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## Report on secret pact with US baseless: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday dismissed report on conclusion of a secret pact for the establishment of US military base in Bangladesh as totally baseless, reports BSS.

The prime minister's denial about establishment of the US military base in the country came when Md Shahidul Islam (BNP-Jhenidah) in a written question wanted to know whether it was true that an agreement was being concluded for the establishment of US military base in Bangladesh. If it was true, when the agreement would be implemented and whether the military base would be established in Chittagong Hill Tracts, he asked.

Replying to the same member, the prime minister said as a signatory to the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), Bangladesh opposed to all kinds of nuclear tests. "We are worried over the nuclear tests in the neighbouring countries," she said.

## Tk 68.45 cr DU budget

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Senate has approved a budget of Tk 68.45 crore for 1998-99.

Prof M Shamsul Haq, treasurer of the university earlier placed the budget in the Senate on the second and concluding day of the budget session of the DU Senate yesterday.

The total income has been estimated at Tk 67 crore, of which Tk 60.5 crore will come from the government allocation and Tk 6.5 crore will be collected from the internal resources of the DU.

Research and education sector got the highest allocation of Tk 30.87 crore which is 45.09 per cent of the total expenditure.

Administrative sector got the second highest allocation of Tk 18.72 crore in the budget which is 27.35 per cent of the total expenditure.

Education support fund got the third highest allocation of Tk 4.54 crore which is 6.64 per cent of the total expenditure.

Tk 3.5 crore has been sanctioned for pension of the teachers, officers and employees of the university while Tk 10.82 crore allocated for miscellaneous purposes.

## 'DU students should pay Tk 10000 instead of Tk 2600'

By DU Correspondent

The treasurer of the Dhaka University yesterday observed that each student of the university should pay Tk 10,000 a year as his educational expenses instead of Tk 2600 now.

The university now spends Tk 26,000 a year on each student while they share less than 10 per cent of the total expenses, he noted while placing the budget of the university for 1998-99 financial year.

He, however, said the university authorities should discuss the issue with students, their guardians and former students before taking a decision.

Increasing the fees will allow the university authorities to raise scholarships and financial aid to students, he added.

Students of private universities are paying even Tk 1 lakh a year for their educational expenses, he said.

## PM returns

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina returned home last night after a day-long visit to the Indian capital, New Delhi, reports UNB.

She was received at the airport by LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria, Education Minister ASHK Sadique, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Engr Mosharraf Hossain, dean of the diplomatic corps in Dhaka Shahta Zarab and senior officials.

## Inside Today

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# Hasina tells Vajpayee Dhaka for total disarmament

NEW DELHI, June 16: Bangladesh stands for total disarmament and a nuclear-free world in the interest of peace and development.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina told this to her Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee during their hour-long one-to-one talks at the historic Hyderabad House here this afternoon, reports UNB.

"We're against nuclear tests as a signatory to CTBT and NPT... We will have to work together to remove poverty — the prime problem in this region," Hasina said.

The hour-long exclusive meeting was followed by the official talks.

"We had very good talks. It was very fruitful," Hasina told the agency after emerging from the meeting.

The two prime ministers then joined their delegations at the official meeting held at the conference room in the same house, which lasted for an hour.

The two sides discussed bilateral issues as well as the situation arising out of nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan recently.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is the first head of the government to visit India after the nuclear tests. She will also visit Islamabad on June 24 to talk to Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

During the meeting, Indian Prime Minister Vajpayee explained his country's position and said that India has decided on a unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests.

After the meeting, a spokesman for the Bangladesh government told newsmen that Vajpayee said India and Pakistan cannot be hostage of the past. All problems should be solved but this needs patience.

The Indian Prime Minister said, "We are prepared to discuss all issues with Pakistan including Kashmir, but third party's intervention is counter-productive."

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina appreciated the Indian position on unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests. She also welcomed the move by India and Pakistan to resolve their problems bilaterally.

