11 injured during BCL elections in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, June 15: Clashes during elections of the Narayanganj district unit of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) reportedly left 11 persons injured in the town today.

The clashes began at 11 am when two candidates -Mostaque and Palash -along with their supporters were approaching the election venue at the Narayangani Central Shaheed Minar in Chasara. They were allegedly confronted by another group led by one Kamrul and Selim.

Both groups hurled a number of cocktails at each other and fired shots.

The whole Chasara area was soon terrorised and sporadic bomb blasts continued till 9

A press statement issued by the district BCL Joint Secretary said that 11 persons belonging to the Moshtaque-Palash panel

were seriously injured in bomb But none was admitted to

the hospitals in the town. The BCL Jt Secretary also alleged that the election commissioner had been held

hostage by the Kamrul-Selim

group for the past three days.

He also demanded an investigation and justice regarding the elections from the authori-

The Moshtaque - Palash group brought out a processions in the town and also held a protest rally.

Meanwhile, the central President of the BCL, Moinuddin Hasan Moin, last night declared the Kamrul Islam and Selim Reza panel elected.

In a press release he also said that the elections were held according to the constitution of the organisation.

PM urges Myanmar to speed up in city repatriation

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Tuesday urged the Myanmar authorities to speed up the repatriation of Rohingya refugees encamped in the country's southeastern region,

reports UNB. Bangladesh cannot afford to bear the burden of the refugees for a long time, she told the outgoing Myanmar Ambassador U Soe Myint who called on her at the Prime Minister 's office in the afternoon.

The Prime Minister hoped that the Myanmar authorities would facilitate the return home of the Rohingya Muslim refugees and complete the repatriation process at the earliest.

She said the resolution of the refugee problem will contribute to bolstering the existing friendly relations between the two neighbouring countries.

Principle Secretary to the Prime Minister K M Rabbani was present.

Husband kills wife

From Our Correspondent BARISAL, June 15: A house wife was reportedly beaten to death by her husband a Balipona village in Jhalakathi district Tuesday noon.

Elpi Begum, 18, was severely assaulted by her husband Badshah Mia and expired, witnesses and police sources said

Badshah Mia is absconding. Sources said, Badshah married Elpi four months ago but has been complaining about his wife's 'Ugliness' ever since. A murder case has been lodged with police.

Fire at Jiban Bima tower

By Staff Correspondent

A fire broke out on the fifth floor of the Jiban Bima Tower at Dilkusha in the city Tuesday

The extent of damage, however, could not be ascertained immediately.

Fire Service sources said, the fire reportedly originated from an electric short circuit in a stair-case room adjoining the American Cultural Centre Library at around 5.45 pm. The fire gutted some papers in the store room, but did not affect the main library. Fire fighters rushed to the

spot but could not get through the smoke-belching multi-storied building immediately. However, using gas masks

and other accessories the firemen eventually extinguished the fire within an hour. Four firemen were injured

during the operation, Fire Service sources reportedly said. Critically injured firemen Shahidul Islam was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital, medical sources said.

Akbar

From Page 1 Col.5

of 3 lakh lives, a better future. Some opposition MPs, particularly, from the Awami League, appeared to raise their eyebrows at Akbar's new figure. However, none of them made any attempt to seek the Speaker's permission to rebut the former minister.

Akbar, turning to the AL MPs moving uneasily in their seats, repeated: "Yes, I repeat the figure is only three lakh.

And it is time the record was put straight!"

US firm to dig for oil

From Page 1 Col 7 ing differences to the Chairman of Petrobangla in the first week of April during the latter's visit to Washington.

Petrobangla has reportedly already approved the draft and informed UMIC about it. The final negotiation with the USbased company is likely to be held in mid-July, sources concerned with the matter said.

The other international petroleum companies negotiating with the government for investing in the petroleum sector of the country include Holland Sea-Search Holding NV (HSS) of the Netherlands, Texaco Inter national Petroleum Company, Union Oil Company and the Occidental International Exploration and Production Company of the USA.

The HSS submitted a proposal in December, 1992 for petroleum exploration in Block No 16, which is situated in the southern portion of Chittagong and adjacent offshore areas. Several rounds of discussions between the company and the government were held till May

According to sources, the impediments on the PSC in this case were similar to those of the UMIC.

Texaco International Petroleum Company submitted a PSC proposal for acreage Block No 11 and 12 situated in the Surma Basin. Several rounds of negotiations have been held on their PSC proposal which have reached a near conclusive stage. But during their last visit in September 1992. Taxaco representatives presented a new proposal - "LNG concept in Bangladesh" - deviating from their earlier proposal.

