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# The Daily Star



Apprehending eviction from their slum at Agargaon in the city, a father and his son sleep under an umbrella at a nearby park yesterday (top) and slum dwellers protest the current squatter eviction drive.

— Star photos by Anisur Rahman and Amran Hossain

## 'Rehabilitate, then evict slum people'

By Staff Correspondent

Slum dwellers in the city yesterday denounced the government move to demolish the slums without taking any steps for their rehabilitation.

They joined a protest rally at Agargaon, organised by the newly formed Bustee Uchched Protirodh Sangram Committee.

Addressing the rally, the committee leaders vowed to protect the rights of slum dwellers and announced an action programme for this. The programme includes a procession in the city tomorrow and a rally at Paltan Maidan on August 19.

Some political leaders in

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By Naimul Haq

## Surgery suffers at DMCH

Supply dwindle despite ever-increasing demand for beds and equipment

The government has virtually taken no steps to meet the ever-increasing demand for beds, operation theatres, surgical instruments, autoclave machines and other vital instruments in the General Surgery department at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, doctors alleged.

"We have a limited number of beds but the rush of patients seeking admission is increasing everyday. In such a situation, we are compelled to refuse admission to a large number of patients requiring immediate treatment," said a senior member of the surgery squad at the biggest and busiest hospital in the country.

have to handle at a time. There are occasions when we have to carry out operations on three or four patients at a time. But we do not have adequate instruments, medicines and required devices."

In reply to a question, the medical officer said, "We operate on the patients as usual in a hurry. But we cannot really guarantee if after surgery the patients would be free from germs or not."

Asked to explain, he said, "The surgical instruments are sterilised only once a day. During the interval between two operations, the instruments are simply immersed in hot water and not sterilised again as per

rules." The General Surgery department has the heaviest rush of patients in the OPD. Showing a register, he told this correspondent late Thursday, "Today we have 195 patients, most of whom require some degree of emergency treatment. All the patients are hoping to be admitted but as per our record, none can be admitted due to non-availability of beds."

Another doctor said, "Even when beds are vacated, we have to take difficult decisions about who is to be admitted and who is to be refused because there are so many who need admission."

He went on, "In view of the

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#### Supplement

Independence Day of Pakistan on Page 10

#### Prayer Timings

August 14

Azan	Jamaat
Fajr 4:10	4:15
John 12:50	1:25
Asr 5:00	5:10
Maghrib 6:55	7:00
Esha 8:00	8:15

Source: Islamic Foundation

### Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Ministry of Industries

Shilpa Bhaban, 91, Motijheel C/A

#### Notice

### Application for Selection of CIP (Industries) 2000

Ministry of Industries invites application from Chief Executives of Industrial Enterprises for selection of CIP (Industries) for the year 2000.

The intending Chief Executives are to apply in prescribed proforma, to be obtained from the undersigned during office hours from 9.00 AM to 5.00 PM.

Applications in prescribed proforma, should reach the undersigned on or before 10-9-99.

