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'Ideal gift for any occasion.

Minister tells JS

1,599 rape cases

filed between

July '97 & May '98

144 chargesheets were given,

360 cases are under investiga-

In a written reply to another

uestion from Moulana Delwar

Hossain Sayeedi (Jamaat), he

said that since January 1, 1997

the authorities have recorded

4.389 cases of killings, 2,310 of

rape, 2484 of snatching and

1376 of dacoity across the coun-

der. 204 rape. 984 snatching

recorded in the DMP area.

and 96 dacoity cases were

Time for report on

Grameen Court

Project extended

By Staff Correspondent

Sources said the law min-

"The draft bill is actually the

istry was not satisfied with the

preliminary report and the

draft bill submitted by the con-

Bangla version of the Village

Court Ordinance of 1976 with

minor addition," observed a

The government has now

asked the consultants and its

project director to draft a com-

prehensive and welfare-ori-

ented bill' for the Grameen

A joint secretary in the

Ministry of Law was made pro-

ject director and three consul-

tants were appointed with a

monthly honorarium of Tk

60,000 each. Besides, two cars

and a microbus were also pro-

consultants also visited India.

the Philippines, Japan and the

UK to see the functioning of

17 BNP leaders

some BNP leaders have already

left the town to escape arrests.

Leaders of the Parishad have

urged the government to release

general Abdul Mannan

Bhuiyan has condemned the

harassment of party's Kha-

grachhari district leaders and

workers by arresting and filing

the government has resorted to

repressive measures against the

BNP leaders and workers to

snatch their democratic rights.

government to release and

withdrawn the false cases

against the BNP activists in

secretary general demanded

immediate withdrawal of 'false

cases' against the party's ac-

tivists of Banchharampur and

In another statement, BNP

In a statement, Bhuiyan said

Mannan Bhuiyan urged the

UNB adds: BNP secretary

the leaders immediately.

false cases against them.

Khagrachhari.

Dhobaura units.

From Page 1

The project director and the

vided for the project.

such courts.

sultants recently.

ministry source.

Of these incidents, 283 mur-

tion and 1066 are under trial.

ports UNB.

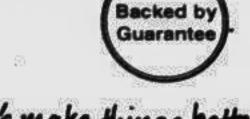
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76 cases filed against 28 BNP MPs, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 76 cases have been filed against 28 BNP lawmakers including Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad and former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia since the Awami League came to power two years ago, Home Minister Rafiqui Islam told the House yesterday.

Replying to a question from BNP MP Shahidul Islam, the home minister claimed that no case was filed against the opposition lawmakers just because of their political identity. "The cases against 28 opposition MPs were filed at different times on specific charges against them," he added.

A list produced in the House by the minister showed that the accused BNP legislators also included former Speaker Shaikh Razzak Ali, the then PM's special envoy Morshed Khan and four ministers in the Begum Zia government - Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed, M K Anwar Sadek Hossain Khoka and Amanullah Aman. The highest number of cases — 16 — were filed against Sadek Hossain Khoka, who is now Convenor of the city unit of BNP.

Corruption charges have been brought in two cases against the former PM and in two cases against the former Speaker while the charges against others are mostly of criminal nature.

According to the home minister, charge sheets have been submitted in 19 out of the 76 cases. Besides, other cases are under investigation. He further said, non-FIR charges have been made in one case and two CR cases against Alamgir Kabir of Naogaon are under trial. The BNP lawmakers and the

Mongla port From Page

despatched due to the strike. According to a source in the Mongla Port Authority, 52 barges and cargo launches are lying idle at the port refusing to carry goods to different places of Khulna.