This new proposal envisaged dedicating large quantum of gas from the existing Bangladesh reserves for their LNG project. to which Petrobangla could not

Texaco, later, informed Petrobangla that they were evaluating the international gas reserve report, 1993 and after completion of their review they would inform Petrobangia about

their next step. Occidental International Ex-

ploration and Production Company submitted its PSC proposal for Bangladesh acreage Block No 13 and 14, covering the most potential area for petroleum in Sylhet, in October last. But there was no scope for formal negotiation at the time with them since these blocks were reserved for SCIMITAR and BAPEX respectively. Two rounds of informal nectings were however, held only for Block 14

Recently, the Bangladesh government has deserved Block 14 in Haripur and made public announcement inviting bid applications for this block

A negotiating team of the company led by its Vice President visited Bangladesh from May 8 to 11 to discuss some key issues with Petrobangla and put forward their proposal. This is now being

studied by the Petrobangla. The government has, in the meantime, removed almost all the constraints regarding foreign involvement in the petroleum and gas sector by offering some lucrative incen-

These include duty-free import of machinery and materials for petroleum exploration, de velopment and production. withdrawal of the provision of paying administering fee from the production sharing agree ment and fixation of the price of gas at 75 per cent of the fuel oil price prevalent in the international market

Besides, a number of other international companies have shown interest to invest in the country's petroleum sector They have purchased necessary information brochure, preliminary data and relevant documents for existing petroleum exploration opportunities in Bangladesh and also have had preliminary discussions with the concerned authorities of the

government. Anadarco of the USA, the Japan National Oil Corporation (JNOC) of Japan. Total Petroleum of Prance, British Pet roleum and Stellar Oil and Gas Company Ltd of the United Kingdom and the Asia Pacific Resources, Pvt Ltd of Singapore are some of those companies.



Radio staff artistes strike

By Staff Correspondent

Over 400 staff artistes of Radio Bangladesh yesterday, observed a strike from 6 am to 5 pm demanding regularisation and making their jobs pension-As a result of the strike,

Radio Bangladesh could not broadcast live programmes from any of its regional centres. However, the radio carried out pre-recorded programmes and its regular news broadcasts. The strike, called by the

Radio Staff Artistes' Action Committee, was followed by a demonstration by the artistes in the city in the evening. The demonstration was led by convenor of the committee musician Subal Dutta. The action committee, dur-

ing the demonstration, said that the artistes have been agitating for a long time now to press home their demands and were forced to call the strike because of a lack of response from the authorities to their cause.

The action committee further said that the staff artistes of Bangladesh Television and Shilpakala Academy were enjoying many facilities including pension, and that there was no reason why radio artistes should not get similar facilities.

One murdered at Gulshan

By Staff Correspondent One Majiduddin, 18, was reportedly murdered by a group of

unidentified people at Mastul Gulshan, Monday night. Police sources said the young man was strangled to death near a grocery shop of

one Salam. Sources said, Majiduddin was killed as a consequence of

previous enmity.

Chakrapong

From Page 1 Col 4 Party (BLDP) members, and threatened them with death.

Police and military officials who had massed in the provincial capital after forcing UN civilian police out of their district posts on Friday were in structed to return to their positions, the report said. Hok Landy also asked the

People's Committee of Svay Rieng to make an officials dec laration that the province was again part of Cambodia, the UNTAC report said

The governors of Svay Rieng and neighboring Prey Veng have disappeared, and their where abouts were unknown, the UN officials said.

CPB factions

From Page 1 Col 2 even after the demise of the former Soviet Union and eastern Europe. Accusing the "reformists" for adopting an "opportunistic line," they expressed the hope that the party would now march ahead under correct leadership to achieve socialism.

The 45-year-old party remained virtually divided and involved in bitter quarrel over its policy and a proposed change of name after the fall of the Soviet regime and the collapse of socialism in the eastern Europe.

The party's split was endorsed by the leaders of both factions at the two-day central committee meeting on June 9. Out of 75 members of the central committee, 50 members present at the meeting endorsed the decision to split it amieably. Supporters of both the fac-

tions later brought out processions, carrying traditional red hammer and sickle flags. Led by the leaders of the respective factions, the slogan-chanting processionists dispersed at the party central office at Purana Paltan which was recently bifurcated by a wall.

Both the factions have amicably shared the assests of the undivided party, including the bank deposits.

CIS abandons plan to got up it armed forces set up ji armed forces Russia's top brass say

MOSCOW, June 15: The Commonwealth of Independent States today formally abandoned plans to set up joint armed forces, Interfax news agency said, reports Reuter.

The agency said a meeting of defence ministers of the six commonwealth signatories of a collective security treaty decided their joint military command should be transformed into a looser coordination body by the end of the year.

Last month Russia rejected a proposal by the other five members of the treaty - Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan which provided for the creation of joint CIS armed forces.

