



A constable tries in vain to bring order to the traffic flow near the Mohakhali rail crossing in the city yesterday. With construction of flyover on, traffic snarl-up has become a regular feature in the area.

## Women's seats Moudud sees no scope in 8th Sangsad

UNB, Dhaka

Reintroduction of women's reserved seats in parliament as a permanent system would not be possible in the eighth Jatiya Sangsad, but a temporary arrangement could be made to maintain representation of women, said Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed yesterday.

Speaking as chief guest at a workshop yesterday on Direct Election for Women in their Reserved Seats in Parliament, Moudud Ahmed expressed this view when a campaigner for women's direct election made a strong plea for bringing a bill in that regard in the next JS session.

"It is very difficult to bring amendment for direct election as complications might arise in going by the constitution that guarantees equal rights to

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## Killers tried twice to slay Goswamy

Mastermind confesses

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Tanvir Sharif Apon, arrested on charge of killing schoolteacher Swapan Kumar Goswami, yesterday gave a confessional statement to a metropolitan magistrate.

The Detective Branch of Police produced Apon, a class eight student of the Government Laboratory School and allegedly a mastermind of the murder, before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka at 11.00am on completion of the three-day remand.

Later, he was taken to the chamber of Metropolitan Magistrate Jagannath Das Khokon where he described the plan to murder Goswami. After recording his statement, the court ordered that he be sent to the Dhaka Central Jail.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## BNP to modify edn policy

MUSTAK HOSSAIN

The government would bring changes to the education policy introduced by the past Awami League government instead of scrapping it fully, the state minister for education said.

"We are not scrapping the previous policy completely but incorporating some necessary provision into it," State Minister for Education ANM Ehsanul Hoque Milon told The Daily Star.

He said the previous policy needs some upgrading to cater to present-day needs.

"The new policy would incorporate recommendations of the Education Reforms Committee formed under the present government headed by Professor MA Bari," he said.

The Bari committee had recommended on different aspects including imposition of a ban on teachers' and students' indulging in politics on campus, sources said.

The government at a recent cabinet meeting gave the go-ahead to form a commission for a new policy to bring about fundamental and qualitative changes in the country's education sector.

"The new policy is aimed at bringing fundamental changes in the country's education system and making the existing education system more timely," Education Secretary Mohammad Shahidul Alam told The Daily Star.

Alam said a commission would be formed soon to formulate the education policy. He, however, did not give details on the commission members.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

## 70 feared dead as boat sinks in Indonesia

AFP, Jakarta

Some 70 people were feared to have drowned after an overloaded boat carrying more than 200 passengers sank in eastern Indonesia, officials said yesterday.

The Masohi Star went down about 8:15pm (1115 GMT) Sunday after travelling just 500 metres from

the shore of Ambon island, said Lieutenant Colonel Marten Luther Djari, an advisor to the provincial governor.

Five bodies have been recovered so far but at least 65 people are still missing, presumed dead.

Djari said police were questioning the skipper of the boat, which

SEE PAGE 11 COL 3

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia hands a Tk 1 lakh cheque to the weeping widow of Swapan Kumar Goswamy, the teacher of Government Laboratory School, who was killed in the city on November 4.



PHOTO: PID



Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic Rajshahi 2002 Shaila Shobnom (C) with the two runners-up after her coronation at a community centre in Rajshahi.

## Shaila crowned Miss Photogenic Rajshahi 2002

STAFF CORRESPONDENT,  
Rajshahi

Shaila Shobnom won the Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic Rajshahi 2002 crown at a grand function here last night.

A student of Rangpur Cantonment Public School and College, she passed the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations this year.

Iffat Ara Mitu, a second year student of economics at the Rajshahi College and Farhana Razzak Rima, a degree examinee also at the Rajshahi College were the first and second runners-up respectively.

The function was held at the

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
Nov 5		5-17 pm
Nov 6	6-08 am	

Prayer Timings		
Nov 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-00	5-25
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-26	5-32
Esha	7-15	7-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## Unchained, at long last

MOZAMMEL HAQUE, Rangpur

The Rangpur Jail released an unclaimed one-year-old child and sent him to the Rajshahi baby home yesterday morning, ending his yearlong captivity.

Upon a suo moto rule issued by the High Court, the district administration and the jail authorities took the initiative to release the boy. Some human-rights activists and police escorted him to the baby home at 9:30am.

A division bench of the High Court, comprising Justice MA Aziz and Justice Nazrul Islam Chowdhury, issued the rule upon a prayer by Barrister Badruddoza who sought safe custody for the boy.

The High Court also ordered the inspector general of the jail to take up measures to find out his parents.

A woman named Sufia trafficked him from the Kaunia Railway Station last August. She was caught by local people and handed over to Taraganj police, together with the boy.

Later, the trafficker was jailed and the infant was kept in jail custody under the care of a female convict who is serving out her life-term.

The district administration has not so far made any effort to find out the parents of the infant, sources alleged.