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## PM for changes in format of annual reports on ministries

**By Staff Correspondent**

The cabinet yesterday approved the annual reports on the activities of different ministries from July 1996 to June 1998, official sources said.

The cabinet members, however, reached a consensus that the present format of the annual report did not provide a clear picture of the performances of the ministries.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina who chaired the meeting has already asked the officials concerned to change the format in consultation with the Public Administrative Reforms Committee, a minister told The Daily Star.

According to him, Finance Secretary Akbar Ali Khan pointed out that the present format did not serve the purpose of the government. He argued at See Page 12 Col 8

## JU Syndicate holds 11-hour meeting

# One expelled for life, action against 6, others acquitted

**By Staff Correspondent**

The Syndicate of Jahangirnagar University yesterday expelled one student for life and awarded varying punishment to six other students for what it termed "moral degradation".

The seven were earlier served with showcause notices for allegedly raping some female students of the university on the campus.

Six accused abettors were acquitted of charges, JU sources said.

The punishment was awarded at an 11-hour meeting of the Syndicate chaired by Vice-Chancellor Prof Alauddin Ahmed. The Syndicate was yet to decide if it would seek legal action against the students concerned.

Of the seven, Jasmuddin Manik, former BCL general secretary at JU, was expelled from the university for life. He was an MA student of Drama and Dramatics Department and had been enrolled at JU for more than six years, dropping examinations twice, once at the Honours level and again at the Masters level. Manik, was only recently expelled from the university for one year for assaulting a teacher on the campus.

Mohammad Ali Dalas and Miradul Islam, both BCL leaders, were expelled from the university for three years each while another leader of the organisation, Atiqur Rahman Naim, was expelled for two years.

Nabiul Haq Rony, another BCL leader, was awarded a "suspended expulsion" for one year while two others, Hasibur Rahman Barkat and Anisur Rahman, were served with warning notices.

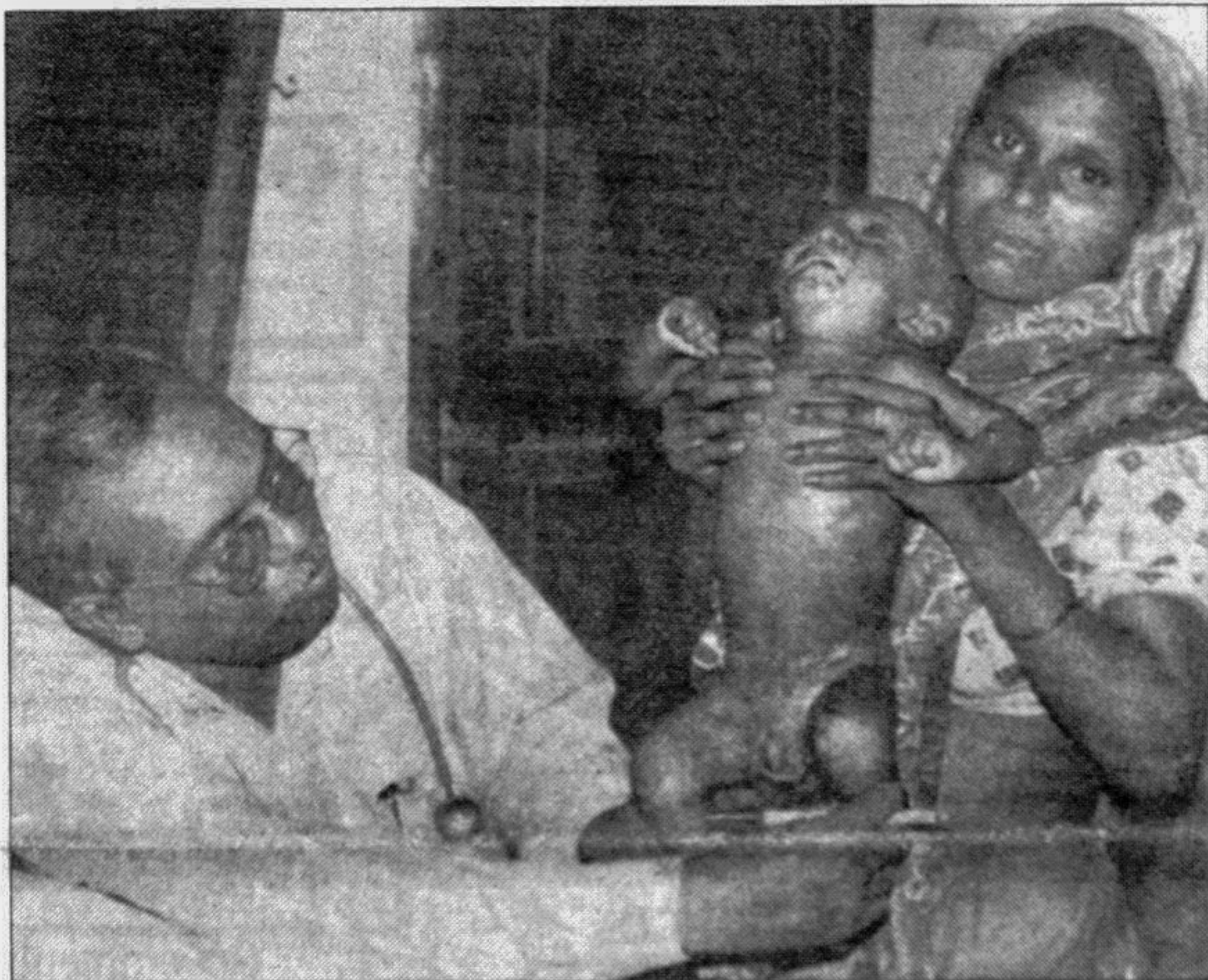
The six accused abettors — Titu, Ferdous, Rafiq, Ruhul, Sohag and Kjol — were acquitted of the charges due to "lack of specific evidence regarding their involvement", sources said.

