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Opposition yet to finalise road march programme

Opposition alliance is yet to finalise the schedule for its proposed road march, reports UNB.

A meeting of the liaison committee comprising BNP, Jatiya Party, Jamaat-e-Islami and Islami Oikya Jote yesterday discussed the issue but could not fix a date for the proposed programme.

"The question of current monsoon rain and flash flood came up for discussion. Further consultation will take place to decide whether it would be appropriate to take up the programme like road march which involves both manpower and money," a liaison committee member told the agency.

Sources, however, said that as the movement has slowed down for discontinuation of agitation programmes, some programmes would be taken up to gear up anti-government movement.

As part of the programmes the opposition may lay siege to TV Bhaban and the Home Ministry.

The liaison committee will sit on Monday to finalise the next course of action.

BNP will hold a public meeting at Paltan Maidan tomorrow. Party chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will address the meeting.

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**Kibria seeks aid from donors for power, energy sectors**

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria has sought financial assistance from the donors for development of the country's power and energy sector, reports UNB.

He made the call in a meeting between the government and the World Bank and Asian Development Bank on energy and power sector in the NEC conference room here yesterday.

Ms. Mieke Nishimizu, Vice-President for South Asia region of the World Bank, led the Bank team at the talks.

State Minister for Energy, Power and Mineral Resources Prof Rafiqul Islam was present in the meeting that discussed problems and present situation of power generation, transmission and distribution in the country.

The donor-government meet also focused on the steps to be taken on immediate, mid-term and long-term basis to resolve the problems.

"Power is very crucial for national development of Bangladesh," said Kibria giving a resume on various steps taken for improvement of the sector.

Following unusual system loss the donors had once put off funding the sector to press for necessary reform to get rid of the power theft and streamline its management.

Later, a meeting on financial-sector reform in Bangladesh was held there. In the meeting, the Finance Minister briefed the team about the present status of reform programme in the sector.

Country Director of the World Bank Frederic Temple, Resident Representative of ADB Phiphat Suphaphiphat, ERD Secretary, Finance Secretary, Power Secretary, NBR Chairman and Governor of Bangladesh Bank attended the meeting.

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#### Prayer Timings

July 4	
Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10
Johr	12-50
Asr	4-55
Maghrib	7-00
Esha	7-55
	8-15

## No pvt sector project over 1330mw capacity

By Sharier Khan

The World Bank has asked the government not to pursue any power project with a capacity of more than 1330 MW in the private sector, saying that the country could not afford further power generation in the sector.

The "borderline" for private sector power generation was set at a meeting between visiting World Bank Vice-president Mieko Nishimizu and the Secretary for power on Wednesday.

The "borderline" was set as a "basic condition" for a 600 million dollar WB loan, promised earlier for a series of unidentified power projects.

In addition, the WB has imposed some other conditions for the loan, to be disbursed over 12 years.

However, the government may ignore the WB condition, the sources said.

"World Bank did not give us any loan since 1991 and it has virtually no role in the power sector in the country. Now, it is not offering us anything grand.

A loan of 600 million dollars over a period of 12 years will not help us bring about any meaningful change in the grim situation. Why should we listen to the World Bank?" said an official.

The 1330 MW borderline means, WB supports the three barge-mount power projects (each having 100 to 110 MW capacity), the 450 MW Meghnaghat project, the 360 MW Haripur project and the 100 MW Baghabari project, the sources

said. "It also means that the World Bank does not unsolicited power projects under the Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP) pursued by Unocal and another by Marubeni," the official said.

The WB calculated that the country was loosing 0.5 per cent GDP every year due to power crisis. The DESA and PDB incurred a loss of 150 million dollars in 1998.

Besides the 30 per cent chronic system loss in the power sector, lack of investment is responsible for the prevailing grim situation, the WB said.

"We'll need more than 600 million dollar investments in

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## Controversy over death of an accused

By Staff Correspondent

A young man drowned in Mirbagh jheel in the city yesterday while trying to escape arrest, police said.

The victim was identified as Shah Mohammad Tuku, 25, son of Abu Taher.

Local people, however, alleged that Tuku fell into the jheel when a police man kicked him.

Denying the allegation, police said that Tuku, an accused in a number of criminal cases, jumped into the jheel when they were about to arrest him.

According to a number of local people, a team of Ramna police in plain clothes went to Mirbagh area at about 11.40 am. Tuku, a resident of the area, along with his accomplices were gossipping at Mirbagh crossing.

Sensing police presence, Tuku and his associates ran helter-skelter to escape arrest

as police chased them.

While others managed to run away, Tuku and his accomplice Polash could not. As policemen continued chasing them, Polash jumped into the jheel while Tuku tried to hide near the jheel.

But Tuku fell into the jheel when a police man kicked him, according to a number of local people. However, police were able to arrest Polash.

Fire brigade sources said their divers rescued an unconscious Tuku from the jheel after about two hours of the incident.

Tuku was rushed to Holy Family Hospital where the attending doctors declared him dead. Later his body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Hospital sources said there were minor injury marks on the face and back of Tuku's body.

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## 10 killed as buses collide in N'ganj

NARAYANGANJ, July 3: Ten passengers, including two children and five women, were killed and more than 50 injured in a collision between two buses at Araihaazar thana on Dhaka-Sylhet highway today, reports UNB.

The identity of the victims could not be known immediately.

Police said the accident occurred in Palla area at around noon when a Dhaka-bound bus from Sylhet collided with a Narsingdi-bound minibus, killing ten people on the spot.

