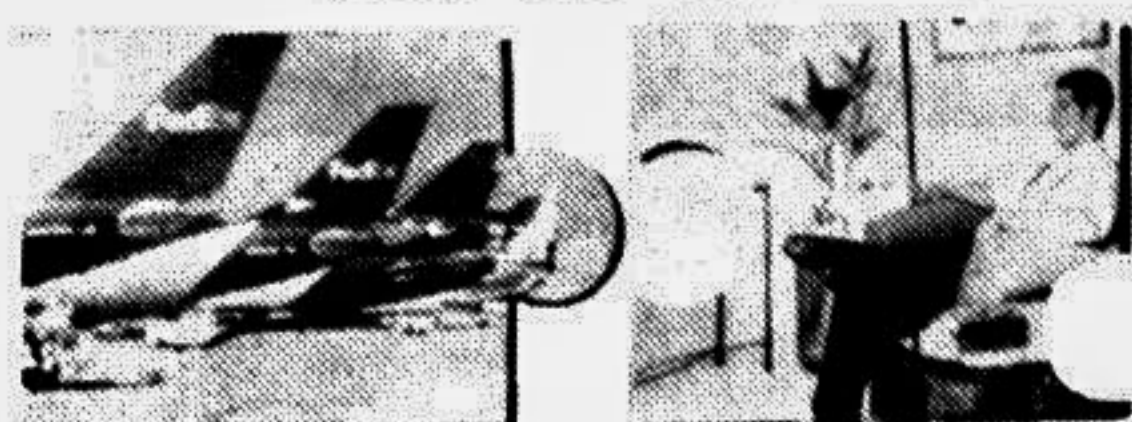


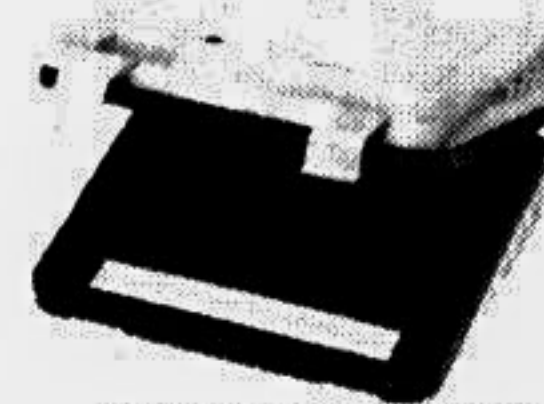
We do our Piece so you can have your peace



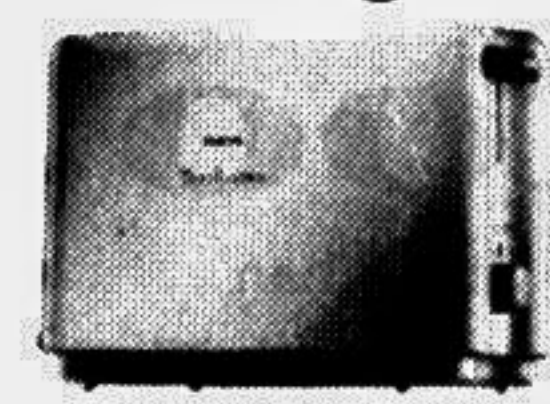
FedEx
The World On Time

Bangladesh Express Co. Ltd.
Licensee of Federal Express Corporation

For more information call-Dhaka, Tel: 9565114,
9883227, 9130647, 894213, 808803 DEP2 938931
Chittagong, Tel: (031) 712127, CEPZ (031) 740108
Khulna, Tel: (041) 725008, NGang, Tel: 9714336



