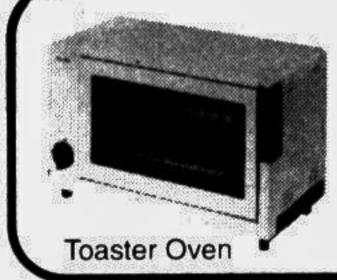
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PHILIPS

Tofael refutes Khaleda's claim

By Staff Correspondent A senior minister yesterday brushed aside BNP chairperson's claim that the ruling party activists put up barricades near Kanchpur to the long

march. Talking to The Daily Star last night. Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said, "if we had put up barricades on the highway, we would not have taken prompt initiatives to clear the barrier".

He alleged that the BNP activists had deflated truck tiers and created obstacles in their failed bid to hire trucks for the long march by force.

Tofael Ahmed, also a presidium member of the ruling Awami League, denied allegations that ruling party activists were carrying arms near the barricades. He criticised the BNP leadership for issuing provocative statements urging partymen to carry licensed

He suggested that if Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia is convinced that the CHT peace accord is contrary to the Constitution. "she can make it an issue for the next elections or go to the court of law for legal redress."

Sylhet flood

From Page 1 About 300 dwelling houses damaged totally while 10 people sustained injuries.

Of the injured, Abdul Maleque, Aftabuddin and Fakharuddin were admitted to the Thana Health Complex. Two children were killed in

a landslide at village Lakshmiprasad during the storm, local people said. However, the district officials could not confirm the deaths till this night. The road communication

with Gowainghat thana headquarters remained out off for the second day today. Power supply and telecommunication remain cut off, local officials The road communication of

Companyganj thana with the district headquarters remained snapped from last night the due to the inundation of the road at many points.

The thana headquarters was under 3 feet water this morning The situation in this bordering thana worsened due to on rush of water from the Khashia hills. In Jakiganj thana, villages

in seven unions have been badly affected, local sources said. These are Barohal, Kajalshah, Birosri, Kalijuri, Manikpur, Sultanpur and Kashkanakpur.

In Balaganj thana, villages in Gouripur, Purba Pailanpur, Balagani and Sadipur unions have been inundated with flood water, officials said this after-

Flood waters also entered the dwelling houses of 7 unions under Beanibazar thana, local officials informed this afternoon. The unions are Sheola Alinagar, Dubag, Charkhai, Kurarbazar, Muria and Tilapara.

More than 30 per cent houses in Golapganj thana have been inundated while many roads have gone under water.

In Sunamganj district, flood has caused a large-scale damage during the last 24 hours. The thana headquarters of Chhatak is now under one-foot water while road communication between the district headquarters and Chhatak and Doarabazar thanas remained snapped.

Flood water has entered more than one thousand dwelling houses in Jagannathpur thana, an official said.

Govt version From Page 1

saulted some passengers and snatched away their money and wrist watches.

Narayanganj-Demra-Meghna Sarak Paribahan Sramik Committee president Taher Khan Babu filed a case with Siddhirganj thana in this connection, the handout said. On information, according

to the SP, senior police officials in the district rushed to the spot. But the barricade already created a huge traffic congestion on Dhaka-Chittagong and Dhaka-Sylhet highways.

Being requested by police, the handout said, Roads and Highways Department sent a wrecker to the troubled spot but, it could not reach there due to traffic congestion on both sides of the barricade.

The handout said SP of Narayangani informed that police in cooperation with Roads and Highways Department were trying to bring normalcy on the

In a similar version, leaders of bus owners and workers as-

sociations have blamed local terrorists of BNP for the disruption and said such acts in the name of political programme is very unfortunate. They criticised the attack by

BNP on innocent passengers and demanded legal action against the culprits.

Signatories to the statement are Purbanchaliyo Malik Oikya Jote president Ibrahim Chengish, Mini-bus Malik Oikya Jote president M Kokter Hossain, Narayanganj-Demra-Meghna-Narsingdi Bus Minibus Malik Samity president Nurul Amin Maksud, Dhaka-Narayanganj Sarak Paribahan Sramik Union president M Aiyub Ali and its acting secretary Jilani Mia.

