Day of fury at DU

# Scientists unruffled by big asteroid

REUTERS, Washington

Maybe, just maybe, a large and newly sighted asteroid could hit the Earth - but probably not, astronomers said Wednesday.

They have issued an all-points object on the scale system, meant bulletin on the asteroid that at first to predict how much damage an looked like it could be on a colliasteroid would do if it just hapsion course with Earth, but it will take several more weeks of "It just means you better go look at it some more," Spahr said. observation to tell for sure.

They are calling on astronomers around the world, amateur and professional, to take a look at the mile-wide hunk of rock, so its trajectory can be calculated.

In the meantime, they say the odds of it actually hitting are one in

"I wouldn't be sweating it," Tim Spahr, astronomer at the Minor Planets Center of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics in Cambridge, Massachusetts, said in a telephone interview. "Go win the lottery first."

Scientist say a collision with a large asteroid half a mile in diameter could kill a quarter of the world's population. Statistically, every 100 million years a 6-milewide object hits the Earth in an impact like one that wiped out the dinosaurs 65 million years ago.

The new asteroid, called 2002 NT7, was spotted earlier this month. Now 66 million miles away, it orbits the Sun every 2.3 years at a steep angle to Earth's orbit.

It entered a new system set up by international astronomers over the past decade to look for asteroids and other objects that have the potential to hit the Earth. This one is big

"This one just popped up because it is a big object," Spahr said. "It is two kilometers in size so if it hit it would be really bad. We

7th-floor fall have a scale called the Palermo

scale that takes into account size

and possible impact velocity and

comes up with a rating for an

Don Yeomans of NASA ( news -

web sites)'s Jet Propulsion

Laboratory pointed out that the

Palermo scale system is only a

year old so it is not terribly signifi-

Because it takes a while to get

enough data on any object to

determine the risk, astronomers

send out a public plea to get as

many telescopes looking at it as

possible. It is hard to pin down

such a tiny object in the vastness

of an object on Farth is fairly

simple, when something is this far

away and this small, things get

Mars and Jupiter, it will get pulled by their gravitational fields, for

different places this asteroid could

possibly end up, one scenario

includes a collision with Earth in

actually happen and he believes.

the coming weeks will provide

data to confirm this.

Yeomans doubts this will

"We still have to redouble our

efforts to locate these objects in

the first place. This program has

only been in place a decade.

Before that we were blissfully

complicated.

instance.

unaware.

Scientists have discovered an asteroid, called

2002 NT7, that may possibly strike Earth on

February 1, 2019. It's thought to be large

enough to destroy a continent on impact

ASTEROID COLLISION THREAT FOR EARTH

Although plotting a trajectory

As it passes by planets such as

So when calculating all the

cant that this is the first positive.

2002 NT7 is the first "positive"

A girl was seriously injured as she jumped off the seventh floor of a city hotel, allegedly to escape sexual abuse by a youth yesterday morn-

Girl survives

The 18-year-old girl luckily survived as she fell down on the rooftop of a nearby building.

Police sent her to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in a critical condition.

The girl, who hails from Moksedpur in Gopalganj, came to the capital on July 1 with Juli, a nurse of the Dhaka General Hospital.

Juli brought the girl to Dhaka in the name of giving her a job. She was staying with Juli.

This morning, a youth, brother of Shahana, another nurse of the same hospital, brought the victim to Hotel Don in the Motijheel area, promising her a job.

The girl newsmen that she could not recall the name of Shahana's brother who had taken her to the

#### Dacoity

FROM PAGE 12

The dacoits took away Taka 10,000, 10 tolas of gold ornaments, a mobile phone, a colour television and a video cassette player (VCP) after confining the housewife, Shamsunnahar, hostage in a room at gunpoint.

They also hit her with sharp weapons and left the place within a

few minutes. She was taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

A case was filed with Sutrapur police. None, however, was arrested till 7 PM yesterday.

### Ali Ahsan

FROM PAGE 1 the Jahangirnagar University cam-

Sved Ali Ahsan was the vice chancellor of Jahangirnagar University and Rajshahi University. He was made advisor for education during the government of late

President Ziaur Rahman in 1977 and Chairman of the University Grants Commission in 1991. The government honoured him with the status of National Professor

Syed Ali Ahsan was the head of the Bengali Department of Chittagong University during 1968-1971 and Director of the Bangla Academy during 1960-1966.

