The Daily Star

DHAKA WEDNESDAY, JULY 7, 1999

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8 Indian nationals arrested in Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, July 6: BDR personnel arrested eight Indian nationals yesterday from Atarpara in Bagha thana and handed them over to Bagha thana police.

Police said, a patrol team of Alaipur outpost of BDR arrested them on suspicion and they confessed that they had intruded into Bangladesh territory without valid documents.

The arrested are: Shamedul, 30, Haider, 31, Shorafat, 35, Amir Shaikh, 30, Rezaul Shaib, 30, of Tulsipur village of Domkol thana Rouf Islam, 25, Hanif, 25, and Nazrul, 30, of Poridpur village in Jalangi thana of Murshidabad district in West Bengal.

A case was filed in this regard and they were sent to jail hajat.

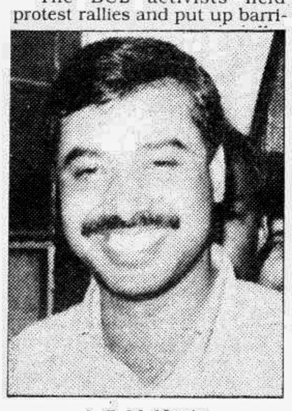
Hartal in Ctg

From Page 1

Meanwhile, activists of Chhatra League in Chittagong brought out a series of processions to protest the arrest, according to our Chittagong Correspondent.

BCL (Nasir faction) called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in the port city today demanding immediate release of Nasir.

The BCL activists held protest rallies and put up barri-


A Z M Nasir

cades on roads at Anderkilla, New Market crossing, medical crossing, Muradpur and Sher Shah Road from 10 am to noon. They also burnt tyres and damaged some passing vehicles at these places, witnesses said.

Traffic movement was restored after police removed barricades.

Additional police force has been deployed at all important points of the city to foil any attempt of violence.

'Reports on Ashok Leyland trucks misleading'

Indian High Commission to Bangladesh yesterday refuted the reports relating to Ashok Leyland trucks as "misleading statements" and said "the Indian Army has over 3000 trucks in its inventory and has placed an order for 2000 more," reports BSS.

In a press release, the Indian Deputy High Commissioner said, "these trucks are being used in the Kargil operations and the formidable terrain in that area is known to all."

"The Ashok Leyland trucks on offer to Bangladesh Army are upgraded versions of those being used by the Indian Army," the release added.

Transport strike

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transport strike called by the owners of buses, minibuses and trucks in demand for repairing and reconstruction of roads and highways that began on Monday.

Transport owners and workers in Comilla also stopped plying buses on the Dhaka-Comilla route from yesterday for an indefinite period in protest against 'illegal' toll collection.

The owners and workers said they would not resume plying of their vehicles until illegal toll collection is stopped.

Moulvibazar

From Page 1

mad, Md Serajul Haque, Ali Ashgar Kamal, all merchants of Moulvibazar, said they bought a couple of mobile telephones to keep business communications on. "In this modern world of communications, we have become incommunicado while cross-country business deals are being delayed," said a trader.

MMA also opposed preshipment inspection (PSI) system that is being introduced on imports of essentials and said they wanted the government to fix tariff value of each importable item in line with international market price.

20 outsiders held from 2 DU halls

By DU Correspondent

Police in a pre-dawn swoop yesterday raided two residential halls of Dhaka University and arrested 20 outsiders on charges of illegal stay. Fifteen of the arrested are from Surya Sen Hall and five from Hazi Mohammad Mohsin Hall.

The arrested persons include Jahangir Hossain, Yakub Ali, Sobhan, Shah Alam (1), Malek, Chan Mia, Babul (1), Abul Hasnat, Azad, Mizanur Rahman, Delwar Hossain, Kalam, Babul, (2), Shafiqur Rahman, Imam, Shah Alam (2), Anwar and Nazrul Islam.

The arrested are activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL), the student wing of the ruling Awami League. All of them were taken to court yesterday morning.

Campus sources said police simultaneously cordoned both the BCL dominated halls at about 12:30 AM and conducted the raid.

During the three and a half hour raid, police persons went to almost all rooms and checked the Identity (ID) cards of the students in the presence of the hall provost and house tutors. Police arrested those who had no ID cards.

