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Masaki at Kuakata  
**Disappearance of Masaki: Police help sought**

By Special Correspondent

Abul Bashar, a resident of Shahidbagh in the city, filed general diary with the Motijheel police station yesterday, seeking police assistance to unearth the mystery behind the disappearance of Japanese citizen Masaki Arayama from Dhaka on December 7, 1980.

Bashar, a businessman, furnished a picture of himself with a person who he said was Arayama.

Motijheel police confirmed that they have recorded a general diary filed by Abul Bashar.

Arayama's family has been seeking Bangladeshi citizens to help them find out the missing Japanese backpacker. His sister Koga Michiyo has launched a fresh appeal through newspaper to help her find the missing brother.

However, she left Dhaka on Monday and did not see the picture of an oriental man in his late forties with whom Bashar had a photo at the beach.

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**3-member team starts interrogating Shimul today**

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 13: A three-member high level team has been formed to interrogate Mahmud Hasan Shimul, Political Commissioner of PCP in Khulna division. Shimul has been brought back to Khulna from Jessor Central Jail.

The members of the team are Golam Mastafa, senior police super of SB Dhaka, Sakhawat Hossain, Additional SP of CID, Dhaka and Mazharul Islam, DC (south) of KMP.

The team will start functioning from tomorrow, said a source in KMP.

**Looting at CEPZ: 4 arrested**

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 13: Police arrested four people including a woman today in connection with the looting of Tk 16 lakh from a Korean company, Lim's (BD) Ltd.

The incident took place at Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) last week.

The arrested are Nurul Islam, driver of the microbus used in the looting, Abdul Aziz, Yasmin Akbar and Moinal Hossain.

They were arrested from CGS Colony in Halishahar and Hajiara in Agrabad area.

Police also seized the microbus used during the incident.

Police said hunt was on to nab others involved in the incident.

**Trader shot dead in city**

By Staff Correspondent

A trader of a grocery store was shot dead near his residence at Mirpur last night, hospital sources said quoting the victim's family members.

Ali Akbar, 28, was shot point blank at about 9:00 pm, in front of the BRTC Bus Depot at Mirpur Section 10. Doctors declared him dead when he was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

The Mirpur police said they were yet to receive any such information in this regard.

**Rajuk**

From page 1

People gathered around the area to watch the demolition. Several Rajuk officials entered the police cordon posing themselves as 'passersby' and watched the demolition, many in the crowd claimed.

## Quality expenditure needed for higher growth rate: WB

By Staff Correspondent

The World Bank has stressed the need for quality expenditure to attain higher growth rate and sustain fiscal deficit in annual budgets.

Bangladesh's growth rate at 5 per cent to 5.5 per cent over the past four years is remarkable. Good quality spending can help the country grow by 8 to 10 per cent," Roberto Zagha, WB's Sector Manager, Poverty Reduction and Economic Management, South Asia region said here yesterday. "But the quality of expenditure is extremely poor now."

Bangladesh's economy is the 8th among the fast growing economies in the world, he said. It is a "remarkable performance indeed," Zagha observed.

Growth in agriculture and export sectors and improvement in social indicators is very good, he observed.

But he expressed concern

that a number of projects in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) are not viable economically.

Zagha, WB Country Director Frederick T. Temple, and its senior economists were speaking at a quarterly meeting with members of the Economic Reporters' Forum (ERF) at its conference room.

Regarding government borrowing from the banking system, WB economist Zahid Hosain said, there was no inflation due to this. "There was excess liquidity in banks".

Earlier, briefing newsmen on the ongoing discussion on the Country Assistance Strategy (CAS) for Bangladesh, Temple said the next CAS will have a comprehensive approach to poverty reduction and emphasis on governance.

To prepare the next CAS, the World Bank held consultations See page 11 col 8

was the pervasive emphasis on importance of improving governance to reduce poverty and achieve prosperity in Bangladesh, Temple said.

He said IDA lending to Bangladesh has been substantially lower than it could be, primarily because of the slow pace of reforms.

"We recognise the constraints in accelerating reforms during an election year, but we would be prepared to increase our level of financial support if the government formed after the election adopts and begins to implement a bolder reform programme," Temple added.

During the discussions, the importance of reducing corruption and improving law and order was stressed by every group.

To prepare the next CAS, the



Rajuk demolished an unauthorised under-construction market at Uttara Sector-6 in the city yesterday. —Star photo

## Road accidents in 3 dists kill 18

By Staff Correspondent

At least 18 people were killed

and 60 others injured in separate road accidents in Satkhira, Dhaka and Comilla yesterday.

Of them, 11 were killed in Satkhira, five in the capital city and the rest in Comilla.

Our Satkhira Correspondent reports: At least 11 people were killed and 50 others injured, ten of them seriously, in two separate road accidents at Chapra and Budhata in Ashasuni road yesterday morning.

The dead firefighters were identified as Sajjad Hossain and Atiar Rahaman.

The injured three were taken to Satkhira Sadar Hospital.

Soon after the accident at Chapra, local people went on the rampage. They put up a barricade on the highway, disrupting traffic for about three hours and set ablaze a bus.

The enhanced price of white roll is Tk 32,450 per ton and white sheet is Tk 40,000 per ton.

Those who went to the mill today were refused delivery of their consignment on different pretexts.

Another source said, supply was stopped this morning as KNM authorities received a fax message from the CBIC Head Office about further price hike of the newspaper per metric ton.

The foreign pilots would be hired on contract basis, initially for a year. Biman plans to recruit cadet pilots after promoting 75 pilots.

It also intends to relieve Biman fliers, whose duty often borders on the limits of pilot's mandatory rest period before new flights, violating CAAB (Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh) regulations.

"But there is no compromise with flight safety and the pilots are never forced to fly without rest," Air Commodore Rafiqul Islam, Managing Director of Biman, told newsmen at a briefing yesterday.

A three-month long countrywide tree plantation campaign will begin today, reports BSS.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to open the drive at a function at the National Parade Ground here in the afternoon. She will also award the winners of Prime Minister's National Award for Tree Plantation 1999.

The dead were identified as Habibullah, 16, Kakoli, 12, Nasima, 16, Debasish Mondal, 18, Swapan Mandal, 35, Tutul, 5, Joydev Kumar, 16, Kawser Shana, 45, and Entaj Ali, 20.

Some of the injured were admitted to Satkhira hospital while others to Ashasuni Health Complex and different

clinics in Satkhira town.

On receipt of information, one Fire Brigade ambulance from Satkhira fire service station rushed to the spot to bring the injured to Satkhira hospital.

But the ambulance overturned after collision with a tempo in Budhata area, killing two fire fighters on the spot and injuring three others.

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