Referring to the bilateral relations between Dhaka and New Delhi, Vajpayee said, "We have

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and her Indian counterpart Atal Behari Vajpayee (L) wave to photojournalists prior to their talks in New Delhi yesterday. — AFP photo

## Draft industrial policy finalised 17 thrust sectors identified

The draft Industrial Policy 1998 has been finalised and it will be placed before the Cabinet soon for approval, reports UNB.

The draft was finalised at a meeting of the Industrial Policy Formulation Committee yesterday.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed, who is also the convenor of the 35-member policy formulation committee, presided over the meeting.

"It would be a long-term and stable policy with a scope to update it regularly," Tofael said while opening the meeting.

He said: We are committed to present the nation an industrial policy which can help implement the long cherished desire of the people for self-reliance through industrialisation in addition to agricultural development.

Tofael asked the committee members to focus on all possibilities and opportunities in the policy for rapid industrialisation of the country.

The policy contains 16 chapters, including objectives, strategies, definition of industry, role of public institutions, privatisation, incentives, in-

See Page 12 Col 3

## Vajpayee accepts invitation to visit Dhaka

NEW DELHI, June 16: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today extended invitation to Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee to visit Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The invitation was given during the Indo-Bangladesh official talks at the Hyderabad House this afternoon.

Vajpayee thanked Sheikh Hasina and warmly accepted the invitation, a spokesman of the Bangladesh government said.

The date of Vajpayee's visit will be fixed through diplomatic channel.

## Gujral, Sonia call on Hasina

NEW DELHI, June 16: Congress President Sonia Gandhi today called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite, reports UNB.

During the courtesy call, they exchanged pleasantries and discussed matters of mutual interests.

Soon after Hasina's arrival here, former Indian Prime Minister I K Gujral also called on Sheikh Hasina at her hotel suite. He stayed with her for some time.

## Employment Bank likely to open this month

By Staff Correspondent

The Employment Bank is expected to start operation this month, Finance Minister SAMS Kibria told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

A Managing Director of the Bank has already been appointed and a Board of Governors will be set up soon to formulate guidelines for its operation, he said. The government has also provided Tk 50 crore a paid-up capital for the Bank, he added.

The guidelines should be different from the existing banks to help unemployed youths get micro-credit on easy terms, the minister said replying to a call attention notice by Tahura Ali of the ruling Awami League.

In her notice, the AL lawmaker proposed that the Employment Banks should sanction loans to unemployed youths against mortgage of their certificates on academic qualifications.

"We're expecting a new credit system in the Employment Bank which may also consider certificates for loans", the finance minister said. "But everything will depend on the Bank's Board of Governors".

