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## Today's HSC exams shifted to June 30

The HSC examinations scheduled for today have been shifted to June 30 in view of the countrywide hartal called by opposition parties.

Chairman of Dhaka Board Prof Mohammad Tozammel Hossain told UNB that the decision is applicable to all the five Education Boards of the country.

He said the timing of the examinations will, however, remain unchanged.

Meanwhile, a press note of the Education Ministry said the government and people hoped that the opposition will withdraw their programme or keep the examinations out of the purview of hartal in the greater.

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## 4 chargesheeted for murdering housewife Rubi

Police has submitted chargesheet against four persons including a woman in connection with the murder of a housewife at Shantinagar in the city on April 29.

The four persons are Samad, a domestic help, gate-keepers Arif and Emdad, and Sharifa, a former maid at the victim's residence.

Police said yesterday that the investigating officer of the case filed the chargesheet with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's court on Tuesday under Section 302/34 of the CrPC.

The four persons earlier recorded their judicial statements confessing their involvement in the killing. They are at the Dhaka Central Jail now.

The housewife, Rubina Akter, alias Rubi, mother of a three-year-old girl was stabbed to death at her third floor flat at Shantinagar. Samad worked as a domestic help at another flat of the building.

Police investigation found that Samad took revenge by killing Rubi as she removed Sharifa his lover from her house.

## Warrant of precedence being reviewed

The government is reviewing the warrant of precedence regarding the status of MPs in the light of the status of lawmakers in different countries having parliamentary democracy, reports UNB.

This was disclosed by ASHK Sadique, Minister in Charge of Cabinet Division in Parliament, in reply to a question from Haji Mohammad Selim (AL).

**Star MAG TOMORROW**

In recent times, there has been an alarming rise in the incidence of the various forms of abuse against children, sometimes as young as two years old. These incidents stand testimony to the fact that our Government is still a long way from being able to enforce the Convention of the Rights of the Child, an international convention that was ratified as early as 1989. Read this weeks cover story about the state of child rights in Bangladesh

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 Both DSE and CSE indexes fall  
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# Explosion at Magurchhara drilling site Total loss of gas yet to be assessed

By Mizan Ali and Iqbal Siddiquee

The total loss of gas due to the explosion and the resultant fire at Magurchhara drilling site is yet to be assessed even one year after the blow-out, according to official sources.

US company Occidental was carrying out the drilling operation when the blow-out occurred.

Setting up of an 'observation well' near the explosion site along the same geological structure had been inquired by a six member inquiry committee, but its findings still remain shelved.

Some Petrobangla sources, however, said 200 billion cubic feet of gas worth about 500 million US dollars was burnt due to the blow-out. But Occidental claims it could not be more than five billion cubic feet.

The blow-out at Magurchhara under Komolganj thana of Moulvibazar district occurred on June 15 last year, the flame rose up to 600 to 800 feet and the fire was doused six months later.

"The quantum of gas burnt due to the blow-out can be estimated from the data collected from the observation well if it is set up," said one source adding that data on the gas reserve of the structure can also be had from it.

Petrobangla, which signed the production sharing contract (PSC) with Occidental for blocks 13 and 14 covering Magurchhara, is the major affected party due to the blow-out. The other include Department of Forest, Department of Environment, 19 tea estates, Bangladesh Railway, Roads and Highways Department and 40 Khasia homestead, according to officials.

Petrobangla had earlier

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## Forgery in sanctioning Tk 3.68 cr loan by SB detected

Star Report

Bangladesh Bank (BB) has detected a forgery in sanctioning loans in favour of a cold storage from Sonali Bank (SB) through forged documents and other irregularities.

A BB inspection team, which detected the forgery in which the land of a widow was allegedly misappropriated through false deeds, said a powerful group inside the SB was involved in it.

The company Lunic Cold Storage, against which the Tk 3.68 crore loan was sanctioned, is owned by, among others, Md Sajjad Amin, son of Law Secretary Mohammad Aminullah, and Abdur Razzak, a superintendent engineer of SB. Amin is the Managing Director of the company.

