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## 'Delay promotions until a rational policy is framed'

By Staff Correspondent

The Bangladesh Civil Service Co-ordination Committee yesterday demanded that a "rational" policy be made to regulate the promotion of the government officials on the basis of talents and abilities.

The BCSCC, a body representing 28 out of the country's 29 cadre service associations, made the demand while airing its grievances against their colleagues from the administration cadre to the parliamentary standing committee on the ministry of establishment.

However, BCSCS, protesting the alleged monopoly of the administration cadres for long, also demanded that all promotion orders be suspended until a reasonable policy is formulated in this regard.

Chowdhury Khalequazam led the BCSCS delegation that included Alauddin Chowdhury, Abul Hashem, Mohammad Kafiluddin and Sultan Ahmed Chowdhury.

The BCSCS leaders told the parliamentary body that the administration cadres had been reigning over the rest of the cadres, although different cadres were created on the basis of different specialised services of the state.

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## Fellow CSP tries to defend four secretaries at BASA meet

By Special Correspondent

The Executive Committee of Bangladesh Administrative Services Association (BASA) has decided to hold its bi-annual general meeting on December 11-12.

BASA sources said the meeting is expected to take up the issues of its yet-to-be-answered letters to four secretaries to the government and appointments to some retired civil servants on contract.

The four senior officials -- principal secretary to the prime minister, finance secretary, establishment secretary and energy secretary -- came under fire from BASA's junior members.

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## Notice

Twenty-six years ago on November 4, we adopted and enacted our sacred Constitution, an outcome of our Liberation War. The Daily Star devotes a page (5) today to commemorate the Day.

## Inside Today

### Article

#### Blaming the Messenger for the Message

Column: Connecting the Dots by Dr A R Chowdhury Page 4

### Supplement

Today's issue of The Daily Star contains a 3-page supplement on the 'National Day of Italy' on Pages 9, 10 & 11



Prime Minister and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina addressing a public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday marking the Jail Killing Day. — Star photo

## Hasina tells Jail Killing Day rally Two vote thieves are plotting together

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has bracketed BNP chief Khaleda Zia with HM Ershad of Jatiya Party for "conspiring to grab power depriving the people of their franchise".

"As the trial in the Jail Killing Case is on and the verdict in the Bangabandhu Murder Case is set to come, they're once again conspiring to grab power and snatch people's right to vote," she said and accused Khaleda Zia, her predecessor, and Ershad, the former president, of patronising the killers.

"They're out to destabilise the situation and threatening agitation against trial of the killers," the premier told a big public meeting at Paltan Maidan in the city yesterday afternoon marking the Jail Killing Day.

"Trial will definitely take place and we seek divine blessings so that the killers are not spared," she said.

This day in 1975, four associates of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman -- Syed Nazrul Islam, Tajuddin Ahmed, Mansur Ali and AHM Quamruzzaman -- were killed in the Dhaka Central Jail as a sequel to the military coup on August 15 when the Bangabandhu

## Credit goes to commonman: Yunus

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank has said the main initiative to face the aftermath of the worst floods in the country this year came from the commonman.

There were fears that thousands from the rural areas would rush to the city, hundreds would die of diseases and a

famine-like situation would prevail after the floods. But the people stood up to the disaster and faced the situation with lot of courage and knowledge, Yunus said.

The Grameen Bank chief was speaking as a special speaker at a seminar on "The 1998 Flood and the Bangladesh Economy" organised by the Bangladesh Economic Association at the Planning Academy Auditorium in the city yesterday. Finance Minister SAMS Kibria was a special guest.

Prof Yunus said that after the floods, the affected people did not wait for anyone to come and help them. With the development of infrastructure over the years, people have learnt how to cope with disaster.

He cited several reasons for the resilience of the people and said the scenario in rural Bangladesh has changed over the years. Now many people receive foreign remittances from their relatives working abroad, new business opportunities such as poultry, animal husbandry and nursery, better transportation, mechanised

boats, women's participation and micro credit facilities -- all have contributed to betterment of lot of the people.

Kibria said that the government had acted in time to face the flood and its aftermath. "When in August we felt that we would need foreign assistance to face the worst disaster in the country, we sought assistance in a planned way."

This time the government initially estimated food crop loss considering that in 1988 and then revised it in accordance with the present situation. "The priority is to give food to people," he said.

The finance minister said that the government was now carrying out extensive rehabilitation programmes throughout the country, including farm credit, vulnerable group feeding.

Hossain Zillur Rahman of PPRC presented his paper entitled "Early Warning on the Flood Aftermath: A Rapid Survey on Post-Flood In-Migration to Dhaka". Citing the survey by the PPRC he said that migra-

## DOE gives clearance Occidental starts work at Bibiana

By Sharier Khan

After half a month of delay, US company Occidental on Monday began drilling an appraisal well at Bibiana of Sylhet where it reportedly struck one of the major gas reserves earlier this year.

