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The Awami League mourning procession on August 15. — Star photo

## Build up resistance: Khaleda 'Conspiracy on to stop madrassah education'

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday said the government is conspiring against madrassah education as well as religious education and asked all to build up resistance.

"Madrassah and religious education will be closed if the present government stays in power," she observed.

Addressing a delegation of Bangladesh Madrasah Chhatra Federation, an umbrella of eight madrasah-based organizations, she said the government in its last three and a half-year proved that the party is unfit, incompetent and unskilled to run state affairs.

Representatives of the federation submitted a memorandum, which contains an 11-point charter of demand, to Begum Zia and requested her to help realise those demands. The function was held at 29 Minto Road, official residence of Begum Zia.

The demands include withdrawal of closure order of 251 madrasahs, repeal of the black law that can close madrasah, elimination of discrimination between madrasah and general education, and setting up of separate ministry for madrasah education.

Begum Zia told the madrasah student leaders that the government has miserably failed in all sectors and instead of resolving problems has created new crisis and anarchy everywhere.

BNP leaders Barrister Nazmul Huda, Ulama Dal Convenor Nazibul Bashor Majibhandari, madrasah student leaders Abdus Sattar Matabbar, Mohammad Ilias, Abdur Rahman, Zakir Hossain, Abu Taher, Mutashim Billah, Monir Hossain and Saidul Islam spoke at the meeting.

**Rangpur transport workers' leader stabbed to death**

From Our Correspondent

RANGPUR, Aug 16: Rangpur Motor Sramik Union went on a wildcat transport strike here today after murder of its leader in Rangpur town by extortionists last night, police said.

Akram Ali, 40, Executive President of the Rangpur Motor Sramik Union, was stabbed indiscriminately when he refused to pay toll to the miscreants. He succumbed to his injuries on way to Rangpur Medical College Hospital.

The miscreants attacked Akram at about 12:30 am while he was engaged in a decoration work of Dhaka Coach Counter in the town which was scheduled to open this morning.

Manu Sikdar, a transport worker, was arrested in this connection.

A case was filed with Kotwali police accusing eight people.

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## BAPEX proposes to develop gasfield

By Sharier Khan

BAPEX, the country's lone oil and gas exploration unit under Petrobangla, is pursuing a gasfield development project that is expected to pave the way for its becoming a dynamic and self-financing company.

The so-far-ignored BAPEX has proposed that it should be allowed to drill an appraisal well in Fenchuganj gasfield to assess the reserve, geological structure and other related matters and extract gas from the field discovered by it in 1985.

The proposal says BAPEX will supply 55 to 60 million cubic feet of gas per day (mmcf) to the National Grid from 2002. This will enable it to earn enough money to run small-scale programmes if it is allowed to retain the sale proceeds, sources said.

The proposal was made to the Energy Ministry three months back and is awaiting approval.

The project has already been included in the Annual Development Programme (ADP) for fiscal 1999-2000 with a "token allocation".

BAPEX now operates with Petrobangla's budgetary allocations which cover only administrative costs but oil and gas related activities. BAPEX has long been suggesting that it should be allowed to operate as an exploration and production entity so that it can earn from sale of gas discovered by it.

Petrobangla, as a practice, takes away gasfields discovered by BAPEX and gives those to gas production companies like Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Ltd (BGFCL). Under this system, BAPEX discovered Salda-1 well early last year. But earnings from sale of gas are going to BGFCL, as Petrobangla handed over the gasfield to BGFCL.

BAPEX also sent a proposal to change its status to an exploration and production (E&P) company from an exploration company. The proposal is also awaiting the ministry's clearance.

The Fenchuganj gasfield is the only gasfield against which BAPEX has almost completely paid up all its dues.

The Fenchuganj gasfield was discovered at Baranchal area under Kulaura thana of Moulavibazar district by the exploration wing of Petrobangla.

When Petrobangla's exploration wing was named BAPEX, it inherited the gasfield and other assets and liabilities. Now there is no liability against the gasfield.

BAPEX will purchase necessary equipment for development of the well and build roads, bridges and other infrastructure in the area.

**Accomplice of Sweden Aslam arrested**

By Staff Correspondent

Three people including an accomplice of Sweden Aslam were arrested with firearms from a residence in the city's Mohammadpur area yesterday afternoon.

The arrested were identified as Raquibuzzaman alias Rakib, 26, son of Kamruzzaman, Kumul Islam alias Monir, 26, son of Fazlur Rahman and Mohammad Salauddin alias Sanju, 25, son of late Salauddin.

Rakib is one of the close associates of Sweden Aslam who is detained at the Dhaka Central Jail, police said. Rakib is accused in more than eight cases.

Acting on a tip-off, Tejgaon police raided a psculture housing building at Mohammadpur and arrested Rakib, Sanju and Monir. Police recovered two pistols with bullets and 716 bottles of phensidyl from the house.

Several jewellery boxes were also recovered from the house.

Four cases were lodged with Mohammadpur thana in this connection.

## Anti-personnel mine found in mass grave

By Staff Correspondent

An anti-personnel mine (TNT) was recovered on the seventh day of excavation yesterday at Muslim Bazar mass grave in Mirpur Section-2 in the city.

The Liberation War Museum authorities in cooperation with army personnel is conducting the excavation.

A press release of the museum said 114 pieces of human bones, two sandals — one of a child and other of a woman — part of a canvas shoe, small pieces of cloth and a tin plate were found during excavation yesterday and the day before.

Visitors have been advised not to go near the excavation site for security reasons. "We are suspecting that the Pakistani Army might have planted more mines after completion of their genocide mission," Director of the museum Akku Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

He said, "Army officers and jawans deserve the highest appreciation for their commitment and determination in the excavation work. We are impressed by their spirit."

The army personnel were using mine detectors and other devices for detecting live ammunition and mines planted at the mass grave site.

## Oalia Bazar still tense

From Anwar Ali

NATORE, Aug 16: Tension is prevailing in Oalia Bazar area under Lalpur thana of the district where some unruly Awami League activists Friday attacked some businessmen for refusing to pay a fixed amount of money for National Mourning Day programmes.

Police and witnesses said some AL activists had circulated letters to all the shopkeepers at the market asking them to pay toll ranging from Tk 200 and Tk 2,000.

When the businessmen refused to pay fixed amounts the enraged AL workers Friday night ransacked and damaged several shops. In the next morning, they hurled cocktails on the business establishments.

Ten persons including Chairman of Oalia UP and President of local Chamber of Commerce and Industries Abdul Hakim were injured. The injured businessmen include Abdul Halim, Mosharraf Hossain, Badiul Islam, Johurul and Bazar.

The business community kept their shutters down on Saturday protesting the attack.

BNP activists in Oalia bazar area protested the incident. There were several incidents of chases and counter chases between the activists of BNP and AL.

A group of journalists from Natore, while visiting Oalia bazar area Sunday noon, found almost all the shops closed. Riot police along with additional forces from Natore were guarding the deserted area.



BNP activists greet Chairperson Khaleda Zia at her official residence at Minto Road on August 15 on her 54th birthday. — Star photo

## 'Army has no right to restrict a civilian into Cantonment'

Checkposts at the cantonments were set up to check military personnel and vehicles, not to restrict entry of members of the public in the areas, an opposition MP said, reports UNB.

Maj (ret'd) Akhteruzzaman, who is a member of the parliamentary committee on defence, made the observations when asked to comment on denial of access to some bridal party guests to Senakunja in Dhaka cantonment on August 12.

BNP sources said some 107 invited guests, most of them lawmakers and a few diplomats, were not allowed to attend the marriage ceremony of the daughter of Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury.

Akhter termed the August 12 incident shocking, most undesirable and discourteous. "The incident embarrassed all the soldiers," he said.

Explaining the restrictions at Cantonment gates, he said the army has no authority to check any civilian on any public road that the government has not restricted under the law.

"Cantonment is not a garrison, it is a civil-military municipality where a military person is quartered with or without family," he said.

Besides, Akhter argued, many civilians stay in cantonment.

**Floor crossing**

BNP submits statement to EC today

The opposition BNP will submit a statement to the Election Commission today on the dispute of floor crossing by their two MPs-Hasibur Rahman Swapan and Dr Mohammad Alauddin, reports UNB.


The Election Commission in a letter on August 10 sought a written statement from Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and Khandaker Delwar Hossain who earlier filed writ in the High Court over the issue within seven days.

On behalf of Prof Chowdhury and Khandaker Delwar, Barrister Moudud Ahmed, Shaikh Razak Ali MP, Justice Habibul Islam Bhuiyan, Barrister Aminul Huq MP and Barrister Nazmul Huda MP will go to the EC this morning to hand over the statement.

## BNP lays siege to DC's offices tomorrow

Main opposition BNP will lay siege to the offices of Deputy Commissioner (DC) across the country tomorrow protesting government decision of giving transhipment facilities to India, reports UNB.

Terming the move anti-independence and anti-sovereignty, BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan called upon the people to make the DC's office siege programme a success and to force the government to cancel the 'suicidal decision'.



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৫০০ গুণ এবং  
তৃপ্তিশালী তড়িৎ ক্রাভ থেকে  
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