

What's on today....

CARE reception: CARE-Bangladesh will hold a reception and discussion session to honour Bangladesh Alumni members of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Centre (ADPC), Bangkok, Thailand. Venue: Hotel Purbani International, Dilkutsha C/A. Time: 2:30 pm.

BCU reception: Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) will accord a reception to meritorious students of the SSC examination 2000. It will be followed by a cultural programme. Venue: Liberation War Museum, Segun Bagicha. Time: 4:00 pm.

ORCA freshers reception: Old Rajshahi Cadets Association (ORCA) will hold a reception for the freshers of the 31st batch of the organisation. Venue: Planning and Development Academy auditorium, Nkhilhet. Time: 5:00 pm.

WEST workshop: The seventh workshop of the "Workshop on Environment Science and Technology" (WEST) will be held. This session will involve children. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road. Time: 9:30 am.

Cultural evening: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka presents Nazrul Geeti by Luna Saeed and Rabindra Sangeet by Pijush. Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road. Time: 7:00 pm.

..... and tomorrow

Rally: Rotary International District 3280 Bangladesh will hold a rally to create awareness on "Environment and Literacy". It will also hold a children's painting competition. Venue: Rally - National Museum, Shahbag, art competition - Hotel Sonargaon. Time: Rally- 7:30 am, art competition- 10:00 am.

DRU talk: Minister for Industries Tofail Ahmed will deliver a talk on "Industrial Development and Investment in Bangladesh". He will also face the reporters at a question-answer session following the talk. Venue: Dhaka Reporters Unity (DRU) auditorium, 8/4-A Tophkhana Road, Segun Bagicha. Time: 10:55 am.

Weather

Light rain forecast

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Rajshahi, Sylhet, Barisal and Khulna divisions and at a few places over Dhaka and Chittagong divisions in the next 12 hours till 6 pm today, reports UNB.

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period. Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 35.0 degree Celsius at Jessore and the lowest 24.0 degree Celsius at Sylhet and Cox's Bazar.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.50 pm and rises tomorrow at 5.15 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	temperature in Celsius	humidity in percentage
	Max	Min
Dhaka	32.4	26.4
Chittagong	33.4	24.8
Rajshahi	33.8	26.5
Khulna	34.0	25.4
Barisal	32.0	25.5
Sylhet	30.7	24.0
Cox's Bazar	33.5	24.0

HERE and THERE

Asiatic Society of Bangladesh

The extended Bangladesh workshop 2000 of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh was held at the society auditorium yesterday, says a press release.

Sixty specialists and project personnel took part in the workshop. The workshop was designed to finalise the stylesheet and other technical aspects of the compilation of the Bangladesh.

Prof Abdul Momin Chowdhury, president of the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh, presided over the workshop.

Bangladesh is joint venture of the Ministry of Education and the Asiatic Society of Bangladesh. The project will be completed in December, 2002.

PIB

Minister Councillor of the Danish Embassy Ove Fritz Larsen called on Director General of PIB Dr Sheikh Abdus Salam at his office on Wednesday and discussed different aspects of the project assistance for PIB, says a press release.

A facts finding team of the

Danish embassy visited Bangladesh last year and submitted a report, recommending ways to strengthen the activities of Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB). Other officials of PIB were present at the meeting.

GIS

A two-month-long training course on "Application of Geographic Information System (GIS) in Agricultural Planning" ended yesterday with a certificate awarding ceremony held at BARC premises, says a press release.

Anwar Iqbal presided over the ceremony. Chief guest M Moniruzzaman, member-director of BARC, distributed certificates among the participants. A total of 15 participants from 12 organisations were awarded the GIS certificates.

Mahbub Ahmed, Director of BARC Computer Centre and trainees Fazlul Karim, Associate Professor, Bangladesh Agricultural Institute, Dhaka and Sharmin Ali, SSO of Bangladesh Sugarcane Research Institute, spoke on the occasion.

BCB team calls on President, PM

A delegation of Bangladesh Cricket Board (BCB) called on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaba yesterday, reports UNB.

Led by State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, the delegation members apprised the President of the government initiatives for the development of sports, specially for popularising cricket in the country.

They mentioned that Bangladesh has earned Test status and thereby became eligible to play cricket tests.

The delegation also briefed the President about the structural development of cricket facilities in the country.

President Shahabuddin expressed his deep satisfaction and congratulated the cricket players for their sincere efforts in the cricket field at home and abroad.

He thanked the BCB members for taking appropriate measures in this field and congratulated the cricket players for their sincere efforts in the cricket field at home and abroad.

