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Bill for summary trial court to curb terrorism may be tabled

RAJSHAHI, Apr 28: The government is going to introduce new law for setting up summary trial court to curb terrorism in the country, report agencies.

Home Minister Mohammad Nasim made the disclosure today saying that a bill in this regard would be tabled in the next session of Jatiya Sangsad.

The Home Ministry officials are working on a draft bill, he added.

"I hope the opposition parties will support this bill," he said in a meeting with DCs, SPs and high officials of law-enforcing agencies of eight districts at Rajshahi Circuit House. The minister directed them to curb terrorism with an iron hand.

"Take stern action against the terrorists. If they shoot at you, if necessary, you can retaliate with shots. This is my order. People want total elimination of terrorists."

Giving directives to arrest terrorists irrespective of party affiliation, Nasim said the terrorists have no party. He asked the officials to continue the current special drive across the country.

Share scam cases HC stays SCL proceedings

By Staff Correspondent

A High Court divisional bench yesterday stayed proceedings of a case against Securities Consultant Ltd (SCL) and its three directors accused in the 1996 share market scam.

The divisional bench comprising Justice Golam Rabbani and Md Latifur Rahman also extended stay on three other companies and their four directors after the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) lawyers pleaded for two weeks time on grounds that Additional Attorney General Mahabub-E-Alam had fallen sick and could not appear.

The court, earlier, had stayed proceedings on these cases till May 5, 1999 and had fixed April 28 for hearing. However, with the three SCL directors filing quashment petitions against the charges, the divisional bench fixed May 18 as the next date for hearing all the cases.

In their petitions the accused said that the metro court See Page 12 Col 2

Woman stabbed to death in city hotel

By Staff Correspondent

A woman was stabbed to death allegedly by her husband inside a residential hotel in the city's Syedabad area yesterday.

The victim was identified as Shila Begum, 22, wife of Asad Ullah of Malekpur in Noakhali, police and hospital sources said.

The motive behind the murder could not be known immediately. Asad has been absconding since the incident. Demra police were interrogating Saiful Islam, the manager of the hotel till filing of this report last night.

Hospital sources said, the couple along with their five-year-old boy rented a room in the residential hotel on Monday last.

Asad left the hotel at around 11:30 pm locking the room from outside. Hearing screaming of the boy from inside the See Page 12 Col 5

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Prayer Timings

| April 29 | | |
|--------------|--------|--|
| Azan | Jamaat | |
| Fajr 4:30 | 4:35 | |
| Zohr 12:45 | 1:20 | |
| Asr 4:45 | 4:55 | |
| Maghrib 6:30 | 6:33 | |
| Esha 7:30 | 7:35 | |

Source: Islamic Foundation

BUET closed sine die after series of violence

Star Report

The Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) was closed sine die Tuesday noon following a series of violent incidents and massive vandalism triggered by expulsion of a student. The student was ousted for impersonating another student in the examinations.

All the examinations and academic and administrative activities of the university have been suspended for an indefinite period. Students were made to vacate all the residential halls by 3 p.m. on Tuesday.

The university campus wore a ravaged look after agitated students of the university went on a massive rampage and attacked Council Building, Civil Engineering Building, EME Building, Library, Central Auditorium, Cafeteria, Institute Building and some university vehicles on Sunday and Monday night. The boisterous pupils demanded cancellation of a decision by the authorities to expel a student for one year.

The angry students did not even spare the residential

buildings of teachers and officers and their vehicles in the garages. The unruly students pelted stones at the teachers' residences and hurled abusive words targeting the families of some teachers, 'letting loose of a reign of terror' among the faculty family members.

The agitated students damaged a number of computers in the Centre for Energy Studies (CES) on Monday night. They later set fire the CES office and office room of the Shaheed Smriti Hall.

A BUET press release yesterday said the total loss incurred by the vandalism would not be less than Tk 25 lakh. A huge number of police deployed on the campus remained idle near the university Shaheed Minar during the near four hour massive vandalism.

"All the peace loving students, teachers, officials and employees suffered from utter insecurity, law and order marked a sharp deterioration and the entire educational environment of the university was seriously damaged due to

the incident," the press release said.

Police detained three students from the campus on charges of vandalism. This sparked more violent activities as more students were brought in to demand the release of those captured. The detained were released afterwards.