Long march obstructed for 10 hours

From Page 1

dadul Haq Bhuiyan and other local leaders of the party addressed a militant rally there at about 1 pm.

The AL lawmakers criticised the BNP for opposing the CHT

At that time, as some of the marchers approached towards the AL gathering, several gun-shots were fired injuring the three persons.

Stranded by the barricade, Begum Khaleda Zia told our correspondent Ehsanul Haq sit-ting in her jeep: We shall wait indefinitely to reach our destination. All our workers will stay here until the barricade is removed.

Speaking with a hand mike prior to resumption of the long march, Begum Zia alleged that armed activists of the ruling party had blocked the road.

"The government has proved its intention to hand over the CHT to others by halting our long march. It wants to snatch people's right to move freely ... Before it succeeds, we'll have to oust this government."

The opposition leader also condemned the authorities for not removing the barricade

Talking to The Daily Star, local MP Shamim Osman of ruling AL said that they did not occupy the highway but were holding rally. He blamed the local BNP for the barricade which, he said, was a result of forcing the truckers to join the long march. A case was also lodged by the truckers against the BNP leaders, he said.

Home Secretary Shaffur Rahman, when contacted, told The Daily Star that the barricade was raised when local BNP leader Noor Hossain assaulted some truck drivers and ransacked few trucks and deflated their tyres Monday night.

A Rahim Khan, Additional IGP, when contacted, echoed the home secretary. "Process is underway to file cases with specific charges against those responsible for the barricade", he said.

To cheer up the stranded long marchers, songs were rendered from a make-shift dais on a truck. Besides, food was cooked there for marchers.

Earlier, addressing the marchers at Paltan Maidan Begum Khaleda Zia warned that the government would have to

Gold worth Tk 5.8 lakh seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent Customs officials at the Zia International Airport (ZIA) recovered gold chains worth about Tk 5.8 lakh from a passenger of Thai Airways flight from Singapore yesterday

Airport sources said the gold ornaments weigh about 1249 grams were recovered from inside the underwear of the pas-

On suspicion customs officials challenged the passenger while he was crossing the green channel without any declaration, sources added.

Clash at Ctg

From Page 1 activists launched a bomb at tack on the procession brought out to protest the obstruction to long-marchers at Kanchpur.

In another incident, a group of people attacked and ransacked some shops at Momin

Meanwhile, a tense situation prevailed in Chittagong today as the news of obstruction to the long-marchers reached here.

Local BNP leaders urged their workers and activists to keep calm and not to go for agitation. However, several processions paraded the city streets in protest against the Kanchpur incident. BNP also held a protest rally at the Outer Stadium this afternoon.

Awami League also held a rally opposing the long march at Patharghata. The Awami supporters brought out processions at different places of the city in the evening protesting against the long march.

On the other hand, some agitators damaged some passing vehicles at Station Road and Enayetbazar, police said. BNP leaders said that the

long march would start from Chittagong towards the hill districts tomorrow morning.

Supporters of Jamaat-e-Islami also held rallies and brought out processions in the city today.

UNB adds: Unruly BNP activists this evening attacked the car of Chittagong City Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury and damaged the CCC Bhaban.

The Mayor came under attack in front of the city Awami League office at Darul Fazal Market at about 7 pm.

Witnesses said BNP activists threw stones on Mohiuddin when he was in his car. He was unhurt.

His bodyguard fired six rounds of blank shots to repulse the attack. None was injured. At about 8:30 pm the BNP activists pelted stones and partially damaged the CCC Bhaban.

bear the responsibility if the long march was obstructed.

BNP leaders and workers in their thousands started thronging the Paltan Maidan since early morning yesterday. The opposition leader reached the venue at 8:40 am amid tight security by party workers and plainclothes police.