Deputy Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives and President of BCB Sabir Hossain Chowdhury and Secretary to the Prime Minister Muhammad Ismail Hossain were present on the occasion.

The BCB delegation also called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganabhaba yesterday evening. Sheikh Hasina said with the coming of Test status the nation is now bestowed with a

onerous responsibility and all would have to do their best to prove the worth.

"Now you will have to be more serious in performing your duties for the promotion of cricket," she told the cricketers. The BCB delegation pointed out existing problems of cricketing, including playgrounds and stadiums, and suggested various solutions.

They made the call on the Prime Minister following Bangladesh's elevation to the elite club of world cricket as the 10th Test-playing nation with unanimous voting in the ICC meeting at the Lords on June 26.

Maj (Retd) Akhter's memo to army chief

Major (Retd) Akhteruzzaman MP submitted a memorandum to the army chief yesterday seeking investigation against those who handed over his maid to police on Monday, reports UNB.

"This is not an isolated incident, it's part of a deep-rooted conspiracy, please investigate it and glorify the image of army as well as establish yourself as honest and impartial army chief," he said in the memo which was later produced at a press conference held at the Jatiya Press Club.

He told the journalists that a section was trying to "harass" him as he was vocal in the parliamentary defence committee.

Two beaten up by mob in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two persons were beaten up by a mob while they were allegedly making an attempt to snatch away valuables from passersby, according to police and hospital sources.

One of the alleged muggers was identified as Siraj, 28, and the other Selim, 25, hospital sources said adding both of them were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital with marks of injuries in different parts of their bodies.

Siraj, 28, was caught by people at Bangla Motor crossing at about 8:30 pm the very moment he was allegedly trying to snatch away valuables of a passerby, hospital sources said quoting the police. He was later rescued by police and brought to the DMCH.

Selim, 25, was caught and beaten up by people at Paltan on charges of making an attempt of mugging. Motijheel police rescued and sent him to the DMCH at about 8:15 pm, hospital sources said.

President assents to 3 bills

President Shahabuddin Ahmed yesterday assented to three bills which were passed by the Jatiya Sangsad in the current budget session, a Parliamentary Secretariat press release said in the city, reports BSS.

The bills are: The Finance Bill, 2000, The Appropriation Bill, 2000 and The Insurance (Amendment) Bill, 2000, the release added.

Indian woman Taslim gets bail

CHITTAGONG, June 29: Indian woman Taslim was granted bail today by the Metropolitan Magistrate Atahar Ali of CMM's court, Chittagong.

She got bail against a bond of Tk 50,000 and under the responsibility of her husband and a lawyer.

Taslim was arrested near Chittagong Passport Office on June 26 and later was placed under 7 days' remand.

As nothing was found regarding her involvement in any subversive activity, she was brought back to Chittagong and produced before the CMM's court today.

Taslim's lawyer said in the court that she got married with a permanent resident of Bangladesh and came here to live with her husband. She had already made an affidavit to cancel her Indian citizenship and sought Bangladeshi citizenship. The court fixed July 18 for hearing.

AL leader hospitalised

Mohammad Shah Jalaluddin Bhulu, vice-president of America-Bangladesh Friendship Society and research and information secretary of US Awami League, is undergoing treatment at the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) in a critical condition, family sources said yesterday, reports BSS.

Bhulu, who has been living in New York for a long time, was brought back home last week as his health deteriorated.

Rashidul Huq new DG of DOE

Kh Rashidul Huq has joined the Department of Environment (DOE) as Director General recently, says a press release.

Prior to his new assignment, Rashidul Huq has worked as Chairman, Bangladesh Hand Loom Board and Chairman of Bangladesh Parjaton Corporation.

Before joining the government service, he was a professor of English in Nazimuddin College, Madaripur, and Tolaram College in Narayanganj.

He was also the Chairman of National Tourism Human Resource Development Council, founded by the European Commission and vice-chairman of the Pacific Area Travel Agent, Bangladesh chapter.

Body recovered

By Staff Correspondent

The floating body of a young lady was recovered from a jheel at Sabujbagh area in the city yesterday afternoon.

The identity of the lady, aged about twenty-five, could not be known, hospital and police sources said.

The body was wrapped up inside a mat. Hospital sources quoting the inquest report said that she had been raped and beaten to death. Later, the body was thrown into the jheel about two days ago.

The woman was attired in blue shalwar-kamiz.

A case was filed with Sabujbagh police in this regard.

