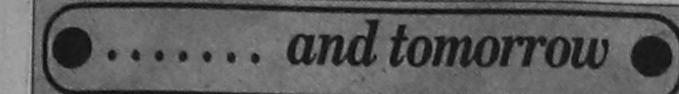
# What's on today . . . .

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Shapmochan starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6-15

Seminar: Bangladesh Science Development Association will organise a seminar on "Importance of Information in R&D Activities in Science and Technology". Chief guest: Science and Technology Minister M Noor Uddin Khan. Venue: Auditorium of Bangladesh Council for Scientific and Industrial Research."



Inauguration: Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd will inaugurate its 111th branch. Venue: 40, Dilkusha Commercial Area. Time: 10:00 am.

Uttam Kumar Retrospective: Zahir Raihan Film Society will screen Sabar Upare starring Uttam Kumar and Suchitra Sen. Venue: Auditorium of Indian High Commission, House No 25, Rd No 2, Dhanmondi R/A. Time: 6:15



## Light rain likely

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at many places over Chittagong Barisal and Sylhet divisions and a few places over Rajshahi Dhaka and Khulna divisions during next 12 hours till 6 pm to day, reports UNB.

Moderately heavy to heavy falls at one or two places over Chittagong. Barisal and Sylhet divisions is also likely during the period. Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country, Met office said.

The country's highest temperature recorded yesterday was 33.6 degree Celsius at Syedpur and the lowest 24.6 degrees at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital today at 6.28 pm and rises to mor row at 5.36 am.

Maximum and minimum temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were: City/Town Temperature in Humidity in

	Celsius		percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	32.2	27.0	83	71
Chittagong	33.5	25.0	71	81
Rajshahi	32.7	26.2 .	88	81
Khulna	33.4	25.6	81	78
Barisal	32.4	26.4	95	83
Sylhet	30.6	24.7	100	79
Cox's Bazar	33.0	25.6	71	85

## HERE and THERE

IEB procession

By Staff Correspondent

Engineers' Institute, Bangladesh (IEB) yesterday brought out a Dengue awareness procession' in the city. The procession started from Ramna premises at 10.30 pm. IEB leaders addressed a brief rally in front of The National Press Club. Later IEB organised a mosquito control operation

Kataban, Hatirpool, Eastern Plaza area and Bangla Motor. IEB also published a pamphlet to create mass awareness about different categories and

using fogging machines in some

parts of the city, including

origin of Dengue. Krishak League

Speakers at a discussion yesterday demanded immediate execution of the verdict of the Bangabandhu Murder Case and urged people to be vigilant against any evil design similar

to that of 1975, reports BSS.

The speakers at the discussion, organised by Bangladesh Krishak League in observance of the National Mourning Day, also criticised the filing of a contempt case against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

upon the people to be cautious Kabir Babul of Daily Prabhat, against repetition of any con- Dulal Uddin of Ajker Darpan spiracy and murder. Water Resource Minister Banglar Bani.

guest on the occasion while Agriculture Minister Motia Chowdhury was the main speaker.

Abdur Razzak was the chief

#### Gazipur Press Club executives

GAZIPUR, Aug 19: Lutfor Rahman, district correspondent of the Daily Khabar and Prof Enamul Haque, Editor of the Weekly Gazipur Sangbad, have been elected president and general secretary of Gazipur Press Club respectively, reports

The election of the press club was held today.

Other office-bearers are: Senior vice-president - M A Feroze of Ajker Awaz, vicepresident - Abdus Samad of Inqilab, joint secretary ---Mahatabuddin of Daily Rupali, organizing secretary - M Nasimuddin of Sabuj Bangla, sports and cultural secretary -Amzad Hossain Mukul of Banglar Gourab, finance secretary - Syed Liton of Bhorer Kagaj, office secretary - Hasmat Ali of Satyachar, publicity secretary - M Moniruzzaman of Daily Nobachetona and members - M Masudul Haque of Prothom Alo, Haibur Rahman of The speakers also called Gazipur Sangbad, Humaun and Symal Kanti Nag of

# Rival lawyers' meeting

From page 1 Shahidul Karim Siddique earlier, also sought a general meeting of SCBA today. It has not yet

been convened, sources said. eight members of the SCBA Executive Committee, replying to their allegation of violation of the SCBA constitution. He also criticised Barrister Mainul Hosein for filing the petition on behalf of SCBA, saying that only the secretary was authorised to handle such matters, the sources said.

