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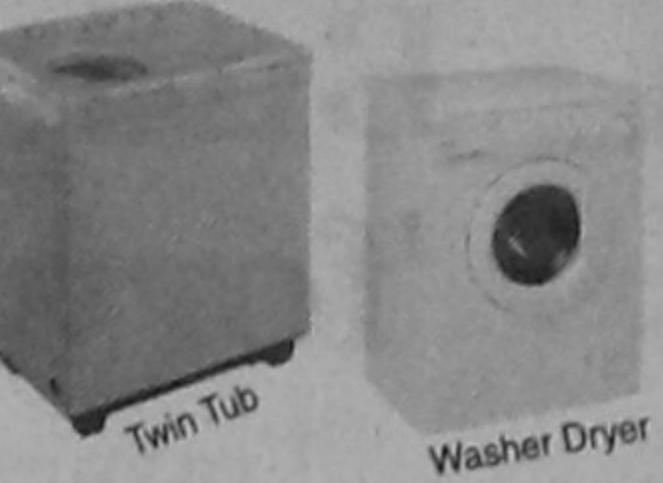
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BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia addressing the biennial conference of Jatiyatabadi Aijibhi Forum's Dhaka Unit at SC Bar auditorium yesterday.

— Star photo

## Executive, legislative & judiciary bodies now totally ineffective'

Khaleda alleges politicisation and interference by AL govt

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia said yesterday the executive, legislative and judiciary bodies of the state are not functioning independently due to interference and politicisation of the Awami League government.

She said the government made the legislative body completely ineffective and turned it into a party forum while the executive body has broken down because of politicisation and posting of "incompetent partymen" in all key posts.

Addressing the biennial conference of Jatiyatabadi Aijibhi Forum's Dhaka Unit at the Supreme Court Lawyers Association auditorium, Khaleda said the government is also politicising the judiciary and the lower court is now fully controlled by the government.

She said the innocent people and opposition leaders and activists are turning to the higher court since they are not getting justice in the lower courts.

But the government has not

spared the higher court, she said and added that the government is even corrupting it by politicisation and nepotism.

The leader of the opposition in parliament said the government has set up a new record of human rights violation.

Khaleda said the public has lost their confidence in the government. The donor countries and agencies are also hesitant to take it into confidence. The development partners have expressed their doubt whether their grant, aid, loan and other assistance are really being used for the development purpose.

The BNP chief said the AL is now desperately trying to return to power at any cost as they did in 1996.

Turning to Jatiya Sangsad, she said the opposition members attended the parliament session recently to resist the government's move to hold by-election in the vacant seats and bring about major changes in the Constitution, including re-introduction of one-party BKSAL system and repeal of the

provision for caretaker government.

Referring to appointment of the Chief Election Commissioner and the Election Commissioner, she said the government appointed CEC unilaterally and later posted a most "controversial" person as EC. The government ignored the opposition's demand to recast the election commission and reform electoral rules to rig future polls.

Presided over by Fazlur Rahman Khan, it was addressed among others, by Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khader Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Moudud Ahmed, Khader Dewar Hossain, Nazmul Huda Janiuddin Sircar and Rafiqul Islam Miah.

A 235-member new executive committee was announced at the conference with Fazlur Rahman as President and Sanauullah Miah as general secretary for the year 2000-2001.

## 2 tribesmen shot in Rangamati

RANGAMATI, June 28: Two tribesmen suffered bullet wounds as gunmen fired on them at North Hatimara village in Naniarchar upazila this morning, reports UBD.

Parbatty Chittagong Jano Sanghati Samity (PCJS) blamed a gang of anti-peace activists led by Abhilash and Amal Kanti Chakma for shooting the activists who supported the CHT peace pact.

The injured were identified as Bipul Chakma and Bijoy Singh Chakma. Bijoy was rushed to Rangamati General Hospital.

Later the assailants abducted Utam Moni Chakma and bullet-hit Bipul Chakma at gunpoint.

PCJS condemned the attack and demanded arrest of those involved.

When contacted, police, however, said they had no knowledge of the incident.

## 3 get RI in case under PSA in Ctg

From Our Correspondent CHITTAGONG, June 28: Three people were awarded three years rigorous imprisonment and penalty of Tk five thousand each in default to suffer another three months RI in jail here today in connection with a criminal case filed under Public Safety (Special provision) Act.

District and Session Judge A M Bashir Ullah awarded this punishment to them for obstructing road expansion work at BRTC Bus Station adjoining area in the city on March 3 this year.

The convicts are: Ali Idris, Md Zahed and Muntasir Manna Rupu.

## New Mooring terminal Installation work to begin soon

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, June 28: France-based consultancy firm BCEOM is likely to begin work for installation of New Mooring container terminal at Chittagong Port soon, sources said.

The firm assigned by the Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) will also supervise the installation work of the Tk 800 crore project, the sources said.

The CPA signed an agreement with this consulting firm recently.

