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Nasim tipped to replace Rafiq as home minister

Star Report
A change of guard at the home ministry is likely soon, political sources said yesterday. Mohammad Nasim, housing and public works and posts and telecommunications minister, is tipped to succeed Major (rtd) Rafiqul Islam, BU, according to the sources.
Speculations about the change were rife in the lobby of parliament on Thursday.
It was fuelled by the change in the sitting arrangement on the second row of the treasury bench.
The home minister had his place on the third seat of the second row behind the prime minister.
He has been shifted on the far corner of the row swapping the seat with civil aviation. See Page 12 Col 8

Jute, textile, yarn workers call strike Nov 24

By Staff Correspondent
Three workers' organisations have jointly called a 24-hour strike at the nationalised jute, textile, and yarn mills on November 24 to protest the government policy of privatisation and press home their demands.
The demands include cancellation of privatisation policy, lay-off and sale of jute mills, immediate formation of the Fifth Wage Board, recovery of illegal arms from the mills and factories and realisation of eight-point charter of demands of jute mills and six-point of yarn mills, says a press release.
Patkal Shramik Karmachari Sangram Parishad (PSKSP), Bangladesh Suta-Bastakal Shramik Karmachari Federation (BSBSKF) and Bangladesh Bastarshilpa Shramik League (BBSL) jointly approved the strike following a joint national convention in the city yesterday.
The workers will also arrange demonstrations at Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi on November 24 and meeting and processions at the nationalised jute, textile and yarn mills from November 10 to 23 across the country.
The convention with PSKSP convenor Abul Bashar in the chair criticised the government for not implementing agreement reached with the workers' like the previous governments.
Shahidullah Chowdhury, Lutfur Rahman, Shah Alam, Hafizur Rahman and Khondakar Sobhan spoke, among others, at the convention.

Three arrested in Sergeant Farhad Murder Case

Detectives arrested three youths from an abandoned house in the city's Sutrapur area yesterday in connection with the Sergeant Farhad Murder Case, reports APB.
Acting on a tip-off, police raided the house at Kafun Lane and arrested Shawkat Hossain alias Gadda Babu, Mohshin and Abu Taher from there.
The three, police said, were wanted in the Sergeant Farhad killing case filed with Kotwali thana in 1994.
Sergeant Farhad was shot dead on the Jagannath University College campus in 1994 in the crossfire between rival groups over establishing supremacy in the area.
The arrested were interrogated by the Detective Branch, police said.

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Justice Delayed but Not Denied

