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JCD calls strike
at DU from
today

By DU Correspondent

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD), the student wing of BNP, has called an indefinite strike at the Dhaka University (DU) from today protesting "capture" of Surya Sen Hall by activists of Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and the authorities, "failure" to rehabilitate JCD activists in the hall.

Addressing a press conference at the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Club yesterday, JCD leaders also announced a programme which include rally at the Aparajeyo Bangla at the university on July 28, strike in all educational institutions in Dhaka City on July 29 and a rally in front of the Press Club on July 30.

A tougher programme will be announced from the July 30.

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**DU exams
postponed**

An emergency meeting of teachers' representatives in the Dhaka University Syndicate yesterday decided to postpone all examinations scheduled for today and tomorrow, reports BSS.

The decision was taken for unavoidable reasons, a press release of the university said. Fresh dates for the postponed examinations would be announced later.

The meeting held with Vice Chancellor Prof AK Azad Chowdhury in the chair called upon all concerned including the student organisations to extend their cooperation for holding examinations and running academic programmes.

UNB adds Resident students of the Dhaka University who are unable to stay at their respective dormitories for "special reason" have been asked to contact their hall provost concerned immediately.

The call was made at a meeting of Standing Committee of DU Provosts yesterday that also urged resident students to stay at their respective halls.

The meeting, presided over by the vice-chancellor, expressed concern over the prevailing campus situation.

**Schoolboy stabbed
to death in
Narayanganj**

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 26: A schoolboy was killed and three others injured when they came under attack by a local group here yesterday.

Ayubur Rahman Babu, 16, a student of Delpara High School, was stabbed by an armed group in a tea stall in west Delpara area after a hot exchange of words, Fatullah Thana police said. Three others were also stabbed during the incident.

Babu died after he was taken to Narayanganj Sadar Hospital. One seriously injured Mamun, 18, has been admitted at the Chest Diseases Institute and Hospital at Mahakali in the capital. Salah Uddin, 18, Selim, 19, Nantu, 21 were also admitted at the Narayanganj Sadar Hospital, police added.

Mujibur Rahman, the father of the victim, filed a murder case with the Fatullah Thana. Police arrested one Jahangir, 17, in this connection. The body has been kept in Narayanganj hospital for autopsy.

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Gas, oil exploration in 6 blocks

2 multinationals offer to invest \$200m

By Sharier Khan

Two multinational oil and gas companies, Shell Oil and Cairn Plc, have jointly submitted proposals for an initial investment of 200 million US dollars for gas and oil exploration in six blocks, official sources said.

As per the proposals submitted by the Shell-Cairn Joint venture in the Second Bid Round for 15 exploration blocks which concluded on July 15 last, the joint venture will target discovery of reserves of over 11 trillion cubic feet of gas.

As per the proposal, the

**BNP stages countrywide
demonstration today**

By Staff Correspondent

BNP will stage demonstrations across the country today in protest against the government move to rename the Zia International Airport.

As part of the countrywide programme, a protest rally will be held in front of the BNP's Nayapaltan central office in the capital at 4 pm, said a press release.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, in a statement urged the all

metropolitan city and district town units of the party to organise protest rallies and procession. He called upon the countrymen to register their protests against dropping Zia's name by attending today's programme.

Meanwhile, a meeting of city BNP and its front organisations today said the government has romped a dangerous game to change the name of the Zia International Airport.

Delegations at the ECOSOC meet made this recommendation in its agreed conclusions on the coordination of policies and activities of the specialised agencies and relevant bodies of the UN system related to fresh water, including clean and safe water supply and sanitation.

Bangladesh highlighted the issue of arsenic contamination at the ECOSOC for support of the UN system in addressing this major problem facing the country.

In his statement in the ECOSOC session, Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the UN and leader of the Bangladesh delegation, highlighted the adverse effects of arsenic contamination of drinking water in Bangladesh.

The UN body also strongly endorsed that people living in poverty should be ensured microcredit to generate self-employment and contribute to empowerment specially of women.

It also emphasised strengthening of institutions supportive of microcredit.

ECOSOC for high attention to arsenic problem

A UN body at a substantive session recommended that close attention be given to the seriousness of arsenic contamination of drinking water supplies, reports UNB.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations in its session in Geneva from June 30 to July 25 also advised high attention to adverse effects of persistent organic pollutants upon water and disposal of toxic substances.

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**Rohingya refugees dig
trenches around camps**

By Reaz Ahmad

Representatives of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) will hold talks with officials of Foreign Ministry today in Dhaka against the backdrop of continuing anti-repatriation demonstrations by Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazar.

UNHCR mission chief in Myanmar Theng Cheun Sang will also join the talks, a high official of the ministry told this correspondent, confirming today's meeting. Earlier on Thursday, UNHCR mission chief in Bangladesh Arun Salangarn had also told this correspondent about today's meeting.

In Cox's Bazar, militant refugees opposed to repatriation dug trenches around the Nayapara and Kutupalong refugee camps yesterday and turned down fresh offer for talks, made by Refugee and Repatriation Commissioner (RRC) AQM Qamrul Huda, our correspondent Abdul Monayem Khan reported. The refugees also refused their weekly ration for the sixth day yesterday. The RRC, DC and SP of Cox's Bazar also held talks with the local MP, Mohammad Ali in a bid to calm down the agitating refugees. Mohammad Ali, along with the Chairman and members of the local union parishad visited the camps to assure the refugees that none would be forced to go back to Myanmar.

