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Down to Earth**The Vogue of Mobile Eateries in City**

By A S M Nurunnabi

With the rapid development of the metropolis, rapid changes are also taking place in the habits and lifestyles of its citizens. In the fast pace of city life, people just don't have time for leisure dinings any more.

With changed office timings observed in government and non-government offices, there is no longer any scope for the office-goers to go home for lunch. Time is at a premium for the fast growing class of office executives and other white-collar workers who need to fortify themselves with food that is relatively inexpensive, nutritious and handy.

Although there has been such a demand for a pretty long time, it is only recently that facilities for meeting such demands have opened up. The concept of mobile restaurants has been given a boost in the city by some well-established restaurants like Sajna, Shehnai, China Town, Yummy Yummy and American Fried Chicken. They started to sell meals on wheels. With a small kitchen set within their mobile vans which can warm food, they usually supply set meals with a price range from Tk 50/- to Tk 150/- for foods as club sandwiches, fried rice, chicken and French fries. In addition to such set meals, there is also a choice of usual fares like beef or chicken burgers, chops, cutlets and pizzas, besides soft drinks. One important thing to note here is that the staff of most of these mobile restaurants handle the foods hygienically by wearing gloves.

These mobile food restaurants have become increasingly popular in recent days. Conve-

nient food service is quite entrenched in the city, particularly among the employees of private business establish-

ments. The two sides have also scaled rival events to mark the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25.

South Korea's Culture-Information Minister Park Jie-Won told journalists the North's supreme leader Kim Jong-Il had ordered an immediate halt to verbal attacks against the capitalist South.

He made the order after summoning his all-important National Defense Commission on Thursday morning.

There is another interesting feature of the city's mobile food catering. This refers to 'chat-patti' or 'phuchchka' wallahs. Their conspicuous presence is noticeable in city's parks, fairs, exhibition sites, near women's hostels and bazaars and anywhere where there are people. The food items they supply are not strictly treated as meals but they go a long way in titillating the taste buds of the young people. The 'jhal muri' and the 'chanachur' vendors also serve as local snacks as do the ice-cream vendors. They do brisk business in the city's parks and other public places in the afternoon.

During the evening we find temporary food stalls set up beside the TSC area buzzing with activity. Students come here to supplement their launch and supper, as the quality of food served in the students' residential halls, are said to be atrocious.

A privately conducted survey has revealed that there are over 200 mobile restaurants and food stalls in the city with about 8000 food street vendors of different types.

The concept of mobile food as introduced by several leading restaurants of the city has now become widely popularized. Encouraged by this trend, more mobile restaurants are being introduced which serve quick-lunch, snacks and beverages. The vogue of mobile food is steadily on in this city now.



Enforcing the 'one-way' at Kudrat-e-Khuda (New Elephant) Road, a police officer directs traffic from the east to the west yesterday. DMP traffic division enforced the decision without any public notification earlier.

— Star photo

2nd MOU on child labour elimination signed

GENEVA, June 16: The Second Memorandum of Understanding (MOU-II) on elimination of child labour from garment industry in Bangladesh was signed between BGMEA, ILO and UNICEF here today, a press release said, reports BSS.

The second MOU is aimed at contributing elimination of child labour and preventing recruitment of new child labour in the garment industry in Bangladesh through monitoring, verification and awareness raising.

In 1995, BGMEA, ILO and UNICEF signed the first MOU.

The second phase of the MOU will strengthen informal education programme for children and vocational training to facilitate transition to skilled workers for potential gainful jobs.

It will also contribute to the economic progress of the country by facilitating export of garments as well as to social progress by providing children with education and training.

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One-way traffic

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Ansur Rahman Sinha, president of BGMEA, Ms Janet Nella, Executive Director of ILO signed the MOU on behalf of their respective organisations. Dr Ittekh Ahmed Chowdhury, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Bangladesh in Geneva and Sirajul Islam, Secretary of Labour and Employment were also present at the signing ceremony.

In 1995, BGMEA, ILO and UNICEF signed the first MOU. The second phase of the MOU will strengthen informal education programme for children and vocational training to facilitate transition to skilled workers for potential gainful jobs.

Police deployed wreckers to lift some vehicles parked under the footbridge near Gausia Market on Mirpur Road which had been made a one-way road from March 17. But the move failed to deter Friday shoppers crowding the market, leaving their vehicles parked in the area marked as no parking area. Police failed to do anything about this either.