The six also belong to the BCL.

Regarding the three outsiders accused of rape — Sohel, Mukul and Raj — the Syndicate decided to lodge complaint with police.

The Syndicate meeting began at 3:30 pm on Sunday and continued till 2:30 am yesterday.

The action against the ac-



Incidences of skin diseases are on the rise in the flood-affected areas. The photo shows a child being treated for scabies at a flood shelter in Mirpur by doctors of an NGO. — Star photo

## BNP activists go on rampage in Ctg

CHITTAGONG, Sept 28: Tension gripped the political scene of Chittagong after Criminal Investigation Department chargesheeted four top BNP leaders and 46 other people for three major political riots, reports UNB.

At least 30 vehicles were damaged and 10 firecrackers blasted at Terribazar, Anderkilla and Jubilee Roads this evening when demonstrators paraded the city protesting the chargesheet.

Four MPs of BNP and local BNP leaders were among the 50 people chargesheeted for their alleged involvement in the three violent incidents in the port city last year.

City BNP said it would announce fresh action programme tomorrow.

Police accused 28 people including Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury MP and Giasuddin Quader Chowdhury MP of November 11, clash during a meeting of Khaleda Zia at Outer See Page 12 Col 6

## Mir Nasir and Dastagir boycott Sramik Dal rally

**From Staff Correspondent**

CHITTAGONG, Sept 28: Mir Nasiruddin and Dastagir Chowdhury, president and general secretary respectively of BNP's city unit today boycotted a rally of Sramik Dal, held at Laldighi area.

When contacted later, Mir Nasiruddin said, "We boycotted the rally to protest allowing one Md Nazim Uddin, already expelled from the party, to sit on the dais."

Witnesses said that there was altercation and uproar among party workers and leaders over the issue.

The Chittagong unit of BNP is now facing an intra-party conflict over possession of its city office at Nasim Bhaban at Nur Ahmed Road, party insiders said.

The trouble began when some of the rooms used earlier as BNP's city office were rented out to another tenant by the See Page 11

## DESA-DESCO feud

# Mirpur, Pallabi without power for hours

**By Staff Correspondent**

Different areas of Mirpur and Pallabi remained without power for most of the day yesterday due to the alleged non-cooperation by DESA employees in handing over the responsibilities to the newly-established power distribution company, DESCO.

The feud between Dhaka Electric Supply Authority (DESA) and Dhaka Electric Supply Company (DESCO) took such a serious turn yesterday that no one was taking any responsibility for distributing power in the Mirpur zone yesterday.

A resident of Pallabi told The Daily Star that power supply in his area remained suspended from 12:30 pm. He said when he contacted them over telephone, officials of both DESCO and DESA blamed each other for the power disruption. DESCO officials told The

Daily Star that the situation was not under their control although the newly set up organisation could easily take care of such power disruptions caused by disturbance in the transmission or power cable.

