the Indian Ocean and in northern hemisphere.

See Page 12 Col 4

France '98 Countdown 4 Days Away

Diego's trip to France uncertain

BUENOS AIRES, June 5: For 12 years he was the star attraction of the World Cup. Now retired and facing a series of legal setbacks, Diego Maradona has yet to decide if he will travel to France or in what capacity, reports AP.

"This is not the best time for Diego," his manager Guillermo Coppola said Wednesday. "It's the first World Cup in a long time that he won't be playing and he is sad."

Coppola said the former captain of the Argentine national team was working through a See Page 12 Col 5

Shazneen murder Shoni Ram on fresh remand

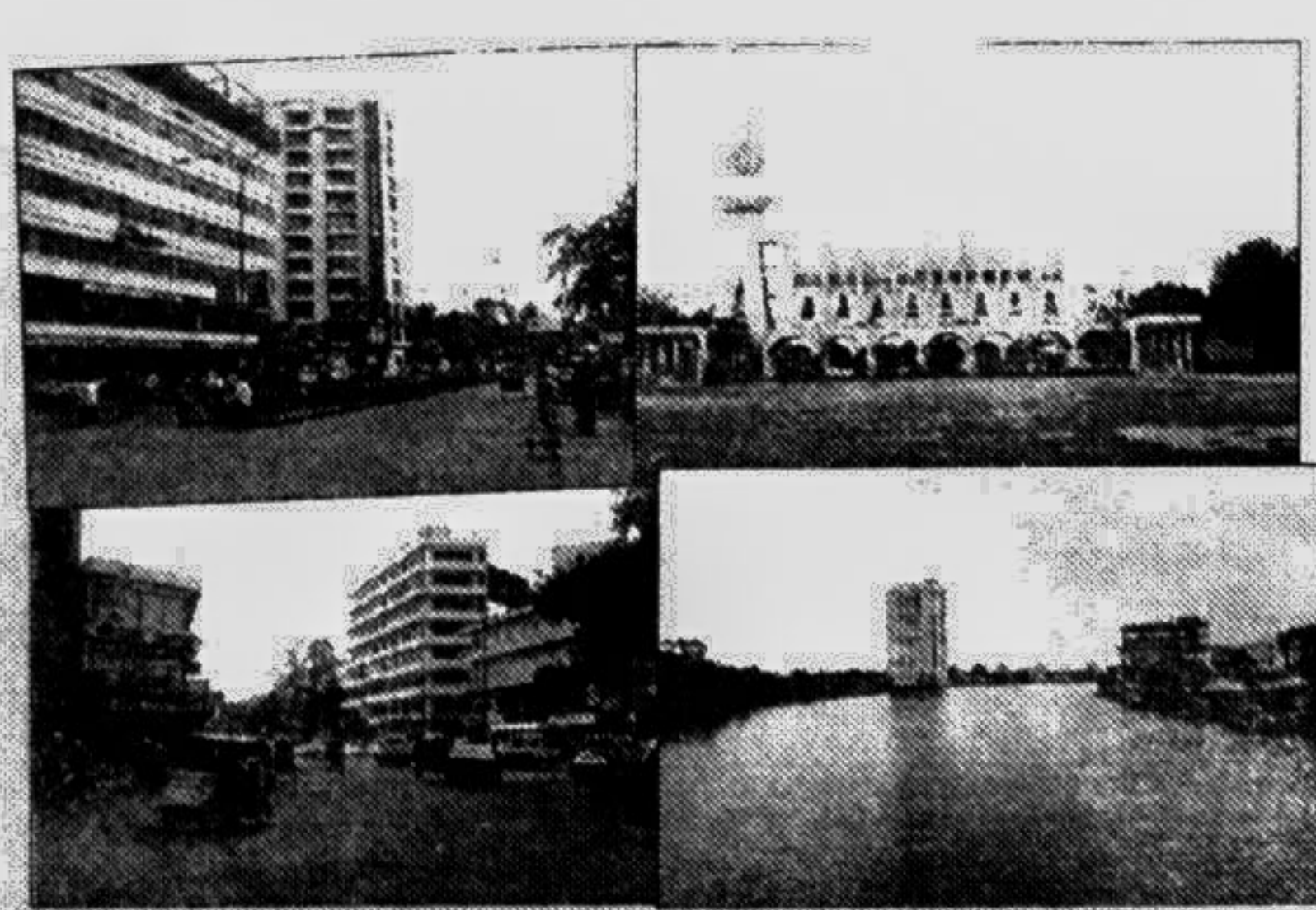
By Staff Correspondent

Carpenter Shoni Ram was placed on a fresh one-day remand yesterday in connection with the Shazneen murder in Gulshan on April 23.

CID produced him before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court in the afternoon praying for three days' remand.

A bail petition was moved on behalf of Shoni Ram. The court rejected the bail prayer and See Page 12 Col 7

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