As she drove to the Paltan Maidan, thousands of people who converged there from different parts of the country, greeted her. The venue was also guarded by uniformed police.

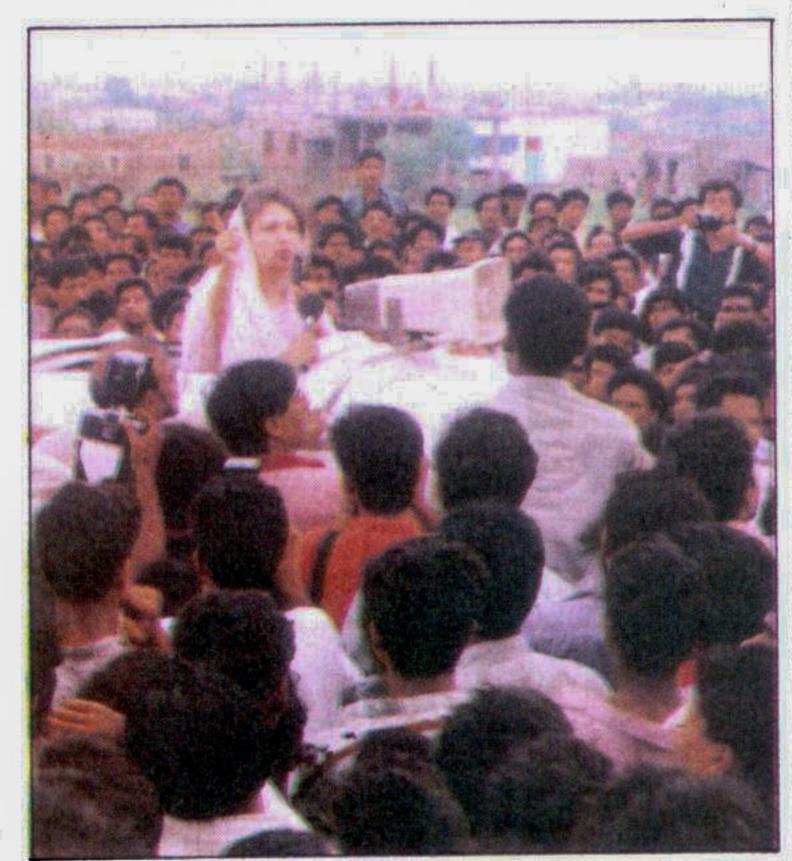
Speaking from her jeep, the former prime minister charged the government that it had "left the CHT to the terrorists through signing an unconstitu-tional accord" with them. "Now they are obstructing people's agitation against its blueprint to hand over the region to In-"Allah is with us ... Seek His

blessings," she told the mar-

The BNP chief also accused the government of obstructing her partymen from coming to Dhaka from across the country to join the long march. "Constitution guarantees the freedom of movement allover

Vehicles carrying marchers of Jamaat-e-Islami and the Jatiya Party (Z-M) followed those of BNP's.

the world," she said.



BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the marchers near Kanchpur bridge before resumption of the long march. - Star photo



A group of youths went on rampage at Raghunathpur near Kanchpur bridge during the - Star photo long march yesterday.

Tk 46cr KFAED loan for rural electrification

Bangladesh yesterday signed a loan agreement of about Tk 46 crore with the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) for rural electrification in the country, reports

The agreement, signed at the Economic Relation Department (ERD) of the Ministry of Finance, will provide fund for electrification in different

World Cup

From Page 1 outsiders. Hosts France are in with a chance. Spain, Croatia and Yugoslavia have talent to spare and could turn technical skill into World Cup success.

Through the ages, the balance of power in world soccer has swung between South America and Europe, with the South Americans edging ahead eight wins to seven when Brazil won their fourth World Cup in

There have been 19 European finalists out of 30 but when Andreas Brehme scored from the penalty spot at the Rome Olympic stadium in 1990 to earn Germany a revenge win over Argentina, it was the first time a European side had beaten a South American team

in seven finals. Brazil have won four of five finals while Germany have regularly proved their durability, reaching six finals and winning three of them, Germany are also the only team to have competed in three successive finals and reached the quarterfinals in all but the

1938 and 1978 events. On current form, Argentina may be the strongest South American contender ahead of Brazil after spotless prepara-tions and without the destabilising influence of the now retired Diego Maradona.

