

Another goods train derails near Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Aug 1: Two bogies of a goods train were derailed at Bagmara crossing near the town at 1-45 pm today disrupting train services for about three hours on Dhaka-Mymensingh line, reports UNB.

Two killed in accident in Mymensingh

MYMENSINGH, Aug 1: Two passengers of a Dhaka-bound bus were killed and 35 others injured in a tragic accident at Jamirdia on Dhaka-Mymensingh highway this morning, reports UNB.

Nurul Islam Akhand, 45, UD Clerk of the Supreme Court, and Anis, 30, helper of the bus died on the spot.

Witnesses and police said the accident took place at about 7 am as the driver lost control and hit a roadside tree while trying to give side to another vehicle coming from the opposite direction.

Kibria says Measures taken for dev of private sector

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday said the government has undertaken various measures for private sector development in the country, reports BSS.

He was talking to an ADB Consultation Mission on Private Sector Development Strategy which called on him at his ERD office.

The mission was led by US Executive Director Ambassador Linda Yang. Other members of the mission, Director Zhao Ziaoyu (China), John Miller (UK) and Pasist Ujain (Thailand) and ADB Resident Representative Phiphit Suphaphit was present.

The fact-finding mission was keen to know about the government's measures undertaken for the development of private sector as well as the ADB's suggestions in this regard.

The government has liberalised rules and regulations for investment in the private sector and opened up almost every field including power, gas and telecommunication, the finance minister said. Referring to the various measures undertaken by the government in strengthening supervision in the banking system, establishment of export processing zone, privatisation of state-owned enterprises and other physical infrastructure development programmes, the finance minister told the visiting delegation that the government is fully committed to private sector development.

9 chargesheeted

Procedure. The charge sheet referred to as many as 25 witnesses, including a number of girlfriends of film actor Sohel Chowdhury.

Some unidentified assailants gunned down Sohel Chowdhury in front of the city's club 'Trump' on the night of December 18.

The seven-month DB investigation found that Sohel had insulted Aziz at a party over one of his one girlfriend a few days before the killing. Besides, relationship between Sohel Chowdhury and Bunty Islam and his business partner AR Chowdhury deteriorated following a business feud. Following these incidents, the businessmen masterminded the killing of Sohel in collaboration with a number of professional hit men, DB investigation revealed.

GrameenPhone signs deal with DHL Worldwide Express

GrameenPhone Limited has signed an agreement with DHL Worldwide Express Bangladesh under its new Corporate Sales Package initiative, says a press release.

Under this agreement, DHL couriers will be given GrameenPhone (GP) mobile phones with the Short Message Service (SMS) and Voice Mail Service (VMS) facilities, in addition to the regular voice communication. GP's new Corporate Sales Package initiative provides special customised packages to suit the connectivity needs of multinational companies, big local companies, large NGOs, international organisations, government organisations, banks and financial institutions.

The agreement between GrameenPhone and DHL was signed in the GrameenPhone boardroom on July 29. Masud A. Mallick of the Corporate Sales Department of GrameenPhone, and Ahsan Parvez, Finance Manager of DHL, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective organisations in the presence of NKA Mobin, Finance Director of GP, Dalip Handa, Country Manager of DHL, and other senior officials of the two companies.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday visited Rashida Mustafiz, the ailing wife of Army Chief, at the Combined Military Hospital. —PID photo

Daily Arthonity launched 'Objectivity foremost condition for responsible journalism'

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria yesterday urged the journalists writing economic reports and articles to gain adequate knowledge about the subject concerned to portray both the domestic and global economic affairs correctly and objectively in their newspapers, reports BSS.

'Objectivity is the first and foremost condition for responsible journalism and the economic reporters must have in-depth knowledge of this important subject so that their writings can meet the expectations of the general readers,' he said.

Addressing as the chief guest the launching ceremony of a Bengali economic daily 'The Dainik Arthonity' at the National Press Club, Kibria observed that only an ordinary level of education would never help a journalist reach the significance of his report to the general readers.

The function was also addressed by veteran journalist and former editor of The Bangladesh Observer Obaidul Huq, and former finance minister M Saifur Rahman while eminent economist and educationist Prof Wahiduddin Mahmud was in the chair.

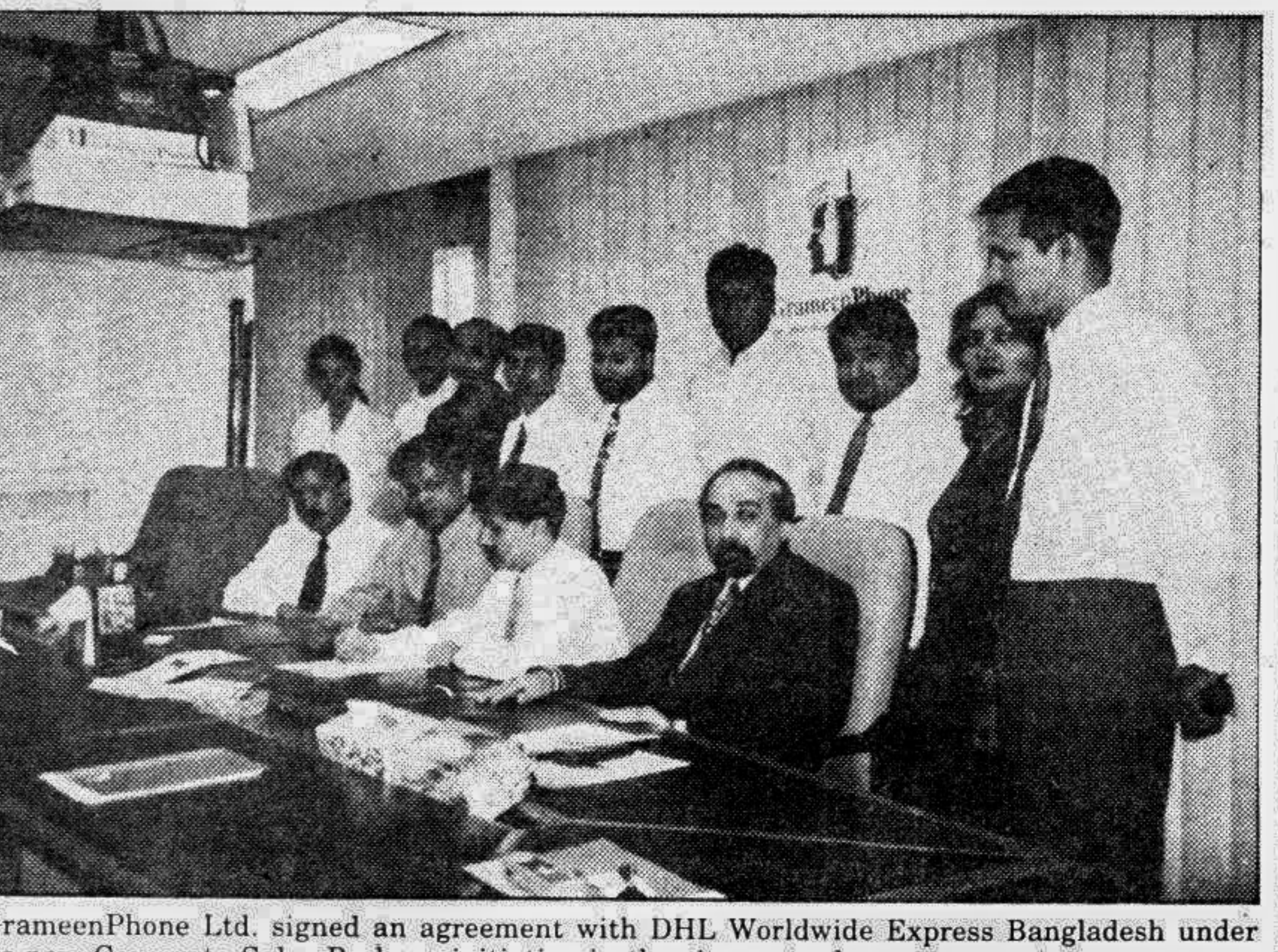
Editor of the new economic daily Zahiduzzaman Faruq, in his welcome speech, expressed the confidence that the Dainik Arthonity under his stewardship would live up to its aims and objectives in the field of economic journalism in the country.

Kibria was highly appreciative of the courage of journalists in Bangladesh, particularly during the autocratic regime when their pens demonstrated the power needed to uphold the hopes and aspirations of the country's people.

'However, this time, I find no such quality in a newspaper. Sometimes, the report published is baseless and concocted,' he said without naming any newspaper but expressed the hope that a report would be properly written before publishing it."



Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus yesterday demanding immediate execution of the Bangabandhu Murder Case verdict.



GrameenPhone Ltd. signed an agreement with DHL Worldwide Express Bangladesh under its new Corporate Sales Package initiative in the city yesterday.

2 BNP leaders granted ad-interim bail

The High Court Division of the Supreme Court yesterday granted ad-interim anticipatory bail to two BNP leaders named in the police Constable Farhad murder case, reports BSS.

The High Court Division comprising Justice Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman and Justice Mohammad Nurul Islam granted the ad-interim anticipatory bail to BNP lawmaker Nazim Uddin Alam and Jubo Dal leader Farhad Babu.

The court also issued rule nisi upon the government to show cause within eight weeks as to why the accused petitioners should not be enlarged on anticipatory bail.

Barrister Maudud Ahmed moved the anticipatory bail petition on behalf of the two BNP leaders.

Sex workers

Mala, 20 - had been allegedly missing since July 24. But officials denied the allegation.

Meanwhile, some activists of women and human rights organisations told this correspondent that some of the sex workers were handed over to pimps and traffickers who claimed themselves as guardians.

Police said that they caught two pimps Karim and Tota yesterday while local people assaulted another seven when they came to the vagrant centre posing as guardians.

Addressed by The Daily Star, DG of the Department of Social Services Mir Shahabuddin claimed yesterday 'The plan for rehabilitation of the sex workers has not failed'.

'Returning the sex workers to their guardians is part of our rehabilitation programme. We could motivate them to go back to their families and have a normal life there. Those willing to stay back at the vagrants' homes or those having no guardians will be given vocational training.'

Other speakers expressed the hope that the Dainik Arthonity would correctly evaluate and present all reports so that the general readers could find the real picture of the domestic and global economy.

CA Foundation Course admission test results

Results of the CA Foundation Course Admission Test held on July 23, 1999, are as follows, says an ICAB press release.

Table with 2 columns: Roll Number (1-33) and Marks (36-479). Total 337 (three hundred and thirty seven) only.

Candidates bearing the following roll numbers have been kept on the waiting list: 84, 96, 137, 183, 198, 396, 83, 73, 400, 284, 16, 171, 136, 39, 208, 174, 259, 405, 359, 4, 407, 70, 129 and 35 = Total 24 (twenty four) only.

Weather Moderate rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershower accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Barisal, Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Khulna and Rajshahi divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

No appreciable change in day temperature is expected over the country during the period. Met office said.

Country's highest temperature 35.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Dinajpur and the lowest 25.2 degrees at Srirangol.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6:41 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:28 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

Table with 4 columns: City/Town, Temperature in Celsius (Max, Min), Humidity in Percentage (Morning, Evening). Cities include Dhaka, Chittagong, Rajshahi, Khulna, Barisal, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar.



Joy Bangla Sangskritik Oikya Jote brought a procession in the city yesterday. City mayor Mohammad Hanif led the procession. — Star photo

Month-long BCL mourning programmes begin

Pro-government student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) held a rally at the Aparejo Bangla on the campus at noon.

Addressing the rally, BCL leaders said that a vested quarter is trying to save the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

They also blamed BNP allied opposition for creating unrest in the country by calling 'illogical' hartal.

Presided over by Bahadur Bepary, the rally was addressed, among others, by Anisur Rahman, Gazi Mesbaur Hossain Sachchu, Saifuddin Nasir, Sajjad Hossain, A K M Azim and Giasuddin Palash.

The month-long programme of BCL includes: mourning processions and rallies, offering feteah at the mazar of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 16, blood donation and tree plantation programme, exhibition of documentary film, photography exhibition, distribution of posters and leaflets, distribution of foods and cloths among the distressed children, discussion meeting, milad mahfil at the DU Central Mosque, mass-signatorial campaign across the country, publishing wall-magazine at different departments and faculties of DU, offering special offer at mosques, mandirs, churches and pagodas, and placing wreath at the portrait of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on August 15.

The inaugural meeting of the Renewable Energy Information Network (REIN) was held at the LGED Bhaban yesterday, says a press release.

Sustainable Rural Energy (SRE), a sub-component of Sustainable Environmental Management Programme (SEMP), has initiated the meeting participated by different governmental, non-government agencies and institutions.

The participants appreciated LGED's endeavour in establishing an information platform on renewable energy through REIN.

Let there be debate

From Page 1 In 1993, the seven member states of Saarc agreed to undertake appropriate steps and measures for developing and improving communication and transport infrastructure and transit facilities for accelerating the growth of trade within the region.

Rahman said these agreements had not borne the ultimate fruit because of "lack of reciprocity" from the Indians who had always been "excessively protective, short-sighted and hegemonistic" in their handling of neighbours.

"Whenever we agreed to give them some facility, India didn't reciprocate. This created the first credibility gap," he said, referring to long-standing demand for transit for Dhaka-Kathmandu trade. "It is the mindset of the Indian leaders which created the problem."

There was an agreement involving Bangladesh, India and Nepal, but a new Indian government came and scrapped it, Saifur Rahman recalled.

He admitted that the late President Ziaur Rahman "initiated the process because he was in favour of increasing trade," but said that the 1980 accord was only "an expression of intention".

Similarly, he said, the 1993 SAPTA agreement "envisaged free flow of trade in the region".

But nothing happened that would have instilled confidence in "our minds", which is the reason why the government of Khaleda Zia did not find it comfortable to deal certain bilateral issues with India, he said.