Sandwich maker



Toaster - 2 Slices

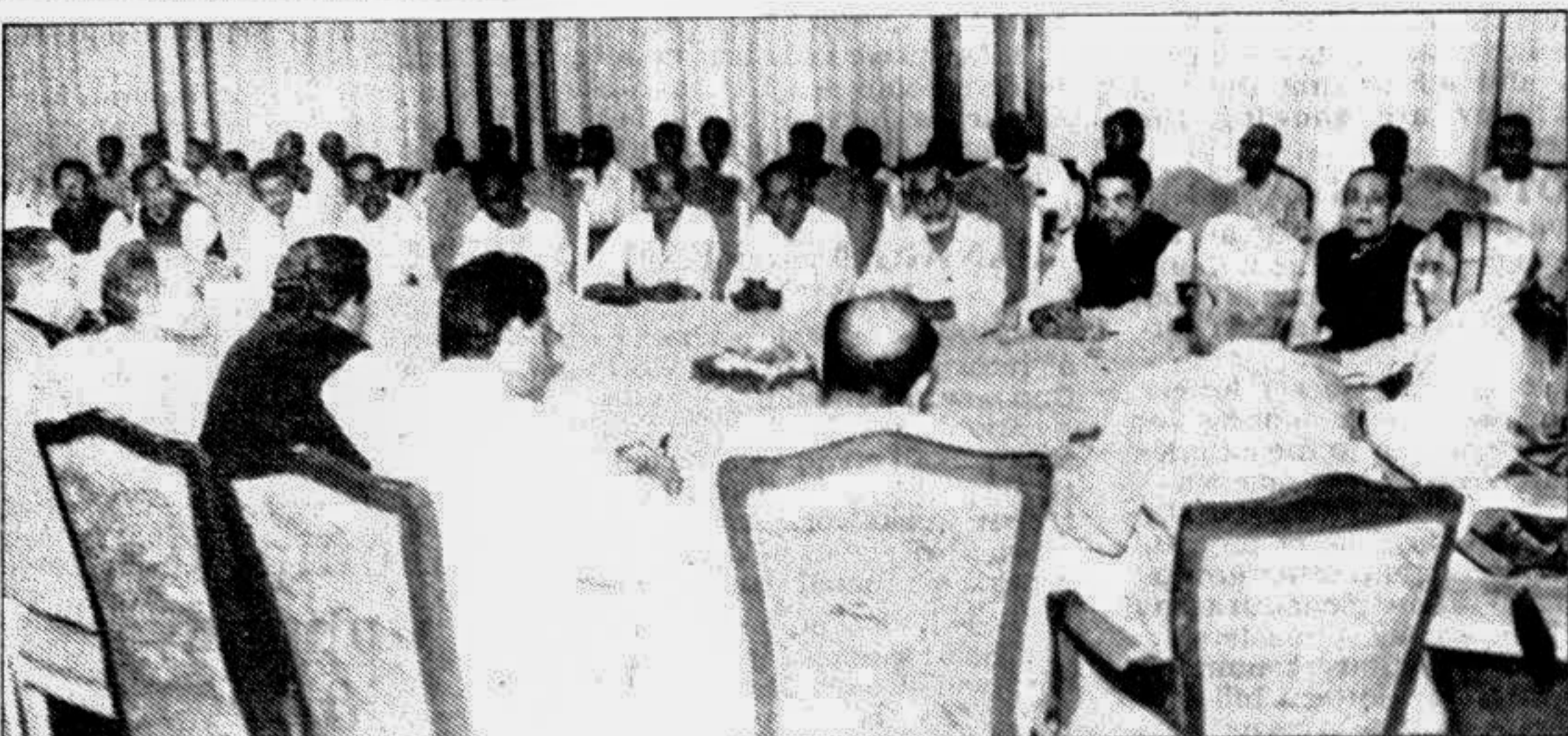
Transcom Electronics Limited

Official licensee of Philips Electronics N.V. for lighting products, radio and TV sets

Dhaka: 815307-10, 819625-9 Ctg.: 716353, 723578
Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

Let's make things better

PHILIPS



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina exchanging views with the leaders of Barisal district Awami League who met her at the Ganabhaban yesterday. — PID photo

Hasina tells Barisal AL leaders Strengthen party to foil conspiracies

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called upon the party leaders and workers to foil the conspiracies of the Opposition by accelerating the party activities and strengthening the organisation, reports UNB.

The real source of power is the people. You will have to strengthen the party by organising the people, she said while addressing the leaders of Barisal district Awami League in the city.

Leaders of Barisal district Awami League and its front organisations, led by district President Mohiuddin Ahmed and General Secretary Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah, met the Prime Minister to discuss various aspects of the organisation.

The Prime Minister said the Awami League workers made great sacrifices for establishing democratic rights of the people in the country. You will have to be ready for more sacrifices for building up the nation.

She also asked the party leaders to draw attention of the new generation to the party by accelerating the people-oriented activities and involve them in nation-building activities.

