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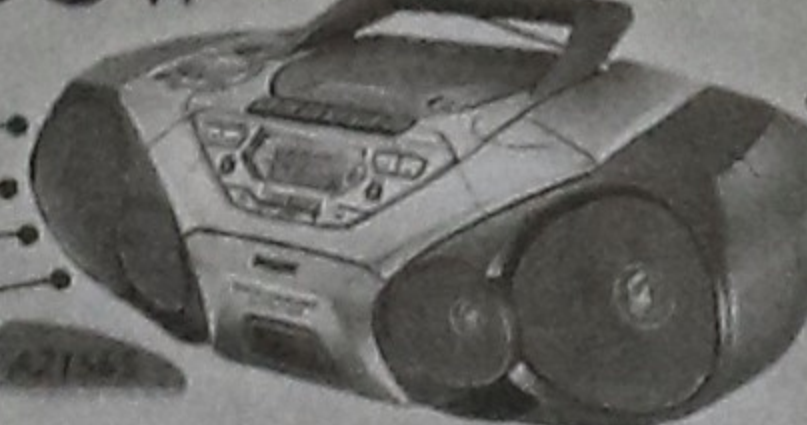
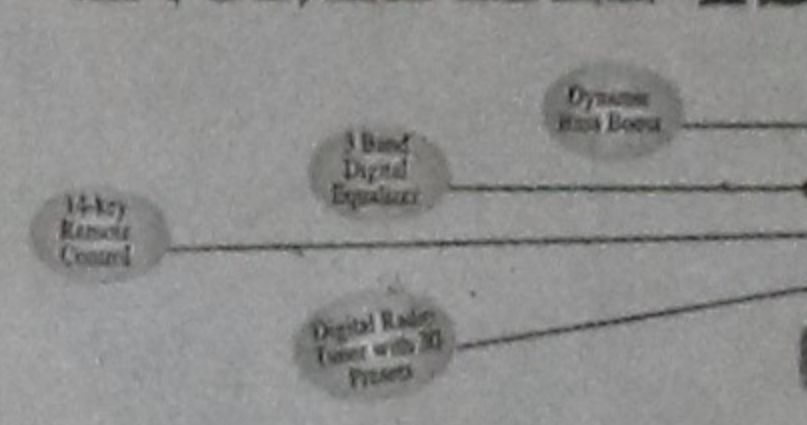
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Lame lane separators... rickshaws and rickshaw-vans join the stream of motorised vehicles, ignoring lanes, separated by concrete blocks, for the non-mechanised vehicles. The DCC project has complicated the traffic movement, instead of easing the congestion, complain many. —Star photo

Much ado about nothing

Lane separators make little difference

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) has channelled more than one crore taka from its different funds, including one for graveyard maintenance, into construction of controversial lane separators for non-mechanised and slow-moving vehicles.

According to sources, under pressure from the Traffic Department and the Military Police of the Armed Forces, a cash-strapped DCC had to prioritise the construction of lane separators, designed to "ease traffic congestion."

Tk 1.4 crore has so far been spent on these, said a DCC engineer. The corporation has plans to build more, he added.

While police and army pressured DCC into building the separators, "they are not doing anything to compel rickshaws and other slow-moving non-mechanised vehicles to the designated lanes," he complained.

The project has come under fire from not only the city-dwellers but also the DCC.

At a meeting of the DCC Co-ordination Committee on January 18, officials of the Dhaka Urban Transport Project (DUTP) pointed out that the

separators were creating nuisance on the roads.

The officials also said such an important component was built without any study or prior consultation with the DUTP, which is now engaged in "re-structuring" the entire metropolitan with a fund of more than Tk 1,000 crore taka.

The separators along Satmasjid Road, Mahakhali, part of Mirpur Road, Sonargaon VIP Road, Tejgaon Road, Santinagar, Kalukal and in other areas have so far served one purpose — shorten the road. An overwhelming number of rickshaws in the city find it impossible to ply on the narrow lanes. At Satmasjid Road and other places, the separators are now being used as rickshaw garages and car parks.

A top engineer of DCC admitted that there was no study prior to taking up the project. He also said traffic movement at some places was indeed disrupted due to the lane separators. Also, residents and businessmen at some places did not allow the DCC to build separators in front of their houses and shops.

