

# The Daily Star



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## Annan's envoy in city, hands over message to PM today

UN Secretary General's special envoy Alvaro de Soto arrived in Dhaka yesterday to hand over a personal message of Kofi Annan to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, reports UNB.

The envoy will hand over the message to Sheikh Hasina today and discuss with her the possibility of a visit by the UN Secretary General to the region.

The visiting envoy had nearly a 45-minute meeting with Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad at State Guest House "Meghna" in the afternoon on the post-nuclear test situation in the region.

During the meeting, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's See Page 12 Col 8

## Clinton, Jiang to talk regional stability rocked by N-tests

### Beijing summit today

BEIJING, June 26: US President Bill Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin, in a summit heavy on symbolism, are looking to achieve some substance, too, reports AP.

Although US officials have publicly sought to hold down expectations for dramatic agreements, the United States is pressing China to take more measures to halt the spread of missile technology and nuclear, chemical and biological weapons — from the Indian Subcontinent to the Korean Peninsula. It's part of a "constructive strategic partnership" the two leaders say they want.

"China will either be part of

the problem or part of the solution," Clinton said this week, laying the ground for tomorrow's summit.

"I have come to China to strengthen the ties between our two nations," Clinton declared before flying to Beijing from Xi'an tonight.

For Jiang's part, he said China under his leadership will work more closely with the United States despite deep differences over human rights, illustrated with a roundup of dis-

sidents at the outset of Clinton's visit. Clinton aides said the President would press the matter at the summit.

"I think all peace-loving countries should work together, including the United States and China," Jiang said ahead of the meeting.

Jiang went to Washington last October, ending the diplomatic isolation that began in the wake of the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown on pro-democracy demonstrators.

Now Clinton, the first American President to visit China since the crackdown will be welcomed on the edge of Tiananmen Square outside the Great Hall of the People, where the Chinese greet their foreign visitors. Human rights groups and many dissidents have criticized Clinton for agreeing to be received at Tiananmen, but the President said it was simply a matter of protocol and he promised to speak out on human rights frequently while here, including at a church and at Beijing University.

Indeed, the President scolded Chinese authorities today for See Page 12 Col 1

## Rohingya repatriation remains stalled UNHCR may have to shut camps for fund shortage

By Reaz Ahmad

Uncertainty looms large over resumption of the long-stalled Rohingya repatriation from Bangladesh which has been hosting the refugees for some seven years now.

This has made the Dhaka office of UNHCR concerned over its financial capability to run the two remaining camps in Cox's Bazar, accommodating 21,661 refugees, sources said.

Some 2.5 lakh Rohingyas from Arakan in Myanmar had crossed into Bangladesh in

1991 and 1992 to escape persecution by the military junta.

After repatriation of over two lakh Rohingyas, the process came to a halt in June last year amid violent protests by the refugees.

During the visit of Myanmar Foreign Minister U Ohn Gya in mid April it was agreed that Myanmar would take immediate steps to take back all of its nationals but there has been no development.

Officials in Dhaka said they

are awaiting for a date from Myanmar for resumption of repatriation. On June 24 last replying to a question in the parliament Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad could not give a date for refugee repatriation but, expected that the process would start immediately.

Talking to The Daily Star recently, Wilbert von Howel, Resident Mission Chief of UNHCR said both the channels — the Bangladesh government See Page 12 Col 4

## De Soto drops Delhi visit

NEW DELHI, June 26: A United Nations peace envoy has dropped New Delhi from his itinerary, apparently because Indian officials feared he would try to mediate in their territorial dispute with neighbouring Pakistan, news reports said today, according to AP.

Alvaro de Soto flew into Dhaka, capital of Bangladesh tonight. He will then go to Pakistan, but he "is not going to India as New Delhi had indicated that it is not ready to receive him," Press Trust of India news agency quoted UN spokesman Fred Eckhard as saying in New York.

PTI quoted Indian Foreign Ministry officials here as saying India would welcome de Soto only to discuss global nuclear disarmament.

"There is no scope for third-party involvement of any nature in respect of India's relations with Pakistan. India-Pakistan issues are purely bilateral, to be resolved through bilateral dialogue," K C Singh, the Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman, told reporters in New Delhi yesterday.