Meanwhile, the Joint Director of Labour has served a notice upon the striking employees to resume duties without any further delay or to face stern

Deputy Director of Labour S M Azad Mostafa served a notice on Wednesday on the president and general secretary of the Khulna unit of the Jahaji Sramik Shangha, asking them to call off the strike or to face cancellation of the registration of their union for violation of the rules under the Industrial Relations Act.

number of cases against them are as follows: Begum Zia (two cases), Manjur Morshed Khan (one), Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury (six), Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury (two), Go-lam Mohammad Reaz (one), Md Hafizur Rahman (one), Ziul Haq Mollah (one). Shahiduzzaman Beltu (three), Shahidul Islam Master (three), Abdul Wahab Biswas (three), Mashiur Rahman Biswas (three), Alamgir Kabir (four). Amanullah Aman (six), Sadek Hossain Khoka (16), Najimuddin Alam (two), M K Anwar (two), Barqatullah Bhulu (one), Joynal Abedin Faruk (three), Manzurul Ahsan Munshi (one), Khairul Enam (two), Ahsanul Haq Pocha Mollah (one), Abdul Aleem (two), Col (Retd) Oli Ahmed (three). Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu (one), Shaikh Razzak Ali (two) Salahuddin Ahmed (two), Mosharraf Hossain (one) and Ruhul Quddus Talukdar (one).

Opponents of CHT accord provoking communal clash: Home Minister

Home Minister Rafiqul Islam alleged that opponents of the CHT accord were trying to destabilise peace through killings and adductions, reports UNB.

Replying to Fazlul Azim (BNP) in parliament, he said those who are opposing the CHT agreement are resorting to armed attacks and provoking communal clash in the region. But, he told Golam Farook

Ovi (JP) that authorities are maintaining law and order in the CHT and Army is still there doing its usual duty. He said, both tribals and

non-tribals have formed committees to resist activities of the elements against the peace accord as they know that there is no alternative to peace.

The home minister said the accord has helped restore peace and harmony among tribals and non-tribals in the area.

He said that the signing of the agreement removed all impediments for anyone to visit any place in the three hill dis-

Replying Abdul Latif Mirja, he said a total of 874 different types of arms were deposited by 1.946 Santibahini members who had surrendered to the authorities in four phases after the signing of the CHT agreement last year.

BNP's gherao programme

From Page 1

ban from Siddheswari Balur Math at 5 pm after holding a brief rally there. Addressing the rally, BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan criticised the government for 'selfpromotion through state-run media' and accused it of using BTV as a tool for vilifying the Opposition leaders.

"Stop this heinous bid for character-assassination of the Opposition leaders, using BTV, which is run with tax-payers' money." Mannan Bhuiyan demanded of the government.

He also reiterated BNP's demand for mid-term elections and urged the people to make the July 16 Opposition-called hartal a success.

Another group of BNP activists gathered near Badda Hossain Market at about the same time and proceeded towards BTV Bhaban. They had to stop near the police barricade at Merul Badda.

Earlier, a procession organised by Jamaat-e-Islami, a component of the Opposition

alliance, marched from Moghbazar towards the BTV Bhaban Jamaat leaders and workers also stopped near the police barricade at Rampura Bazar and returned ending their gherao programme there.

Some other smaller components of the alliance also observed the gherao programme separately. Addressing the BNP sit-in

demonstrators at Rampura Bazar, BNP standing committee member Col (retd) Oli Ahmed listed 'failures' of the present government in various sectors, including power, water and law and order. He urged all sections of the society including public servants to take part in democratic movement to 'save the country' from becoming a vassal state of India.

Other BNP leaders demanded mid-term polls.

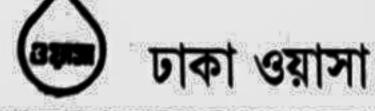
The leaders who spoke included Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Mir Shawkat, Dr Khandakar Mosharraf Hossain, Abdullah Al Noman, Amanullah Aman, MP and Nazimuddin

"ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি"

এতদারা ঢাকা ওয়াসা (ঢাকা শহর ও নারায়ণগঞ্জ সিটি)'র সম্মানিত গ্রাহকবৃন্দকে জানানো যাইতেছে যে, "বিশ্ব ব্যাংক"–এর অর্থায়নে প্রণীত "ঢাকা ওয়াসা চতুর্থ প্রকল্পঃ–এর আওতায় "ক্র্যাশ মিটারিং প্রোগ্রামঃ-এর অধীনে ১০০% (একশত ভাগ) মিটারিং–এর লক্ষ্যে সকল মিটার বিহীন পানির সংযোগে মিটার স্থাপন এবং ক্রুটিযুক্ত মিটার পরিবর্তন কাজ চলিতেছে।