Violence against women to grow with globalisation

Globalisation can bring immense economic benefits for a country but it can also have adverse social consequences.

Its most serious social impact is violence against women, according to a study by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

In Bangladesh, such violence include rape, unwelcome touching and grabbing, insult directed at a person's gender, demeaning remarks and suggestive comments.

Most of such incidents were reported by women workers of garments factories, the ILO report said.

But incidents of such violence remain largely under-reported as women workers are shy about disclosing those. Moreover, unmarried workers are afraid of disclosing any information on sexual harassment because that

ILO study

By Rezaul Karim

decreases chances of their marriage.

Female garment workers become victims of violence at workplaces, on streets while commuting to and from workplaces and at their residences.

The ILO study quoting a survey said five per cent of women workers reported that they encountered such violence at workplaces.

Generally, no incident of rape takes place within the factory premises. But beating by supervisor is the major form of abuse against women in garment factories.

Migrant women workers of garment factories take shelter in

slums and squatter settlements, relatives' houses or in messes and hostels. All these living arrangements are insecure for women.

Women workers living in slums and squatter settlements always remain afraid of local touts, who regularly collect toll from them. Possibilities of incidents of rape are also there because such places lack law enforcement authorities.

Liquor and drug trading is also widespread in slums and squatter settlements.

Most workers living in relatives' houses reported that they were afraid of male relatives, who try to have 'affairs' with them. Female relatives also harass them although the workers pay handsomely rent.

According to the study, 15 per cent of the women workers live in hostels or messes. But living in a

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JBIC to take up new projects in Bangladesh

A Japanese bank team yesterday assured that they would take up new projects, including infrastructure development, in Bangladesh for further strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries, reports UNB.

Governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation JBIC Hiroshi Yasuda conveyed the offer to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina when he called on the PM at her parliament office in the afternoon.

Yasuda, who is here leading a delegation for on-the-spot appraisal of development schemes, told Hasina that he was impressed at the progress of various projects financed by the JBIC.

The JBIC governor told the

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Talks on Teesta water sharing in Mar likely

Drastic drop in flow raises concern

By Shehab Ahmed

Bangladesh will raise the issue of sharing the water of the Teesta at the next meeting of joint committee of experts (JCE) of the Joint River Commission (JC) against the backdrop of continuing fall in the river's water level.

Experts from the two countries, led by their respective Water Resources Secretary, are likely to meet in March this year to review a study report on the Teesta, sources concerned said.

Drying up of the Teesta, which originates from the Himalayas and flows down to Bangladesh, has raised concern at the highest level.

The severe drop in the river's

water level has hit cultivation in huge areas of the greater Rangpur, Bogra and Dinajpur districts hard.

It has practically brought the Teesta barrage, commanding 381,000 acres of land, to a grinding halt.

Instead of an average flow of 5,000 cusec of water in January, it has come down to less than 700 cusec daily, leaving the country's largest irrigation project in the vital IRR-Boro season in total disarray.

Trouble started when the Indian side reportedly shut the flow at Gajaladoba, 65 kilometres

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IJO : Process on for setting up a successor body

By Mustak Hossain

The International Jute Organisation (IJO) which is now in the process of liquidation is likely to have a successor organisation shortly with the International Jute Study Group (IJSJG) now finalising recommendations for its terms of reference.

A two-day meeting of the IJSJG that began in Dhaka yesterday would adopt the recommendations and send those to the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) for vetting, meeting sources said.

The International Conference

on Jute and Jute Products 2001 to be held at UNTAD headquarters in Geneva on March 12 and 13 this year would approve the terms of reference of the proposed successor body. Then those will be sent to the UN Secretary General for final approval.

The sixth meeting of IJSJG in the city is being participated by delegates from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, China, Japan, Egypt, Switzerland and 15 European Union (EU) countries.

The IJSJG yesterday discussed in detail various proposals on

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Local people help fire-fighters douse the fire at a bitumen factory in the city's Nakhla para area yesterday. Fear of fire triggered a stampede in a nearby garments factory, killing one worker. —Star photo

Trial of Bushra murder case begins

By Court Correspondent

Trial of the sensational Bushra Islam Phool Murder Case began at the Special Court for Prevention of Women and Children Repression, Dhaka yesterday.