The contents of the letter could not be known. But Mainul denied it, saying

that he was authorised by the constitution as well as by the SCBA EC at its meeting after the secretary backed out from a previous decision to file the pe-

scheduled today against the backdrop of such a situation. SCBA, the sources said.

lawyers belonging to the pro-Parishad are likely file a separate contempt petition with the High Court against the PM to-

Over 400 lawyers have signed a vokalatnama in this connection and more are expected to sign it, a press release of the Parishad said.

The Parishad also supported filing of the contempt petition by Mainul. The SCBA President had no alternative but to file the petition as appeals to her to withdraw her comments and issue a statement did not produce

Hearing on admissibility of the Mainul's petition will take place tomorrow

The statement was signed by, among others. Khandaker Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Barrister Maudud Ahmed, Barrister Siddique has sent a letter to Najmul Huda, Khadaker Mahbub Hossain, M. Nawab Ali, Sheikh Ansar Ali, Kazi Firoje Rashid, Nurul Huq Majumder, Barrister Aminul Hug. Barrister Rafiqul Islam Mia, Barrister Abdur Razzaq. Lutfe Alam, and Barrsiter Mahbubuddin Kho-

followed its meeting vesterday.

#### Khaleda convenes meeting of opposition MPs

Opposition leader Khaleda Zia yesterday requested the opposition MPs to be present at 29 Minto Road at 9 am on Monday. The requisition meeting is said a party press release, reports UNB

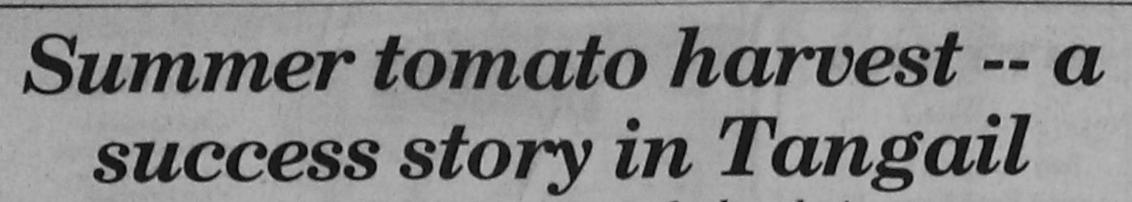
The press release did not give heightening fear of a split in the any reason for the meeting. A front ranking BNP leader, how-In another development, 643 ever, indicated that the legal experts of the party would be pposition Ainjibi Oikkyo assigned at the meeting to file contempt petition against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

## Ershad begins tour of Rangpur

Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad begins a four-day organisational tour of Rangpur today. reports UNB.

During the tour, he will address workers' and public meetings in Rangpur Sadar, Kaunia, Peerganj. Badarganj and Gangachara upazilas.

He will return Dhaka on Wednesday, a party press re-The Parishad's statement lease said yesterday.



BARI-BARC project helps bring new vegetable varieties home By Abul Kalam Azad, back from Tangail

Farmers in our country will now be able to cultivate tomatoes even in summer following the successful harvest of some new varieties in Tangail district

recently. The local varieties of tomato are commonly grown in winter. The farmers of Sadar, Kalihati and Bhuapur thanas of Tangail district are growing the summer variety of tomato and earning profits by selling it in local markets. They are selling one kg tomato at Tk 20 to 25.

The successful harvest of these new varieties has been possible due to a project of Asian Vegetable Research Development Centre (AVRDC), a Taiwan-based international organisation, working on ensuring world's food security through research, development and training.

AVRDC began the project in the country in collaboration with Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) and Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) in March 1999. Funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the project is being implemented through a local NGO named Society for Social Service (SSS).

The project titled "Introduction and Development of Adaptive Technologies for Sustainable Year-round Vegetable Production and Consumption in Bangladesh" is now active in 49 thanas of 34 districts of the country.