Three persons including a teacher, a teacher's wife and a son of a teacher were injured in the incidents.

The university authorities have formed a six-member probe body to investigate into the incidents on the campus.

The incidents took place as a continuation of students agitation demanding cancellation of expulsion of a second year student of Civil Engineering, Salmullah Dipu, who was caught red handed while substituting for his female classmate in a class test around a month back.

The student, who was initially expelled for two years, later got his punishment reduced to one year following students' appeal to the university's See Page 12 Col 7



Shattered door glass of the Council Office at BUET after the rampage by students in protest of the temporary expulsion of a pupil. — Star photo by Anisur Rahman

#07 NEWS

Booze ban

HOVE (Sussex), Apr 28: Sussex are to operate a strict no-alcohol policy when South Africa play India in the World Cup here on May 15, reports AFP.

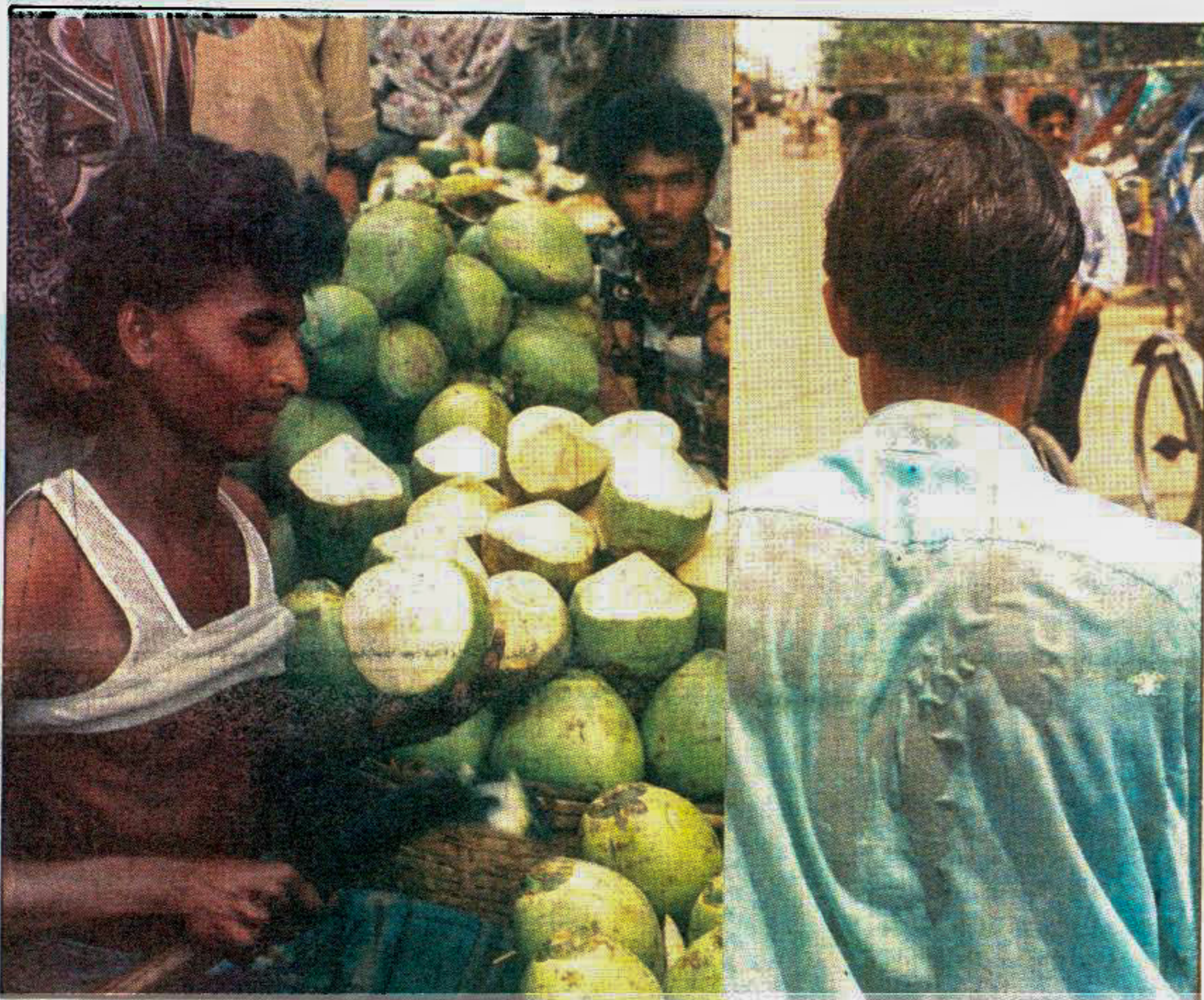
The south coast county are taking all possible measures to ensure that the game, already a 6,500 sell-out, passes off peacefully.

