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VOL. X NO. 104 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA THURSDAY MAY 4, 2000

3rd Millennium

BAISHAKH 21, 1407 BS

MUHARRAM 28, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: TAKA 9.00

Occupation of flat

OC wants transfer of case

By Staff Correspondent

The OC of Dhanmandi thana has asked his superiors to let some other agency to investigate the complaint about forcible occupation of a flat in the city by Sadik Abdullah, son of Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah.

Mohammed Hanif said that the case should be handed over to some other agencies since "it is very sensitive," and that the mother of the accused also felt that Dhanmandi police were also involved in the matter.

A top DMP official said the top most authorities are being consulted for a decision on the matter.

Earlier, police arrested three people in this regard and remanded them for interrogation. Later police sent them to jail.

Police also did not accept the complaint as an FIR but as a general diary. Dhanmandi police accepted six general diaries on the same incident from April 26 to May 1.

Sadik Abdullah was accused of forcibly occupying the sixth floor and the ground floor of a seven-storey building at Lake Circus in Kalabagan.

A general diary filed by Shahjahan Begum, sister of the

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Plot to kill PM

Shoib Chowdhury indicted

Police indicted businessman Shoib Chowdhury yesterday allegedly for plotting to assassinate Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 30 others including ministers, Awami League leaders and her close relations, reports BSS.

The Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of police submitted the charge sheet yesterday to Motijheel police and to the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Court.

Abdul Kahar Akand, assistant superintendent of CID police, implicated Shoib Chowdhury in the case after a thorough investigation of eight months.

Police said Shoib Chowdhury sent an e-mail to a local newspaper announcing a huge award on the heads of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and 30 others including her close relations, ministers and senior Awami League leaders on May 4.

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Our new numbers

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Further EU gains in China's WTO talks welcome: US

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Prayer Timings

May 4

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-30
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-30	6-33
Esha	8-00	8-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

53 more bodies recovered: One launch salvaged Death toll 96: 100 still missing

By Staff Correspondent

The death toll in capsizing of two passenger launches in the Meghna on Monday rose to 96 with the recovery of 53 more bodies yesterday, reports received in Dhaka said.

Some 100 passengers of the launches were still missing.

Meanwhile, the Shipping Ministry yesterday constituted a three-member committee to investigate the accidents and submit its report within 15 days.

Our correspondents from Brahmanbaria and Narsingdi

reported recovery of 46 bodies from one launch -- MV Dolphin -- which sank at Lalpur near Zia Fertiliser Factory and seven from Mirzarchar where the other launch -- ML Bengal Bird -- capsized.

Earlier on Tuesday, 27 bodies were recovered from Lalpur and 16 from Mirzarchar. The over-loaded launches carrying more than 200 people each capsized due to a norwester at about 4 pm on Monday.

Forty-six bodies were recovered from inside MV Dolphin

yesterday as a crane from a nearby bridge construction site lifted the launch from the river bed after a 22-hour salvage operation, our Brahmanbaria Correspondent reported.

Local people expressed dismay that no salvage vessel of Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) reached the spot as yet.