Talking to The Daily Star Ramna police said that all 20 persons arrested are on charges of illegal stay in the halls. Most of them are guests of residential students, they added. No specific case, however, has been filed against them.

When contacted, authorities of both the halls said that they will take punitive measures against outsiders for staying in the halls and creating anarchy on the campus.

All outsiders and terrorists will be taken to task and none will be spared, the hall authorities added.

They however admitted that the situation in their halls has been improving gradually due to frequent police operation and nabbing of outsiders.

Kargil

From Page 1

answer will be."

But Islamic guerillas fighting in Kargil said today they would die before withdrawing from their mountain bunkers.

"There is no question of a retreat . . . if we don't fight now Indians will press forward in our area," said Mohammed Shoaib, a Muslim rebel, fresh from three weeks of fighting Indian troops in the Kargil mountains in India.

"Freedom fighters will not stop their struggle against Indian occupation of Kashmir," Syed Salahuddin, top commander of Hizbul Mujahideen, told AFP in an interview.

Hizbul Mujahideen is considered the largest militant outfit operating in the Indian-controlled zone of the disputed Himalayan region, where Islamic fighters have held several strategic peaks since April.

Dozens of Pakistani shells, soared over the jagged hilltops on the Line of Control, aiming at an Indian 105mm gun position but hitting oil tanker truck and severely denting another. Thirty army trucks were trapped. Traffic backed up for seven kilometres on the narrow stretch of tortuous road that links Kashmir's summer capital, Srinagar, to the northeastern Chinese border and the far-flung embattled mountains.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's information minister said today that India had lost 600 troops in the fighting over Kargil in northern Kashmir, more than in the 1971 war between India and Pakistan.

The official APP news agency said Mushahid Hussain told journalists in parliament that the official figure for Indian casualties in 1971 was about 250.

Khaleda

From Page 1

and destroy religious values, she alleged.

Quoting from press report, she said the State Minister for Religious Affairs was assaulted by people in Chittagong for making false statement.

"Not only the Religious Minister, their (AL) Prime Minister also tells lie," she alleged.

Meanwhile sources said the joining of the JP leader to BNP has created a serious controversy among leaders and activists of BNP at Chandpur as well in the central body.

They said former State Minister for Establishment Nurul Huda, who hails from the same area, met BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuyan Monday night and requested him not to allow the JP leader and his followers to join the party because this may create trouble in the next election.

A close aide of Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told The Daily Star last night that the BNP Secretary General told Nurul Huda that he was totally unaware of their joining and that he had nothing to do.

No senior BNP leader of Chandpur and Matlab attended the function. BNP sources claimed that the district committee was against the joining of Mohiuddin Hossain and his followers because they were locally known as a close associates of a minister of the present government.

Ctg port

From Page 1

"We have been agitating for realisations of our demands for three years," said one labour leader justifying the strike call for removing salary anomalies and realising incentive bonus of 80 days.

Port sources told the news agency that the State Minister requested the CBA leaders this morning over phone not to announce programme till July 10, the day he will come here to look into the matter.

But the unions announced the strike programme, rejecting the request.

Four held in Ctg for harassing Religious Minister

CHITTAGONG, July 6: Police today arrested four people from Anderkilla Jame Mosque for harassing State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam, reports UNB.

Fazlul Quader, Zainul Abedin alias Jamsed, Abdul Aziz and Soleman were picked up from the mosque area at about 5 pm.

"All of them are Islami Chhatra Shibir cadres," said a Detective Branch official who led the raid.

Police had filed a case against 72 people, specifying two names, Abdul Mannan and Fazlul Quader for their alleged involvement in the incident.

The attackers accused the State Minister of curbing madrassah education and pelted stones, shoes and rotten mangoes at him while he was coming out of the mosque in the port city after *Asr* prayers on Monday.

Clinton imposes sanctions on Taleban

WASHINGTON, July 6: US President Bill Clinton said today he had imposed financial and commercial sanctions against the Afghan Taleban movement, accusing it of supporting attacks against the United States including the bombings of two US embassies in Africa last year, reports Reuters.

Erosion

From Page 1

Besides, most of the rivers in the Ganges basin including the Padma recorded further rise at all points due to onrush of water from the upstream and torrential rain during a last couple of days, officials of the Flood Information Centre said.