BB commissioned the investigation after the widow, Latifa Akhtar complained that the two brothers of her late husband, Abdur Razzak and Md Hafizur Rahman, had completed the sales deed of a land in favour of the Lunic Cold Storage by forging signatures. Her husband, Abdus Sattar, died in a road accident in 1991. She has also filed a civil suit in this regard.

The BB team found that the sales deed signed by all the three brothers including Abdus Sattar does not carry any date of signing. Interestingly, the date of purchase of stamp paper for the deed is 10th September, 1997, seven years after the death of one of the signatories, Abdus Sattar.

The other signatory, Abdur Razzak, said he also did not sign the sales deed. The SB local office could not produce Razzak's brother, Hafizur Rahman on his son Md Atiqur Rahman who are also directors of the cold storage before the BB inspection team. The other three directors were also not produced before the team by the SB.

The team said, because of this, it could not be ascertained who had forged the signatures.

It was known that one of the directors of the cold storage, Naser Ahmed, had submitted the sales deed to Sonali Bank local office.

Allegations of irregularities: The BB has found a number of alleged irregularities in sanctioning loans to Lunic Cold Storage.

Managing Director of the cold storage Md Sajjad Amin and its directors Md Naser Ahmed and Jahanara Begum had declared that they owned some property through wills. But none of the wills carry any date. One common witness in the three wills has used three different addresses. All these three addresses again differ from the address of the same witness given in the sales deed.

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Chilean Nelson Parraguez (R) duels with Austrian Dietmar Kuhbauer during the World Cup Group B second round match yesterday. —AFP photo

## Austria scrambles to 1-1 tie

SAINT-ETIENNE, France, June 17: Another late equaliser earned Austria an ill-deserved 1-1 tie with Chile today as Herbert Prohaska's team scrambled its second tie of the World Cup, reports AP.

After Tony Polster's strike had gained a 1-1 tie with Cameroon in Toulouse on June 11, this time it was substitute Ivica Vastic who came up with the leveller. Each time the late goal was in second half injury time with the Austrians looking well beaten.

Marcelo Salas scrambled his third goal of the World Cup as Chile moved into a 1-0 lead with 20 minutes to go and Austrian goalkeeper Michael Konsel made a brilliant, finger-tip save to deny Ivan Zamorano in the 88th minute.

It proved vital save as Vastic curled a right-footed shot from 22 meters past Chilean goalkeeper Nelson Tapia in the second minute of injury time.

The result gave both teams two points from two games with Italy and Cameroon.

Chile's Moises Villarroel moved into a good shooting position 25 meters from goal from a neat pass by Fabian Estay but Konsel watched it fly well wide of the post.

Austria's first shot at goal didn't come until the 38th minute when Mario Haas fired goalwards from 18 meters. It was on target but it was blocked by a Chilean defender long before it would have reached keeper Tapia.

With the Austrian strike-force kept at bay by a well-organised Chilean defense and midfield, neither goalkeeper had anything to save until the 42nd minute when Tapia dived to hold the ball at the foot of the post from an angled cross from Heimo Pfeifenberger.

Chile should have gone ahead in the 53rd minute when Villarroel made the overlap on the right and ran clear of the Austrian defense. He messed it up completely.

Villarroel took the wrong option, firing at the near post instead of the far post, and his shot appeared to be going wide anyway before Konsel blocked it with his left hand.

There was an even better chance in the 62nd when Salas got clear down the right and Zamorano was unmarked in the center. Salas, who scored twice in the 2-2 tie with Italy, aimed for his strike-partner but his cross was far too close to Konsel who gathered easily, leaving Zamorano frustrated.

The Chileans finally got it right in the 70th minute but only just.

Egyptian referee Gamal Ghandour awarded them a free kick just outside the area wide on the left. Zamorano climbed to head goalwards and Konsel half stopped it.

Salas forced the rebound goalwards from six meters out and the Austrian keeper was convinced he had got back to stop the ball rolling over the line.

Ghandour didn't agree and Chile led 1-0 with 20 minutes to go.