"But to replace a transformer or repair a torn cable, we must first shut down power supply from the control room to that area," said a top official of DESCO.

"Unfortunately, DESA officials who were supposed to hand over the Power Supply Control Room to DESCO, locked the building this morning and they are refusing to cooperate," he added.

Mirpur zone is one of the six power distribution zones marked by DESA. To overcome corruption and inefficiency, the government in 1997 formed DESCO, a company owned by See Page 12 Col 5

## Khaleda warns of launching anti-govt movement

**RAJSHAHI, Sept 28:** Opposition leader Begum Khaleda Zia today warned of launching a movement if the government fails to reach succour to the flood victims and rehabilitate them, reports UNB.

"A vigorous movement will be launched if the ruling party does not mend its habit of misappropriation of relief goods. People are passing their days hungry as they failed in their responsibility," Begum Zia said.

Addressing a public meeting at Godagari, the BNP chief said the distressed people cannot be saved as most relief goods were being distributed among the ruling party men.

She said prices of essentials have shot up. "The flood ravaged people have no money to buy food and other needs. They need sources of income." She asked the government to immediately start food-for-work and test relief programmes in the affected areas.

Begum Zia was critical of the government for refusing to de-

## The Daily Star speaks to Abdul Awal Mintoo

# I don't need FBCCI office to promote my business

**By Toufique Imrose Khalidi**

On the 10th floor of his imposing Anchor Tower opposite the Sonargaon Hotel, he is surrounded by scores of aides of different status.

Outside, at the entrance to the headquarters of his "empire", the uniformed darwans wouldn't even let your car wait a few seconds to keep the path free for the chairman's jeep at all time.

The big man, small in stature though, is Abdul Awal Mintoo.

Mintoo lives in style, moves in style.

When he walks on the city streets on a hazy day, his men run behind him carrying a satellite phone in a briefcase. So he is always at work.

His workload has multiplied in the past few weeks. Running for president of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), he is now busy "winning the hearts" of some 730 voters from 169 associations.

class life... never had enough, but not so little that we're dying."

"I went to an ordinary village high school, before going to Feni for matriculation and then on to Victoria College in Comilla."

Life took a different course when he joined the Chittagong Marine Academy as a cadet and then became a mariner.

It changed direction again when he jumped ship on April 8, 1971 and landed in Washington DC.

Mintoo takes pride in recalling his five months in DC, where he worked with AMA Muhith, then economic councillor at the Pakistan mission (later secretary and minister), during those turbulent days back home.

Then he moved to study transportation economics in New York, where he worked as a waiter to pay for college. He says pursuing Bachelors and See Page 11



Abdul Awal Mintoo

## Donors urge govt

# Gear up distribution of VGF cards

**By Reaz Ahmad**

Donors have urged the government to expedite its post-flood relief operation following press reports on non-distribution of VGF (vulnerable group feeding) cards among flood-affected people in the countryside, sources said.

According to a government plan, some 40 lakh families are supposed to be provided with cards which would ensure supply of 16 kilograms of food-grains per month to each family in October and November under an extended VGF programme.

With only two days left for the beginning of October, the government is left with the huge task of distributing 27 lakh VGF cards in addition to 13 lakh cards distributed in August and September.

Against this backdrop, donors and the UN system operating in Bangladesh have urged the government to gear up its post-flood relief operation among the people-in-need.

"We're fully aware of press reports regarding flood-affected peoples' complaint of not getting VGF cards. The government must accelerate the card distribution process as, so far, only a little share of the cards have been distributed," said one UN official in Dhaka.

A senior official of the relief ministry, when contacted, told The Daily Star yesterday that the government would make sure that deputy commissioners send the VGF cards to unions by early October. Then, union-level committees, headed by See Page 12 Col 1

## Reorganise interim RC: PCJSS

The Parbatta Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) yesterday formally rejected the interim CHT Regional Council announced by the government on September 6, reports UNB.

The interim CHT Regional Council is not acceptable to PCJSS as it was not in conformity with the CHT peace accord," said a press release signed by Mrinal Kanti Tripura of PCJSS information and publicity division.

It said the government excluded three names from the 22-member list proposed by PCJSS for constituting the interim CHT Regional Council.

There was an unwritten agreement between the government and PCJSS that the interim council will be constituted by the PCJSS, it added.

