

PRAN for Health

JUICE
JAM
PICKLE
KETCHUP
SHERBET

SQUASH
VINEGAR
KEWRA-
WATER
ROSE-
WATER

The Daily Star

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 1/A, DHAKA.
TEL : 605957, 607363 SHOW ROOM : 861985

VOL. VII NO. 150 REGD. NO. DA 781

ASHAR 10 1404 BS.

DHAKA TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 1997

SAFAR 17 1418 HIJRI

12 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

Pay Commission

**Evaluation body
to submit
recommendations
by Sept 30**

The Cabinet has constituted a seven-member committee to evaluate the reports of the National Pay Commission, reports BSS.

The evaluation committee will submit its recommendations to the government within September 30 incorporating the suggestions of the cabinet to make the benefits of the new pay scales effective from July 1, said an official handout.

The cabinet decided this at a meeting held yesterday with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair.

Cabinet secretary has been appointed the convener of the committee while the other members are: Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Secretary, Ministry of Defence. See Page 12 Col 1

Death of Biman crew

**CID examining
'inquest report'**

By Staff Correspondent

CID investigation into the mysterious death of Biman crew Nuruzzaman Sharif has not yet found anything happening while he was in court custody that caused his death.

CID sources said they interrogated those who were on duty there and other sections of the court on the day. The CID team was also examining the 'inquest report' as it found the report far different from the autopsy report of Nuruzzaman.

Nuruzzaman Sharif, 37, died See Page 12 Col 2

Inside Today

Article

**One Year of
Awami League
in Office**

by Brig (Retd) M Abdul
Hafiz
Page 4

Focus

**Ganges Kobadak
Project: Time to
look at
Page 5**



Customs officials examining the gold seized at Zia International Airport yesterday.

— Star photo

71 kg gold worth over Tk 4cr seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent

A customs surveillance team at Zia International Airport (ZIA) recovered gold bars worth about Tk 4.16 crore from the baggage of a Sylhet-bound passenger from Dubai yesterday morning.

Customs officials said, they seized 598 gold bars, weighing 5,980 tolas or around 70.35 kilograms, from two suitcases which arrived in the name of one Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury by a Biman flight at about 8 am Sunday.

But despite frantic efforts, the customs men and others concerned failed to trace out the passenger in the airport during the last two days.

According to customs officials, Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury also came from Dubai by the same flight of Biman on Sunday and was scheduled to leave for Sylhet in the afternoon as a transit passenger. He, however, did not board the flight.

Not getting the owner of the suitcases, the customs men scanned them and confirmed the existence of the gold bars inside. Later, at about 11 am yesterday, the suitcases were opened under the direct supervision of the Customs Commis-

sioner Fakrul Abedin. The gold bars, weighing 10 tolas each. The gold bars are likely to be deposited with the Bangladesh Bank today.

A departmental case was filed and a general diary lodged with Cantonment thana.

Intelligence agencies were investigating the incident and

trying to nab Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury. His whereabouts could not be known.

According to customs officials, it was the biggest haul of smuggled gold at the customs hall of the airport. In the biggest ever haul the precious metal in the country, a surveillance team recovered 1,175 gold bars worth about Tk eight crore from the airport's airfreight godown in September last year.

The Detective Branch of police has already submitted a chargesheet accusing 13 people of their involvement in smuggling gold worth about Tk 8 crore.

Earlier, on June 20, a customs team recovered 900 tolas of gold worth about Tk 44 lakh from a transit passenger bound for Chittagong from Dubai.

See Page 12 Col 3

A year of slavery and conspiracy: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

MAJDEE COURT, (Noakhali) June 23: BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia today vowed to launch tough action programme against the government if it fails to withdraw the new taxes and surcharge on essentials immediately, reports UNB.

"We'll be forced to announce a tough action programme if the government does not immediately withdraw the anti-people measures proposed in the 1997-98 national budget," she told a public meeting at Noakhali Zia School ground here this afternoon.

The District BNP organised the meeting commemorating the first death anniversary of Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) leader Zafarullah.

Addressing the largely-attended meeting, Begum Zia termed the one-year of Awami League rule the 'year of slavery and conspiracy.'

"She said the first test of this government in one year was the 1997-98 budget. But this government has completely failed in this examination."

Calling upon the people to resist all conspiracies against the country and its people, the Leader of the Opposition said now the time has come for all to come forward for protecting the country's independence and sovereignty. In this context, she sought unity of the nationalist forces.

Begum Zia strongly criticised the proposal for imposition of taxes on medicine, paper, sandal and raw cotton in the new budget.

This will lead to the closure of many industries in the face of tough competition and Bangladesh will turn into the market of India, she said.

The former prime minister said the country's economy was deteriorating day by day; the See Page 12 Col 4

Gasfield fire may die down anytime: Experts

By Mizan Ali and Iqbal Siddiqui

The height of the flame at the Magurchhara drilling site reduced further yesterday and came to a level of around ten feet, according to official sources.

The fire is now located around the crater, created by the explosion, they added.

Talking to The Daily Star over telephone, experts at the site said that the fire will die down naturally as the pressure of the gas was reducing.

The gas which was coming out of the pocket at the drilling site was almost exhausted and it will be totally burnt out within the next three to four days, they noted.

Measures would be taken to "kill the well" after the salvage work is completed, the experts said, adding that "killing" of the well is necessary to prevent any future blow-out from the same hole.

Steps have already been taken to mobilise another rig for cement squeezing and plugging the holes and the rig is expected to reach the site within a month.

Our Staff Correspondent Iqbal Siddiqui from Sylhet

**Two alternative
plans to seal
gas wells**

By Sharier Khan

Experts of Occidental have chalked out two alternative plans to permanently seal the Magurchhara gas well which exploded in flames on the night of June 14, according to a well-placed source in Petrobangla.

Right now, the flame of the gas well is showing signs of See Page 12 Col 7

quoted an official at Magurchhara as saying that the fire may die down anytime as the upward pressure of gas fell abruptly. Heat in the surrounding areas also fell and people can now reach within 50 metres of the site.

Steps to cap the mouth of the gas well will be started soon, said an official of Occidental on condition of anonymity.

The officials working at Magurchhara said, now the main task would be to start digging of the 'deviation well'.

Local administration officials in consultation with the experts of Occidental have already finalised the proposed site for the deviation well at a nearby area. Initial work like land development would be started within a day or two, the source added.

The Divisional Engineer of See Page 12 Col 8

HC rule to allow disabled to sit for BCS exams

From Staff Correspondent

The High Court has issued a rule nisi on the Secretary, Ministry of Establishment and the Chairman, Public Service Commission as to why the blind disabled petitioners who are academically qualified would not be allowed to appear in the BCS Examination.

The rule was issued by a Division Bench comprising Justice Mahmud Reza Chowdhury and Justice MA Aziz.

The petition was moved by advocates Altafur Rahman, Mosharraf Hossain and Abdul Mannan Khan of Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust, said a press release issued by the Trust yesterday.

Strike observed at DU

Examinations and administrative works of Dhaka University could not be held yesterday as Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) enforced a strike in educational institutions across the country, reports UNB.

JCD, the student wing of main opposition BNP, had called the strike protesting price hike of educational materials in the proposed budget and repression on political opponents by the ruling Awami League.

Routine works of the university, including informal classes, were disrupted as the JCD supporters locked the main gates of the campus. The university is now on summer vacation.

JCD also brought out a procession on the campus chanting anti-government slogans. Additional police were deployed to prevent any untoward incidents.

Addressing a rally in front of the arts faculty, JCD leaders termed the proposed budget tax-laden and anti-people, and said it would only serve the interests of the foreign powers. They called for revision of the proposed budget to cut taxes.

The JCD leaders urged the government to refrain from resorting to repressive measures See Page 12 Col 3

JU women's hall named after Jahanara Imam

By JU Correspondent

A women's hall of Jahangirnagar University has been named after Jahanara Imam. The 'Women's Hall Number Three' at the university will now be called Jahanara Imam Hall.

The decision was taken unanimously at a meeting of the JU Syndicate last night. Welcoming the decision, the Bangladesh Chhatra Union (BCU) brought out a procession on the campus.

The Pro-Awami League Bangladesh Chhatra League and the BCU JU unit also brought out separate processions yesterday demanding that the 'Women's Hall Number Four' be named after Pritilata.

At a press conference at the JU Journalists' association office yesterday, the BCU reiterated its demand to name the hall after Pritilata for which they 'have been agitating on the campus since 1994.' JU BCU president Abu Rezwana and General Secretary Ahsan Kibria Siddique spoke at the press conference.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday marking completion of one year of AL government.

— Star photo

AL rally in city marking one-year rule People to judge, but we took prompt decisions: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina said over the last 21 years, the number of unemployed, those below poverty-line and the landless increased but the rate of literacy did not increase.