Three minutes from the end, Zamorano nearly made it 2-0 when he collected a forward pass and charged clear. His low shot was headed just inside the post but Konsel got down to finger-tip the ball round the post.

WORLD CUP '98

Group C  
 South Africa vs Denmark, 9:30 pm BST  
 France vs Saudi Arabia, 1:00 pm BST

## What makes them call hartal? asks PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said people will take their own decision about those who create unrest in public life for nothing.

"After speaking against hartal on so many occasions in the past, what makes them, call a hartal now?" she posed the question without naming BNP which called hartal today.

Speaking briefly prior to adjournment of the Jatiya Sangsad session yesterday, the Prime Minister said that her government's march along the road of democracy could not be hindered by hatching any conspiracy or creating unrest in public life.

Hasina, also the Leader of the House, said it is not at all clear to the people why the hartal has been called. She said it (BNP) even did not pay heed to

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## 30 hurt in Nar'singdi train accident

NARSINGDI, June 17: At least 30 people, including nine policemen, were injured when a running train hit another train near Amirganj station here Tuesday night, reports UNB.

Local railway sources said the mishap occurred at 12:15 am when the Sylhet-bound mail train hit the Nar'singdi-bound 202 local train, stationed outside the outer signal.

Nar'singdi Station Master said they had given clearance to the mail train as it was running with high speed and immediately informed Amirganj Station to take necessary arrangements.

Receiving the message, the Amirganj Station Master halted the local train coming from Bhairab outside the outer signal and gave signal to stop the mail train at the station.

But the mail train crossed the station with full speed ignoring the red signal. However, an impending big accident has been avoided as the driver of the mail train managed to arrest the speed of the train within minimum level.

Dhaka Divisional Manager told the news agency that the driver of the mail train informed him that he (driver) fell in sleep after the train had left Tongi where he took a cup of tea from a stall.

However, he woke up when one of the stones hurled by the people at the Amirganj station hit him and he immediately tried to limit the speed of the train.

A relief train from Dhaka rushed to the spot and began rescue operation with the help of another relief train coming from Akhaura. The community-

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## BNP-called day-long hartal today

By Staff Correspondent

A dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country, called by the BNP-led Seven Party Alliance, is scheduled for today.

The hartal was called earlier to press its demand for scrapping the CHT accord and the laws for its implementation and to protest the government's alleged obstruction to and attacks on its June 9 'long march' towards the CHT, crisis in supply of power, gas and water, price-spiral of essentials and deteriorating law and order in the country.

BNP chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia

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BNP brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's countrywide hartal. — Star photo

## Make hartal a success: Khaleda

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Begum Khaleda Zia has called upon the people to strengthen the anti-government movement by making today's dawn-to-dusk hartal an all-out success, reports UNB.

Begum Zia in a statement yesterday, said the 'fascist government' has to be toppled through a mass upsurge as it will not quit peacefully by showing respect to public opinion.

She said the hartal was called to strengthen the ongoing movement against the anti-people government.

Referring to the success of long march, the BNP Chairperson said people demonstrated their no-confidence against the government by spontaneously participating in the march despite obstruction, terrorism and firings.

She said people are frustrated with the misrule and corruption of Awami League. "Repression on women and children broke all records. People

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## Direct Indo-Pak talks essential, says US

The United States has said direct talks are essential between India and Pakistan on the contentious issues that divide them, reports UNB.

Karl Inderfurth, Assistant Secretary of State for South Asian affairs, at a special briefing on Tuesday said the nuclear tests that India and Pakistan conducted last month "have led South Asia in a dangerous direction," according to a USIS release.

"Sadly, we now face a new security environment," one in which both countries are now less, rather than more secure, he said.

The testing caused the United States to impose automatic sanctions on the two South Asian states under legislation known as the Glenn Amendment. The precise details of what this entails are expected

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## Govt-BNP stand-off: No progress yet

By Nazmul Ashraf and Reaz Ahmad

No positive development is yet in sight to end the stalemate arising out of alleged non-implementation of the four-point government-opposition accord on issues relating to the Jatiya Sangsad.

