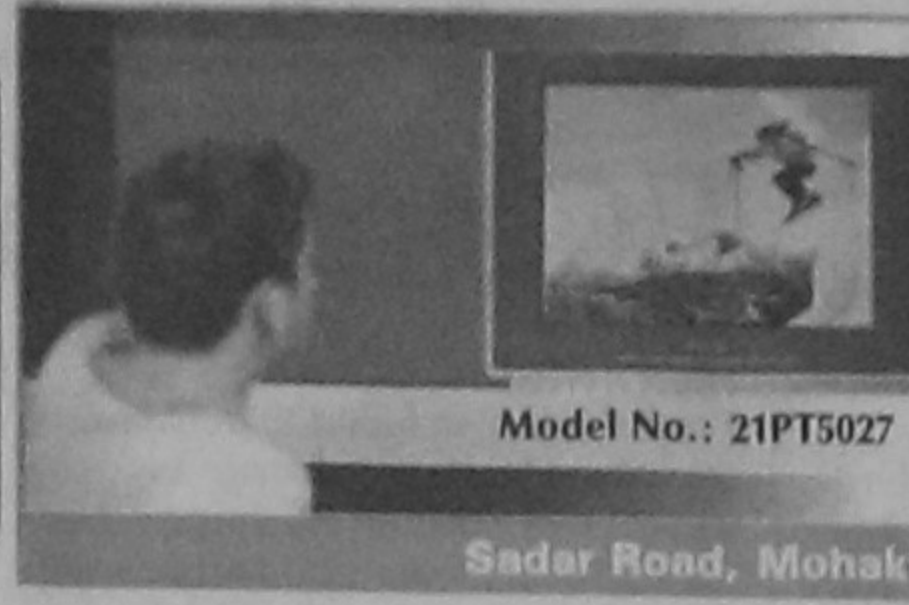




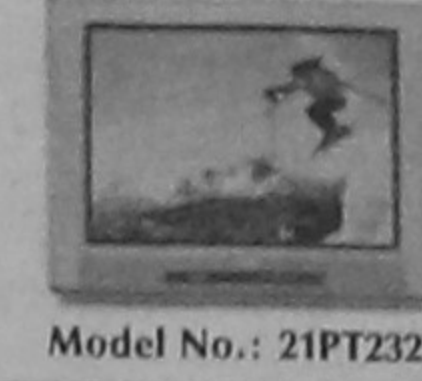
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**BIMAN FLIGHT DELAY
Passengers'
suffering
continues**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Flight schedule of two international flights of Biman from Chittagong Shah Amanat International Airport was once again disrupted on Friday night, fifth time in two weeks, causing enormous sufferings to over 400 passengers.

One of the two delayed flights, Dubai-bound BG 047 with 312 passengers, finally took off at 9:55am yesterday after over twelve hours of delay caused by a technical glitch in the hydraulic system of the aircraft.

Following the malfunction, flight BG 047, originally scheduled for 8:45pm on Friday, was rescheduled for 11:45pm, said sources. However, the flight was suspended later and its passengers were transferred to local hotels, they added.

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**Bombs hurled
at Prof Arefin
Siddique's house**

DU CORRESPONDENT

A crude bomb went off at the residence of Prof AAMS Arefin Siddique, former president of Dhaka University Teachers' Association (DUTA), after unidentified men hurled two such bombs into his residence compound yesterday evening.

No one was injured in the incident. Prof Arefin, who was not at his Central Road home at the time, informed the police of the incident.

Police visited the spot at around 9.30 last evening.

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**Carjackers thrive with
officials' connivance**

SHARIFUL ISLAM

A wide network of organised carjackers in the capital are wreaking havoc on the lives of car owners with the help of Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA) officials who help the thieves to alter the identities of many stolen vehicles by providing genuine documents for them, said detective branch (DB) officials.

Carjacking gangs take only a month to change the identification numbers of a stolen vehicle's engine, chassis and registration, and to procure other ownership documents, making it almost impossible to trace it.

In some cases gang members manage to secure genuine replacements of original documents of stolen vehicles, kept with BRTA.

A section of corrupt BRTA officials taking bribes ranging from Tk 50,000 to Tk 75,000 from the gang members, help prepare the genuine replacements of original documents, the DB officials said.

A DB team already found evidence that implicate at least 14 BRTA officials who verify and sign on the replacements for original documents of stolen vehicles in exchange for bribes, despite knowing that the papers submitted to them for registration and ownership are fakes.

Many carjacking gangs also prepare false documents for stolen vehicles up for sale.

The gangs of carjackers are usually comprised of street level criminals and those who have become millionaires over the years selling stolen vehicles, said mem-

bers of a DB team formed to curb carjacking.

Police sources said they already detected a man who has become the owner of a multi-storied shopping complex in Mirpur area by jacking cars and selling those over the years. The sources however did not disclose the name of the wealthy carjacker now in jail, but they did say that DB recovered three cars from his possession.

Police and a number of carjackers in their custody, with whom this correspondent talked a few days ago, said 20 such gangs are operating in the capital, three of whom are involved in hijacking motorcycles, five hijack CNG run auto-rickshaws, while the rest are involved in carjacking.