Column: Beneath the Surface by Abdul Bayes Page 4

Business

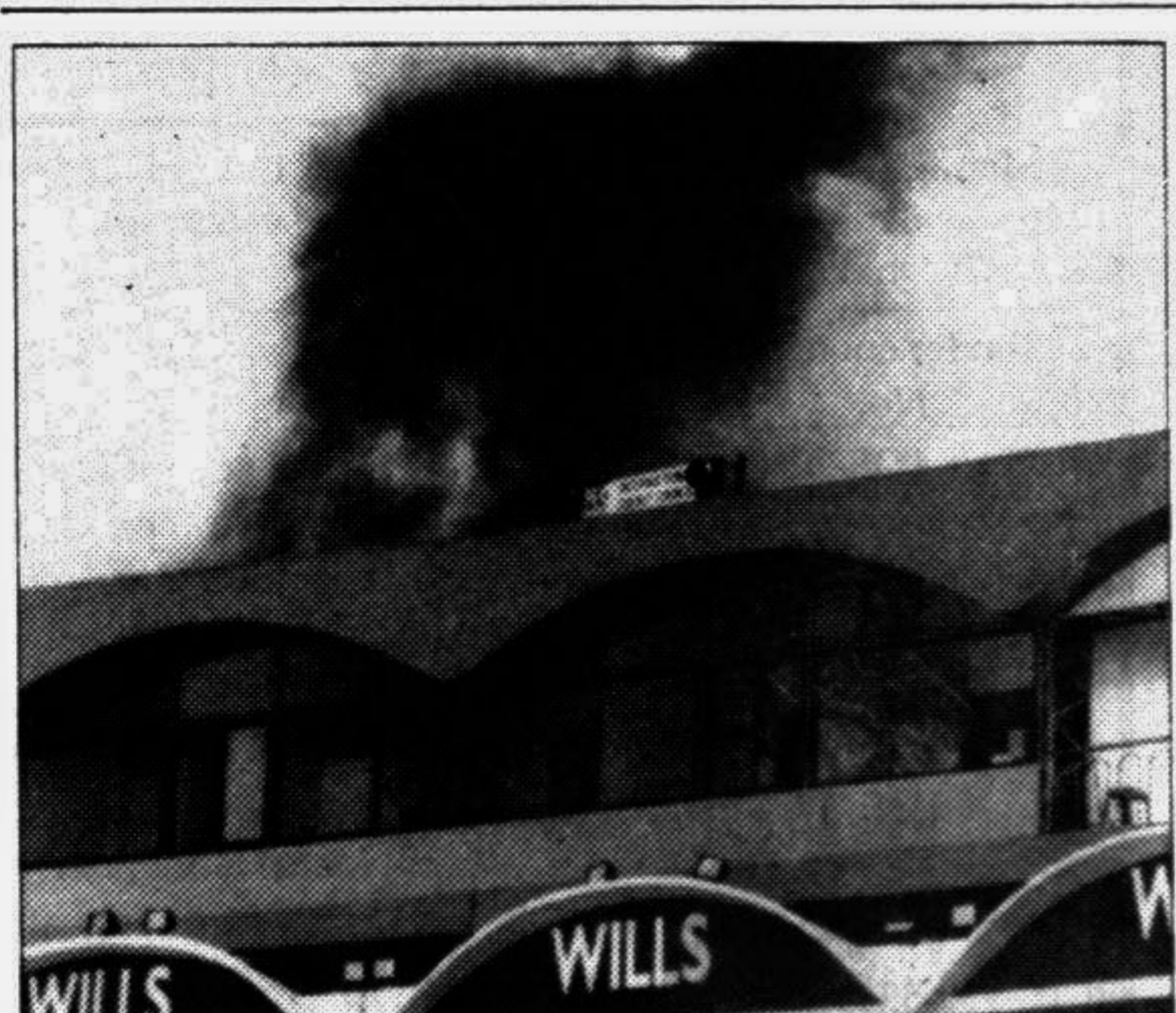
Kibria calls for political restraint to protect economy
APEC officials fail to reach tariff deal Pages 8, 9

Star Literature

Auction with a musical zing; Book review; An absorbing narrative; and Essay: Can theatre alter society? Pages 6 & 7

Encroachment on Gulshan Lake Files missing, Rajuk officials halt probe

By Morshed Ali Khan
Rajuk's activities to identify encroachment and illegal filling of the Gulshan Lake have come to a halt despite a probe ordered by the government in May to prevent land grabbing and environmental degradation.
Allegations are there that some of the members of the probe committee in league with certain elements used their influence to stop Rajuk operations to reclaim the Gulshan Lake and its surrounding land, marked as open space and part of the lake in the city's master plan.
A four-member committee was formed following reports in The Daily Star of massive lake filling and encroachment on the Lake and its adjacent areas. The reports prompted the government to suspend all construction at the lakeside pending the inquiry.
Rajuk sources said the committee activities never got to a start because "some" of the members themselves showed reluctance to investigate. An official source in Rajuk said many important files regarding recent allocation of plots in Gulshan areas went missing from Rajuk's archive. The Estate Department is responsible for safeguarding the files.
"In the beginning of the investigation, the committee asked the Estate Department to provide it with relevant information about the allocation but the Estate did not bother to answer," said a Rajuk official, requesting customary anonymity. Later it was revealed that the files were missing.
Following the scam, the Authorised Section sent out notices to a number of under-con-



A thick, black smoke comes out from the roof of the VIP enclosures at the Bangabandhu National Stadium during the match between West Indies A and Bangladesh yesterday. — Star photo

Smoke takes 10 minutes of playtime

By Staff Correspondent
A thick, black smoke came out from the roof of the VIP enclosures at about 12:15 pm yesterday to stop play as the three-day cricket match between the visiting West Indies A and Bangladesh was on at the big bowl.
Firemen who rushed to the spot suspected a careless smoker might have left the butt on the foamy substance between the VIP galleries and the air-conditioned hospitality boxes.
For about 10 minutes, there was no play in the middle.
"Piles of foam kept on the rooftop of the enclosure might have caught fire being exposed to a lit cigarette butt," a fire official said.
No flame however, was seen. BCB employees had doused the fire even before firemen reached the spot.

