

# Sami Secretary Gen of 13th NAM Summit

BSS, Dhaka

Former foreign secretary C M Shafi Sami yesterday took over as the secretary general of 13th NAM Summit.

The next summit of 114 member countries of Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) is scheduled to be held here early next year. The date is yet to be finalised.

The Summit was originally scheduled to take place later this year. The date was, however, shifted because of national elections sometime in October.

The secretary general is now busy recruiting his support staff to begin his actual work which is likely to start from next month. The office of the secretary general will be housed in a building in Bailey Road which is now bring renovated. Meanwhile, preparation of

physical facilities for the summit is going on in full swing and there has been substantial progress in the construction of conference centre with financial and technical assistance from China.

The date of the summit is going to be finalised following a meeting of the NAM troika the current chairman (South Africa), past chairman (Columbia) and upcoming chairman Bangladesh in New York.

Earlier, a national committee with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina as chief was constituted for making the summit a success. Several preparatory meetings have already been held to take stock of the progress and necessary directives given to speed up work.

The 13th NAM Summit will be the biggest event of international importance in the history of Bangladesh.

# Govt employees iterate demand for 30 pc DA

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Dabi Bastabayan Parishad yesterday reiterated their appeal to the government to accept their five-point demands.

The demands include 30 per cent dearness allowance for the government employees, formation of a permanent service commission and pay commission, equal status for the employees who perform similar duties and right to trade union for the government employees, a press release said.

As part of the scheduled programme, a large number of government employees joined a protest rally at the Audit Building premises to press home their demands.

President of the parishad Harun-Ur-Rashid chaired the meeting. It was addressed, among others, by Syed Ataur Rahman, Muhammad Shahabuddin, Abul Hashem Miah and Muhammad Lokman Ali.

The government employees also announced fresh programmes to press home their demands at the meeting, the press release said.

They will hold a grand rally at the Paltan Maidan on June 20 to announce their final programme.

# Voter lists displayed for public

BSS, Dhaka

The newly-printed voter lists by the Election Commission have been put on display for the public since May 18 at all district election offices.

An EC press release yesterday said the lists will also be displayed at all the offices of assistant registration officers, union parishads, municipalities and ward offices of the city corporations from May 27.

The press release further said that those, who have been dropped from the list, would get opportunities to enlist his or her name while fake voters, if any, would be excluded from the lists following proper investigation.

Necessary forms for correction of the electoral roll will be available from the offices of district election officers and assistant registration officers.

The EC has requested all to fill up the forms and submit those to the offices of district election officers or assistant registration officers to make the voter list flawless.

# PSA threatens rule of law

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The Act took away the right of the lower court to grant bail to an accused during the period of investigation. By such provision the Act also called in question the wisdom of the judiciary.

The much-talked-about PSA was passed by parliament early last year without the presence of the opposition. Application of the law gave a sharp rise of writ petitions. The court took up 260 identical ones for hearing together.

Barrister Ishтияq appeared for M Morshed Khan MP.

Abdul Malek, another senior counsel, submitted adopting most of the points raised by Barrister Ishтияq.

Barrister Rokon Uddin Mahmud

informed the court that Morshed Khan will file a separate petition today seeking exemption from the charge under PSA.

He submitted that the FIR did not in any way attract Section 10 of PSA against Morshed Khan.

Senior Advocate Abdus Sobhan also submitted his points against PSA before the bench comprising Justice M A Aziz and Justice Shamsul Huda.

Barrister Moudud Ahmed is likely to appear on behalf of the petitioners when hearing resumes today.

Additional Attorney General Mahbub-e-Alam was present at the court on behalf of the government.

# 36 murders in 20 days

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But in most of the cases, the killers were still at large.

Although allegations against police are widespread, police say most of the 21 city police stations are overburdened with cases of violent crimes. Officials at these stations say they are not aware of culprits being put behind the bars and that most of the notorious criminals are getting bail.

Of the 36 murders this month, 15 took place in the first week with five each on May 4 and May 7.

Businessman Rafiqul Islam, managing director of the Aisa Pacific Medical Supply Limited was killed on May 7. He was found dead half-lying on his computer table at his Motijheel office.

A case was filed with Motijheel police but none was arrested as yet.

Two persons a boy and a girl were killed on May 2. Body of the girl was recovered from Badda area and that of the boy from Mirpur area.

On May 3, a hotelier and an

alleged mugger were stabbed and beaten to death.

A trader, Farhad, was shot dead at Khilgaon. An alleged mugger was killed in police firing, body of young man was recovered from Lalbagh and that of a teenaged domestic help was recovered from a lake at Mirpur. Khilgaon police recovered the body of a young man.

A motor parts traders who was shot by his rival died at the DMCH on May 6.

Five murders including that of Rafiqul Islam took place on May 7. One person, Abdus Samad, was killed allegedly by his friend and garments employee Mayna was stabbed to death by a fellow employee. Badda police recovered body of a teenage boy and housewife Fatema, injured by muggers, succumbed to her injuries at the DMCH.

Three people were killed on May 11, two on May 15, three on May 16, four on May 17, three on May 19 and two on May 20.

# JCD activists regrouping

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underworld sources, one of the JCD groups operating in the city's Chawkbazar area would not settle for less than five lakh taka in any hold-up. There is another JCD group that operates in the largely BCL-dominated Pahartali area.

The Morshed Khan group, the strongest of the JCD cadres, dominates the Bakulia and Miahkhana Nagar areas. While the Don Shamrat group operates in the Pahartali area, Iqbal-Alam group controls the Chakoria area.

Excepting the Pahartali College, JCD does not have control over any other college in the city. Don Shamrat leads the college-based cadres of the JCD. Sources said, this group owns two submachine guns, five cut-rifles and eight to 10

other firearms.

The Morshed Khan group recently purchased two AK-47s, two submachine guns, five to six rifles and 20 other firearms. Morshed Khan is now in jail. In his absence, Petkata Khuishsha is leading the group.

Among the JCD terrorists, Etimkhana Alam, Nuraiya, Kana Bakkar, Ajmal Huda Rinku, Petkata Khuishsha, Hasan, Jashimuddin Nitul, Altaf, Saiful, Shukkur, Babul, Shahjahan, Shamsur, Abdul, Mosharrar Hossain Dipti, Advocate Kamrul Islam Sajjad, Mizan, Shafi, and Mostafa are well known.

Besides, there are some pocket terrorist groups of the JCD in Firozeshah Colony, Jhaitala, Panubhab Lane and Joy's Lake areas.

# Jubo Union lays siege to US embassy today

UNB, Dhaka

Bangladesh Jubo Union, the youth front of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), will lay siege to the US embassy in Dhaka today in protest against recent statement of Ambassador Mary Ann Peters about the country's politics, election and post-election obligations.

It will hold a rally at Natun Bazar in Badda at 10:30 am from where a procession will proceed to the US embassy, said a press release.

BJU termed the statement beyond diplomatic norms and tantamount to direct interference into the internal affairs of Bangladesh.

# Customs officer held on charge of killing his domestic help

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Police arrested a customs officer for allegedly killing his domestic help at Halishahar on Sunday night.

Police said the arrested customs appraiser Moktar Hossain was brought under remand yesterday for two days for interrogation at Halishahar thana.

Moktar Hossain was suspected to have tortured Md Akram, 12, to death in his house at 10.30 pm, police said.

On receipt of information from the landlord of Moktar, police rushed to L-block of Halishahar residential area and recovered the body from the kitchen and arrested Moktar.

Police said the customs officer earlier tried to convince his neighbours that it was a normal death. But police found the marks of torture on the body of Akram. Akram's ears were found blood-stained, police added. The body was sent to hospital for autopsy.

A case was filed with Halishahar thana against the customs appraiser.

# JCD leader

FROM PAGE 12

police did not take any action against the offenders," he said.

District BNP leaders, including former State Minister Mosharrar Hossain Shahjahan, condemned the killing and demanded immediate arrest of the killers of Iftekharul.

A murder case was filed against local Samik League leader Daimuddin and his associates.

# Funds diverted

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rickshaw lanes. Meanwhile, army personnel are forcing rickshaws to use the lanes.

Officials of Dhaka Urban Transport Project, who are now implementing several projects at busy intersections, expressed surprise over building of the rickshaw lanes. They were not even informed about it, they said.

# DCC

FROM PAGE 1

required but we may not need so many at a time," Huda said.

The CEO said, as per policy, recruitment of cleaners under "master roll" is done by respective Ward Commissioners and his office has no monitoring over the process.

# Date for talks

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four and a half years.

Answering a question on arms smuggling from India prior to the general elections, the foreign secretary said, the issue will be discussed at a routine BDR-BSF meeting at the level of Deputy Director General at Rajshahi on June 2.

Ali said Bangladesh is investigating the April 18 BSF attack on the BDR outpost at Baraibari. A report will be available after the investigation is over.

Autopsy reports of the 16 BSF soldiers killed in the Baraibari clash was given to the Indian authorities earlier. But Dhaka is yet to get from New Delhi the autopsy reports of the Indian troops, done in India after the bodies were handed over, he said.

# Notification: Ershad's parliament seat

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instant notice was legally issued or not.

The judgement in this writ petition did not in any way put any embargo on rescinding Ershad's parliament membership. So, fate of Ershad with his seat vacated for moral turpitude remains unchanged.

