

MARBLE MARBLE MARBLE
 WE HAVE HUGE READY STOCK OF
 ITALIAN CARRARA, PERLATO SICILIA,
 BOTTICINO, INDIAN KESSWARI GREEN,
 MALAYSIAN AND PAKISTANI MARBLE
 OF DIFFERENT TYPES.
NIRMAN INTERNATIONAL LTD.
 199, TEJGAON I/A, DHAKA.
 TEL: 805957, 607363 SHOW ROOM: 861985

The Daily Star

কর্মবাস্ত মানুসের জন্য স্বাস্থ্যকর পানীয়
Nestlé
NESTOMALT
 MALTED FOOD DRINK

VOL. VII NO. 142 REGD. NO. DA 781 ASHAR 2 1404 BS. DHAKA MONDAY, JUNE 16, 1997 SAFAR 9 1418 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 6.00

Educational instts to enjoy weekly holiday only on Friday

The educational institutions, both government and private ones, will enjoy weekly holiday only on Friday, reports BSS.

The government took the decision after reviewing the practical situation of the schools and colleges, an official hand-out said, yesterday.

The education ministry at a high level meeting observed that the educational institutions generally enjoy different types of holidays on different occasions and it would be difficult to complete the syllabus in time if the institutions enjoy two-day weekly holiday.

So, the two-day weekly holiday, as announced by the government, will not be applicable to the educational institutions.

See Page 12 Col 7

Pay Commission urges newspapers not to publish 'anticipatory report'

The attention of the National Pay Commission has been drawn to the news item published in different newspapers on the national pay scale, reports BSS.

In a statement yesterday the National Pay Commission said that different newspapers were publishing anticipatory reports on pay commission.

But the pay commission report has not yet been submitted to the government.

The National Pay Commission has requested newspapers concerned not to publish any reports on pay commission reports for the greater interest of the country.

Mass movement if Manikganj bypolls is rigged, warns BNP

MANIKGANJ, June 15: BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan today warned that the Awami League government will be forced to step down through a mass movement if it fails to ensure a fair vote in Manikganj-3 bypolls, reports UNB.

"If the government resorts to rigging to change the byelection result on June 30, we will launch a demonstration from here," he said at a projection meeting of BNP candidate Adv Abdul Wahab Khan at Manikganj Court premises in the afternoon.

Presided over by opposition chief whip Khandker Delwar Hossain the meeting was also addressed by BNP MPs Barrister Ziaur Rahman Khan, Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Amanullah Aman, Fazul Huq Milon, Sirajul Islam Selim, Mojibur Rahman, Adv Azad Hossain Khan, Adv Jamilur Rashid Khan, Golem Mohiar Khan Shipper and Maksudur Rahman Mukul.

Justifying BNP's participation

See Page 12 Col 7

PM returns today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returns this morning after attending D-8 Summit in Istanbul, reports UNB.

On her arrival, she will address a press conference at Zia International Airport.

Inside Today

Article
Emerging Security Order in Asia-Pacific
 by Brig (Retd) M Abdul Hafiz
 Page 4

Focus

On import of electricity from neighbour
 Page 5

International

Colombian rebels ready to free govt troops

Israeli SC rejects appeal to indict Netanyahu
 Page 8

Business

Govt to review proposed duty on raw cotton, textile machinery:
 Kibria

DSE index experiences 9-point fall
 Pages 6,7

Explosion in Occidental's well in Moulvibazar Huge blaze engulfs gas field

Star Report

A massive explosion in a gas well in Moulvibazar during drilling by US company Occidental in the early hours of yesterday sent fires leaping up to 500 feet, forcing people and animals to flee the area.

There was no immediate report of casualty. The drilling site at Magurachhara under Kamolganj thana is in the southern part of exploration block 14 inside Fulbari Tea Garden.

As reports continued to reach the capital till last night, officials said trees and tea plantations were still burning in the tea garden.

Our Moulvibazar Correspondent who rushed to the spot reported that the fire was totally out of control. About one and-a-half square kilometre area of Magurachhara has been illuminated by the fire after

the explosion at around 1:45 am.

He further reported that the fire may proceed towards Lawachhara forest, Fulbari and Nurjahan tea gardens and Magurachhara Pan-Punjee. There is also a stock of 76,000 litres of fuel at the drilling site.

People from the area have been evacuated as a precautionary measure. Rail and road communication with the area have been suspended for safety reasons, officials in Dhaka said.