DC Traffic Sirajul Islam admitted that there was no public notification on introduction of the one way traffic on New Elephant Road. But he said that it was done on experimental basis to relieve the people of the traffic on the road.

He said those who travel eastwards from Science Laboratory crossing should use the Mirpur Road via New Market and Nilkhel crossing. There will be some inconvenience until a new road being prepared at Paribagh on the box culvert is ready and traffic is disciplined on the one way roads, he added.

The DC further said that he is going to have a meeting with the shopkeepers of New Elephant Road today to discuss the one way issue.

Koreas halt propaganda attacks after summit

SEOUL, June 16: North and South Korea ordered a halt to propaganda attacks against each other today, as the South's President Kim Dae-Jung called a special cabinet meeting to act on their historic summit in Pyongyang, reports AFP.

The two sides have also scaled rival events to mark the 50th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War on June 25.

South Korea's Defence Minister Cho Sung-Tae told the cabinet meeting he had ordered a halt to "every form of insults against North Korea" through loudspeakers and billboards along the Demilitarized Zone.

He made the order after summoning his all-important National Defense Commission on Thursday morning.

Park said. Official monitors here confirmed the North Korea's propaganda machine had stopped its insults against the rival South.

On Wednesday evening, Kim Jong-Il and President Kim signed a landmark inter-Korean declaration pledging to work toward peaceful reunification and reconciliation.

South Korea's Defence Minister Cho Sung-Tae told the cabinet meeting he had ordered a halt to "every form of insults against North Korea" through loudspeakers and billboards along the Demilitarized Zone.

He also ordered the military to "review" its plans for events marking the Korean War anniversary, as the

events "could have negative impact on implementing the inter-Korean declaration."

President Kim called the special cabinet meeting a day after returning from Pyongyang. On his triumphant return to Seoul late Thursday he declared that reunification between the Cold War enemies was now possible.

"We Koreans are at the start of a new era. When I was in Pyongyang I realised that Pyongyang is our land. The people of Pyongyang are our people," he said.

The two sides have proposed different formulas for reunification, but they have agreed to independently seek common ground.

The North wants an immediate federation, while the South has proposed a more gradual confederation.

Science and technology universities**Out of planned 12, foundation of only 3 laid in last 3 yrs**

By Reaz Ahmad

Three years after a decision to set up 12 science and technology universities, foundations of only three have so far been laid in Dinajpur, Rangpur and Tangail.

The original plan was to set up the 12 universities by 2007 in districts where there is none.

But a stalemate began when the government deviated from it and attempted to upgrade Haji Danesh Agriculture College at Dinajpur and Patuakhali Agriculture College into science and technology universities. Different quarters opposed the upgrading and demanded setting up of new institutions.

The government planned to upgrade these two and set up four other science and technology universities in Rangpur, Tangail, Gopalganj and Rangamati in the first phase by 2002.

Sites were selected and project directors appointed for the four. An amount of Tk 90 lakh was sanctioned for building initial infrastructures for the six. But no further progress has been made due to the govern-

ment indecision over upgrading of the two. The sources said the whole project got stalled due to the indecision.

The two agricultural colleges at Dinajpur and Patuakhali were handed over to Education Ministry from the Agriculture Ministry in 1999. But in the face of protests, these were returned to the agriculture ministry after a couple of months.

After Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina laid the foundation of a science and technology university on the existing facilities at Haji Danesh Agriculture College in Dinajpur, a group of leading agriculturists, academics and a former agriculture minister submitted a memorandum to her for upgrading the agricultural college into an agriculture university.

Since then, further progress in upgrading the colleges at Dinajpur and Patuakhali and setting up two others at Rangamati and Gopalganj remained stalled.

Meantime, the Prime Minis-

ter told a delegation of Bangladesh Association for the Advancement of Science (BAAS) on May 7 that two of the planned 12 would be built exclusively for agricultural studies.

However, officials concerned said that there has not been any change in the government plan that all the 12 would be science and technology universities. There will be separate faculties for agriculture when Haji Danesh Agriculture College and Patuakhali Agriculture College will be upgraded, they said.

Education Secretary Kazi Rakibuddin Ahmad told The Daily Star that work to build infrastructures for three other universities at Patuakhali, Rangamati and Gopalganj would begin soon.

