

What's on today

Annual general meeting: The annual general meeting of the Cooperative Credit Union League of Bangladesh Ltd (CCULB) will be held. Venue: Notre Dame College auditorium. Time: 9:00 am.
WEST workshop: The sixth workshop of Workshop on Environment Science and Technology (WEST) will be held. Organiser: Centre for Scientific and Technological Information (CSTI) of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 9:30 am.
Film show: Three French movies L'armee des ombres (army in the shadows), Les racines (the racine) and La memoire (the memory) will be screened. Venue: Auditorium of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. Time: 11:00 am, 4:00 pm and 6:00 pm.
First Writer Poet Conference 2000: The first Writer Poet Conference 2000 will be held. Venue: Kanchi Kancha auditorium, Segunbagicha. Time: 3:00 pm.
Discussion meeting: Bangladesh Foundation for Development Research will hold a discussion meeting on "Economic Freedom: Policy and Strategy". The meeting will be presided over by Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria. Venue: CIRDAP auditorium, Chameli House, Topkhana Road. Time: 4:00 pm.
Printing exhibition: A solo printing exhibition by Mohammad Ali will be inaugurated. Venue: Gallery of Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26 Mirpur Road. Time: 5:00 pm.
Polls: The elections to office of Dhaka Journalists Cooperative Housing Society Limited will be held. Venue: Society office at journalists resident area, Block F, Mirpur 11. Time: 9:00 am-5:00 pm.
Photography exhibition: A photography exhibition by Shameem Hasan titled "Mandi: Dying Rituals." Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka's conference room. Time: 5:00 pm.
Founding anniversary: The Thirteenth BCS Form will hold its AGM and a function to mark its 6th founding anniversary. Venue: Officers' Club. Time: 4 pm.
Exhibition: An exhibition of art works created for Baisakh Utsab will be held. Organiser: Institute of Fine Arts, Dhaka University and High Commission of India. Venue: Art gallery of Indian Cultural Centre. Time: 4:30 pm.
Meeting: A meeting of the executive committee of Asian Airlines Human Resources Management (AAHRM) will be held. Venue: Hotel Purbani.

..... and tomorrow

Seminar: Lions Clubs International will hold a seminar on "Quality and Dedicated Service". Venue: Hotel Sonargaon. Time: 10:00 am.
Satyajit Ray Retrospective: A documentary The Music of Satyajit Ray by U Chakravarty will be screened. Two films by Ray Rabindranath Tagore and Teen Kanya (Three daughters) will also be screened. Venue: India High Commission auditorium, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:00 pm, 5:15 pm and 6:00 pm respectively.
Induction ceremony: The induction ceremony of the newly elected executive committee members of ECOTA forum will be held. Venue: Suruchi Restaurant, BRAC Centre Inn, BRAC Centre, 75 Mohakhali. Time: 6:30 pm.
Founding anniversary: The concluding ceremony of the founding anniversary celebrations of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujib Medical University will be held. Chief guest: Minister for Food Amir Hossain Amu. Venue: Shaheed Dr Milton Hall of the university. Time: 8:00 pm.

Weather

Moderate rain forecast
Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty to squally wind is likely at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and at one or two places over Rajshahi and Khulna divisions till 6 pm today, reports UNB.
Day temperature may rise by 1 to 2 degree Celsius over the country, Met office predicted.
The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 34.5 degree Celsius at Chuadanga and the lowest 19.4 degree Celsius at Chittagong and Madariur.
The sun sets in the capital today at 6:26 pm and rises tomorrow at 5:26 am.
Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:
City/Town Temperature Humidity in percentage
in Celsius
Dhaka 32.2 20.0 84 78
Chittagong 34.0 19.4 71 88
Rajshahi 29.3 20.4 86 90
Khulna 34.0 23.7 73 71
Barisal 33.6 20.5 66 89
Sylhet 27.0 19.9 89 97
Cox's Bazar 33.6 24.5 72 97