মিটার রিডিং ভিত্তিক সঠিক বিল প্রদানের স্বার্থে সন্মানিত থাহকবৃদ্দকে মিটার স্থাপন/পরিবর্তন কাজে সার্বিক সহযোগিতা প্রদানের জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

ज्याना-बद्धक्र्यभ्भ/४৮ बिडि-१80





C'wealth Secy-Gen post Diplomatic efforts on to win support for Bangladesh's candidature, JS told

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said diplomatic efforts are on to mobilise support for Bangladesh's candidature for Commonwealth Secretary General, reports UNB.

Replying to a question from Zinnat Hossain (JP) in parliament, he said written requests have been made to the concerned authorities of Commonwealth member states in this regard through Bangladesh missions abroad

He said, the decision to run for the election was taken in April last and positive response is being received from different

On another question, Azad said the government hoped that the stranded Pakistanis would be sent back to their homeland in the future in phases.

PM: Colombo

From Page 1

mentioned that his government earlier issued statements urging the two countries to restrain from the nuclear race.

The foreign minister said that the prime minister acted as a "peace envoy" and helped defuse the tension in the region arising out of nuclear tests conducted by India and Pakistan.

He hoped that the progress of the 3-nation summit held in Dhaka earlier this year would not be affected because of the nuclear race by India and Pakistan. "Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, during her recent visits of the two countries, appealed to work for the implementation of the Dhaka declaration made in the summit."

Responding to another question. Samad Azad said that the four-nation sub-regional grouping comprising Bangladesh India, Nepal and Bhutan was a bondage of the four SAARC countries for technical cooperation on different projects.

He also told another questioner that no proposal was received for inclusion of any new member in the SAARC.

Chetia

From Page 1

charges - illegal entry and possessing fake passports, satellite telephones and foreign currency illegally. He was arrested with associates Babul Sharma and Lakhhi Prasad from the city's Mohammadpur area on December 21 last year. The ULFA leader was per-

mitted to talk to a Bangladesh Society for Enforcement of Human Rights lawyer. Alina Khan, for five minutes upon a petition submitted by her yesterday.

Chetia denied the charges brought against him. He also told the court that he had been provided with insufficient food and that he had to withdrew his lawyers under 'pressure'.

The state had earlier appointed a defence counsel for Chetia upon a petition filed by

Chetia and his two associates were brought in the court at about 11:00 am under police es-

Reading out the charges against the three accused, the ACMM asked them whether they were guilty of the charges brought against them.

Chetia told the court in

Bangla that he was not guilty and pleaded for justice. Two of his associates also denied the charges and pleaded for justice. Special public prosecutor M Kamrul Islam appeared on be-half of the state while Advocate Abul Hasib appeared for the

Extradition

three accused as state defence.

From Page 1 known accused in the Banga-

bandhu murder case. Replaying to a question, the home minister said at the moment there is no possibility of having such a treaty with India.

JS session prorogued Opposition members were en-From Page 1

When the Prime Minister was making the accusation at 9:00 pm, the entire front bench of the opposition BNP was However, listing 'successes'

of her government over the last couple of years. Hasina said that she had inherited a ruined economy from the BNP. Claiming that her government has already achieved sub-

stantial progress in solving the power crisis and controlling law and order, the Prime Minister accused the BNP of acts of sabotage in both the sectors. Hasina said the Opposition leader could not attend the ses

sion as "she was busy in gherus ing the TV Bhaban as told by the Opposition chief whip." "What's the reason of laying

siege to the TV Bhaban when the

Faruq murder From Page 1

Keraniganj police arrested her vesterday morning. The investigating officer of

the case said last night that af-

ter preliminary investigation they were suspecting the killing may be linked with business transaction. Family sources claimed that Faruk, a resident of Science

Laboratory Road area, married Flora a few months ago. But Flora told police that she had

an affair with Faruk but they did not get married. Police were interrogating

Flora who confessed to police that she is the owner of the ashcoloured car in which Faruk's partially decomposed body was Flora also told police that Faruk took her car before leav-

ing her residence a couple of days before he was found dead. Faruk, an accused in the Raufun Bashunia murder case, was elected an MP from

Faridpur-5 constituency in the 1986 general election. Flora is likely to be produced before the CMM's Court today. The body of Faruk was handed over to his family after autopsy

at Mitford Hospital morgue Wednesday.