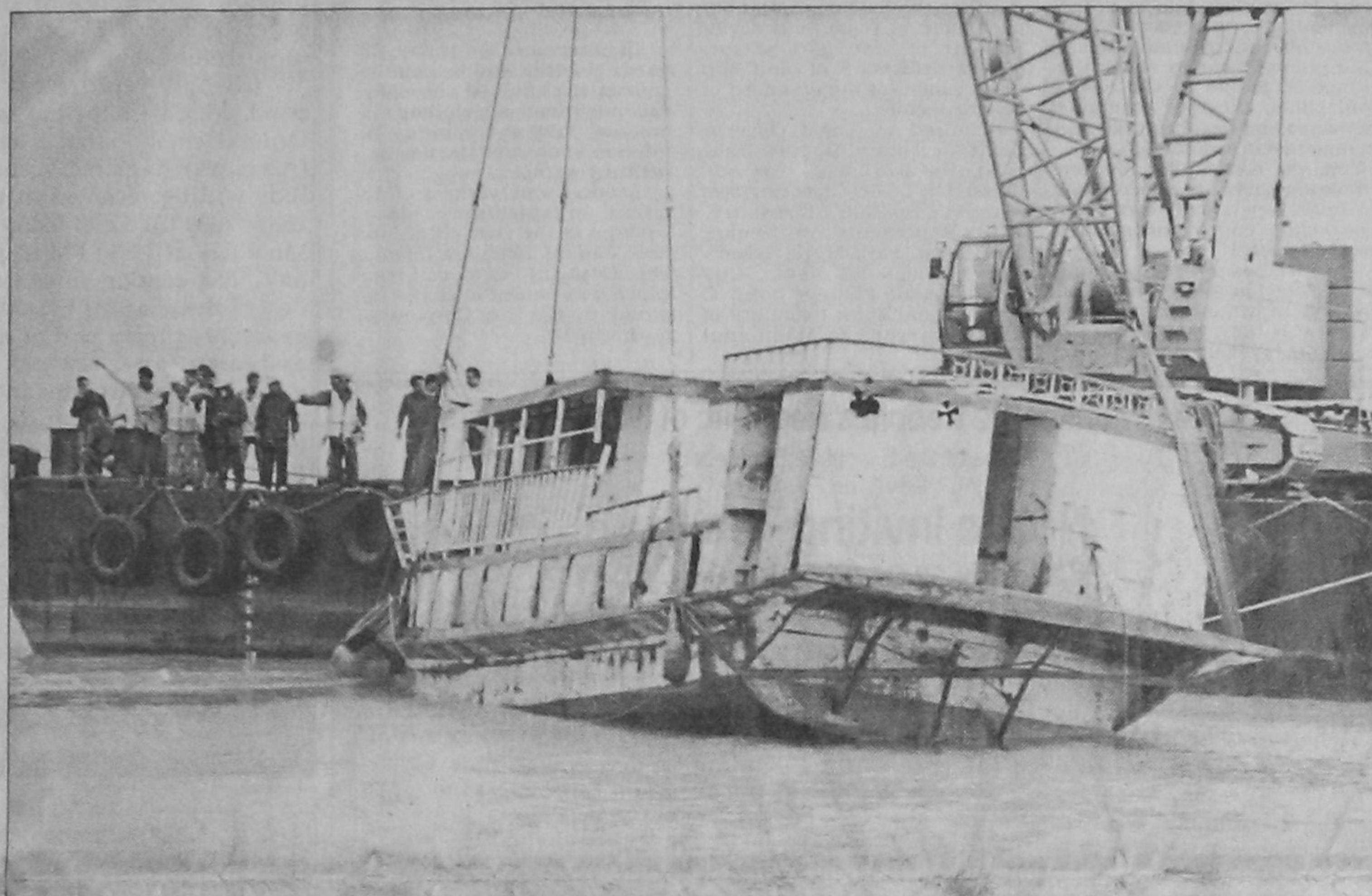
Our Narsingdi Correspondent Adds: Local people recovered seven more bodies from Lalpur yesterday. BIWTA salvage ves-

sel Rustam located the sunken launch Bengal Bird 45 feet deep under water.

As Rustam failed to lift the launch, another BIWTA vessel -- Hamja -- was brought from Barisal yesterday evening.

Of the bodies recovered yesterday, 32 were identified. They are Billal Hossain, 8, Kamal Hossain, 30, Narayan Saha, 40, Shafiqul, 58, Farida Yasmin, 28, Moinuddin, 30, Yasmin, 10, Moinul Islam, 35, Milon, 50, Bashir, 24, Rafia, 35, and her

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MV Dolphin which sank at Lalpur being salvaged yesterday.

— Star photo

Share scam: Hearing of appeal against HC verdict May 14

By M Shamsur Rahman

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court which had given permission to appeal against the High Court Division judgement that allowed court transfer petition of three companies accused in the 1996 share market scam will begin full length hearing on May 14.

The Appellate Division fixed the date after the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) Dr M Zahir said that lawyer for petitions of the three companies have become intransigent as the judge of the court where the High Court Division had transferred the case was transferred to Bhola.

The three companies are Beximco Pharmaceuticals, Doha Securities and Shimpukur Holdings Ltd. The High Court on June 15, 1999 approved petitions by the three companies for transfer of the cases to the Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court from the third metro court.

These are three of the 15 complaint cases filed by the SEC accusing directors of different companies of manipulating the share market in 1996. On January 3, 1999, hearing on charge framing against the three accused companies began in the First Additional Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka and

continued till January 6.

Hearing in two cases against Shimpukur and Doha Securities concluded while the case against Beximco Pharmaceuticals was partly heard. The hearing could not continue as the presiding judge and all the share scam cases were transferred to the newly formed Metropolitan Sessions Court.