He received Bangla Academy Award in 1983 and Independence Day Award in 1987.

Acting President Barrister Mohammad Jamiruddin Sircar vesterday expressed deep shock at ne death of National Professor Syed Ali Ahsan

In a message of condolence, the Acting President recalled his contribution in the field of Bangla language and literature and particularly in education.

The Acting President condoled his death, conveyed his heart-felt sympathy to the members of the bereaved family and prayed for the eternal peace of the departed soul. Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has

expressed her deep shock at the death of National Professor Syed Ali

In a condolence message, she recalled with gratitude the contributions of Prof Ali Ahsan in protecting national unity and dignity as a strong supporter of Bangladeshi national-

"He enriched the country's various sectors like education, literature, broadcasting, art and politics through his merit, creativity and vast knowledge," Khaleda said The prime minister said Prof Ali

Ahsan also played an important role in reestablishing multiparty democracy and nation-building activities as a close associate of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman.

She conveved her heart-felt sympathy to the bereaved family members, relatives and prayed for salvation of the departed soul.

The vice chancellor and the provice chancellor of the Chittagong University (CU) in separate condolence messages vesterday expressed their shock at the death of Syed Ali Ahsan

Éducation Minister Dr Osman Faruk expressed profound shock at the death of National Professor Sved Ali Ahsan and praved for the salvation of the departed soul. The JU Syndicate in an emer-

gency meeting yesterday has expressed deep shock at the death of Prof Ali Ahsan.

Meanwhile, all classes and offices of Jahangirnagar University (JU) will remain closed on Saturday as a mark of respect to the former Vice-Chancellor and National Professor Syed Ali Ahsan.

A condolence meeting will be held at the JU auditorium on July 28

# to recall the contribution of the late

It's conspiracy told her the VC was under tremendous pressure to remove her, she

said On behalf of Sultana, Prof Mezbauddin Ahmed, Prof Anwar Hossain, Prof Harun-Ar- Rashid, Prof Mizanur Rahman and Prof Dr Sharifullah were present at the

# Story behind the story

leaders who were residing at the hall illegally for the last nine months, the VC gave them shelter and allowed them to do anything they pleased, the sources further said.

Halima Khan Luci and Noorjahan Begum Shanta are alleged to be the masterminds of the atrocities committed on Tuesday night, Originally enrolled as legitimate students of Dhaka University, the two held positions of president and general secretary of the Shamsunnahar Hall unit of the JCD.

While they initially left the campus after graduating two years ago, the two staged a comeback after the BNP came to power following the October 1 elections last year.

After occupying room No. 234 of the Shamsunnahar Hall in late October, the JCD leaders indulged in various illegal and criminal activities in the hall using their political On many occasions, they told the

hall authorities and the students that they would stay at the hall because their party is in power now. "(The Bangladesh) Chhatra League has stayed here for five years and now is our turn," a resident quoted Luci as When the hall authorities

charged them for illegally occupying the halls, they said they had taken readmission. An investigation however proved it false. They then told the hall authorities that they had permission from the VC to stay in the hall, hall sources said.

Besides harassing general students. Luci and Shanta forced

the closure of a photostat shop inside the hall following refusal of the owner to pay them toll. This incident led to the killing of a female student at Plassy crossing a couple of months ago. She was on her way to copy some notes when a speedy bus ran over her.

The JCD leaders used to hop through TV channels excessively. This resulted in some 50 students filing a written complaint against Luci and Shanta for their excesses in the TV room. The JCD leaders then threatened the students.

Provost of the hall Prof. Sultana Shafi sent several letters to the DU authorities seeking action against the JCD leaders. But hall sources said that authorities ignored the

JCD leaders also plotted to oust the provost before she completed her tenure. A section of BNP-backed house tutors of the hall supported the JCD leaders in this effort, hall sources said.

Being a political appointee, the DU VC welcomed the gesture. The authorities who have already removed or forced other provosts to resign were unable to find a way to remove Prof. Shafi from her post due to protests from the general students at the hall and Shafi her-

The day before the police atrocities at the Shamsunnahar Hall Tuci Shanta and some of their accomplices put the office room of the provost under lock and kev. The BNPleaning house tutors who were desperately looking for a change of provost were also present when the JCD leaders locked the office.

Students of the hall however were averse to the idea and chased the JCD leaders out of the hall. The JCD leaders then went to the VC's office and had a lengthy discussion with the VC. They pressed for their re-entry at the hall and VC allowed them back in.