During a visit to some farm projects on Thursday, it was found that the local people and farmers are very enthusiastic about the summer variety.

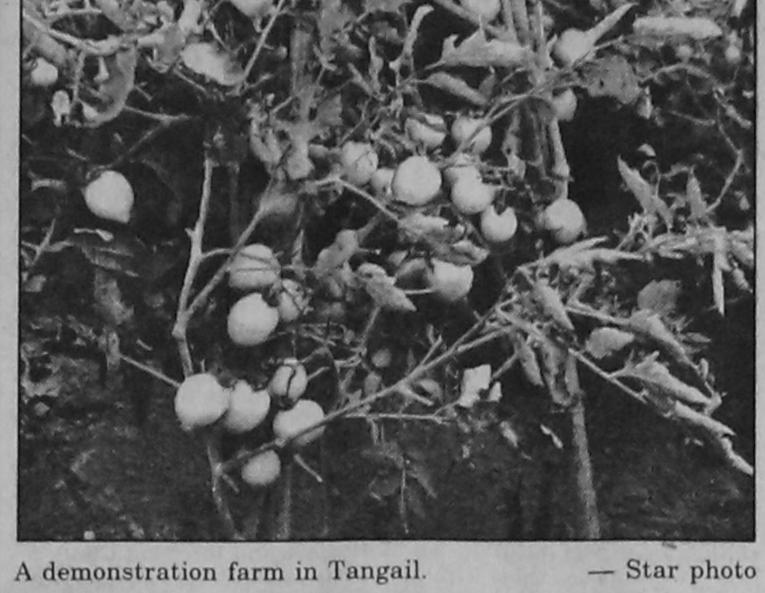
The cultivation is at present enough to only meet local needs but can easily fulfil country wide demands if cultivated on commercial scales, project sources said Abdur Razzak, who has cul

tivated two different varieties of summer tomato on his 20 decimal land in Kagmari village of Sadar thana is very pleased with the production. So far I have sold 100 kg of tomato at the price Tk 20 to 30 for each kilo," the farmer said adding that he has spent Tk 1,500 per decimal land. "A farmer can earn Tk 3,500 net income by growing summer

tomato on only one decimal of land," said Dr Mostak Ahmed of BARI who accompanied the journalists during the trip. "The maximum production of tomato per decimal land is about 125-kg." The number of demonstration projects in the current

summer season is 195. There

are also three pilot projects.



crops and transferring technologies to the farmers. It is also supplying seeds among the farmers free of cost and helping them to prepare their lands for cropping the new varieties of vegetables such as tomato, yard-long bean and okra.

Sources said AVRDC is now willing to continue its collaborative activities for another five-year phase considering the significant achievement of the present project. But other sources said that the project is likely to be closed next month as the major donor USAID is likely to withdraw its support.

The project has provided about 320 germplasm of 54 different vegetable crops which enabled BARI to release 25 promising varieties of different vegetable crops including tomato, brinjal, radish, cabbage, Chinese cabbage, cauliflower, okra, garden pea, hyacinth bean, bush bean, red amaranth, coriander, onion and mungbean.

tomato varieties, three mungbean varieties with the technical assistance and germplasm tion of high value vegetable provided by the project.

etable market in Bangladesh, new type of crops have been in troduced. These include long melon, musk melon, bell pep-

spinach and mustard greens. and 91,400 homesteads were BARI is conducting research in 1999 when about 7,292 on - USAID.