Experts cite nine obstacles to investigate crimes

By Aminul Islam
Effective measures against corruption in investigation and probe into criminal offences free of political pressure must be ensured to strengthen the system of criminal justice.
This was suggested by 30 legal experts in separate papers submitted to the Law Commission (LC). They identified nine problems hindering investigation into criminal offences.
The LC had earlier sought suggestions from the 30 experts on necessary reforms in this field, sources said. It will now hold a workshop on the suggestions to finalise the reforms.
The experts include 12 judges from Sessions Courts, three metropolitan magistrates, two magistrates, four police officers, three public prosecutors and three defence lawyers.
The core problems hindering criminal investigations, according to the experts' papers, are corruption, political pressure, lack of proper education, training and skill of the investigating officers, the sources said.
Besides, absence of a separate investigation agency, involvement of the same police personnel in investigations as well as in maintenance of law and order and their inadequate number were highlighted among the problems.
The experts suggested setting up of a separate directorate for investigation into criminal offences, increase in the number of investigation officers and separation of their responsibilities from those involved in maintaining law and order or protocol duties.
Absence of time limit for completion of an investigation, non-application of electronic equipment in the process of inquiry and not allowing witnesses to write their statements under Section 161 of the CrPC also pose problems, they pointed out.
They recommended fixing up of a mandatory time limit for completion of investigation, use of electronic equipment for

Khaleda goes to Sirajganj today

SIRAJGANJ, Nov 13: BNP chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting here tomorrow, reports APB.
Organised by the district BNP, Khaleda Zia will address the meeting at Sirajganj Government University College at 4 pm.

4 Khulna Jubo League members expelled

KHULNA, Nov 13: Awami League backed Jubo League has expelled its four members from the party for their alleged involvement in anti-organisational activities, reports UNB.
They are Abdul Jalil, Munir Darji, Farook Hossain and Insan.
Meanwhile, the city Jatiya Party at a meeting on Thursday blamed the Jubo League for the killing of Saleh Ahmed on the concluding day of the 60-hour hartal.

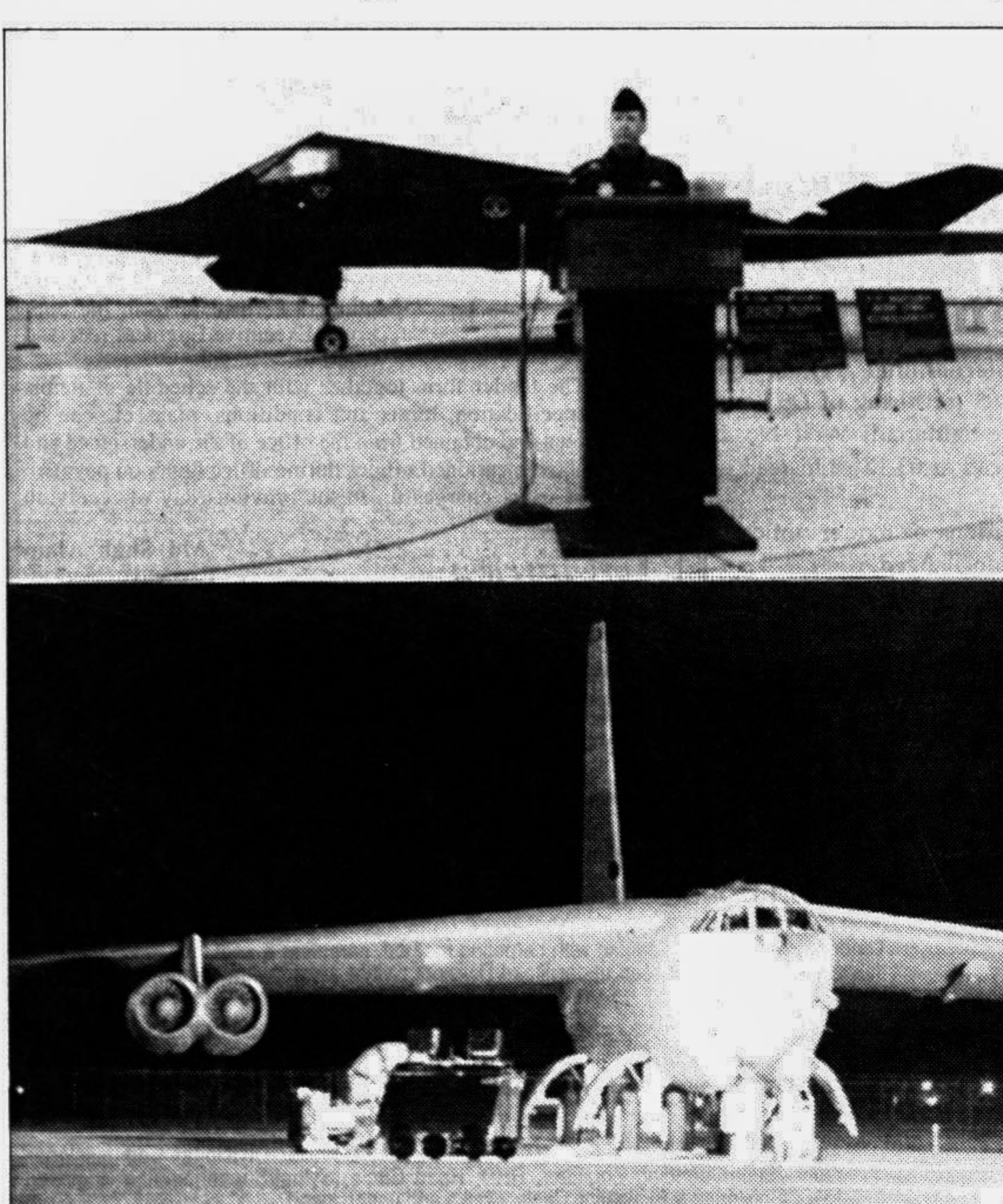
Tendulkar hits another ton, hands India another trophy

SHARJAH (UAE), Nov 13: Sachin Tendulkar smashed his 21st one-day century to hand India the Champions Trophy with a 10-wicket romp over Zimbabwe here today, reports AFP.
The gifted 25-year-old sent a packed house of 22,000 into raptures with 12 boundaries and six sixes in his unbeaten 158.
He was the first Indian to score a century in the early hours of yesterday.
The bust of Madhuda, martyred in the first hours of the Independence War, was placed on April 18, 1995 by the university authorities.
None could say when the vandals using sledgehammers crushed its nose and ears.
The reinforced concrete and stone-built bust needed a lot of efforts to smash, which must have created quite a noise, said those who saw the damaged bust.
There was no satisfactory answer from anyone responsible for guarding the Arts Faculty areas, which normally have more than 300 uniformed policemen round the clock.
A large posse of plain-

Vandals take on Madhuda's bust

By DU Correspondent
Unidentified elements vandalised a bust of Madhusudan Dey, popularly known as Madhuda, on the courtyard of Madhuda's canteen at Dhaka University in the early hours of yesterday.
The bust of Madhuda, martyred in the first hours of the Independence War, was placed on April 18, 1995 by the university authorities.
None could say when the vandals using sledgehammers crushed its nose and ears.
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A large posse of plain-

US, Iraq rule out compromise



SET TO STRIKE: US Air Force Brig Gen Bill Lake, commander of the 49th Fighter Wing, talks preparations for sending 12 F-117 Stealth fighters, now at Holloman Air Force Base to the Persian Gulf (top), and one of seven B-52 bombers being loaded with Cruise missiles at Fairchild Air Force Base near Spokane, Washington on Thursday. — AP/UNB

Annan sees no role for himself

BAGHDAD, Nov 13: Military action against Iraq for its rejection of UN arms inspections looked increasingly likely today as US forces converged on the Gulf and both sides rejected compromise, reports Reuter.
As the United States sent reinforcements to its already powerful naval and air forces in the Gulf, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said the only way Iraqi President Saddam Hussein could avert an attack was to end his defiance of the United Nations.
Both Washington and Baghdad ruled out compromise over Iraq's refusal to cooperate with the UN body overseeing the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.
The 50 UN staff still in Baghdad moved out of their hotels into the more secure UN headquarters building, and the world body's Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, rejected an Iraqi plea to visit Baghdad to seek a compromise.
"He does not at this time see a possible role for himself," said Annan's spokesman Fred Eckhardt. Last February Annan averted a US-led attack on Iraq by negotiating a last-minute agreement in Baghdad.
US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said on Thursday night that "the Iraqis do not need any further warnings," and US Defence Secretary William Cohen warned Baghdad that any military strikes would be "significant."
Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz refused to back down, saying there would be no peaceful solution "unless the United States agreed to the principle of lifting sanctions."
Baghdad has demanded the scrapping of UN sanctions imposed when Iraq invaded Kuwait. See Page 12 Col 1

