

JUICE
JAM
PICKLE
KETCHUP
SHERBET

প্রাণ

SQUASH
VINEGAR
KEWRA-
WATER
ROSE-
WATER

PRAN for Health **প্রাণ**

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Cabinet resents Occidental's failure to extinguish fire

By Nurul Kabir

Members of the cabinet yesterday expressed strong resentment over the Occidental Energy Venture's 'failure' to extinguish the fire at the Magurchhara drilling site in Moulvibazar, cabinet sources said.

The cabinet members also agreed in principle that the Khatib of Baitul Mukarram Mosque 'should go immediately', especially following his 'instigation' behind the recent incident at the Islamic Foundation premises that led President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed to quit a religious function without addressing the audience.

The cabinet also decided to undertake relief and rehabilitation programmes in the flood area.

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Repatriation from Nayapara camp postponed

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 21: The planned repatriation of 200 Rohingya refugees from the Nayapara camp here has been postponed due to the deteriorating law and order situation, officials said.

However, 2000 refugees from Kutupalong, another camp in the district are expected to be repatriated to Myanmar tomorrow.

Some 3,000 Rohingya refugees at the Nayapara camp, unwilling to go back home, refused to take their weekly ration today and reportedly chased the officials. Three refugees were arrested from the camp, police said.

BDR and riot police have been deployed.

After the repatriation resumed last Sunday police have arrested six refugees on charge of rioting. On Sunday, 13 persons were injured in a clash between police and refugees opposed to repatriation.

BTV's reply to BNP soon

Star Report

Bangladesh Television (BTV) will reply to BNP as regards the party's preconditions for the Leader of the Opposition, Begum Khaleda Zia, to appear on the programme *Deshbasher Mukhomukhi*, Director General of BTV Syed Salauddin Zaki told The Daily Star last night.

"We're reviewing the conditions set by BNP and of course we'll respond," he said adding that BTV's reply would be communicated to the opposition party in a day or two.

The DG, however, did not elaborate.

On June 24 last, the DG had written a letter to Begum Zia requesting her to appear on the BTV's live programme. In reply BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP set some conditions and sought discussion with the BTV authorities before Begum Zia agreed to appear on the TV programme.

The conditions included impartiality of the presenter and questioners, assurance of not tarnishing the image of BNP and its leaders and not distorting the voice, picture or sound while telecasting the programme.

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Gas well fire rises to 30-40 ft again

Star Report

The height of the Magurchhara gas well fire rose again to 30 to 40 feet yesterday afternoon.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet quoted an official in Moulvibazar as saying that several other small flames were seen in the affected area while the gas leakage through a large number of points continued for the third consecutive day yesterday.

When contacted, Petrobangla Chairman Mosharraf Hossain last night said, "The situation is not very dangerous. But it will be dangerous if proper steps are not taken."

He further added, "The gas is now coming out through loose

sands around the well. The ring of the well is not emitting gas now as it is clogged due to formation of bubble in it."

In this new situation, Occidental has abandoned a pre-selected site for drilling a relief well to reach the original well to seal it.

Occidental is now planning to drill a relief well in a new location. Work on this well will begin as soon as the flame reduces, he added.

Our Staff Correspondent from Sylhet reports, the team of experts of Occidental which was scheduled to reach Murchhara yesterday to assess the latest situation did not reach till 8 pm, the official in Moulvibazar

added.

The rig, which is to be used for drilling the relief well, brought from Thailand reached Fenchuganj this morning through river route. Now it will be taken to the Magurchhara gas field area.

Security measures had already been tightened in and around the gas field area. Occidental has imposed restrictions on movement of people. Even a good number of government officials and manager of the Fulbari Tea Estate were refused entry to the area yesterday. Occidental would now issue pass for entry into the gas field area.

An official of Occidental

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The Sammilita Nari Samaj held a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club yesterday demanding retrial of the Shima rape and murder case. — Star photo

Reinvestigation into Shima rape case demanded

By Staff Correspondent

Sammilita Nari Samaj yesterday demanded reinvestigation into the Shima rape case.

At a rally in front of the Jatiya Press Club, the leaders of the women's organisation also demanded stern action against those responsible for 'faultry' and 'farical' investigation into the rape case.