Sussex general manager Dave Gilbert is taking on board the comments of his former Australian Steve Waugh, the Aussies captain, that if the crowd invasion and bottle throwing at recent matches in the Caribbean is to be repeated that it is only a matter of time before someone is killed.

Gilbert believes the Hove match could be a highly volatile occasion given that many without tickets could be clamoring to get in.

He said: "We are very aware that with a team like India coming to a small capacity ground there's bound to be, on the day, a lot of Indian supporters thinking they are going to come to Hove and get in."

"You don't know what sort of reaction that may bring. People See Page 12 Col 6



Horrible heat

Green coconut vendors are having a brisk business as the hot spell continues (Right). A pedestrian sweating due to the scorching heat crossing a city road yesterday noon. — Star photo by A K M Mohsin

Another variant of virus!

By Staff Correspondent

You may have survived the computer virus attack on April 26, but computer experts fear you may still have a different variant of CIH -- the infamous virus.

In a press release yesterday, Developers' Computer System Ltd said that there were two more variants of CIH (version 1.3 and 1.4) which were reportedly triggered on June 26th or on the 26th of any month of a year.

It says that even if a PC seems safe because nothing happened on 26th April, it does not guarantee immunity. "First, this might happen because no infected file was executed on that date or the computer may have another variant that has a different trigger date," it said and suggested users to have latest versions of reputed anti-virus software.

Giving an overview of the virus that shook Bangladesh cyber-world like never before, it said that CIH was able to override the Flash BIOS in PCs running Windows 95/98 but it would not affect Windows NT platforms.

If the Flash Bios is write-enabled, which is the case for many modern machines, the PC is crippled to the point of not being able to boot-up. At the same time CIH has been known to overwrite the hard drive with garbage.

Quoting Graham Cluney, See Page 12 Col 1

Struggle to restore data lost in virus attack

By Sharier Khan

Computer service providers

are frantically trying to find an easy and standard solution to recover priceless computer data and hardware, which were apparently damaged or lost in a virus epidemic Monday across the country.

Bangladesh Computer Samity, the leading association of computer vendors, has already determined a standard software solution called Tiramisu-to-recover 100 per cent of lost or inaccessible data from CIH virus affected computers.

This USA made fully licensed software would be given to 100 members of Computer Samity to help the owners of affected computers.

Owners of the infected computers have been requested not to panic about losing data and have been advised by the Samity to consult vendors, who now have a standard solution.

However, the Samity is yet to standardize a solution to fix hardware problems caused by the virus. According to General Secretary of Samity, Ahmed Hasan, a solution would be determined by midnight Wednesday.

The Samity's help line received 2500 phone calls on the virus attack since Tuesday. "It has been officially reported that at least 5000 computers had been attacked by CIH on April 26," he noted.

But unofficially the number may be more than 10,000. In fact, RAM computers of Dhanmondi, in another press release, noted that the virus attacked damaged around 20,000 PCs in the country.

Bangladesh has around 50,000 personal computers or PCs in use. Of this, 80 per cent PCs are in Dhaka, 15 per cent in Chittagong and the remaining 5 per cent in the rest of the country.

Monday's virus attack was the country's worst ever technological disaster and affected banks, embassies, industries, offices, Dhaka stock exchange peripheral users, internet service providers, several newspapers, and general computer users.

People were still crowding the city's computer service See Page 12 Col 2

Bomb blast near PMO: 6 held

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested six more persons in the early hours of Tuesday in connection with the incident of bomb explosions in front of the PM's office on Monday.

A gang of about eight youths on board a microbus exploded a number of bombs in front of the PM's office and fled the scene Monday afternoon.