Argentinian defender Hector Pineda scoring a goal against Croatia at Parc Lescure stadium in Bordeaux during the Soccer World Cup Group H match yesterday. —AFP photo

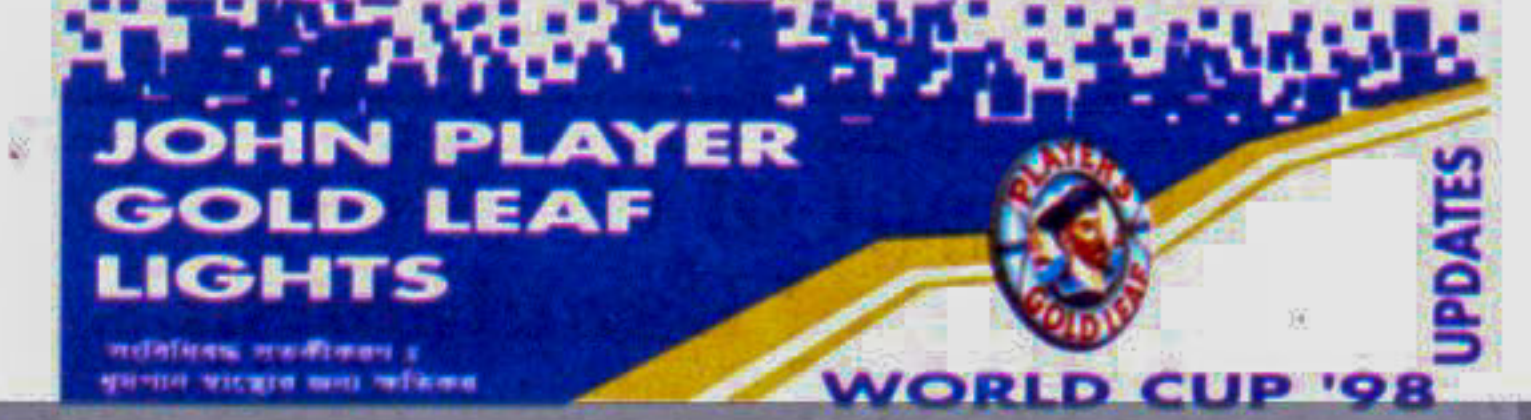
## Argentina keep clean slate

BORDEAUX (France), June 26: Argentina kept a perfect World Cup record today, beating Croatia 1-0 to win Group H and its stifling defence remained the only one not to concede a single goal in the first round, reports AP.

On top of that, a defender made the difference up front too.

In the 36th minute, a deep pass from Daniel Ortega was deflected into the path of defender Hector Pineda on the left, and with the Croatian defence all over the place, Pineda took his time to put the ball past Drazen Ladic.

The best chance in the lack-luster Croatian performance



came in the 63rd minute when substitute Goran Vlaovic unleashed a 27-meter drive that crashed onto the post, with Carlos Roa well beaten.

For most of the match it was Argentina that provided the action.

On the stroke of half time Marcelo Gallardo almost added a second, when he hit a freekick into the wall and was allowed to line up the rebound from 12 meters, forcing a great save from Ladic.

In the 71st minute, defender Roberto Ayala, who had a great game, slalomed through the Croatian defence and his curl-

ing right-foot shot just went the wrong side of the post.

Gabriel Batistuta, the co-top scorer in the competition with four goals had a mediocre game, easily held in control by the Croatian defence.

At the other end, Croatia's Davor Suker was limited to a long-range header, but little else.

The Argentines were quicker of the ball and it showed after the goal, with Croatia being forced to commit several fouls to keep the South Americans at bay.

In the 21st minute, Croatian defender Slaven Bilic was given a yellow card for pulling down Batistuta close to the penalty area.

Two minutes later, Ortega committed a similar foul in the midfield area on his marker Dario Simic and Moroccan referee Said Belqula showed him yellow for shoving.

Argentina's Ayala then got a yellow card for a late tackle on Aljosa Asanovic in the 35th minute.

And in the 44th minute, Zvonimir Soldo got one for a See Page 12 Col 7

## Jamaica's first-ever victory

LYON (France), June 26: The Reggae Boyz got their first-ever World Cup victory today, with Theodore Whitmore scoring twice to give Jamaica a 2-1 victory over Japan, reports AP.

In a farewell battle of tournament newcomers already eliminated from second-round contention, Whitmore scored in the 40th and 54th minutes in the first World Cup victory by a Caribbean nation since Cuba beat Romania 2-1 in 1938, also in France.

The loss ended a hard-luck tournament for Japan, which proved in all three games that it can do everything except score. Once again, the Japanese play on defence and in midfield was competent and sometimes masterful, but the 2002 Cup co-hosts lacked the quality striker who could finish off the chances and left France 98 with only one goal — Masashi Nakayama's strike in the 74th minute.