"The Padma registered further rise by 13 cm at Pankha, 9 cm at Rajshahi, 4 cm at Goalundo, 8 cm at Bhagyakul and is flowing above danger level," they said.

3 young men

From Page 1

Dhaka Medical College Hospital and he died at about 1:30 am yesterday. The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

In the second incident, body of a 23-year youth was recovered near the Mohammedpur Shishu Park at about 10:45 pm on Monday. Witnesses said a woman, who saw the body being dumped from a car near the road in front the park, immediately reported it to Mohammedpur thana. Meanwhile, two young men sent it to Suhrawardy Hospital before police had reached the spot. The attending doctor declared him dead.

Police said the name of the young man was Masud and they suspected he was killed. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) for autopsy.

In another incidence, Abdullah Tuhin was shot dead by unidentified assailants at west Kafrul under at the early hours of yesterday.

Hospital sources quoting his relatives said that Tuhin went out of his residence Monday evening saying he would night out with his friends.

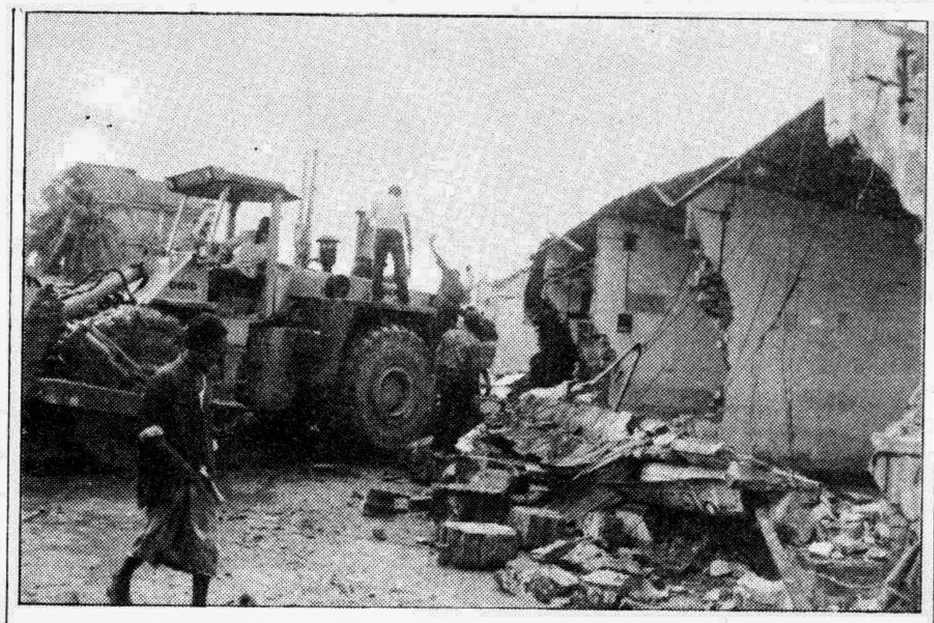
At about 1 am yesterday, two young men came to the house and without giving their identity informed his family members that Tuhin was found lying in a pool of blood in front of a four-storey building at Sheorapara.

The relatives found him lying with bullet wounds in his head and right leg. Tuhin was rushed to DMCH where doctors declared him dead.

The body was sent to hospital morgue for autopsy.

Separate cases were lodged in connection with the deaths, but none was arrested till last night.

Editor : Mahfuz Anam
Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net


RAJUK demolishing illegal structures at J Block at Baridhara yesterday.
— Star photo

Delhi doubts Sharif's ability to implement accord

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, July 6: India has chosen to react with extreme caution to the joint statement issued after talks between US President Bill Clinton and Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in Washington which clearly commits Pakistan to withdraw its forces from Kargil in Indian side of Kashmir.

The statement, issued after three hours of intense discussions between Clinton and Sharif on Sunday night, is seen by analysts here as a "total turnaround" in Pakistan's stand in seeking to question the Line of Control (LoC) dividing it with India and to secure third party mediation in Indo-Pak disputes.

Official circles in New Delhi note with satisfaction that the Sharif-Clinton statement fully endorses the sequence of measures listed by India in dealing with the Kargil crisis and the follow-up steps to be taken by New Delhi and Islamabad in resuming peace talks.