HERE and THERE

Sandhani Eye Donation Assoc
Sandhani National Eye Donation Association has nominated its life member Amanullah Khan as a central councilor, reports UNB.
The decision was taken at a meeting of the central working council of Sandhani on April 21, said a press release.
Amanullah Khan, Chairman of United News of Bangladesh (UNB), has donated his eyes posthumously.
Medical Physics Assoc
The annual general meeting of the Bangladesh Medical Physics Association was held at the seminar room of Civil Engineering Department, BUET recently. Nine executive members of the association were unanimously elected for a period of two years at the meeting, says a press release.
Prof Giasuddin Ahmed was elected president, while Dr S Reza Hossain and Dr Aminul Islam were elected vice presidents.

PROFESSIONAL OPPORTUNITY

The Bangladesh Environmental Management Project (BEMP) a project of the Department of Environment funded by the Canadian International Development Agency is inviting applications from firms and individuals for the short term position of INFORMATION SYSTEMS ANALYST (ISA).
The ISA will support the activities of the Canadian Resource Information Systems consultants, particularly in developing inventories of existing information holdings and in design and implementation of database systems to support DOE operations.
Qualifications: Masters in scientific discipline, preferably related to information systems and/or environment.
Experience:
• A minimum of 8 years practical experience with natural resource/scientific information systems in Bangladesh, including use of database management systems.
• Experience in analysis of user needs
• Excellent communication skills.
• Demonstrated ability to work effectively with government officials.
• Proficiency in English, both verbal and written.
Duration: This will be a short term contractual assignment of up to 75 days during June 2000 - March 2001.
Applicants are requested to supply two copies of a relevant resume and to indicate expected daily fees rate to: P.O Box: 6117, Gulshan, Dhaka - 1212, to be received not later than 11 May 2000. The position of Information Systems Analyst applied for must be mentioned on top of the envelope.
Only shortlisted applicants will be contacted.
(ANY PERSUASION WILL BE TREATED AS DISQUALIFICATION FOR THE CANDIDATE)

SUST students continue 'fast-unto-death'