Md Khurshed Alam  
Senior Assistant Secretary  
(Investment-2)  
Phone: 9567370

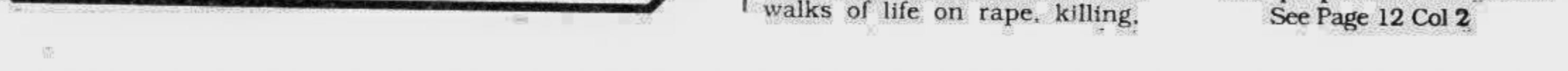
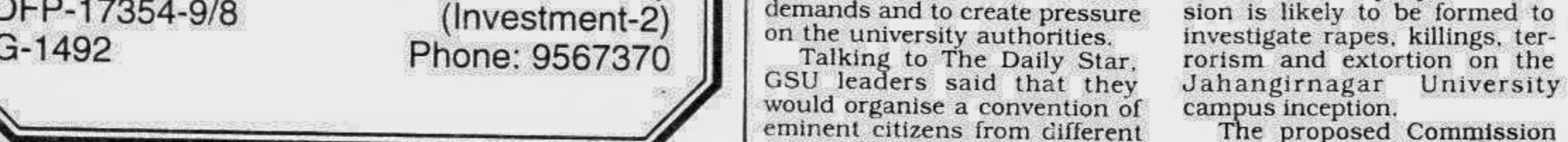
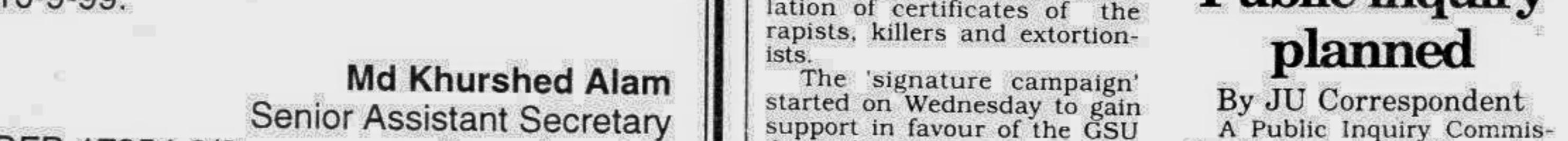
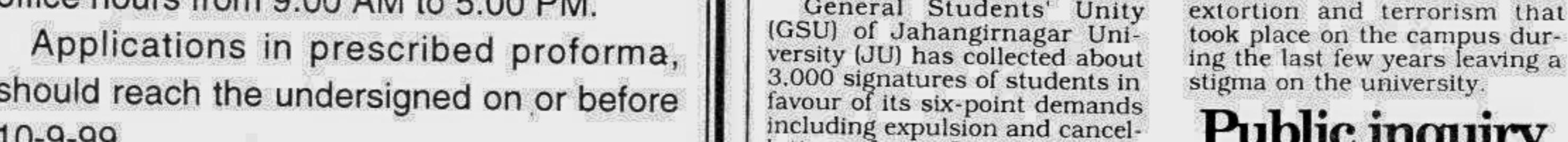
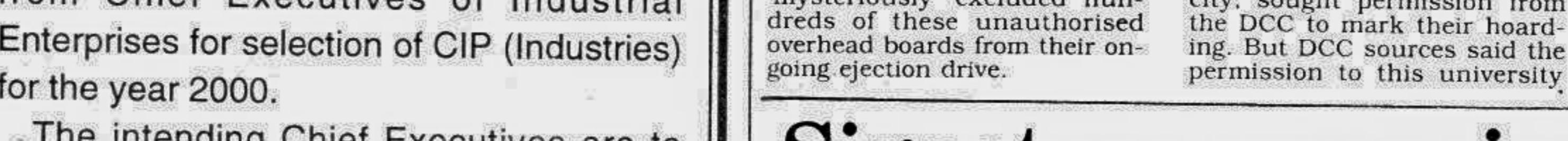
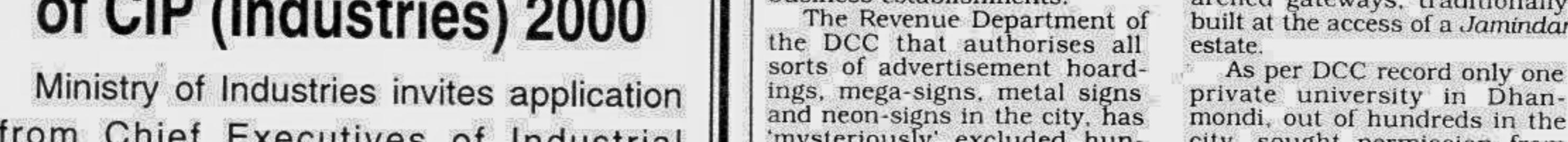
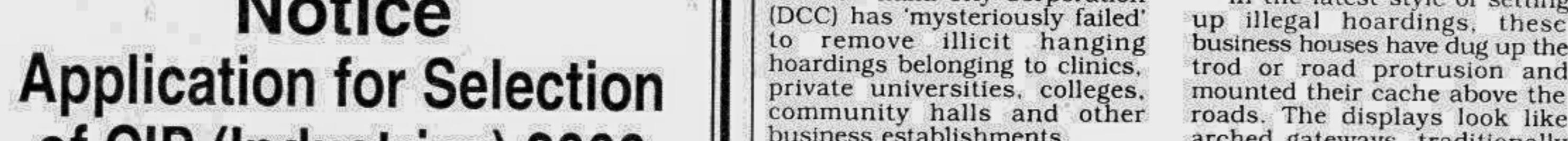
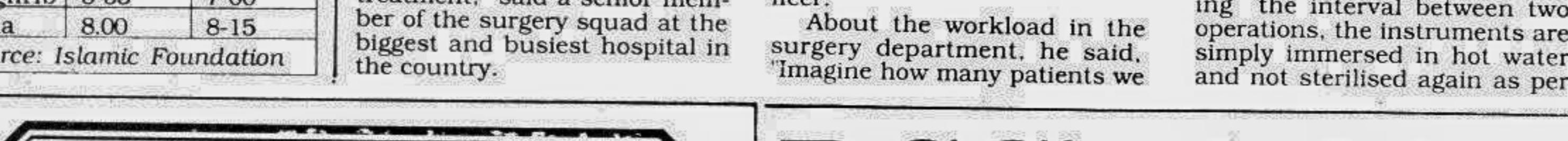
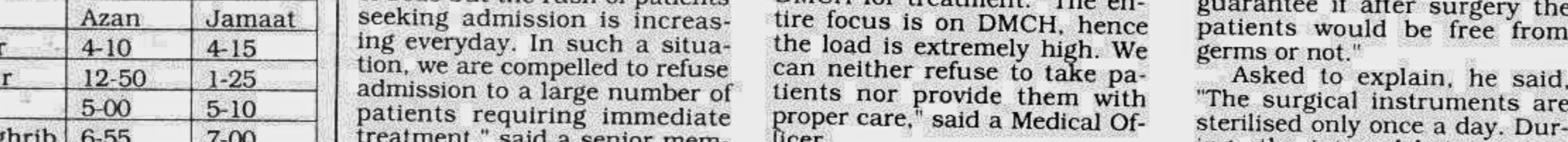