India has made it clear that a return to the process of talks set off by Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee's bus ride to Lahore is possible only after a full and unconditional withdrawal of Pakistani incursion in Kargil and restoration of the sanctity of LoC.

The joint US-Pak statement says Pakistan would take "concrete steps" to respect the LoC as per the Shimla Accord of 1972 and that there would be a ceasefire between the India and Pakistan only after these steps are taken.

The Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesman has said Washington had conveyed to New Delhi that "concrete steps" mentioned in the joint statement means "withdrawal" of Pakistani forces from Indian side of LoC.

The main reasons for India's circumspection in reacting to the Sharif-Clinton joint statement are: first, New Delhi is keeping its fingers crossed about Sharif's ability to implement his commitment in the face of 'hawkish' postures of the army and fundamentalists in Pakistan and secondly the Vajpayee government would not like to give impression that it is encouraging third party mediation in Indo-Pak issues.

No doubt, the United States had been in touch with the Indian leadership before it agreed to receive Sharif for hurriedly-called discussions on Sunday as well as during and after the discussions.

Officially, India has expressed the hope that Pakistan would implement its commitment made in the joint statement to withdraw its forces from Indian side of LoC and would watch the ground reality. India also vowed to press ahead with military actions against the intruders in Kargil till they were completely cleared out.

Doubts persist in official circles in New Delhi if Sharif would be about able to muster the sincerity or courage to implement the contents of the joint statement with Clinton.

Would he be able to sell it to the Pakistan army or Inter-services Intelligence or to the radical camp in his country? These questions remain to be answered.

Meanwhile, at home, the Vajpayee government has sought to dispel the anxiety that United States' support to India on Kargil standoff would result in American role in Indo-Pak problems.

The mainstream opposition led by the Congress and CPI (M) and CPI have cautioned the Vajpayee government against third party mediation in Indo-Pak bilateral disputes.

The CPI (M) said the Vajpayee government should not project Sharif-Clinton joint statement as a "major victory" for India while the CPI alleged the statement was a "back door attempt" to involve a third party in Indo-Pak issues.

However, the External Affairs Ministry spokesman asserted that there was no place for third party involvement because the joint statement itself emphasises that India and Pakistan should resolve their bilateral problems through "bilateral dialogues."

Panelists at a discussion on "Constitutional Legal Provisions Related to Right to Information in South Asia: A Comparison with Standards in Some Other Countries" at a city hotel yesterday. From left to right: Former Law Minister of Pakistan Fakhruddin G Ebrahim, Bharat Ulpreti from Nepal, Pai Kiasothy Sara Vanamuttu of Colombo University in Sri Lanka, Vikram Khub Chand from India and Deepika Udagama from Sri Lanka.
— Star photo

Involve rich & poor

From Page 1

Singapore, she said.

The Bangladesh prime minister also pleaded for free movement of the people from one country to another. In this global village of ours when goods and services can move unhindered, billions if not trillions of dollars can move freely everyday, it will be fundamentally wrong if people from the developing world find that they are no longer welcome in most parts of the developed world, she observed.

She reminded that the exponents of the free market have always told us that goods and services, as well as labour must be allowed to move freely without hindrance. If we are to remove all barriers to the free movement of goods and services, should this not apply also to labour? she questioned.

The prime minister expressed the hope that early in the 21st century, the issue of free movement of people will figure prominently on the global agenda. Terming Britain as a multi-ethnic society which gives it a sense of great vitality and strength, Sheikh Hasina hoped that the UK would join hands in forging a new agenda.

Expressing her apprehension the prime minister said, if we do not adopt a more enlightened approach to this problem then the drug cartels of this world will shift their attention to trafficking in human beings.

Turning to her country's affairs, the prime minister said good governance and upholding democracy are of paramount importance to a country like Bangladesh. "We must root-out corruption and make government increasingly transparent," she added.

Speaking on the country's foreign policy, Hasina said her government made special effort to improve relations with neighbours, in particular India. She referred to the signing of a 30-year agreement on the sharing of the Ganges waters with India and recent introduction of direct bus service between Dhaka and Calcutta.

The prime minister also mentioned her initiative of removing long mistrust and suspicion that has poisoned the atmosphere in the South Asia.