The Prime Minister said her

**Face the People
on BTV**

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in her 'Face the People' programme on BTV last night gave answers to 42 questions on various issues starting from politics to prostitution, reports UNB.

The 90-minute programme was telecast live from 8:30 pm on the occasion of the Prime Minister's one-year in the office. Popular TV presenter

See Page 12 Col 5

government is trying to bring about economic development and taken steps to ensure security in public life. "People will judge what we did in past year. But, at least I can say that we did not delay in taking decisions."

She mentioned that steps were taken to draw foreign investment and that flow of investment into the country had already started.

She said that her government discussed all issues of national importance in the parliament and always welcomed participation of the Opposition in debates on policy issues.

The Prime Minister mentioned her government's steps in last one year for development of agriculture and health-care facilities. She said the See Page 12 Col 1

India, Pakistan to talk Kashmir in Sept

ISLAMABAD June 23: India and Pakistan seeking to put 50 years of rivalry and war behind them today announced an agenda and negotiating mechanism for future peace talks, reports Reuters.

A joint statement issued after weekend talks between the Indian and Pakistani foreign ministers, or top career diplomats, said the agenda included the long-running dispute over the divided Himalayan state of Jammu and Kashmir.

The agenda, which the statement said addressed "all outstanding issues of concern to both sides" covers peace and se-

curity, including CBMs (confidence building measures).

The two countries, also plan to discuss their military stand-off on the Siachen Glacier, terrorism and drug trafficking, and economic and commercial cooperation.

The statement followed talks that started on Friday between delegations led by foreign ministry secretaries Shamshad Ahmad of Pakistan and Salman Haider of India.

"It was also agreed that both sides would take all possible steps to prevent hostile propaganda and provocative actions against each other," the statement said.

It said the foreign secretaries would hold a third round of talks in September in New Delhi. The first ice-breaking session took place in the Indian capital in late March.

In a separate statement, the two sides said they had agreed to release Indian and Pakistani fishermen and boats detained for straying into each others territorial waters.

They agreed to free 26 Pakistani boats and 195 crew and 35 Indian boats and 194 crew. "Other boats and crew will be released as and when identified," the joint statement said.

"I am happy to state that we

See Page 12 Col 6

G-8 for ban on human cloning

An earlier — and far wordier — draft that had been circulated here also carried an appeal for a ban on human cloning. But at the same time it contained language that could be interpreted as leaving the door open for such experiments.

The final one-paragraph

provision was in line with President Bill Clinton's convictions on human cloning, a practice he has denounced as 'misguided, malevolent.'

Clinton formed a national bioethics advisory commission in February after the successful cloning of an adult sheep in Scotland, a development that shook the scientific world and launched sensational speculation over the possibility of engineering human beings.

Following on the panel's recommendations, Clinton proposed legislation banning human cloning for five years.

While the bill is pending, the President extended the moratorium on federal funds for such See Page 12 Col 6

মুন্সি সিরামিকে ইভাঞ্জেলি লিঃ এর
ধামরাই কারখানা
অনির্দিষ্টকালের জন্য

বন্ধ ঘোষণা

এতদ্বারা সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, গত ২১-০৬-৯৭ ইং তারিখ সকাল ৬-০০ মিঃ হইতে কিছুসংখ্যক উচ্চশ্রেণী শ্রমিক ও বার্ষিকী বহিরাগতদের সহযোগিতায় এবং উচ্চনীতি কারখানায় এক বেআইনী ধর্মঘট সংঘটিত করে, যাহার প্রেক্ষিতে পর পর তিনটি সতর্কীকরণ নোটিশ জারির পরও ধর্মঘটী শ্রমিকেরা ধর্মঘট প্রত্যাহার না করায় কারখানা কর্তৃপক্ষ উল্লেখিত তারিখ সকাল ৭-৪৫ মিঃ হইতে শ্রমিক নিয়োগ (স্থায়ী আদেশ) আইন ১৯৬৫ এর ৬(৬) ধারা অনুযায়ী কারখানাটিকে অনির্দিষ্টকালের জন্য বন্ধ ঘোষণা করিয়াছেন।