Rajya Sabha From Page 1

nomic interaction, Vasundhara Raje said, adding both the sides reiterated their commitment to SAARC in view of the important role it could play in promoting regional cooperation. In reply to another question,

Vasundhara Raje said that the continuation of a process of dialogue with neighbouring countries, as indicated by the recent visits to India by the prime minister of Bangladesh. the president of Maldives and the foreign minister of Sri Lanka, demonstrated that India's nuclear tests had not adversely affected its relations with neighbouring countries, with the exception of Pakistan.

the Speaker and undermined the House," ishe asked referring to the rowdy ism in Parliament by the Opposition. She also questioned the jus-

gaged in dai naging the TV cam-

era inside the House, insulted

tification of the TV Bhaban gherao by the Opposition leader when they did not fulfil the same demand while in power. The Prime Minister said the present government is continu-

Consultants appointed for the Grameen Court Project were ing its works for giving autonomy to radio and television. given another month to submit their report, according to offi-We are now or he step ahead, we are allowing private channels cial sources. of radio and television." "The one-and-a-half-year Earlier, Chief Whip of the tenure of the project expired on June 30," an official said,

Opposition Khandaker Delwar Hossain urged the Prime Minisadding that the project was ter to take step is to make the taken up in January 1997 with a Tk two crore funding from the House effective. Advocate Fazle Rabbi of UNDP.

Jatiya Party said that the national budget for 1998-99 was not up to the mark. But he thanked the Finance Minister for withdrawing some tax proposals and reducing some other taxes following suggestions from the opposition MPs.

Delwar

the Leader of the Rouse to unite the whole country and invite us (Opposition) in the phrocess." 'As the second person in the order of the precedence, she (Prime Minister) can not use the

language of attack." He said the BNP wants to be an active partner of parliamentary democracy, but it is the duty of the government and the

ruling party to take the initia-Delwar said: "The country has no time to lose, rior to go backward ... we have to move forward removing all the diffi-

culties." "But, if you don't accept the hard fact that the BINP is a strong opposition and clon't invite us in the nation-b uilding process, how can the der nocracy become effective?" he asl ted.

of not fulfilling any of the fourpoint accord with BNP. The BNP leader urged the government to fulfil the conditions of the accord if it wants to

He accused the ruling party

make the parliament effective. Criticising short discussion on the budget, he said it did not prove that the ruling party was transparent. The Opposition Chief VVhip

urged the government not to create any obstacle on holdling the scheduled public meetin g of BNP near the Bangabanchu Jamuna Bridge. "Repression on the opposition and prohibiting opposit lon

rally cannot be the language of democracy," he said. In his winding-up speech, Jatiya Party Whip Advocate Fazle Rabbi said they did not

find the budget satisfactory. However, he thanked the Fi nance Minister for accepting! some of the opposition proposals to reduce taxes and duties.

SAARC: Regional conflicts

From Page 1 detonations.

India, he said, adopted a threatening posture after the explosions which created grave tension in the region. Statements made by the In-

dian leaders, he said, were extremely provocative and created a nightmare that haunted the prospects of peace and stability in the region. "Pakistan was forced to

demonstrate its detterrent capability after the Indian explo-sions to restore the balance." Zaki stated.

Responding to a question if Pakistan can act responsibly after becoming a 'nuclear country', he replied, "Our country had the nuclear capacity since 1984-85 but refrained from testing it. We only tested after India forced our hands. Since we could act so responsibly for so long, there is no reason why we will act irresponsibly now."

The Pakistan envoy, in reply to a question, said that the danger of miscalculation leading to a nuclear exchange could not be ruled out. India, he said, could hit targets within three to four minutes while Pakistan could hit strategic Indian targets in 10 to 11 minutes.

Stressing that the post-nu-

clear situation in South Asia was delicate, Akram Zaki said that Pakistan seriously wanted to stabilize the situation. To restore stability in the

sub-continent, the government of Pakistan has offered unilateral moratorium on nuclear tests, resumption of foreign secretary level talks, expressed its intention to sign a non-aggres-sion pact and had declared that it would not transfer nuclear technology. State Minister for Foreign

Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury, who attended the dialogue, said, "The next SAARC summit in Colombo would be critical and important. He said a nuclear scenario

will not give any scope for winners. "SAARC members must push for a dialogue between the India and Pakistan." The dialogue was partici-

pated by, among others, Barris-ter Amirul Islam, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Rezaul Karim, Enayetullah Khan, Mohiuddin Ahmed. AZM Obaidullah Khan, Major General (retd) KM Shafiullah, MP, Rashed Khan Menon and Mujibul Huq. The High Commissioner of Pakistan in Dhaka Karam Elahi was present on the occasion.

Flare test complete

Occidental starts downing rig at Bibiana-I

From Iqbal Siddiquee

Home Minister Rafiqul Is-lam yesterday informed the parliament that a total of 1,599 SYLHET, July 9: With the rape cases were filed between flare test of gas in the well July, 1997 and May, 1998, recompleted, US company Occidental started 'downing the rig' During the period, he said, a policeman raped a woman in at its exploratory well Bibiana-1' on Monday.

the Dhaka Metropolitan Police Sources close to the Com-(DMP) area. One person was arpany told this correspondent it rested in this connection and will take at least two weeks to the case is under investigation. complete the process.

Replying to Alhaj Advocate Khairul Enam (BNP), the minis-The company is considering Bibiana well as its first success ter said 919 people were arin the country as it had struck rested in connection with those four gas zones within a depth of 3905 metres almost without He said, during the period 1,095 FIRs were lodged. Of these. any difficulty, the sources

added. Gas pressure in all these zones were considered good and company officials are very op-

Policeman allegedly commits suicide

By Staff Correspondent A naik of police allegedly shot himself while on duty near the TNT petrol pump in city's Motifheel area last night.

Police said Omar Faruk, 46, a naik of Razarbagh Police Line, died on the spot. The reason behind the alleged suicide could not be known immedi-

Motijheel police said Faruk had been psychologically depressed for quite a long time.

Faruk shot himself at his throat with his gun near the petrol pump while on duty at about 8:30 pm. Hearing the gun shot local people rushed to the spot and found him dead.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital morgue for autopsy. An unnatural death case was filed with Motifheel thana in this regard last night.

World Cup

From Page gallo. He thinks the French will offer fewer problems than the Dutch, who took Brazil to a shootout before succumbing.

"France plays offensively. It's the team that has shot more than any in the Cup. So it pays a price on defence," Zagallo said. Barring Croatia, he added. "They haven't faced a team with a strong attack."

Zico, the team's coordinator, also was not overwhelmed by France's performance.

"They didn't play well against Croatia. The Dutch were better," he said. "They're a dangerous team but not intimidating and certainly not unbeat-Zico thinks the French will

miss Blanc's leadership, though he urges caution with playmaker Zinedine Zidane and versatile defender Lilian Thuram, who scored both goals against Croatia.

Still. Brazilians know how a home crowd can pick up a team. On Sunday, 80,000 spectators will pack Stade de France, and for once Brazil's yellow jerseys won't set the tone.

"Fans are important in big games," Zagallo said. "The best we can do is not to antagonise them. A winner of four Cups as

player, coach or coordinator, Zagallo understands the significance of the moment.

