

**Harkins Bill**

**BGMEA to open schools for working children**

By Sharier Khan

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) in a bid to offset the impact of the Harkins Bill on the garments industries in Bangladesh, has taken initiative to set up schools and childcare centres for the working children. Sources said that the BGMEA, in cooperation with the UNICEF, International Labour Organisation (ILO) and a local NGO, will open schools cum childcare centres in Dhaka next month for children who once worked in various garments factories and also for those who are presently working. BGMEA sources said some 15,000 children lost their jobs in local garments factories last year when the much discussed Harkins Bill was passed in the US Congress.

The Harkins Bill or the Child Labour Deterrence Act of 1994, would ban imports to the US of goods produced with child labour in any country. The bill is likely to be passed after October next, according to the Asian-American Free Labour Institute (AAFILI) sources in Dhaka.

The AAFILI sources said that the US Congress had made significant changes in the Harkins Bill. The amendments include the legal definition of 'child' with the age limit reduced from 15 to 14 to reflect that many countries define child with the age limit being 14 for purposes of their labour law. Another amendment concerns provision for funds for programmes to support the children who are presently working and stand to lose their jobs if the child labour laws are enforced.

The revised Harkins Bill seeks to allocate a maximum of 10 million dollars per year for funding education and support programmes for children.

**Plea to resist June 30 hartal**

Workers Party leaders Thursday branded any Opposition move to form an alliance with the Jamaat-i-Islami 'suicidal' and warned such move would mislead the people. The Workers Party called upon the people to unitedly resist the hartal. A meeting of the politbureau of the party yesterday observed that the planned hartal on June 30 was a conspiracy to impose the influence of the 'pro-Moududis' on the God-fearing people of the country.

**Chittagong Steel Mills**

From Page 1 Col 3 mills' products had to face unrequited competition with the foreign steel products because of irrational duty structure, he said. The CSM, which incurred a loss of over Tk 200 crore during the last 15 years, has remained almost inoperative since April, 1991. It was set up in 1965 with the Japanese financial and technical assistance and it started commercial operation 1967 with an investment of about Tk 300 crore.

The CSM is composed of seven manufacturing units and has a production capacity of 1,46,000 tonnes of MS billet, 72,000 tones of MS plate, 60,000 tonnes of MS sheet and 10,000 tonnes of other steel products a year. The seven units of the CSM are: the melting shop, the blooming mill, the bar mill, the sheet and plate mill, the heavy plate mill, the galvanizing shop and the casting and forging shop.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal(R) at Sylhet and offered fateha there yesterday. —PID photo

**Press Council body urges newspapers to be responsible**

The Press Council newspaper standing committee yesterday called upon the newspapers to be responsible and objective in presenting news in the interest of keeping the country's law and order situation unperturbed, reports BSS. The committee in a meeting held in Dhaka with the Chairman of the Bangladesh Press Council Justice Sultan Hossain Khan in the chair urged the newspapers to uphold the dignity of courts and above all to work to ensure patience at all levels and situations.

The meeting observed with concern that a kind of restlessness and intolerance against various judicial procedures including judgement of the highest court of the country does not only constitute insinuation against the judicial system but can also create a painfully contemptuous situation towards the judiciary and judicial system. The council was particularly concerned because of the fact that such impatience and restlessness against judicial system by some people had been painfully reflected in news items which is incoherent with the ethics of journalism. At the same time, the meeting opined that expression of over enthusiasm by some on procedures of courts cannot be considered responsible conduct. Such conduct, the meeting said, might create regrettable situation where the samity of judicial system may be affected.

**PM opens Lions Shishu Hospital in Sylhet**

SYLHET, June 23: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today opened the newly constructed 50-bed Lions Shishu Hospital here and said this would help reduce the child mortality, and remove malnutrition and expand the health services, reports BSS. The Prime Minister unveiled the plaque of Taka ore hospital of the Lions Club of Sylhet which will provide free medical services to the poor and disadvantaged children. Besides outdoor medical services, the hospital will carry out the immunization and mother care programmes.

Organisers said, the first phase of the hospital has been completed and added it would be turned into a 100-bed hospital in phases.