The main opposition BNP is unlikely to join the on-going budget session of the Sangsad unless the issue are resolved.

Speaker Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, who mediated the accord has advised both the sides to settle their disputes by themselves.

Since a team of four top BNP leaders met him on Sunday to complain of non-implementation of some provisions of the accord the Speaker wrote twice to chief whips of the Treasury and the Opposition benches, advising them to resolve their problems through discussion, sources in the Speaker's office said.

Both the sides confirmed receiving the Speaker's letters.

The first letter was sent on Monday and the second on Tuesday. Monday's letter also contained a summary of the Speaker-BNP discussions.

The Speaker's letters were in line with his suggestion at the meeting with BNP that the opposition allegations could be settled at a Chief Whip-level meeting. He also offered to convene a fresh round of government-opposition dialogue, as he did in the past.

Both the government side and the BNP now expect another round of Speaker-mediated dialogue. They prefer a similar

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## Teenage maid allegedly tortured to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A teenage maid who was allegedly tortured at the house of a bank manager at Gulbag in the city died at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Motijheel police said they held Nilufa Aziz, 40, wife of Anisur Rahman, manager of Ramna branch of Uttara Bank. Police said they were also searching for Rahman who allegedly went into hiding following the death of the maid, Dulce, 14, at about 1:30 pm.

Dulce came to work as a domestic help at Rahman's house about the four months ago. Police suspected that the girl was often subjected to torture. "There were burn and cut injuries and marks of beating on her body," said a police officer at Motijheel thana. Dulce was the daughter of one Md Ashkan of Gobindapur in Natore district.

Sources at the DMCH said

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## Ctg port Work abstention by equipment operators

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 17: Cargo handling at Chittagong port was partially disrupted following sudden work abstention by some equipment operators at the container yards from last night, port sources said.

About 50 equipment operators joined the work abstention from 8 pm last night demanding regularisation of their service, the sources said.

Container handling work at the container yards remained suspended but handling of other cargo continued, the sources added.

Five container ships are now anchored at the port.

## BNP activists gherao PDB office in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 17: BNP activists today gheraoed the Bidyut Bhawan at Agrabad to protest the loadshedding the city.

They also submitted a memorandum to the local authorities of PDB demanding uninterrupted supply of power in the port city.

During the gherao programme at 11 am today BNP supporters staged demonstration against the continuous power failure in the city that caused unbearable sufferings of the city dwellers.

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন  
 আপনার শিতকে টিকা দিন

**করপোরেশনের হোল্ডিং করের সারচার্জ  
 মওকুফ সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অনুরোধের প্রেক্ষিতে ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন কর্তৃক বিধিমোতাবেক বকেয়া করের উপর আরোপিত সমস্ত সারচার্জ মওকুফ করা হইয়াছে। এই মওকুফ যাহারা আগামী ৩০শে জুন '৯৮ইং তারিখের মধ্যে বকেয়াসহ সমুদয় পাওনা পরিশোধ করিবেন কেবলমাত্র সেই সকল সম্মানিত করদাতাদের বেলায় প্রযোজ্য হইবে।

২। এমতাবস্থায়, সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে আগামী ৩০/৬/৯৮ইং তারিখের মধ্যে বকেয়াসহ হাল সনের সমুদয় কর একত্রে পরিশোধ করিয়া বকেয়া করের উপর আরোপিত সমস্ত সারচার্জ মওকুফের সুযোগ গ্রহণের জন্য পুনরায় অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

৩। যে সকল করদাতা আগামী ৩০শে জুন '৯৮ এর মধ্যে সকল বকেয়া কর পরিশোধ করিতে ব্যর্থ হইবেন তা হাদের বকেয়া কর সারচার্জসহ আদায়ের জন্য সিটি করপোরেশন অধ্যাদেশ ১৯৮৩ইং এর ১৫০ ধারার বিধান মতে সংশ্লিষ্ট আদালতে মামলা দায়েরসহ অন্যান্য আইনানুগ ব্যবস্থা গ্রহণ করা হইবে।

প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা  
 ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা।

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