

BUY NOW... PAY LATER

**Whirlpool**  
HOME APPLIANCES  
USA

Gas Cooker

Transcom Electronics Limited  
Authorized Distributor in Bangladesh for Whirlpool Appliances, USA

# The Daily Star

**Pioneer**  
Hi-fi

Music For The Life

**RANGS GROUP**

VOL. X NO. 142 REGD. NO. DA 781

www.dailystarnews.com

DHAKA SUNDAY JUNE 11, 2000

3rd Millennium

JAISTHA 28, 1407 BS

RABIUL AWAL 8, 1421 HIJRI

16 PAGES PRICE : TAKA 6.00

## Budget session resumes today

By Staff Correspondent  
Budget session of the Jatiya Sangsad resumes at 9.30 am today after a two-day recess following presentation of the budget for 2000-01 on Thursday.

The House is expected to start today general discussion on the supplementary budget for the current financial year with the Opposition continuing abstention from attending the parliament session.

Rejecting the new budget, the BNP-led opposition alliance has called a countrywide 12-hour hartal across the country tomorrow to protest it.

The budget session began on June 5 and may continue till the end of next month. Opposition MPs are contemplating a token participation in the session to protect their seats as those will fall vacant if the current session continues for more than 30 days.

## BNP to bring out torch processions today

By Staff Correspondent  
A joint meeting of BNP and its front organisations yesterday decided to bring out torch processions across the country today in support of tomorrow's 12-hour hartal.

The BNP-led opposition has called the countrywide shutdown to protest the proposed 'anti-people's' national budget. Yesterday's joint meeting observed that the proposed budget would create a social crisis as what it said the budgetary

See page 11 col 8

## Inside Today

### Article

### 'Wait and Watch' Policy Does Not Pay off

Column: Between the Lines  
by Kuldip Nayar  
Page 4

### Law and Our Rights

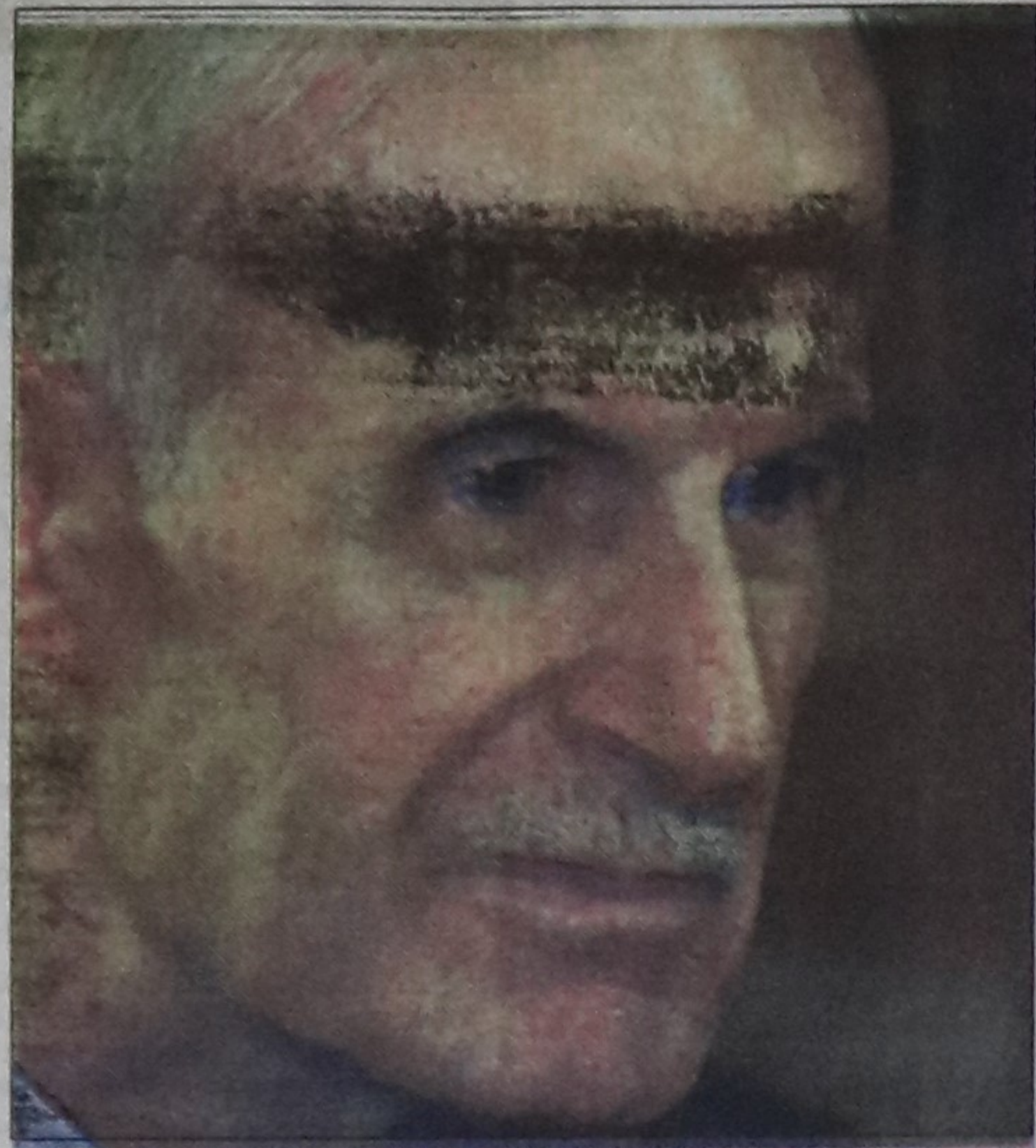
The High Court judges and their paradigm of responsibility  
Page 5