They urged the government to ensure proper dispensation of justice in all cases involving repression of women, said a press release.

Farida Akhter, Sultana Kamal, Nahid Rahman, Shirin Akhter, Naila Khan spoke at the rally.

Later, Nari Samaj activists brought out a procession raising slogans for punishment to the persons involved in the rape and responsible for death of Shima.

Meanwhile, scholars and academicians from USA, UK, Denmark and Australia at a conference on 'Thinking through Feminism' have expressed their solidarity with the Sammilita Nari Samaj in their

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Bangabandhu Murder Case PW-3 says he couldn't file FIR as he is illiterate

By Staff Correspondent

The third prosecution witness in the Bangabandhu murder case, whose cross examination in the Court of District and Sessions Judge, Dhaka, ended yesterday, said that as an eye witness to the incident, he had the desire to lodge an FIR, but he could not do so as he is not a literate person.

Selim alias Abdul, 43, whose statement was recorded in the court on Thursday, was cross examined by the 14 lawyers of the state defence and one lawyer of the accused in custody.

The proceedings of the court began at 11:15 am and continued till 4:35 pm with a break for about an hour from 2:20 pm.

The proceedings will resume tomorrow at 10:30 pm.

The court was informed yesterday that the order of granting division to the accused in prison was yet to be complied with.

The Judge, Kazi Golam Rasul, had earlier on July 8 granted division to the accused in jail.

The prosecution side told the court that they had communicated his order to the authorities concerned twice.

The Judge took a serious view of the matter, saying that it might lead to initiating a contempt proceeding for non-compliance of the court's order.

Selim, a 'moshalchi' of

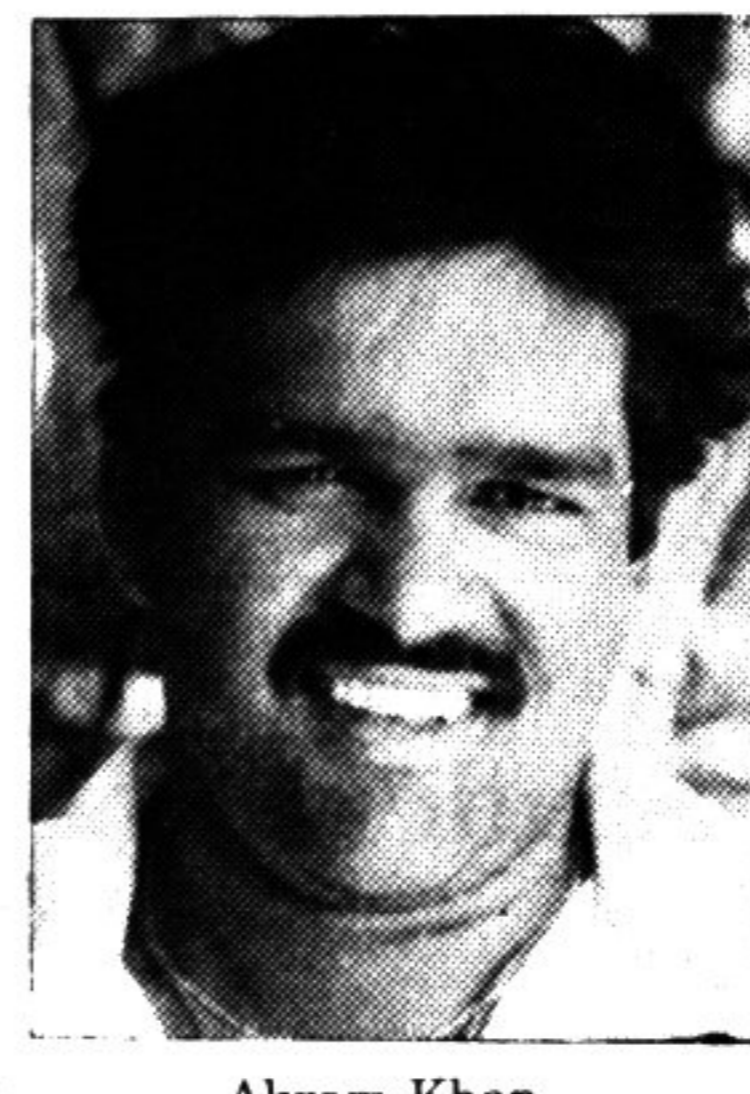
Bangabhaban, informed the court that he had met with Sheikh Hasina and Sheikh Rehana six to seven days after their return in 1981. "I told them some of the incidents, I couldn't complete as they burst into tears," UNB quoting him said.