DU halls

From Page 1
dential students and those with doubling permission will be allowed to enter the halls, said a DU press release.

But, it said, in case of organisational activities, only presidents and general secretaries of central and DU units of different student groups along with three other workers will be allowed to enter the guest rooms.

The meeting warned that stern action would be taken against the outsiders, terrorists and wanted criminals by the law enforcing agencies.

Meanwhile, a leader of BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) yesterday alleged that a number of outsiders were now staying in four halls of the university where some of their workers were rehabilitated by the authorities on Thursday.

JCD General Secretary Habib ul Nabi Sohel alleged that the outsiders belong to pro-Awami League Chhatra League.

They are staying in these halls with active support from the university authorities, he told newsmen.

He threatened to announce tougher programmes if the authorities failed to take necessary measures to free the campus from the outsiders.

Gulshan Lake

From Page 1
Authorised section of Rajuk were yet to take any step to execute the minister's order. Rajuk officials claimed the two sections were too poorly manned to carry out such a work. But a notice was being prepared to be sent to every developer in the area, said an official.

Following the ministerial directive, Rajuk formed a four-member committee comprising officials of its Engineering, Land, Town Planning and the Survey departments. The committee would carry out door-to-door survey to determine how much land had been encroached upon.

Rajuk officials said an influential quarter extended their boundaries 'at will' and encroached upon the public land. Asked when the committee report would be made available, they said that the committee members were yet to start their work because they were still not officially notified.

"We had a long weekend," replied an official, when asked why it was taking so long.

Rajuk sources said that Mohammad Nasim also asked Rajuk to identify officials who approved plots for high-rise buildings in the lake area.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net

Boy stabbed to death in Keraniganj

By Staff Correspondent

A 15-year-old boy was stabbed to death by a gang at Jhaubari in Keraniganj than on Friday.

Police identified the dead as Masud, son of Sheikh Monnaf, a resident of Kaliganj. The incident took place when Masud along with his three friends went to Jhaubari for a walk at about 7 pm.

A gang of about six led by one Uzzal started an altercation with Masud and his friends. At one stage, Uzzal stabbed Masud around his neck, police said.

Masud was taken to Suhrawardi Hospital where the doctors declared him dead, police added.

Police arrested Uzzal in this connection yesterday. The body was sent to Mitford Hospital for autopsy.

Jainal Abedin, elder brother of the victim, filed a murder case with Keraniganj thana the same night.

Decomposed body of teenage boy recovered

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered a partially decomposed body of a teenage boy from a ditch near the Sweeper Colony at Gopibagh under Shabubagh thana in the city yesterday morning.

The unidentified body of the boy, aged about 13, bore injury marks on its face, according to police.

The reason behind the killing could not be known immediately. Police suspected killers threw the body into the ditch at the South end of the colony after killing him within the last couple of days.

None, however, was arrested in this connection till filing of this report last night. The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy.

Clashes between 2 rival groups in Narsingdi continue: 30 more injured

NARSINGDI, May 9: Clashes between two rival groups that erupted in Nilaskha union of Raipura thana for the second day today left at least 30 people injured, reports UNB.

The clash occurred over the control of a Jalnolal in a char area of the river Meghna. Of the injured, a child was rushed to Dhaka Medical College Hospital in a critical condition. Sixteen persons were admitted to Narsingdi Sadar Hospital and the rest were treated at different clinics.

Witnesses said the supporters of Lal Miah Master attacked the supporters of Nannu Miah in the early morning as a sequel to the Friday's clash in which 25 people were injured.

Fresh violence feared

From Page 1
hended fresh violence today (Sunday).

Deputy Commissioner Md Rafiqul Islam told The Daily Star yesterday that two platoons of BDR and additional police force were kept on alert to check violent activities like dismantling fish-plates on rail tracks.

Officer-in-charge of Kotwali thana Md Jahurul Haq, when asked, said "there is fear of fresh violence in the town as protesting students had earlier given an ultimatum for release of Ruhi by Sunday".

Local leaders of Awami League, however, brushed aside the impression that the administration was being pressurised. But they alleged that police baton-charged students when they went to the DC's office on Tuesday to hand over a memorandum.

Shamsul Haq, a ruling party lawmaker from Phulpur constituency in Mymensingh, along with some local party leaders were waiting at the local Circuit House yesterday afternoon for a meeting with the district administration. Talking to The Daily Star, he denied exerting any pressure on the administration. "Rather we're here to help cool down the abnormal situation in the town", said one leader.