Heroin haul in

Jhalakathi

From Our Correspondent

recovered 500 gram of heroin

worth Tk 5 lakh and arrested

seven people from a remote vil-

lage of Jhalakathi Tuesday

District police raided a house of

one Yunus Ali at Sankardhabal

village under Kirtipasha Union

and seized a sealed leather

packet containing the sub-

flag was drawn on the packet

and the inscriptions read, "O K

Weight 500 gms PK 180."

Mia, and Abdus Salam.

Double Lion 3x39 [100x100] Net

Modasser, Ishaf, Shamsul Haq,

Firoz Alam, Mannan, Chand

Witnesses said, a Pakistani

The arrested people are :

Acting on a tip, Jhalakathi

BARISAL, June 15: Police

Jamal Haider

Moscow, which would have

been the backbone of the

planned joint armed forces

was set up soon after the Soviet

Union collapsed in late 1991 in

forces from disintegration and

keep Moscow's nuclear forces

on paper as ex-Soviet republics

started building their own

armed forces and the nuclear

states — Russia, Ukraine,

Belarus and Kazakhstan -

agreed that the latter three

would get rid of all nuclear

bid to save the Soviet armed

But the plan has remained

The joint military command

cannot afford it.

under joint control.

mer works minister in Ershad's cabinet held in a corruption case, was refused bail yes-

Haider was accused of giving allotment of a government house in Dhanmondi to Jatiya Party General Secretary on a monthly rent of Tk 16,200 in place of Tk 42,000 and thus sustained financial loss of Tk 9,13,803 to the national exchequer. The prosecution said Haider as works minister made the allotment by abusing official power and obtained pecuniary advantage for his party.

Earlier, on June 8 the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate had rejected the bail petition of Haider and sent him to the Dhaka Central Jail.

refused bail Mustafa Jamal Haider, for-

terday by the District and Sessions Judge, reports UNB.

under water. The severely affected area of the district is Rainagar thana, the sources said, adding that four unions of the thana were still under water. One lakh twenty five thousand people of this area were affected by the flash flood which caused damage to standing crops on over 22,000 acres. The situation of Sylhet sadar and Sunamganj was also improving as there was no rain for

the last few days.

The Midnight Kile

Combined offensive against **Kashmir militants**

NEW DELHI, June 15: Indian security forces have launched their largest combined offensivé against Muslim rebels in the strife-torn state of Kashmir to revive the electoral process after a five-year hiatus, the Press Trust of India said today. A highranking state official told the news agency in Srinagar, Kashmir's summer capital, that the "Biggest-ever joint operation" would restore normalcy and pave the way for polls by the end of the year, the first since 1987, reports AFP.

Aideed's supporters protest UN air strikes

MOGADISHU, June 15: More than 1,000 supporters of warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed demonstrated here today against the United Nations attacks on their leader's arsenals and the killings of Somali protestors. But, on the other side of the city, interim Somali President Ali Mahdi Mohamed said that the United Nations had 'the right to take action' against Aideed and those factions that violated the March disarmament agreement, reports AFP.

'Mobilise people for over-all development'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar yesterday stressed on spreading mass education across the country because it was the key to mobilising the people for over-all development.

in greater

Sylhet improves

greater Sylhet has improved

further with the recession o

flood waters but the people of

the low-lying areas are yet to go

back to their homes, official

sources from different affected

districts told BSS yesterday

M Saifur Rahman visited differ-

Maulvibazar and Hobiganj dis-

tricts and also held meetings

The minister visited the af-

with the respective district au-

fected Laskarpur railway bridge

near Shayesthagon and asked

the Railway Authority to repair

the damaged portion of the

sources said that although the

situation improved considerably

in the district, three thanas

were still under water. These

are Chunarughat, Bahubal and

room said that most of the

unions of two thanas were still

The Maulvibazar control

Hobigani Sadar.

The Hobigani control room

bridge on emergency basis.

ent flood-hit areas

Meanwhile, Finance Minister

over telephone.

The overall flood situation in

At a seminar on "Involvement of Youths in the Village Level in Mass Literacy Programme for Poverty Alleviation", organised by an NGO -Bangladesh 2000', - the speakers said 70 per cent of the country's population belonged to the 5 to 35 year age group "and the total development process should utilise this larger portion by educating

The programme, presided over by chairman of Bangladesh 2000, Engr M Shahjahan Khadem, was addressed among others, by State Minister for Youth and Sports Sadeque Hossain as chief guest, Canadian High Commissioner in Bangladesh Emile Gauvreau and Syed Mohammad Mohsin, MP as special guests while Addl Project Director of the BARD, Comilla, Dr Tofail Ahmed, presented the keynote paper.

