

The Daily Star



VOL. IX NO. 164 REGD. NO. DA 781

INTERNET: <http://www.dailystarnews.com>

ASHAR 26, 1406 BS

DHAKA SATURDAY JULY 10, 1999

RABIUL AWAL 25, 1420 HIJRI

16 PAGES : PRICE TAKA 6.00

LEASE FINANCING
Are You Looking For Financial Assistance In

- Capital Machinery
- Heavy Construction Equipment
- Medical Equipment
- Mainframe Transport
- Generator & Boiler
- Vehicle like Luxury Buses, Microbuses, Trucks, Tractors
- Cargo Carriers, Pick-Up, Cars
- Lifts/Elevators
- Air Conditioning Plants

PHOENIX LEASING COMPANY LTD.
Shadinata Bhaban (1st fl.) 88, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka
Phone: 9569007 (Auto Hunting) Fax: 9567787
Agrabad Branch, R.M. House, 31 Agrabad C/A, Ctg. Ph: 710089, Fax: 710088

Garments factory fire: 2 killed

By Staff Correspondent

At least two women were killed and about 50 others injured while trying to escape a fire at a garment factory near Gazipur Crossing at Chaidana yesterday morning.

Police and hospital sources said the dead were Subarna Pappa, 30, and Aleha Begum, 34. A critically injured Pappa was rushed to a nearby hospital where the doctors declared her dead while Aleha died on her way to DMCH, the sources added.

Thirty-five of the injured were admitted to Tongi Hospital. Nine of them were later shifted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), according to the on-duty doctor at Tongi Hospital.

The sources said an electric spark off a switchboard at the ground floor at about 9:30 am caused the fire.

The ground floor was used as storeroom of Rose Knitting Ltd.

See Page 12 Col 2

BNP to stage demonstration tomorrow

By Staff Correspondent

BNP will stage a demonstration in the city tomorrow to protest filing of "false" cases against its leaders and activists on charge of Wednesday's bomb explosion that left a police constable killed and wounded many others.

The thana units of city BNP

See Page 12 Col 4

Inside Today

Article

The 'Health' of the Health Sector

Column: Beneath the Surface
by Abdul Bayes
Page 4

Star Literature

Impression: The sound of one hand clapping; Book review: Political economy of reforms; Poems; and Musings: The great common good
Pages 6 & 7

Prayer Timings

July 10		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-15
Johr	12-50	1-25
Asr	4-55	5-05
Maghrib	7-00	7-05
Esha	7-55	8-15

Source: Islamic Foundation

No mention of 'withdrawal' in appeal Pakistan asks militants to 'help resolve' Kashmir crisis

ISLAMABAD, July 9: Pakistan today asked Islamic guerrillas battling Indian troops in Kashmir to 'help resolve' the crisis, but stopped short of urging them to withdraw from Indian-controlled territory, reports AP.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, along with senior government and military officials, said they would appeal to the Mujahedeen, to help defuse a two-month conflict that has pushed the two nations to the brink of all-out war.

The Cabinet's defense committee 'decided that Pakistan should appeal to the Mujahedeen to help resolve the current... situation' and urged the

rebels to allow the world community to play its role in resolving the protracted Kashmir dispute.

Soon after the Cabinet committee meeting, top military officials met the leaders of 11 militant groups fighting in Kashmir to discuss a withdrawal, a government official said under the condition of anonymity.

There was no immediate report on the outcome of the meeting.

AFP says, the Defence Committee of the Cabinet (DCC) issued a nine-point statement. The DCC statement linked

the appeal to Clinton's pledge to take a "personal interest" in kick-starting stalled Indo-Pakistani peace talks, a commitment which India sees as mediation, something it steadfastly rejects.

"The committee considered it a significant development as this is the first time that the US has agreed to play such a role in the search for the final settlement of the Kashmir dispute," the statement said.

"The DCC took the view that Pakistan's objective of focusing international attention on the Kashmir issue and securing US involvement with the process for the settlement had been achieved," the statement said.

It said "help" from Kashmiri militants would "provide an opportunity to the international community to play an active role for the realisation of the legitimate aspirations of the Kashmiri people and to promote peace and development in South Asia."

The statement made no linkage between any withdrawal and willingness by India to resume peace talks. Foreign Minister Sartaz Aziz made the connection in a series of interviews with Western media this week.

The statement also made no mention of a ceasefire, which western defence experts say is

See Page 12 Col 4

Transfer of Cairn's operatorship Law Ministry did it without any official request

By Sharier Khan

Energy experts and officials have expressed concern at the Law Ministry's "hasty approval" of the transfer of Cairn's PSC operatorship to Shell, saying it has set a "dangerous precedence for all future dealings regarding PSC".