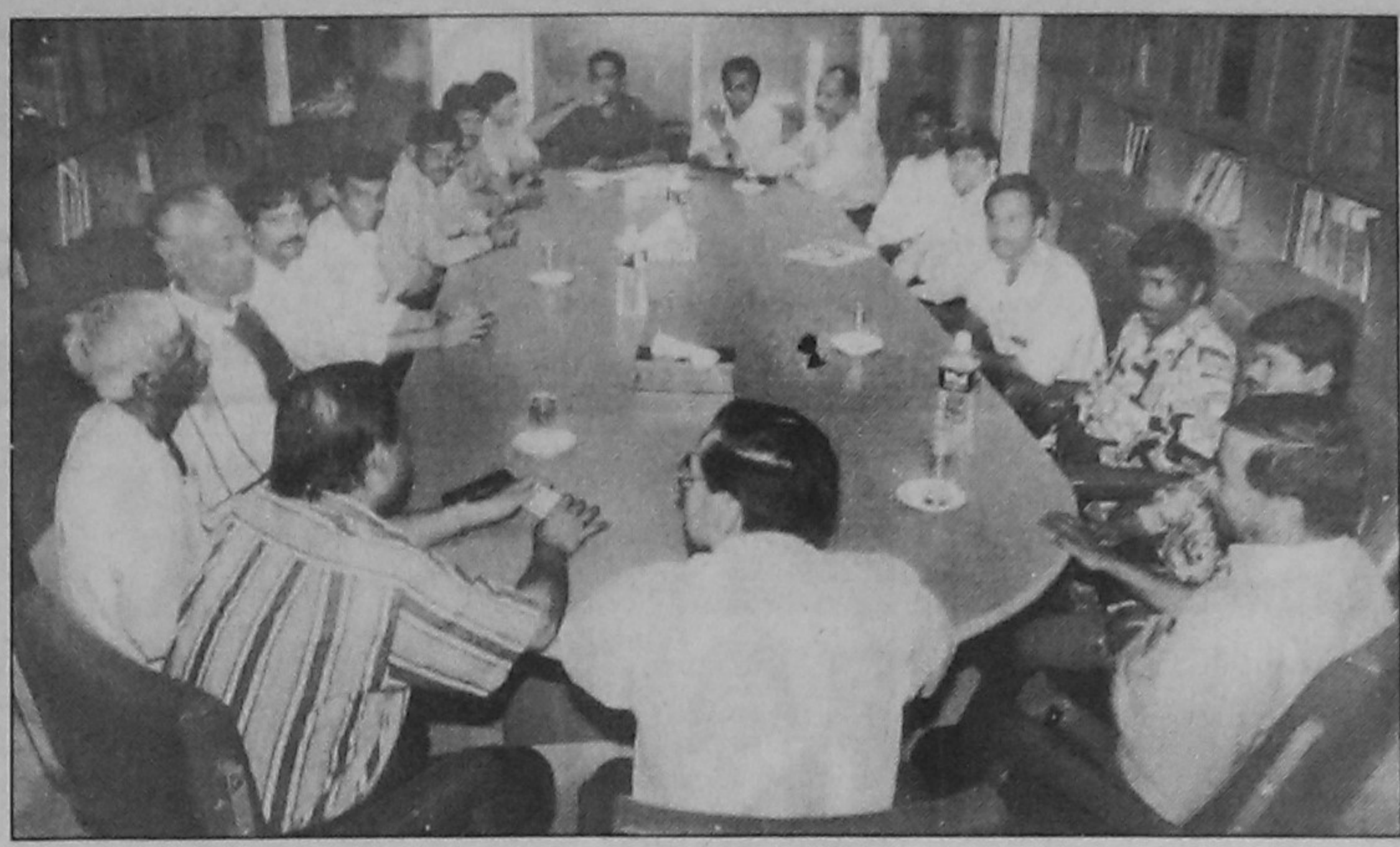
By DU Correspondent
The students of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology (SUST) continued their fast-unto-death programme at the Central Shaheed Minar for the second day yesterday, demanding immediate reopening of the university.
The students under the banner of "General Students of SUST" began fasting on Wednesday to press for their other demands. Including steps to ensure security of students, teachers and officials and immediate solution to the problems over naming of some residential halls and buildings of the university.
Meanwhile, different organisations expressed solidarity with the movement of the students yesterday.
The organisations are Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation and Samajtantrik Chhatra Front.

APCs

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ministry was now waiting sanction of funds.
The government had earlier planned to buy these APCs from a west European country which was stopped after protests from human rights group there who felt that APCs restricted the right to street demonstration and protest in a Third World democracy.
Other experts were of the opinion that APCs are 'offensive vehicles' which are normally used by law enforcing agencies as a last resort to handle massive demonstrations and where there is likelihood of armed attack from protesters. No such situation existed in Bangladesh when the APCs were intended to be purchased first in 1996, they observed.
APCs are not used in normal situations by the police. Experts handling internal security said that APCs are the last line of defence for riot control. Police action against protesters, they pointed out, was normally faced first by baton charge, second by firing tear gas shells and third by water cannon and then by firing rubber bullets.
APCs are sent for action when all these measures fail. Following growing incidents of violence against police, the government is learnt to have decided to go for APCs as a 'tough tactic approach'.