Referring to Bangladesh's commitment to the United Nations, Sheikh Hasina said, we look forward during the next few years to serving on the Security Council. Besides, she said, Bangladesh attaches very high importance to its relations with other Islamic countries, both bilaterally and within the framework of the OIC and the D-8. She also referred to holding of the next Non-Aligned Summit in Dhaka in the year 2001.

Referring to the formation of her government over three years ago, the prime minister said her commitment was to build a better Bangladesh.

Among her priorities since assuming the office, she said, were to re-build the image of Bangladesh, attract massive foreign investment, improve infrastructures, double the country's power generation, improve road communications and tele-links. With discovery of gas both on- and off-shore, the interest of foreign investors increased significantly, she added.

Common law

From Page 1

tion can come in the form of human rights. The new Nepalese constitution incorporates fundamental rights. But there is a debate on which information should be given and which should not be given, he said.

Vikram Khub Chand, an Associate Research Professor of Delhi-based Centre for Policy Research said in many countries including India, constitutions allows right to information but it is yet to be implemented fully.

Referring to the scenario in Bangladesh, Barrister Tania Amir said Bangladesh has bought eight Mig 29s from Russia with tax payers' money, which may have a crunch on the foreign exchange reserve. But information on the purchase remains a 'defence secret'. "People's right to information can not be denied in the name of state or defence secret," she said.

Ghazi Salahuddin, Director of Jang group of newspapers said illiteracy remains a barrier to right to information, which undermine press freedom in Pakistan.

"The right to information is as our right to breathe," said Mahfuz Anam, Editor of The Daily Star. He described it as a fundamental right which is essential for growth of democracy, transparency and accountability.

John Mukela, Executive Director of Nordic-SADC Journalism Centre in Mozambique gave an overview of freedom of press in southern Africa. Press freedom is fundamental to transition to democracy and progress, he said.

No question of closing madrassahs, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

Education Minister ASHK Sadeque yesterday said the government has no plan to stop madrassah education in the country. On the contrary, the government has doubled budgetary allocation for this sector in the new fiscal.

Replying to questions, the minister told the Jatiya Sangsad: The question of closing the madrassah does not arise. We have taken steps to develop madrassah education.

He said particular quarters are misleading people to gain petty political ground through false public statements. "They are damaging the country and obstructing the development of madrassah education. Those who are spreading falsehood might face trial in this world," he added.

The minister accused the opposition parties of trying to confuse the people through their speeches in the House about madrassah education and teachers.

Replying to a question from an opposition BNP member Mashiur Rahman, he said the BNP government in 1995 had formulated a policy for madrassah which is very much in existence and the government is taking measures under the policy.

The education minister said the government has enlisted 200 new madrassah in the MPO last fiscal, which were about to be dropped during the BNP regime. Besides, the government has enhanced salaries and allowances of the school and madrassah teachers along with stipends for students.

Sadeque said presently there is a total of 6,500 MPO enlisted madrassah in the country.

On cancellation of registration and stoppage of government donation, he said the authorities have recently canceled registrations of a good number of fake educational institutions, including general schools, colleges and madrassah on the basis of an inquiry committee report.

He said the Awami League government after assuming power formed a committee to investigate into the fake institutions. The committee after inquiry found that a large number of fake educational institutions are in existence. They have no teachers, students and educational activities but are getting government grants.

The minister said the government on the basis of the report stopped donations and canceled registration of the fake institutions, which do not even have bank accounts.

Dhaka-Calcutta commercial bus run from July 9

From Ranesh Maitra

CALCUTTA, July 6: Bangladesh delegation which is now in Calcutta today held a meeting with the authorities of West Bengal Surface Transport Corporation.

The meeting decided to start Dhaka-Calcutta and Calcutta-Dhaka Commercial bus run from July 9.

The meeting reached consensus of some other issues that included setting up of two interval stations in two countries

The two Bangladeshi buses which reached here on Sunday will return to Dhaka tomorrow.

Occidental set to drill

From Page 1

and 14 expired on January 10, 1998. Besides failing in many other obligations, the company could not drill a single well in any of the blocks.