The Prime Minister appreciated this noble effort of constructing the Shishu hospital at the private level and hoped this initiative would encourage other non-governmental organisations and affluent sections in taking up welfare-oriented programmes.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, District Governor of Lions Club International District 315 B1 Ataul Karim, president of Lions Club of Sylhet Dr M A Matin and chairman of the Lions Shishu Hospital Azizur Rahman spoke on the occasion. The Prime Minister also inaugurated the seventh branch of the Eastern Bank Limited at Laidighirpar in the town. Begum Zia later directed

the party leaders and workers here to gear up the organisational activities for strengthening the base of the party. She was talking to the Sylhet district BNP leaders who called on her at the Circuit House.

The district BNP leaders apprised the BNP chairperson of the party activities there.

Begum Khaleda Zia also visited the mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal (RA) and offered fateha there.

Later, the Prime Minister went to the mazar of Hazrat Shahpan (RA), about eight kilometres from here.

**PM: Teachers**

From Page 1 Col 4 Education will start yielding positive results within a short time. She said, all credit for success of the programmes will go to the teachers. The leaders of the non-government teachers present at the meeting included Sheikh Amanullah, Mohammad Kamruzzaman, Nazrul Islam, Kazi Farooq Ahmed, Nurullah and Asadul Huq.

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Abdus Salam Talukder, Post and Telecommunications Minister Tariqul Islam, Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar, Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, State Minister for Education Principal Euaus Khan and Qamrul Islam, MP were also present.

Some unidentified youth assaulted and stabbed the victim Rakonuzzaman in his room at the Jasimuddin Hall at about 11 pm Wednesday. Sources said that a row between Rokan and some other hallmates originated over the occupation of a seat in the hall TV room during the World Cup football match between Belgium and Morocco on June 19.

Rokon is a 3rd year student of the Department of Mass Communication and Journalism of the Dhaka University. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College.

**Women's memos to PM, Speaker**

By Staff Correspondent

Noted women activists yesterday handed over separate memoranda to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali demanding legal action against the 'fatwabaq' for creating anarchy in the country.

The women activists alleged that some leaders have been making false propaganda against the NGO's and women organisations of the country by distorting religion. They have been doing these under the banner of a fundamentalist political party, the women leaders said and added the student activists of that party have also "unleashed a reign of terror" in the country's educational institutions.

At this moment, government action against these activities has become essential, the women leaders added.

The signatories to the memoranda include Rokeya Kabir of Women's Development Forum, Sima Das of Ganotantrik Nari Andolan, Humaira Islam of Shakti Foundation, F Siddiqi of BFTU and Salma Ali of B/MAS.

**Step up agitation for trial of Azam: Razzak**

Awami League Presidium member Abdur Razak MP yesterday urged the patriotic and freedom-loving people to step up agitation to press for holding trial of Golam Azam on charges of war crimes and high treason reports UNB.

**Cotton mills**

From Page 1 Col 8

This is for the first time that an industrial project is being financed under a Consortium arrangement in Bangladesh.

The project, at 100 per cent capacity utilisation, will be capable of producing 2.188 million kilogram of cotton and blended yarn per annum and provide employment to about 700 people.

It is expected to contribute Tk 66.014 million annually to the country's GDP.

**It all ended in stabbing**

By DU Correspondent

A student of the Dhaka University was stabbed Wednesday night following a dispute over taking of a seat in the TV room during a World Cup match.

Some unidentified youth assaulted and stabbed the victim Rakonuzzaman in his room at the Jasimuddin Hall at about 11 pm Wednesday.

The meeting discussed 9-point demands of the association. The minister gave patient hearing to the polytechnic teachers and assured them to solve their problems.

**Golam Azam**

From Page 1 Col 4

Azam said the Jamaat will work for unity on the basis of the teachings of Islam. The Jamaat leader also said he was sorry if he had committed any mistake in the past. But, he added, he did not do anything detrimental to the national interest. He called for forgetting the bitterness of the past.

**Hata may face**

From Page 1 Col 7

A confidence motion that would force Hata to resign of call elections if it passed. The confusing maneuvering, which involves a variety of potential alliances, underlined that Japan's political system remains in a transition begun last year when the Liberal Democrats lost power for the first time since 1955.

The Socialists were part of the government under Hata's predecessor but stormed out hours after Hata was chosen prime minister April 25. A return by the Socialists to Hata's fold would probably not result in any immediate policy changes. However, the Socialists have generally taken a softer line on North Korea's nuclear programme and reject the idea of Japan joining any UN military force that might be formed.