Whitmore opened the scoring by capitalizing when teammate Stephen Malcolm and Japanese defender Yutaka Akita collided while trying to play the ball in the penalty area. Whitmore then drove his 12-meter shot past defender Naoki Soma and to the right of goalkeeper Yoshikatsu See Page 12 Col 7

## Talks with Delhi Monday Transit & other issues may be discussed

By M Anwarul Haq

Bangladesh and India would review the entire gamut of bilateral relations, touching upon political, economic, transit and security issues during the forthcoming Foreign Secretary-level talks in Dhaka on Monday.

This would be the first secretary-level meeting after the new BJP government took office in New Delhi.

The Bangladesh side at the talks would be led by Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman and the Indian side by External Affairs Secretary K Raghunath, who arrives in the city tomorrow. Incidentally, Raghunath is well-versed in Bangladesh affairs having served as his country's envoy to Dhaka.

At the talks, the two sides are expected to discuss the likely dates for the next meetings of Joint Rivers Commission (JRC), Joint Economic Commission (JEC) and Joint Working Group (JWG).

Diplomatic sources said, the issue of transit is expected to get priority at the meeting. India has already sent a proposal to

Bangladesh for signing an umbrella agreement on transit routes.

Delhi suggested opening of transit routes for passenger buses as well as loaded trucks, to be mutually agreed upon. However, Dhaka is still learnt to be maintaining its earlier position, taken at a cabinet meeting of allowing only passenger buses on one route only — Dhaka-Calcutta — Ajmer through Daulatdia and Jessore.

Another issue that is likely to dominate the talks is the problem of cross-border insurgency, terrorism and elimination of smuggling.

Delhi is also likely to raise the issue of 'flow of migrants,' a charge Dhaka consistently denies.

An official said the talks would be very 'conclusive and all pervasive' because of the fact that a new government has been installed in India. The present Indian government is very active in reviewing the country's traditional foreign policy and See Page 12 Col 3

## Loadshedding grips Ctg city again

CHITTAGONG, June 26: The port city was gripped by loadshedding again today as power generation by Shikabaha barge mounted power plant and unit-1 of Raozan power plant came to a halt, reports UNB.

PDB sources said Shikabaha power plant became inoperative due to mechanical fault on midnight Thursday night.

Power generation at unit-1 of Raozan power plant was disrupted again only 6 hours after it went into production on Thursday. Both units of Raozan plant became inoperative when the national grid failed on June 20. Unit-2 resumed power generation on June 22.

## Howrah gangrape Court orders Rs 10 lakh compensation to victim

NEW DELHI, June 26: The Calcutta High Court today awarded an exemplary compensation of Rs ten lakh to a Bangladeshi woman who was a victim of gangrape at Howrah Railway Station in Calcutta in February last, reports BSS.

Reports from Calcutta said that two-member bench of the High Court asked the General Manager of the Eastern Railway to pay the compensation to the Bangladeshi woman.

Monetary compensation would not restore the loss suffered by the victim, yet it had no other way to redress the grievance, the court observed in its judgement.

According to the prosecution, the victim, who hails from Comilla, while trying to get a confirmed ticket for Ajmeer was gangraped by six persons, including five employees of the Indian Railway.

Responding to a public interest litigation filed by advocate Chandrima Das, the court ordered the compensation and asked the West Bengal government to ensure the presence of the victim before the court whenever required during the trial of the case pending before the Calcutta Metropolitan Magistrate Court.

All the accused are now in judicial custody.

## Nine killed in three road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

At least nine people were killed and two others injured in road accidents in Sirajganj, Dhaka and Feni yesterday.

Of them, four were killed in Sirajganj, three in Dhaka and two in Feni.

UNB reports: At least four people were killed and an elderly woman was injured in separate road accidents on the Bangabandhu Bridge approach roads yesterday.

Rezia Begum, 25, and her

minor son Rasel, 3, died on the spot and her mother Bahatan Nesa, 58, was critically injured when a Bogra-bound bus hit a rickshaw van at Sadanandapur crossing western side of the bridge at about 11 am.

The victims were travelling by the van to visit the bridge.

Police seized the bus, but its driver managed to flee away.

Two unidentified pedestrians were run over by a Dhaka-bound bus at the eastern side of the bridge in Bhuapur thana at about 11:30 am.

Three persons including a minor boy were killed in road accidents in different parts of the city yesterday, police and hospital sources said.

Jahangir, 50, of Malibagh Chowdhuripara died on the spot when he was run over by a speeding truck in the morning at the Khilgaon railgate.