The officials said that the explosion took place due to "uncontrollable high pressure" inside the well. Occidental had reached a depth of 840 metres when the explosion took place.

A high-powered investigation committee consisting officials of Petrobangla, Occidental and the local ad-

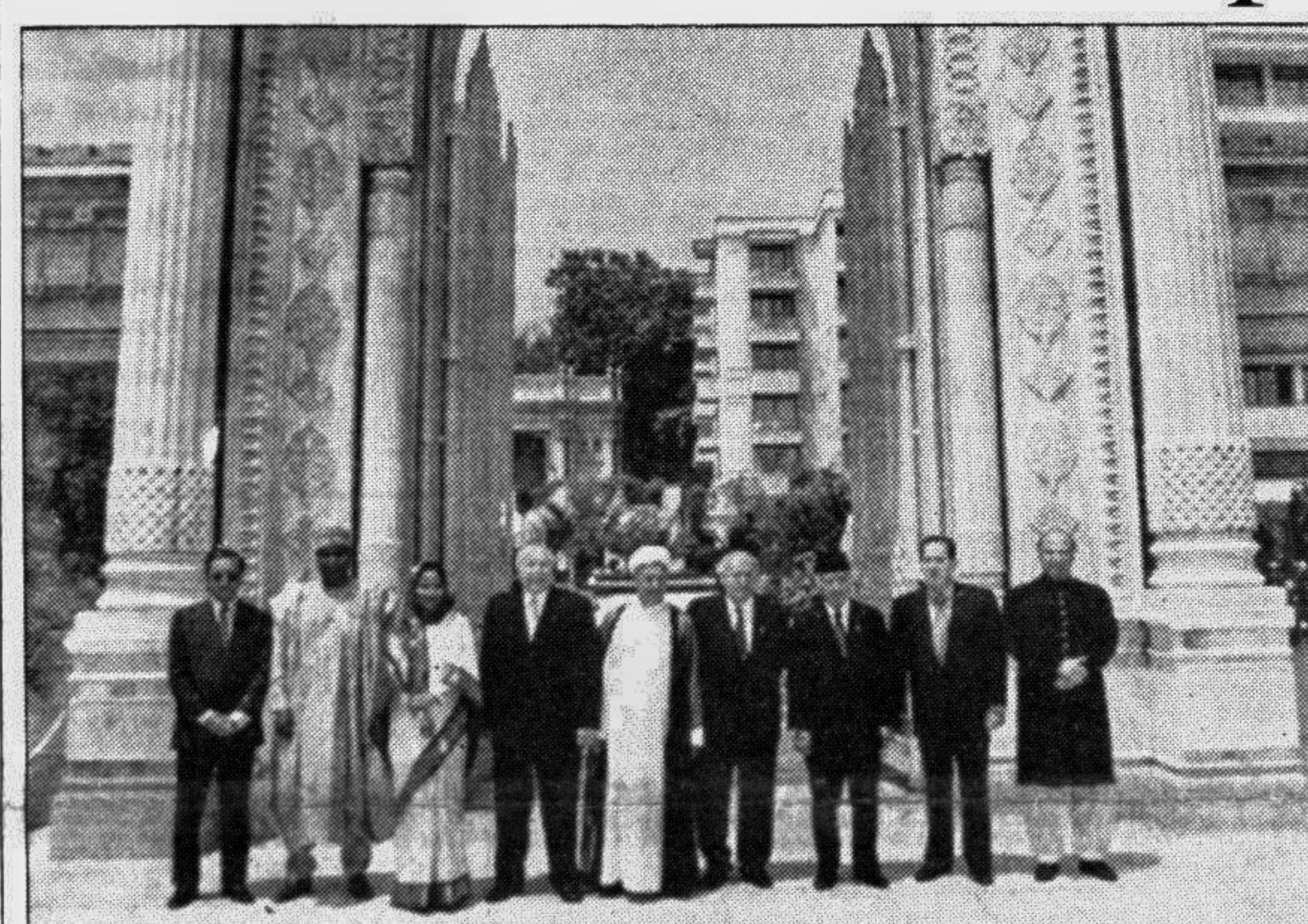
ministration has been formed to probe the incident, said an official press release. The committee has been instructed to submit its report within 10 days.

It was learnt that the drilling operation of Occidental was not being monitored by any representative of the government. A Joint Review Committee consisting of three government representatives and three representatives from the companies concerned is supposed to monitor, supervise and control the activities of foreign companies.

"At least two government representatives were supposed to be present at the drilling site. Unfortunately, there was none," an official said.