Brazil, who have suffered more than their share of setbacks on their way to France. have yet to convince the doubters.

Germany are the old men of Europe, with 37 year-old Lothar Matthaus, their World Cup winning captain of 1990. raising the average age when he was called into the squad in their dour 0-0 draw with Finland late last month.

Italy, who reached the 1994 final after just scraping through from their group and coming back from behind in later rounds, can never be discounted.

City AL brings out peace procession

By Staff Correspondent Dhaka city unit of Awami League and other front organisations of the party held a rally and brought out a peace proces-

sion in the city yesterday. The rally, held at Osmany Uddyan, was chaired by AL city unit general secretary and State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Mofazzal Hossain Chowdhury Maya.

Addressing at the rally, a number of central leaders of the party criticised the Opposition BNP for, what they said, attempts to destabilise the peace process in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Later, they brought out a peace procession' holding white flags on their hands. The procession ended at the AL central office at Bangabandhu Avenue after parading in front of the Jauiya Press Club area at around noon.

Dhanmondi Lake dev project to be completed by March '99

LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman yesterday said work of the Dhanmondi Lake development project would be completed two months ahead of the schedule, reports

He said 45 per cent of the work have already been completed and the rest is expected to be completed by March next. The minister said this at a review meeting held at the

LGRD Ministry. "Under the directive of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the work of the project involving Tk 9.69 crore is being implemented speedily," the minis-

ter said. The construction of Bangabandhu Smrity Angan' has already been completed and it will be opened before August 15, the meeting was told. The minister directed the au-

bridges over the lake on an emergency basis. LGRD Secretary A H M Abdul Hye, Chief Executive Officer of Dhaka City Corporation Rashidul Alam, former secretary M Mahabubuzzaman at-

tended the meeting.

thorities concerned to complete

the construction work of two



A youth is seen with a gun at Raghunathpur. - Star photo

One get 22-yr RI for keeping illegal arms CHITTAGONG, June 9: A

court here sentenced one person

to 22 years rigorous imprison-

ment (RI) for possessing illegal arms yesterday, reports UNB. The court sentenced Habibur Rahman, son of Hamidul Hug. of Kazirhat in Fatikchhari thana to 12 years RI under Section 19 (Ka) and another 10 years RI under Section 19 (Cha). Another accused was acquitted

of the charge. According to the prosecution, Kotwali police arrested Habib along with 24 foreign and home made firearms from Hamzarbagh area in Panchlaish thana on September 5,

37 shops, houses gutted in Barisal From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, June 9: Some 37 shops and houses were gutted in a devastating fire that broke out at Sener Bazar under Bakerganj thana of the district in the early hours of today. Local people said an electri-

cal short circuit at a grocery shop sparked off the fire at about 3:30 am. The blaze soon engulfed the whole area

The loss in the fire was extensive as there is no fire service unit at Bakerganj thana headquarters.

Clashes in Comilla, Feni: 60 injured

Ideal gift for any occasion.

Fifty people were injured as sporadic clashes, gun shots, uprooting of rail tracks and damaging trains and buses marked the day-long activities at Comilla town yesterday, reports UNB.

At least 15 people were in-jured as the Awami League and BNP processionists clashed near the Tolplaza at Daudkandi on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway at about 11 am. Several gun shots were fired. Comilla (North) district AL

general secretary Jahangir Alam Sarker and another nine people were injured when a peace rally" of the ruling party came under attack, allegedly by armed processionists of BNP, at Chandina bus stand at 1 pm. Some 25 buses and trucks were damaged.