### Prayer Timings

June 11	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-15	4-45
Zohr	1-00	1-30
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-50	6-55
Esha	8-15	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

## President Assad dead



File photo of President Hafiz Al-Assad

DAMASCUS, June 10: Syrian President Hafez al-Assad died today of a heart attack just before midday, a medical source told AFP. He was 69.

Assad, who had a stroke a few weeks ago, had been recovering, but his heart failed, the source said.

The Syrian leader was suffering from diabetes, heart problems and a kind of blood cancer which develops slowly, it said.

The Syrian parliament later changed the constitution today to allow Bashar al-Assad, 34, to be a candidate to succeed his father.

The constitution had stipulated that a candidate must be aged at least 40.

Hafez al-Assad ruled with an iron grip for nearly 30 years to bring stability to his once coup-ridden country and become a key player on the Middle Eastern stage.

The death of the 69-year-old general, who seized power in November 1970.

An expert on Syrian affairs, who asked not to be identified, said the Syrian president had been in an advanced stage of diabetes that "affected his

See page 11 col 7

## Tulow rejects, Chevron accepts

Negotiations take a new turn as govt wants BAPEX to be the operator in Block 9

Star Report

Negotiations between Chevron-Texaco-Tulow and BAPEX for a Production Sharing Contract (PSC) for Block 9 took a new turn on Thursday as the government suggested that BAPEX would be the operator in the block.

The proposal was turned down by Tulow but Chevron accepted it. Texaco was not present at the negotiations led by the Energy Secretary.

The meeting ended with the decision that Chevron and Tulow would have to take a decision themselves over the government's new proposal and then sit for negotiations.

Chevron-Texaco and Tulow were about to initial a PSC for Block 9 before the visit of US President Bill Clinton in March. However, a last moment change of decision by Texaco to look into to PSC options sus-

ended the process. At that time, it was decided that the block's equity would be shared between the three companies by 30 per cent each while BAPEX would get 10 per cent as carried interest. Tulow was suggested to be the operator in the block.

Later in April, Texaco sent a letter to Chevron, with a copy forwarded to the government, saying that it would sign the PSC jointly but would transfer its part of equity to Chevron after the signing.