"We are selecting sites for six other universities at Noakhali, Comilla, Pabna, Bogra, Barisal and Jessore to be built under the second phase (2002-2007)," he said.

Prof Meshbahuddin Ahmed, Member (Science and Technology) of University Grants Commission (UGC), said that he had no knowledge of any policy change regarding conversion of agriculture colleges into science and technology universities.

Prof Ahmed, who coordinates the whole project for setting up the 12 science and technology universities asserted that the work was going on as per government plan.

6 held for dacoity at Korean factory at CEPZ

By Staff Correspondent

Police have so far arrested six people, including a woman in connection with the dacoity at a Korean owned garments factory at Chittagong EPZ on June 7. Chittagong police said in a press release yesterday.

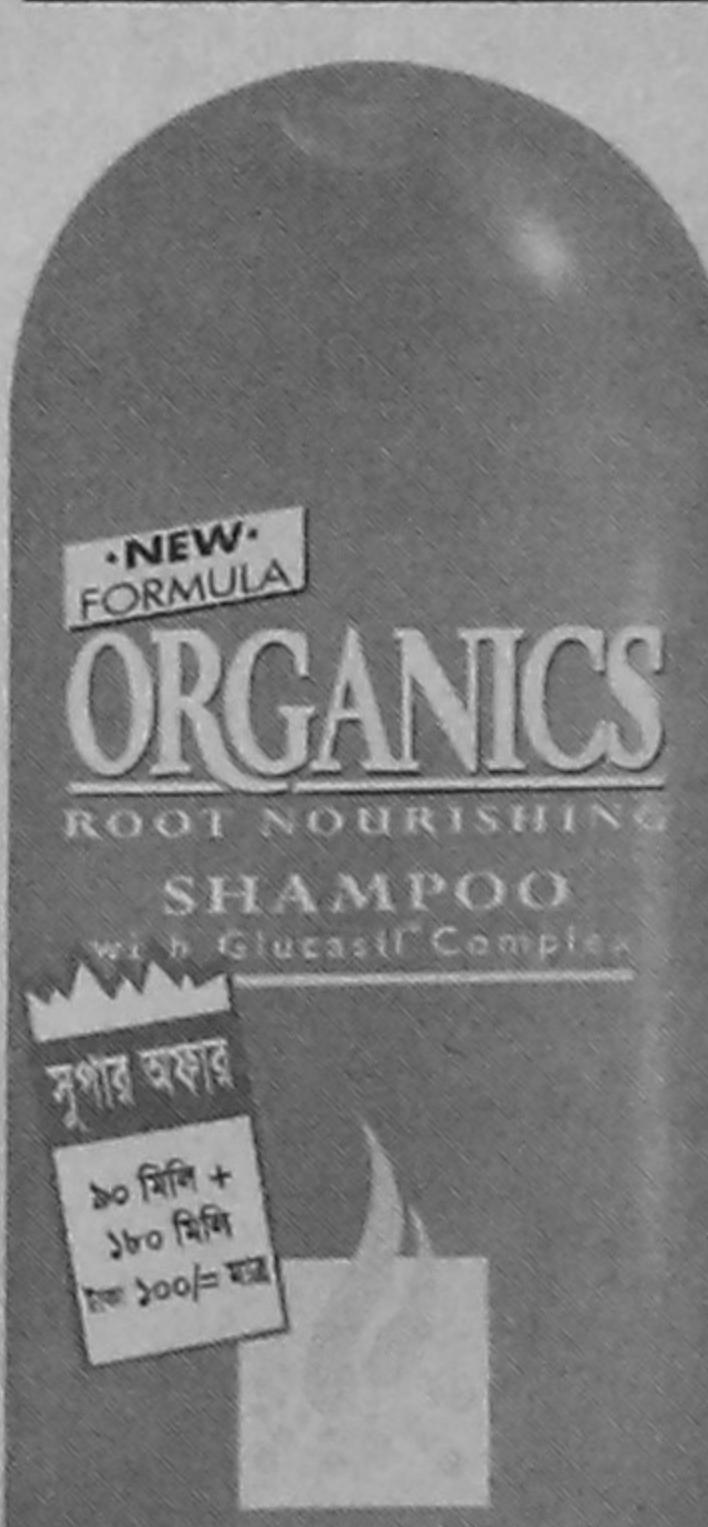