Shamsul Haq did not participate in the proceedings of the Jatiya Sangsad last week when four bills on the CHT were passed. Yes, it is true that I could not attend the session. I am suffering from tooth ache."

However, he has been holding meetings with the district administration for the last few days on the issue of Ruhi's release.

Advocate Wajedul Islam, Vice President of Mymensingh district unit of AL, said that bail prayer for Ruhi would be moved on Sunday. He, however, ruled out fresh violence even if bail was not granted.

Meanwhile, this correspondent also visited the disputed plot of land at Gohalkandi. Tk 50,000 was demanded as toll from its owner allegedly by Mukul, a BCL district unit leader. Munni, daughter of a martyr in the Liberation War was overseeing construction work on that plot late yesterday afternoon.

Munni and her husband Mostafizur Rahman, who had lodged a case against Mukul, said that if they did not get redress from the local authorities "We'll write open letters to the Prime Minister and the Home Minister for justice."

Mostafizur Rahman said, they were under constant threat from Mukul and his accomplices. The gang has grabbed plots adjacent to my one, claiming those to be property of a graveyard and now it targeted our plot."

9 policemen posted at Daudkandi bridge closed

COMILLA, May 9: Nine police personnel, including a havildar, posted at the Daudkandi bridge toll plaza, were closed to the district police lines today for their alleged negligence of duty, reports BSS.

Magurchhara disaster

From Page 1
small span of time."

An environmentalist of the company working at the site said "Climatic situation around the area is now being monitored and we hope to be in a position to comment on the issue by the end of this year."

"We are planting cytro nyla, boga media and some other plants that will help regenerate the soil," the environmentalist said, adding that stacks of grass are also being laid on slopes of the hills to protect it from erosion. "We are happy that the plants are growing."

Asked about trees, he said, "That will take some time." BTRI officials told The Daily Star that they had suggested Occidental to take immediate measures for regeneration of soil.

Land within a radius of 100 metres of the explosion site was severely affected, compared to other areas of the locality, an official pointed out.

A total of about 1000 samples of soil from various spots

around the blow-out site were collected and tested in the BTRI laboratory, he said. The tests were done in collaboration with Occidental.

The findings of the tests conducted recently showed that organic matter and nitrogen in soil in that area have been reduced substantially.

Within a 100-metre radius of the explosion, site both organic matter and nitrogen in soil have been reduced to one tenth of the normal condition, BTRI experts said.

Then within a 200-metre radius, micro organic matter and nitrogen content of soil were found to be half and two third respectively of the normal condition.

With the increase in distance from the blow-out site, presence of these two substances in soil were found to be increasing and almost nearing the normal condition, the experts said.

The presence of micro organic substance at a distance of 300 metres was nine tenth and that of nitrogen was half the normal condition, they pointed out.



A view of the Magurchhara gasfield.

— Star photo

Mayor Hanif's 4 years in office

From Page 1
alise that construction of markets, alteral, was the most lucrative entrepreneurship one could take up in the city.

The DCC's Chief Engineer, commenting on the latest market-building spree, proudly said that these new schemes were purely on self-financing basis.

"We sold the shops first, then started the construction with that money. We will not make mistakes by investing our revenue funds any more," he said. In one instance, the DCC grabbed a piece of the roadside green land in front of Dhaka Club Ltd between the Shishu Park and the Police Control room and started to build a multi-storied shopping complex. After the report was published in newspapers, the authorities woke up to find that the land belonged to the PWD.

The work, which was already half-way through, was immediately stopped.

The most intriguing of all was probably the DCC's decision to fill up an age-old natural canal beside the Martyred Intellectuals' Monument in Rayer Bazar and build a truck terminal. When reports about

earth-filling were published along with photographic evidence, the Prime Minister's office had to intervene to stop it. What action was taken against the people who masterminded such a project? Well, the engineer in question was 'rewarded' with a promotion.

While the Mayor expresses his deep concern about the city's hawkers and their rehabilitation, several DCC market-building projects remain unused. DCC officials alleged that a vested group in the Nagar Bhaban has been active to obtain court injunctions to stop DCC from renting out the markets. The group has a network inside the corporation and in the process, it makes money by renting the shops out illegally.