The Law Ministry approved the transfer of operatorship when nobody "officially" sought any permission for it, the experts and officials dealing with PSC (Production Sharing Contract) and oil and gas exploration told The Daily Star.

The PSC, devised in 1994-1995, did not have any provision for transfer of operatorship. Petrobangla was devising

a way so that a PSC owner could normally transfer the operatorship.

The Law Ministry was supposed to play the role of a legal guide, the sources said. All PSC-related approvals are actually handled by the Petrobangla.

They said that originally Petrobangla had sought the Law Ministry's guideline for Shell Oil's involvement in only one block - Block 16. "Petrobangla's queries did not include whether it could approve the transfer of operatorship," one government official said.

The Law Ministry took its own initiative to approve the transfer of operatorship and

sent a letter to Petrobangla late last month saying that it "approved" transfer of PSC operatorship of Cairn to Shell Oil in blocks 15 and 16.

After such an "unwanted" approval, Petrobangla and Shell had to "prepare" several documents so that the operatorship transfer followed a certain procedure. Finally, the Petrobangla Board officially approved the transfer of PSC operatorship in the first week of this month.

Shell Oil is now officially the operator in blocks 15 and 16, which include the Sangu gas field. Cairn, the original operator.

See Page 12 Col 3

Resolve Kashmir dispute for regional peace: Hasina

LONDON, July 9: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina expressed concern over the Kashmir situation and said the long-standing problem between India and Pakistan should be solved through discussion instead of conflict, reports UNB.

"Though this is a bilateral issue, we are concerned about it. Because of the regional interests peace should be maintained here," she told her audience at the Royal Institute of International Affairs in the British capital today.

Hasina suggested that India and Pakistan should resolve the dispute through talks across the table, not by arms. "The money being used for the war can be used for the development of the people of the region," she said, hoping that the two countries will come to an understanding through negotiations.

The Prime Minister was de-

livering a lecture on "Peace and Cooperation in South Asian Sub-Continent: Bangladesh Perspective on SAARC" at Chatham House of the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chairman of the Institute Lord Wright of Richmond presided.

Responding to queries, Sheikh Hasina said peace is a precondition for progress and prosperity and called for taking integrated efforts of the countries of South Asia to establish peace for ensuring a better life for the teeming millions living in the region.

"For ensuring peace and progress we want to establish a society based on the rule of law in South Asia through mutual cooperation and understanding among its seven nations."

She said the highest number of poor people live in the region, so effort should be on main-

taining peace and progress.

The Prime Minister told the function that her government gave special attention to strengthening relations with all countries, South Asian nations in particular, to promote regional and global cooperation removing mutual distrust.

"We have been able to resolve our differences with our neighbours in a spirit of good neighbourly relationship," Hasina said.

She cited the Ganges water treaty and cross-border bus service with India as outcome of this policy of amity based on mutual national interests.

"A cordial chapter was also added to Indo-Pak relationship when the two Prime Ministers met in Dhaka on 15 January last year, at my initiative, in connection with three-nation business summit," she said.

See page 11 Col 7

Over 1460 acres of railway land occupied for years

By Staff Correspondent

More than 1,040 acres of Railway land are occupied by government departments, offices and the Army and another 420 acres by influential persons and groups in different areas of the country.

Sources in Bangladesh Railway said the total 1,460 acres of occupied land are in railway station compounds, railway quarters and colonies. Bangladesh Railway has 62,008 acres of land in its eastern and western zones.

BR in an assessment found that a total of 1,040 acres of land are occupied by the Ministry of Works in Dhaka, by the Army at Kholahati in Parbatipur and by Deputy Commissioners' of-

fices in Comilla, Chandpur, Noakhali, Feni, Khulna, Nilphamari, Rajbari, Faridpur and Serajganj.

A total of 104 acres of land are occupied by stranded Pakistanis in Syedpur and over 300 acres by individuals and organised groups in different areas of the country. Another 121 acres are occupied by influential persons and groups in Dhaka and Chittagong, the sources said.

PM has no family business in UK during tour

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has no family engagement during her current official visit to the United Kingdom, official sources told BSS last night.

"She has no family business except the scheduled official programme," the sources said.

Referring to a news story published by the Daily Star on July 8 and some national dailies earlier that the prime minister would join the wedding or post-wedding ceremony of her son Joy in London, the sources said the guesswork was

See Page 12 Col 5

A three-member Parliamentary Committee headed by SM Mostafa Rashidi Suja MP was formed on August 31 last year to recommend measures for immediate recovery and utilisation of the occupied lands. The committee was formed following request from the Railway.

The committee held only one meeting since its formation. "The committee will sit after the current budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad and we will try to submit a report to the JS Standing Committee on Communications Ministry within three or four months," Mostafa Rashidi told The Daily Star last week.

"We have asked the Railway authorities to give us a detailed account of its land identifying occupied areas, those eligible for lease and those suitable for its own use," the MP said.

When contacted, a senior Railway official told The Daily Star that chances of recovery of the occupied lands are becoming slim day by day.

The Railway can earn huge money by leasing out the lands or utilising those for commercial purposes including building hotels, he said.

Railway can also go for joint venture with private investors, he added.



A Rohingya family in front of a refugee camp. About 22000 more are still awaiting their turn. — Star file photo

Speed up Rohingya repatriation Dhaka will ask Myanmar FM during his visit

By Shehab Ahmed

Dhaka will press Yangon to expedite repatriation of the remaining Rohingya refugees during the forthcoming visit of Myanmar Foreign Minister U Win Wun to Bangladesh, sources concerned said.

Wun is due to arrive in the city on July 17 on a three-day official visit.

Myanmar authorities resumed the repatriation of Rohingyas in November last after more than a year but slowed down the process.

Last week, 15 Rohingyas returned to Myanmar for the two camps for the refugees in Cox's Bazar, with about 22,000 more awaiting their turn to go home after eight years.

UNHCR Resident Representative in Dhaka Wilbert van Hovel told The Daily Star it is important that high level bilateral negotiations continue between Bangladesh and Myanmar. "UNHCR also appeals to Myanmar government which has accepted a large number of people to go the extra mile," Hovel added.

Earlier in July 1997, the Myanmar authorities had stopped the repatriation process, after taking back some 230,000 Rohingyas out of the 250,000. They had fled their homes in the Rakhaine state of western Myanmar late in 1991, to escape persecution by the

military junta. After prolonged negotiations and visits by foreign ministers of the two countries, Rangoon agreed to resume the repatriation process on November 25 last year.

Since then only 300 refugees were taken back, including the 15 last week.

Out of the 21,305 refugees staying in the two camps, the Myanmar authorities have given clearance to only 7208, accepting their claims of resi-

dence in Rakhaine state. Yangon remained adamant that the others are not their residents, making the repatriation process difficult.

Bangladesh is finding it difficult to keep the refugees in camps which were plagued by trouble with a section of them trying to persuade the others not to go back. A riot also broke out in 1997 after the abrupt stoppage of repatriation by Myanmar.

See Page 12 Col 8

Withdraw 'false' cases, demands Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia has protested filing of 'false' cases against four MPs and an unspecified number of leaders and activists her party on charge of bomb explosion that left a police constable killed and some others injured in the city on Wednesday.

In a statement yesterday, the Leader of the Opposition in Jatiya Sangsad demanded immediate withdrawal of the 'false' cases and formation of a judicial probe body to investigate the incident.

The killers can be identified if the incident is probed neutrally, Begum Zia said and demanded adequate compensation to the victim's family and proper treatment of the injured.

The former prime minister also urged the government to refrain from playing a dangerous political game centring the murder.

See Page 12 Col 8

Death of constable: One arrested in city

Police arrested one Shamsuzzaman Farhad from his Paltan residence Thursday night in connection with the killing of constable Farhad Wednesday evening, reports UNB.

He was produced before the court yesterday and placed on a two-day police remand. Sources said Shamsuzzaman is the son-in-law of BNP supported Ward Commissioner Chowdhury Alam.

Constable Farhad was killed in the city's Nur Hossain Square on Wednesday when a bomb was hurled at the on-duty policeman.

The Daily Star SUMMER 99 FASHION

Get Your Copy Now!

Available at:
News Corner, 5/3, Shahbagh Biponi Bitan, Ph # 868908; Sagar Publishers, New Bailey Road, Ph # 408114; Gyankosh, Dhanmondi, Road # 4, and Sobhanbagh Madrasa Market, Ph # 812441; Pathak Samabesh, Aziz Super Market, Shahbagh, Ph # 9662766; Newspaper-stalls at Govt New Market, Ph # 9669409; Newspaper-stalls at Gulshan-2, Ph # 604281; Newspaper-stalls at Maghbazar, Rampura Bazar, Mouchak, Kamalapur and also at Uir Daily Star Office, Road # 3, House # 11, Dhanmondi, Dhaka, Ph # 866771-4.

