# Ministry's alleged lake-grab bid sparks protest

The current process of tax collec-

The LGRD minister referred the

The delegation also proposed

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

tion for road maintenance is not

proposal of tax on gasoline to the

demarcation of highways, feeder

effective, the delegation said.

finance minister

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

About four hundred people yesterday protested a ministry's bid to grab the Gulshan-Banani-Baridhara

Environmental activists and locals gathered in front of the lake to protest the move by the Ministry of Expatriates Welfare and Overseas Employment, which grabbed about seven and a half acres of the wetland to implement a project of the Bureau of Manpower, Employment and Training.

Following a report recently published in The Daily Star, the Bangladesh Paribesh Andolon (BAPA) organised a rally joined by the Gulshan-Baridhara-

WB for gasoline

levy to realise

road tax

The World Bank (WB) has proposed

to levy charges on gasoline to

realise road tax instead of the cur-

Under the new system, if imple-

mented, an amount of proceeds

from gasoline tax will be spent on

member WB delegation called on

The proposal came when a six-

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

rent fixed-rate system.

road maintenance.

Banani Society, the Sylhet Division Development Council, Biswa Sahitya Kendra and the Independent University of Bangladesh.

The Daily Star reported that the ministry's manpower bureau set up a signboard that reads -- 'the expatriates welfare ministry owns the land'. The report also said the ministry filled up a big portion of the wetland, violating environmental laws.

The demonstrators yesterday urged the government to protect the lake from encroachers to ensure a healthy environment for living in the areas like Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara

Prior to the rally, they brought out a procession in

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## **Deposit licensed** arms by Nov 15: **Home Ministry**

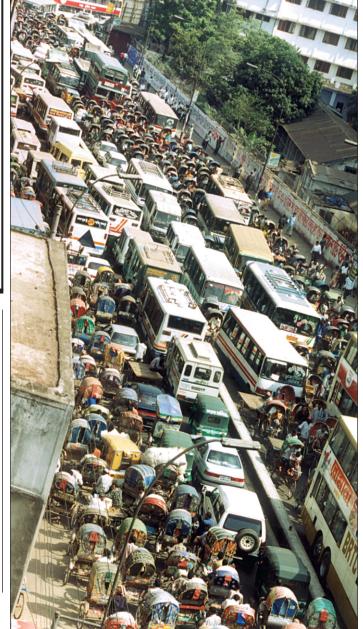
BSS. Dhaka

asking the holders of licensed arms to deposit their arms and ammunition by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister November 15 with the authorities Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan at his concerned Secretariat office yesterday.

As per the order, licensed guns, rifles, pistols, revolvers, shot guns and all other firearms have to be deposited with the nearby police stations or arms depots (malkhana) of the deputy commissioners (DC), the Ministry of Home Affairs said in a statement yesterday.

The government has issued an order

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2



A traffic chaos on the busy Topkhana Road in the city yesterday caused suffering to the commuters. The picture was taken at noon.

# **Businessmen may** be kept out of self-assessment

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday said the government might stop accepting self-assessment of income tax return from businessmen because of its

"Most businessmen submit low income tax return and we believe the self-assessment system has widely been misused and should be disconSecretariat office

Some 700 people pay 50 per cent of the total income tax and in the first

four months of the current fiscal there has been around Tk 120 crore in income tax shortfall, he said. The finance minister said wealthy

people, who use costly cars, live in luxurious apartments, do not pay tax and tax officials are now SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

Army arrest of lawmakers

# **AL MPs to meet** Speaker today

REAZ AHMAD

Lawmakers belonging to opposition Awami League may again meet the Speaker today to urge him to protect the dignity and privilege of parliament members

They will express AL's grave concern at 'infringement on lawmakers' privileges and prestige' during the ongoing army-led drive against criminals, party sources said.

been arrested just ahead of the fifth session of parliament, beginning on November 14.

Before meeting the Speaker, AL legislators will have a meeting this morning to take stock of the latest situation

AL lawmakers earlier met Speaker Jamiruddin Sircar on SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

### **BCS** form chaos at banks

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Thousands of prospective candidates for the 24th Bangladesh Civil Service (BCS) examination could not yet collect the form for registration of their candidature due to utter negligence of a section of bank officials, it is alleged

Talking to The Daily Star yesterday, many of the candidates said they were yet to have the required

A female candidate standing in a long queue in front of a Sonali Bank branch in the city yesterday fainted on hearing that there was no form for

Sale of the form will continue till November 9. Six branches of the Sonali Bank

in the city and 23 other branches in 23 districts were authorised to sell

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

	Juli Kises	Juli Jets	
ov 6		5-16 pm	
ov 7	6-08 am		
Prayer Timings			
Nov 6			

#### **Jamaat** Azan 5-00 5-25 12-45 1-15 Zohr 4-15 4-00 5-30 Maghrib 7-45 Esha 7-15 Source: Islamic Foundation