Ershad had filed a writ petition when the secretary in charge of parliament issued the notice that the JP chief had been stripped of his membership being convicted of moral turpitude.

Barrister K S Nabi, counsel for Ershad, argued before the court at the time of hearings that a review petition was pending with the Appellate Division against the judgement and conviction.

As such, he said, "the notification



PHOTO: STAR

Stinking sewerage water on the road in the city's Chankhar Pool area has made life in the area quite miserable these days. Local people allege that the authorities have not made any move to end the problem despite repeated requests.

# Cars for diplomats being sold

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not less than Tk five lakh, the customs officials said.

They suspect that the government was deprived of at least Tk 50 crore revenue in the last five years because of such forgery.

Diplomats and donor agencies are allowed to import car without any duty and tax but payment of duty and tax is mandatory if the car is sold to others.

"The gang take Tk 20,000 for clearance of a car from foreign ministry," said a senior official of Custom Intelligence Department.

The Customs Intelligence has collected a list of 70 cars which were imported for use by diplomats but are being used by others now. Most the cars are being used by members of parliament, political leaders and

businessmen. They are investigating how these cars were sold.

According to documents collected from Chittagong Customs House, more than 400 luxurious cars were imported for diplomats in the last five years, the sources said. Documents are being checked with the foreign ministry to ascertain how many of those are being used by diplomats, how many were sold and through which process, they said.

When contacted, Foreign Secretary Syed Muazzam Ali said he did not know about any such practice.

"The matter is dealt by Chief of Protocol Jahangir Shadat," he said. Jahangir Shadat could not be contacted despite repeated attempts in several days.

Failing to communicate with him

over telephone, this correspondent faxed some questions to the protocol section at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for clarification and his comments in this regard.

The questions were faxed on May 16, requesting the Chief of Protocol to reply within two days. But till last night, no response was available from him or any one at the protocol section.

While leaving Bangladesh, a foreign diplomat can sell his car or take it with him. If he wants to sell the car, he has to obtain clearance from the foreign ministry. There are more than 60 diplomatic missions and offices of donors in Dhaka.

# BCL factions trade gunshots on DU campus

DU CORRESPONDENT

Two rival factions of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) exchanged gunshots on the Dhaka University campus last night.

Campus sources said Kala Sentu, a notorious criminal in the city and former BCL leader, and a group of Mohsin Hall-based BCL activists traded at least six rounds of gunshots to chase each other down at about 9 p.m.

The clash erupted when Sentu beat up Monir, a BCL activist of Mohsin Hall, at the Suhrawardi Udayan gate close to the TSC after an altercation at about 8 p.m.

Monir went to his hall and came back with a group of BCL men within a short time and started firing to chase Sentu and his men who also fired gunshots in retaliation, witnesses said.

However, none was injured.

# Haris Khan

FROM PAGE 12

DMCH morgue. Haris was buried at a graveyard in Tongi yesterday afternoon.

Haris' father Zamiruddin Khan told The Daily Star over telephone last night that the policemen present during the hand-over of the body told him that there was no sign of injury on the body. He said he was afraid that they would not get justice.

Earlier on Saturday, an unnatural death (UD) case was filed with the Ramma police station, which said that the boy died of "asthma".

SI Abdus Sattar and ASI Shah Alam were closed on Saturday on charge of torturing the teenage boy to death.

An inquiry committee headed by Additional Superintendent of Police, Gazipur, Anwar Kamal was also formed to investigate the incident.

He argued that it was a "malafide act at the behest of interested quarters who are political rivals to Ershad".

With the review petition pending with the Appellate Division against the conviction order, this sort of notice is unwarranted and have no effect in the eyes of law till disposal of the review petition, he submitted.

Barrister Tania Amir appearing for the Speaker submitted before the court that the conviction of Ershad had already taken effect from the date of conviction awarded by the trial court.

Tania further argued that the High Court in fact modified the sentence in the appeal preferred by Ershad.

And the Appellate Division dismissed the leave petition filed by Ershad, further modified the verdict

# Tanbazar sex workers in vagrants centre Rehabilitation completes within couple of days

UNB, Dhaka

The remaining 7 of the 227 sex workers, earlier taken forcibly from brothels in Narayanganj to the vagrants centre at Kashimpur in Gazipur, are awaiting rehabilitation within a couple of days.

"All formalities are complete to provide them with jobs in a garments factory. Harvest Rich, in Narayanganj after their release. They will go within a couple of days," said A F M Mohiuddin Hasan, deputy director of the Kashimpur vagrants centre.

More than 3,000 sex workers of Tanbazar and Nimtail brothels in Narayanganj were evicted on July 24, 1999. Of them 227 were forcibly taken to the vagrants centre while others scattered.