Later, the government "extended" Occidental's PSC on condition that it would compensate the environmental damages caused by the blow-out. Though the government claimed Tk 612 crore compensation, Occidental won its argument that the environmental damages would be assessed by a joint panel of experts and compensation would be paid as per the assessment.

"But till date, no such experts' panel has been formed," said a source. "Although Occidental would be leaving soon, the government did not take any move to realise the compensation."

Occidental earlier drilled another exploratory well in Kafna and struck an oil reservoir. Sources said Kafna may have a "very good oil reserve". Occidental had drilled the Kafna well amid Petrobangla's objection that the drilling area was located in a ring-fenced or reserved area. This issue is still unresolved.

Gas production at Occidental's Jalalabad gas field was suspended last month as the processing plant was shut down due to short-supply of propane, a chemical needed for the plant. Jalalabad field was supplying 60 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcfd). Gas consumption in the country is now around 900 mmcfd.

"This was yet another instance of Occidental's poor operation. Propane should have been kept in stock by Occidental in advance. The gas processing plant is closed for more than two weeks due to lack of propane. It will take another couple of weeks to import the chemical and resume gas production in the plant."

Meanwhile, Occidental's handing over of its assets to Unocal is being delayed. Industry insiders said the handing over will be completed by the end of this month. But Petrobangla sources said it will take two more months before Occidental can really wind up from Bangladesh.

Under a deal struck between the two companies early last month, Occidental will take over some of Unocal's concerns in the Middle East in exchange of its three blocks (12, 13 and 14) in Bangladesh. Unocal had 50 per cent partnership in these blocks since early 1997.

Shazneen

From Page 1

against the accused for raping Shazneen under Section 6(1) of the Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain, 1995 instead of Section 6(2) of the same act. Accused Parveen contended in her appeal that Shazneen Murder Case cannot be tried under Section 302 of the Penal Code and Section 6(1) of Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain.

Earlier, in two separate cases of murder and rape of Shazneen, charges had been framed. In one case, the trial court framed charge under Nari-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain against the accused for murder and rape of Shazneen. In the other case, the trial court framed charge under Section 302 of the Penal Code against the same accused for murder of Shazneen.

Senior advocate Mojibar Rahman appeared for Latifur Rahman while senior advocate M Sirajul Haque and advocate Anisul Haque appeared for Parveen.

JS body

From Page 1

body Maj (retd) Akhtaruzzaman scented 'mystery' in deferring the discussion. "Had the discussion been held yesterday, it would have been timely. But the ruling party members, especially the chief whip, mysteriously deferred it," said Akhtaruzzaman. "May be the government, for their interest, does not want the discussion before the purchase of the MIGs is completed."

However, the three-member sub-committee headed by ruling party legislator Col (retd) Shawkat Ali submitted its reports yesterday on the alleged injustice on some members of the armed forces who lost their jobs on disciplinary ground.

The sub-committee report will be taken up for discussion by the members of the main committee very soon, said the chief of the parliamentary body.

Operatorship

From Page 1

Okland's concerns in Bangladesh.

Cairn and Shell initiated a deal in mid-1998 under which Cairn first sold 50 per cent of its concerns in Bangladesh to Shell. In February, the companies revised their deal and Cairn sold all (100 per cent) its local concerns to Shell.

In both the case, Cairn did not inform Petrobangla which is contractually the partner and owner of the oil and gas blocks.

Cairn had sought government permission for sale of 50 per cent of its concerns in late '98. At that time, the Law Ministry sought Cairn's clarifications on several issues and said that the PSC did not provide for transfer of operatorship.

In February- March, Cairn again sought government permission for its 100 per cent sell-out deal. This time again, the Law Ministry sought clarification from Cairn and asked under which provision of the PSC could the British company ignore other signatories of PSC and the Gas Sales Purchase Agreement (GPSA) and strike a deal all by itself.

"The government had agreed in principle to approve the change in operatorship since Cairn would no longer be present in Bangladesh as an investor and Shell Oil is a good operator," observed a source. "But we should not create a precedence in which companies get away without clarifying their position regarding terms of the PSC they violated earlier."

Dacoity

From Page 1

admitted to the Islamic hospital for injuries.

Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) commissioner ASM Shamsuddin and university officials visited the spot.

A case was lodged with the Ramna police station but none was arrested till filing of this report.