If the Liberal Democrats' no-confidence motion succeeds, Hata has hinted he would call a general election. That would leave a political vacuum in Japan during the summit of the Group of Seven industrialised nations next month and make progress on US-Japan trade talks less likely.

The no-confidence motion will not be voted on until Friday at the earliest. In theory, rebuilding the alliance between the socialists and the governing coalition would assure Hata's survival.

**Break with Jamaat and JP, CPB urges AL**

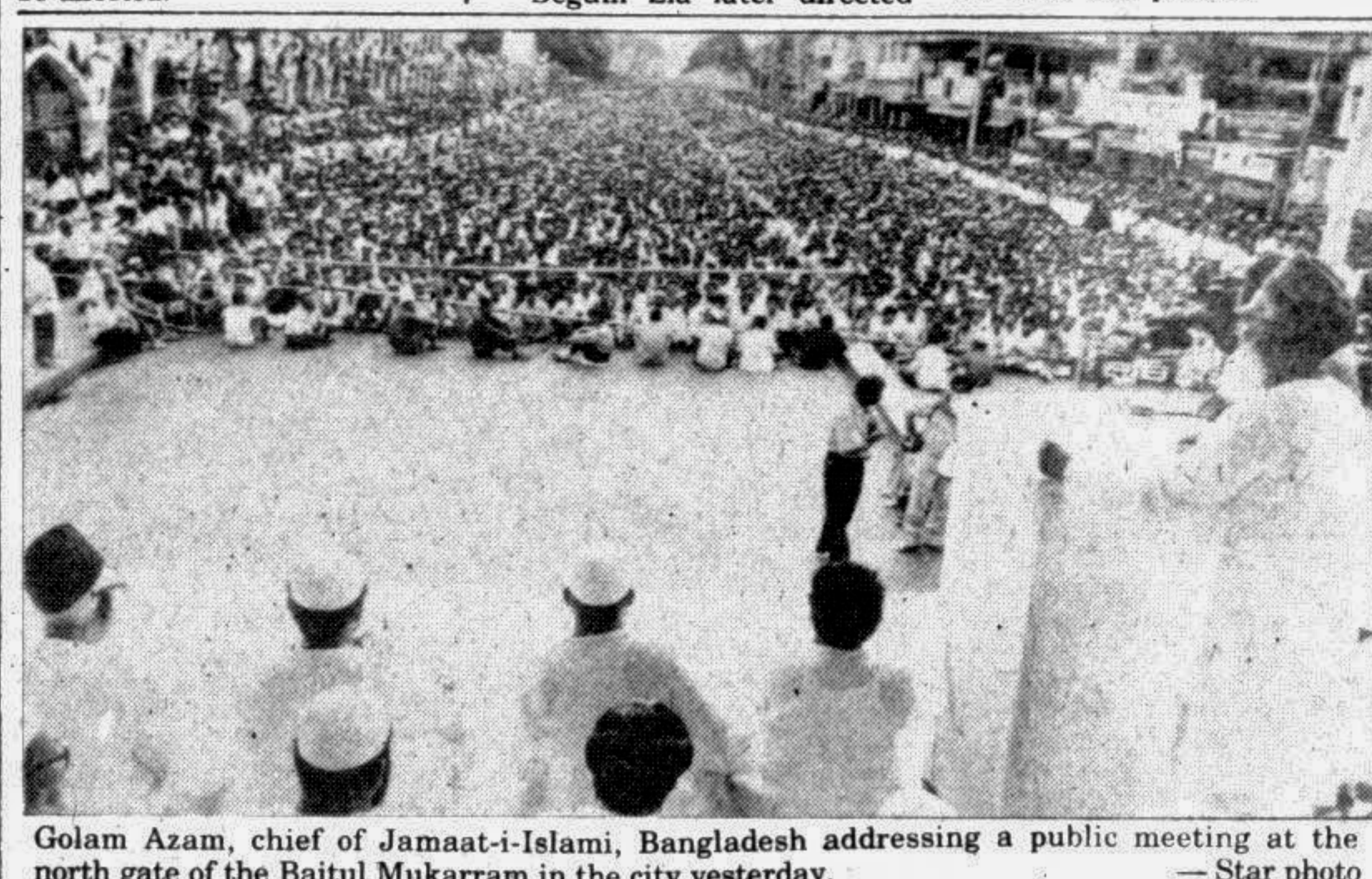
By Staff Correspondent

The Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) has called upon the Awami League (AL) to break with the 'anti-independence fundamentalist party' Jamaat and 'autocrat Ershads' Jatiya Party (JP).