"Why is Khaleda Zia opposed to it today? Every time she proposed something, she did not receive a positive response," Saifur Rahman said of the BNP chief's position on the issue.

"India is the only country in the world which has troubled relationships with all its neighbours," he said. "It should be able to treat its neighbours with some degree of equality... I mean relative equality, not absolute equality... we know they are big."

"If we are to allow Indian goods to be carried through our land routes as early as now, we must bargain for our benefits such as transit for trade with Nepal."

The former finance minister, aware of the demands of globalisation and the post-2005 trade regime, gave other reasons why he was critical of the move "at this stage".

"Bangladesh's infrastructure is not ready. Our own cargo from Sylhet to Dhaka, from Chittagong to Dhaka cannot move smoothly."

"Our alluvial soil... our road structure is not strong enough... it will take many more years... may be at least 10 years - to be ready for such heavy transportation," he said.

"I would not object to it if it was a multilateral arrangement to enhance intra-regional trade. In that case, I would prefer it by the railway system, not by road," he said.

Rahman, who sits on BNP's policymaking standing committee, also sees threats to Bangladesh's national security.

"Why sealed container? We cannot take the responsibility of arms shipment in the name of transshipment," he said as he referred to secessionist unrest in north-eastern India. "We'll be vulnerable in terms of security."

Vulnerability, according to Saifur Rahman, also exists in other areas.

"The economy will be affected. We'll be losing our potential market (in the northeastern Indian states). And nobody will be setting up industries in Bangladesh," he said.

The multinationals, which planned to invest in Bangladesh keeping the north-east Indian market in mind, would no longer consider so, he said.

Asked why the business community welcomed the transshipment plan, Saifur Rahman said: "Many of the businessmen are vulnerable to government pressure and have various other compulsions (to support government policies)."

Replying to a query, the former finance minister said every government cared for national interest and that he was not willing to criticise it in such cheap terms as "a sellout of the country".

"But it is the suddenness and haste with which the government moved is really raising the eyebrows of most opponents," the BNP leader said. "It does not go with claims of transparency."

JU students barricade

From Page 1 claimed. The JU authorities did not ask us to raid the halls."

Malek said the thana was not informed about any act of terrorism on the campus. He said the thana was not aware of the developments reported in newspapers.

But Vice-chancellor Prof Alauddin Ahmed told Star's JU Correspondent that police were permitted to raid the halls and arrest terrorists. But police action depends on the government, he added.

The JU Syndicate on Saturday decided to ask law enforcers to take "all necessary action against all armed outsiders on the campus".

Campus sources said that police could not take any action because the decision was not conveyed to police till yesterday.

A top university official requesting anonymity said, "Authorities do not expect the police to raid the halls in the next two days as police will be busy with the Opposition-called hartal."

Another top official claimed that the "Rapist Group" captured the halls within the knowledge of an influential lobby in the university administration. In support of his claim, he said the Director of the university went to see the situation in the two halls four hours after they were captured at about 10 pm on Friday.

Formation of a task force led by a teacher to drive out the terrorists from the campus instead of calling police to raid the halls suggests that the authorities were "soft" to the armed men who captured the halls, he said.

The JU BCL committee was dissolved about a year back and there is no activity of BCL at the JU now," the statement said.

The BCL faction which captured the halls brought out procession on the campus yesterday demanding immediate arrest of the killers of Ananda. All the 13 charge sheeted accused in the Ananda murder case had been staying at JU halls till they were ousted on Friday.

Formalities From page 12 to Bangladesh.

There are also threats from ULFA and other guerilla groups fighting for independence in the "seven sisters" (northeastern states of India). ULFA leader Pargash Barua announced Bangladesh installations would be their target if India is given transit facility. We're already under threat following the government decision."

On the commercial side, M K Anwar said the government is not saying what financial benefit the transit will bring for us. "But the bad impacts are very much visible. It'll destroy our roads and infrastructure, and decrease export and stop foreign investment."

In fact, the government is trying to hand over Bangladesh to India and initiated the corridor process only to fulfill the Indian design. The agreement of 1973 proves it was the dream of Sheikh Mujib and his daughter is now implementing it," he added.

Attack on journalist None arrested yet By Staff Correspondent Police has failed to arrest any one involved in the attack on Gias Majumder, senior reporter of The Daily New Nation till last night.

A gang of armed terrorists riding in an ash colour microbus manhandled Majumder indiscriminately at the entrance gate of journalist quarters at section -11 in Pallabi thana area on Thursday mid-night.

Majumder was returning to home after the day's work. The armed gang also threatened the journalist before leaving the spot.

Majumder was rushed to the Suhrawardy Cardiovascular Disease Hospital in a critical condition.

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