But the refugees demanded a "written assurance" from the government in this regard before talks.

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Samples of boundary wall to be constructed around Ramna Park in the city. —Star photo



Gujral offers unconditional talks with Kashmir rebels

SRINAGAR (India), July 26: Indian Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral today offered for the first time to hold talks without pre-conditions with Muslim separatist guerrillas in the strife-torn northern state of Kashmir, reports AFP.

"I am ready to talk without any conditions with those misguided people with guns just like we have done with tribal militants of Nagaland," he announced in Qazigund, 80 kilometers south from Srinagar.

Gujral's offer for unconditional

talks with the guerrillas in Kashmir is the first ever made by an Indian prime minister.

In 1995, the then Prime Minister PV Narasimha Rao agreed to hold talks but had said the Muslim militants must first surrender, and that the talks would be held "within the framework of the Indian Constitution."

The offer was conveyed to the militant organisations by the then internal security minister Rajesh Pilot, and rejected

by the separatists.

More than 20,000 people have died in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, since 1989 when Muslim separatists launched an anti-Indian campaign in the Himalayan territory.

Police said a group of seven

to eight armed men shot at Shahid Ali, 22, in Bottoli area at around 10 pm, leaving him dead on the spot.

Bullet-wounded Abdur Rashid was admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

Chandanaish police said the incident was a sequel to a dispute over ownership of some abandoned trees. A case was filed.

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Naga rebels agree to ceasefire for 3 months

NEW DELHI, July 26: India signed a three-month ceasefire with separatist guerrillas in Nagaland yesterday, paving the way for political talks over the future of the troubled north eastern state, reports AFP.

Prime Minister Inder Kumar Gujral told parliament that the pact was signed with the National Socialist Council of Nagaland (NSCN), the chief militant group in the Christian-majority state.

"It has been agreed to ceasefire for three months and initiate discussions at the political level. The government is also in touch with other groups in the state to suspend their militant activities," Gujral said.

The NSCN had already been holding secret negotiations with militant groups led to loss of life, seriously disturbed public order and thwarted the economic development of the state. The people are fed with the violence," Gujral said.

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**Young man shot
dead in Ctg**

World champs Lanka snatch Asia Cup from India

COLOMBO, July 26: One-day masters Sri Lanka snatched the Asia Cup from India's grasp with an awesome eight-wicket demolition of Sachin Tendulkar's men in the final here today, reports AFP.

In one of the most scintillating displays of limited overs cricket in recent times, the Sri Lankans outplayed the dazed Indians before a full house of 32,000 home fans at the Premadasa Stadium.

The world champions picked up six breathtaking catches to restrict the Indians to 239 for seven after Tendulkar had won the toss and elected to take first strike on a slow wicket.

The Sri Lankans, fired by a first wicket stand of 137 off 18 overs between openers Sanath Jayasuriya and Marvan Atapattu, overhauled the score in just the 37th over.

The pair hammered 49 runs in the first four overs and 98 by the 10th with a flurry of boundaries of the Indian attack comprising just three frontline bowlers.

Jayasuriya cracked seven boundaries and two sixes in a blazing 63 off 52 balls before falling to debutant left-arm spinner Nilesh Kulkarni.

Man-of-the-match Atapattu made 84 not out, following his knocks of 80 versus Pakistan, 31 against India and 60 against Bangladesh in the preliminary league.

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Sri Lankan skipper Arjuna Ranatunga shows the Asia Cup shortly after winning the title by thrashing India to an eight wicket win yesterday at the Premadasa Stadium in Colombo.

—AFP/UNB photo

Fund for Gorai dredging assured

Netherlands to join other donors in building Ganges Barrage

The Netherlands is willing to join a global consortium to construct the Ganges Barrage, but unwilling to take a lead in organising the group, visiting Dutch minister said yesterday, reports UNB.

Jan Pronk, the Dutch Minister for Development Cooperation who held official-level talks here, said international agencies like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank should initiate the group.

"We are willing to join the consortium, but we are too small to lead," he told a press conference in the NEC conference room in the capital, ending his week-long visit to one of its main aid-recipient countries.

Finance Minister Shah AMS

Kibria, who led a Bangladeshi team in the official-level meeting on Wednesday, also spoke at the joint news conference, welcoming the Dutch gesture for providing assistance for the planned Ganges Barrage.

"These are not merely engineering works, it's the survival of your people," said Pronk, whose deltaic country has a lot of experience in water management and land reclamation.

He said his country has been working on a master plan for the overall development of the Meghna Delta which is "one of the most fascinating water in the world". The plan will include protection arrangements.

He said the plan could be completed in 15 months and its

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The Netherlands' willingness to participate in the international consortium for the construction of the barrages is part of the European Union's interest in Bangladesh's water sector.

The country's coast line is about 700 km from east to west, beginning from Teknaf and ending at the Sundarbans. According to an international sea convention, an EEZ of a country starts from its sea shore and spreads over 200 nautical miles (363 km) in the sea.

Two other projects will expand the capacity of shrimp and prawn hatcheries at a cost of about Tk 20 crore while a Tk 52 crore will be

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The proposed survey, involving

amine management of inland and coastal fisheries and that in the EEZ in the Bay.

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