



Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee Of Federal Express Corporation
Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

MOUCHAK

108, D.I.T. Road
Malibagh, Dhaka
Tel # 9345261

KAWRANBAZAR

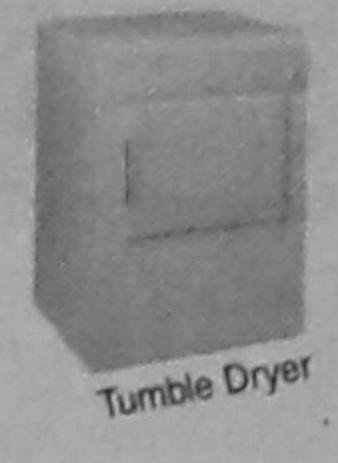
33, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawranbazar, Dhaka
Tel # 91306, 9130906

DEPZ

Dhaka Export Processing Zone
Service Building
Ganakbari, Savar
Tel # 9338931

Whirlpool

Home Appliances USA



Instalment facility available



TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS LTD.
Authorized Distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances
Dhaka: 8115307-10 CTG: 716553, 723578 Khuha, 720304 Bogra: 8215

Secy-level trade talks with India open tomorrow

Duty-free access of 25 items to figure high

Duty-free access of 25 categories of Bangladeshi items to Indian market will figure high in the secretary-level trade talks between Bangladesh and India in Delhi May 10-11, reports UNB.

Bangladesh's commerce secretary Golam Rahman will leave Dhaka today to meet his Indian counterpart, P P Prabhu, to find out ways and means of increasing volume of bilateral two-way trade between the two neighbours.

The balance of trade tilted towards India in the recent past. Bangladesh exports totalled about 60 million dollars in 1998-99 fiscal year while imports stood at 1.236 billion, leaving a trade deficit of 1.176 billion dollars.

Removal of hurdles in way of specific exports from Bangladesh, improvement of infrastructures, including customs points, roads, railway and waterway, joint-venture prospects and exchange of trade missions, are among the agenda of Bangladesh.

The meeting follows bilateral talks between Bangladesh's Commerce Minister Abdul Jallil and his Indian counterpart, Murasali Maran, on the sidelines of BIMSTEC trade ministers' talks in Delhi late last month.

Following formal commit-

ment made by Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpeyi during his Dhaka visit last year, Bangladesh made a list of 191 items under 25 broad categories for duty-free entry into Indian market. The list, sent to Indian authority few months back, still awaits their final decision.

Transshipment, a strong demand of India for carrying its goods through Bangladesh's territory, is very likely to come up in the talks between the two secretaries.

But Dhaka is yet to finalise its position on the politically contentious issue, unofficially tagged by the Indian side to duty-free access of Bangladeshi products.

Indian customs claim 35 per cent duty or Tk 450, whichever is the highest, for exports from Bangladesh, which is a "clear violation of WTO rules of customs duty," a Commerce Ministry official said.

The expert committee, comprising both local and foreign experts, has submitted its draft report to the Commerce Ministry, but the Task Force could not yet produce any report, the official said.

Returning from Delhi last month, Commerce Minister Abdul Jallil also said the government wanted to go through it before going to implement it as the issue entailed various implications.

Killer of two brothers yet to be arrested

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition, especially BNP, started accusing Hena of killing the two brothers in the city on Friday.

The investigation officer of DB told The Daily Star yesterday that his team visited the spot and talked to the people who witnessed the killing.

The officer said they are trying to find out the reason behind the killing.

Earlier, ABM Sultan Ahmed, former officer-in-charge of Tejgaon police station declined to do the job. The detective chief then assigned inspector AKM Mohsinuzzaman to investigate the case.

Ashfaq Hossain Jewel, 28, and Mohammad Ali, 24, were shot dead allegedly by Kamal Pasha, who according to police is a professional killer.

They were sons of Sayed Amzad Hossain, former editor of monthly Detective, a police publication and a resident of Kazi Nazrul Islam Road at Mohammadpur.

Shikdar's armed cadre arrested

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 8: Police arrested Kabir Mridha today from railway colony area. He is one of the armed cadres of Ershad Shikdar and wanted in connection with many criminal cases.

Police said Kabir Mridha helped Shikdar establish Nalchity Project by illegal occupation of railway land. Mridha was in-charge of a group of Shikdar's accomplices involved in pilferage of fuel from rail wagons.

Meanwhile, Ershad Shikdar flew into rage in the Special Court today when he was refused cooked food brought by his elder daughter from Swarnakamol. He abused police officials on duty in obnoxious words. A senior police official sent Ershad Shikdar to a separate room in the court imposing more stringent restrictions on him.

The cooked food brought from Swarnakamol was not allowed for security reason.

Abu Hena had taken office following consensus among the major political parties in April 1996. He conducted the June 1996 general elections in which

Tk 1 lakh mugged in city

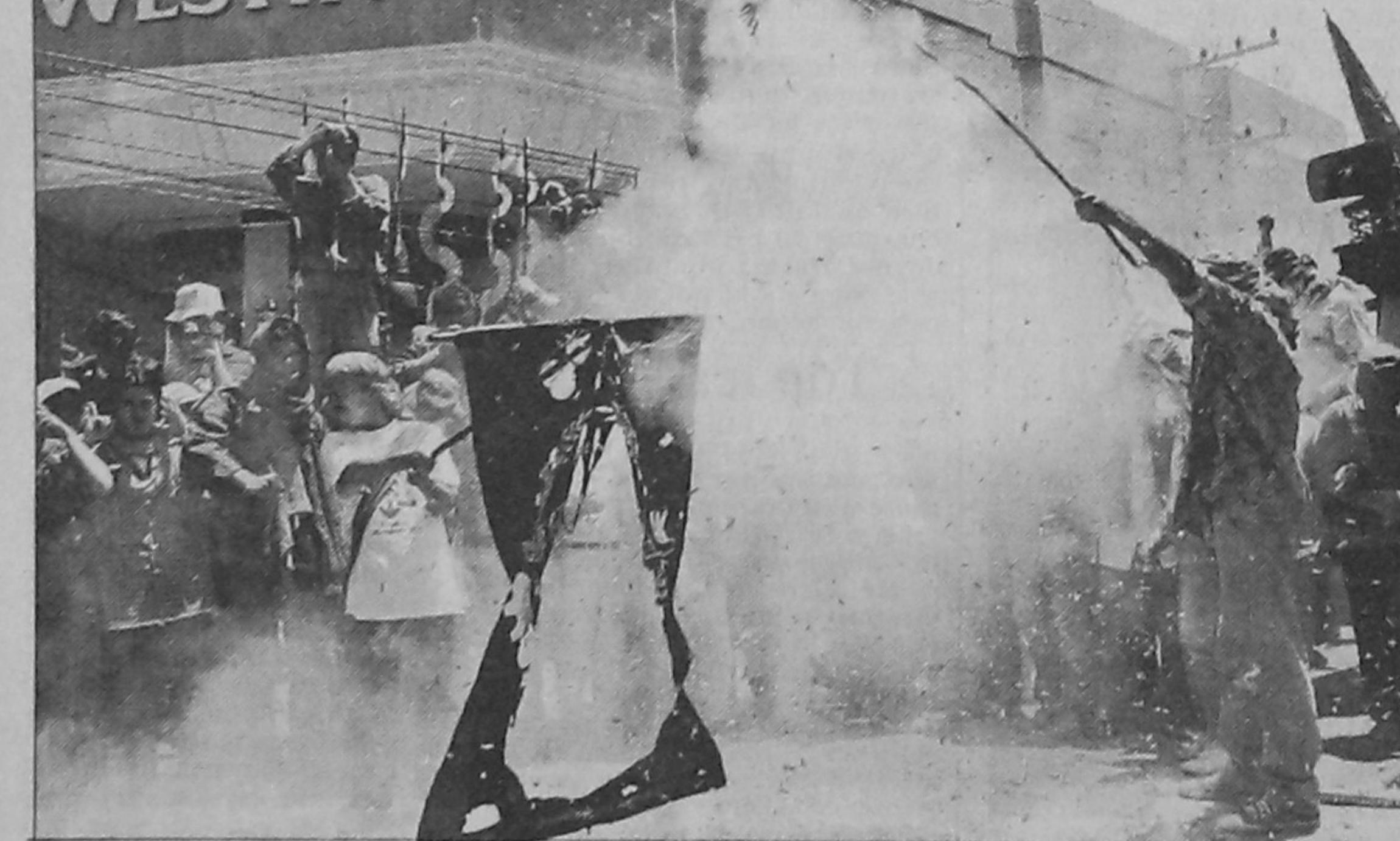
By Staff Correspondent

Muggers snatched Tk 1 lakh in cash from person at Science Laboratory in Dhanmondi yesterday.

Police said Ruhul Amin was mugged while he came out of a bank at Science Laboratory after withdrawing the money at around 3 pm.

Three people stopped Amin when he was about to get in his car parked in front of the bank. They hit him and took away the money.

WESTIN



Anti-globalisation protesters burn an Asian Development Bank (ADB) banner and explode firecrackers yesterday in front of the Westin hotel hosting the 33rd ADB annual meeting in Chinag Mai. Several thousand protesters chanted slogans around the building as the final day of the conference got under way inside.

Nasim Osman's assistant murdered

From Our Correspondent

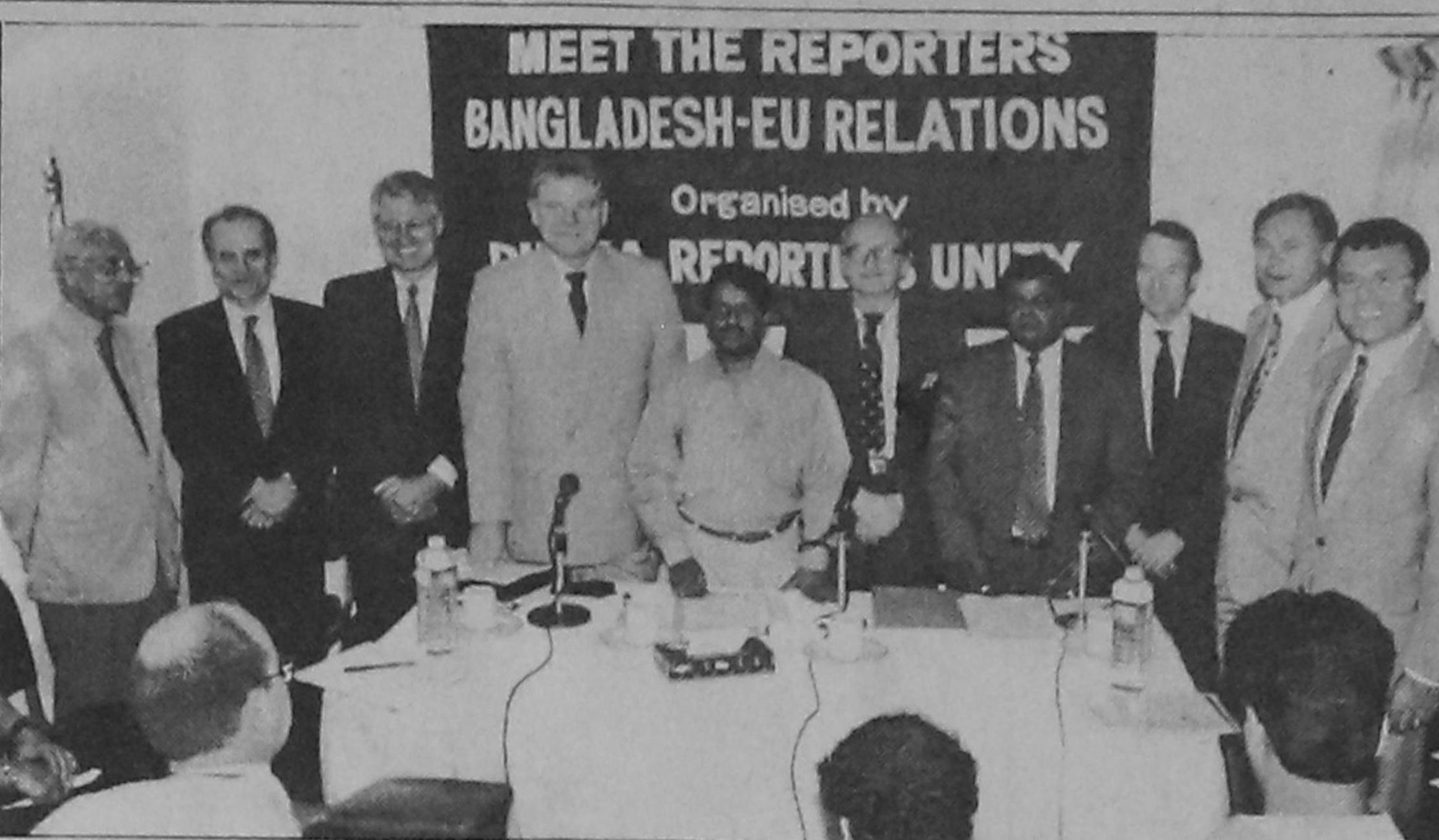
NARAYANGANJ, May 8: Mohammad Nurunnabi, 40, an office assistant of former Jatiya Party MP A K M Nasim Osman, was beaten to death by unidentified miscreants in Puthanulli area under Siddhiganj thana last night.

Police and eyewitnesses said the victim was attacked at 10:30 pm when he was returning to his Enayet Nagar residence by a rickshaw.

The miscreants beat him up mercilessly and left him unconscious near an under-construction building declared him dead.

Passers-by took him to the nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

A case has been registered with Siddhiganj police station but none was arrested so far.



Envoy of all the seven European Union countries in Bangladesh and the EC Head of Delegation exchanged views on "Bangladesh-EU Relations" at the "Meet the Reporters" programme at the Dhaka Reporters' Unity office in the city yesterday. Seen from left are Head of EC Delegation Antonio de Souza Menezes, Ambassador of Italy M. F. Pini, Ambassador of Denmark Finn Thilsted, Ambassador of Germany Uwe Schramm, DRU general secretary Monwarul Islam, Charge d' Affaires of France J. G. de Wargny, DRU president M. Anwarul Haq, High Commissioner of Britain Dr. David Carter, Ambassador of Sweden A. Johnson and Charge d' Affaires of the Netherlands Jan A. Mass.

—Star photo

'Love Bug' virus: Main suspect detained for questioning

MANILA, May 8: A young

Philippine couple, both bank workers, were named today as the main suspects in the creation of the devastating "Love Bug" computer virus and the man was arrested after a search of their dilapidated Manila flat, reports Reuters.

Irene de Guzman, the man's 23-year-old girlfriend, will present herself to authorities later today or tomorrow, Philippine National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) chief Federico Opinion told reporters.

He also confirmed that Rommel Ramones, 27, was the clean-shaven man arrested and led away in handcuffs by NBI officers after the flat search.

The couple lived on the ground-level of a 40-year-old government-built housing project in the lower middle-class Bagong Barangay suburb.

"He opted to remain silent," chief investigator Nelson Bartolome told reporters when asked if Ramones had made any statement.

Opinion said no charges had yet been brought but that the NBI had 36 hours to do so. The search was made after

the NBI obtained warrants from a Manila judge.

The agency had kept the flat under surveillance since Saturday, shortly after they were informed by local Internet service providers and authorities overseas that the virus, which penetrated millions of computers including those of the Pentagon, CIA and British Parliament, was believed to have originated there.

But the NBI was unable to immediately act because computer hacking is not a crime in the Philippines.

The warrants, which named both de Guzman and Ramones, said there was reason to believe that equipment in the house, possibly including computers and peripheral equipment, telephones and other hardware, had been used in violation of the Access Devices Regulation Act.

No computer in flat

The Access Devices Act governs the use of codes, account numbers and passwords giving access to different types of devices. The law provides for a maximum punishment of 20

years in jail for violators.

Opinion said investigators had taken away some computer diskettes and other material, but would not comment further. Gil Alnas, chairman of the local residents council, said the NBI took away 17 items including telephones, telephone wiring and computer magazines — but no computer.

"There was no computer in the house," Alnas told reporters.

Both Ramones and de Guzman are bank employees and a quiet, unassuming couple, neighbours told reporters as NBI officers conducted a three and a half hour search of the flat.

"She was nice, she would smile at me when passing, but I hardly ever talked to her," said one woman. "I didn't know the man either. But I don't think they were married."

The NBI said it was also likely that further investigation could lead to more arrests, but would not give details.

"Expect more fireworks. We might still apply for more warrants," Opinion said.

Domestic air service

From Page 1

port to be operated on commercial basis.

When contacted, Nasrin told The Daily Star that an investment proposal involving Tk 8,000,000 of the runway, and the airport will be ready for operation before the NAM summit in 2001," Hossain said.

But Managing Director of GMG Airlines, Shahab Sattar said it will be a total chaos for hundreds of transit passengers coming from Dubai, London and other places. "How will they come to Tejgaon from ZIA to avail a connecting flight?"

With all necessary infrastructures, ZIA remains underutilised with around 20 domestic and international flights a day. ZIA can handle as many as 150 flights a day with the existing present infrastructures.

There is no justification to spend so much of money to separate the domestic wing, he said.

Sources said the move was orchestrated in the light of a government plan to hand over ZIA to a consortium of local and foreign investors. The local partner is Nasrin Karim, daughter of Jatiya Sangsad Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury. Under the plan, ZIA would undergo a "massive facelift" and be converted into a full-fledged international airports.

The action chairman of CAAB however said plans are underway to hand over cargo, luggage and passenger handling at ZIA to the private sector. "I am not aware of any move to privatise the airport," he said.

Another official source claimed that in the face of a growing demand from environmentalists for shifting the cantonment and the old airport from the city, the military has initiated the project to keep a vast city area under its control.

Police said the truck carrying small businessmen from Bera plunged 5-7 feet deep into water at 6:30 am after the driver lost control on the steering when one of the front wheels deflated.

Two passengers identified as Sher Mohammad, 45, and Abul Hossain, 48, died on the spot. Three others — Shamsher Ali, 45, Khokon, 30, and Razzaq Molah, 25 — died on the way to hospital.

The victims, hailed from different villages in Bera and Santia upazillas, were going to Sherpur in Bogra to purchase paddy. The bodies were taken away by their relatives without post mortem.

Twenty-one of the injured were admitted to Bera health complex while five others — Islam, 35, Abul Hossain, 40, Sanwar, 35, Afanuddin, 28, and Abdus Salam — were sent to Dhaka, Bogra and Pabna "in critical condition."

The truck driver managed to escape. A case was filed with Santia thana.

Boy jailed under PSA

GAZIPUR, May 8: A young boy was sentenced to three years in prison today in the first case under the Public Safety Act (PSA) filed with Tongi police, reports UNB.

The convict, Tayebur Rahman Suman of Banaripara thana of Barisal, was arrested by police during opposition called hartal on February 16 with two live cocktails.

S I Yaseer Arafat prosecuted the boy under PSA.

After examining the prosecution witnesses and Suman's confessional statement, District and Sessions Judge Syed Harun Osmann awarded the light punishment considering his age and first offence.

None appeared in the court to defend the poor boy who has been residing at his brother's house at Hilmardighi in Tongi.

Another official source claimed that in the face of a growing demand from environmentalists for shifting the cantonment and the old airport from the city, the military has initiated the project to keep a vast city area under its control.

5 killed, 26 hurt as truck tumbles down bridge

PABNA, May 8: Five people travelling by a truck were killed and 26 others injured as the lorry tumbled down a bridge on the Nagarbari-Bogra highway at Patgari in Santia upazila this morning, reports UNB.

Police said the truck carrying small businessmen from Bera plunged 5-7 feet deep into water at 6:30 am after the driver lost control on the steering when one of the front wheels deflated.

Two passengers identified as Sher Mohammad, 45, and Abul Hossain, 48, died on the spot. Three others — Shamsher Ali, 45, Khokon, 30, and Razzaq Molah, 25 — died on the way to hospital.

The victims, hailed from different villages in Bera and Santia upazillas, were going to Sherpur in Bogra to purchase paddy. The bodies were taken away by their relatives without post mortem.

Passers-by took him to the nearby hospital where doctors declared him dead. The body was sent to the morgue for autopsy.

A case has been registered with Santia thana police station but none was arrested so far.

ITS**Intertek Testing Services**

Pre-shipment Inspection Against The Clock

Entrusted for Pre-shipment Inspection for Zone "A" countries under SRO No. 316/Law/99/1807/Customs of the National Board of Revenue, Government of Bangladesh.

For ease of contact following details are provided :

Telephone Numbers :

912 9437 912 9439 912 9440

912 9782 913 0298 812 6717

GP-GP Numbers (Customers Service)

017-636573

Fax :

(880-2) 912 8540, 913 0060

e-mail : itsdhk@bangla.net

Website : http://www.itsfts.com

Working Hours :</