উল্লেখ্য যে, উক্ত নোটিশ জারির পর কিছুসংখ্যক শ্রমিক বার্ষিকী বহিরাগতদের প্ররোচনায় কারখানার অভ্যন্তরে আত্মকা ভাঙুর, লুটতরাজ আরম্ভ করে। তারা অফিস ঢুকিয়া অফিসকক্ষ, আসবাবপত্র, টেলিফোন, ভাটী গাড়ী সহ সবকিছু ভাঙ্গিয়া ধ্বংস করিয়া ফেলে। এক পর্যায়ে এই উচ্চশ্রেণী শ্রমিকেরা অফিসারদের আবাসিক এলাকায় ঢুকে পড়ে এবং তথায় ভাঙুর, লুটতরাজ ও পরিবার-পরিজনদের মারধোর করতে থাকে। এহেন উচ্চশ্রেণী ও দাঙ্গা-হাঙ্গামাপূর্ণ পরিস্থিতিতে কারখানায় কর্তব্যরত পুলিশ কর্মকর্তা পরিস্থিতি নিয়ন্ত্রণের উদ্দেশ্যে বাধ্য হইয়া কারখানার তিন জন মহাব্যবস্থাপকদিগকে একটি সাদা কাগজে উক্ত কারখানা বন্ধ ঘোষণার বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রত্যাহার সহ আরো কয়েকটি দাবী পূরণের স্বপক্ষে এই অস্বাভাবিক পরিস্থিতি নিয়ন্ত্রণের জন্য স্বাক্ষর করিতে অনুরোধ করেন এবং মহাব্যবস্থাপকদের তাহাদের নিজদের প্রাণ ও পরিবার-পরিজনদের প্রাণ, মান-ইজ্জত রক্ষার্থে এই কাগজে অনিচ্ছা সত্ত্বেও স্বাক্ষর করিতে বাধ্য হন, যাহা কোম্পানীর পরিচালক পর্ষদ কর্তৃক অনুমোদিত নহে। সুতরাং এইসব দুষ্কৃতকারী ও উচ্চশ্রেণী শ্রমিক ও বহিরাগতদের দ্বারা ভয়ভীতি প্রাপ্ত ও আটক অবস্থায় তিন মহাব্যবস্থাপক যে সাদা কাগজে স্বাক্ষর করিয়াছেন তাহা এতদ্বারা অস্বীকার (Repudiating) করিতেছেন এবং গত ২১-০৬-৯৭ ইং তারিখ ৭-৪৫ মিনিটে জারিকৃত কারখানাটি অনির্দিষ্টকালের জন্য বন্ধ ঘোষণার নোটিশটি বলবৎ আছে।

ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষ

মুন্সি সিরামিকে বিস্ফোরণের সন্ভাবনা

বিগত ২১-০৬-৯৭ ইং তারিখে সংঘটিত ঘটনাবলী, ক্ষয়ক্ষতি ও জানমালের নিরাপত্তা বিষয়ে মাননীয় স্বরাষ্ট্র ও শিল্প মন্ত্রী মহোদয়গণ সহ সকল প্রশাসন কর্তৃপক্ষকে জানানো হইয়াছে।

কারখানায় চুটী (ক্রিন) গুলো ১৩৫০° সেঃ তাপমাত্রায় চলিতেছে, যাহা অত্যন্ত স্পর্শকাতর এবং ঝুঁকি পূর্ণ।

বর্তমানে কারখানায় গ্যাস চলিত ৮ (আট)টি চুটী (ক্রিন) পরিচালনায় অভিজ্ঞ আমাদের কোন ব্যবস্থাপক, প্রকৌশলী বা কারিগরী কর্মচারী নাই বিধায় অবৈধ দখলকৃত সন্ত্রাসীদের দ্বারা আনাড়ীভাবে চুটী পরিচালনার ফলে যে কোন মুহূর্তে গ্যাস বিস্ফোরণ ঘটর সমূহ সন্ভাবনা বিদ্যমান, যার ফলে কারখানার নিকটস্থ এলাকাবাসী জানমালের ব্যাপক ক্ষয়ক্ষতিসহ কারখানাটি সম্পূর্ণভাবে ধ্বংস হইয়া যাইতে পারে এবং এই সুযোগে নাকশতামূলক ঘটনার সন্ভাবনা বিদ্যমান।

যেহেতু সময়দয় অবস্থা কারখানা কর্তৃপক্ষের নিয়ন্ত্রণের বাহিরে সেহেতু যে কোনরূপ দুর্ঘটনার জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ কোন দায় দায়িত্ব নিতে একান্ত ভাবে অপারগ।

এতদু পরিস্থিতিতে জন নিরাপত্তা এবং দেশের শিল্প ও অর্থনৈতিক নিরাপত্তা বিধান কল্পে সরকার ও সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্তৃপক্ষের প্রশাসনের নিকট আকুল আবেদন জানাইতেছি।

ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষ