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## BNP shifts meeting venue

BNP which called a public meeting within two kilometres of Bangabandhu Bridge today will now hold the meeting at Samsol, three kilometres from east end of the bridge, reports UNB.  
BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will address the meeting outside the police barricade at Samsol at 3 pm, said a party press release.  
It said the venue was shifted after a meeting between BNP leaders including Maj Gen (ret'd) Mahmudul Hasan and Shahan Siraj with Tangail district and police administrations.  
When contacted, the Deputy Commissioner of Tangail told The Daily Star last night that BNP has shifted the venue of its today's public meeting to Golindapur, four and a half kilometres from the bridge.  
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## Bibiana may turn out to be second biggest gasfield

By Sharier Khan

US company Occidental's findings in the gas structures at Bibiana in Sylhet is likely to be one of the biggest gas discoveries in Bangladesh.  
Sources said Occidental has already tested six 'zones' in the Bibiana well, located near Sherpur, and the results are all "positive".  
The sources did not quantify the amount of recoverable gas from this well, but said that there were indications that it might turn out to be the second biggest gasfield in Bangladesh. Titas, the biggest gasfield in the

country, has a proven recoverable reserve of 4 tcf. The total proven gas reserve in the country now stands at 10.3 tcf, according to Petrobangla.  
"Usually, if six 'zones' of a well is tested, one or two 'zones' give negative results," said a gas expert. "This was not the case with Bibiana. So it might turn out that the gas reserve is huge there," he said.  
"But we must not be over-optimistic. All other gasfields closer to Bibiana are not very big. Besides, the Bibiana gas field is still under development." See Page 12 Col 6

## Khagrachhari 40 hurt as police, BNP activists clash: 7 more held

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 10: At least 40 people including five policemen were injured during a clash with BNP activists at Ramgarh under Khagrachhari hill district last night, police and residents said.  
Seven more BNP supporters were arrested today.  
Earlier, police arrested 17 BNP leaders and activists from Ramgarh, Jaljalyapara and Khagrachhari town.  
Police said the trouble started at 10 pm last night when a large number of BNP supporters pelted stones at the local TNO office protesting the arrests.  
At a stage, BDR rushed to the spot and dispersed the agitators. BDR and a large contingent of police were sent to the spot.  
See Page 12 Col 1

## Rural road maintenance programme may be handed over to CARE

By Naimul Haq

The government is considering handing over the entire rural road maintenance programme (RMP-Road) to CARE under the supervision of the Local Government Division (LGD) sometime this year.  
According to official sources, CIDA, co-financier of the project, has proposed to the government to hand over the

management, implementation and financial matters of the RMP (road) to CARE under the supervision of the Local Government Division (LGD) sometime this year.  
When contacted, an official of the Canadian High Commission who deals with development activities said, "I can not give much detail about the proposals but all I can say is that the existing role of CARE Bangladesh will change following ratification of the memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the governments

of Bangladesh and Canada."  
A top official of the LGRD Ministry, when contacted, refused to give any details about the matter saying, "We are not in a position to disclose any plan."  
He, however, confirmed that there was a proposal on landing over the rural road maintenance programme to CARE.  
A high official of the LGED said, "The proposal transfer from LGED to Local Government Division will substantially enhance the operational efficiency of the programme."  
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## Flood situation in Kushtia worsens

From Our Correspondent

KUSHTIA, July 10: The flood situation in Bheramara, Mirpur, Kumarkhal and Daulatpur thanas of the district has deteriorated further with waters from the Ganges inundating fresh areas.  
Water levels of the Ganges and its tributary Goral are rising fast, official sources said.  
Eight unions of Daulatpur thana, three unions of Bheramara, one union of Mirpur and three unions of Kumarkhal thana have been affected.  
Crops on at least 5000 acres of land have reeled under flood water in the four thanas, the sources said.  
Along with the flood, erosion by the Ganga has taken an alarming turn in Daulatpur thana. Vast tracks of land in the area have been washed away.  
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## AL conspiring to win by-polls: Mannan Bhuiyan

BNP yesterday accused the ruling Awami League of hatching a conspiracy to influence the results of the July 20 by-election in Barisal-5 constituency, reports UNB.  
"The ruling party has made a blueprint to snatch BNP's victory by utilising government machinery in violation of the election code of conduct," BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan told newsmen at 29 Minto Road in the afternoon.  
He said that ministers, chief whip and other AL leaders with ministerial status were campaigning in favour of the Awami League candidate in the by-election violating the code of conduct.  
"They have threatened the UP chairmen and members and other local authorities that development works would be stopped if election results went against Awami League," he said.  
He mentioned that the Chief Election Commissioner in a recent letter to the prime minister requested her to ensure that no minister, state minister, deputy minister or persons with equal status pay any official or unofficial visit to Barisal-5 constituency to keep the coming by-election above controversy.  
Bhuiyan said that despite repeated requests the Election Commission was not taking any action to prevent violation of the election code of conduct.  
He demanded strict enforcement of the code of conduct.  
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## Unchain him, please

By Shehab Ahmed

He is hardly a nine-year-old boy. But more than two years of his life has been spent on a 'prisoner' on the balcony of a market in the old city.  
Chained to a wooden plank, the child instead of moving around, is forced to spend his time, looking at the busy street below at Nayabazar. His step-father, who operates the public toilet on the Malitola market, thought that keeping the young 'devil' chained is the only way to 'discipline' him.  
Badal, his step father, says Nizam is restless and runs around all the time, becoming known in the locality as a trouble-making boy. He, it is said, throws stones at glasses, at shops and does all kinds of mischief.  
Badal said, "I have skipped classes and later gave up school. He is a spoiled child and has been the cause of complaints of the neighbours, they said."  
"We had no other means to tackle him," Arif said of his sibling ruefully. Even his mother Zohura shares his feeling.  
"I will run away whenever I get another chance," Nizam said last Sunday when asked. He managed to escape from his captors.  
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## Pak special envoy tells The Daily Star Bombs have no religion

By M Anwarul Haq

"Bombs have no religion. These are destructive in nature and carry no label. And definitely Pakistan's nuclear bomb cannot be branded as an Islamic bomb."  
This was stated by the visiting special envoy from Pakistan Senator Akram Zaki in an interview with The Daily Star yesterday.  
The envoy, who is on a visit to Bangladesh and delivered a special message to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from her Pakistani counterpart Nawaz Sharif, was responding to a question as to how his country would react to campaigns by western countries and media terming Pakistan's nuclear devices as Islamic bombs.  
Akram Zaki said, "It is foolish to talk of an Islamic bomb. A bomb is for destruction. We do not want to destroy civilisation. All can recall that the US became a nuclear power in 1945 and none called it a Christian bomb. When Russia detonated in 1949, it was not called a Communist bomb. In 1952 and 1960, Britain and France tested nuclear devices and these bombs were not given the Church of England or Catholic labels. When China tested its first nuclear device in 1964, it



Akram Zaki

also was not given any ideological label."  
The Indians exploded the first nuclear device in 1974 and again in May, 1998. The Indian bombs have not been called Hindu bombs. Then why is Pakistan's nuclear capability being given Islamic label?" asked Zaki.  
"Islam is a religion of peace. So, if they mean Pakistan's bomb is a bomb for peace then there is nothing to say. Our bomb is a bomb to deter aggression. It is essentially for our self-defence because Pakistan, as a responsible country, has no other intention except the consideration of its self preservation."  
"We have acquired nuclear technology indigenously with a lot of difficult work and sacrifice," said Akram Zaki, a former career diplomat who served as his country's envoy in Beijing and Washington. He is now Chairman of Pakistan's Senate Standing Committee on Foreign Affairs.  
Akram Zaki replying to questions repeatedly said that Pakistan was compelled to detonate nuclear device in response to "our own security needs, in self defence and as a deterrent."  
Pakistan has tried since 1974 when India exploded its first nuclear device, to make South Asia a zone of peace. It has sponsored a resolution in the UN every year. Bangladesh has also supported it, the special envoy said.  
"We have submitted many proposals for bilateral and international agreements to keep South Asia free from proliferation."  
See Page 12 Col 3

## 'Faruq was strangulated to death'

By Staff Correspondent

Police investigation revealed that former Jatiya Party MP Lufar Rahman alias Kala Faruq was strangulated to death in a house in Dhanmondi Road 6 on Monday last.  
Nasrin Akter alias Flora who was arrested in this connection, owner of the house Faruk Azam Khan, three of his friends and two gatekeepers were present at the time, police said.  
Keraniganj police said the six accused were absconding till late last night. They came to know details of the incident from Flora.  
Police produced Flora before court yesterday praying for a seven-day remand. The court fixed Sunday for hearing the remand petition and ordered that Flora be sent to Dhaka Central Jail.  
Meanwhile, police picked up the six accused.  
See Page 12 Col 4

## Mongla strike on Foreign vessels threaten to leave port

From Staff Correspondent  
KHULNA, July 10: Strike by the employees of barges and cargo launches at Mongla Port continued for the seventh day today.  
Meanwhile, a foreign vessel 'MV Al Mostaba', chartered for carrying raw jute and jute goods for export left Mongla Port today without loading those.  
The vessel arrived at the port on July 5.  
Another vessel loaded with fertiliser imported by Nepal is also lying idle at the port. It is expected to leave today.  
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## Indo-Pak dialogue soon, hopes Amman US, India hold 'secret talks'

FRANKFURT, July 10: India and the United States today decided to continue their dialogue process on issues of mutual concern, including disarmament and nuclear non-proliferation, and agreed to meet for the third round of talks in New Delhi on July 20 and 21, reports PTI.  
The decision was taken after two days of crucial 'secret talks', spread over four sessions, between prime minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's special emissary Jaswant Singh and US deputy secretary of state Strobe Talbott here.  
A statement issued at the end of the talks today said both sides agreed that this 'very useful and constructive consultation' will continue.  
The meeting was held at an undisclosed location.  
AP adds from the United Nations: The UN chief said yesterday that Pakistan and India appeared ready to hold talks on security and other issues — including Kashmir — by the end of July and that he himself might visit the region.  
In a letter to the Security Council, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said he was encouraged by indications from leaders of both countries and would continue efforts to bring the two sides together to discuss nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament.

A meeting between the two heads of state during a South Asian regional meeting in Colombo, Sri Lanka at the end of July is likely to materialise, Amman wrote.  
Tensions between the South Asian neighbours escalated after India detonated five underground nuclear explosions in early May. Pakistan responded with six tests, heightening tensions between the two countries.  
**Naga separatist groups 'ready to give up fighting'**  
GUAHATI, July 10: Naga tribal leaders in India's troubled northeast said today two of the region's separatist groups were now ready to give up fighting, reports AP.  
M Vero, president of the Naga Hoho, an umbrella group for tribal leaders, said Hoho envoys met recently with members of the Naga National Council and the National Socialist Council of Nagaland.  
"We believe they will give up arms if a ceasefire is extended and army operations withdrawn immediately," Vero said.  
He called on the Indian government which has opened private hands, the same land sells between Tk 15 and 20 lakh per katha.  
As residents started to defy the ban on 'commercialisation' of the remaining portion of the area, in January, 1996, the government revised the decision and declared Road-2, the whole of Satmasjid Road and Road 15 (old 27) as commercial area. With this, the restriction that only 20 feet of a plot could be used commercially was also withdrawn. Since then, plot owners at these roads could use the entire plot for commercial structures by paying the conversion fee.  
The price of land at these

Annan's letter was circulated to council members Thursday as his envoy, Alvaro de Soto, briefed the council on his recent trip to Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. He cancelled a visit to India after New Delhi said he was not welcome.  
De Soto's contacts with regional leaders, while not as complete as would have been desirable, nevertheless confirmed his concern that the new situation which had emerged following the developments of May, compounding as it does the longstanding causes of friction between India and Pakistan, may have serious implications for peace and security in the region and beyond," Amman wrote.  
"In this connection, I have been encouraged by indications from both sides of their readiness to enter into a dialogue addressing peace and security matters and causes of tension, including Kashmir," he wrote.  
India has flatly rejected international mediation over the Kashmir dispute. Pakistan has urged the United Nations and others to step in.  
De Soto delivered letters with Annan's offer to visit the region "at the appropriate time" to Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee and Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

## Holland, Croatia clash today

From Nizamuddin Ahmed

PARIS, July 10: Golden Boot contender Sticker's Croatia will take on gloriously gifted Bergkamp's Holland at Parc de Prince in Paris tomorrow for the third-place play-off.  
Holland lost to Brazil in a penalty shoot-out at Marseille last Tuesday after locking horns for a 1-1 draw in the first semifinal. Croatia, the new boys of world football, went down rather meekly to hosts France on the day after in the second semifinal.  
Holland are also upset about not being awarded a penalty when striker Pierre van Hoojdonk was pulled back right at the end of the match. That could have been decisive. And because it was so close that "it hurts this time" said Bergkamp with reference to their 3-2 exit from the 1994 World Cup against Brazil in the quarterfinals. Bergkamp should know the pain because

he was there too.  
Stam, who is Manchester United's new 10 million pound signing, is so stung about Brazil's great escape that he is now claiming, "They are not a team."  
See Page 12 Col 8

**JOHN PLAYER GOLD LEAF LIGHTS**  
WORLD CUP '98  
**KICK-OFF**  
**Today's match**  
Third-place decider  
July 11: Holland vs Croatia,  
Stade de France, 1900 GMT  
(1:00 am BST)

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## Commercial houses mushrooming in Dhanmondi R/A

By Morshed Ali Khan

With the declaration of four roads as commercial, Dhanmondi residential area in the city is rapidly changing into a residential cum commercial area.  
In the face of a losing battle to keep it purely residential, the government first declared Mirpur road section of Dhanmondi as commercial area in 1985. It tagged a condition that the plot owners could use only 20 feet of their plots for commercial structures provided they paid a conversion fee of 15 per cent of a pre-set land price. At present government-fixed price of land in Dhanmondi residential area per katha is Tk 4 lakh while in

four roads soared overnight as residents took up plans to construct multi-storied commercial structures on their plots. But the government remained firm as regards height of the buildings and restricted it to a limit of six stories. Presently, most of the new buildings in the area are being constructed with a foundation for 15 stories and more. Residents hope that one day the restriction on height would be withdrawn.  
PWD sources said although many have started to use their plots commercially, only half a dozen have paid the conversion fee. Commercial houses operating in the area without paying

the conversion fees are regularly visited by PWD inspectors. The shop owners alleged that the inspectors usually issue a letter and then go away with a 'big' just to return in a month.  
When the four fringe roads turned commercial inside the residential area, commercial houses kept mushrooming at every road. The authorities did not take note of the illegal growth while PWD inspectors regularly collected 'unofficial fees' from these business houses.  
PWD sources said permission was given for the construction of only two non-residential structures inside the residential

area — one is Bangladesh Medical College at Road 25 and the other is Ibn Sina Clinic at Road 26.  
Hundreds of others were using residential buildings as offices, schools, clinics, pharmaceutical shops, diagnostic centres and community centres.  
Sources in PWD said that in one case, a plan was 'mysteriously' approved for construction of a 'madrasa' adjacent to the mosque at Road-7. When construction work of the four-storied building was completed, the mosque committee rented it out as a diagnostic centre. The sources pointed out from the

**গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার**  
**জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড**  
**ঢাকা**

প্রদেয় আয়কর পরিশোধ করুন এবং  
 দেশের অর্থনৈতিক কর্মকাণ্ডে আপনার অবদান রাখুন।

**সেবা প্রদানকারীদের ক্ষেত্রে উৎসে কর কর্তনের নতুন হার সম্পর্কে জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

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⇒ কোন আয় বছরে বিলের পরিমাণ ৬০,০০০/- (ষাট হাজার) টাকার বেশী না হলে কর কর্তনের প্রয়োজন হবে না। তবে বিলের অংক ৬০,০০০/- (ষাট হাজার) টাকার বেশী হলে সম্পূর্ণ অংকের উপরই কর কর্তন করতে হবে;  
⇒ সরকার, সরকারী কর্তৃপক্ষ, কর্পোরেশন বা এর বিভিন্ন ইউনিট, ব্যাংক ও বীমা কোম্পানীসহ সকল পাবলিক ও প্রাইভেট লিমিটেড কোম্পানী, বহুজাতিক কোম্পানী, জয়েন্ট ভেঞ্চার কোম্পানী এবং এনজিও ব্যুরোর রেজিস্ট্রিকৃত সকল এনজিও প্রতিষ্ঠান কর্তৃক উল্লিখিত খাতে বিল প্রদানের সময় বর্ণিত হারে উৎসে কর কর্তন প্রযোজ্য হবে;  
⇒ ১লা জুলাই, ১৯৯৮-ইং থেকে এ বিধান কার্যকর হবে। ইতোমধ্যে এরূপ খাতে বিল প্রদান করা হয়ে থাকলে এবং উৎসে কর কর্তন না করা হলে বা কম হারে কর্তন করা হলে পরবর্তী বিল প্রদানের সময় তা সমন্বয় করতে হবে।

জিএসপি-১৫০৮৪-৮/১  
খি-১৫৭৭

**জাতীয় রাজস্ব বোর্ড**