Of the injured, 30 were rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The bodies were sent to Narayanganj Hospital morgue for autopsy. A case was filed with Araihaazar police.

## DMCH obstetrics dept in shambles 15 caesareans a day, only one set of instrument!

By Naimul Haq

The Gynaecology and Obstetrics Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospital has only one set of operation instrument against a requirement of at least 15.

Doctors in most cases keep emergency delivery patients waiting due to lack of required number of caesarean operation sets that consist of at least 22 instruments. Without the equipment, the operation is not possible, they maintained.

Besides the 30 per cent chronic system loss in the power sector, lack of investment is responsible for the prevailing grim situation, the WB said.

Doctors said they had to take the risk of operating upon emergency patients without having the instruments properly sterilised.

which babies are taken out from the uterus by cutting the walls of abdomen.

She added: "If we had another set or two, the operation for the next patient in line would not have to be delayed. Just imagine what would happen if, in case, the instruments were not in place for use. Patients would either die or come into surgery."

The poor condition of the instruments and the obstetric operation theatres was visible during a visit to the hospital yesterday.

Doctors said they had to take the risk of operating upon emergency patients without having the instruments properly sterilised.

## WDB road project

Mastaans bring in 'fresh settlers' for compensation

By Morshed Ali Khan

As the Water Development Board finalises preparations for construction of an eight-km road from Salmasid to Mitford on the Dhaka Flood Protection Embankment, hundreds of fresh settlers encroach upon it.

Tender for the project has already been floated and engineers concerned said it would cost up to Tk 16 crore, including possible compensation for the settlers. Asian Development Bank would finance the project, likely to be completed by June next year, WDB sources said.

Several groups of mastaans have virtually taken over the embankment, building shanties and renting those to destitute families and individuals. At several points from Kallyanpur to Lalbagh through

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## Transport strike in SW region from tomorrow

From Our Correspondent JESSORE, July 3: South Bengal Transport Owners Unity Council has called a 72-hour transport strike in 18 routes in the southwestern region from tomorrow to realise their eight-point demand, including withdrawal of VAT imposed in vehicles in the national budget for 1999-2000.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the council at the central bus terminal here on Wednesday.

The transport owners urged the government to accept their demands by July 13. Otherwise, they threatened to launch a greater movement from July 17.

## 48-hour transport strike in northern region ends

RAJSHAHI, July 3: A 48-hour transport strike in the northern region ended at 6 am today, reports BSS.

Buses, minibuses and trucks started plying in all routes connecting this district with 16 northern districts.

Police control room said that no untoward incident was reported from any part of the district during the strike.

Police have been deployed at Rajshahi central bus terminal to ensure normal movement of vehicles and maintain law and order.

Simul Biswas, president, North Bengal Motor Sramik Federation, Barkat Khan, general secretary, Pabna Motor Malik Group and Monjurul Alam Hasu, president, Natore Bus Malik Samity met Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Commissioner Khandokar Shahab Ali this morning to discuss the prevailing transport movement situation in the region.

## Two criminals held in Ctg

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, July 3: Two criminals were arrested in the city today and last night.

Kotwali thana police arrested one Nurul Karim alias Nuru, 30, from New Market crossing this afternoon.

Nuru is a member of an inter-district dacoit group, police said.

Double Mooring thana police arrested a terrorist from in front of Lucky Plaza in Agrabad area last night.

The arrested was identified as Shawkat Jahan Raton, 24. He was wanted in five criminal cases, police said.

## BCS exams near but no move yet to approve new rules

By Gobinda Bar

Implementation of the proposed new rules in the 21st BCS examination, as scheduled, has become uncertain as the rules are yet to be approved by the Secretariat Committee, highly placed sources said.

The Public Service Commission (PSC) is preparing to start the first phase of the examination from the middle of this month, but the Secretariat Committee headed by Cabinet Secretary Kazi Shamsul Alam is yet to sit for scrutiny and approval of the new rules.

Establishment Ministry officials said yesterday that no date was yet fixed for a meeting of the Committee.

The PSC-recommended were sent to the Committee in November last year. There was a series of correspondence between the two sides in the previous two years as they differed on some points.

PSC favoured 200 marks for viva voce while the Secretariat Committee thinks it should not carry more than 100 marks.

Earlier, the two bodies agreed that candidates both for

## Their ordeals do not end with death

From Ehsanul Haque

NARAYANGANJ, July 3: Ordeals of a sex worker do not end with her death.

She has to bear with social vilification and disregard as long as she is alive. After death, she is destined to more humiliation.

Authorities of graveyards do not allow a sex worker's body to be buried in there. Any voluntary organization also does not want to take the bodies of sex workers for burial.

Jesmin of Tanbazar brothel is no exception. Her body is now getting decomposed at the Narayanganj General Hospital morgue after autopsy. She was killed at the brothel on Thursday.

Authorities of the graveyards in Narayanganj have refused to allow Jesmin's body to be buried in there. A local non-government social welfare body, Tanmiz Association, which takes responsibility of burial of unclaimed bodies, has also refused to take her body for burial.

The same thing had happened to another sex worker, Mala, who was killed on May 29. Father of the girl took the

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## Sex workers gherao N'ganj thana, free inmate

From Our Correspondent

Police then assured them that Sathi would be released in two hours.

The slogan-chanting sex workers went back to the red-light area.

After about two hours, all the inmates