Private radio

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The Prime Minister asked the officials of the Information Ministry to work wholeheartedly to project socioeconomic development as well as enhance the image of this country abroad by taking advantage of modern technology.
She advised them to create awareness among the commonman about health, sanitation, reproductive health and empowerment of women.
British Council hosts educational workshop
Consultants from the UK told a seminar in the city that schools need to embrace the new information and communications technologies (ICT) if Bangladesh is to play its part in worldwide developments in education, says a press release.
The group of consultants was led by Mrs Shahwar Sadeque. Hosted by the British Council, the two-day event involved both local and international speakers and participants from schools and universities in Bangladesh.
The seminar was opened by British High Commissioner Dr David Carter and Dr Simon Kay, Acting Director of the British Council, on April 25. A wide range of computers and IT resources were provided by local company Graphics Information Systems (GIS) which also provided a high level of technical support for the workshops and presentations.
The British speakers were Dr John Baxter, a researcher in ICT and Education, and Mike Aston, Inspector of ICT in schools.
The two-day event was organised by Ms Ripa Walke, Education Promotion Manager at the British Council.



The Daily Star convened an informal meeting of the leaders of Truck Owners' Association, Truck Drivers' Union, Bangladesh Shopkeeper-Hawkers' Association and Bangladesh Rickshaw Drivers' Association at its office yesterday. — Star photo

Fresh EU accord

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There will be a number of seminars in Dhaka, and the EU will also hold a dialogue with the civil society to assess the people's need and expectation from the organisation, he said, to mark the occasion.
V. Ketelsen, first counsellor and Zillul Hye Razi, economic and information officer of the EC delegation, also spoke.
However, Menezes said the cooperation agreement is not a follow-up of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's recent visit to Belgium, which "helped a lot in cementing the relations." "The visit of a head of government always gives good opportunity to boost relationship."
About the duty-free access of Bangladeshi goods to the European markets, the ambassador said his organisation is always sympathetic to the issue. But it has to be recognised by all other parties concerned.
Zillul Hye Razi said the EU already declared it will continue the zero tariff access of Bangladeshi goods after the withdrawal of the Generalised System of Preference.
J. V. Ketelsen said the cooperation between Bangladesh and the EU will go beyond trade and commerce after the new agreement. The aid flow from the European countries will substantially increase following the new agreement.
"There will be a broad based cooperation including many other sectors like human resource development, protection of environment, science and technology and controlling drug trafficking."
On the question of development assistance for Chittagong Hill Tracts, the EU official said they were yet to get any formal proposal from the government.
"We are ready to provide assistance, but the government will have to take the initiative," Menezes said. "There should be a comprehensive development programme for the area."
The web site, www.eudelbangladesh.org, will provide up-to-date information on Bangladesh-EU relations apart from providing information on European Commission activities regarding development aid, economic cooperation, food security, humanitarian aid and NGOs in Bangladesh.

Relieved

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examination following a direction of the High Court on Wednesday. The court also asked the chairman of Dhaka Education Board (DEB) not to publish their results until disposal of the writ.
The court order came upon a writ petition filed on Tuesday by Marufa Akhter Jharna, one of the 132 students, challenging DEB's step to debar the students from appearing at the examinations.
Sources concerned said that the board authorities had sent the admit cards of the 132 students to the college on an emergency basis on Wednesday night after receiving the court order.
College authorities distributed most of the admit cards among the students till Wednesday midnight and Thursday morning.
Out of the 132 examinees, according to college sources, one student did not appear at the examinations as she was not staying in Dhaka.
The rest students sat for English 1st paper examination on the first day at the Begum Badrunnesa Women's College centre." he added.
Expressing great satisfaction, S M Shahjahan, one of the parents, said that most of the students performed well in the first day's examination as they had good preparation for that.
Principal of the college, Talibur Rahman said like others, he was also happy as the students could participate in the examinations at last. "But it would have been much better if the students were allowed earlier," he added.
Referring to his talks with the students, Rahman, who visited the exam centre, pointed out that most of the students did well at the examinations.