He said he didn't know if anyone of that house had surrendered responding to the orders of the attackers. "Why will we surrender? We were inmates of that house. Why should we surrender to the miscreants?"

PW Selim said he could recognise the attackers as army men by their uniforms.

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Bangladesh take on mighty Sri Lanka today



Akram Khan

Sports Reporter

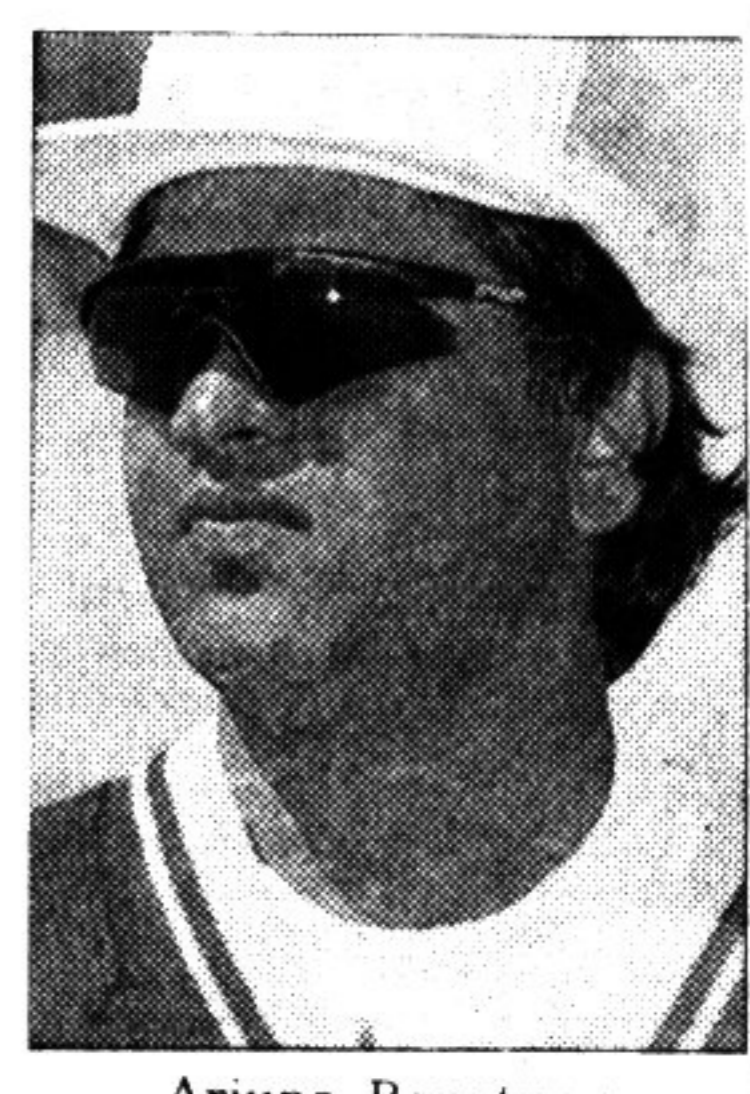
Bangladesh will take on world champions Sri Lanka in their second match of the sixth Asia Cup at the Sinhalese Club ground in Colombo today.

Weather permitting, the match will start at 10.30 BST. Bangladesh Television and Betar will cover the match live.

For hosts Sri Lanka, who have already confirmed their place in the Saturday's final with wins against Pakistan and India. Their last league match today against the minnows will be just an academic affair.

But for Bangladesh, who conceded a 109-run defeat at the hands of former world champions Pakistan in their inaugural match, it will be yet another acid test in the big league.

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Arjuna Ranatunga

AL protest rally today

The Awami League will hold a rally in the city at 4 pm today to protest the attack on the holy Eid-e-Miladunnabi function at the Baitul Mukarram Mosque by the anti-liberation fundamentalist forces, reports BSS.

Central and city Awami League leaders will address the meeting to be held in front of its central office at Bangabandhu Avenue.