From page 1

Prime Minister Dr S A Samad,

ERD Secretary Moshiur Rah-

man and Press Secretary to the

Prime Minister Jawadul Karim

led by Sheikh Hasina included

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad

Azad, Finance Minister SAMS

Kibria, State Minister for Ffor-

eign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowd-

hury and the four officials who

Yoshiro Mori included the Cabi-

net Secretary, Ambassador in

Bangladesh Kazuyosi Urabe

the talks, Tokyo agreed to pro-

vide assistance for Rupsha

ral Infrastructure, Kaptai Hy-

and Rural Electrification pro-

jects and for supply of sports

Bangladesh a 'close friend and

ally'. Bangladesh reciprocated

the sentiments and said it con-

sidered Japan as "a trusted

friend" and reminded that it

was the largest bilateral donor

sue of Japanese assistance for

Padma Bridge, Eastern Bypass

and Ganges Barrage. The

Japanese side said it would ac-

tively consider funding those af-

ter the feasibility reports were

a spokesman of the Japanese

government said. "It is being

debated within your water

mangement plan. Your policy

should be decided first before

side told them it may relocate

some sunset industries to

Bangladesh. Responding to a

question, a Bangladesh official

said the KAFCO issue was not

praised Bangladesh for its ini-

tiative to develop regional coop-

eration, particularly within the

framework of SAARC. He

lauded Sheikh Hasina's initiative

for peace and stability in South

Asia following nuclear detona-

Dhaka's signing of the CTBT,

Anti-landmine Treaty and being

a signatory to a treaty banning

Regarding Japan's Perma-

nent membership in the ex-

Tokyo also appreciated

tions by India and Pakistan.

chemical weapons.

UN Reform

The Japanese Prime Minister

Dhaka said the Japanese

Regarding Ganges barrage,

Sheikh Hasina raised the is-

and development partner.

found okay.

The two sides concentrated,

Bridge, Greater Faridpur Ru-

Both the sides said that at

briefed the press.

briefed the press.

and senior officials.

Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami

Principal Secretary to the

works on different types of farm demonstrations of vegetable varieties and technologies were implemented in three separate seasons.

The report also said that some 68,700 vegetable farmers were benefited by the on-farm demonstrations and homestead activities in 45 thanas since the inception of the project.

"The poor and marginal farmers are most benefited from the year-round gardening and it also has helped improve their family nutrition through increased consumption of veg. etables at rural households, as well as from additional income earned from sale of these veg etables," said Dr Mustak Ahmed.

He said "The field perfor. mance of the technologies un. der the vegetable demonstration by the farmers are inspiring others to use the technol

Abdul Hamid Bhuiyan, Executive Director of Society for Social Service (SSS) said It also released two summer "This benefits the farmers not only in increasing their income through commercial cultivacrops round the year but also To bring diversity to the veg- helps improve nutrition of the huge malnourished commu

He said farmers are becom ing more confident and profiper, baby corn, bush bean, gar- cient with growing these variden pea, broccoli, Indian eties following the successful implementation of the project. A project report said about Charles Urhaus, Office of 28171 on-farm demonstrations Economic Growths, Food and Environment, USAID said he laid out under the project was very pleased to see the disthrough various NGOs and BARI semination of commercially atresearch stations over the past tractive technologies that have one year. "A major thrust on been developed through collabtechnology transfer was made oration of BARC, BARI and

# Talks: Japan may help



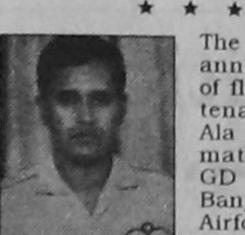
### Death anniversary of Salam Talukder today

By Staff Correspondent The first death anniversary of Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder, a former minister and secretary general of BNP. will be observed to day.

Barrister Abdus Salam dro Electric Power Expansion Talukder Memorial Council and his family have drawn up elaborate programmes to mark the day.

A milad mahfil will be held on strengthening bilateral ties at at DOHS Community Centre all levels and Japan termed after Asr prayers today.

A discussion meeting will be held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium on August 23. Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Prof AQB Badruddoza Chowdhury will be present as chief guest while former vice-chancellor of Dhaka University Prof Emazuddin Ahmed will preside over the meeting, says a press



The 4th death anniversary of flight lieu tenant Abul Ala Md Rahmatul Bari, GD pilot of you seek support." Airforce will

be observed today in Chittagong at his family residence at 74, Cosmopolitan R/A., East Nasirabad at Chittagong, says a raised by any side. press release. Quran khwani and doa mah-

fil will be held to mark the day.