The letter written in a plain paper without a letterhead confused the government because such decisions were perceived as internal affairs of the two companies and forwarding it to Petrobangla did not have a clear cut purpose.

Meanwhile, a unofficial level both Chevron and Tulow had been hammering the idea of

being the operator.

However, Petrobangla late last month invited all the three foreign companies to finalise their partnership.

At Thursday's meeting, Chevron initially argued that as per the present configuration of partnership, it would provide 60 per cent of the financing in exploration and production of oil and gas in the block. Therefore, it should be made the operator. But finally it agreed to the government proposal.

Tulow argued that it was Tulow's bid, which was the basis of all negotiations and therefore Tulow should be the operator.

Tulow was chosen as the best bidder for this block by the government as it had proposed to drill 10 exploratory wells at a

See page 11 col 8

## SSC exam results today

By Staff Correspondent

Results of the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) examinations of 2000 under five education boards will be announced simultaneously today.

The results will be sent to the respective schools and examinations centres by 4 pm.

A total of 9,34,704 students under five education boards—Dhaka, Rajshahi, Comilla, Jessore and Chittagong—appeared at the SSC examinations this year.

## 44.5 pc pass Degree (Pass) exams

By Staff Correspondent

The National University yesterday formally announced the results of Degree (Pass) Examinations of 1999.

The results were published simultaneously from 569 centres of the country.

A total of 2,29,066 candidates took part in the examinations. Of them, 1,01,691 came out successful. The percentage of pass was 44.39.

A total of 1,05,381 regular candidates sat for the BA (Pass)

examinations. Of them, 43,931 passed the examination. The percentage of pass was 41.69.

In BSc (Pass) examinations, a total of 17,222 regular candidates took part in the examinations. Of them, 9,628 came out successful. The percentage of pass in the Bachelor of Science Examinations was 55.91 per cent.

A total of 69,463 examinees participated in the BSS (Pass) examinations. See page 11 col 7

## A dismal picture of power sector

By M Anwarul Haq

Finance Minister SAM S Kibria has tacitly admitted the dismal picture of the country's power sector.

Currently 476 megawatt of electricity is produced by 'captive generators', the minister said in his Budget speech in parliament on Thursday.

These generators purchased by various organisations and individuals produce this additional quantum.

Kibria said that due to 'prudent policies of the present' See page 11 col 6

## Mila crowned Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic

By Staff Correspondent

The crowning ceremony of 'Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic 2000' turned the Winter Garden of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday evening into a galaxy of stars where Mila Hossain was crowned the Miss Photogenic of this year.

Api Karim, the Miss Photogenic of last year, crowned Mila Hossain, a honours first year student, after about a two-hour lively programme presented by TV artiste and dramatist Afzal Hossain.

Prominent TV stars, singers, models and dancers were among the invited guests who made the gala ceremony more attractive.

Fatema Shahab Ruma, an HSC student, was announced the first runner-up and Fawzia Afrin, also an HSC student, the second runner-up. The competition was organized to 'discover stars of tomorrow'.

Popular singers—Kumar Biswasjit, Shampa Reza, Tapan Chowdhury and Shakila Jafar—and dancers—Nipa and Shibli Mohammad—kept the audience spell bound with their performances.

Shomi Kaisar, Ishita and film artiste Popi helped Afzal Hossain on the stage to make the programme more lively.

See page 11 col 6



Mila Hossain, a 20-year-old university student was crowned 'Lux-Anandadhara Miss Photogenic 2000' at a gala show held at Sheraton Hotel yesterday. She is flanked by first runner-up Fatema Sahab Ruma (L) and second runner-up Fawzia Afrin Khuku (R).

— Star photo

## Mugging, other crimes rising in Chittagong

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 10: Incidents of mugging and other crimes have gone up in the port city.

Over 100 incidents of mugging took place in the city in the last two months, police said.

Police officials said special measures were taken with launching of raids at different places of the city to curb the recent rise of crime.

