

## Private security deployed at cantt residence of Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent  
An 18-member private security force was deployed at the Cantonment residence of the Leader of the Opposition in parliament and BNP chief Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday.  
The new security force was arranged by BNP following the withdrawal of 18 members of the Armed Police Battalion and deployment of a six-member DMP police team on Tuesday, party sources said.  
The new securitymen, hired from a private security company, will guard Begum Zia's private house in three shifts (six in each shift), they added.  
The Leader of the Opposition uses her official residence at 29, Minto Road, for party activities.  
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## PCJSS proposes next round of talks from July 14

KHAGRACHHARI, June 18: Parbatya Chattagram Jana Samhati Samiti (PCJSS) has proposed to hold the next round of peace talks on CHT in Dhaka from July 14, reports UNB.  
Officials said Hongsadhaja Chakma, convenor of Jogajog Committee, which maintains liaison with the government and the PCJSS, handed over a letter in this regard to the government side here today.  
The PCJSS was learnt to have agreed to extend the truce in the Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) up to September 30. The ongoing ceasefire expires on June 30.

## New 10-taka note to have portrait of Bangabandhu

By Staff Correspondent  
The government has decided to issue a new ten taka bank note with the portrait of Father of the Nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman inscribed on it, finance minister SAMS Kibria told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.  
In reply to a question by Awami League MP Shamsur Rahman Sharif, the minister said, the picture of Bangabandhu would be inscribed on one side and that of the Lalbagh.  
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## Occidental to co-ordinate all operations

# Dousing gas well fire may take some time: Experts



Earth being levelled for installing new gas lines for an affected tea garden at Magurchhara in Moulvibazar. — Star photo

### Star Report

Dousing the gas well fire at Magurchhara in Moulvibazar might take some time as foreign experts involved in the task said that putting out the fire and stopping the gas flow should be conducted simultaneously for the sake of environment and public health.

According to Petrobangla officials, two teams of fire fighting experts from Singapore and Houston working at the site are now 'devising the strategy' to bring the situation under control.

The fire fighting equipment and required chemical reached the city yesterday in two special aircraft.

The foreign experts shared their views with Petrobangla authorities that along with putting out the fire, the gas flow from the affected well should be stopped. Otherwise, the environment and health of the people will be endangered.

The pressure of gas has now reduced and the flames do not rise beyond 100 feet. The well exploded Saturday night during drilling by American company Occidental.

Our Staff Correspondent reported from Srimangal last night that Occidental will co-ordinate all operations.

## PDB, UNOCAL negotiate power project

The Power Development Board (PDB) and the US-based UNOCAL started negotiation in Dhaka yesterday for implementation of the proposed Western Region integrated project for boosting power generation in the western part of the country, reports UNB.

Based on technical studies on power generation requirements for the western region, PDB and UNOCAL agreed in principle to implement the nearly 450 million US dollar (Tk 2,000 crore) project in two phases, said an official hand-out.

In the first phase, UNOCAL is willing to construct a gas pipeline from Shahbazpur field to Bhola, Barisal and Khulna, a 20 MW gas-fired power plant at Bhola, a 125 MW simple cycle gas-fired power plant at Barisal, and a 132 KV single-circuit transmission line from Barisal to Khulna.

No body can measure pressure of any kind while drilling, he said.

He said the only tool the company could use to measure pressure was hydrostatic head, a calculation of the force exerted by a column of fluid on a given area.

Coyner said the hydrostatic

## Well was stable before blast: Occidental

From Staff Correspondent

SRIMANGAL, June 18: Occidental today gave its version of the Magurchhara gas explosion saying, "Most reports circulated since Saturday's blast are fairy tales".

Other sources, however, said Occidental could have avoided the explosion and claimed that the company did not have proper blow-out prevention equipment at the site.

"We had quality people up there and the drillman was doing his job properly," said Skip Coyner, interim drilling manager of Occidental.

Coyner said, rumours that the company had a sensor down in the hole to detect high pressure, were wrong.

Although the well was stable, said Coyner, gas erupted 75 feet into the air around the area.

An official on duty that

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## For ID cards 2 female students kept out of RU hall overnight

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 18: Two female students of Rajshahi University had to spend a night outside the gate of Begum Khaleda Zia Hall recently as they failed to show identity cards.

Precilia Sharmin, a second-year student of Zoology Department and another student, a first-year student of History, both registered students of the hall, reached the hall gate, along with their brother Parvez, at about 2 am on June 16.

The hall superintendent asked them to show identity cards before being allowed to enter the hall. But they failed to show them.

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## 42 students of Rangpur Polytech held

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, June 18: Police rounded up 42 Polytechnic Institute student during raids on hostels and messes in the town last night.

A bomb weighing 5-kg and some arms were recovered during the raids, police said.

The duty officer of Kotwali thana said the principal of the Polytechnic Institute had filed a case on June 16 accusing the students of resorting to violence, damaging and setting fire to the teachers' quarters and laboratory of the institute causing a loss of property worth Tk one crore.

A two-member team of the Education Department from Dhaka visited the institute today. The team will submit its report to the government.

## One killed as AL, BNP workers clash in Pabna

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, June 18: One person was killed and eight others were injured in a clash between the supporters of Awami League and BNP at village Mirzapur yesterday morning, police said.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Firoz, 60, an activist of AL, who was hacked to death on the spot after he was injured in the clash.

Two of the injured were admitted to Pabna General Hospital in critical condition. They were identified as Hasan Ali, 34, and Arshed Ali, 38.

The clash began when the two groups, one led by Sattar Mondol, supporters of AL and the other led Rashid Mondol, supporters of BNP, tried to take possession of a deep tubewell.

Police were patrolling the area. No one was arrested till the writing of this report last night.

## Sylhet BNP calls hartal June 22

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, June 17: The Sylhet district BNP has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal in Sylhet town on June 22 to press their various demands. The 9-point demand include withdrawal of 'false' cases lodged against BNP leaders and workers and transfer of the ASP of Sylhet Sadar.

## JS discussion on nat'l budget begins

# Positive changes, hopes AL Economy ruined, says BNP

By Staff Correspondent

The Jatiya Sangsad began debate over the proposed national budget for 1997-98 fiscal yesterday, with the Treasury Bench members hailing the budget and the Opposition criticising it.

Finance Minister SAMS Kibria placed Tk 27,786 crore budget in the House on June 12 last. Before taking up the 1997-98 budget for discussion, the House debated the supplementary budget for fiscal 1996-97 for two days from Monday.

While beginning the debate

on the national budget for 1997-98 yesterday, ruling Awami League (AL) lawmakers claimed that the proposed budget was bound to bring about positive changes in the lives of the people. They also asserted that the budget was consistent with certain provisions of the Constitution, obliging the state to implement the basic rights of the citizens.

On the other hand, the Opposition Bench members belonging to the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) claimed

that the proposed budget for 1997-98 would affect the interests of the majority people, especially the peasants.

They also asserted that the budget reflected the government's mismanagement of national economy. They demanded review of the proposed budget to give it a 'pro-people' character.

A total of 23 MPs took part in yesterday's debate. Of them 12 were AL members, 10 BNP and one Jatiya Party (JP).

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## JC meets in city to review Ganges water flow

By Staff Correspondent

The Joint Committee (JC) set up to monitor the Bangladesh-India water sharing treaty began a two-day review meeting in Dhaka yesterday.

According to official sources, the meeting will review the Ganges water flow during the first five months of the treaty beginning January.

The Joint Committee is expected to finalise the draft containing the technical details of the flow for the current year's.

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## JS snippets

### By Nazmul Ashraf

It all happened due to absence of the health minister from the House.

When Wajuddin Khan of Awami League moved a call for attention notice on the problems faced by the mental hospital in Pabna, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid invited Health Minister Salahuddin Yusuf to respond to the notice.

Finding the minister absent, the Chair gave the floor to State Minister for Health Dr Aman-

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## 13 died in police custody in Bangladesh: AI

BBC monitoring

At least 13 persons died while in police custody in Bangladesh, BBC said last night quoting the annual report of the Amnesty International (AI) released recently.

The AI report also mentioned about alleged harassment of political workers belonging to opposition parties in Bangladesh.

Many people belonging to the opposition were detained without trial and were even tortured, the report said.

The Amnesty International's letter to the government of Bangladesh demanding the release of the prisoners was not entertained, the report claimed.

## BNP action programme June 22 'Reduce fertiliser price, withdraw new taxes'

The main opposition BNP has vowed to launch country-wide anti-government movement next week if it does not withdraw the enhanced price of fertiliser and new taxes and surcharge immediately, reports UNB.

This move will be the first step toward dislodging the 'Awami-Bakshi' government, said BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan who also announced country-wide demonstration on June 20 and 22.

As per the warm-up programme, protest rally and demonstration will be held in all district headquarters and all thanas in capital Dhaka on June 20 and in all thana headquarters and wards in Dhaka on June 22 to protest the 'anti-people' budget, fertiliser price-hike and different fresh taxes.

Announcing the street protest, Bhuiyan said the party would declare on June 22 a countrywide greater action programme to pull down the gov-

ernment.

The new budget is designed to kill the people. There will be no way to live in the country if the budget is adopted, so there is no alternative to a mass movement against the government," he told the rally.

The ultimatum to realise BNP's demands was made at a mammoth public meeting in front of the BNP central office in the afternoon, to protest the 'anti-people' budget of this subservient government.

Speaking at the meeting, Deputy Leader of the Opposition Prof AGM Badruddoza Chowdhury said the fire in gasfield in Kamalganj thana occurred due to the government's 'caprice and negligence'.

According to the provision of the agreement, there must be Bangladesh expert in the field.

"But why they were not present in the field? he asked.

Prof Chowdhury said in the meantime about Tk 1000 crore worth of gas had been destroyed.

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## Govt blamed for foiling BNP meet at Kaliganj

By Staff Correspondent

BNP has blamed the government for foiling its public meeting at Kaliganj of Jhenidah district yesterday.

A joint statement issued last night by BNP joint secretary general Abdullah Al Noman and five MPs of the party — Shamsuzzaman Dudu, Mashur Rahman, Shahidul Islam, Abdul Wahab and Shahiduzzaman Beltu — condemned the imposition of Section 144 at the meeting venue — Kolabazar in Kaliganj thana of the district.

BNP announced its rally at the spot seven days ago and started campaigning for the programme since then. But Awami League called for a rally at the same place later with a clear motive to foil the BNP programme," said the statement, adding that the local administration banned rallies after the AL's undemocratic

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## শেয়ার বাজারে

বিনিয়োগ সম্পর্কিত কতিপয় পরামর্শ

সিকিউরিটিজ ক্রয় বিক্রয় কালে স্টক-ডিলার বা স্টক-ব্রোকার বা তাদের প্রতিনিধিকে লিখিতভাবে ক্রয়/বিক্রয় আদেশ প্রদান করবেন। স্টক-ডিলার বা স্টক-ব্রোকার ক্রয়-বিক্রয় শেষ হওয়ার ২৪ ঘণ্টার মধ্যে বিনিয়োগকারীকে নিম্নোক্ত তথ্যাদিসহ কনফার্মেশন নোট প্রদান করতে বাধ্যঃ-

- (ক) আদেশ কার্যকর করার তারিখ
- (খ) সিকিউরিটিজের নাম ও সংখ্যা
- (গ) লেনদেনের প্রকৃতি (অর্থাৎ রেডি ক্রয় কিংবা বিক্রয়)
- (ঘ) মূল্য
- (ঙ) স্টক ব্রোকারের কমিশন
- (চ) সদস্যের নিজস্ব একাউন্ট থেকে বা স্টক মার্কেট থেকে ক্রয়-বিক্রয়ের বিবরণ।

সিকিউরিটিজ ও এক্সচেঞ্জ কমিশন

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## Space constraint at Ctg port yard

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, June 18: The country's main port faces space constraint in its container yard with vessels stranded at the jetties, port sources said.

At least six vessels loaded with over 2,000 containers of import cargo were stranded at the jetties today due to delay in unloading of container cargo.

Talking to this correspondent, a port official said the containers could not be removed from these ships due to space constraint at the yard inside the port.

According to him, arrival of a large number of containers and their slow unloading after the declaration of the national budget, have caused the space congestion.

He said, around 13,000 containers are now at the yard against its capacity to accommodate 9,500 containers.

A year ago, the yard had the capacity to accommodate only 8,500 containers and later to cope with the growth of container cargo, the capacity was raised to 9,500 containers.

Port officials apprehend the space crisis might lead to a fresh congestion of foreign vessels if new container terminals are not set up to meet the growing demand.

They said that every year container cargo in this port had recorded an increase of 20 to 30 per cent.

During the current fiscal year, the number of containers handled in Chittagong Port may cross three lakhs while in the previous fiscal (95-96) it handled 2,50,000 containers, port sources said.

About five years ago two container terminals were built at Chittagong port.

## গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকারের মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী ও মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী সমীপে বাংলাদেশ শিপ ব্রেকার্স এসোসিয়েশনের পক্ষ থেকে আকুল আবেদন

১৯৯৭-৯৮ অর্থ বছরের বাজেটে ক্র্যাপ জাহাজ আমদানিতে ৭.৫%-এর স্থলে ১৫% শতাংশ আমদানি শুদ্ধ ধার্য করা হয়েছে।

**মাননীয় প্রধানমন্ত্রী ও মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী**

বাজেটে ক্র্যাপ জাহাজ আমদানি শুদ্ধ বৃদ্ধির প্রস্তাবে বাৎসরিক ৩০০ কোটি টাকা রাজস্ব আয়ের শিল্পকে সম্পূর্ণরূপে ধ্বংস করে দিবে, ফলশ্রুতিতে এই শিল্পের সহযোগী শিল্পসমূহ প্রায় ৩০০টি রি-রোলিং মিলস নিশ্চিতভাবে বন্ধ হয়ে যাবে। পরিণতিতে এই খাতে নিয়োজিত প্রায় আড়াই লক্ষ শ্রমিক কর্মহীন হয়ে দেশের বিদ্যমান স্থিতিশীল পরিবেশকে বিপন্ন করবে। সর্বোপরি এই শিল্প খাতে বিনিয়োগকৃত কোটি কোটি টাকা অপ-বিনিয়োগ হিসাবে পরিণত হবে।

**জনাবা প্রধানমন্ত্রী ও জনাব অর্থমন্ত্রী**

প্রতিবেশী ভারতে ক্র্যাপ জাহাজ আমদানি শুদ্ধ আমাদের দেশ অপেক্ষা কম। বর্তমানে ভারতে এই শিল্পে শুদ্ধ হার মাত্র ৫% শতাংশ। আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে টন প্রতি ক্র্যাপ জাহাজ ১৫৫-১৬০ মার্কিন ডলার বিক্রি হলেও আমদানিকারকেরা টন প্রতি ১৭৫ মার্কিন ডলার ধার্য টারিফে শুদ্ধ কর প্রদান করে আসছে। এমন পরিস্থিতিতে বাজেটে ক্র্যাপ জাহাজ আমদানি শুদ্ধ বৃদ্ধির প্রস্তাব এই খাতকে নিশ্চিতরূপে ধ্বংস করবে এবং চাহিদা থাকা সত্ত্বেও বর্তমান নীতির কারণে হঠাৎ করে সূত্র শূন্যতার সুযোগে বাংলাদেশ বিদেশী ক্র্যাপ-এর বাজারে পরিণত হবে। আমরা দৃঢ়তার সাথে জানাচ্ছি যে দেশী ক্র্যাপ জাহাজের দ্বারা তৈরি লৌহযাত সামগ্রী গুণগত মানের দিক হতে বিলেটের চেয়ে অপেক্ষাকৃত উন্নত, যাহা বুয়েট, ঢাকা এবং বিআইটি, চট্টগ্রাম কর্তৃক পরীক্ষিত।

**মহাশয়ন**

দেশীয় অর্থনীতির বিকাশ, অর্থনৈতিক প্রবৃদ্ধির ধারা অক্ষুণ্ণ সর্বোপরি এই শিল্পকে প্রতিযোগিতামূলক করার মাধ্যমে টিকিয়ে রাখার লক্ষ্যে ক্র্যাপ জাহাজ শিল্পে পার্শ্ববর্তী দেশের সহিত সন্ততিপূর্ণ রেখে ন্যূনতম ৫% শতাংশ আমদানি শুদ্ধ ধার্যের আকুল আবেদন করতেন।

**জাফর আলম**  
প্রেসিডেন্ট  
বাংলাদেশ শিপ ব্রেকার্স এসোসিয়েশন  
চট্টগ্রাম।

এস-৪২৮