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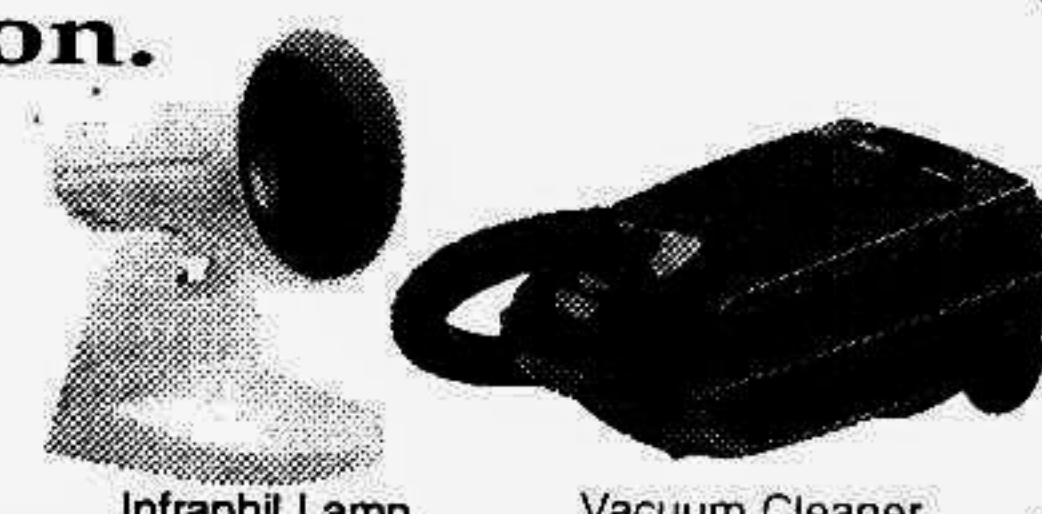
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Parvez still in coma, doctors see little hope of recovery

By Staff Correspondent

Thirteen-year-old Parvez, who is undergoing treatment for head injury at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital since February 25, is still in a state of coma.

Parvez's condition has not improved since the day he was operated upon for brain haemorrhage. It remains same but his vital signs (pulse, pressure) are good, an attending doctor told this correspondent yesterday evening.

A brick hit Parvez during the opposition-called 66-hour hartal near the city's Sayedabad over-bridge. He fell on the road instantly. His cousin and a tempo driver rushed him to the DMCH.

"The chance of recovery is very slim," a neurosurgeon observed. "It is almost a month and patients showing such signs are unlikely to recover. Even if he (Parvez) regains consciousness he is likely to suffer from permanent disability in addition to extensive memory loss," he added.

A doctor at the hospital's Intensive Care Unit where Parvez is undergoing treatment said, "We have done all we could but there is no sign of improvement. The clots, detected in the



Parvez lying in coma at DHCM.

— Star File Photo

computed tomography scanning, were removed successfully but we suspect that Parvez has oedema (fluid in tissue spaces) which is causing a lot of complications. Oedema could also be one of the reasons for increasing the patient's unconsciousness."

The doctor said, "Parvez suffered rupture of his brain membrane. This is one aspect we are looking at and that has been

improved through a surgery but what is more serious is that since his surgery he is not responding to 'vocal command' which is an indication of patient's critical condition."

A five member medical board met on March 11 to review Parvez's condition. The doctors examined his condition and suggested more investigations. However, a doctor said 'there is little hope of recovery'.

Another failed attempt

From Page 1
ity but also end up in 'weaker' fries, a large percentage of which does not eventually survive.

At Cox's Bazar, a consignment of 50 lakh baby shrimps (worth Tk 65 lakh) waited to be shipped this morning. IPSSL will now have to compensate the hatchery at Cox's Bazar and pay for the crew's stay in Dhaka, an IPSSL official said. "I stand to lose 10,000 dollars a day," said Haidaruzzaman of IPSSL.

"Being a Bangladeshi, I don't get support from my own countrymen," Haidaruzzaman lamented, referring to an incident while the plane was on its way to Bangladesh.

Pvt terminal

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come. Between the two rounds, the trade union leaders also met to review their talks with the state minister.

The sources said Maya urged the trade union leaders to call off their planned strike in the greater interest of the country and offered to hold further talks to settle the issues.

An official who was present at the talks however said, "The talks are proceeding towards a positive result. There is a possibility of the planned strike being called off as the State Minister assured them to look into their demands."

Workers and employees of Chittagong port are opposing the private sector container terminal saying that it would affect national interests, put at stake the entity of Chittagong port and cause loss of jobs.

During talks with the state minister, they alleged that the SSA was given permission because of undue influence by a vested group, ignoring national interests. The group hatched a deep-rooted conspiracy against the Chittagong port and were desperately trying to implement the SSA project for their personal interest, they alleged.

Meeting sources further said the trade union leaders told the state minister that SSA's local partner, Orient Maritime Shipping, was "black listed" with Bangladesh Shipping Corporation and got the government permission in favour of SSA by showing "false documents".

According to sources, the PVL, after conducting a feasibility study had submitted a proposal to the government in March 1997 to set up a container terminal at Patenga in Chittagong jointly with the Chittagong Port Authority at a cost of 300 million US dollars. The PVL offered to set up the terminal on BOO/BOOT basis for 30 years.

The SSA (Bangladesh) Ltd. a US company, gave its proposal in late 1997. Its proposal involving a cost of about 500 million US dollars was on BOO basis, with 99 years' lease of land.

Khaleda

From Page 1

allowed any more time for further destruction of the country.

"The country's economic backbone is being shattered following the weak-kneed policies of the Awami League government," she said.

The fall of the government will become inevitable with the launching of vigorous movement after the holy Eid-ul-Azha, she said and urged the people to join the movement for greater national interest.

Recalling the killing of a landless woman, Zaheda, at Baburabad here last year, Khaleda Zia said the Prime Minister had visited the spot but failed to ensure trial of the killing and rehabilitate other landless farmers.

Presided over by district BNP convenor Monsur Ali, the meeting was also addressed by former Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali, Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Tayyubur Rahman, Amanullah Aman MP, Mashur Rahman MP and Habibul Islam Habib.

Kenya humble Bangladesh

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The two experienced batsmen made a mockery of a contest when they took the depleted Bangladesh attack to the sword after Kenya were reduced to 97 for two in 26.2 overs.

One-down, Telolo reached his 50 off 66 balls with lofted cover drive against Khaled Mahmud. The dapper right-hander, who smashed 13 boundaries in his chanceless 111-ball knock, reached the three-figure mark with a savage pull against Hasibul that raced down to the mid-wicket boundary. Tikolo, who was declared man-of-the-match later for his brilliant hundred, then fittingly ended the chase hitting the next ball over extra-cover for four.

An ever-energetic Oudumbe, who in an abject lesson to the Bangladeshi batsmen turned the ones into easy twos with great running between the wickets, hammered a quartet of fours in his workmanlike innings.

With this win Kenya bounced back into real contention after their 133-run defeat last Friday against fancied Zimbabwe in the inaugural match of the tri-nation tournament. Bangladesh will take on Zimbabwe today at the same venue.

Earlier, winning the toss, Bangladesh skipper Aminul Islam sent his two contrasting openers — Shahriar Hossain and Javed Omar, out there to

PM: Gas plant

From Page 1

mmcf of gas produced daily by US company Occidental from the four wells in the Jalalabad Gasfield and supply it to Golapganj through a 15km pipeline for onward transmission to the National Grid.

Occidental started trial production in two of the wells on February 6 and two others in the third week of the month, company sources said.

The condensate is also being sent to the Kailashitla Gas Field through another pipeline.

The approximate reserve in the Jalalabad structure is estimated at about one trillion cubic feet, survey reports say.

lay the foundation of a could-be challenging total on a benign batting strip.

Shahriar, an attacking player at his best, dominated the frustrating first-wicket partnership of 77 with Javed, a talent-limit batsman in an over-limit match.

Javed, who was picked ahead of Mehrab Hossain for this match, showed the luxury of wasting balls virtually without any score putting additional pressure on his free-scoring partner.

He hung on to the crease without any purpose for long 114 minutes and wasted 61 balls to score a super-seate 25. Due to the alliance of the odd couple, the 50 for Bangladesh came in 16.3 overs and 100 in 29.4 overs.

Kenyan spinner Mohammad Sheikh meanwhile dashed the local crowd's only joy of the day. The left-arm bowler denied both Shahriar Hossain and Bangladesh of what could have been our maiden century in one-day cricket.

The 23-year-old, with five runs away from that elusive hundred, tried to cut a Sheikh delivery that was spinning back to his off-stump only to be judged leg-before-wicket by Pakistani umpire Javed Akhter in 43rd over.

The dejected right-hander, who, however, became the highest scorer of an innings for Bangladesh, despite an injury, trudged off with his visibly-shaken 'runner' Al-Shahriar Rokan, much to the frustration of the capacity crowd, who were eagerly waiting to party on the big moment.

The previous highest of 82 was scored by former opener Athar Ali Khan against Pakistan in the 7th Asia Cup in Colombo two years back.

Shahriar, who made his debut in international cricket against Kenya in 1997, played 145 balls, clubbed eight fours and stayed 145 minutes at the crease to score his chanceless first half-century, the 10th for Bangladesh.

The Narayanganj-based batsman, whose previous best was 16, smacked five fours off

Petrobanga

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Occidental's supplies.

Cairn, which used to supply around 60 mmcf of gas till last month, is now supplying 140 mmcf. Sources said that a Petrobanga director had taken the initiative to allow the British company to supply 140 mmcf despite Petrobanga experts' warning that supply of more than 120 mmcf from the four operative gas wells at Sangu might soon deplete the reserve in the off-shore gasfield. The director had maintained 'utmost secrecy' about the supply increase and the departments concerned came to know about it after Cairn started to supply 140 mmcf late last month.

Meanwhile, Occidental has been supplying 100 mmcf of gas from Jalalabad for the last three weeks.

Nasim

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Additional IGP (Special Branch) and the Police Commissioner have been directed to investigate the report.

"I have directed them to investigate the reported incident, and also to find out the motive and the elements involved in it," he said.

Nasim regretted that a particular quarter is spreading propaganda intentionally against the police department.

He urged the media to maintain objectivity saying that it would be difficult to gear up the police if it is blamed wholesale.

Nasim said he would closely monitor the law and order situation and attend office even on Saturdays.

Mintoo: Term of govt

From Page 1

MPs who are not voted to parliament directly by the people should not be allowed to vote on major issues like a no-confidence motion against a government.

Mintoo strongly opposed the idea of bureaucrats entering politics immediately after their retirement. "There should be a legal bar for civil servants to enter into politics in at least three years of their retirement."

He also opposed the idea of appointing bureaucrats like Deputy Commissioners or Thana Nirbahi Officers as returning officers in elections.

Rokeya Rahman, President of the Employers Association, said that reserved seats for women in parliament should be increased from the present 30 to 64 — one from each district. "Besides, a women MP should be elected directly by the female voters of a district."

Abu Alam Chowdhury, a businessman, told the meeting that there should be legal compulsion for political parties to give nominations to their women supporters to contest for a particular number of seats.

Without opposing the legal bar for bank loan defaulters to

take part in elections, Chowdhury said there should be a provision under which the authorities can distinguish between the 'willful defaulters' and the defaulters due to certain political and economic conditions.

He also opposed the system under which a civil servant can enter into politics immediately after his retirement. According to him, a bureaucrat should not be allowed to enter politics in five years of his retirement.

Keramat Ali, a member of the FBCCI, argued for reducing the five-year term of a parliament to two years. "Becoming an MP these days is a very good investment. If the term is reduced to two years, the nation will see some good people contesting the polls having no vested interest in mind."

Ali also asserted that the electoral laws should reflect the truth. "In many cases, one spends Tk 2 to 4 crore, while the legally fixed ceiling for election expenditure is Tk 3 lakh." He supported the FEMA idea of holding joint projection meetings by candidates.

Others who spoke on behalf of the FBCCI included Maleka Khanam, Dewan Mohammad Sultan, Abdul Haque and Akbar Ali.

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With a view to creating awareness among teenagers about our glorious War of Liberation, the Teenage Awareness Group (TAG), in collaboration with The Daily Star, is organising an innovative contest.

Interested teenagers, of 12-15 and 16-19 age groups, are invited to send in interviews of people, who have, directly or indirectly, participated in the war. We are looking for not only the heroic deeds of the freedom fighters alone, but also the small acts of those people, who gave shelter to them, provided them with food and medicine, and raised funds for them.

A panel of judges comprising eminent scholars of the country will judge the best three interviews from each age group for publication in The Daily Star. There will be exciting prizes for the winners.

The interview must not exceed 1,000 words.

Last date of entry is March 23, 1999.

Send your entries along with your name and date of birth, class and name of institution, mailing address and telephone number, and e-mail address, if you have one, to:

Teenage Awareness Group
c/o The Daily Star
House # 11, Road # 3
Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka 1205
or, e-mail at TeenageAwareness@hotmail.com

Join us in our effort to imbue teenagers with the spirit of the War of Liberation

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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