Sources said yesterday that Occidental's work programme for Bibiana appraisal well and a three-dimensional seismic survey under Block 12 was approved by Petrobangla in the middle of the last month.

But the Directorate of Environment was delaying environmental clearance of the scheme on different pretexts. Sources said, Occidental had submitted application for clearance as per 'clearance documents' approved by the Directorate for Bibiana exploration well. The US company had been seeking DOE's clearance from August.

The DOE however cleared Occidental's operation on Monday allowing the US company to start work at Bibiana.

Occidental had to incur a cost of about 1500 US dollars

daily since Petrobangla okayed its work programme on October 16.

"Usually, when Petrobangla approves a workplan, the DOE clears environmental documents specially when it has a previous clearance", said a Petrobangla source.

This time, Petrobangla approved the Bibiana appraisal well work programmes after a thorough and well-conducted negotiation. But Occidental remained idle at the exploration site for the last 15 days due to lack of the DOE clearance.

Occidental struck the Bibiana gas reserve earlier this year. It made tests of gas sand in six different sub-soil layers and all of the tests turned out to be positive, the sources said.

The US company, which is still in an 'image crisis' in Bangladesh because of its poor operation in Magurchhara, assessed that Bibiana might have a gas reserve of four to five trillion cubic feet of gas, one of the biggest reserves in

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## BNP, allies resume street protests today

By Staff Correspondent

BNP and its allies return to the streets today after a 12-day break owing to the Willis Cup cricket that ended in the city Sunday.

The Seven Party Alliance is due to organise public gatherings and processions across the country on the day.

The agitation is designed to protest the government's "failure and corruption" in post-flood management, imposition of fresh surcharges, arrests of opposition leaders including KM Obaidur Rahman and Alamgir Kabir, repression on opposition workers, alleged

rapes at Jahangirnagar University. They are also demanding increased allocation of VCR cards, agri inputs and other assistance for the flood victims.

In the capital, BNP will hold a gathering at the Paltan Maidan at 4 pm today and bring out a procession from there. Other parties in the combine including Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party (Z-M) have also planned similar programmes.

Meanwhile, BNP has called a joint meeting of the party units in Dhaka and its adjoining districts at 10 this morning. The meeting, to be held at the Minto Road official residence of the Opposition leader, is expected to discuss preparations for today's programme.

UNB adds: BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda yesterday asked 'the nationalist and religious forces' to take to the street for protecting the nation from the clutches of the 'autocratic' ruler.

"It has now become 'Jaf' for all the patriot and religious minded people to raise voice against the oppressive government, protect the sanctity of mothers and sisters and safeguard the country's sovereignty," Begum Zia said.

She was addressing a gathering in front of her official residence on the occasion of joining BNP of two Jatiya Party leaders and a UP member belonging to

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## Petrobangla forms body to finalise contracts

By Staff Correspondent

Petrobangla has formed a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) Negotiation Committee headed by its Director of Planning to talk on agreement terms with foreign companies which have been awarded different blocks.

Sources said the committee headed by Col (ret'd) Waliullah would now invite the winners in Second Round Block Bidding for oil and gas exploration in the country and finalise contracts with them.

This committee's task is different from that of the Second Round Block Bidding Committee which is still negotiating with foreign companies seeking blocks.

The bidding committee headed by an additional secretary of Energy Ministry negotiated with different companies for five blocks. These companies were declared bid winners three months ago.

The companies that won the bids are Enron (blocks 3 and 6), Shell-Cairn (Block 5), Triton-Unocal (Block 7) and Pangaea (Block 8).

The bidding committee is now expected to invite Irish company Tullow Oil and US joint venture Chevron-Texaco to finalise a "partnership" for

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## Prothom Alo sees light today

By Staff Correspondent

A new national Bengali daily Prothom Alo is hitting the stands today.

The paper is edited by Matur Rahman and published by Mahfuz Anam, also editor and publisher of The Daily Star.

The newspaper is committed to upholding democratic values and rule of law, according to promoters of the newspaper. It would be non-partisan in character and reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people, they said.

"Prothom Alo" is a sister publication of The Daily Star. President Justice Shah

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## Windies 'A' team due tomorrow

By Sports Reporter

The West Indies 'A' cricket team will arrive in the capital tomorrow on a ten-day tour.

Veteran fast bowler Ian Bishop will lead the 13-member second string side to play three one-day matches and a three-day match against Bangladesh.