Pirojpur thana SI sued for beating boy

PIROJPUR, Apr 27: A police sub-inspector of sadar thana was today sued for beating a minor boy, reports UNB.
Sources said SI Muhammad Abdul Qayyum, picked up M. Munim, 11, a student of Class V, on suspicion of stealing his wrist-watch and beat him up mercilessly.
The wristwatch was later found in his bedroom.
Angered by his inhuman behaviour, the guardians of the minor boy filed a case with the court of the first class magistrate.
Meanwhile, BNP will organise a workers' rally at Chandana crossing in Gazipur district on Monday at 3 pm on the occasion of the May Day.

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The British Council hosted a two-day educational workshop in the city. British High Commissioner Dr David Carter and Acting Director of the British Council Dr Simon Kay opened the event on April 25.



President of Bangladesh Scouts Manzoor Ul Karim speaking at a function in the National Press Club yesterday on the occasion of National Nutrition Week. Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project organised the event. — Star photo

Khaleda to address BBEF council tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent
BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia will attend several public meetings and other programmes on Saturday, Sunday and Monday in the city and Gazipur.
Leader of the Opposition in Parliament will address the national council of Bangladesh Bank Employees Federation (BBEF) as chief guest at the Engineers' Institution on Saturday at 3 pm.
BNP leaders M Saifur Rahman, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khondaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Abdullah Al Noman, Mirza Abbas, Sadek Hossain, Khoka, Nazrul Islam Khan will also address the function. BBEF president B M Bakir Hossain will preside over the function, said a press release.
Khaleda Zia will address as chief guest the joint public meeting of the BNP-led opposition alliance on Sunday at Paltan Maidan at 3 pm.
Jatiya Party chairman H M Ershad, Jamaat ameer Golam Azam and Islami Oikya Jote chief Azizul Haq will also address the meeting, to be organised to protest Awami League's stick procession against the judges of the higher court.
Meanwhile, BNP will organise a workers' rally at Chandana crossing in Gazipur district on Monday at 3 pm on the occasion of the May Day.

Dhaka ready

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meeting with his Indian counterpart Mursoli Maran here yesterday.
Jalil's response came in response to Maran's suggestion that Indian investment in Bangladesh could be considerably boosted if the two countries conclude an investment protection treaty, official sources here said.
The talks between Maran and Jalil covered bilateral trade issues including concessional market access sought by Bangladesh in respect of tariffs.
Jalil is now here to attend the second ministerial meeting of BIMSTEC (Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand - Economic Cooperation).
India's exports to Bangladesh in April-December 1999 stood at Rs 1919.86 crore and imports from Bangladesh during the same period at Rs 231.08 crore.
India's imports from Bangladesh during April-December 1999 went up to Rs 231.08 crore from Rs 160.68 crore in April-December 1998.

Jubo League

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the mob.
By the time riot police arrived, over one hundred vehicles were damaged. But police did not make any attempt to the activists.
Tejgaon Police declined to say anything at 9-30 p.m. The duty officer only said on telephone that the police team which went to the spot was yet to return to the police station.
Khaleque was a resident of Tejkuipara in the city and ran a garments shop at Karwanbaraz. He was also a member of a Union Parishad in Chandpur Sadar thana He left behind his wife and two children.

Licensing chaos

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prospective rickshawpuller goes to a garage and finds a malik (owner of rickshaws) to rent him a rickshaw for a shift. He comes on the street with a rickshaw with little or no knowledge about traffic laws or roads he has to use," said a traffic sergeant.
A new addition is hundreds of rickshaws, the sergeant said. Sources in DCC (Dhaka City Corporation) said although its Revenue Department does not issue any new license for rickshaws or rickshawvans, hundreds of rickshaws have been allowed taking the advantage of loopholes in law. Most of these rickshaws are registered under business houses, kitchen markets and shops like bakeries and groceries. Such rickshaws are not legally allowed to be rented.
According to BRTA (Bangladesh Road Transport Authority), there are about 1,50,000 registered motor vehicles, excluding 1,05,673 motorbikes, plying on a 2,500 km road network in the city. The number of registered autorickshaws is about 70,000. A BRTA engineer said the road network in the city is only seven per cent of its area against 20-25 per cent needed.
Each of the city's 1,100 traffic policemen, working for eight hours daily, undergoes a six-week training on traffic management. These Head Constables and Constables are empowered to cite traffic violations despite their responsibility to control traffic. A Traffic Inspector said enforcement of traffic laws is also difficult as road signs and markings are almost non-existent at many spots.
"Most of the traffic sergeants are not trained at all. After they finish their training at Shardah Police Academy, they are directly posted as sergeants. They are given training on traffic management later," said a Traffic Inspector.

