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Form JS body to probe charges against my sons: Chief Whip

By Staff Correspondent  
Jatiya Sangsad Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah yesterday urged Speaker Md Yunus Rasheed Chowdhury to form a parliamentary committee to probe allegations of criminal activities against his sons.

"Please investigate the matter and disclose it in the House so that people can know the fact," he appealed to the Chair.

The Speaker told the House that he would consider forming a body.

Neither Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina nor Home Minister Mohammad Nasim was present in the House at that time.

The Chief Whip's appeal came a day after press reports that his youngest son Ashique Abdullah was allegedly involved in kidnapping a schoolboy in the city. He spoke on the issue while participating in the general discussion on the proposed budget for 2000-01.

His oldest son Sadek Abdullah was earlier accused of forcibly occupying a house in the city, which he had rented earlier.

"If the charges are proved, I will definitely hand them over to police in presence of journalists.

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**'ISI had offered me crores of taka'**

By Staff Correspondent

Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah disclosed in the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday that Pakistani intelligence service ISI had offered him crores of taka when he was negotiating the CHT peace accord with tribal insurgents.

Abul Hasnat, who headed the parliamentary committee that signed the accord in December 1997, made the disclosure while taking part in the general discussion on budget.

Signing of the accord ended two decades' insurgency in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

"I never said before what kind of pressure I had to sustain during the peace talks. They gave me death threat. I also never disclosed to the press earlier that ISI offered me crores of taka," the chief whip said without mentioning why he was offered the money.

Abul Hasnat said, like his father, he is also honest and has integrity.

A minister in the Bangabandhu's Cabinet, his father

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**Prayer Timings**

**JUNE 25**

June	Sun Rises	Sun Sets
25	6-50pm	
26	5-13am	

**Source: Islamic Foundation**

# The Daily Star

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**Torrential rain triggers flash flood**

## 11 killed in hill, wall collapse in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 24: Eleven people including six children died as walls and hills collapsed during torrential rain in the port city and its adjoining areas today.

The rain also triggered flash flood here.

A baby remained missing and three others were injured when a wall collapsed at Mu-

radpur in the city today, police and witnesses said.

Five people were killed in hill collapse in Chittagong University area. The dead were identified as Sufia Khanam, 45, Munni Akhtar, 7, Md Rubel, 6, Abdur Rahim, 7 and Fatem Akbar, 3. The hill collapse in the University area also disrupted road communications on the

campus.

Johra Khatun, 30 and her son Jahir, 9, died in hill collapse at Tangi Pahar behind Amin Jute Mills while Gita Rani, 16, was killed in a wall collapse at Muradpur in the city today.

A ten-year old boy Al Amin drowned in flood water when he

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— Star photo

Zillur Rahman, Minister for Local Government and Rural Development, speaking at a dialogue on strengthening Local Government at CIRDAP auditorium yesterday. Jointly organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue and CARE it was chaired by Prof Muhammad Yunus of Grameen Bank (second from left), BNP leader Barrister Nazmul Huda, MP and Prof Rehman Sobhan of CPD are also seen in the picture.

Minister for Local Government and Rural Development (LGRD) Zillur Rahman was chief guest at the dialogue and former information minister and BNP leader Nazmul Huda was special guest.

A commission was set up and on the basis of its report, law was made in this regard, he added.

Prof Muhammad Yunus stressed united efforts to make local governments effective and ensure participation of

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**RANGS GROUP**

## One-fifth of WASA pipelines needs immediate replacement

By Raziur Rahman

Nearly one fifth of about 2000 km water supply pipeline of WASA in the city is either not serviceable or their life span has expired, sources in WASA said.

Leakage in the dilapidated pipes is one of the main reasons for contamination of WASA water. These need immediate replacement, they said.

More than 15 percent of the pipeline is of asbestos cement (AC) and 'mild steel' (MS), most of which were installed 30 to 40 years back. In the old part of the city, a large portion of the

pipeline is of cast iron (CI), laid in early 40s, they said.

Residents of a large portion of Dhammam and some parts of Motijheel and Mohammadpur areas are getting supply water through MS pipes.