The cases were recalled by the Sessions Judge, Dhaka and transferred to Metropolitan Sessions Judge, who later referred all the share scam cases

to the Third Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court.

The three companies then sought transfer of the cases to the earlier court. The judge of that court now sits as Second Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge. The Metropolitan Sessions Court rejected their prayers and the companies then went to the High Court which approved their prayers.

The SEC then went to the Appellate Division which gave permission to appeal against the High Court verdict.

The three scam cases were listed as the 34th item in the daily cause list of the Appellate Division yesterday, mentioning an application for adjournment from the respondent companies.

Appearing in the Court, Dr M Zahir argued that the item should be upgraded the cause list as the judge to whose court the companies were seeking transfer of the case was himself transferred to Bhola by a Law Ministry notification dated December 15 last year.

He also said that the petition of the three companies had become infructuous and the only way to delay the hearing was by filing an application for adjournment.

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CU Syndicate meets tomorrow, may expel 5-7 students

From Our Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 3: The Chittagong University Syndicate will meet on May 5 to take punitive measures against the students involved in the killing of three CU students. The meeting will also discuss implementation of the other demands in phases to bring back normalcy at the university by May 8.

Earlier, the agitating student organisations and CU authorities held a meeting yesterday and signed an accord in this regard.

According to the accord, student bodies will withdraw siege and hartal programme on May 8 and the CU authorities will take measures against the students involved in the two incidents during which one Shibir activist Zohayer was killed on May 15 '99 and another two Shibir activists —

Mahmudul Hasan and Rahimuddin — were killed in December '99.

The measures will be taken in the light of the report submitted by the probe body formed by the syndicate.

In the meeting it was further agreed that CU authorities will implement the other demands in phases.

The other demands of the All Party Students Alliance (APSA) include withdrawal of cases against 54 Shibir activists and withdrawal of police from the campus.

Meanwhile, as a part of the measures against the students responsible for killing those three Shibir activists, 5-7 students may be expelled temporarily from CU, sources said. The University remained

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Again!

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation has felled seven 30-year old rain-trees along the 100-foot wide road at Mirpur Section-11.5 for "widening the road under the Dhaka Urban Transport Project."

The move has angered the residents of the area and the town planners alike. Residents said they did not understand why the DUTP should widen the already wide dual carriageway.

A town planner termed the decision to fell the valuable trees "an amateurish move without any wisdom whatsoever."

DUTP project director Shafiqul Islam told The Daily Star that the trees were located "in the middle of the road" and therefore had to be removed "for the sake of the development work."

The World Bank-aided Tk 1,100 crore DUTP is the largest project ever taken to improve infrastructure of the city.

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A Petrobangla director may become new chairman

Star Report

The government may promote and appoint an on-contract director of Petrobangla as its chairman, sources said.

After speculations for the last few days and rejection of a potential chairman candidate by the Prime Minister's Office, the government has decided to promote Syed Anwarul Haque, director, Mines and Minerals of Petrobangla, as its chairman and extend his contract.

Infested with human resources problems for many years, Petrobangla has been without a chairman for the last two weeks. The previous chairman, Mosharrar Hossain, retired last month after serving two terms on contract.

Syed Anwarul Haque, a mining engineer, retired early last year. Prior to his retirement, he was promoted as the regular director of the Mines and Minerals Division.

The prime minister has given the go-ahead on the move and it is now being processed by the Establishment Ministry.

However, sources said Haque's promotion and appointment may create dissatisfaction among the officials and employees in Petrobangla as well as in its affiliates where many officials feel they were

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SUST Syndicate meets May 6 to fix date for reopening

From Staff Correspondent

Uneasy calm in Sylhet

SYLHET, May 3: An uneasy calm is prevailing in Sylhet as the Shahjalal University of Science and Technology is expected to reopen by the middle of this month, after long five months of closure.

Sources said the university Syndicate is scheduled to hold an emergency meeting on May 6 to fix the date for reopening.

The Chancellor of the university President Shahabuddin Ahmed took the initiatives for reopening the university.

The Vice-Chancellor of the university told The Daily Star

that since the President himself had suspended the naming of the halls, the meeting will not discuss it. "The president will see to the matter, so we have nothing to do with that now."

The president had asked us to reopen the varsity and we are to follow his instruction, said the VC.