Police arrested microbus driver Anwar soon after the incident. Of the six arrested persons, four, identified as Kamal, Apu, Ripon and Naju were arrested from Masdar area under Fatullah thana. Two others — Rafiqul and Harun — were rounded up from city's Uttara See Page 12 Col 4

20 hurt during hartal in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 28: At least 20 people were injured in sporadic clashes during today's half-day hartal here called by Jamaat-e-Islam Bangladesh.

Jamaat enforced an eight-hour hartal from 6 am to protest the killing of one of its local leader Zainul Abedin at Fatikchhari on April 25.

Jamaat blamed the activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) for the killing, but BCL denied it.

Police arrested 69 Jamaat See Page 12 Col 5

It was not a political dialogue: BNP

By Staff Correspondent

Four BNP leaders, who met the Home Minister on Tuesday, have protested a report broadcast over the state-run Radio and TV and carried by two dailies.

"We all are members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Home Affairs. We went to meet Mohammad Nasim to discuss failure of police administration to curb crimes, serious deterioration of law and order, rampant murders and political harassment of our leaders, activists and MPs," said Khondaker Delwar Hossain, Chief Whip of the Opposition.

The three others who were in the delegation are Maj (Retd) Hafizuddin Ahmed, Sadek Hossain Khoka and Ziaul Haq Zia. The four jointly held a press conference at BNP central office yesterday afternoon.

The report said a dialogue between the government and

the opposition has started in order to resolve the current political crisis in the country.

The dialogue was held on Tuesday between Home and Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Nasim and a delegation led by Opposition Chief Whip Khondaker Delwar Hossain, it added.

Delwar Hossain said that the meeting was not at all a political dialogue or a dialogue between the Opposition and the government because "we are not designated" to hold any dialogue with the government side.

He said that BNP felt the need for a meeting with the Home Minister urgently in the wake of serious deterioration of law and order and fresh repression on the opposition leaders and activists. "We met Nasim as there had been no meeting of the parliamentary standing committee on the home min- See Page 12 Col 6

AL, BNP fight to rope in Subed Ali Bhuiyan

By Staff Correspondent

Both the ruling Awami League and main opposition BNP have started a tug of war over bringing a retired army general into their respective ranks.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Kha-lea Zia called Mohammad Subed Ali Bhuiyan, a retired major general, at her 29 Minto Road official residence yesterday evening and had an exclusive and lengthy discussion.

MSA Bhuiyan had been sent into premature retirement after the Awami League came into power. He completed his "leave preparatory to retirement" on December 2 last year.

Sources said both the parties started hectic contact with the retired general since completion of his LPR. In recent days, the sources said, some close aides of the prime minister met with Bhuiyan for a number of times and requested him to join the ruling party. See Page 12 Col 5

Mizoram wants to buy gas from Bangladesh

Mizoram, a small Indian hill state, wants to buy gas from Bangladesh to protect forest resources, its chief minister Zoramthanga said here yesterday, reports UNB.

"We need gas very badly," Zoramthanga said while exchanging views with Bangladesh business community leaders.

Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) organised the meeting at its conference room with its vice president M A Mumin in the chair.

The Mizoram chief minister said a water link between Mizoram and Chittagong Hill Tracts through Karnaphuli river via Kaptai Lake will help the land-locked Indian state to use Chittagong port as its gateway to external world.

Besides, he said, such a water link through Kaptai Lake will make both way trades easier and cheaper. "... Karnaphuli offers excellent vehicle for cross-border trade." (Details on page 6)

Buddha Purnima today

The Buddhist community in the country today celebrates Bouddha Purnima, biggest religious festival of the community to mark the advent, enlightenment and 'nirvana' or departure of lord Gautam Buddha, some 4,500 years ago, reports BSS.

On this holy day, he was born in Kapilabostu of now Indian state of Bihar, got supreme enlightenment at the age of 35 and attained "Parinirvana" at the age of 80 at Kushinagar.

The followers of Buddhism today perform a number of rituals including enkindling of lamps, "Bodhibrikhaya Sinchan", "Buddha Puja", "Punnaya Dan", "Panchashila and Asta Shila Graham", and offer special yellow robes to Buddhist monks, apart from taking part in religious discus- See Page 12 Col 1

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