The firm will get Tk 14 crore for the job, which is scheduled to be completed in 10 months. It will help prepare papers for floating tender inviting bids for construction of the terminal to be built with the CPA's own funds, the sources said.

The country's prime port will be able to handle an additional three lakh containers a year with the installation of the container terminal, port sources informed.

The container terminal project at New Mooring point of

## Five new AAGs appointed

President Shahabuddin Ahmed appointed five advocates yesterday as Assistant Attorneys General (AAG), reports BSS.

The newly-appointed AAGs are: Mostafa Zaman Islam, Mohammad Mamun-ur-Rashid, Fazlul Haque Chowdhury, Khaled Ahmed and Mohammad Abul Khair.

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Chittagong port was taken up in 1996 against the backdrop of growing pressure of container cargo at Chittagong port.

But the project remained shelved for a long time due to bureaucratic tangles although the port had to cope with an increasing number of container cargo that grew by 25 per cent a year, sources said.

Frequent agitation by workers and employees of Chittagong port demanding the installation of New Mooring container terminal prompted the government to get it approved by the ECNEC.

Earlier, two container terminals known as Multipurpose Berths (MPB) were set up at Chittagong port at a cost of Tk 400 crores in 1993. The terminals combined have a capacity to handle 1,90,000 containers annually.

However, Chittagong port handled over four lakh containers last year, the sources said.

## Dhaka-Agartala trial bus service after jt survey

NEW DELHI, June 28: Bangladesh and India today agreed to go for trial run of buses between Dhaka and Agartala to be conducted by Bangladesh Road Transport Association and Tripura State Transport Corporation, reports BSS.

It was decided at the two-day official level talks between the two countries today on the modalities to initiate passenger bus services between Dhaka and Agartala, an official source said.

The six-member Bangladesh delegation was led by Asaduzzaman Bhuiyan, Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Communications while the Indian team was headed by Alok Rawat, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Surface Transport.

The two sides would conduct a joint survey before the trial bus run to see the physical condition of the roads, facilities at customs check point and the bus depot at Dhaka and Agartala.

The team comprising officials of both the countries will carry out the survey on July 17 and 18 and make recommendations to their respective governments.

The next official level meeting will be held in Dhaka to finalise the draft agreement.

## BCL leader shot dead in Comilla

From Our Correspondent

FENI, June 28: A BCL leader was shot dead by his party rivals at village Alkorai under Chowdhogram Upazila of Comilla district last night, police and witnesses said.

The victim was identified as Mohammad Alamgir, son of Maksudur Rahman.

Alamgir, general secretary of BCL Alkorai Union Unit, came under attack by his rivals led by Moinuddin while he was going to Dapkhila in a rickshaw at around 8 pm.

The rivals beat up Alamgir and shot him. He was rushed to Feni Sadar Hospital where the doctors declared him dead.

Police said the killing was a sequel to previous enmity between Alamgir and Moinuddin over establishing supremacy in the area.

The body of Alamgir was handed over to his family after autopsy at Feni Sadar Hospital.

None was arrested in this connection till filing of this report at 6 pm today.

### Chetia case

#### Hearing of argument on July 10

By Court Correspondent

The Fifth Assistant Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court, Dhaka yesterday fixed July 10 for hearing of argument in a case filed against ULFA leader Anup Chetia and his two associates.

The judge M Humayun Kabir adjourned the proceedings of the case as the Special Public Prosecutor was not present in the court during yesterday's hearing.

Anup Chetia and two associates — Babul Sharma and Laxmi Prasad Goswami — were arrested from a residence at Adabor under Mohammadpur thana on December 21, 1997, on charge of illegally possessing currency of 16 countries.

Police also recovered a satellite telephone set from them.

All the accused were produced in the court during proceedings of the case.

### PM: World Cup

From page 1

Thousands of people, carrying the national flag and colourful banners and waving cups, crests, bats etc. came to the venue with thunderous slogans hailing the event. Some of them posed as cricketers while others danced their way into the huge space covered with a canopy erected on the occasion.

Beats of drum and blasts of crackers amid deafening cheers "Bangladesh, Bangladesh" gave gathering an air of festivity.

Cricketer heroes including the former ones walked to the dais amid thunderous applause.

Star cricketer Akrani Khan, country's first captain Shamin Kabir, State Minister for Sports Obaidul Quader, BCB President Saber Hossain Chowdhury and Secretary Syed Ashraf Hossain Haq were among those who spoke on the occasion.

As a result, on many occasions review of the proposed activities is not taking place, leading to uncoordinated efforts in arsenic mitigation programmes, the committee report said.