The rally will also protest dishonouring of Hazrat Muhammad (SM) by the anti-liberation fundamentalist forces and their threat to destroy

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Train derailed

GAZIPUR, July 21: A Dhaka bound train from Bahadurabad derailed near Dhirasram station here today leaving four passengers wounded, reports UNB.

Movement of trains through this route came to a halt soon after two bogies of the train went off the track at 8 in the morning. However, Padma Express reached Dhaka from Mymensingh through Bhairab.

Meanwhile, schedules of Dhaka-bound Balaka Express and Mymensingh-bound Jamuna Express were cancelled because of the accident.

Baitul Mukarram Khatib likely to be removed

By Staff Correspondent

The Khatib of Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Maulana Obaidul Huq, is likely to be removed soon, according to highly placed sources.

The governing body of the Islamic Foundation, which is the appointing authority of the Khatib of Baitul Mukarram, is likely to take a decision in this regard when it meets today.

Obaidul Huq may also face charges of inciting people during a religious ceremony at the Islamic Foundation premises on Friday when certain elements hurled abuses and slipped.

Police are yet to get permission from the ministry to file a "sedition" case in connection with the "indecent" incident at the Eid-e-Miladunnabi function.

"We have sent a letter to the Home Ministry seeking permission to file a case under section 124 (A)," a police official at Motijheel thana told UNB.

He said they did not get approval from the ministry till last night.

pers at the podium in the presence of the President, the sources said.

The issue came up at the cabinet meeting last night and it gave the go ahead in this regard to State Minister for Religious Affairs Maulana Nurul Islam, who is ex-officio Chairman of the governing body.

The Khatib was removed from the body earlier.

He has also been accused by the religious affairs state minister of having a hand in the incident on Friday.

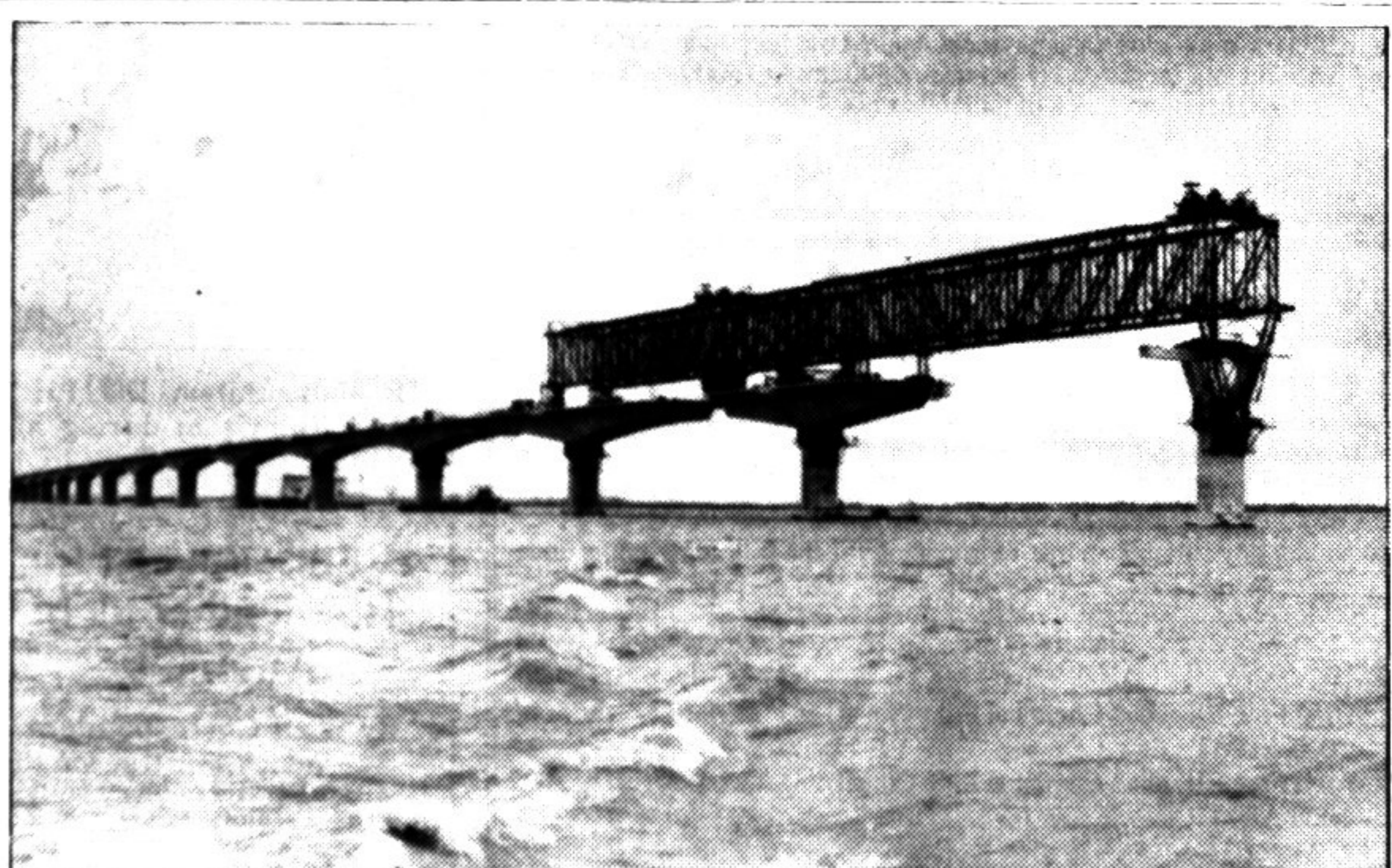
Maulana Muhiuddin Rabbani and Maulana Alimullah, President and Secretary General respectively of Bangladesh Aiyimma Parishad, criticised the state minister for bringing the charges against the Khatib and dismissed the allegations.