A bus procession of Kishoregani district BNP came under attack on the Comilla-Sylhet highway at Mainamati Saheb Bazar in Burichang thana.

Ten people, including Bhairab thana BNP president Giasuddin and Kishoregani district Chhatra Dal acting president Nazmul Alam, were injured in the attack. Two buses

Budget session From Page 1

unlikely to join the opening

Besides adopting the budget, some legislative business, including the Upazila Bill, will be taken up during the lengthy session

It is likely to be a stormy session of Parliament in view of the political and economic situation prevailing in the country.

Meanwhile, the Business Advisory Committee of Jatiya Sangsad has decided that the opposition members will be allowed to speak on any subject after completion of the day's business as per orders of the Any member of the opposi-

allowed to speak for 15 minutes. the committee decided in a meeting at the Sangsad Bhaban yesterday. Presided over by the Committee Chairman Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, the meeting said: "This will be in

tion, whoever can draw the at-

tention of the Speaker, will be

calling attention to matters under rule 71. It also decided that the members of the treasury bench, as mentioned by the Leader of the House, will reply to the points raised by the opposition members for another 15 min-

addition to usual discussion on

The meeting also discussed the allotment of time for discussion on various subjects dur-

ing the parliament session. It also considered other issues which will be coming up for discussion other than the supplementary budget for 1997-

98 and the budget for 1998-99. Leader of the House and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Deputy Leader of the House and LGRD Minister Zillur Rahman, Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Commerce Minister Tofael Ahmed, Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid, Chief Whip Abul Hasanat Abdullah and M Rah-

Finance Minister Shah AMS Kibria and Whip Abdus Shahid attended the meeting on special invitation while Fazle Rabbi of Jatiya Party attended the meeting on behalf of HM Ershad.

mat Ali MP were present.

which came to join the long march were also damaged at the

A dozen motor vehicles were damaged and five people in-jured in a clash between the AL and BNP supporters at Nimsar on Dhaka-Chittagong highway at about 11 in the morning.

People, who gathered at Padua Bazar to join the long march, attacked inter-city Upakul Express train at about 4:30 pm that left some passengers injured. They also damaged window panes of the train compartments.

Receiving the news of obstruction to the long march in Dhaka, angry people uprooted 10 yards of rail track near Padua Bazar at about 5:15 pm. They also attacked a signalling room of railway and damaged the level crossing.

Feni

At least 10 people were in-jured in sporadic clashes between the supporters of the ruling party and the opposition in Feni. Police arrested 12 people as tension was prevailing in the

town. BNP sources said people came to join the Long March towards CHT, but were obstructed at Anandapur and Pathannagar on Feni-Parshuram road.

Nine BNP workers were injured in separate attacks on them at Mohammad Ali Bazar, Barahipur and Trunk Road. Marchers coming from

also obstructed at Sebarhat on Feni-Maijdee road. Bombs were thrown on them, it was alleged. A group of youths unleashed a series of bomb explosions at Panchgachhia in the town at about 9 pm. One shopkeeper was

Noakhali and Laxmipur were

Barricade story

From Page 1 ries kept haphazardly at Sim-

rail crossing. They were doing all these things with around 40 policemen standing nearby. Some local people, mostly owners of small shops were also witness-

ing the incident. The flash of the photo-journalists' camera drew the attention of the young men busy putting up the truck barricades. Some 10 of them approached the newsmen to rudely advice them that "it was not the right time to do journalism." They also demanded the film loaded

in the camera. Meantime, some other young men in jeans were seen on motor-bikes, coming and going to and from the place - giving a clear impression that they were exchanging information about the progress in putting up the

barricades. The young men calmed down only when a reporter referred to a top leader of Narayanganj Awami League. But they did not forget to give a suggestion: "It's better for you to leave the place right at the moment." It was around 2:15 am.

By that time, about 30 trucks - some loaded and some empty - were placed in different directions on the highways and some 50 other young men

joined the original team. Meanwhile, a large number of passenger buses and private cars were stranded on both

French apathy!