General Secretary of CPB Mujahidul Islam Selim in a statement yesterday, urged the AL to join hand with the left-progressive parties in the movements against failures of the government and activities of the fundamentalist forces.

Selim expressed his concern at the news of a three-day formal discussion among the AL, JP and Jamaat. "When the Jamaat has launched a tirade against free thinking and independent journalism, meetings between it and the AL would only fuel the heinous activities of Jamaat," he said.

The contention that the AL was compelled to form an alliance with the Jamaat and JP to ensure free and fair elections is not tenable, Selim said. He termed a "fascist" party and JP "vote dacoits" and said "they can never work for free and fair polls".



Golam Azam, chief of Jamaat-i-Islami, Bangladesh addressing a public meeting at the north gate of the Baitul Mukarram in the city yesterday. —Star photo

**The day of the underdogs**

From Page 1 Col 7 After a disappointing 1-1 tie with the United States in their opening game, the Swiss overwhelmed a Romanian team that had outgunned the Colombian 3-1.

Alain Sutter (16th minute), Stéphane Chapuisat (53rd), Adrian Knap (66th) and George Bregy (72nd) fired the goals that tied Switzerland best ever World Cup performance, a 4-1 thumping of Italy in 1954 when they hosted the tournament. Gheorghe Hagi fired his second goal of the tournament and Florin Raducioiu, who scored twice against Colombia, this time twice was foiled by acrobatic Swiss goalie Marco Pascolo.

Romanian substitute Ion Vladiou was sent off in the 73rd minute only seconds after he went onto the field for clattering into Switzerland's Christophe Ohrel.

The Colombians, who face the United States in another Group A game later Wednesday, were stunned by a death threat aimed at midfielder Gabriel Gomez, older brother of assistant coach Hernan Dario Gomez. Team spokesman Javier Hernandez said coach Francisco Maturana decided to replace Gomez with Hernan Gaviria after the front office at the team's hotel told the delegation that it had received a death threat against Gomez. Maturana considered resigning over the matter, then decided to remain with the team. The death threat was sent to the team's hotel in Fullerton, Calif, spokesman Javier Hernandez said. "The threats, came on telefax and contained very serious threats," he said. "We don't know the origin of these threats. The threats were against the team in general and Gomez in particular. "They threatened to blow up the house of Gabriel Gomez. Cameroon goalie and team captain Joseph-Antoine Bell said in San Francisco that a pay dispute had been going on for some time with the team officials. The players reportedly have not been paid for two months and it is not clear how much they are owed.

"It's always the same problem," Bell said. "The players are not happy. They have not gotten their bonuses, their salaries." "I know there is a possibility to arrange everything, to solve the problem. But the players are anxious, because nothing has been done." The developments involving Colombia and Cameroon cast a shadow over the 15th World Cup on a day when FIFA showered praise on Brazil and Nigeria for their first impressive performances of the championship. Joseph Blatter, the general secretary of soccer's world governing body, said the three-time champion from South America and the first-time World Cup team from Africa had impressed him most with their stylish play. "Brazil were very well organised on the field," he said. "And Nigeria were using the space. They reminded me of the Dutch teams of 1974-78, using all the space on the field." Brazil beat Russia 2-0 Monday, while Nigeria beat Bulgaria 3-0 Tuesday.

**The Midnight File**

**Arafat sets new conditions**

TUNIS, June 23: PLO leader Yasser Arafat has set new conditions he wants met before he will move to the West Bank town of Jericho to assume authority of the autonomous Palestinian territories, sources said Thursday. Arafat also is stepping up efforts to secure the dirrs 42 million international donors have promised to fund the Palestinian self-government through August, reports AP.

**Two Polish UN peacekeepers killed in Croatia blast**

ZAGREB, June 23: Two Polish UN peacekeepers were killed and two others were injured today in a mine blast while on a mine clearance mission in a Serb-held region of Croatia, UN spokesmen said here. An officer with the Polish contingent in sector north, based at Slunj, 60 kilometers, south of Zagreb, said the two men died while clearing a road between two UN-supervised positions, reports AP.