See Page 12 Col 3

D-8 launched: 12-pt Istanbul Declaration adopted



Leaders of eight countries, meeting for the Developing-Eight (D-8) summit in Istanbul, gather for a photo session in front of the imperial gate of 19th century Ottoman palace of Ciragan along the Bosphorus straits. From left are Prime Minister Mahathir of Malaysia, Lieutenant-general Mohammed Haladu of Nigeria, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh, Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan of Turkey, President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani of Iran, President Suleyman Demirel of Turkey, President Suharto of Indonesia, Prime Minister Kamal Ganzouri of Egypt, and Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of Pakistan.

ISTANBUL, June 15: The D-8 countries today adopted a 12-point declaration, pledging to cooperate with each other for mutual development in various fields, including trade, industry and financial projects, reports UNB.

The declaration, adopted at the summit of the heads of state and government of eight Muslim countries, decided to evolve a mechanism for development cooperation among the member countries.

The D-8 forum, comprising Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan and Turkey, will have no adverse effect on bilateral or multilateral cooperation of the member states.

It decided to cooperate in the fields of trade, industry, communication and information, finance, banking and privatisation, rural development, science and technology, poverty alleviation and human resources development, agriculture, energy, environment, health, tourism, and culture and sports.

The summit declaration approved the report of the Council which agreed on six priority projects to be launched immediately.

It declared to encourage the establishment of joint business councils among the chambers of commerce and industry, and other related bodies of the member countries.

See Page 12 Col 3

Bangladesh gain one-day cricket status

Al-Amin & Syed Ashfaqul Haque

The International Cricket Council (ICC) has officially recognised Bangladesh as the tenth one-day playing nation yesterday.

The world cricket's body awarded ICC Trophy champions Bangladesh with the One Day International (ODI) status at its ongoing annual conference in Lord's, according to a telephonic message received here late last night.

Kenya, the runners-up in the ICC tourney, also got the ODI along with Bangladesh.

But, Bangladesh's plea for the Test status, the ultimate target for the cricketing nations, was turned down by the ICC delegates, comprising representatives from the nine Test-playing countries.

The ICC, however, has given Bangladesh the maximum two-year time to demonstrate reasonable improvement compared to other Test-playing nations before considering awarding of the senior status.

The historic decision is a milestone in the annals of our country's sports. The recognition makes Bangladesh eligible to play in the abridged version of the game against any of the nine Test-playing nations.

During the probationary two years, Bangladesh will have to compete in different international one-day tournaments as well as unofficial three or four-day matches to justify their Test bid, said BCB secretary Tanjib Hossain Saad.

"ICC will carefully monitor Bangladesh's improvement in the days to come. But what we have gathered over the telephonic conversation with our president (Saber Hossain), ICC is very happy with the cricket culture here and the recent successes, and awarding of the Test status may take place even earlier," added Saad.

Saber, who is now attending the week-long conference, was overwhelmingly applauded by the audience while making his nearly 30-minute presentation speech. Earlier, twenty-three associate members in their meeting had adopted a resolution supporting Bangladesh's Test plea.

Bangladesh got the ICC associate membership in July 26, 1977. And since then have so far played twelve one-day international matches after making their debut against Pakistan way back in 1986 in the second Asia Cup in Colombo.

After independence Bangladesh's journey towards the cricketing glory was never been on a silky way. When the neighbours — India and Pakistan — obtained the Test status immediately after the partition

See Page 12 Col 8

Dhaka's call to promote trade, investment within D-8

ISTANBUL, June 15: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called for jointly harnessing the full potential of D-8 countries in all possible fields including trade, economy, culture, sports and education for the benefit of over 800 million people, reports UNB.

Within the purview of Developing-8, she said, Bangladesh has already initiated steps to further consolidate cooperation in areas like investment, privatisation, technology transfer, transportation, trade, telecommunications, energy, culture, education and industry.

The Prime Minister was addressing the launching ceremony of the D-8 economic cooperation group at Ciragan Palace Hotel in the historic Turkish city this afternoon.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel inaugurated the first-ever summit of eight developing Muslim nations — Bangladesh, Pakistan, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria and Turkey.

"There exists an excellent potential for D-8 member countries to collaborate with Bangladesh in the fields of telecommunications, generation, distribution and transmission of energy, ports, roads and development of other infrastructures," Hasina said in her speech.

The D-8 should make special efforts for enhanced cooperation with the seven most powerful economies of the developed world, the G-7, she suggested.

