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Life threats can't  
stop me, says  
Hasina

KOTALIPARA, (Gopalganj) July 22: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said bomb, life threat or obstructions could not stop her efforts for establishing the people's rights, reports UNB.

"Threats and obstacles will not be able to stop me from doing good to the people. I am ready to sacrifice my life for the people," she said while addressing the inaugural function of Kotalipara Municipal Water Supply Project.

Referring to the planting of explosives near her meeting venue, the PM said she is not afraid of death and vowed to continue her work for people's welfare taking the risk.

Some 76 kgs of powerful explosives, planted in the ground only 50 feet from the rostrum, were recovered by a team of Army on Friday.

Ignoring the bomb threats a large number of people from far and near gathered at the function that virtually turned into a public meeting.

Hasina recalled a similar incident in 1986 when the terrorists of the then government had threatened her not to come to Kotalipara.

"But I came defying the threat. Because I was never afraid of such threat," she said adding "this time my admirers also advised me not to come here, but I've come."

The Prime Minister said: "I did not learn to be scared. I am working for the people and I believe that life and death are in the hand of Almighty. I will live as long as I am destined to live."

She further said: I might have been killed on the black night of August 15, 1975, when all my relations — my father,

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**Gopalganj bomb:**  
Intelligence yet  
to find clue

By Special Correspondent

Intelligence agencies are trying to find out the clue to planting of the large metallic device containing explosives near the rostrum from where the Prime Minister addressed a public meeting at Kotalipara in Gopalganj yesterday.

The 76 kg device was recovered by Army personnel on Friday.

Intelligence analysts and field level operators of Directorate General of Forces Intelligence (DGFI), National Security Intelligence (NSI) and Special Branch (SB) and CID of police are fine-combing large areas in Gopalganj and adjoining districts to find how such a large device could be transported to Kotalipara and planted there.

Questions are being raised why the area around the rostrum was not kept under police guard.

Some security experts said that the agencies concerned and police did not 'sanitise' both the helipad and the rostrum at least 72 hours before the rally. Normally, a rostrum of the Prime Minister is put under round the clock surveillance and armed guard immediately after

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**Inside Today**

**Article**

Ganges Treaty 1996  
and National Water  
Policy 1999

Are We being  
Served Right?

By Syed Muhammad

Hossain

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**Business**

G8 decides to bridge  
IT gap with developing  
countries

DSE, CSE price  
quotations

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**Supplement**

One page supplement  
on National Day of  
Egypt on  
Page 10

**Prayer Timings**

July 23

Azan Jamaat  
4:15 4:45  
Zohr 1:00 1:30  
Asr 5:00 5:15  
Magrib 6:55 6:58  
Esha 8:15 8:45

Source: Islamic Foundation  
The PDB-AES dispute over

The Daily Star-BGMEA Roundtable

## Declare port service essential

Restructure management & develop infrastructure, speakers demand

Star Report

Speakers at a dialogue on the country's port situation yesterday said Chittagong port is now hostage to a handful of employees and demanded immediate restructuring of its management along with infrastructure development.

They demanded that port service be declared essential to avoid work stoppage because the situation is now virtually choking the economy and the export-oriented industries.

Organised by The Daily Star and BGMEA, the dialogue held at a local hotel was participated by a wide range of port users.

members of parliament, stakeholders, donors and government officials. It was moderated by The Daily Star Editor Mahfuz Anam.

Plagued by politically-backed trade union activities, Chittagong Port has already become the costliest one in the world. The port now faces the danger being tagged as an 'exclusion zone' by international shipping lines, they said.

The dialogue recommended a set of immediate, mid-term and long-term suggestions to make the port efficient.

### Short-term recommendations

The short-term proposals include introduction of green channel at the port for customs clearance to reduce check points to seven from 42 now.

The speakers also recommended privatisation of some of the functions, such as allowing private container handling equipment and private ICDs to handle import Laden Contain-

ers. They also suggested rationalisation of charges basing on productivity to match competitors.

### Medium term recommendations

As medium term recommendations to be implemented in six months, the dialogue suggested full computerisation of ports and customs operations and updating and implementation of the master plan for all-round development of Chittagong port to facilitate multimodal transport system.

The roundtable also suggested completion of the Dhaka-Chittagong highway and construction of an alterna-

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An empty cargo section at Bhomra Land Customs in Satkhira lacks minimum facilities for an office and storing imports like rice, pulse and coal from India. Bhomra is very close to Calcutta by road.

— Star photo by AKM Mohsin

## G8 asks India, Pakistan to resume peace talks

From Monzurul Huq

efforts to strengthen the non-proliferation and disarmament regime.

The statement said that the level of tensions between India and Pakistan remains a cause of international concern. The leaders called on the two coun-

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tries to resume dialogue as soon as possible for a sustainable peace in the region.

According to some observers, the opening part of the statement is a clear reflection of host country's position on nuclear arms issue. Japan is a vocal critic of nuclear proliferation.

The prominent mention of South Asian situation in G8 statement also gives an indication that Japanese Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori is giving se-

rious consideration to his forthcoming visit to three South Asian countries including Bangladesh.

Although it has not yet been announced officially, Japanese media have disclosed recently that Mori is planning to visit Bangladesh, India and Pakistan during the third week of August.

