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Rashidpur Gasfield

2 gas zones found in well 7, drilling on

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, June 2: Two gas zones have been struck in Well 7 at Rashidpur Gasfield in Habiganj and drilling is going on.

"We have struck two prospective gas sand zones at a depth of 2200 metres and 2595 metres," an official told this correspondent yesterday.

After completion of "casting and logging of the well during the last few days, we are now more optimistic about the prospect of the well," the official said.

A German firm, 'Schemberg-er', has been engaged in logging. The authorities are going ahead with further drilling of the well and there is every possibility of striking more gas sand zones.

The targeted depth of drilling is 9000 feet, he said.

Drilling of the well began on April 22. The authorities of

Afzal Khan

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tion against the protesting workers considering the safety of passengers. "We shall ask the higher authorities to remove Afzal Khan from Comilla jail."

After his arrest, the AL leader was produced before the Additional District and Sessions Judge's Court from where he was sent to jail.

Earlier, businessmen brought out a procession in the town demanding release of Afzal who is also president of Comilla Chamber of Commerce and Industries.

Anticipatory bail prayer for Afzal was rejected by the court earlier. The judge, however, said he will hear his bail petition on June 9.

The AL leader was charged with embezzling over Tk eight crore from a cooperative bank back in 1987. The Bureau of Anti-corruption filed a case against Afzal after an investigation.

He is an accused in the sensational Sankar Kumar Das murder case.

HC rejects

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der, but the court dismissed their petitions on July 1, 1997.

The NBL depositor in his petition pointed to these developments and accused Mintoo and others of violating the 1997 HC order.

Four others were also accused of contempt of court for allegedly helping Mintoo continue as a director of the bank. The accused were summoned by the court.

Mintoo later filed a petition for vacating the injunction. After two days of hearing, the HC Bench rejected the petition yesterday.

Golden jubilee

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knowledge now in the party's rank and file of the region. The recent arrest of a party lawmaker from Chittagong, once again, triggered an outburst among the top brass, as they lobbied for and against the decision. Each group have their mentors in the upper echelons of the party.

Immediately after the latest developments in Sylhet, AL cancelled its scheduled golden jubilee rally there, billed for June 19. However, the official version was: It was cancelled because it coincides with the visit of Indian Prime Minister to Bangladesh.

Two weeks ago in Rajshahi, a leader of AL's student front was arrested on charge of ransacking the AL district president's office. Subsequently, he was set free, as he had blessings from other lobbies in the party.

At the same time, the golden jubilee programme of AL in Rajshahi scheduled for June 5 was also cancelled. But the date was later reconfirmed after tension in Rajshahi subsided.