Earlier, on Sunday, the cabinet sub-committee on law and order noted the incident and reviewed what it said the activities of certain groups and elements trying to use religious issues for political purposes.

It decided to take stern measures to stop such activities.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed and the re-

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A view of the under-construction Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge. — Star photo

JMB may be ready for traffic from July next

By Nazmul Ashraf, back from JMB site

Eighty-eight per cent construction work of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge (JMB) has been completed against the target of finishing the entire work by June, 1998.

The 800 million US dollar bridge, the country's biggest and 11th in the world, is expected to be ready for traffic on July 1 next year but unlikely to be so for operation of trains on the opening day, according to a report by the JMB Authority on the progress of construction work up to June 30.

"It will not be possible for trains to operate on the first day unless we get any instruction from the higher authorities on details of setting up rail track on the bridge," said Brig (ret'd) AHM Abdullah, Deputy Manager of the JMB project.

He, however, added all necessary arrangements to set up rail tracks as well as to commission power and telecommunication lines will be there on the 4.8 km long and 18.5 m wide bridge before its inauguration.

Talking to a group of journalists visiting the under-construction bridge on Sunday, Abdullah said gas transmission line can also be functional with the opening of the bridge provided they get the authorities' decision on the size of the gas pipeline shortly.

There will be a fence between the rail track and the four road lanes along with a footpath on the roadside. The power and telecommunication lines will be set up with poles on the side

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Monsoon depression over Bay: Heavy rain likely

The monsoon depression over northwest Bay off Bangladesh and West Bengal coast moved slightly north-westwards, and was lying over northwest Bay close to West Bengal coast at 9 last night, reports UNB.

A Met Office special bulletin said it is likely to move in a north westerly direction and may cross West Bengal coast near Sagar Island by this morning.

Maximum sustained wind within 40 kms of the depression centre is about 40 kph rising to 50 kph in gusts or squalls. Sea will remain rough.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla have been asked to keep hoisted local cautionary signal number three.

Under its influence, heavy to

very heavy rainfalls accompanied by squally wind is likely to occur over the coastal districts of the country. The rest of the country may experience moderately heavy to heavy rainfalls accompanied by gusty or squally wind.

The low-lying areas of the coastal districts of Satkhira, Khulna, Bagerhat, Pirojpur, Barguna, Patuakhali, Jhalakati, Barisal, Bhola, Laxmipur, Chittagong and Cox's Bazar and their off-shore islands and chars are likely to be inundated by a surge of 4-5 feet height above normal astronomical tide.

Meanwhile, the Dhaka-Narayanganj-Demra Irrigation Project area has submerged due to torrential rain.