Abdul Mannan, 60, of Khilgaon, Taltala was hit by a microbus at Khilgaon bazar in the morning. He was rushed to DMCH when he succumbed to injuries.

In another accident, Rezaul, 8, son of Khalilur Rahman of Agargaon slum, crushed under the wheels of a speeding truck while crossing the road in the See Page 12 Col 4

## Leaflet: Walking over Bangabandhu Bridge forbidden

By Staff Correspondent

People continued to throng the Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge to see it despite an appeal by the authorities concerned to follow certain restrictions for safety, site officials said yesterday.

Leaflets were distributed in bazars, public places and at the bridge site by the authorities yesterday morning, urging people to follow certain restrictions, the sources said.

The leaflets, dated June 26, said: Walking over the bridge and its railway track is forbidden. See Page 12 Col 7

## Microcredit Summit Council meet begins in NY

Bangladesh has reaffirmed its pledge to work for reaching 100 million of the world's poorest families, especially women of those families, with credit for self-employment and other financial and business services by the year 2005, reports UNB.

The goal was adopted at the Microcredit Summit held in Washington February 2-4 this year with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as Co-Chairperson.

Bangladesh's commitment was reaffirmed by Hasina in a message sent to the opening session of the Microcredit Summit Council Meeting held in New York on Thursday. The council meeting will continue till today.

See Page 12 Col 8

## 2 brothers get 22-yr RI each for keeping arms

CHITTAGONG, June 25: A court here on Wednesday sentenced two brothers to 22 years rigorous imprisonment (RI) each for possessing illegal arms, reports UNB.

The convicted are Sanjib Kumar Dey and Priyot Kumar Dey of Satkania thana.

The prosecution in brief, was that police, acting on a tip-off, raided their house and recovered huge arms and ammunition from their possession on May 13, 1993.

After examining the witnesses and records, the sixth Additional District and Sessions Judge Ali Mansur awarded the punishment.

## Knock-out round from today

Sports Reporter

The knock-out second round phase of France World Cup begins today.

With the conclusion of forty-eight matches of the first round last night, sixteen of the thirty-two starters would have qualified for the pre-quarters.

Barring the last match of group G between England and Colombia which will decide the fate of the two teams, the fifteen other second rounders are as See Page 12 Col 4



Today's matches

Round 2

Italy vs Norway, 8:30 pm BST

Brazil vs Chile, 1:00 am BST

## New constructions in Uttara block waste water outlet

By Morshed Ali Khan

The only outlet for waste water from sectors-4 and 6 and part of sectors-1 and 2 in Rajuk's Uttara Model Town has been blocked by new constructions and earth filling in Azampur area along the rail line.

The encroachment upon the small 'canal' that used to discharge the area's waste water into the river Turag, is causing water-logging at the extreme end of Shaista Khan Avenue, Uttara residents said the situation further deteriorates with the clogging of the storm sewer due to rains.

The water logged part of Shaista Khan Avenue emits foul odour in the area posing serious health hazards. More than five thousand families live in sectors-4 and 6 alone, Uttara Kalyan Samity sources said.

When contacted Rajuk officials said they were aware of the problem but did not yet take

any step to solve it.

Sources in Dhaka WASA's sewerage section said the entire area on the eastern side of Myensingh Road passing through the model town now does not have any outlet whatsoever for waste water.

When the problem surfaced, WASA proposed to the government in 1993 to immediately take measures to preserve the 'borough pits' (strip of low lying area created when the embankment was made for the rail line) to make an outlet for waste water from the locality. WASA's project proposal was rejected by the ECNEC with the recommendation that a donor should be found to do the job. WASA sources said.