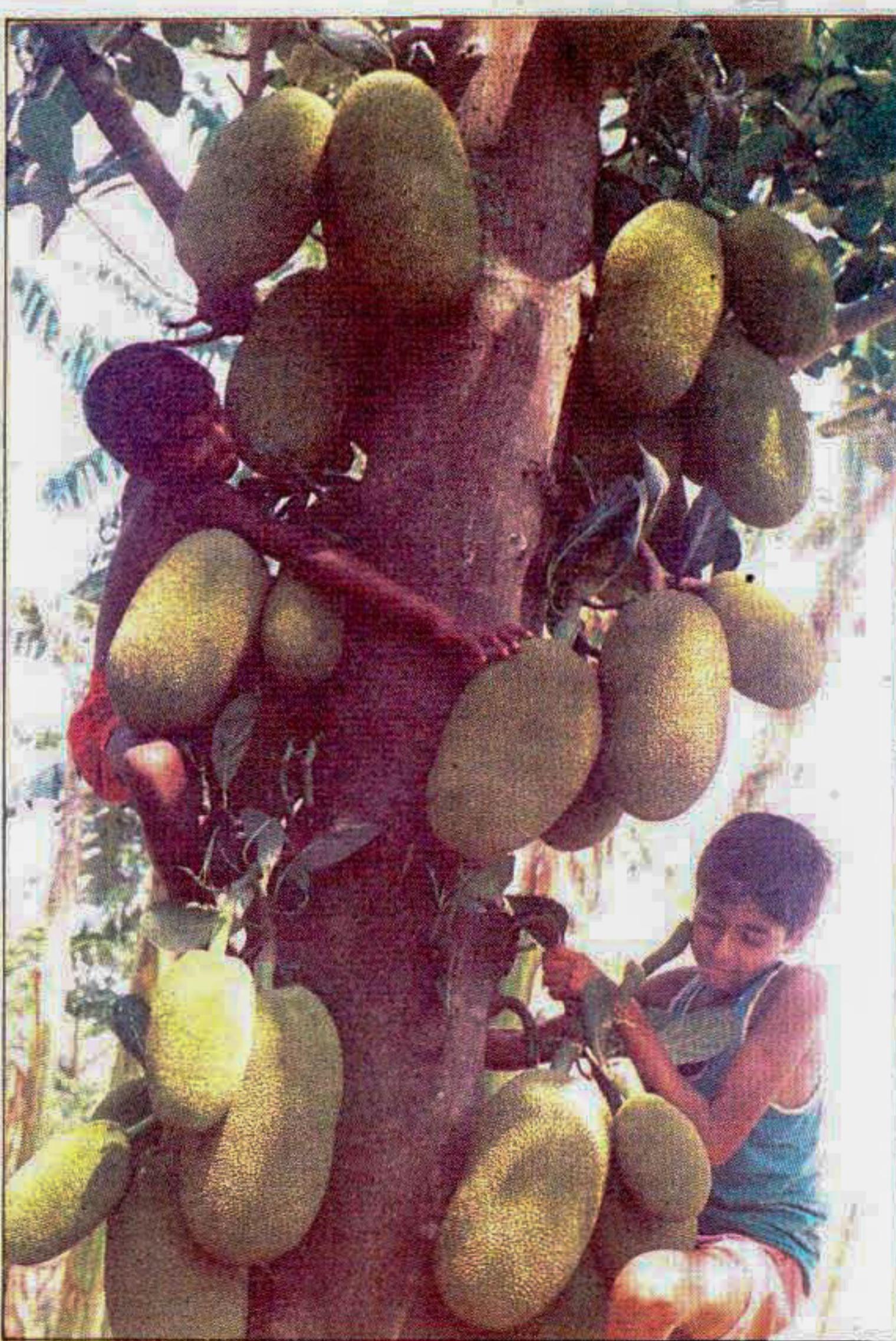
Three top student leaders of AL's student front in Bogra lost their lives in the last five months. They were allegedly killed by party rivals.

Some AL leaders and workers confided that internal feuds were emerging because of 'non-political' causes and not for any ideological difference.

One central AL leader, talking on condition of anonymity, explained it: After AL came to power three years back many youth and student leaders of the party and their cronies started hankering for business contracts from the government.

"Those who work and made money are happy. Those who did not are disgruntled," he added.

Charges of business tender-related violence and collection of tolls for the AL youth front were discussed at a recent party meeting. However, assurance from their well-wishers in the mother organisation to the effect that the 'boys' would restrain themselves in future, stopped party higher-ups from taking any immediate disciplinary action.



Jackfruits have already hit the market and traders say there's more to come. Good news, but buyers say prices are a bit too high.

— Star photo by AKM Mohsin

US plane with 145 aboard crashes

LITTLE ROCK (Arkansas). June 2: American Airlines today confirmed at least one fatality in the overnight crash of a MD-80 plane with 145 people aboard in Little Rock, Arkansas, reported AFP.

American Airlines vice president Bob Baker told a press conference in Fort Worth, Texas, that the captain of the MD-80 sustained a "fatal injury."

"There are confirmed fatalities and survivors. But we don't have an exact count," he added, noting that the identity of 86 of the 139 passengers aboard the ill-fated plane had been verified and would be released shortly.

Woman released

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4, 1997 and sent to jail. The CMM's Court had then ordered her release on August 10, 1997.

Being informed, Bangladesh National Women Lawyers' Association (BNWLA) took initiative for release of the woman.

BNWLA officials yesterday said Putul had to suffer for two years in the jail only for bureaucratic tangles.

BNWLA took her in its custody after her release. It is to send her back to her relatives immediately.

Ward commissioners

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when he reached Chaldatal bazar on way to City Corporation office at around 10 am, police said.

He was rushed to the Chittagong Medical College Hospital where he succumbed to injuries soon after admission.

Chittagong City Corporation sources said Liakat was murdered as a sequel to previous enmity.

Local people said the assailant came to the spot by a microbus and shot him point blank. They fled the scene boarding the same vehicle.

Liakat was buried today after a *namaz-e-janaza* held at Lalighi maidan.

A view from the Gully

From Page 1
round. And to reach the semifinal stage they have to win all three matches they are to play.

But that will not be possible for both teams. So, one will have to bow out.

India have not only a very strong batting line up on paper but in practice also. They have never scored anything under 200 and are in fact the only team to have scored more than 300 on two occasions. Their 373 against Sri Lanka is still the highest total in this tournament. To the credit of their batsmen goes the four centuries scored by Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly and two consecutive tons by Rahul Dravid. Between Saurav and Rahul they hold the world record of 318 runs for any wicket. Barring Mohanty, Prasad and Srinath, all the other eight can bat competently and that can cause concern for their opponents.

Australia's performance in this World Cup with such a specialist one-day outfit is far from satisfactory. Their batsmen are struggling for runs and bowlers have to be penetrating to dent the strong Indian batting. But the silver lining for them is the sudden return to form by Adam Gilchrist, their main bowler Glenn McGrath and spinner Shane Warne.

Most well-placed in the two groups are Pakistan and

strangely enough, Zimbabwe who have four points each from the first round — Pakistan from

wins over Australia and New Zealand and Zimbabwe from India and South Africa. So, if these two teams win a match each they will be through to the semis.

New Zealand and South Africa have two points each against Australia and India respectively and will have to win two matches each for a semifinal berth. So all the matches in this round will be crucial for all the six teams. There is hardly any room for complacency for any team and that has been unmistakably proved by Zimbabwe and Bangladesh.

All the six have fasted defeat

— Australia, New Zealand, India and Zimbabwe two defeats each while Pakistan and South Africa, the favourites one each.

So it's going to be another nine days of top class cricket. Fasten your seat belt. You are about to take off.

Correction: New Zealand were to get past Scotland's total of 121 in 21.2 overs to qualify for the Super Six and not 20 overs as printed inadvertently in this column yesterday. The mistake is regretted. And there's one oversight by our copy desk. The day our boys created history was May 31, 1999, not 1991.

BTV to telecast live civic reception

Bangladesh Television will telecast live the civic reception to be accorded to the Bangladesh cricket squad at the National Parade Square, an official press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The cricketers will be escorted straight to the square on arrival at the Zia International Airport tomorrow at 10 am.

Politicians

From Page 1
would be held at Paltan Maidan.

The mayor claimed he had spoken to leaders of the major parties to issue the invitation. BNP's Sadeq Hossain Khoka told the mayor that he would let him know later if someone would attend the Nagar Bhaban meeting, Hanif said. "But he didn't call back."

BNP sources said Khoka was advised by party chief Khaleda Zia not to attend. Khoka could not be reached for confirmation.

Similarly, the mayor phoned Manirul Huq Chowdhury of Ershad-led JP who also agreed to join the meeting. But he did not turn up, the mayor said.

Speaking to The Daily Star after the meeting, Hanif said he had invited all the parties to the reception while talking to them on phone and that Awami League leader Abdul Jalil had sent an invitation to the BNP.

Meanwhile, Obaidul Quader told The Daily Star last night that they were not going to distribute invitation cards for tomorrow's reception "because of time constraints".

"But the mayor will personally contact the opposition leaders and others to invite them to the programme," the minister said.

Only the PM, the sports minister, BCB president and the captain of Bangladesh cricket team and "others concerned" would speak on the occasion, Quader said.

Representatives of the political parties, if present, would have seats on the dais, but would not be allowed to speak, he added.

Those who attended the mayor's meeting included Quader, CHT minister Kalparanjan Chakma, state minister for primary and mass education Zinnatunnessa Talukder, AL leaders Abdul Mannan and Abdul Jalil, JSD's Nur Alam Zikru, Dhaka University VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury and commissioners of different DCC wards were also present.

According to a press release from the mayor's office, the prime minister will attend as chief guest tomorrow's reception, chaired by the mayor. The PM is expected to distribute gifts among the cricketers she had promised earlier.

The two major parties behaved in a similar manner two years ago when Bangladesh won the ICC Trophy.

BNP boycotted a civic reception for the ICC Trophy winners, organised by an AL-led national committee at the Manik Mia Avenue on April 14, 1997. The PM attended it.

A few days later, BNP organised a separate reception at the Minto Road official residence of Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia, which she attended.

According to the new route, the buses would enter through the Petrapole border, take the Chakdah road and the National Highway 34 to reach Barasat from where they would come to Calcutta. Though this will increase the journey by 14 km, the duration of the journey will not go up as the Chakdah road has relatively low traffic.

According to the new route, the buses would enter through the Petrapole border, take the Chakdah road and the National Highway 34 to reach Barasat from where they would come to Calcutta. Though this will increase the journey by 14 km, the duration of the journey will not go up as the Chakdah road has relatively low traffic.

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