Last year 180 cars, minibuses,

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**US official
Donald Camp
arrives today**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Senior US official Donald Camp arrives today to hold talks with government officials and political parties on the planned general elections later this year.

Camp, the principal deputy assistant secretary for South and Central Asia, will also hold talks with NGO leaders, TV and newspaper chiefs, and business leaders about the current state of affairs, according to a US embassy press release.

During his two-day visit, Camp will discuss the progress of the 'electoral roadmap' with government officials, including a bilateral meeting today.

His trip will mark the second visit by a senior US state department official since the caretaker government took office in January 2007.

The assistant secretary Richard Boucher however has not visited Bangladesh since 2006.

Camp will also discuss Sidr-rehabilitation plans and future climate change prevention measures.

**Bus bombing kills
20 in Lanka**

AFP, Colombo

Suspected Tamil Tiger rebels detonated a bomb on a crowded bus in northern Sri Lanka killing at least 20 people yesterday, officials said, two days ahead of celebrations marking independence day.

The parcel bomb ripped through the vehicle at a bus station in Dambulla, 150km north of Colombo. It had stopped en route to the Buddhist pilgrimage town of Anuradhapura to pick up more passengers, police said.

President Mahinda Rajapakse condemned the bombing and urged people not to be provoked by what he called the 'savagery' of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE).

The Tamil rebels are 'eager to create a backlash (by the Sinhalese majority) to obtain the sympathy of the international community' for their long fight for an independent homeland, Rajapakse said in a statement.

There was no immediate word from the LTTE.

In 1983, LTTE rebels blew up 13 Sinhalese troops, triggering mas-

sive anti-Tamil riots. An estimated 400 to 600 Tamils were massacred in the aftermath, sparking international condemnation of Sri Lanka.

In the latest attack, 13 people were pronounced dead on arrival at Dambulla hospital, while five died there and two others died while they were being rushed from the scene, a Dambulla hospital spokesman said.

'Most of the victims had serious burn injuries,' the spokesman told AFP.

Military spokesman Udaya Nanayakkara said at least 20 people were killed in Saturday's bus bombing.

The attack came as Sri Lanka stepped up security ahead of festivities on Monday to mark the country's 60th anniversary of independence from Britain.

'This act of terror, similar to many other acts of savagery directed at innocent civilians before, underscores the continued commitment of the LTTE to violence to achieve their goal of separation,' Rajapakse said.

Some 42 people were being

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**Restore 1972
constitution, try
war criminals**

Demand sector
commanders

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

Sector commanders of the Liberation War during a convention of freedom fighters of Barisal division yesterday called for restoring the constitution of 1972 and vowed to continue their movement until trial of all war criminals is complete.

They said the war crimes were done not against any particular person or for personal enmity but

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**Committee formed
to report on PSC
quota system**

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A two-member committee headed by Regulatory Reform Commission (RRC) Chairman Dr Akbar Ali Khan has been formed to look into quota system under the Public Service Commission (PSC) and submit a report on it soon.

Former secretary Rakib Uddin Khan is on the committee as its member.

Meanwhile, students of Dhaka University (DU) are now going on with various programmes

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

**25,000 chickens
culled**

UNB, Dhaka

Livestock officials with the help of joint forces culled over 25,000 poultry and domestic fowls in Savar and Gopalganj since Friday night after detection of avian influenza at farms.

In Savar, 1550 chickens of Rahman poultry Farm at Ashulia were culled on Friday night as the farm was detected with avian influenza virus infection.

Livestock officials yesterday culled around 22,000 chickens of

eight other farms located within one kilometre of Rahman Poultry.

They culled 7,800 chickens of Dipa Poultry, 2500 of S A poultry, 3135 of Munnu and Muku Poultry, 2030 of Haji Poultry, 2200 of Tasmina Poultry, 1100 of Salam Poultry, 1400 of Jubair Poultry and 1150 of Happy Poultry.

In Gopalganj, over 1,600 domestic fowls were culled in the district town early yesterday.

* POULTRY FARMERS' LIVELIHOOD AT STAKE... STAR BUSINESS PAGE 8

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**Chadian rebels
capture
capital city**