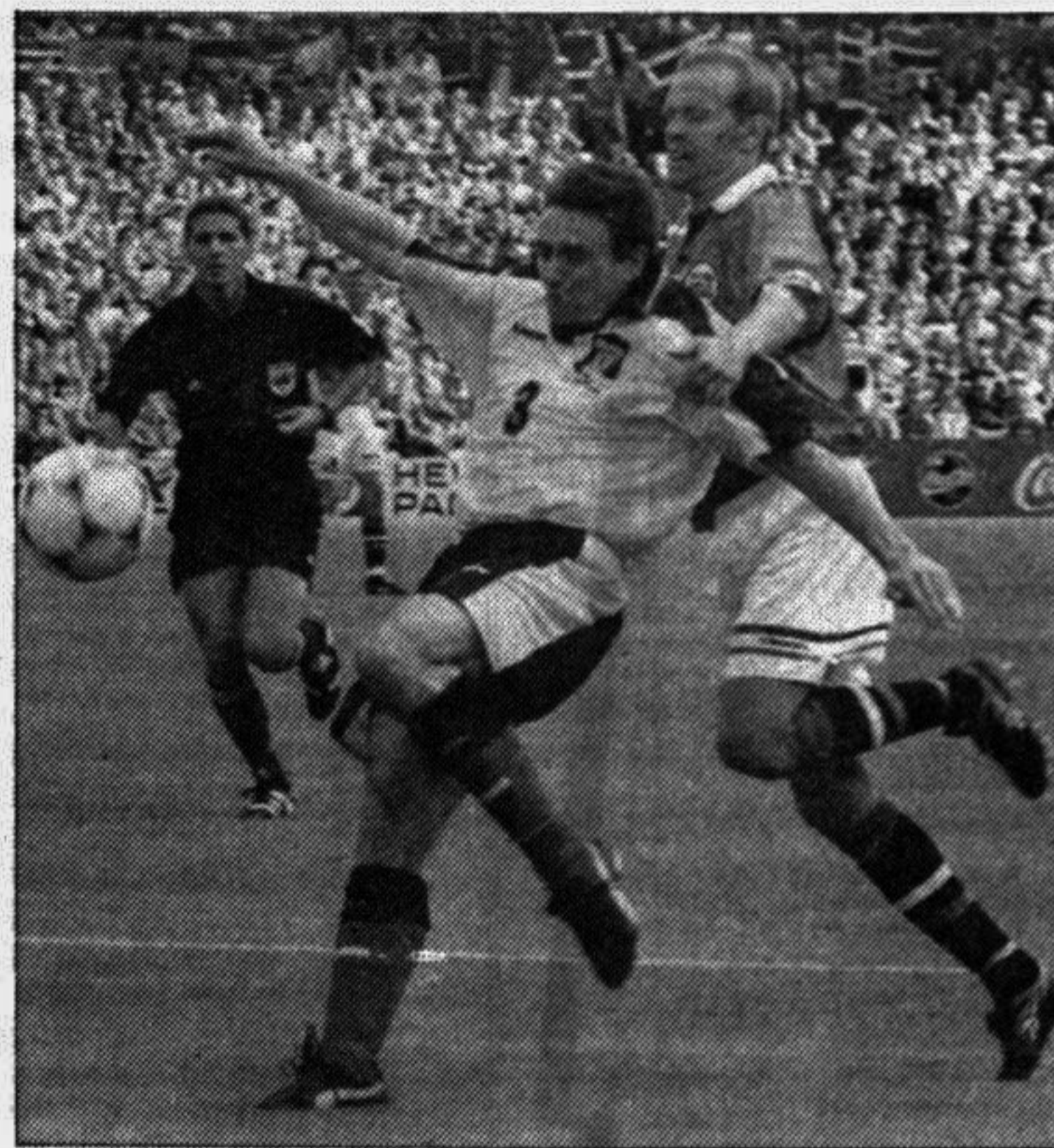
## Govt employees start talks for united action programme

By Special Correspondent

Two rival groups of Secretariat employees have started talks to close their ranks to press demands for change in office hours and full implementation of the pay commission report, their leaders said yesterday.

Leaders of the two groups held talks during the week. They are preparing a joint action programme. If it is accepted by the two sides, a fresh agitation programme will be launched from next week, a leader said preferring anonymity.

The groups, led by Shah Alam and Zafar Ahmed, so far staged separate demonstrations, often marked with clashes to realise the demands.



Scottish defender Tommy Boyd (L) is grabbed by Norway's Henning Berg during their World Cup Group A first round match yesterday. — AFP photo

**JOHN PLAYER GOLD LEAF LIGHTS**

WORLD CUP '98 UPDATES

## Burley keeps Scotland's WC hopes alive

BORDEAUX, June 16: Craig Burley kept his nation's World Cup hopes alive with a goal in the 66th minute Tuesday to give Scotland a 1-1 draw with Norway, reports AP.

Burley, scoring for only the second time in 25 appearances for Scotland, chased down substitute David Weir's 25-meter lofted pass and volleyed it on one hop over advancing goalkeeper Frode Grodas.

A loss would have made the Scotland, which lost 2-1 last week to Brazil, the first team to be mathematically eliminated from any chance of advancing to the second round. Still, the Scots will need to beat Morocco next week and get some help from others in the group to advance for the first time in eight World Cup appearances.

Burley's goal was the first sign of life in the second half from the Scots, who seemed doomed for another three-and-out World Cup after Havard Flo's header scored 30 seconds after the break.

Flo, also scoring his second international goal, got past

Christian Dailly at the far post to head Vidar Riseth's left wing cross.

But Burley's score energized his team, and he nearly netted again eight minutes later when Grodas was forced to make a fingertip save over the crossbar on a 20-meter blast by the Celtic midfielder.