As coordinator of the LDCs, Hasina mentioned that she had recently urged the G-7 leaders to make the global trade regime more responsive to the realities in the developing countries, particularly the LDCs.

She said the emergence of nearly 60 regional economic arrangements since the mid-80s demonstrated the growing interest of the countries in economic integration.

See Page 12 Col 1

The Prime Minister said the world has now become more interdependent, cooperation among nations is the order of the day and the international scenario significantly changed.

"We are now better placed to try and forge mutually beneficial cooperation not only within the developing world but also between the developing and developed countries.

"You do not need modern machineries to destroy the syringes. Hospital wards, dispensaries and clinics could always afford to have these pliers and it takes a second to crush one," he added.

Bhutani, also a dermatologist and venerologist at the Sitaran Bharathi Institute of Science and Research, told The Daily Star that re-using disposable syringes would spread the deadly HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B

See Page 12 Col 8

'A confessed adulterer can't head Church of England'

LONDON, June 15: Prince Charles should end his relationship with Camilla Parker Bowles or abdicate his claim to the British throne, a senior clergyman said today, reports AP.

We are not going to have a confessed adulterer as supreme head of the Church of England," said the Rev. David Streeter, director of the Church Society, the senior evangelical body of the state Church of England.

"I am a monarchist... but I am not prepared to accept an adulterous relationship being publicly manifested in this way," he told Good Morning Television's Sunday programme.

Streeter's comments are among the most outspoken in the national debate on Charles' future, which has been going on since he and Princess Diana were divorced last year.

Diana blamed Parker

Bowles, 49, for the failure of the royal marriage. Charles, 48, confirmed long-standing rumors of an affair while he was married.

Since his divorce, Charles has spent a great deal of his private time with Parker Bowles, who was divorced in 1995. Part of the public debate has focused on whether they will marry.

There are no legal obstacles to Charles becoming king when Queen Elizabeth II dies, even with a divorced woman as his queen, constitutional experts say. Both Henry VIII and George I were divorced while on the throne.

The Church of England does not permit remarriage of divorcees in Church, but Charles could marry in a civil ceremony. Archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, the Church's spiritual leader, said in 1995 that he would give the Church's

See Page 12 Col 8



'Medical staff should crush used syringes'

By Morshed Ali Khan

Doctors, nurses and other medical staff should take responsibility for destroying all used syringes.

This was stated by the World Health Organisation's (WHO) consultant for Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STD) in Bangladesh, Lalit K Bhutani. All medical workers should keep pliers handy to break syringes immediately after use, he said.

"You do not need modern machineries to destroy the syringes. Hospital wards, dispensaries and clinics could always afford to have these pliers and it takes a second to crush one," he added.

Bhutani, also a dermatologist and venerologist at the Sitaran Bharathi Institute of Science and Research, told The Daily Star that re-using disposable syringes would spread the deadly HIV/AIDS, Hepatitis B

See Page 12 Col 8

Deadline ends ID card for DU students still in process

By DU Correspondent

The deadline for issuing identity cards to the students of Dhaka University expired yesterday, official sources said.

The Provost Standing Committee at a meeting on June 1 had decided to issue laminated identity cards to the students of various halls by June 15.

The meeting also decided to deploy policemen at the entrances to all residential halls of the university for checking identity cards.

Talking to The Daily Star, the Proctor of the university, Dr Nur-Un Nabi said the process of issuing identity cards could not be started from the first week of June as the preparatory work is yet to be completed. He said the committee was now collecting the names of the resident students.

The Proctor said, "The committee is preparing a proposal regarding how the cards will be prepared."

The proposal will be submitted to the Vice Chancellor and after getting his approval, the identity cards will be prepared.

Share certificates, cash worth over Tk 3cr looted in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 15: Share certificates worth Tk three crore and cash amounting to Tk 8.84,000 were looted from Meenhar Securities Ltd located at Agrabad commercial area, by an organised gang of miscreants last night, police said.

The gang stormed into the office building and started gossipping with night guards and at one stage entertained them with green coconut water and banana.

Police suspected that seductives might have been put in the water and banana that made the night guards unconscious.

Commissioner of Chittagong Metropolitan Police Asraful Huda today visited the office of Meenhar Securities, owned by Habibullah Khan, managing director of Meenhar Group of Companies and vice-president of Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE).

The case was handed over to detective branch of Chittagong Metropolitan Police for investigation.