In the New Market area where all the footpaths and even the roads have been grabbed by traders, a huge four-storied market nearby remains empty. Shops inside have been left to house distressed people. Earlier when the Mayor was approached to comment on this, he said that the very plan of the market was faulty be-

cause the access to it is too narrow and obscure. "But we will modify it soon and build a broad staircase from the main road," he said. This was more than a year ago but there is no sign of any development in the area.

Among many other responsibilities, the Mayor is also vested with the function of ensuring hygiene and food quality in the city. His Public Health Laboratory, the only city organ to do the job, has been inoperative for more than a year. The lab's workforce bitterly complain about "idle days" now, expressing nostalgia for some previous city fathers who were "strict." The workforce gossip over cups of tea throughout the day amid expensive lab equipment wrapped up in just sacks and scattered in the rook DCC's Health chief proudly announced recently that a multi-million taka project had been taken up to construct a laboratory.

The city's conservancy officials always have ready answers to cover up their miserable failure to dispose of an estimated three thousand tonnes of garbage from the city everyday. Lack of awareness among

the people and lack of manpower, vehicles and funds to keep "such a big city" clean are the common answers. In documents hundreds of sorties are shown for the conservancy trucks but sources in the parking near Syedabad disclosed that not half the number of trucks are used for garbage disposal in the city. Some claimed that one of the biggest pilferage in the DCC takes place in this section.

When Mayor Hanif took over office four years ago, he obviously did not take over a problem-free city. The city had already reached a decaying position as a result of neglect and lack of vision of its leaders. What Mayor Hanif was expected to do was to put it on a right track with whatever resources he had in his hand. After all, he enjoyed the people's mandate.

Mayor Hanif has another year to go before his five-year tenure is over and there is still time for him to combine his power and resources — whatever he has — and present the city dwellers with a package that would help the future generations.

BNP condemns filing of 'false cases' against its 35 leaders

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has strongly condemned the filing of 'false cases' against 35 leaders of the party, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, he demanded immediate withdrawal of the cases against the leaders, including Jubo Dal President Mirza Abbas. BNP city unit convenor Sadeq Hossain Khoka and Jubo Dal leader Mirza Khokon.

Bhuiyan alleged that the armed cadres and hired musclemen of the ruling Awami League attacked and injured BNP leaders and workers during the "peaceful hartal" across the country on Wednesday.

He accused the police of extending help to the attackers instead of arresting them.

Notice served

From Page 1
would create regionalism, which is opposed to the very spirit of nationalism as enshrined in the Constitution.

The notice also said that the bills have destroyed the basic structure and fundamental pillars of the Constitution and also the unitary character of the Republic.

It said the bills have limited the authority of the government on the resources of the hill districts which infringes the sovereign power of the government.

Khaleda seeks engineers' opinion on gas policy

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday questioned the wisdom of exploiting all the proven gas at a time, and cautioned that the country's resources may face the same debacle as in Nigeria, reports UNB.

"We have enough gas and oil. Money is also needed for uplift of the people. But will it be logical to exploit the natural resources at a time," she said while addressing the concluding ceremony of golden jubilee celebration of the Institution of Engineers.

The BNP Chairperson apprehended that the policy pursued by the government may lead the country to a crisis like the oil-rich Nigeria.

Begum Zia sought expert opinion and suggestions from the engineers in this regard. She reminded the national organisation of the engineers of its responsibility to react to socio-economic condition and come out with appropriate suggestion.

The well-trained engineers cannot adapt themselves to the newer technology in the absence of proper logistic support, she added.

"It continues, the engineers will abandoned like old machinery and we have to import trained engineers from abroad," the former Prime Minister said. "This can't be accepted by any means."

Begum Zia said the engineers Ban Jamaat-Shibir politics: Nirmul

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee yesterday protested the Shibir attack on Chittagong University halls and demanded ban on the "fascist communal politics of Jamaat-Shibir", reports UNB.

In a joint statement, four leaders of the committee said, "The heinous and violent acts of Jamaat-Shibir axis on the CU campus are repetition of their role in the liberation war of '71."

The statement was issued by Nirmul Committee advisory council president Prof Kabir Chowdhury, convenor Shamim Akhtar, executive convenor Kazi Mukul and city convenor Sadikur Rahman Parag.