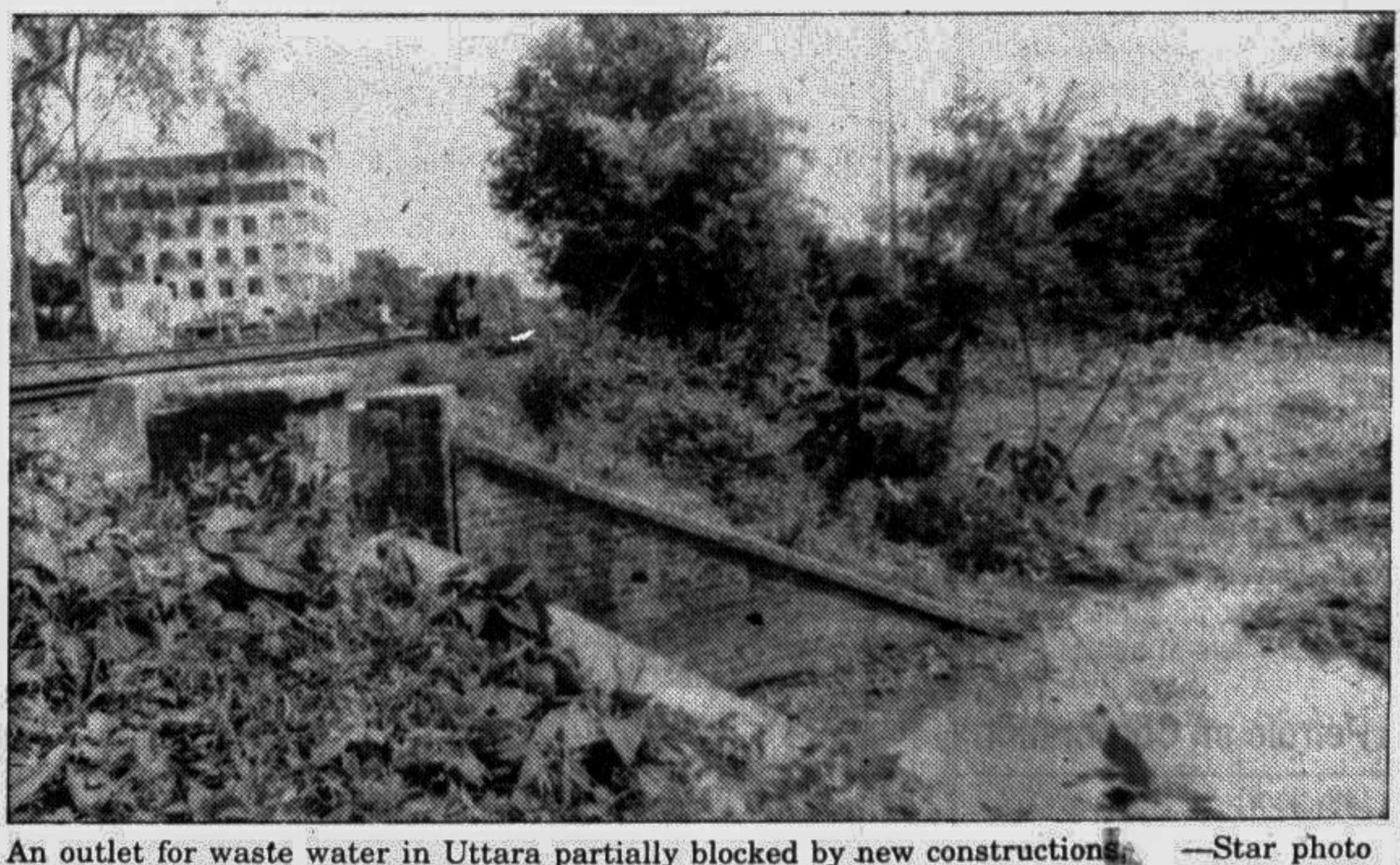
"These pits could well serve as a canal to divert the water into the Turag river further north," said a WASA official. At present most of the pits, belonging to the railway, have been earth-filled and encroached

upon.

WASA sources also said that after the present government was updated on the situation, it directed WASA to make a project proposal covering other city areas where similar problems existed. About four months ago, WASA submitted a Tk 218 crore project proposal to the LGRD Ministry. The ministry was now looking for a donor.

The sources further said that the situation was so alarming in certain areas of the city that if immediate steps were not taken to solve it "within the next five years' these areas would remain submerged under sewerage and waste water. "Unplanned urbanisation will soon start to take its toll," a top WASA official warned.

The official quoted WASA's recent project proposal and said that on an urgent basis, work must be started in the city's. See Page 12 Col 3



An outlet for waste water in Uttara partially blocked by new constructions. —Star photo

**Inside Today**

**Article**

**A Bridge to Bridge over the Woes**

Column: Beneath the Surface by Abdul Bayes Page 4

**Star Literature**

Poetry: Al-Mahmud—poet of our Liberation War; Museum: The Pompidou Centre turns 20 Pages 6&7

## Mahila Dal's hunger strike in city today

By Staff Correspondent

Jatityabadi Mohila Dal, women's wing of the BNP, will stage a dawn-to-dusk hunger strike at Ramna Batumal in the city.

The programme is to register protest against abduction and rape of women by hoodlums belonging to the ruling party at Kanchpur-Simrail during the opposition's long march on June 9, says a press release.