Police said the four night guards were taken to Double-mooring thana for interrogation. But no other arrests were made till last night.

Police said, one of the mis-

'Duty on some items should go' AL MPs for surcharge only on luxury items

In a major move, the ruling Awami League legislators yesterday reached a consensus on the question of withdrawing duty on a number of major items and keeping the proposed surcharge only on luxury items, reports UNB.

The consensus was reached on the concluding day of the two-day orientation workshop for the ruling party MPs on the proposed national budget for 1997-98 at Sangsad Bhaban.

About 80 MPs joined the lengthy deliberation, spreading over nearly 26 hours. Members of the cabinet and country's leading economists also took part in the deliberation.

Sources in the ruling party told UNB that the MPs discussed in details various fiscal measures proposed in the new budget and unanimously recommended withdrawal of customs duty on textile machinery, raw cotton, 10 HP diesel engine, writing and printing paper, wire nail, slipper made of rubber and plastic, and soap.

The ruling party MPs, who were critical of the finance minister, also agreed that the proposed 2.5 per cent infrastructure surcharge should be withdrawn from all items excepting the luxury goods.

The members expressed the opinion that the elected representatives should be involved in the budget-making process in future.

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria, Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzak, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, Food and Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury, Energy Minister Lt Gen (retd) M Noor Uddin Khan, MP's parliamentary affairs advisor Suranjit Sengupta, State Minister for Labour Abdul Mannan, State Minister for Planning Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir, State Minister for Health Dr

See Page 12 Col 1

Rail link with Sylhet snapped due to fire

By Staff Correspondent

The direct rail communication from Sylhet to Dhaka and Chittagong has been suspended due to fire at Magurachhara gas field in Moulvibazar district, official sources said.

However, the Sylhet bound trains from Dhaka and Chittagong will go up to Srimangal and only the mail and local trains will ply between Sylhet and Bhanugachh.

The Magurachhara gas field is located between Srimangal and Bhanugachh and the distance between the two stations is 12 km.

The fire has caused damage to the railway track, but its extent could not be known immediately.

UNB quoting officials at the Communication Ministry said movement of traffic on Srimangal-Shamshernagar-Brahmanbar feeder road have also remained suspended due to the unprecedented fire.

Writ challenging eligibility: BNP MP asked to show cause

By SC Correspondent

The High Court yesterday directed Ahsanul Huq Milan to show cause within two weeks as to under what legal authority he is continuing as a Member of the Parliament representing Kachua constituency under Chandpur district.

The division bench of the HC comprising Justice Md Mozammel Haque and Justice Md Hassan Amin upon a writ petition filed by Kazi Tajul Islam, a voter of the constituency, issued the rule nisi on the BNP MP.

It was stated in the writ petition that Ahsanul Huq Milan being a citizen of Bangladesh, in 1991 he also adopted the citizenship of the USA and in the 12th June, 1996 election he was elected a Member of the Parliament under a BNP ticket.

Advocate Bashir Ahmed, counsel for the petitioner submitted in the court that as per Article 66(2) (D) of the Constitution adoption of foreign citizen is a disqualification to be elected as a Member of the Parliament.

Recruitment of 4000 more policemen soon

By Mizan Ali

The government has decided to recruit about 4000 police personnel. According to official sources, an order has already been issued in this respect.

The recruitment will be in three categories. These are: Constable, Assistant Sub-inspector and Assistant Superintendent of Police.

The public announcement for recruitment in about 17 posts of ASP, 530 posts of ASI and 3500 posts of Constable will be made shortly. The vacant posts will be filled through promotion.

It was reported in The Daily Star, quoting official sources, recently that the government was planning to appoint 10,000 policemen in phases.

Tk 193 cr KCC budget announced

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 15: The Khulna city corporation today announced a Tk 193 crore budget for the fiscal 1997-98. Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman presented the budget at a press conference at the public hall.

No new tax has been imposed.

The development expenditure in the proposed budget has been estimated at Tk 174 crore 41 lakh which will come from government grant, project aid and the corporations own revenue income.

The Mayor said the revenue income of the corporation from taxes, fees and other sources would be over Tk 31 crore 7 lakh.

Privatisation of Panchagarh sugar mills postponed

The government has postponed privatisation of Panchagarh Sugar Mill for one year, according to an official hand-out in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed informed this decision of the Prime Minister to the leaders of Bangladesh Sugar Mills Sramik Karmachari Federation when they called on the minister in his office yesterday.

The minister directed the Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) to

See Page 12 Col 7