Such a folly of the VC was enough to enrage the general students who were demanding ouster of the JCD leaders from the hall. Instead of addressing the illegal activities. the DU authorities opt for having the students smacked by police rather than ousting the JCD leaders. according to the hall sources.

VC Prof. Anwarullah Chowdhurv is trying to make the government happy through his action and activities. The ruling BNP made him VC after firing his predecessor Prof. AK Azad Chowdhury, who was picked by the Awami League, early this year. After that the brought changes to the important posts and

had ruling party supporters installed

in those posts, the sources added. All the student organisations including the JCD are very fed up with the activities of the VC. All except the JCD supporters had initially demanded that the VC resign for his failure to run the university. After the Shamsunnahar Hall incident, the JCD also favoured the removal of the VC.

### Outcry all around Student Organisation also issued

FROM PAGE 12 University campus.

Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) demanded immediate trial of and punishment to those responsible for the barbaric attack on the residents of the women's dormitory.

CPB General secretary Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement said the attack was engineered by a quarter engaged in the conspiracy to ban student

He called upon the countrymen including the conscientious section of the society to resist the undemocratic move to ban student politics.

Severely criticising the role of DU VC. Selim said the VC did not feel any regret for his failure to ensure the safety of his students but rather made a false statement to satisfy a quarter in order to ensure his job.

He demanded immediate withdrawal of the 'false cases' filed against the students.

CPB had also brought out a procession and held a protest rally on Wednesday.

Sheikh Shahidul Islam and Sadek Siddique, secretary general and additional secretary general respectively of Jatiya Party in a statement condemned the police

The leaders said such open aggression would hinder the democratic process, and demanded exemplary punishment to the cul-

Thirty-three former student leaders in a statement denounced the police excess on the female students of Dhaka University as brutal and unprecedented, and criticised the VC for his "silly explanation in a bid to conceal the truth."

The signatories to the statement include Obaidul Kader, Bahalul Majnun Chunnu, Mostofa Jalal Mohiuddin, KM Jahangir, Abdul Mannan, Akhtaruzzaman, Fazle Hossain Badshah, Shirin Akhter and Jahangir Kabir Nanok.

Sammilito Sangskritik Jote (SSJ) yesterday strongly condemned the police action on a section of female students of Shamsunnahar Hall and demanded formation of a judicial probe committee to investigate into the incident. The SSJ leaders also called upon all concerned to put up united resistance against such incidents of repression.

Terming the incident unexpected and sad, noted educationist Prof. Sirajul Islam Chowdhury said it is unacceptable that police should enter a women's dormitory in the middle of the night and take residents away to the police station as Prof. Anisuzzaman said, "I was

deeply shocked over the matter ... the police excess and the role of the university administration is uncalled

Prof. Kabir Chowdhury, president of the advisory council of Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee and Shahriar Kabir, president of executive committee of the same organisation strongly condemned the police raid. They said the barbaric incident took place right in front of the proctor of the university, adding that police turned the campus into a battlefield when general students tried to protest the police excess on the female stu-

The committee demanded punitive measures against those involved in the attack

Ain O Salish Kendro (ASK) in a statement termed the police raid barbaric and unprecedented in the history of the country and demanded punishment to those responsible for the attack including police and the authorities concerned.

Meanwhile, Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) congratulated the DU students for observing the strike on campus to protest the police action.

The BCU will organise a human chain at Muktangon today at 12 noon to protest against the police

Dhaka City Unit of Awami League, Joy Bangla Sangskritik Jote, Bangabandhu Parishad, Jatiya Sramik, Sofa Institute, Women for Women, Bangladesh Nari Sangbadik Nagorik Samai. Nagorik Uddyog, Odhikar, Jatiya Chhatra Samai. Biplobi Chhatra Moitree, Bangladesh Chhatra Federation, and Forum of Five raid on the female students of Shamsunnahar Hall

statements condemning the police

### Hall attack

They also felt that it would have been wise for the home minister and the vice chancellor of the DU to resign immediately after the incident. They wondered that instead of doing so, both of them rather tried to justify their position.

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, several ministers and policymakers of the ruling party noted that the incident has caused a big humiliation to the government.

They said they have suggested the prime minister to sack the home minister, if he does not resign voluntarily, to keep up the image of the government and to prove that it has taken a serious view of the attack at a female hall at night. Besides removing the ministers concerned. police officials responsible for this

Some senior ministers strongly resented that the cabinet subcommittee on law and order at its meeting on Wednesday was not informed of the incident at Shamsunnahar Hall. A member of the sub-committee said the ministers concerned deliberately

Meanwhile, a high level meeting attended by the home minister, the education minister and top police officials yesterday reviewed the situation at the DU and sternly warned police against any such action in future.

Home Minister Altaf Hossain Chowdhury, Education Minister Osman Farruk, State Minister for Home Lutfozzaman Babar, State Minister for Education Ehsanul Haq, the Inspector General of Police and other top officials were present at

FROM PAGE 1

must also be sacked, they felt.

did this.

#### mittee to investigate the role of police at the Shamsunnahar Hall. Headed by Masdul Haq, additional IGP, the two other members of the campus vesterday. committee are Kazi Bazlur Rahman. special superintendent of police (CID) and Lutfar Rahman, deputy police commissioner, DMP

Headquarters. On the campus, the students locked all the entrance to the Arts Faculty and pasted black posters there with various slogans in favour of the strike. But the JCD activists and police broke the keys.

After parading the Arts Faculty area, the procession marched toward the Teacher and Student Centre (TSC). Students were seen spontaneously joining the procession, making it the biggest of its kind in recent days.

Justice Tafazzal Islam yesterday to

investigate the police entry into the

Shamsunnahar Hall and arrest of

female students. The committee is

Inspector General of Police

(IGP) Modabbir Hossain

. Chowdhury also formed a three-

member departmental probe com-

to submit a report within a week.

Police intercepted the procession at the Doel Chattar, but in the teeth of strong protests by the students, police gave in and let the processionists proceed towards the Curzon Hall.

At the time, a large number of students joined in. The procession ended at the Aparajeyo Bangla.

The agitating students announced that they would demonstrate at all the residential halls today and bring out a 'grand' procession on the campus tomorrow. They demanded resignation of the VC and the proctor by Saturday. Otherwise, they warned of a tougher agitation.

They said they (the VC and Proctor) have no right to stay in office since they are responsible for Wednesday's brutality at the Shamsunnahar Hall

The students also demanded immediate withdrawal of the police forces from campus. They alleged that police are friends of attackers. not of general students, which is why the police presence make them feel rather insecure.

The campus was tense since morning due to the strike called by the general students at the university protesting the police atrocities on female students and demanding resignation of the VC and the proc-

Police intercepted vehicles and commuters on the campus and did not let the opposition student activists in the campus in the morning. Police also put a moratorium on processions and rallies on the

Most of the student organisations protested the police atrocities by bringing out processions and holding rallies. Left-leaning Ganatantrik Chhatra Oikya, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League, Samaitantrik Chhatra Front and some other student bodies brought out procession to enforce the strike at the DU.

Activists of the ruling BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) allegedly attacked a rally at the Institute of Fine Arts at about 1:15pm, leaving several students injured. They also ransacked a 'protest exhibition' by the students

Police arrested seven persons yesterday on the campus. Of them, Jonardon Datta Nantu, Nazimuddin, Zannatul Islam Dalim and Shahiduzzaman of the Samaitantrik Chhatra Front. Police also arrested three outsiders, namely Helal, Prince and Mannan. Helal and Mannan were arrested while slap-

ping posters in favour of the strike. Meanwhile 17 students arrested during Wednesday's protest on the campus were released on bail yesterday.

At least 100 students were injured when police swooped on the female students of the Shamsunnahar Hall on Wednesday night. Another 150 students were injured when police clubbed and teargassed protestors on the campus throughout Wednesday.

A huge contingent of police has been deployed at all entrance to the DU and other strategic points of the campus.

### Dhaka, Islamabad crimes it committed during the Wa

ters and a business delegation. The visit will be rounded off by separate press briefings by the two

Musharraf will be the fourth head of government to come to Bangladesh on a visit after the alliance government, led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party

(BNP), took office. Earlier, British, Chinese and Thai prime ministers visited Bangladesh. Former prime minister Sheikh Hasina was the last Bangladesh head of government to have undertaken a trip to Islamabad in 1998.

The Pakistan president will also lay wreaths at the Savar National Memorial.

Two memorandums of understanding will be signed between Dhaka and Islamabad on cultural cooperation and regular consultations on bilateral issues respectively during Musharraf's visit.

"Bangladesh believes in close cooperation with its neighbours," the foreign secretary told newsmen vesterday.