A shop was looted by armed terrorists at Agrabad South Land centre yesterday afternoon, police and witnesses said. The terrorists looted goods worth over Tk 20 lakh from the shop at 2-30 pm as its owner earlier refused to pay toll of Tk one lakh to the gang, sources said.

None was arrested in this connection so far.

In another incident, a group of muggers took away Tk two lakh of Chittagong Grammar School, an English medium school in the city yesterday afternoon, police said.

The muggers intercepted the

microbus of the school at a place near Chittagong Medical College Hospital at about 3 pm while the accountant of the school was carrying the money to deposit with bank, police said.

After snatching the money, muggers fled the scene by an autorickshaw. The day before yesterday Tk 16 lakh was looted by gunmen from a Korean Factory located in the restricted area of Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ).

None was arrested in this regard so far, police said, adding that hunt was on to nab the gunmen and recover the looted money.

The incident triggered panic among the investors in CEPZ, sources said.

On Tuesday, Tk 1.5 lakh was snatched from a book trader at Anderkilla at 11 am and on Monday the muggers stabbed a businessman and took away Tk ten thousand from him at Kaspasgola in the city.

## Men of 2 peers clash again: 7 injured

By Staff Correspondent

At least seven people were injured during a renewed clash between the followers of peers of Charmonal and Dewanbagh in Baitul Mokarram Mosque area in the city yesterday, witnesses said.

Jamaat activists backed the followers of peer of Dewanbagh, witnesses said. Officials of the Islamic Foundation which is responsible for looking after the mosque said the clashes took place outside the mosque and some people took refuge in the mosque.

Police dispersed the rival groups but no case was registered and none was arrested, Motijheel police said.

A press release issued by the Islamic Constitution Movement (ICM) of the Peer of Char-

monal confirmed the clash but did not mention how it erupted and how many people were injured. Jamaat leaders were not available for their comments yesterday.

Of the injured, two identified as Nur-e-Alam Siddiquee, driver of a vehicle of Jamaat-e-Islami and Golam Rassel, an activist of the same organisation, were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), while others were taken to different hospitals, witnesses said. Siddiquee was admitted to the hospital a critical condition with injuries in his eyes and head, hospital sources said.

At least 25 people were injured in a clash between the two groups soon after Juma prayers on Friday.



জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

সাতার, ঢাকা

ভর্তি পরীক্ষার তারিখ  
পরিবর্তন সংক্রান্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সংশ্লিষ্ট সকলের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাচ্ছে

যে, ১৯৯৯-২০০০ শিক্ষাবর্ষে ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক

(সম্মান) শ্রেণীর ১২-৬-২০০০ তারিখে (অর্থনীতি

ও নৃবিজ্ঞান বিভাগের) অনুষ্ঠিত ভর্তি পরীক্ষা

অনিবার্য কারণে আগামী ১৭-৬-২০০০ তারিখ

শনিবার পূর্ব নির্ধারিত সময়সূচি অনুযায়ী অনুষ্ঠিত

হবে। তাছাড়া অন্যান্য দিনের ভর্তি পরীক্ষার

তারিখ ও সময়সূচি অপরিবর্তিত থাকবে।

আবু বকর সিদ্দিক

জিডি-৫৫৮

উপ-রেজিস্ট্রার (শিক্ষা)

**BEST SHOPPING CENTRE**  
coming in town

anam

**RANGS PLAZA**  
at Dhanmondi

- Fully Air-conditioned Interior
- Escalators & Capsule lifts
- Prime Location & Easy Access
- Security with Close Circuit TV
- Adequate Parking Facilities
- Standby Generator
- Spacious Corridor

sale of shopping spaces going on

creating lifestyles

**RANGS PROPERTIES**

110 Old Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka 1215 Bangladesh  
Phone: 9109914, 9107435, 9126973, 9101077, 911-866155, 017-925920, 018-227797, 018-212052  
Fax: 9109914, 9107435, 9126973, 9101077, 911-866155, 017-925920, 018-227797, 018-212052  
E-Mail: rangs@bdmail.net web site: www.rangs.com