**The debit & credit of World Cup on TV!**

MOSCOW, June 23: Live coverage of World Cup soccer matches in the United States is good news and bad news for Moscow. Crime is down but so is parliamentary attendance, reports AP.

Ivan Rybkin, speaker of the lower house of Parliament, the Duma, has demanded lawmakers return to work Friday to consider the national budget, the newspaper Segodnya said Thursday.

He said the budget was not approved at Wednesday's session because supporters were absent after staying up late to watch World Cup matches, which are aired well after midnight in Moscow because of the time difference.

The games are also being replayed on daytime television, another reason for lawmakers and other soccer fans to stay home.

Segodnya doubted a full house would be at parliament Friday. "This is unlikely: Television will broadcast a World Cup soccer match in which the Russian team will play."

What is bad for Parliament, however, is a plus for the rest of Moscow since crime is down significantly.

A survey Wednesday by the Vechernaya Moskva newspaper of 20 district police stations in Moscow showed "The number of criminal offences has dropped significantly during World Cup matches," the newspaper said.

It quoted Maj. Alexander Kanesev, a precinct commander, as saying World Cup and Olympic Games caused crime to drop off by as much as 70 per cent.

"Only domestic quarrels remain at the same level," he said. "In most cases, they are initiated by wives angry at their husbands for watching soccer on television."

**Road barricade**

From Page 1 Col 4 To 12 noon. Thousands of people belonging to different political parties and organisations successfully put up barricades on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway, and the rail track.

The Daudkandi Ferry ghat was also under the barricade programme. The Parishad held 10 rallies at different points of the three districts. Parishad convener Prof Khurshid Alam, member secretary A K M Bahauddin Bahar, Jatiya Party leader Ansar Ahmed, BNP leader Kamaluddin and other leaders addressed the rallies.

**Publication ceremony**

Publication ceremony of 'The Prescription' edited by National Prof Dr. N Islam will be held today at 5:00 pm at the National Press Club here, reports BSS. Mofnu Hossain and Mahfuz Anam will be the chief guest and special guest respectively. The function will be presided over by Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed.

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে তিতাস গ্যাস আওতাভুক্ত সকল এলাকায় সরকারী ও স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠানসহ সকল খেলাপি গ্রাহকের গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান ৬ই জুন '৯৪ থেকে পুনরায় শুরু হয়েছে। ১৯৯৩-৯৪ অর্থ বৎসরের উক্ত চতুর্থ বিশেষ অভিযানে ২২-৬-৯৪ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত ঢাকা মহানগরী এলাকায় মোট ৬০০টি গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন করা হয়।

সকল সম্মানিত গ্রাহককে অবিলম্বে বকেয়া গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকারী দলকে গ্যাস ব্যবহারের স্বানে বকেয়া পরিশোধের রশিদ প্রদর্শন করার অনুরোধ জানানো হলো। সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত গ্রাহক বিকাল ৫-০০টার মধ্যে কোম্পানীর সর্ভদেয় জোন/অফিসে পরিশোধিত বিলের রশিদ দেখাতে পারলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে পুনঃসংযোগ প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হবে।

সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকৃত ৩ (তিন) মাসের মধ্যে পুনঃসংযোগ না নিলে গ্যাস সংযোগ স্বীকৃতিভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণসহ গ্যাস সরবরাহ চুক্তি বাতিল করা হবে।

প্রাকৃতিক গ্যাসের ব্যবহার মূল্যবান বন সম্পদ রক্ষা করে পরিবেশের ভারসাম্য বক্ষায় সহায়তা করে। গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ করে পরিবেশ সুরক্ষণে এগিয়ে আসুন।

গ্যাসের সঠিক ব্যবহার মূল্যবান বৈশেষিক মুদ্রা সাধারণ করে অর্থনীতিতে সমৃদ্ধি আনে।

বকেয়া আদায় এবং গ্যাসের অপচয় রোধ ও সুরক্ষণকল্পে সকলের সহযোগিতা আমাদের একান্ত কাম্য।

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"পাছ লাগান, পাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বাঁচান" - প্রধানমন্ত্রী

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