The PCJSS hoped the government will re-organise the council in accordance with the See Page 12 Col 1

## Relief activities

# Civil society should act as watchdog: President

**By Staff Correspondent**

President Shahabuddin Ahmed believes that the "civil society" should see whether relief goods are properly distributed among the flood victims and post-flood rehabilitation work is carried out properly.

This is important because the government is claiming that the relief work is being carried out 'satisfactorily', while the Opposition is claiming that the relief operation is being done 'perfunctorily', the President observed.

He made this observation while opening a day-long seminar on "Civil Society and Democracy in Bangladesh" yesterday morning. The Bangladesh Institute of International and Strategic Studies organised the seminar. Barrister Syed Ishtiaq Ahmed chaired the inaugural session, while Major General Mustafa Kamaluddin of BISS delivered the address of welcome. The President said that this year's prolonged flood had caused enormous damages to life and property, particularly to standing crops.

"But instead of cooperation, the government and the Opposition are blaming each other as if the flood has been brought about by some conspiratorial means," the President said.

"It is here where the civil society must step in and see that relief goods are properly distributed, sufferings of the people are mitigated and post-flood rehabilitation work is carried out properly."

He termed the civil society 'a watchdog' that 'represents ordinary members of a society'. "They are either organised professional groups or unorganised people, such as the rural poor," the President said. "A civil society is neither pro-government, nor anti-government; it is in fact a pro-people entity."

According to the President, the affairs of the state and functions of the government — both national and local — are so wide that it is not possible for it See Page 12 Col 8

## Four killed in Kushtia gunfight

**From Our Correspondent**

KUSHTIA, Sept 28: Four persons were killed and 30 others were injured in a fierce gunfight between activists of Biplobi Communist Party and JSD Gonobahini at Naturia Bazar under Bagulati union of Kumarkhali thana last night.

Police, however, confirmed the death of three persons. Local people identified the dead as: Biru, 32, and Rezon, 40, both belonging to Biplobi Communist Party, and Nazrul, 20, and Azibar, 40, belonging to JSD Gonobahini.

The gunfight continued for about two hours. None of the injured was admitted to the Kushtia General Hospital or Kumarkhali Health Complex in fear of being arrested.

See Page 12 Col 1

## 7 killed in Khulna road accident

**From Staff Correspondent**

KHULNA, Sept 28: Seven persons were killed and seven others injured in a road accident at Khajura on the Khulna-Mongla highway at about 9:30 am today.

Five of the dead were identified as: Shaikh Nihal Mahmud, 35, Jahangir, 40, Mahbud, 26, Akhtaruzzaman, 30 and Nazrul, 30.

Two of the injured were admitted to Khulna Medical College Hospital while five others in Bagerhat Sadar Hospital.

According to police and witnesses, a Bagerhat-bound passenger bus collided head-on with a Rupsha-bound tempo rickshaw at Khajura under Fakirhat thana of Bagerhat district.

Four out of the 14 tempo passengers died on the spot while three others including driver Mahbud succumbed to their injuries at KMCH this afternoon.

Among the dead, Shaikh Nehal is the joint secretary of the city unit of Sramik Dal.

## Housewife killed by husband

**By Staff Correspondent**

A young housewife was killed allegedly by her husband in the city's Madhubazar area in the early hours of yesterday, police said.

Traces of injuries were found around the neck and nose of the victim, Shahida Begum, at Dhaka Medical College Hospital sources said.

According to the FIR filed by Monwara Begum, elder sister of the deceased, Shahida was married to Selim Newaz Chowdhury, an advocate, in November last year and the couple was residing with her at Madhubazar.

They used to have quarrels frequently and on Sunday night they had a bitter altercation between them, the FIR said.

Selim called Monwara at about 5:00 am yesterday and told her that Shahida went to the bathroom at around 3:00 am and was later found hanging from the shower.

The alleged killer was arrested. See Page 11

## Three others involved

# Shahid confesses killing Shazneen

**By Staff Correspondent**

The principal accused in Shazneen Murder Case, Shahidul Islam alias Shahid, yesterday made a judicial statement confessing his involvement and that of three others in the rape and murder of the victim.

The judicial statement was recorded in connection with the case filed with Gulshan thana under Narai-O-Shishu Nirjatan Daman Ain 1995. ASP Mujibur Rahman, CID investigator of the Shazneen murder case, lodged the case with Gulshan thana on September 9.

