

## Four killed in road accidents

Four persons were killed and two injured in road accidents in Tangail, Nilphamari and Sylhet yesterday and day before, reports UNB.

An audit officer of Ghatail Cantonment was killed and two people were injured when a bus hit a motorcycle and a rickshaw van at Ghatail on Tangail-Mymensingh road yesterday. Police said Abdul Gafur, 55, the audit officer, died on the spot when a Mymensingh-bound bus knocked down his motorcycle at about 10 am.

Two rickshaw passengers — Khorshed Alam and Nayeb Ali — were injured as the same bus hit them in front of Ghatail Thana Health Complex.

Khorshed Alam was admitted to Mymensingh Medical College Hospital while Nayeb Ali to a local hospital.

Police seized the bus, but the driver fled the scene.

A young woman was killed when a passenger bus ran over her at Poura Market area in Nilphamari town on Monday, police said.

Piyara, 35, and her two children fell from their rickshaw when a Chhatia bound bus from Rangpur knocked the three wheeler at 5 pm. She was then run over by the running bus and died on the spot.

However, her children escaped unhurt.

Local people caught the driver and handed him over to the police. A case was filed with Sadar police in this connection.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet says: The head assistant of the district police office here, Syed Serajul Islam,

and his son were killed in a road accident on the Sylhet-Tamabil road on Sunday.

They were on their way to Sylhet town on a motorbike from Jafflong. The bike was hit by a speedy truck from behind at about 5 pm Sunday.

They hailed from village Murarabong Dargabari of Chunarughat thana under Habiganj district.

## It meet of AL Dhaka dist, city units June 19

By Staff Correspondent

A joint meeting of Awami League's Dhaka district and city units and those of 10 adjoining districts and their front units will be held on June 19, said a press release.

The meeting, to be held at the AL central office at 11 am, will discuss matters relating to the party's planned rally in the city on June 23. The rally will be held to celebrate the Awami League's one year in office.

Participating in the meeting will be the district unit leader of JSD (Rob), joined AL yesterday. AL presidium member Abdul Jalil and other party leaders were present on the occasion.

## Noor Uddin

From Page 1

Sunday after gas blew out due to high pressure after drilling 840 metre. Gas would have been extracted after drilling 3,000 metre, he said.

He said rail communication between Srimongal and Sylhet and road communication between Srimongal and Kamolganj have been suspended for safety. The people of the gas field area have nothing to be panicky and the local administration has advised them not to be scared, he said.

UNB adds: Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan told journalists that equipment and an expert from Singapore arrived yesterday while more experts and a team from Houston along with fire extinguisher equipment and chemicals are expected to fly into Dhaka by today to combat the blaze.

The experts coming from USA and Singapore will technically handle it to contain the fire by using chemicals, Noor Uddin Khan said.

Talking to newsmen at his parliament office the Energy Minister said there was no scope for further damage and the extent of damage was limited to a rig, few other drilling equipment and the investment made by the Occidental for the drilling.

Khan said the fire would not affect the reserve of the field, estimated at about half a trillion cubic feet, as it is still far below. The blowout took place when the Occidental rig dug in 840 metres. The well is at least at 3,500 to 4,000-metre depth.

He said except for the delays in the process, the loss would be borne by the company, which has already called experts from Houston, USA, and Singapore to extinguish the fire.

During exploration of gas all responsibilities lie with the drilling company with whom Production Sharing Contract (PSC) has been signed.

However, the minister could not say how long the experts would take to put out the raging fire.

## Lead-free fuel

From Page 1

diesel vehicles, Sajeda said. She informed the House that the decisions were taken in the second meeting of the National Environment Committee.

BSS adds: Replying to another question, Sajeda Choudhury said the government had undertaken measures to protect the Sundarbans mangrove forest and its flora and fauna.

"Two projects titled 'Operational Efficiency Developing Project' and 'Wild Life Preservation and Development Project' were undertaken to protect sundari, garan, gewa, and gollapata trees in the forest and its wild life," she said.

Three sanctuaries totaling 1,39,699 hectares have already been created for the preservation of wild life in the Sundarbans. "A process is going on to include these three sanctuaries in the world heritage list," the minister said.

## Three-nation summit

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we're ready to expand the field of cooperation as per necessity. The D-8 summit had initially identified six fields of cooperation among its members — trade and commerce, human resources, telecommunications and information flow, finance and banking, agriculture and industry — Hasina said, adding, "We'll also explore more fields of cooperation."