The judge, Mohammad Shah Alam Miah fixed March 11 for hearing on the "Naraji petition," submitted by the complainant of the case as another accused Mosammat Runu Kader, wife of M A Kader was dropped from the charge-sheet by the investigation officers.

Four of the accused M A Kader, Kaniz Fatema Hena, Sheikh Shawkat Ahmed Ruhul and Sufia Begum were produced in the court while Sheikh Kabir

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Some AL men asking DB not to take action against Sumon

By Staff Correspondent

Some influential leaders of ruling Awami League are allegedly pressurising Detective Branch police to avoid taking any action against Sumon, the principal accused in the sensational Sutrapur double murder case, according to DB sources.

A DB official requesting anonymity told The Daily Star last night that they were facing "tremendous pressure from some influential leaders of the ruling party" since Sumon's arrest on Friday.

The leaders are asking police to proceed in such a way that Sumon is acquitted of the charge, the official said.

He however said Sumon "will not be spared" as there is "no doubt about his direct involvement in the killings".

Rabeed Hasan Sumon was arrested at Comilla and brought

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Appointment of SC judges: Hearing on writ Feb 11

By Special Correspondent

The High Court yesterday fixed February 11 for hearing a Writ Petition challenging the appointment of two judges in the Supreme Court recently.

The petition was filed by Bangladesh Manobadhikar Bastobayan Commission. Dr Kazi Akhtar Hamid moved the petition saying that the two judges were appointed superseding two senior judges.

A Division Bench of the HC comprising Justice Abu Sayeed Ahmed and Justice Khademul Islam Chowdhury fixed the date of hearing on a prayer by Assistant Attorney General Probin Neogy, a press release of the commission said.

Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia leads a Jubo Dal rally from the Paltan Maidan in the city, organised yesterday to mark the 65th birth anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman. —Star photo

PM trying to belittle President's office

Bhuiyan tells Jubo Dal rally

Opposition BNP yesterday accused the government of making a deliberate attempt to belittle the august office of President after destroying different institutions of the country, reports UNB.

The Prime Minister is now trying to disgrace the post of President by issuing motivated remarks," party secretary-general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told a rally in the city. He urged the Prime Minister to refrain from making such statement about the President.

BNP leaders at the rally asked the party's youth front to "thwart

any evil design of the government against the nation's interests in order to safeguard country's economy and independence."

Their call came as Jatiyatabadi Jubo Dal brought out a youth rally from Paltan Maidan in the afternoon marking the 65th birth anniversary of BNP's founder Ziaur Rahman.

BNP chairperson Khaleda Zia inaugurated the rally releasing a bunch of colored balloons and pigeons. Sixty-five balloons and 65 pigeons were released. Khaleda did not make any

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The following Training Courses will be offered by BIM in February, 2001.

Name of Course	Duration with Time	Venue/ Course Fee	Course Co-ordinator
1. Developing Selling Skills	04-08 Feb. 09:00-13:30	Chittagong Tk. 2,000/-	Abdus Samad Chowdhury
2. Management Development for Executives	07-20 Feb. 16:30-21:00	Dhaka Tk. 3,400/-	Parveen Agaz
3. Freight Forwarding and Multimodal Transport	10-22 Feb. 17:00-21:30	Chittagong Tk. 3,400/-	Salahuddin Ahmed
4. Feasibility Analysis	11-22 Feb. 09:00-14:00	Dhaka Tk. 3,200/-	ABM Sayedul Kawmine
5. Motivating Employees for Better Performance	11-22 Feb. 16:00-20:30	Khulna Tk. 2,700/-	Mr. Abdur Rahman
6. Economic Analysis for Decision Making	17-22 Feb. 16:30-21:00	Chittagong Tk. 2,200/-	Abdul Quader
7. Transport Management	18-28 Feb. 09:30-13:30	Dhaka Tk. 3,200/-	ABM Shasuddin
8. Management for Rural Development	18Feb-1Mar. 09:00-13:30	Dhaka Tk. 3,200/-	Selima Khatun
9. Seminar on Customer Service Excellence	26 February 09:00-17:00	Dhaka Tk. 500/-	Mohammad Salek

Courses mentioned above are suitable for Managers/Executives of public and private sector organizations including NGOs and interested educated young people not yet in service but want to develop managerial abilities.

Please send your nominations to Coordinators. If you need further information you can also contact them

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