In his judicial statement Shahid said, "Shazneen's rape and murder were masterminded by contractor Hasan. I committed the rape and murder with the direct assistance of guard Humayun and maid Parvin."

Earlier, the CID took him on remand for three days on Saturday. He was sent to the Dhaka Central Jail yesterday.

The CID had already submitted the charge sheet of the Shazneen murder case which was lodged with the Gulshan thana by the father of the victim.

Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, youngest daughter of Transcom Limited's chairman Latifur Rahman, was murdered at their Gulshan residence on the night of April 23.

The case in this connection was lodged by the victim's father accusing domestic help Shahid of the murder and suspecting the involvement of some others. The seven chargesheeted accused are: Hasan, Shahid, Humayun, See Page 12 Col 7

## Gas flows out of hole dug for tubewell!

**From Our Correspondent**

BOGRA, Sept 27: In a region where energy experts do not expect to find any trace of oil or gas due to 'geological reasons', a sudden gush of natural gas flow in Jahurul Nagar area here has surprised local people and experts alike.

The gas flow started at a construction site near the Government Azizul Haq College a few days ago. Hundreds of people are rushing to the spot every day to see the gas flow which started following sinking of a tubewell.

Two Petrobangla experts including the deputy chief of Mineral Resources Division arrived here today and collected the gas samples for laboratory tests. When asked they said whether the 'substance was gas' could only said after laboratory tests. See Page 11

## Oil tanker blast kills two at Aricha ghat

**MANIKGANJ, Sept 28:** At least two persons were burnt alive and two others suffered serious burn injuries in an oil tanker explosion at Aricha Ghat this afternoon, reports BSS.

Police and Fire Brigade sources said that a fire originated at an oil tanker 'O T Mohuddin' at about 4 pm and it suddenly exploded with a big bang.

The fire engulfed the entire tanker and injured three of its workers. The roof of the tanker was blown away due to the blast and fell on a passenger launch which was passing nearby.

As a result, two launch passengers died and some others suffered burn injuries. Lutfor Rahman, 30, died on the spot while Abdul Kuddus, 35, succumbed to his injuries at Shibalaya Thana Health Complex.

Critically injured Nurul Huda was shifted to a hospital in Dhaka and Golam Rasul was admitted to Manikganj General Hospital.

Police, quoting witnesses, said another worker of the oil tanker was missing till 9 pm.

A case was registered with Shibalaya thana in connection with the accident.

## Fierce gunfight at AJM: One killed, 150 injured

**From Our Correspondent**

NARAYANGANJ, Sept 28: Rival groups of workers at the Adamjee Jute Mills (AJM) fought a three-hour pitched battle today leaving one person dead and some 150 others including four policemen injured.

The armed clashes started at around 5 am between activists of the ruling party-backed CBA and the labour front at the Jatiya Party. The two groups also briefly clashed and exploded crackers last night.

The dead was identified as Mohammad Alam, 25, an AJM worker, who succumbed to bullet wounds at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). The JP-backed Adamjee Patkal Sramik Union claimed Alam to be its activist.

Twelve of the bullet-hit workers of the mills were admitted to the DMCH while four injured policemen were undergoing treatment at the Adamjee Health Complex.

During today's clashes, police fired 11 rubber bullets and lobbed seven tear gas shells. Both the sides used firearms and blasted numerous homemade bombs, creating panic in the AJM area, witnesses said.

Originating at Mill No 1, the gunfight later spread over other parts of the AJM — the New Colony, Shapla Square, Tady Gate and the Dhaka Baju Colony.

Late night yesterday, the pro-AL workers belonging to the Adamjee Patkal Sramik Karmachari Union (the CBA of the AJM) attacked the Dhaka Baju Colony, a stronghold of the JP supporters, after a CBA member, Rafique, was beaten up allegedly by his rivals. Later, the two groups clashed briefly, creating the ground for today's fierce clashes.

Talking to the newsmen, CBA leader Ismail Hossain and the JP-backed labour leader, Delwar Hossain blamed each other's groups for the bloody clashes. The pro-government labour leader also criticised the police for their "inaction" during the trouble. However, ASP Dr Abdur Rahim justified the police action.

Nine platoons of police led by an ASP were deployed at AJM.

**Inside Today**

**Article**

**Pakistan, Iran and the Taliban: A Fresh Regional Conflict Ready to Explode?**

by M Rashiduzzaman  
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