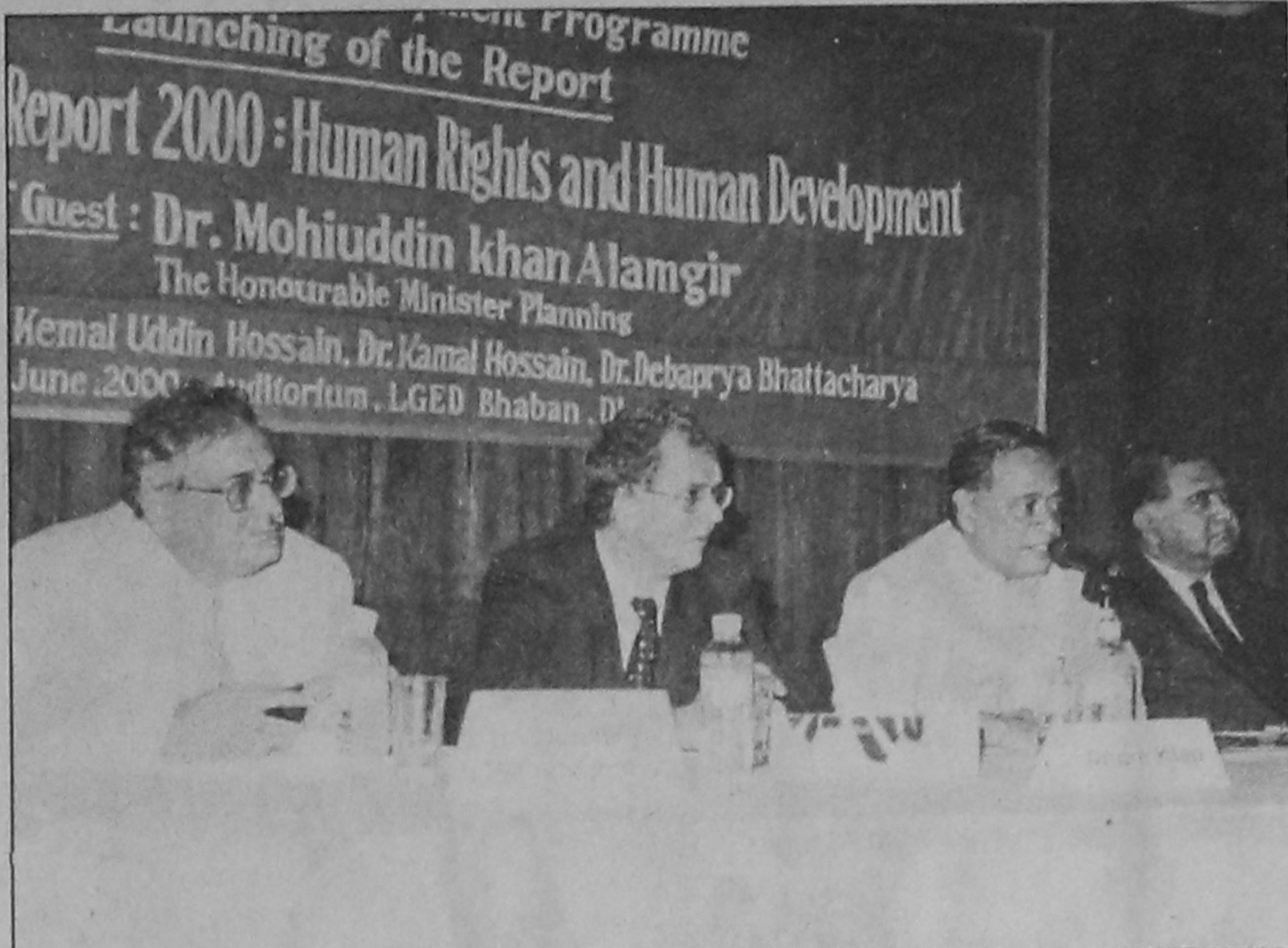
The body of the victim was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) morgue for autopsy.

Chehlum

Chehlum of Itikhar Ahmed Shipu, a businessman, will be held at his residence at House-45/E, Road-13/C, Banani, after Asr prayers today, says a press release.

Shipu was shot dead by a gang of terrorists on May 25.

Relatives, friends and admirers have been requested to attend the chehlum.



Minister for Planning and Development Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir speaking at the launching ceremony of the UNDP Report 2000 on Human Rights and Human Development at the LGED Bhaban auditorium yesterday. Also seen in the picture are (from left) Dr. Debapriya Bhattacharya, Executive Director of Centre for Policy Dialogue, and Andre Klap, Deputy Residential Representative of UNDP and Dr. Kamal Hossain (Extreme right). — Star photo

Call to foil evil designs of anti-liberation forces

Sammilito Muktiyoddha Front Convenor and Political Adviser to the Prime Minister Dr S A Malek yesterday called upon all pro-liberation democratic forces to join hands to foil the evil designs of the anti-liberation elements, reports BSS.