Meanwhile, the All Party

Action Committee (Opposition) here agitating for realising its four-point demand including withdrawal of the naming and renaming the buildings and dormitories of the varsity after the companions of Hajrat Shahjalal (RA) has again threatened to launch tougher agitation programme, if the varsity is reopened without accepting its demands.

The other APAC demands include removal of the VC and Dr Jafar Iqbal.

The APAC has also announced

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StanChart, Grindlays to remain separate entities for 18 months

By Inam Ahmed

An integration team from the Standard Chartered Bank head office in London is likely to come to Dhaka in a couple of weeks to settle the process of acquisition of the ANZ Grindlays Bank, according to sources concerned.

The team comprising officials from both StanChart and Grindlays will continue to work as separate legal entities," said an official.

"But the whole process will take about one and a half years and meanwhile both StanChart and Grindlays will continue to work as separate legal entities," said an official.

Meanwhile, it has been hinted that although there may not be much changes at the lower and mid-levels of the banks, there may be some changes and redundancies in the higher level. But those who will get the axe will get handsome compensation package.

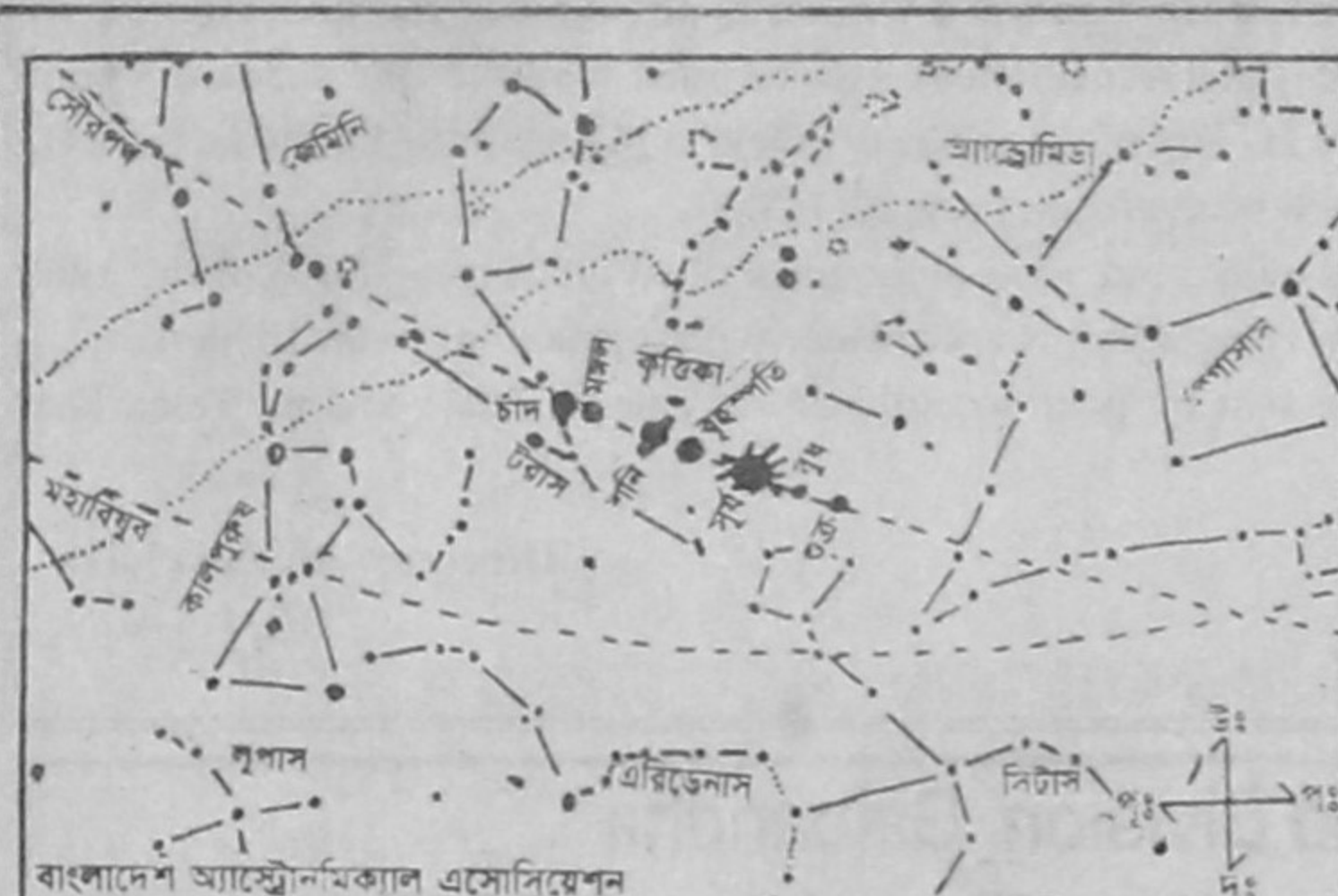
The SCB after acquiring Grindlays is expected to relocate its own and acquired branches upon regulatory consent. There are places where

both SCB and Grindlays have branches and there are places with perceived demand for branches, but the Bangladesh Bank was not giving permission to open new ones. This rationalisation process is mainly meant for branch relocation for SCB which wanted to become bigger through acquisition, failing in organic growth due to regulatory constraints.

Grindlays with its Bogra branch has 15 outlets whereas SCB has six well located branches. With its approximately 380 people, Grindlays made a profit of Tk one billion while SCB with its about 220 people made a profit of around Tk 700 million in 1999. SCB, known for its technological edge is the forerunner in Automated teller machines, Tele-banking, treasury and lately corporate banking solutions. Grindlays is the market leader in credit cards, corporate advisory services and personal banking.

The integration process is likely to start within two to

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The sky will be like this on May 5 at 5 pm.

Friday won't be doomsday, NASA allays fear

WASHINGTON, May 3: Relax! NASA says this Friday will not be doomsday. And if any disasters do occur, please don't blame the planets, reports Reuters.

Rumours of a new apocalypse to arrive at 4 am EDT (0800 GMT) on Friday probably got started when people realised that Earth's moon and the five bright planets — Mercury, Venus, Mars, Jupiter, and Saturn — will line up, with the planets on the opposite side of the Sun from Earth.

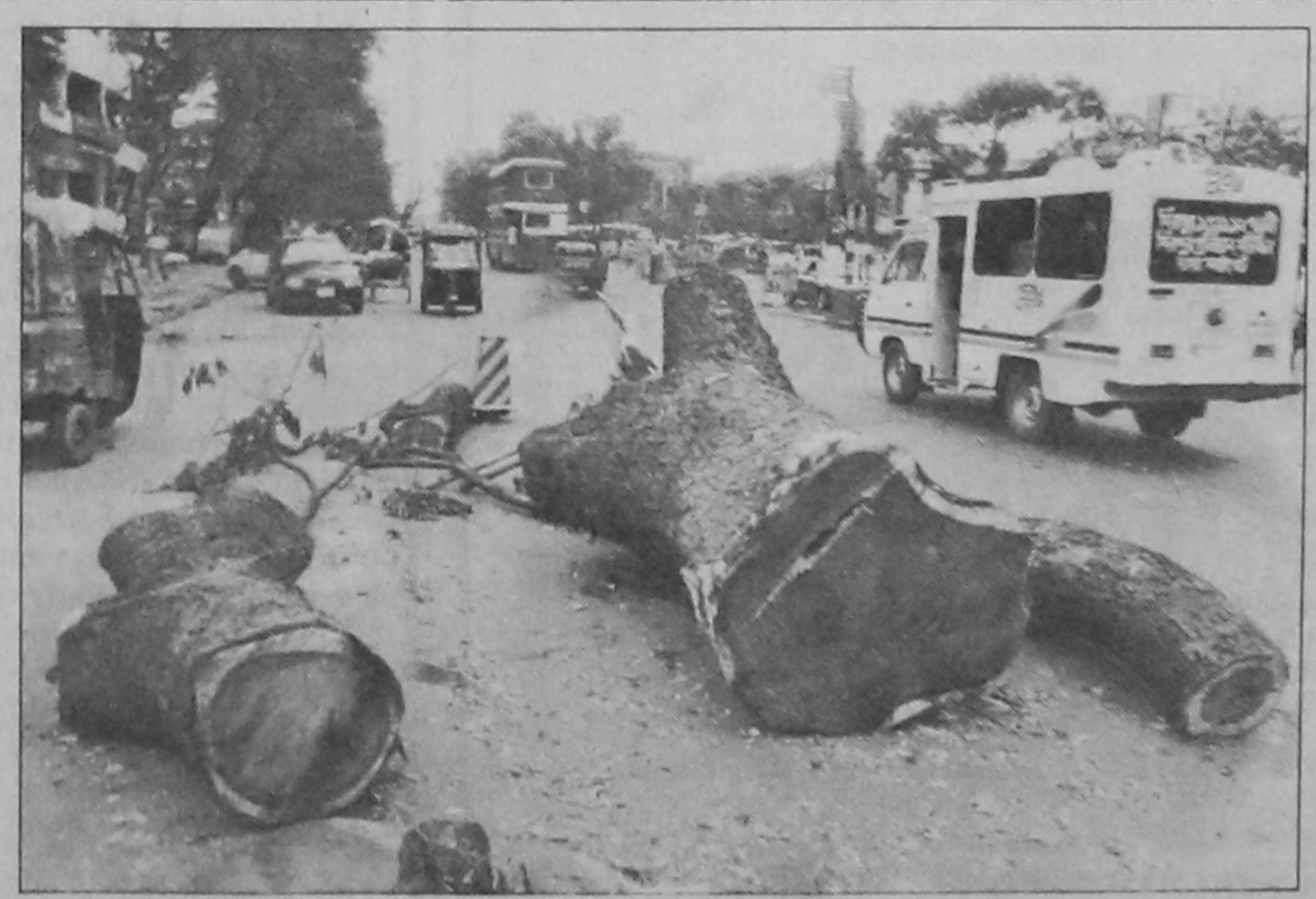
"The world hasn't ended any of the other times that the planets moved into what astronomers call conjunction, so

there's no reason to think it will this time," the National Aeronautics and Space Administration said on its Web site, www.nasa.gov.

"There may well be tsunamis, earthquakes or other natural disasters Friday, but they won't be caused by the other planets," NASA said.

The planetary line-up will not be visible from Earth because the Sun's glare will get in the way, according to Sky & Telescope, the popular astronomy magazine. There will be another tight planetary grouping on May 17, and that will not be visible either.

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The remains of the age-old rain trees left scattered along the road between Mirpur section 11 and 12. Dhaka City Corporation felled the rare trees to "widen the 150-foot wide road" under the DUTP.

— Star photo

Life bans for match-fixing

LONDON, May 3: Life bans for players involved in match fixing were introduced with immediate effect today by an emergency meeting of the International Cricket Council (ICC), reports Reuters.

At the end of a two-day meeting convened to discuss the match-fixing crisis afflicting the sport, ICC president Jagmohan Dalmiya announced a series of measures cricket's ruling authority hopes will stop the rot.

They include life bans for players who fail to perform on their merits in an international match due to a betting arrangement or encourage another player to perform below his usual standard.

Receiving money for giving any information at all about the weather, teams or state of the ground to any body other than the media will also incur a life ban.

"There will be a stringent penalty which may go up to life bans if anyone is found guilty of misbehaviour," Dalmiya said.

Dalmiya also announced the immediate establishment of an independent commission charged with investigating allegations of match-fixing.

The Anti-Corruption Investigation will be set up within two months and empowered to solicit information from any player or official in connection with allegations of corruption, including betting and match-fixing.

The new body will be headed by an experienced person with a legal background and report directly to the chairman of the ICC's code of conduct commission, Lord Griffiths.

Promotion of 7 Addl Secys recommended

By Special Correspondent

The Superior Selection Board (SSB) yesterday recommended promotion of seven Additional Secretaries as Secretary against 11 vacancies.

The Board which met yesterday after long had a backlog of promotions to clear.

Promotion of four other additional secretaries was discussed but no decision was taken. The cases of police and others were also not disposed of, highly placed sources said.

The SSB consists of seven members, five of them retired Secretaries on extension of service.

Board chairman Quazi Shamsul Alam refused to say anything about the promotions. Earlier he asked officials concerned not to talk to the press or disclose anything on the matter the sources said.

The recommendations would be sent to the Prime Minister for consideration.

The additional secretaries recommended to become Secretary are Abul Kalam Azad, now holding charge of the IWT; Idris Alam, in-charge of Defence; Amiangshu Sen, in-charge of Rural Development and Cooperatives; Sirajul Islam, in-charge of Labour and Employment; Syed Abdur Rob, in-charge of Culture; Helaluddin Khan, in-charge of Textiles and Arbinda Koir, in-charge of power.

FEMA submits recommendations for electoral reforms to Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

The Fair Election Monitoring Alliance submitted its election recommendations to BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia yesterday and sought her support to bring about changes in the electoral rules and regulations.

A delegation led by acting chairperson of FEMA Abul Hasan while handing over the rec-

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