When asked why the presidents of Egypt and Nigeria did not attend the summit, she said they might have been preoccupied with emergency business at home and listened to add all the eight member-countries were represented in the summit.

About the explosion in a gas well in Moulvibazar, Hasina said she was informed of the accident while in Istanbul. In this regard, she said experts from Singapore were brought to investigate causes of the accident.

Earlier, the Prime Minister gave a brief statement on Sunday's D-8 summit and her bilateral talks with the heads of government or state and representatives of the member-

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## NBR clarifies budget proposal on income tax return

The National Board of Revenue yesterday said that according to the provisions in the proposed budget, persons residing in the metropolitan and municipal areas and having one or more of the items — Pucca house, motor car or telephone — would be required to submit income tax return, reports BSS.

Referring to newspaper reports, the NBR clarified that the proposal did not say that they would have to pay income tax on compulsory basis.

If an owner of the above mentioned items has an annual income over Taka 60,000, only then he will have to pay income tax according to the existing rates, the clarification said.

In this case, the tax payers could also take advantage of self assessment of income tax, it said.

## 13 policemen hurt in clash with EPZ workers at Savar

By Staff Correspondent

Thirteen policemen were injured in a clash with the workers of the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) at Savar, according to Savar thana police.

The clash between the two sides started after police resorted to baton charge to disperse the angry workers who were staying a demonstration at about 10:30 in the morning. Police fired tear gas shells to bring the situation under control.

Two workers, Kausar and Gias were arrested.

## JS Snippets

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lack of relief and rehabilitation measures for the affected. In reply, State Minister for Relief and Disaster Management Talukdar Abdul Khaleque issued a lengthy statement refuting Choudhury's allegations.

As the Opposition MPs started shouting at the state minister, asking him to stop, the Deputy Speaker commented, "It's tit for tat."

Talukdar had to sit without completing his several-page statement amid shouting from the BNP lawmakers.

Mashur Rahman of BNP said industrial production could not be increased during the last one year through *chhapabazi*.

Reacting to this, Awami League MP Sharif Khushruzzaman said, "Who else could be a better *chhapabazi* than Mashur who did his matriculation in the sixties and passed BA after becoming MP?"

Referring to another BNP legislator, Akhtaruzzaman, Khairuzzaman remarked, "The Opposition member gave VIP treatment to cows by carrying those from Australia in a plane."

Akhtaruzzaman imported cows during the rule of BNP that offered free air transport for dairy farm cows.

## UNDP report

From Page 1

lower class needed to regain its pride before poverty could be effectively reduced.

Prof. Ahmed stressed the need for a "pro-poor" budget and suggested effective policies be introduced to combat poverty in the Fifth Five Year Plan.

Constable said poverty was not just about lack of money, it was also about the denial of choices. He said poor people could not control the direction of their own lives.

The UNDP official said the alleviation of poverty was inextricably linked with peace, justice and development. "We should try to find out exactly who it is that holds the poor people back," he said.

Education specialist Dr. Farash Uddin said number of people living below the poverty line has increased over the last 30 years. Quoting official figures, he said 30 million people were living below poverty line in the 1960s which rose to 50 million in 1972 and exceeded 65 million in the mid '90s.

UNB adds: The UNDP report said South Asia has the most people affected by human poverty and it has the largest number of 510 million people in income poverty.

However, Bangladesh ranks 14th among the 45 low human development countries in UNDP's human development index. Bangladesh's position in HDI 144th among the 175 countries of the world.

Excepting Sri Lanka, all other South Asian countries have fallen in the low human-development category of the report. India is 8th, Pakistan 9th, Nepal 24th and Bhutan 25th.

Sri Lanka has been placed in the medium human development countries category. Its position is 27th among the 65 countries of medium category.

## PM to inaugurate tree plantation drive today

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will formally inaugurate the three-month long national tree plantation drive by planting a sapling at the Osmani Memorial auditorium premises here today, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister will distribute prizes among the winners of the "Prime Minister's National Award for tree plantation" for the years 1994 and 1995.

Minister for Forest and Environment Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury will remain present as the special guest.

The national tree plantation drive started from Pahela Ashar on Sunday.

The Ministry of Forest and Environment will organise a rally today to create mass awareness about tree plantation.

The rally, scheduled to begin at 8:15 am from the Shishu Academy premises, will be led by Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury.

Besides this, a tree fair is being organised at different district headquarters to create mass awareness about the tree plantation.

## NASA scientist beaten to death

PALO ALTO, California, June 16: Three men beat a NASA computer scientist to death as he took an evening stroll, baffling police in community that has few murders, reports AP.

Herbert Kay was attacked in downtown Palo Alto near his home in what police believe was a random attack.

The attack, which happened Thursday, was the first homicide this year in the well-to-do city of 27 miles southeast of San Francisco.

"It's very unusual," police Detective Jim Coffman said Sunday. "Things like this do not occur in Palo Alto. It's generally a safe city."

There were two homicides last year; in both cases the victims knew their assailants.

Kay, 38, moved to California in April with his wife and 2-year-old twin daughters. He was working at the NASA Ames Research Centre to develop space vehicles capable of monitoring their own conditions, said Benjamin Kuipers, Kay's dissertation adviser in college.

## District PP

From Page 1

accused and in the case file it is recorded that the accused is absconding.

But in the same court of the District and Sessions Judge, Barisal that very Public Prosecutor is conducting a Session Case filed by Anisur Rahman, an Awami League leader, against the writ petitioner and others in which the Public Prosecutor himself is a witness.

Senior Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan assisted by Advocate Shishir Kanti Majumder and S M Rezaul Karim moved the writ petition.

## 45 hrs allocated for budget discussion

By Staff Correspondent

The maximum time — 75 hours 58 minutes — was allocated for budget discussion in the Fifth Jatiya Sangsad during its session in 1993, according to Jatiya Sangsad sources.

A total of 45 hours have been allocated for discussion on the proposed budget for 1997-98, said a source in the Business Advisory Committee that met on June 10.

Officials concerned said that 54 hours and 48 minutes were spent for budget discussion in the Fifth JS in 1991. Of this, 21 hours were spent for discussion on revised budget, finance bill and other related bills and 30 hours for that on the budget.

In 1992 and 1993, 67 hours 43 minutes and 75 hours 58 minutes respectively were spent for budget discussion. Of the total time in these two years, 11 hours and 25 minutes respectively were allocated for revised budget's financial bills and other related bills while 56 hours and 50 hours 58 minutes respectively for general discussion on the budgets.

The time spent for this in 1994 and 1995 was not immediately available.

For the budget discussion in the Seventh JS in 1996, 56 hours 28 minutes were spent. Of this, 10 hours 28 minutes were allocated for revised budget, financial bills and other related bills and 46 hours for general discussion on the budget.

## GSP facility

From Page 1

ment stopped this practice immediately after it had been brought to notice of the government.

The exporters' Associations to submit a concrete opinion about the cancellation of GSP certificates in the wake of latest reaction.

Imposition of import duty on various items in the proposed national budget and its future impact on the flourishing of local industries also came up for discussion.

The meeting was attended by industries secretary M Akhtar Ali, Commerce Secretary Syed Alamgir Farouk, BGMEA President Mostafa Golam Qudus, BTMA president M Shahjahan and BKMEA President Monjurul Huq. Other executives of the three associations were present in the meeting.

## Fertiliser

From Page 1

query, the minister informed the House that so far Bangladesh Rice Research Institute (BRRI) had developed 31 strains of high-yielding paddy. She added that those strains were being cultivated in 52 per cent of total arable land and produced 70 per cent of gross rice output.

BRRI is now giving thrust on evolving 'short-duration crop' so that natural calamities like floods caused lesser damage.

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(Top) Scorched trees along the railway track near the site of the burning gas well. (Bottom) Authorities, awaiting arrival of foreign experts, have arranged all types of equipment to fight the inferno. —Star photo by Sheikh Enamul Huq

## Eskander granted bail

From Page 1

Case No-21 dated June 4, 1997 under Sections 148/149/353/332/333/379 and 34 of the Penal Code against the petitioner and 20 others.

It was alleged in the FIR that on June 4 while two DGF personnel were on duty in the Kawan Bazar area, 3/4 persons in a planned way shouted, "Catch the Hijackers".

"Even after identifying ourselves as DGF personnel showing the wireless sets, they pulled down Sepai Elias from the motorcycle holding his collars," the informant alleged in the FIR.

It was further alleged, "As soon as two traffic constables advanced to help us Major (Rtd) Sayeed Eskander along with 20/22 other people attacked us and saying 'son of a swine' he began to beat us."

It was also alleged that Sayeed Eskander earlier obstructed other DGF personnel from performing their duty in the Bandhara area.

Senior Advocate Khandker Mahub Uddin Ahmed and Barrister Maudud Ahmed assisted by Barrister Mahubuddin Khokon moved for the petitioner, while former Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, Barrister Nazmul Huda, Advocate Habibul Islam Bhuiyan were present in the court-room.

Attorney General K S Nabi along with Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan opposed the bail petition.

It was submitted in the petition that the petitioner was neither involved with the alleged offence nor he had anything to do with any DGF personnel.

"The FIR has been instituted out of political vendetta just because the petitioner happens to be the brother of the former Prime Minister and present Leader of Opposition and Chairperson of a large political party," the petition submitted.

Sayeed Eskander alluded the police in entering in the court premises by riding on a motorcycle with a helmet, sun-glass and carrying a mobile phone.

## Indian soldier runs amok inside camp, kills 6 officers

From Page 1

SRINAGAR, June 16: An Indian soldier ran amok inside an army camp in Jammu-Kashmir today turning his automatic weapon on his comrades and killing a colonel, a captain and four other junior officers, a military spokesman said, reports AP.

The soldier, who was not identified, was overpowered by others in Shopian, 50 kilometers south of Srinagar, and arrested, said Maj. Pramod Puroshottam, the spokesman.

The soldier was being interrogated, Maj. Puroshottam said. "It is a bit premature to comment. The investigation is going on."

## Sayeedi

From Page 1

tioner and the respondent. The Appellate Division refused the leave petition saying, a returnable rule had been issued by the High Court division in the same matter. Hence, the point raised before the Appellate Division can also be argued before the High Court.

On June 5, a High Court division bench stayed the operation of the judgement of the election tribunal of Pirojpur-1 constituency declaring the election of Jamaat MP Maulana Delwar Hossain Sayeedi in the June 12 1996 election as illegal and void.

## Man dies

From Page 1

ous ailments. "The post mortem report, however, would reveal everything," Das said.

The BSEHR strongly demanded of the government to probe into the death of Nuruzaman through a judicial enquiry committee and also to suspend the police officials concerned in the interest of neutral investigation.

A BSEHR press release said the organisation has decided to conduct an investigation into the killing of Nuruzaman Sharif.

## Flames steady

From Page 1

The fire has also damaged some area of the tea garden which is adjacent to the disaster site.

BDR and fire brigade personnel have cordoned off the disaster area. Heavy motor vehicles and cranes of the Roads and Highways Department have been deployed in the area. Train communication between Sreemongal and Sylhet has been suspended.

Energy Minister Noor Uddin Khan visited the spot and instructed concerned officials to take all measures to control the fire.

According to experts, the explosion took place due to uncontrollable high pressure inside the well. Occidental had reached a depth of 850 metres when the explosion took place.

Occidental had started drilling in Magurchara on June 2 under a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) signed on January 11, 1995.

## 2 more accomplices of Sweden Aslam arrested

By Staff Correspondent

Two associates of Sweden Aslam were arrested from Garpara village of Manikganj district early Sunday.

According to a DMP press release, Mohammad Shahin and Kabir Hossain Chowdhury were arrested following interrogation of Sweden Aslam.

The press release said, the two were wanted in connection with robberies committed in Pallabi area of the city.

## Child traffickers

From Page 1

tile lifters. Four others, however, managed to escape in another scooter.

A section of the local people said the scooter riders were child-lifters while another group suspected them as cattle lifters.

As soon as the news of nabbing child-lifters along with a woman spread in the area, hundreds of people rushed to the spot and beat up them mercilessly.

The woman, Khurshida alias Nargis, and an unidentified man died following the mass beating while Selim and another man suffered serious injuries. The angry mob also set fire to the scooters.

On information, police rushed to the spot and recovered the dead bodies and the injured. The injured were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) in critical conditions. The bodies were also sent to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

Injured Selim identified the dead woman and said her husband Khorshed managed to escape. He told police that they were the residents of Jatrabari area in the capital and went to Gazipur for a visit, not to lift child or cattleheads.

A case was filed with Joydebpur police in connection with the killings.

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