Outside Dhaka — Please ask your local Newspaper Agents/Hawkers for your copy.

Don't Miss It!

Do it, if you are sincere Sex workers demand rehabilitation of all across the country

From Ehsanul Haque

NARAYANGANJ, July 9: "Rehabilitation of the inmates of Tanbazar and Nimali brothels here only will not solve the problem. If you sincerely want to solve it, rehabilitate all the sex workers across the country," said Nasrin, a leader of the sex workers.

She was speaking at a meeting at Tanbazar brothel today, organised by the 'rehabilitation committee' for

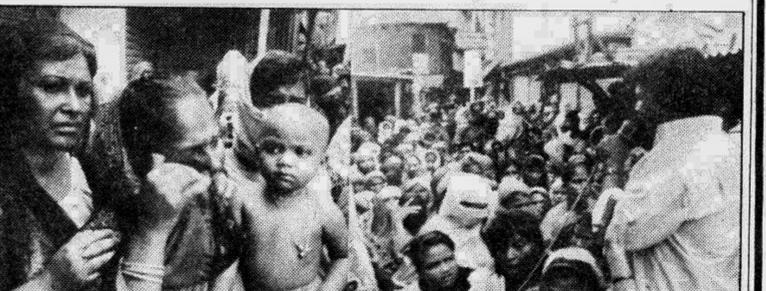
sex workers, patronised by local MP Shamim Osman.

The meeting was addressed by, among others, Additional District Magistrate Uzzal Bikash Dutta, Additional SP Abdur Rahim, committee members Abd Haseenat Mohammad Shahid Badal, President of District Juba League; Advocate Anisur Rahman Dipu, Additional Public Prosecutor; Secretary of District Imam Samity

Moulana Enayet Ullah, brothel building owners Mainuddin and Taslim Mia and sex worker Jesmin.

Nasrin said, "We are prepared to give up our profession if the government rehabilitates us properly." She also demanded immediate arrest of those responsible for the killing of a fellow sex worker on July 1 and withdrawal of the

See Page 12 Col 6



A sex worker burst into tears (L) hearing an 'emotional speech' by a member of the Rehabilitation Committee. — Star photo

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
PRIVATIZATION BOARD
CABINET DIVISION
JIBAN BIMA TOWER (14TH FLOOR)
10, DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA-1000

No. CD/PB/PR/4/98/514
DATE: 05.07.99

Sub: International Tender Notice For Sale Of Enterprise

International Tenders on the prescribed forms are hereby invited from local and foreign buyers (Individual, Company, Co-operative body, Employees' Association) for sale of the following state owned enterprise on **as is where is** basis. Intending buyers will have to submit separate prescribed tender forms and other required papers duly filled in and supported by necessary documents for the enterprise.

Name & Address of the enterprise	Brief Information
1. Noakhali Textile Mills, Raipur, Lakshmipur	The mill was established in 1977. The total land area 25.62 Acres. The mill will be sold with 15.73 Acres of land. The mill has 25056 spindles and it produces yarn. The mill is closed since May 1993. All the liabilities (Both short and long term) will be borne by the Govt.

Conditions:

- Set of prescribed form, tender conditions and other related papers can be procured from the Secretary on all working days from 18-07-99 to 23-08-99 during office hours on cash payment of Tk. 5,000/- (Taka Five Thousand only) or US\$ 125 (one Hundred Twenty Five) only which is non-refundable.
- Interested foreigners, Bangladeshi citizens living abroad, overseas commercial firms etc., willing to procure the tender forms may contact Bangladesh High Commissions/Embassies in London, Washington, Brussels, Kuala Lumpur, Riyadh, Abu Dhabi, Islamabad, New Delhi, Tokyo, Singapore and Seoul on or after 19-07-99.
- Relevant data relating to the enterprise are available with the Privatization Board (Tel: 9563763-5 Fax: 880-2-9556433) and can be seen by the intending buyers during all working days from 18-07-99 to 23-08-99. These documents will also be available in the above mentioned High Commissions/Embassies.
- The tender box will be closed at 12-00 noon on 24-08-99 and opened at 12-30 p.m. on the same date.
- Tenders found incomplete or otherwise faulty shall stand cancelled. No explanation, appeal to review or reconsider such a cancellation shall be entertained.
- Buyer will not assume the short-term liabilities and long-term loan of the enterprise.
- The Privatization Board reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Secretary
GD-624