The Scots controlled most of

See Page 12 Col 3

**WORLD CUP '98 KICK-OFF**

Today's matches

Group B  
Chile vs Austria, 9:30 pm BST  
Italy vs Cameroon, 1:00 am BST

## Shazneen murder Maid Parvin gives judicial statement

By Staff Correspondent

Parvin, one of the six people accused in Shazneen murder in Gulshan, gave judicial statement before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court yesterday.

Parvin, who was arrested on Thursday last, joined as a domestic help at the Gulshan residence of Shazneen's father, Latifur Rahman, six days before the brutal killing at about 10 pm on April 23.

CID produced Parvin before the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court at about 3 pm yesterday.

Metropolitan Magistrate See Page 12 Col 7

## Gas supply from Sangu needs monitoring

By Sharier Khan

The Chillimpur Gas Processing Plant, a key installation of the Sangu gasfield project, remains unattended and without monitoring by any representative of the government, sources said.

The Sangu field, developed by British company Cairn, started supplying 60 million cubic feet of gas (mmcf) daily to the national grid from Saturday. This is the country's first off-shore gasfield as well as a foreign company under a Production Sharing Contract (PSC).

But the government monitoring system for such projects has become so weak that it can not even deploy any representative at the Chillimpur Gas Processing Plant. As per the PSC, the government is the owner of the plant as well as the gasfield.

In the past, lack of monitoring created an opportunity for Cairn to enhance the cost-recoverable budget of Sangu from 178 million US dollars to 264 million dollars. Lack of monitoring is also one of the reasons why US company Occidental carelessly handled drilling at the Magurhara gasfield which led to an explosion earlier.

"Now that the Sangu field has started producing results, See Page 12 Col 6

## Ctg BNP to gherao PDB office today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 16: BNP announced to gherao Agrabad Bidyut Bhaban at 11 am tomorrow to protest the loadshedding in the city.

It will also hold a protest rally at Dewanhat crossing before the gherao programme, party sources said.

Meanwhile, some football fans under the banner of Football Lovers' Council, called an 8-hour hartal in the city tomorrow demanding uninterrupted supply of power.

But intelligence and police officials said that there is 'no existence' of such a council in the city.

They also said that the call for hartal was misleading as none was found linked with the council.

As a result, everybody is confused about tomorrow's hartal called by Football Lovers' Council.

However, PDB sources claimed that power situation improved in the port city today with the resumption of generation of electricity in unit No 1 of Raozan 210 MW power plant.

## BNP warns against any bid to foil tomorrow's hartal

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan yesterday urged the people to make tomorrow's hartal a success and said the government will have to bear the consequence if any attempt is made to foil the hartal, reports UNB.

"Like the Long March, we want to observe the hartal peacefully," he said while exchanging views with the professionals at the BNP central office in the evening.

Seeking support from the professionals, Bhuiyan said the BNP's movement is for protecting the nation, not for its own interest or return to power.

He said the hartal has been called protesting barricade on

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## JUST THINK

- There are more than 200 state owned enterprises (SOEs) in the country. These SOEs are incurring losses to the tune of Tk. 2500 crore annually.
- These SOEs have incurred a total loss of about Tk. 45000 crore since the independence of the country.
- If we can stop this loss, we can build a bridge like Bangabandhu Jamuna Bridge every two years with the money.
- The Government has to provide huge subsidy every year to keep the SOEs alive.
- The money for this huge subsidy comes from your pockets in the form of taxes and from foreign loans.

## WHAT WAY OUT ?

- The only way to get out of this unbearable situation is Privatization.
- The Privatization programme is being pursued settling the just dues of the workers and employees.
- While selling off the SOEs priority is being given to the workers and employees or their associations as buyers.

## LOOK AT THE BENEFITS

- Privatization will foster technological progress, increase productivity, create more employment and will take our nation into a more prosperous future.
- Privatization will reduce the huge expenditure of the government. With this money, the government can implement various development programmes including building of new hospitals, educational institutions, roads and bridges.

So, please come forward to help make the Privatization programme a success.

# Privatization Board