Bibiana

From Page 1

expert. Such practice is common because of the expensive deployment of rigs. A rig is usually rented from a third party for a daily charge of 30,000 to 60,000 US dollars. Therefore deploying a rig without operation is much more expensive than applying an alternative method in cases like this," the expert added.

BAPEX, the Bangladeshi exploration company, had faced a similar situation in Shahbazpur in 1995. It ultimately went for by-pass drilling and succeeded in hitting a gas reservoir.

Meanwhile, sources said that although Occidental blamed Scimitar's faulty sealing of the gas leakage in the Jalalabad well last week, Petrobangla was not satisfied with the explanation.

"Occidental was simply conducting a work-over operation in the Jalalabad well. This is a 10-year old well and Occidental was supposed to be prepared for this kind of leakage," said a source.

Work-over operation in old wells is a common practice in Bangladesh and BAPEX has conducted a number of such operations. But there is no precedence of such leakage in those operations.

Besides, Occidental in its preliminary report claimed that none of its equipment was at fault in connection with the gas leakage. But in the same report, it said that the drilling crew failed to stab a particular type of valve in the well just before the leakage.

"Therefore, it has indirectly admitted its failure," observed the source.



IEB President MA Hannan presenting a crest to Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia at the institute's golden jubilee celebration at its auditorium in the city yesterday. — Star photo

should give their suggestions and recommendations to overcome such a situation. And the government is responsible to implement the recommendations for the sake of the nation.

She urged the engineers to formulate pragmatic plans and play a pioneering role in advancing the country to keep pace with others.

Prof Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank, who addressed the function, highly praised President Shahabuddin Ahmed for his effort to free the campus from terrorism and unfair politics.

He called upon the conscious section of the society to raise their voice in support of the President.

"You take the initiative to curb terrorism and unfair politics on the campus," Yunus appealed to President Shahabuddin.

The concluding ceremony was also attended by secretary general of the IEB A N H Akhtar Hossain. Its president M A Hannan presided.

Talat Mahmood

From Page 1
New Theatres 'Sampati' opposite Bharati. He acquired fame there as a playback singer through his non-film records including "tasveer teri dil mera behla naa saki."

In 1949, he landed in Bombay, the Makkah of filmdom, and acted in about a dozen films including "Dile-Nadaan," "Waris," "Talar," "Lala Rukh" and "Sone Ke Chidiya."

He got his break as a film playback singer in 1951 under the baton of Anil Biswas in 'Ar-zoo', starring Dilip Kumar. He was then acknowledged as the singer whose voice matched with that of the 'tragedy king' and the association continued with 'Footpath', 'Babul', 'Tarana', 'Sangdil', and other movies till Dilip shifted to the new successful voice of Mohammad Rafi.

In a career spanning over two eventful decades, the inimitable singer rendered over 250 non-film songs and was the playback singer in over 200 films including 'Footpath', 'Ar-zoo', 'Babul', 'Tarana', 'Sansar', 'Do Raha', 'Ashiana', 'Anhonee', 'Saqi', 'Sangdil' and 'Taxi Driver'.

"Yeh hawa, yeh raat, yeh chandni, which Talat rendered in 'Sangdil' under music director late Sajjad, 'mein dil hun arman bhara' from 'Anhonee', and 'mera jeevan saathi bichad gaya, to kham kahani ho gaye' from 'Babul' are still a rage among filmgoers and connoisseurs of music.

A cultured and refined man, the singer-actor had a taste for things of life. He suffered a paralytic attack seven years back and since then led a reclusive life.

He is survived by his wife, son Khalid Mahmood, also a singer of repute and a daughter. "Aaj ghazal mein ek sher kum ho gaya" is how veteran composer Naushad Ali described the passing away of the king of ghazals, Talat Mahmood today.

Naushad, told PTI that the famous singer belonged to the genre of legendary Begum Akhtar who epitomised the art of ghazal singing.

Describing him as 'god's own man' famous playback singer, Manna Dey said Talat had an 'inimitable style' and his songs had a special place in the hearts of lovers and those who were heartbroken.

Kibria

From Page 1

porters with banks. He also mentioned problems related to loan classification and account blocking system.

"Opening of a Letter of Credit sometime takes one month which makes it difficult for an exporter to export his consignments within 120 days," he said.

The bank officials assured the business leaders that they would solve the problems immediately.