8327 expelled

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Jhenidah.
Our Magura Correspondent says: Thirty examinees were expelled from six centres in Magura district. Officials said, some 3455 students of the district sat for the test on English first paper on the first-day of examination yesterday.
In Meherpur, 50 examinees were expelled from four centres of the district.
Of them, 24 were expelled from Meherpur Govt College, two from Govt Girls' College, nine from Mujibnagar College and 15 from Gangni College.
Our Barisal Correspondent adds: A total of 181 examinees were expelled from 26 examination centres for cheating at the examination. A total of 12,171 students sat for the test on English first paper.
At Barisal Govt College, on-duty magistrate Manirul Islam was assaulted when he caught one Sohel for supplying copy. Police arrested him.
Police also arrested three people, identified as Firoz, Ruseel Hawlader and Sabuj Mian from Barisal City College centre for supplying copies.
Our Kushtia Correspondent writes: A total of 244 examinees were expelled from 10 centres of the district. Six teachers have been served showcase notices in the district.
A total of 303 examinees were expelled from different centres under Chittagong Board yesterday.
Comilla Board officials said, 1044 examinees were expelled from different centres under the Board for cheating at the examination.
Our Feni Correspondent adds: A total of 109 candidates were expelled from 10 centres of the district.

Six rooms at DU hall sealed

By DU Correspondent
The Dhaka University authorities yesterday sealed off the rooms of the expelled students at Ziaur Rahman Hall to prevent them from staying illegally, official sources said.
Provost of Ziaur Rahman Hall Prof A I Mahbubuddin Ahmed sealed off six rooms in the morning and issued a warning to the illegal borders of the hall. The room numbers are 220, 316, 317, 318, 319 and 421.
Sources said the DU authorities went into action after it has been alleged that some students who had been expelled temporarily from the university several months ago were staying at their rooms defying the expulsion order.
These students belong to the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and had been expelled for their involvement in criminal offences like kidnapping, stabbing and extortion on the campus.
ADB
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The government is obliged to pay foreign investors under the production-sharing contracts of natural gas and power purchase agreements. The situation will be further aggravated when significant profit repatriation begins.
The devaluation of South-east Asian currencies also weakened export competitiveness. This demonstrates how vulnerable the export sector is because of excessive dependence on a single subsector.
The report points out that the fiscal losses of Tk 15 billion associated with operating SOEs exposed a serious fiscal management problem.
"Substantial SOEs losses continue to drain the budget, consuming funds that could otherwise be used for poverty reduction."

Japan

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plementation of economic cooperation will depend on the aid absorbing capacity of Bangladesh, which needs to be enhanced.
In some sectors, the director of Japan's Loan Aid Division said, Bangladesh has not been able to successfully utilise its loans in due time. "This creates hesitation among the donor agencies to give further loans."

Advertisement for Diploma in Computer Applications Program (DCAP) Admission 2000. Features include: Design Your Career with Advanced Performance, Module I (3 Months), Module II (3 Months), Module III (6 Months), and Uniqueness of DCAP. Contact: BANGLADESH INSTITUTE OF BANK MANAGEMENT, Plot # 4, Main Road # 1, Section - 2, Mirpur, Dhaka - 1216.