"The anti-liberation and autocratic forces and enemies of democracy have joined together and hatching conspiracies against the government of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina," he said while exchanging views with the leaders of different professional groups here.

He said: "They have banded together to dislodge the democratic government from power as the Hasina administration is making relentless efforts to institutionalise democracy." "These forces are up for capturing power through unconstitutional means and making the nation regress to the old days of subjugation and humiliation," the political adviser said.

He said they wanted to destroy all the glorious achievements of the nation earned through the sacrifice of lives by three million people during the country's War of Liberation, he said.

Dr Malek said the freedom fighters and the pro-liberation forces could not play the role of mute spectators, allowing the evildoers to act at their will. "The freedom fighters will give a befitting reply to any quarters, attempting to capture power through unconstitutional means," he stressed.

Dr Malek said the War of Liberation was a continuous process and all the pro-liberation forces should join forces so that the anti-liberation forces could not bare their fangs.

The function was organised in the run up to the freedom fighters' and people's (Muktijoddha-Janata) grand rally at Khulna on July 8.

Patia poura chairman removed

Patia Pourasava chairman Shamsul Alam Master has been removed on charges of corruption, embezzlement and misuse of power, reports UNB.

The action has been taken on the allegations submitted on April 20 by 11 commissioners of the municipality in Chittagong district, a government announcement said in Dhaka yesterday.

Following the complaint, Deputy Commissioner of Chittagong was assigned as authorised officer who issued show-cause to the chairman as to why he should not be removed on the charges.

BRAC Limb and Brace Fitting Centre opens July 5

A BRAC Limb and Brace Fitting Centre will be opened in the city on July 5, says a press release.

Located at 22/11, Block B, Mohammadpur Housing Estate, Mirpur Road, the centre will be the first of its kind in the country in terms of technology and materials to be used for artificial limbs.

Established in collaboration with the famed artificial limb institute of Jaipur, India, the centre will cater to the needs of artificial limbs for the victims of road accidents and other diseases leading to loss of legs.

Materials like aluminum and specialised plastic will be used with cosmetic covering of natural colour.

The artificial limbs can be used with ease and comfort having a natural look. Patients with deformed legs caused by polio and such illnesses will also be treated with brace. Initially, 500 patients will be treated each year.



All Party Action Council, Shayampur thana unit, brought out a procession in the city yesterday to press its various demands including resignation of the government. — Star photo

Woman, her 2 daughters gangraped in Jessore

From Our Correspondent

JESSORE, June 29: A group of armed terrorists gangraped a woman and her two daughters confining them in their home for the last two consecutive days at gunpoint at Sujapur under Kotwali thana here.

The woman filed an FIR with Kotwali thana in this connection.

Local terrorist leader Tulu Khan and his accomplices were provoking her two daughters for the last few months, police said quoting the FIR.

Tulu Khan along with his armed accomplices intruded into her house and raped her daughters and herself throughout the night at gunpoint keeping hostage her three other children Rana, Ruma and Rawan.

They left the place keeping them confined in the house under lock and key.

They again came yesterday and raped them. On information, their neighbours broke open the door and rescued them.

The victims took shelter at Kotwali thana on security ground. None was arrested till writing of this report.

Rickshawpuller killed in road accident

By Staff Correspondent

A rickshawpuller died after being hit by a speeding car in front of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday evening, hospital sources said.

The victim, identified as Lal Miah, 30, a resident of Kamrangirchar was hit by a private car in front of the DMCH at about 3:30 pm, hospital sources said.

He died within half an hour of his admission to the DMCH.

Police seized the car and rickshaw from in front of the hospital, witnesses and hospital sources said.

When contacted Ramna police said they were not aware of the incident.

Dhaka to gain

From page 1

Dr Raul E Garcia of Argentina said his country had earned a reservoir of foreign exchange by exporting gas through pipeline.

Christian Iturri Salzman from Bolivia said his country netted 500 million US dollars through gas export last year. Bolivia laid three different gas lines and mainly exported to Brazil, which is the largest market in South America.

Bruce McMullen, Senior Energy Advisor of USAID, who was also present, said Bangladesh's gas reserves would vary between 13 TCF and 100 TCF (trillion cubic feet) although the figures swing

DCC banks on

From page 1

He said four sectors would get priority: road construction and repair, street light, mosquito control and clean-up drive.