Among the three one-dayers, two matches will be held in Dhaka and the other in Rajshahi. The limited-over matches in Dhaka on November 7 and 10 at the Banga-

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**আমর্ত্য সেন**  
ফুরিয়ে যাবার আগেই কিনে ফেলুন

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নির্ভীক  
সত্যবাদী  
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মননশীল

উদ্বেগের সংখ্যা ৪০ পৃষ্ঠা, অনেক রং, সেরা লেখকদের আকর্ষণীয় লেখা দাম : ৬ টাকা

সম্পাদক মতিউর রহমান ও তাঁর সহযোগী একদল পরীক্ষিত সংবাদকর্মী

**প্রথম আলো**  
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১০০, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ, সিং ডবন, কাওরান বাজার, ঢাকা-১২১৫, ফোন : ৮১০০৭৮-৮১

**বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক**  
মুদ্রা ব্যবস্থাপনা ও হিসাব বিভাগ  
প্রধান কার্যালয়  
ঢাকা  
বিজ্ঞপ্তি

জনসাধারণের অবগতির নিমিত্ত জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার জনস্বার্থে ঢাকা শহর ব্যতীত অন্যান্য বিভাগীয়/জেলা শহরে অবস্থিত সোনালী ব্যাংকের নিম্নে বর্ণিত ২৬ ছাংশিটি শাখাকে সরকারের সকল প্রকার জমা গ্রহণের অনুমতি দিয়েছে। এতদনুসারে, সোনালী ব্যাংকের উক্ত ২৬ ছাংশিটি শাখা আপামী ১৫-১১-৯৮ইং তারিখ হতে জনসাধারণ কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত সকল প্রকার সরকারী জমা গ্রহণ করবে।

সোনালী ব্যাংকের শাখাগুলির নামঃ

বরিশাল	১। চকবাজার শাখা	২। টিটিডিসি এন্ড বি শাখা
রাজশাহী	৩। রাজশাহী কর্পোরেট শাখা	৪। রাজশাহী কোট বিল্ডিং শাখা
	৫। রাজশাহী রেলওয়ে কমপ্লেক্স শাখা	৬। মতিহার শাখা
কক্সবাজার	৭। কক্সবাজার কর্পোরেট শাখা	৮। শেরপুর রোড শাখা
	৯। কক্সবাজার ক্যান্টনমেন্ট শাখা	১০। গোহালী রোড শাখা
রংপুর	১১। কাচারী বাজার শাখা (রংপুর প্রধান শাখার অতিরিক্ত)	
খুলনা	১২। খুলনা কর্পোরেট শাখা	১৩। কেডিএ নিউমার্কেট শাখা
	১৪। রূপসা মার্কেট শাখা	১৫। মল্লা পোর্ট শাখা
চট্টগ্রাম	১৬। সেন্সিভ রোড শাখা	১৭। সন্দ্বিয়া শাখা
	১৮। পাহাড়তলী মেইন রোড শাখা	১৯। জাফলান কর্পোরেট শাখা
	২০। কলীবাড়ী শাখা	২১। চকবাজার শাখা
	২২। পটিয়াইশ শাখা	২৩। কেরানীগঞ্জ শাখা
	২৪। মেডিক্যাল কলেজ শাখা	
সিলেট	২৫। মল্লা পোর্ট শাখা	২৬। স্টেশন রোড শাখা

উল্লেখ্য, উক্ত তারিখ হতে এতদ অঞ্চলের বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের শাখাসমূহে সরকারী জমা গ্রহণ কার্যক্রম বন্ধ হয়ে যাবে।

মুঃ আবদুল মতীন  
মহাব্যবস্থাপক  
ফোনঃ ৯৫৫৮৭০

## Facing the worst flooding

By Staff Correspondent

Prof Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank has said the main initiative to face the aftermath of the worst floods in the country this year came from the commonman.

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famine-like situation would prevail after the floods. But the people stood up to the disaster and faced the situation with lot of courage and knowledge, Yunus said.

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## Setting up of WTC at Ctg now seems uncertain

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Nov 3: Uncertainty looms large over setting up of the country's first world trade centre in the port city under a private sector initiative more than three years after its foundation stone was formally laid, sources said.

The Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) took the initiative to setup the centre in Agrabad Commercial Area, aimed at drawing foreign investment and promoting international trade.

Sources said due to lack of funds and shortage of land such a giant project forced the chamber to delay its implementation.

Chamber sources said the piece of land allotted by the former government at Agrabad was insufficient to accommodate the trade centre as per plan and design prepared by a foreign consultant. Because of this, the present government allotted another piece of land adjacent to the existing one.

But CCI could not take possession of that land as the Railway which owned it started

bargains, claiming Tk three crore for it, the sources said.

Meanwhile, talking to this correspondent, President of CCI Kamal Uddin Ahmed said "We are looking for foreign sponsors for a joint venture with the chamber to set up the trade centre. Two foreign companies, responding to our calls, have already started feasibility study."

He also expected 'patronisation' from the government to build the trade centre with a five star hotel, display centre and other required facilities.

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