### Allegations against some ministers, donor agencies

## Govt has fulfilled most of the election pledges: Hasina

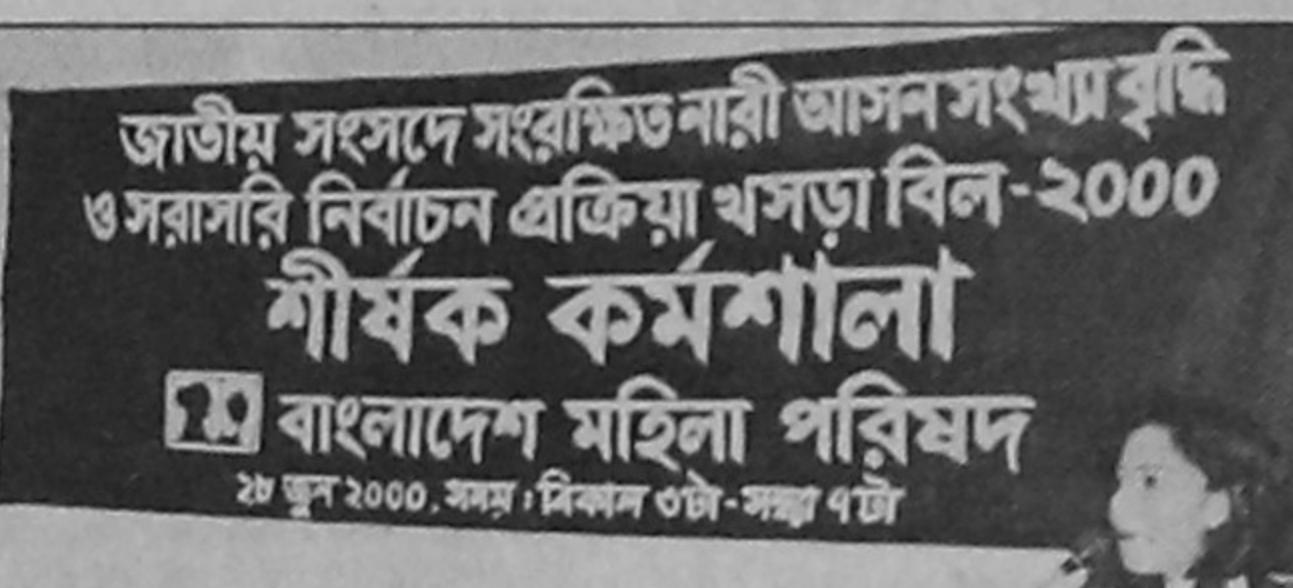
She proposed extension of tax holiday for five years, duty exemption on CI sheet and raw materials of plastic products and retaining previous interest rates on saving instruments.

Referring to her four-year rule, Hasina said the main mission of her government to alleviate poverty, eradicate illiteracy and attain a self-reliant economy.

Describing the new national budget as a unique financial document, she said all the four budgets presented by the Awami League government since 1996 were designed to achieve economic freedom of the people.

The present budget, the Prime Minister hoped, would cast a positive impact on all fundamental sectors, including agriculture, industry, education and overall socio-economic sectors.

"I don't like to see any distance between the government



Barrister Tania Ameer presenting a draft bill seeking increase of reserved seats for women in parliament to 150 at a workshop organised by Bangladesh Mahila Parishad in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

## Arsenic mitigation activities bypassing national body

Allegations against some ministers, donor agencies

By Naimul Haq

The National Steering Committee on Arsenic has raised serious concern over arsenic mitigation activities of some ministries and donor agencies.

However, it regretted that some donor agency-funded mitigation projects have been implemented without prior approval of the committee. It also said the projects are duplications of a number of existing projects, which are already in the implementation stage. Such projects are seen to be in operation without the committee's approval.

The source said the project has not been placed in the technical committee constituted by the national steering committee. It also said the projects are duplications of a number of existing projects, which are already in the implementation stage. Such projects are seen to be in operation without the committee's approval.

Citing an example, an anonymous source said a project to assess the success of community-based arsenic mitigation models has been proposed by British donor agency DFID.

The two million pound sterling project also aims to improve the health condition of the affected people through affordable, sustainable and integrated community-based projects by sidestepping the committee, some of them do not comply with the rules, it noted.

Without naming the ministries it pointed out in a working paper report prepared on June 1 that certain ministries are carrying out certain activities by bypassing the steering committee.

The committee also noted that a number of donor agencies have financed projects, which are implemented by non-government organisations, without discussing those with the government.

As a result, on many occasions review of the proposed activities is not taking place, leading to uncoordinated efforts in arsenic mitigation programmes, the committee report said.

Although the donor agencies



A family that encroached on public land along the Gulshan lake put their belongings on a boat prior to clearing out yesterday.

— Star photo

## NGO official, trader robbed of Tk 5 lakh

By Staff Correspondent

Armed gangs took away Tk 5 lakh from an NGO official and a businessman in two separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Miscreants stabbed and snatched away Tk 2.67 lakh from the NGO official at Tajmahal Road in Mohammadpur thana yesterday afternoon.

The victim was identified as Rezaul Islam, Accountant of Nira Shikhi.

The incident occurred at about 1:45 pm when Rezaul was returning to his office after drawing the money from two

shops.

They also staged sit-in in front of the office of principal from 9:00 am to 2:30 pm today to press their demands.

See page 11 col 6

## RMC female students on strike

From Our Correspondent