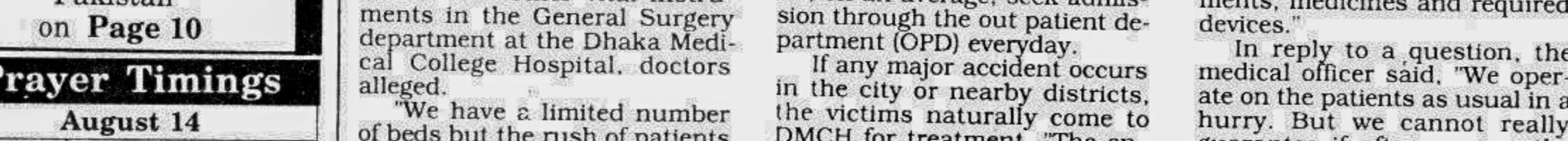
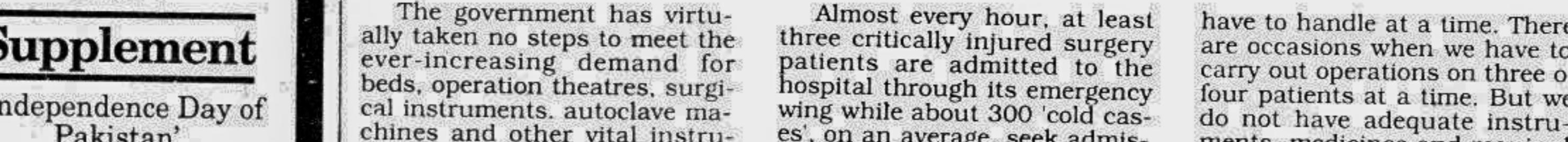
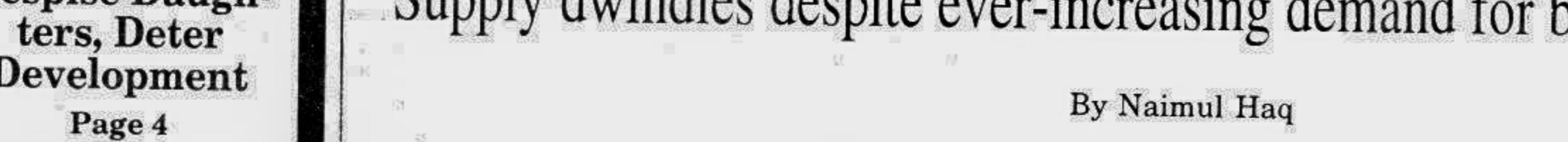
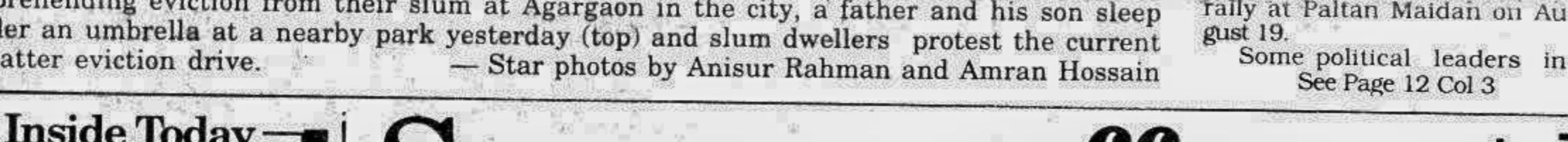
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## Mudslide buries 10 in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, August 13: At least 10 members of two families were killed in a pre-dawn landslide at Enayetbazar near the BRTC terminal in the port city today due to heavy rain, police and Fire Brigade said.

The victims included three women and three children. The dead were identified as Mofizur Rahman (35), his wife Sharmin Aktar (25), daughter Sumi (1) and brother Billal Hossain (28). Victims of the other family are Abdul Mannan (40), his wife Paki Begum (28), two sons Md Hasan (12) and Md Hossain (9), brother Babul Miah (32) and his 60-year-old mother. The name of the old woman could not be known.

Police said the sleeping slum dwellers were trapped to death when a big chunk of earth of a hill collapsed on their thatched houses in the past 24 hours till noon today.

On receipt of information, police and Fire Brigade personnel rushed to the spot this morning and recovered the bodies by removing the earth.

A heart-rending scene was created there as the victims' relatives and neighbours wailed while hundreds of people thronged from surrounding areas, witnesses said.

Over 20 other slum dwellers were killed in landslides during the rainy season last year, sources said.

Meanwhile, torrential rains

caused water-logging at the approach of the airport and around the runway.

A Chittagong-bound airbus from the Middle East was diverted to Dhaka due to inclement weather, airport sources said.

The airbus however returned from Dhaka and landed at Chittagong airport in the afternoon. Two other scheduled flights also were delayed.

Cargo handling at Chittagong port was also hampered today due to incessant rains, port sources said.

Most of the city dwellers stayed indoors and traffic on roads was thin.

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BNP denies

### press reports

By Staff Correspondent

Contrary to reports in a section of the press, BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia did neither blame India for killing Ziaur Rahman nor said that her party, if voted to power, would scrap all agreements with India, according to a BNP statement yesterday.

The UNB, a private sector news agency, reported that addressing a rally in the city on Wednesday, "Begum Zia blamed India for masterminding the assassination of President Ziaur Rahman." The report was carried by two English language dailies (not The Daily Star).

Besides, a leading Bangla daily also quoted the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament as saying that India played a

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### Indian reaction to Khaleda's reported remarks

From Pallab Bhattacharya

NEW DELHI, Aug 13: India today described as "false and outrageous" recent remarks attributed to former Bangladesh

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ADAB, Coalition for the Urban Poor and Grassroots People's Organizations

### Appeal

### to the Honourable Prime Minister of the Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh to stop slum demolition until all slum dwellers are properly rehabilitated

Honourable Prime Minister,

You were gracious enough to make a pledge after the inhuman demolition of the Bhasantek slum on 17 February 1997 that no more slum would be demolished without making proper arrangements for the rehabilitation of the slum dwellers. It is a matter of deep regret that in violation of that commitment your government has now expressed a firm determination to demolish all slums in Dhaka. A number of slums have already been bulldozed, rendering about 50,000 poor men, women and children homeless and driving them into a state of utter distress and uncertainty.

Honourable Prime Minister,

You are certainly aware that about 30,000,000 people – almost one-third of the population of Dhaka – are compelled to live in the city slums. They are all uprooted people – pauperized through various kinds of exploitation and oppression, river erosion and natural disasters and deprived of adequate employment opportunity – who have finally taken shelter in the Dhaka slums. However, despite the subhuman living condition imposed on them, they have never been a burden on the city. Conversely, they have always made significant contributions to the development of the country. It is they who serve as labourers in all industries including garment factories as well as in the transport and construction sectors. They undertake all kinds of labour including domestic service. If all slums in Dhaka are wiped out today, it will not only rob this huge population of their livelihoods but also inevitably have a telling effect on the overall economy of the country.

Honourable Prime Minister,

Slum dwellers are being thrown out in the name of containing terrorism and in doing so virtually all slum dwellers are being indiscriminately branded as terrorists. Moreover, they are being accused of complicity in the trade of drugs and illegal weapons and various other crimes. Hurling such blanket charges at them amounts to humiliating the ordinary citizens. This will help the real terrorists and their godfathers, who hold the slum dwellers hostage in their continued indulgence in terrorism and extortion, hide their true colours and cover all their sins. Evicting the innocent slum dwellers without taking any effective action against the real culprits is completely unjust, illogical and unethical. The way slum dwellers are being evicted by using bulldozers, *mashaans* and the police without making the minimum arrangements for their rehabilitation is a gross violation of their fundamental rights enshrined in the Constitution, not to mention their human rights.

Honourable Prime Minister,

The government expects the evicted slum dwellers to return to their villages. But everybody knows that these people took shelter in the city slums after they had lost all their assets and had no option available to them. Where will they seek refuge and find employment when pushed back to the rural areas? You mentioned in an interview that