Chowdhury brushed aside the suggestion tȟat Musharraf's visit had any special political undertone "Why would his trip hint at a special alignment when he has visited the largest democracy in the world, India, and several other countries in

Asia?" He also dismissed the suggestion that the visit might eventually lead to creation of an anti-Delhi axis by Islamabad, Beijing and Dhaka.

"The very word axis is reminiscent of Second World War or Cold War days and an anachronism, Chowdhury said. "Our policy is not in favour of or against anyone. We do not have a policy of malice."

The foreign secretary also dismissed reports in a section of the media, suggesting Pakistani intelligence agency ISI was engineering infiltration to India through Bangladesh.

He also termed "totally baseless" the claims "that visas were being denied to Indian nationals on the eve of Musharraf's visit" Pak-India stand-off

Asked whether tension in the subcontinent would be discussed in the official talks, the foreign secretary said, "Our position has already been spelled out clearly to both (India and Pakistan) on the issue. We are for reduction of tension through dialogue. Once again during the visit we will reiterate our position. It (Indo-Pak tension) impacts the entire region."

\$4.5 billion claim Chowdhury also said the country's claim of some \$4.5 billion could be raised in the talks. "The figure was calculated a long time back and is being constantly put forward by Bangladesh."

The issue of taking back some 237,000 stranded Pakistanis staying at some 70 camps across the country will also be discussed, he

Question of apology When asked whether Dhaka will of Independence in 1971, the foreign secretary said, "This has been discussed earlier. I am sure it is in the mind of the Pakistanis."

When asked if Dhaka would press for an apology as was done by the previous government, he replied, "We do not recall any demand for apology from Pakistan by the previous government. This issue may have been raised (in various circles), but never has a

demand for apology been made." Asked about implementation of the Hamoodur Rahman Commission report, he said, "It is their report. It is only a partial version of what happened. They have published it. It is for them to imple-

Musharraf will be accompanied by Commerce Minister Abdur Razzak Daud, Information Minister Nisar Memon, Local Government and Environment Minister Shaheda Jamil. State Minister for Foreign Affairs Enamul Haq and 12 senior officials

Musharraf, who will stay at Sonargaon Hotel, will call on acting

Asked to comment on the Left Democratic Front's demand to call off Musharraf's visit, the foreign Secretary said. "It is a free country. Everyone is entitled to his opinion.

about 6:45pm yesterday, his personal secretary told The Daily Star that the VC was taking a stroll on the

book the culprits because of his political affiliation with the ruling BNP, sources said. "How can he take action when he himself is an appointee by the ruling

party?" said a JCD leader on condition of anonymity.

Secretariat officials and broker for money, said JCD insiders. A few days ago, Luci sought help from a journalist in moving a file for transfer of a police officer and the

of State Minister for Home Lutfuzzaman Babor. Two months ago, Luci threat-

ened a university correspondent with dire consequences for reporting on her involvement in the forced closure of a Xerox shop. Asked if the JCD would go for

any action against the two girls, its DU unit President Monir Hossain kept mum. Meanwhile, a group of journalists was refused appointment with the

newly appointed provost of the Shamsunnahar Hall vesterday. The JCD leaders asked her not to talk with journalists, the sources said. Women police are on guard

inside the hall and policemen out-

#### 2002 NT7 ■ Scale of NEOs Different asteroid sizes 9.32 miles 0.62 miles 1.24 miles (100 million (will burn (can cause (equivalent up in mendous local scale megaton out the dinosaurs damage) 65 million years ago explosion) Source: NASA, NEO Information Center REUTERS : Palestinian gunmen kill Rabbi to avenge

air strike

including a top militant.

REUTERS, Jerusalem Palestinians shot dead a Rabbi from a Jewish settlement in the West Bank yesterday in what militants called the first response to an Israeli air strike that killed 15 Palestinians,

Two Palestinian militant groups

claimed responsibility for killing

Rabbi Elimelech Shapira, 43, and

wounding another man in an ambush as they drove along a road near a Jewish settlement close to the West Bank city of Qalqilya. "The operation is part of the armed struggle and in response to the assassination of our people in Gaza and (Hamas militant) Salah Shehada," the Popular Army Front-