"This is the biggest sporting event of the century," he said. "We're in the capital of the world, the owners of the house are in the final and will try for their first title against the fourtime champions. And every team outdoes itself against

Brazil." Still, it's hard to match the Brazilian jersey. "We have a history in World

Cups," said midfielder Leonardo. "And that gives us a lot of support."

timistic about the reserve in the structure. They had already hinted about existence of much more quantity of gas in the structure, than it had earlier expected depending on the seismic survey. Before starting drilling the well, the company had said the approximate reserve in Bibiana structure would be about one trillion

Occidental had started drilling the well in the first week of January this year and completed it by the end of May. However, the company maintained top secrecy and informed none when it started drilling at the remote village, the sources said. Extra care was taken in drilling the well. Cementing was done after every 100 metres.

The well is located in the Block-14. PSC for which is yet to be renewed. The PSC with the Petrobangla was signed on January 11, 1995, for blocks 13 and

The rig 'T-75' used in drilling the well at the remote village Dighalbak in Nabiganj thana under Habiganj district would now be sent to the company's new location in Kalachhara area in Srimangal thana, where a new exploratory well will be drilled. However, it will take at least six weeks to resume transportation of dismantled parts of the rig. The drilling sub contractor — Deutag — a German company engaged by Occidental, was entrusted with the task.

Child murder

Nargis may give confessional statement today

By Staff Correspondent The Detective Branch (DB) of police is likely to record the confessional statement of Nargis who allegedly slaughtered her son Naim, today. Nargis, who is now under

treatment at the intensive care unit (ICU) of Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), allegedly killed her seven-yearold son and then tried to commit suicide inside her flat at North Kamalapur on July 2.

The on-duty doctor at the ICU told The Daily Star last night that the condition of Nargis was stable.

DB sources said she could communicate with others by means of writing. They are expecting to record her written statement today under Section 161 of the Code of Criminal

Procedure, the sources added. Meanwhile, investigators were still looking for further information on the case till

yesterday. HIV

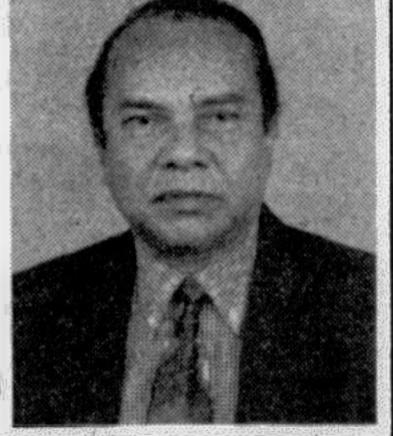
From Page 1

people about the need for controlled sexual life through preaching after prayers. He also called upon all to be guided by religious doctrines to

avoid sexual diseases.

Professor Nurul Islam underscored the need for launching a mosque-based education and treatment system so that the rural people can get first-aid promptly.

Prof Nazrul Islam said the government is going to initiate a mandatory blood screening system in all the blood transfusion centres across the country. Five diseases - hepatitis b hepatitis c, malaria, syphilis and AIDS will be tested at the centres, he said. "Around two lakh bags of blood are transfused every year in Bangladesh," he added.



We are deeply shocked to announce that Sr. Director of Uttara Motors Ltd. and Director, Eastern Insurance Company Ltd. Mr. Habibur Rahman Chowdhury had breathed his last on July 07, 1998 (Tuesday) at Burmingham, U.K. due to heart failure (Inna Lillahe-wa-Innah-Illaiahe-Rajeun). He was 57. He left behind his wife, three daughters, one son and a lot of relatives and well-wish-

The dead body of the deceased will reach Dhaka on Friday, 10th July 1998 by Bangladesh Biman. His namaz-e-Janaja will be held after Jumma prayer at Jame Masjid on road # 7, Dhanmondi. He will be buried at the graveyard of the Dargah of Hazrat Shah Jalal (RA) on Saturday, 11th July after johar prayer offering namaje janaza there.

At his demise, we lost a noble personality and colleague. We pray to almighty for the salvation of the departed soul and convey our deep

sympathy to the members of the bereaved family. On behalf of All Directors and Officers / staffs of the company **Managing Director**

Uttara Motors Limited

39, DILKUSHA, C/A, DHAKA-1000

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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