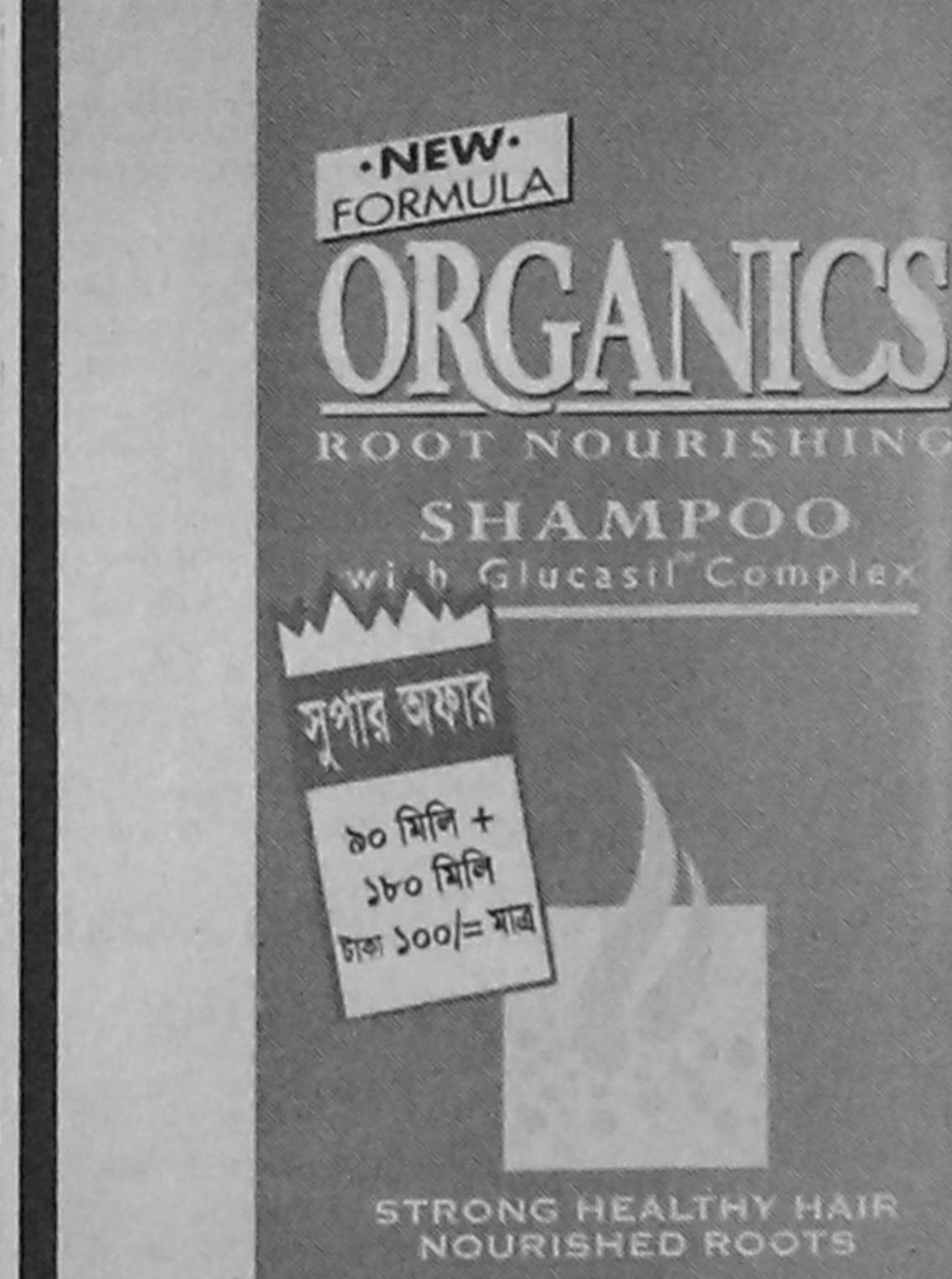
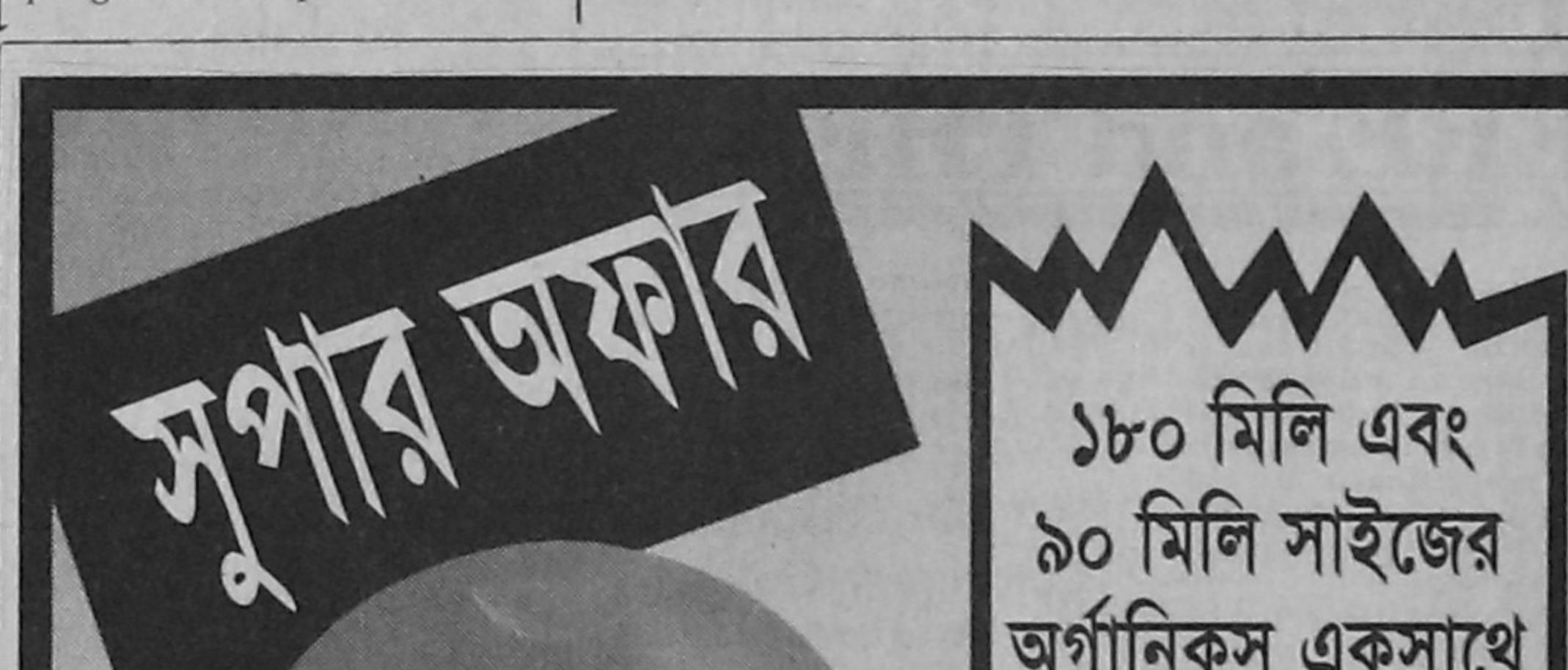
The incident took place when officials and employees of Limo's (BD) Ltd, the Korean factory, were drawing their salary. Getting inside the factory premises with a micro bus, dacoits, numbering about 12, held some people including security men of the factory hostage and took away Tk 16 lakh.

The arrested people were identified as Nurul Islam, 28, Abdul Aziz, 26, Yasmin Akter, 24, Moinul Hossain, 26 and Habib Ullah, 25, police said. They also recovered three firearms with ammunition and Tk about 1.19 lakh of the robbed money from the possession of the arrested persons.

A special team of Chittagong Detective Branch arrested Nurul, Aziz, Yasmin and Moinul during separate raids in K Block and Agrabad, Halishahar in the early hours of Tuesday. Following statement of the arrested, police recovered the microbus, which was used during the dacoity, and Tk 69,630 from his sister's account, the release said.

Later, Habib Ullah was arrested in the early morning of Thursday. Habib admitted to the police that he got a share of Tk 60 thousand from the robbed money. Fifty thousand of the amount was kept in his sister's account, the release said.

Following Habib's statement, two firearms and ammunition were recovered from an under-construction building of Kalsidighirpar, the press release added.

**Windies 289/6**

Sports Reporter

West Indies were 289 for six, a lead of 110, one hour after the tea on the second day of the first Test against England at Edgbaston yesterday. Captain Jimmy Adams was not out on 56 while Curtly Ambrose was at the other end with 22.

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