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BDR sepoy gets life-term for raping girl

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, July 21: A BDR sepoy was sentenced to life imprisonment for raping a Rohingya girl last year.

The case history in brief is: sepoy Moslemuddin, of Dandama BDR out post in Teknaf, along with his two accomplices, picked up a Rohingya girl, Anjuman 12, from a house, took her to a nearby hill and gang raped her on the night of May 19, 1996.

A case was filed against three BDR jawans — Anwar Hossain, Abdur Rafeeq and Moslemuddin — with the local police.

After examining the witnesses and evidence, the District and Sessions Judge convicted Moslemuddin and acquitted the two others.

Money changers don't have forex to start business

By Staff Correspondent

Sixteen authorised money changers are unable to go into operation as they do not have the preliminary stock of foreign exchange.

"We cannot do business as we do not have a ready stock (of foreign exchange) and nobody is willing to sell US dollars at the rate fixed by the government," said Kefayet Ullah Masud, President of the Bangladesh Money Changers Association (BMCA).

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club

yesterday, he further said that the presence of kerb market traders in the foreign exchange market is also obstructing their business. The kerb market operators are offering a much higher rate for US dollars than the money changers.

Approved by Bangladesh Bank recently, 13 of these money changing companies are located in Dhaka, two in Chittagong and one in Satkhira.

Masud said commercial banks offer outgoing travellers US dollars at rates between Tk

43.80 and Tk 43.90 (till Sunday). "So who will come to us to buy dollars at higher prices?" he asked.

He suggested that the government should allow them to buy US dollars from the commercial banks at those rates.

A Bangladeshi traveller is allowed to carry a maximum of 3,000 US dollars per year, of which 300 dollars in cash and the rest 2,700 dollars in travellers cheques (TCs), he noted.

The TC issuing companies provide a one per cent commission

to the money changer for selling TCs.

In this regard, Masud, who is an owner of the International Money Changing Company, said the outgoing travellers are allowed to purchase a maximum of 500 dollars from the money changers. "Nobody will come to us for exchanging 500 dollars."

BMCA president urged the government to withdraw the ceiling and allow the money changers to sell the full quota

of 3,000 dollars, per person per annum, to the outgoing travellers. He also urged the government to restrict kerb market operation so Bangladesh tourists, foreigners and repatriates can sell dollars to the authorised exchange companies.

BMCA Vice President Saifulah Miaz, Secretary General Abul Kashem and other members of the association were also present in the press conference.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড

ঢাকা

☐ এন্ডের আয়কর পরিশোধ করুন এবং

☐ দেশের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অবদান রাখুন

টেলিফোন গ্রাহকদের বাধ্যতামূলক আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করতে হবে না

মাননীয় অর্থমন্ত্রী কর্তৃক বাজেটের সমাপনী বক্তৃতার মাধ্যমে টেলিফোন মালিকদের ক্ষেত্রে বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিলের বিধান প্রত্যাহার করা হয়েছে। কিন্তু পদ্ধতিগত অসুবিধার জন্য অর্থ আইন, ১৯৯৭ হতে উহা প্রত্যাহত হয়নি। সংশ্লিষ্ট বিধানটি সংশোধনের জন্য প্রয়োজনীয় ব্যবস্থা নেয়া হচ্ছে। জনগণের সংশয় দূরীকরণার্থে জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড এই মর্মে স্পষ্টীকরণ করছে যে শুধু টেলিফোন গ্রাহক হওয়ার কারণে কোন ব্যক্তিকে বাধ্যতামূলকভাবে আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিল করতে হবে না। যদি কোন মহল থেকে বর্ণিত টেলিফোন গ্রাহকদের আয়কর রিটার্ন দাখিলের জন্য চাপ সৃষ্টি করা হয় বা কোন রকম হয়রানী করা হয়, তাহলে তাদেরকে সরাসরি জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ডে স্থাপিত অভিযোগ কেন্দ্রে জনাব মুহাম্মদ তাহির হোসাইন, প্রথম সচিব বা জনাব খন্দকার খুরশীদ কামাল, দ্বিতীয় সচিব (ফোনঃ ৯৩৩১৮৮০, ৮৩৮১০১-৮/২৮৫, ৩২০)-এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

জিএফপি-১৬৮১৪-২১/৭
জি-১৮৫২

জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড