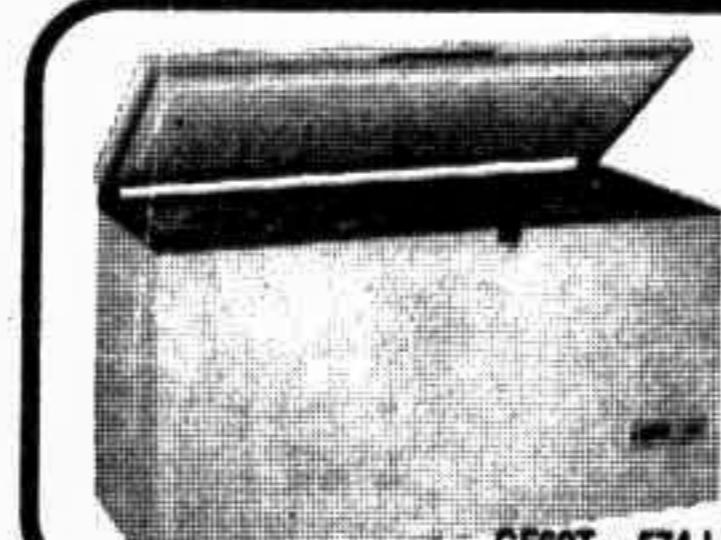


AEI

Bangladesh Air Express International Limited

Quality Worldwide Logistics

PLEASE CONTACT:  
Head Office Tel : 9565114, Logistics Office Tel : 9884851, Fax : (880-2) 9886531, E-mail : dac@aeilogis.com  
Chittagong Office Tel : (031) 721085, Fax : (880-31) 710106, Internet : fedcp@spctnet.com.smtp.  
Air and Ocean-Forwarding • Customs Brokerage • Warehousing and Distribution • Express • NVOCC

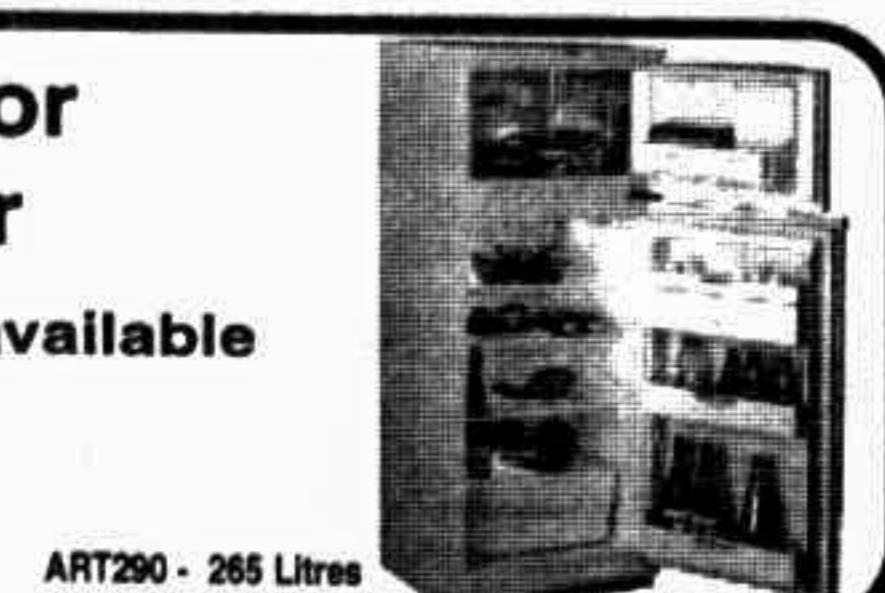


**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES

Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA  
Dhaka : 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg. : 716353, 723578  
Khulna : 720304 Bogra : 6215

**Refrigerator & Freezer**

Instalment facility available



## Coordinated efforts a must to address arsenic problem

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar in the city yesterday called for coordinated efforts to address arsenic contamination in groundwater.

They said that all efforts would go down the drain if the problem is not addressed collectively.

The views came at a seminar titled, "Arsenic in Groundwater: Searching for Alternatives to Rural Water Supply", organised by NGO Forum at BRAC centre.

The speakers said it was time that experiences and lessons learnt from dialogues are shared to solve problems effectively. They also urged upon the relevant organisations to launch more investigations and expand areas of research.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman who was the chief guest said, "In the face of the problem, the government alone cannot solve the crisis. In this regard, coordination between government and NGOs is essential to help carry out more research and find alternatives for safe water supply in the affected areas."

He said the government has launched three projects to ensure arsenic-free water supply in urban and rural areas.

Executive Director of NGO Forum SMA Rashid said, "Although we have achieved remarkable success in rural water supply over the last three decades, we now face even bigger challenge -- the emergence of excessive arsenic in groundwater."

He said, "A national policy with focus on increasing use of surface water should be implemented. We should also focus on efforts on building awareness. For this, political commitment from the government is important."

In his speech as special guest, The Daily Star Editor

### Beximco plea

From Page 1

Justice Ebadul Huq of Court-6 on Thursday last referred the matter to the Chief Justice for passing necessary order.

Earlier, following objection from the defence lawyers, Court Number-23 of the HC felt embarrassed to hear the case, which later went before the Chief Justice. The Chief Justice then sent the case to Court-6 for hearing.

Hearing of the case will begin in the court of Justice Ebadul Huq today.

Rafique-ul-Huq yesterday informed the court that he would not appear as Beximco lawyer in this case.

### Shafi Sami takes over as new FS

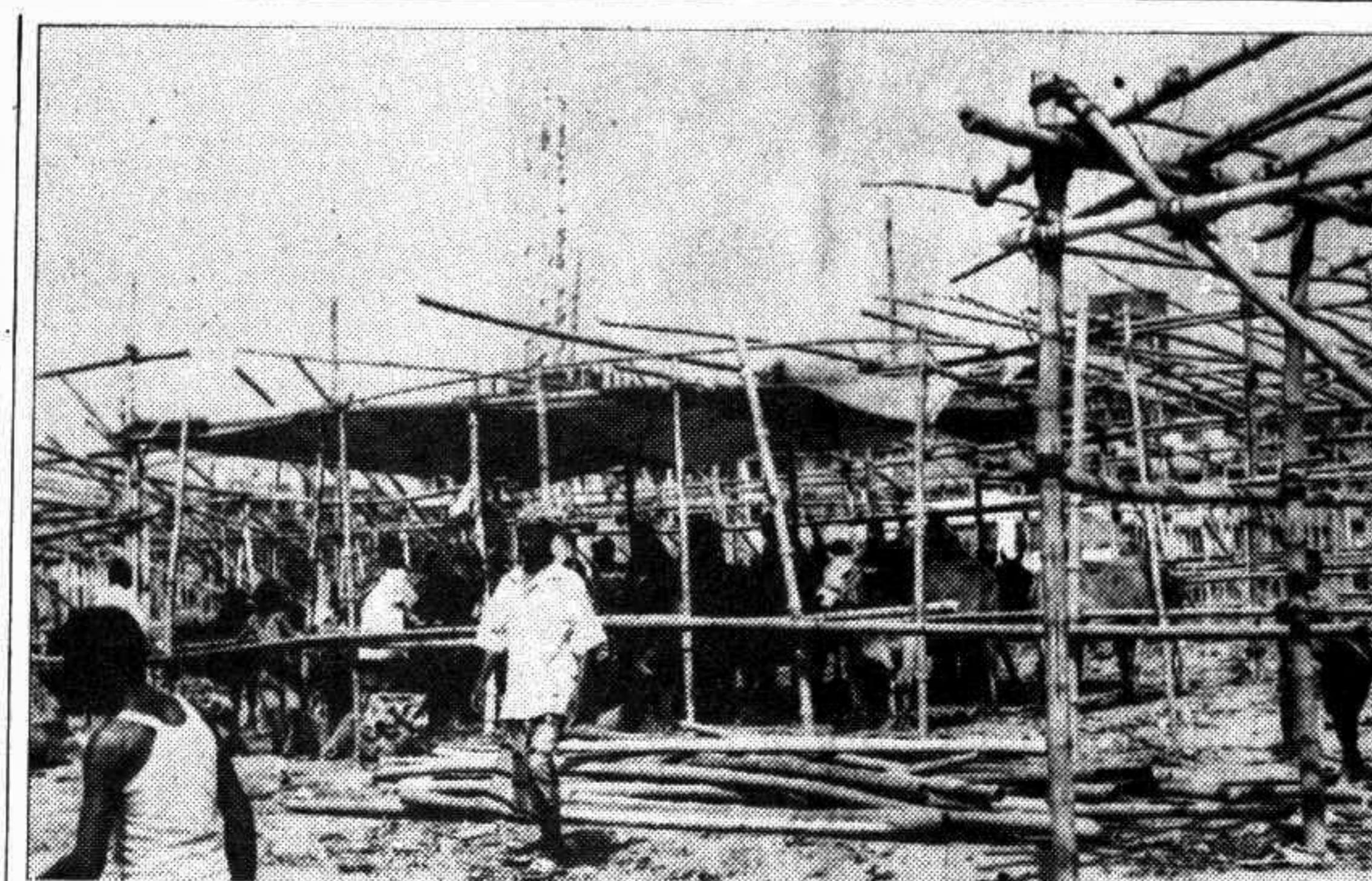
### 2 escape from police custody

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons escaped from police custody at Makim Katra under Lalbagh thana in the city Sunday.

Police were yet to arrest the two identified as Mamun and Shakil -- till last night. A police constable, Abdul Jalil, of Lalbagh thana has been closed in this connection.

Earlier police arrested Shakil, Mamun and their accomplice Javed from roof top of a house at Makim Katra at about 4.30 pm Sunday. Police claimed they recovered 150 cartons of smuggled cigarettes from their possession.



With the Eid-ul-Azha round the corner, cows and goats are being taken to different cattle markets in the city. The photo was taken at Kamalapur.

**Bus service: Trial run delayed**

By Staff Correspondent

The proposed trial run of Dhaka-Calcutta bus service due to begin today has once again been deferred, sources concerned said.

Dhaka yesterday communicated to Delhi through diplomatic channels that in view of the Independence Day and ensuing Eid holidays, "it would be difficult to complete the formalities and organise the trial run this month".

Bangladesh has now proposed that the trial run begin in the first week of April.

### CMM's court

From Page 1  
going to move today for a stay of the High court order.

Law minister Abdul Matin Khasru and Attorney General Mahmudur Rahman were not available for comments.

The sources said Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday discussions the situation with both of them.

Meanwhile, the Law Minister is leaving Dhaka today to perform Hajj.

The High Court in a verdict on the writ filed by Advocate Idrisur Rahman observed that appointments and postings of CMMs in the Metropolitan Magistracy, Dhaka since 1992 were made in violation of the mandatory provisions of Article 116 of the Constitution.

It further observed that the President of the Republic should take steps for framing rules as per Article 116.

Article 116 of the Constitution says: The control (including the power of posting, promotion and grant of leave) and discipline of persons employed in the judicial service and magistrates exercising judicial functions shall vest in the President and shall be exercised by him in consultation with the Supreme Court.

Idrisur Rahman, told The Daily Star that the verdict would enhance the prestige of the judiciary and ensure its freedom. He had filed the petition in 1994.

BBC, quoting a former Deputy Attorney General, Hasan Ariff, said the High Court judgement will not affect the orders passed by the CMMs court prior to the (HC) verdict.

### Morshed Khan

From Page 1  
three other directors were also served with similar notices. However, they obtained stay orders from the High Court against the notices.

With Morshed Khan and his family members, eight out of 10 members of the Board of Directors of AB Bank have now been served with notices under Section 17.

Managing Director of the bank, A Rahim Chowdhury, was earlier put under suspension for "illegally sanctioning" loans

## Hearing adjourned

From Page 1

the government failed to ensure security of public life and property. Police are reluctant to accept complaints," the opposition said to justify their action programmes like shutdown.

They alleged that Dhaka city had been flooded with more than 10,000 illegal arms. State power is not neutral in enforcing laws. Police are engaged in "destroying society and the opposition parties".

Postings, promotion, appointment and recruitment of police are made on the basis of "allegiance" to the party in power and competent officers are deprived of serving in key positions.

"Human rights violation has exceeded all the past records. Thousands of leaders have been jailed under Special Powers Act and false cases are being filed against them."

During earlier hearings, the Attorney General had submitted affidavit-in-opposition for home secretary containing that Awami League while in opposition observed 173 days of hartal in five years.

A division bench of the High Court comprising Justice Golam Rabiani and Latifur Rahman had earlier issued rule upon AL secretary Zillur Rahman, BNP secretary Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan and secretaries of home and law minister to show cause as to why pro and anti-hartal activities should not be declared cognizable offences and the police and criminal courts not be directed to take action accordingly.

AG Mahmudul Islam appeared for the government while Additional AG Mahbubul Alam stood for AL Secretary Zillur Rahman. Barrister Moudud Ahmed stood for the BNP Secretary.

Barrister Shawkat Ali Khan and Barrister Zamiruddin Sircar as amicus were present in the court.

## Khulna

From Page 1

The bus drivers started beating the van drivers indiscriminately when they forced the Khulna-bound bus to stop at Phultala Bus Stand, police said.

Later, van drivers reassembled at Damodar Union and launched an armed attack on transport workers at the bus stand, sparking fresh clash. Both the groups used firearms and bombs during the clash.

Police lobbed tear gas shells and fired at least 20 shots to bring the situation under control. At least 20 vehicles and one hundred stops were damaged during the clash, police said.

Transport services between Khulna-Jessore and Khulna-Satkhira routes came to a halt as two groups put up barricades protesting the killing.

# UP & DOWN.

# BE GOLD. BENSON & HEDGES.

সংবিধিবন্ধ সতর্কীকরণ ও ধূমপান স্বাস্থ্যের জন্য স্বত্ত্বিকর