Return Battalions, a coalition of militant groups, said in a statement. The al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, an armed group which is part of the coalition and has links to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement, also took responsibility for the ambush, which heightened fears of a fierce new round of violence. The Islamic group Hamas has vowed to kill hundreds of Israelis to avenge Tuesday's attack by an F-16 warplane which fired a one-ton guided missile at the house of Shehada, commander of Hamas's military wing, killing him

and 14 others. Nine children were among the dead, most of them in buildings near Shehada's home, and 145 people were injured in an assault which was criticized in Israel and abroad.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Israelis and Palestinians alike must brace for more violence following the air strike, in which he said Israel had made mistakes

escalation and I am really afraid that innocent people on both sides will

ambush, including a militant leader, and that an army bulldozer demolfound.

sion between a minibus and a taxi in

the West Bank city of Jenin. They

said the blast may have been

#### caused by a land mine planted by Israeli forces.

a big bang. struction of the runway caused the

aviation experts later said. Chittagong was suspended follow-

FROM PAGE 12 normal limit.

ues we have to do something. Pressed hard, a potato wholesaler admitted at the meeting that they took advantage of the flood to make a windfall to make up for last two years' losses.

Palestinian witnesses said troops arrested four Palestinians in Qalgilva after the West Bank

### Palestinians as a defense against

It is suspected that faulty con-

Sizzling prices

During a meeting with the leaders of wholesalers' association, consumers' group and law-enforcers, Khosru said, " We will observe the price trend for the next

"I know that this is a serious pay a high price." Peres told Israel's

ished the house where he was Hospital sources also said 10 Palestinians were hurt by an explo-

Biman FROM PAGE 12

The flight to Dhaka via

few days and if the situation contin-

# Hopes, homes bulldozed

In the run-up to the last general election, the local MP promised the people of Balurmath that they would be resettled, if evicted. However, a magistrate said that unless the slum-dwellers had a legal order to stay, there was nothing to prevent the clearance.

In fact, locals were under the

government must rehabilitate

evicted slum-dwellers, he added.

impression that they possessed a valid court order, but the document, sold by some unscrupulous lawyers to the slum dwellers' association, was false "We have jobs...we have livelihoods. What will we do now?" asked

Sayeda, a health worker at the local

Marie Stopes clinic, who was living

"The government does not want

at Balurmath for the past 15 years.

us to live. It seems that we are not citizens to them. They just want to bury us." "We wanted to fight this decision legally. We offered to pay the Department of Housing and Settlement for the land in instalments. We would have paid double

if we had to," said Muhammad Ali, a

teacher in the area Selima Begum. 35. a mother of two, and worker at a garment factory, who settled there five years ago, stayed awake all night, hearing

the announcement at around 11.30 the night before. A widow, Selima, was frantically

looking for a rented house in the

vicinity. But she said thousands of victims of the eviction are doing the same and all available houses have been rented out overnight. The day before, she took part in a demonstration, in which riot police

slum left the area a few days before the eviction. Two weeks ago, the government evicted another slum nearby, leaving several thousands homeless and many living on the street.

beat five women, leaving them with

Many said the leaders of the

broken limbs.

None of the government agencies present at the site yesterday, including the Department of Housing and Settlement, had any idea about how many families resided at Balurmath. The department's Sub-Assistant Engineer, Aziz, was in charge of half a dozen bulldozers in operation Asked about the number of

had no idea. Some non-governmental organisations (NGOs) working in the area said that there were up to 10.000 households accommodating around 80,000 men, women and

households demolished, he said he

children. Many NGO workers wondered how the government could be so brutal to evict 10,000 families only for 310 people.

The government made another attempt in 1993 to clear the slum but

admitted to ward No. 30 where

doctors said he was in a critical

Mob justice

FROM PAGE 1

condition. Meanwhile another source said the incident took place when a gang of six muggers attacked a businessman in front of the Hafiz Supermarket. As the businessman cried for help, police and the local people chased the gang and caught only three of them while the other three got away. Police seized a dagger and three cocktails from

The duty officer of the Kotwali Police Station said last evening, the incident took place as the gang tried to flee away after snatching some belongings from a pedestrian. Until last night, it could not be confirmed under which police sta-

tion the jurisdiction of the incident fell. Both the Kotwali and Sutrapur police stations shifted the responsibility of the incident to each other. ask for Islamabad's apology for the

## president Jamiruddin Sircar.

Still no action FROM PAGE 1 phone for comments. Phoned at

The VC will not do anything to

Luci and Shanta regularly visit the Secretariat, lobby with the

officer agreed to give her Tk 30,000 in kickbacks, sources said. Luci capitalises on the influence