VGF: Meeting with donors not held due to hartal

By Reaz Ahmad
Further expansion of Vulnerable Group Feeding (VGF) programme is being delayed as a scheduled meeting between the government and donors representatives was not held.
The meeting, which was scheduled to be held on November 10 and 11, could not be held due to the Opposition-called 60-hour hartal across the country, official sources said in Dhaka yesterday.
The government has already decided to increase the number of VGF cards to 42 lakh from 40 lakh but the donors are insisting on a meeting. See Page 12 Col 8

Garments worker gangraped

By Staff Correspondent
A garment factory employee was gangraped at Harirampur under Mirpur thana in the city late Thursday night.
Police said the rapists, Salahuddin and Osman, were arrested after the victim lodged a case yesterday.
The victim is in 'safe custody' and may be sent for medical examination today, police added.
Quoting the FIR, police said Salahuddin, owner of the victim's rented shanty at a Harirampur slum, and Osman, caught the 22-year-old woman while she was on way to her uncle's house near by at about 10 pm Thursday. Welding knives, they dragged her behind a rickshaw garage, owned by Salahuddin, and raped her.

Dhaka to host ATPF confce next year

Three Asian nations — Japan, Thailand and Myanmar — have assured of extending support to Bangladesh's candidature to the membership of the UN Security Council, report agencies.
Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad said this while talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on his return home concluding a 13-day visit to the three countries.
Bangladesh will vie for the non-permanent seat of the UN Security Council for 2001-2002.
Azad said his talks with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi was fruitful. Obuchi has accepted the invitation of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and intends to visit Bangladesh at the earliest, he added.
The Foreign Minister told the newsmen that a conference of the Asian Trade Promotion Forum (ATPF) will be held in Dhaka next year.
About 19 countries will take part in the ATPF conference to boost trade among Asian countries. The Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) has agreed to finance the conference.
Azad and his Japanese counterpart Masahiko Komura signed an Investment Promotion and Protection Agreement.
During official talks, he said, the Japanese Foreign Minister responded positively to expedite the construction of two vital projects — Rupsha Bridge and Dhaka Eastern by-pass and Embankment Project.
An expert team from Japan is expected to be despatched to Bangladesh in connection with further study for the Dhaka Eastern by-pass and Embankment Project.
Azad said Japan has agreed to give serious consideration to the implementation of other projects like the Ganges Barrage Project, Padma Bridge and dredging of rivers.
The Foreign Minister said Japan's Justice Minister Shozaburo Nakamura has assured that the matter of granting trainee visa to Bangladeshi workers would be taken up with his government.
Referring to the BIMSTEC, the Foreign Minister called for a bridge between SAARC and BIMSTEC for close cooperation in trade, investment and tourism.
About his visit to Thailand, he said the entire gamut of bilateral relations, including trade and commerce, was discussed at the Joint Commission meeting between the two countries.
Azad said he had also good talks with the Thai Prime Minister.
Replying to a question, the Foreign Minister said he had positive discussions with the Myanmar authorities on repatriation of Rohingya refugees. See Page 12 Col 1

Kill Saddam, suggests Sen Lugar

WASHINGTON, Nov 13: A prominent US Republican senator, Dick Lugar of Indiana, says the only way to stop Iraq from threatening its neighbours with weapons of mass destruction may be to kill Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, reports AP.
"Maybe we'll get lucky someday," Lugar, a senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said Thursday. He spoke as war preparations intensified and the Clinton administration declared it had all the congressional approval required under the Constitution to attack Iraq for refusing to submit to UN weapons inspections.
"Maybe something will turn up," Lugar said on Capitol Hill. "But, you know, people have had that same strategy with Cuban President Fidel Castro for 40 years and nothing has happened."
Tough rhetoric also came from the administration. However, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright stopped well short of declaring Saddam a target if Clinton decided to attack Iraq. See Page 12 Col 7

ANNOUNCEMENT
The Daily Star will hold a public dialogue on:
"26 Years of Our Constitution and Bangladesh Today"
Today, Saturday, 14th November '98 (3-6 pm) at the British Council Auditorium.
The main speakers will be Dr Kamal Hossain, Barrister Ishtiaq Ahmed, Suranjit Sen Gupta MP, Barrister Amirul Islam and Dr. M Zahir.
The discussion will focus on our present day situation compared to the fundamental rights, basic freedoms and social and economic commitment as enshrined in our Constitution.
All are invited to attend.