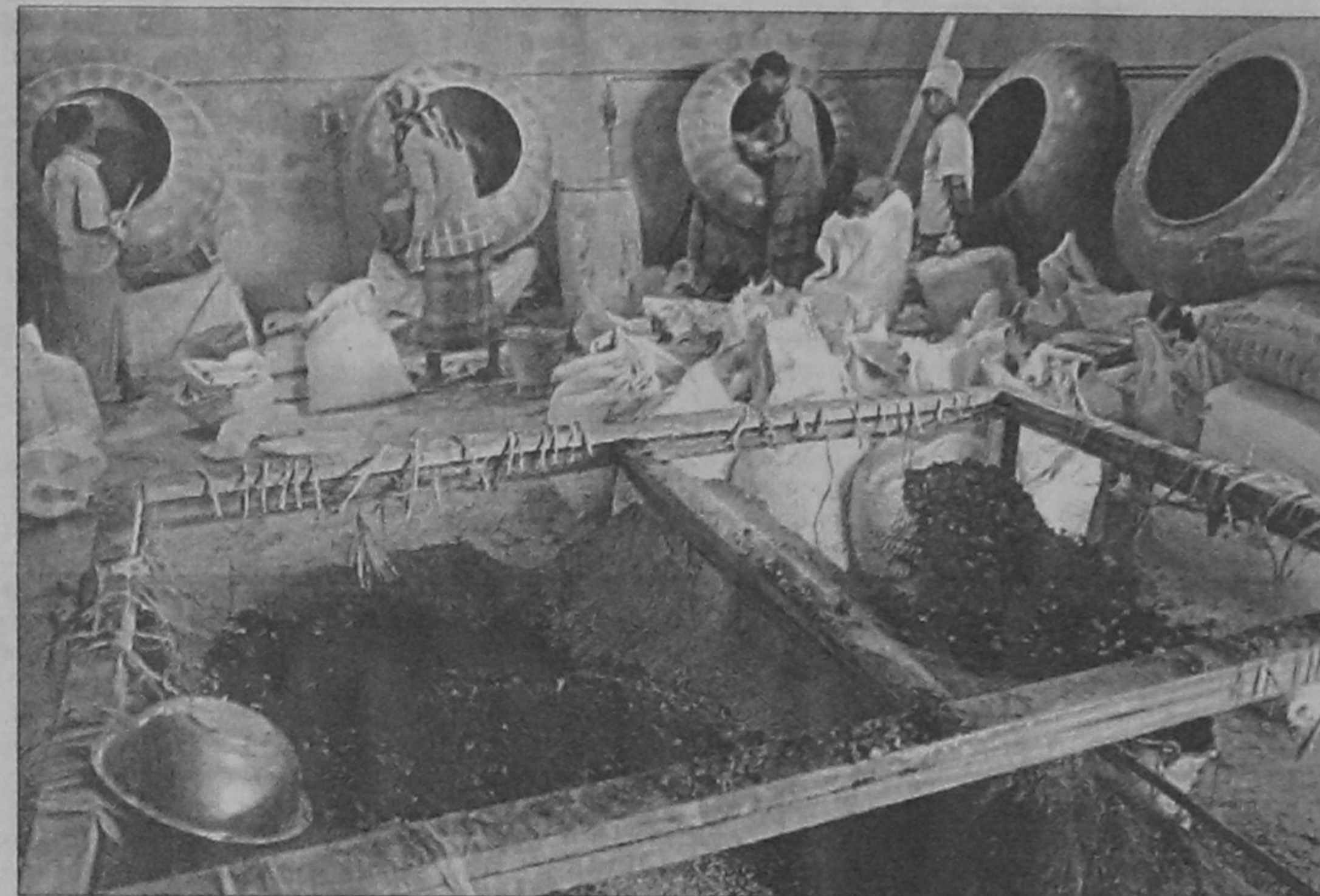
AFP, Ndjamena

Chadian rebels seized the capital Ndjamena yesterday after three hours of fighting with government troops, while President Idriss Deby Itno was holed up in the presidential palace, a military source said.

'The whole town is in the hands of the rebels, there is only mopping up,' the source said.

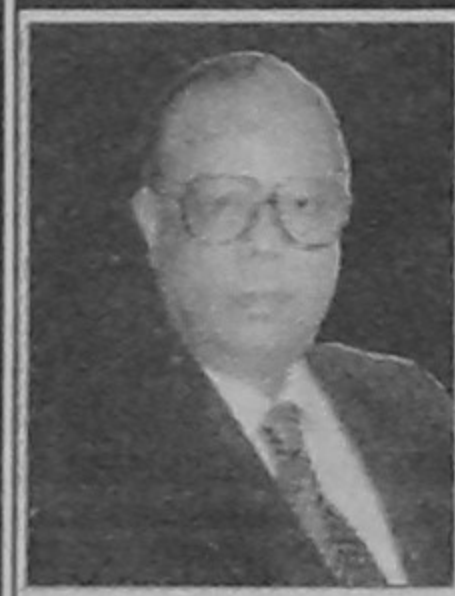
Intense firing heard in the city during the morning had died down by midday (1100 GMT), but a column of black smoke was seen

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Workers of Bafco Agro Industries in Shajahanpur upazila of Bogra produce fertilizer by mixing soil, manure and black and red dyes. The factory owner claimed that he has permission to manufacture mixed-fertiliser and uses the dyes to make it appealing to buyers. District Agricultural Extension officials, however, said using dye in any form in fields will have a catastrophic effect on harvests and drastically reduce land fertility.

**TODAY IS THE 10TH DEATH ANNIVERSARY
OF FORMER SECRETARY M. AKHTAR ALI**



Milad Mahfil and Doa will be held on 3rd February 2008, Sunday (Today) after Asar prayer at his won residence on the occasion of 10th death anniversary of Late former secretary M. Akhtar Ali. All relatives and well wishers are requested to attend at Milad and Doa Mahfil to pray for peace of his departed soul.

Mrs. Akhtar Ali
House # 14/A, Road # 95, Gulshan # 2,
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