The main purpose of his visit would be to pursue India and Pakistan to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

In Bangladesh Mori is likely to discuss issues related to Japanese assistance.

AP adds: The Group of Eight industrial powers vowed today to help poor nations join the information technology revolution so they can one day leave

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BNP office ransacked  
Narayanganj AL declares Khaleda persona non grata

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, July 22: Local Awami League has declared the Leader of the Opposition Khaleda Zia *persona non grata* in the town.

This was announced by AKM Shamim Osman, MP, at a rally at Diamond Hall Square in the town today.

Narayanganj district and city units of Awami League jointly organised the rally to protest against the life of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Kotalipara in Gopalganj and killing of six BCL activists in Chittagong.

After the rally, the AL activists ransacked the city and district BNP offices in Mandala para and Diamond Hall areas.

They also set fire to the portraits of Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda.

The city BNP leader Abdul Majid blamed the ruling party cadres for the attack.

He said, the local AL cadres led by BCL leader Abu Sayem Mithu ransacked the BNP offices.

**DSE price index dips below 600 pts**

By M Shamsur Rahman

The Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) price index yesterday dipped below 600 points, a level it crossed on July 5 after long 20 months.

They said the pressure is too much for the market to absorb in the absence of institutional investors like the mutual funds.

However, the institutional investors said they are shaky to invest in the market due to massive price fall.

Market operators attributed

the fall to retail sale which forced the price index to shed 33.24 points.

They said the pressure is too much for the market to absorb in the absence of institutional investors like the mutual funds.

Meanwhile, police have been

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## Clarification

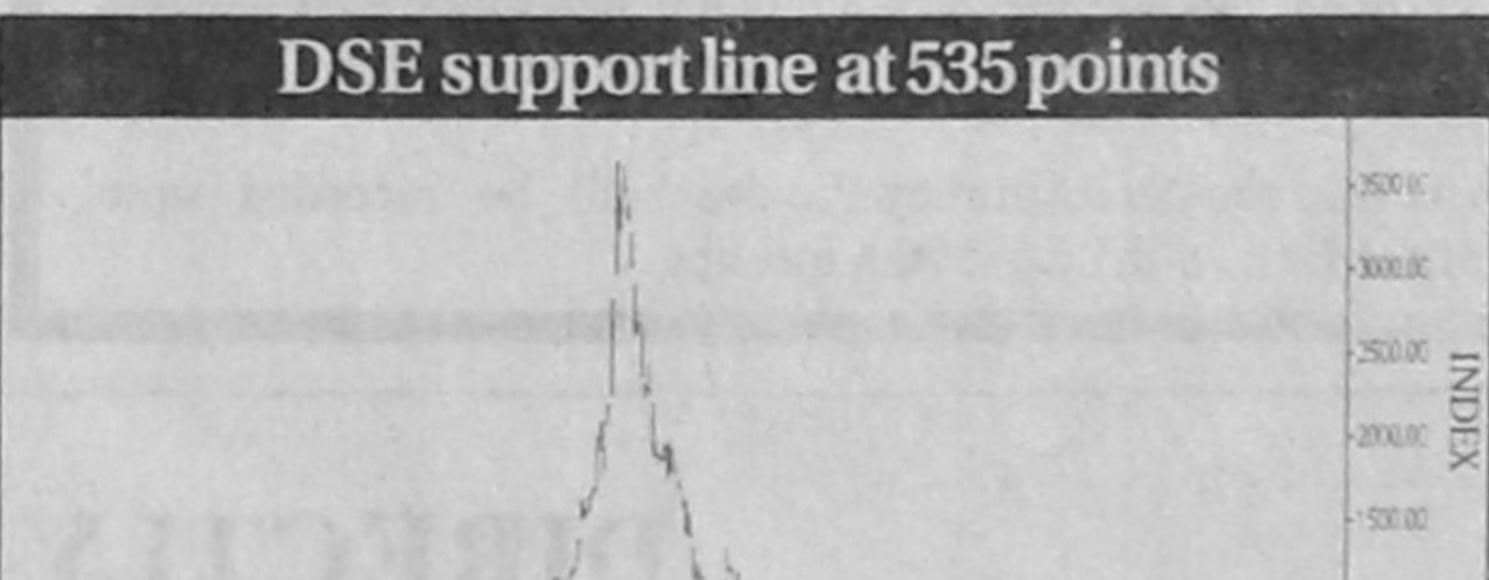
The Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR) has issued a clarification on a Daily Star report that the government laboratory is using date-expired reagents for testing dengue virus.

The report headlined "Govt Lab using date-expired reagents for dengue tests" was published on July 19.

The clarification signed by

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### DSE support line at 535 points



By Sharier Khan

The project site cropped up in December last year when AES declined to take over the land from PDB on the ground that it was poorly developed. PDB said in January this year that the site was ready for handing over.

However, after the May agreement, PDB took initiative for registration of the LLA which is required for the transfer.

PDB obtained tax exemption from the National Board of Revenue (NBR) for the 100-hectare site for the Meghnaghat power plant, the PDB could not get the Land Lease Agreement (LLA) registered.

However, the sources said registration and handing over of the LLA would be done this week. All procedures for the registration are now complete, one source said.

As per the agreement between AES and PDB signed on May 25, the LLA was supposed to be registered by June 25. Once the LLA is registered, AES would take over the site. But PDB could not get it registered due to its inefficiency, sources said.

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