From Tawfiq Aziz Khan

Paris, Jun 9: The Bangladesh delegation to the FIFA Congress was totally dismayed at the lack of enthusiasm and awareness among the French regarding the World Cup football beginning tomorrow. " We show more jubilation

for an international kabaddi competition in our country", observed Harun-ur Rashid MP, general secretary of Bangladesh Football Federation (BFF), who led the three-member delegation to the 51st FIFA Congress. BFF joint-secretary Badal

Roy could not agree more. Vicepresident Anjan Chowdhury added: "We are not only disheartened, we are aggrieved also".

The chance rendezvous with this correspondent happened at the city centre this morning.

Cyclone kills 73 in India

GANDHINAGAR, Jun 9: At least 73 people were killed and over 50 injured when a cyclone. packing wind speed up to 120km per hour, lashed coastal areas of Gujarat and Jalore district of neighbouring Rajasthan today, reports PTI.

The cyclone was caused by a deep depression in the Arabian

"The death toll has touched 73. While 19 people have died in Kutch region, the remaining casualties are all in Saurashtra region which is the worst-affected," an official in the state's main city of Ahmedabad told Reuters.

Storm kills one at Fatikchhari

CHITTAGONG, Jun 9: A storm lashed two villages of Fatikchhari thana here early this morning. One person died and about 150 houses were damaged, reports UNB. The storm, with a wind speed

lages at 6 am and lasted for seven minutes. Road communications between Khagrachhari and Chittagong remained cut off as the road was blocked by uprooted

of about 112 km per hour,

struck Gahira and Azadi vil-

PDB's fear

From Page 1 supply of electricity during telecast of the World Cup matches. People have been requested over microphones in the town and in other places to maintain austerity in consumption of electricity. Shopkeepers, owners of welding workshops, mills and industries have been urged

to keep their shutters down during the matches, he said. He said the 21 districts under the Khulna division need 324

MW of power daily but only 140 MW is supplied now. Meanwhile, about one hundred people brought out a procession in the town demanding interrupted power supply dur-

Autorickshaws

ing the World Cup.

From Page 1

refused by the board on February 10 because of the fact that the Federation had failed to repay a bank loan of Tk 31.2 crore and that the three wheelers are potential threat to the environment. But it was finally cleared at a meeting on May 5 "as a mark of respect" to the

minister who requested for it.

ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

the highway.

sides of the truck barricades on

ঢাকা ওয়াসার সন্মানিত গ্রাহকগণের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পানি পয়ঃ অভিকরের বিল পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ গ্রাহকদের সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্যুতকরণের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক পরিচালিত বিশেষ অভিযান চলছে।

সম্মানিত গ্রাহকগণের অনুরোধক্রমে হালনাগাদ পানি ও পয়ঃঅভিকরসহ সমুদয় বকেয়া কর সারচার্জ ব্যতীত পরিশোধের সময়সীমা ২৫-৬-৯৮ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হলো।

বকেয়া অনাদায়ের কারণে সংযোগ বিচ্যুতি এবং পিডিআর এ্যাক্টের অধীনে ম্যাজিষ্টেটের কোর্টে মামলা এড়ানোর নিমিত্তে অবিলম্বে বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ পানি ও পয়ঃ অভিকর পরিশোধ করার জন্য গ্রাহকগণকে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

বিল না পেয়ে থাকলে রাজস্ব অঞ্চলসমূহের রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তার সহিত যোগাযোগ করতে পরামর্শ দেয়া যাচ্ছে।

বিল সংক্রান্ত কোন অভিযোগ থাকলে ঢাকা ওয়াসার সংশ্লিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক অফিস বা প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা (ফোনঃ ৯১৩১৫৬৯) অথবা বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবস্থাপক (ফোনঃ ৯১২০৫৫৭) এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করতে অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

78/24 ওয়াসা–জঃতঃ জিডি-৪৪৮



আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত !!ঢাকা ওয়াসা!!

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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