The proposed budget is Tk 99.73 crore higher than that of the revised budget of Tk 447.09 crore in the current fiscal, which ends today.

In the last budget, DCC approved a revised budget of Tk 447.09 crore after trimming down Tk 74.18 crore from the original figure of Tk 521.27 crore. DCC earned Tk 165.15 crore of revenue during the 1999-2000 fiscal while in the current fiscal it is projected to be Tk 190.82 crore.

Revenue expenditure was estimated at Tk 99.66 crore in the previous fiscal but actual expenditure was Tk 100.35 crore. Tk 112.94 crore has been earmarked for the same account in the proposed budget.

The highest earning of Tk 110 crore will come from holding tax while the highest revenue expenditure of Tk 51 crore will be spent on salary, honorarium and allowance of the corporation's staff.

The budget for fiscal 2000-2001 is the seventh budget of Mohammad Hanif took office in 1994.

Asked whether he can complete his five-year term after being elected in 1994, Hanif said as per rule he is supposed to hand over the charge to a new elected Mayor.

He said he is ready to leave the office if the government and election commission ask. The election to DCC has been deferred due to some legal procedures.

The mayor said the budget for fiscal 2000-2001 is a pre-election budget. Replying to another question he said, "The next DCC election will prove whether I've failed."

On the city's mosquito problem, Mohammad Hanif said it is not possible to make the city mosquito free, instead it can be controlled. Tk 13 crore have been allocated for this purpose in the new budget.

About acts of terrorism in the DCC over submission of tenders, Hanif said the alleged terrorists have been black-listed. He however denied the allegation that the DCC has been politicised.

The mayor also said that apart from cooperation of police, he needs more power to fight terrorism. Ruling party lawmaker and ward commissioner Haji Mohammad Selim was present during the presentation of the budget.

But one diplomat lamented that the OIC pays too much attention to politics. "It continues to harp on old resolutions over and over again. The war between Iraq and Kuwait was over more than a decade ago but you still see resolutions on it."

Another diplomat called for the body to be more focused.

Belkiz, 61, declined to talk to reporters and Turkish delegates were also unwilling to comment.

"It is the right of Morocco to have another secretary general for four years," Laraki said. Ministers from the three competing countries held a lengthy meeting earlier in the day to try to agree a candidate.

An Asian diplomat, whose country was putting forward a candidate, had said the Arabs and Africans were "clearly trying to elbow the Asians out."

Since this meeting was being held in Malaysia, he said, "it will be embarrassing if an Asian candidate does not become secretary general."

Turkey's candidate Yasar Yakis had lobbied intensively. "We want to show that secularism and Islam can co-habit," he said recently.

Cargo handling

UNB adds: Loading and unloading activities at Mongla Port resumed today after 12 hours of disruption due to work stoppage by stevedores association, reports UNB.

The port activities returned to normal at 7 pm as Bangladesh Masters Stevedores Association (BMSA) withdrew its non-stop work stoppage programme after the Shipping Ministry temporarily put off the new rule that prompted it to enforce the strike.

BMSA went on the indefinite work stoppage from 7 am today after a Finance Bill-2000 was passed in Parliament declaring stevedore agents as Customs-authorised agents like CF agents.

A total of 13 ships carrying goods were waiting in the port for unloading, port sources said.

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Gas export

From page 1

years of experience in the gas sector, Dr. Kamal said there had been both positive and negative events in the past and "we need to evaluate those."

He said the outcome of the Second Round Block Bidding was expected in December 1999, but the nature of the shifting bid evaluation criteria delayed it.

"Bid criteria and award process should have been open. Information should have been available to all. Parliamentary committee should have been involved."

"Our focus should now be on how we can optimise the value of our gas. Regarding exports, we must adopt a scientific approach. Any debate on national resources will have to be open. We are not fools or angels. We need to have information and evaluation. Only then can we decide how to optimise gas," he said.

"Attracting foreign investors is no longer the issue. Let us now focus on how we can utilise our resource. Presently, we lack understanding of our contracts or negotiations. Let us solve these problems," he noted.

Dr Aftab Rahman said according to the World Energy Assessment by the World Energy Council, hydrocarbon resources (oil and gas) would continue to dominate the energy scenario for the next 30 to 50 years.

Dr Badrul Iman of Geology Department of Dhaka University, quoting a study by international energy expert Peter O'Dell, said oil and gas would continue to dominate the energy scenario until the year 2040. In 2050, gas would be the primary source. Solar energy's arrival as a robust source would not happen until 2050. This study shows that Bangladesh's gas does have a future relevance, he added.

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