After imparting training, only 90 sex workers were provided with jobs in garment factories while 130 others have either returned to parents or got married.

"Yes, all of us are going," said Aleya, 25, who had promised not to leave the centre until all 227 of them are freed from "captivity."

Aleya, who hails from Patuakhali, took over the leadership of the evicted sex workers at the centre who called her "mother". Her guardians repeatedly tried to take her back home, but she declined saying: "I shall not go before fulfilling my promise."

Aleya said, "I had aiffance at Narayanganj (brother). Now I've happiness, social peace."

Recalling her past, Aleya said they were three brothers and one sister. She was given in marriage to one Delwar who, however, betrayed her and sold her to the brothel.

"Now I will take a job at the garments factory along with six of my

colleagues," she said.

The others are Hasina, 25, Nazma, 24, Seema, 21, Beauty, 20, Shahinur, 24, and Parul alias Pagli.

Except Aleya and Pagli, the other five were pregnant when they were brought to the vagrants centre. They gave birth to children named Meem, Najmul, Kulsum, Hriday and Dilara.

Nazma and Hasina are happy they would be rehabilitated in society with jobs in a garments factory. "It was possible for the able leadership of our 'mother' Aleya," said Beauty. "It is for her, we stayed here and she secured the means for our living."

The 271 inmates of the vagrants centre suffer from acute shortage of water. Some of them complained of the poor quality of food that has often raised protests from inmates.

The inmates have been here for periods varying from one month to seven years. Officials at the centre said those living for years could not be rehabilitated due to "physical or mental defects."

# Zayed's house

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Russell, brother of Zayed, filed a case with Mirpur thana accusing four persons including Masud. Russell arrived in the city from their home at Ramu in Cox's Bazaar after hearing the news.

Relatives took away the body of Zayed to his native village at Ramu after the autopsy at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Zayed, a sophomore of the department of philosophy (not zoology as mistakenly printed in our report on Sunday) was shot point blank in the head, chest and throat in front of his wife.

# Tk 34 cr budget

FROM PAGE 12

appointing political activists in the secretariat.

Emerging from the meeting, Delwar Delwar told this correspondent, "The process followed by them in absorbing some 15 or more officials by changing the rules of 1994 is absolutely unethical."

Protesting Delwar's allegation at the meeting, Tofail said the previous BNP government also absorbed some "politically motivated officials" in the secretariat. "He defended the action of the Speaker this time saying, "it was nothing wrong."

At this stage, meeting sources said, both the sides agreed to prepare a list of such staff and produce it at the commission's next meeting, likely to be held sometime in the middle of next year.

The prime minister also supported the Speaker's action of absorbing the officials.

The commission meeting yesterday also decided to create 20 more posts of security guard for parliament.

It allocated Tk 25 lakh for running the Institute of Parliament Studies and Tk 80 lakh for setting up a printing press for parliament to reduce pressure on the government printing press.

The commission also decided to realise the defaulted telephone bills from parliament members. The parliament secretariat would pay 50 per cent of the bills if the members concerned pay 50 per cent.

Finance Minister S A M S Kibria, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs minister Abdul Matin Khasru and high officials of parliament

# 2 girls rescued from traffickers in Rajshahi: 5 arrested

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Police rescued two girls from the traffickers at Nawdapora area under Shah Mukhdum thana in the city on Sunday.

Police also arrested five alleged traffickers including Fazal alias Selim, 32, in this connection.

The girls were identified as Rahima, 13, of Bhurungamari village under Kurigram district and Asma, 15, of Tengra village under Shreepur upazila of Gazipur district.

Police quoting the girls said they were being taken to India for giving job there.

According to Selim's statement, police arrested four others in this connection. They are Rubel, 24, Alfa Begum, 25, Poly, 20, and Asma Begum, 20.

# Venezuelan president

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Hasina and attend a banquet at the Baghababan, hosted by the President.

After arrival, Chavez will be taken to the National Memorial at Savar where he will place wreaths and plant a sapling. He will also visit Bangabandhu Museum at Dhanmondi.

Briefing newsmen at the foreign office yesterday, Foreign Secretary Syed Muazzam Ali said the visit is an outcome of the Venezuelan President's meeting with Sheikh Hasina at UN during the millenium summit last year. Chavez expressed his desire to visit Bangladesh on his way to China after his trip to Russia and Iran.

He said the oil rich Venezuela, having a per capita income of about 8,000 dollars, has developed its energy sector and Bangladesh would like to share their experience. The two countries have a limited trade at present. Bangladesh exports goods worth about 6,56,000 dollars, mainly jute and ready made garments, and imports petrochemicals, stone and machinery.