WASA water is supplied through AC pipeline in most areas of Lalmoni, Khilgaon, Mogbazar, Mirbagh, Mirpur and few areas of Banani Mohammadpur and Segunbagicha.

In Lalbagh, Chakbazar, Moulibhazar, Sadarghat, Banglabazar, Gandaia, Salmipur, Shatrapur, Bangsal, Ar-

manila and some areas of Narinda, water is supplied through CI pipes, installed during the British period.

Most of the AC pipes have developed leaks and cracks and MS pipes have become rusty and weak, resulting in leakage, the sources said.

At places, the CI pipes have become clogged due to deposit of different chemicals and filth, obstructing water supply. Besides, the old iron pipes produce 'iron bacteria' inside.

The speeding truck hit the boundary wall while it was taking turn witnesses said.

Local people caught the driver while he was fleeing. They beat up the driver before handing him over to the police.

Anwar Hossain Maternal uncle of the victims, filed a case accusing the driver of the killing, police said. Police seized the truck.

**CEPZ unrest: 20 workers sent to jail**

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 24: Twenty workers of Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ) arrested by police on Thursday night, were sent to Chittagong jail.

They were arrested on charge of creating unrest in the CEPZ, police said.

Meanwhile, the agitating workers of US company Qualitex Group today also staged sit-in in front of the factory premises demanding reinstatement of 15 workers. CEPZ sources said.

Production in three towel factories of Qualitex Group remained suspended for the past 14 days. Unrest began there when the workers were demanding wages as 1993 circular which was kept in abeyance by BEPZA.

**In case an electoral alliance fails**

## BNP also to keep standby its own candidates

By Rezaul Karim

BNP is now giving emphasis on organisational matters, keeping all options open as regards contesting the next general election -- alone, forming an electoral alliance or having understanding with like minded parties.

Party sources said it has decided first to select its own candidates for all the 300 Jatiya Sangsad seats and then to examine whether an electoral alliance would benefit the party or not.

The party has kept all options open, including contesting the polls alone, going for a broader electoral alliance with its alliance partners and others and giving concession to some smaller parties," a top leader of the BNP told this correspondent.

The options are kept open as still there is apprehension in the party that Ershad-led Jatiya Party may quit the alliance at the eleventh hour, he said.

BNP leaders and activists at all levels have been asked to gear up party activities, overcome all organisational weakness and side by side prepare for the next elections, sources mentioned.

The party has no plan to go for any action programme at least in the next two months to intensify the present movement. Instead it will concentrate on organisational activities.

A BNP policy maker said yesterday the party's field level activists have been instructed to take all preparations for the next general election and the central leadership is 'now assessing the party's actual position in all the 300 parliamentary constituencies.'

All information about BNP's possible candidates and their alternatives are being collected. Party Chairperson Khaleda Zia herself is also gathering information from all concerned.

The Chairperson has already interviewed about 50 party MPs and some other people at her Banani office and heard from them the situation in their respective constituencies, he said.

During the meetings with the MPs, sources said, Khaleda Zia advised them to rush to their respective areas, resolve all existing problems especially intra-party feuds and take preparation for the next election.

**Container port at Patenga**

## We'll resist move even at the cost of our lives: Ctg Mayor

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 24: A token mass hunger strike, organised by Chittagong Bandar Unnayan Forum (CBUF), was observed here today to protest government's move for allowing installation of a private container port at Patenga by Stevedoring Services of America (SSA).

"We will resist the move even at the cost of our lives," said Mohiuddin, adding "we will not accept any agreement in this regard."

He urged the government not to lease the lands near Chittagong port under any circumstances.

Addressing a rally at the venue of mass hunger strike, the CCC Mayor announced that hunger strike would be organised in all the 41 wards of the

port city to protest the move for allowing a private container port.

"We will not allow installation of private container port at the mouth of Karnaphuli river by American company SSA," Mohiuddin said.

"We will resist the move even at the cost of our lives," said Mohiuddin, adding "we will not accept any agreement in this regard."

He urged the government not to lease the lands near Chittagong port under any circumstances.

The CCC Mayor warned that people who have clandestine links with SSA will be declared persona non grata in the port

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An emergency meeting will be held tomorrow with port officials, leaders of stevedores and dock workers to break the stalemate, port sources said.

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