The speakers said that in order to mobilise the vast number of youths in the country, the policy-makers should at first bridge the generation gap for better understanding of the population "Poverty and lack of educa-

tion are the two dimensions of a single problem", the speakers said. The light of education of the problems around him and their solutions," they observed. The speakers urged the gov-

"educated persons are likely to

cooperate in all projects".

piece. The BTIF leaders said that if ernment to include education in all programmes and projects since, according to them,

To make the education programme a success, the speakers said that these should be included in all political agenda. "No target can be achieved without political commitment."

Tariff barriers

From Page 1 Col 8

from textile raw materials like cotton, synthetic fibre, synthetic yarn, silk yarn, dyes, zari, glue, gum and resin. He also demanded that grey

cloth and finished fabric be excluded from VAT or other tax The BTIF also demanded

balancing, modernisation, rehabilitation and extension (BMRE) of the total textile sec-

The federation said there is 85.75 per cent tax on import of cotton yarn and 94 per cent tax on synthetic yarn. It said this high tax on yarn has led to over profiteering by the local yarn manufacturers and has also given incentive to smuggling of yarn. The BTIF also said that there is a 41.75 per cent tax on dyes and chemicals used in the textile industries.

They mentioned that a smuggled Indian cotton saree sells at Tk 180 but it costs local producers Tk 220. They claimed that if duties were reduced, the local manufacturers could offer the same saree at Tk 160 a

the demands of the federation are met, the country can produce 345 crore metres of fabrics both for local consumption and export, which would also generate jobs for 67 lakh workers.

General debate on budget

From Page 1 Col 7 farmers to ensure production at an increased rate.

Mashiur Rahman of the Treasury Bench praised the Finance Minister for granting the highest allocation to the education sector. But Abul Hasan Chowdhury of the Awami League (AL) felt that allocation wise, the education sector virtually occupied the seventh or eighth position.

To back his claim, the AL MP said that the combined allocation for defence, para-military and police forces was much higher than that of the education sector.

Saiful Azam of the BNP, however, felt that the allocation for the defence sector was less than it really needed.

Abdur Rahim of the AL criti cised the Finance Minister for his proposal to limit duty on all imports including luxury goods at one hundred per cent. The AL MP observed that it had been done with a view to enabling the richer section of the people to enjoy more luxury. It contradicted the government's slogans for austerity, he added. Ibne Aziz Lama of the Jatiya

Pm's tributes From Page 1 Col 8

tained world pressure had made in roads against the bastion of apartheid and today world at tention is focused on epochmaking developments which were unfolding in South Africa.

After years of frustrating struggle and bitter sacrifices by the oppressed majority, new possibilities have opened, she said adding that there was however, no room for compla-The international community

should remain vigilant till the last vestige of apartheid is dismantled, she added. On this important occasion, we pledge, in union with all

members of the international community, our total support to the people of South Africa in their quest for building a multiracial and democratic society in which all shall enjoy equal rights and freedoms trrespective of race, creed or colour."

Party (JP) accused the government of turning Bangladesh into a market for foreign goods. A large number of the oppo-

sition MPs observed that the law and order situation in the country was also not in favour of foreign investment. The Treasury Bench MPs, in this connection, called on the opposition parties to refrain

strikes and hartals' to ensure a congenial investment climate in the country. Col (Retd) Akbar Hossain of the BNP congratulated the Finance Minister for a balance budget and suggested evolving maximum utilisation of natural

from observing 'unnecessary

Akbar demanded a ban on the production of synthetic bags because the abandoned bags destroyed fertility of the

resources including water and

Besides, the ban would promote jute bags and at least 40 jute mills would have the scope for supplying 40 crore jute bags a year, the MP ob-

Akbar also underscored the need for introduction of an integrated education system across the country. He felt that the present system of education was dividing the society into different 'compartments' which would virtually affect the uniformity of thinking of the na-

Jamaat MP Kazi Shamsur Rahman criticised the proposed budget saying that it lacked a vision for the future. He suggested that the budget should be designed within the framework of a long plan.

Out of 27 MPs taking part in yesterday's discussions, 12 were from the ruling BNP, 9 from the AL while three each from the JP and Jamaat. It was a seven-and-a-halfhour long debate, spreading

Speaker, Shaikh Razzaque Ali, was in the chair after the break for Maghreb prayers till the House was adjourned for the night at 9:05 PM.

sitting at ten this morning.

over two sittings.

The House will resume the

TO THE VALUED CONSUMERS

INTEREST ON ELECTRICITY BILLS ACCRUED DUE TO DELAY IN PAY-MENT, SHALL NOT BE EXEMPTED. PLEASE PAY YOUR ELECTRICITY BILL IMMEDIATELY WITHOUT WAITING

FOR THE INTEREST TO INCREASE.



DHAKA ELECTRIC SUPPLY **AUTHORITY (DESA)**

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