#### JP appointment Jatiya Party chairman HM

Ershad has made Dr Azizur Rahman his adviser, relieving him of the post as vice-chair man of the party, reports UNB. Brigadier (retd) Kazi Mahmud Hassan has replaced Dr Rahman as vice-chairman, said a press release.

panded Security Council, the spokesman of the Japanese government said that Bangladesh reiterated its sup-

When asked on the issue, Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami said, "There was no specific re-At the talks, the home side quest from Japan as regards Permament Seat. Both sides exchanged ideas and agreed on expansion of the Security Council and the need for reform. They also felt that there should be equitable representation of both developing and de-The Japanese side led by veloped countries in the expanded Security Council.

IT and Gas Japan informed that it has established a fund of 15 billion dollars for IT Development and Bangladesh could have access to the fund. Japan also expressed its support for a seminar on investment in natural gas to be held in Tokyo this

Asked if Japan would invest in gas sector in Bangladesh The Japanese spokesman said "A decision can only be taken after the outcome of the semi-

Mori pointed out that Japan succeeded in reflecting the ideas and views of other Asian countries during the G-8 summit, G-8 also agreed on stronger measures against infectious diseases. He expressed his willingness to extend assistance to Bangladesh in these areas.

#### BCL protests filing of contempt case against Sheikh Hasina By DU Correspondent

Ruling party backed student organisation Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) yesterday brought out a procession on the Dhaka University campus to protest the filing of a contempt case against Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and demanding arrest of Barrister Moinul

Hossain. BCL also held a rally in front of DUCSU building on the cam-

Addressing the rally, BCL leaders said that the student community will not tolerate the move, "lodged as part of a political conspiracy. "Barrister Moinul Hossain

is trying to save Bangabandhu's killers, the same thing he did earlier after the August 15 killings in 1975 when he had patronised the killers politically by forming an organisa tion titled 'PROGOS," they said.

DU Senate election

## 74 teachers submit nomination

papers A total of 74 teachers of Dhaka University submitted nomination papers yesterday to contest the election to the 35 teachers' representative posts in the university Senate, reports UNB.

Of the total, 37 candidates are from Pro-Awami blue panel while 37 others from BNP backed white panel, sources said. Yesterday was the last day for submitting nomination pa-

The last date for withdrawing candidature is August 21 while the election is scheduled for August 30. DU Treasurer Prof Abul

Hashem will conduct the election as election commissioner. Left-leaning pink panel is not contesting the election, the DU teachers will elect their rep-

resentatives to the Senate for a three-year term. Pink panel leader Prof Kazi Nurul Islam told UNB that the teachers' politics in Dhaka University has been polarised like national politics.

"We do not want such politics where DU teachers would seek votes from their colleagues going door to door like union parishad election," he said explaining the reason for boycotting the election.

The elected Senate members along with other members will choose a new VC for the university from a panel as the tenure of incumbent VC Prof AK Azad Chowdhury expires September 29.

### Personal paper

From page 1

Subordinate officials have already been asked to prepare a paper for the seminar in US. sources said.

Foreign trips of top govern ment officials, especially those at the Secreteriate, are frequent now. Invitations or offers of foreign trips are generally shared by top officials of the government, the sources said.

In almost every case it is a 'common practice' that lower level officials are 'mobilised' to write the papers and arrange visa, air ticket, foreign currency, access to VIP or VVIP lounge at the airport and even to escort these officials to and from the airport without any customs checking, a source in the Establishment Ministry

"There are many top government officials who stay in Europe and America for several months a year and many others who are always on the move to attend seminars and workshops abroad," he said.

"As per law, it is illegal to use office facilities for personal gain, but can a junior officer say 'no' to his boss? He is, in fact, 'pleased' to serve his boss, knowing very well that if the boss is happy he has no problem in the office," said the offi

" But all these people are for getting one simple thing that they are wasting office hours, for which they are paid from the public exchequer," he said requesting anonymity.

### Package

From page 1

The prime minister noted that Japanese are one of the first nations to visualise the endless possibilities that could result from a fusion of communications and computer technologies.

She lauded creativity, discipline and dedication of Japanese people that enabled that country to attain spectacular economic development.

Focusing on her government's achievements, Hasina said since assuming power in 1996, it has been working hard to bring back the nation to the path of democracy and economic emancipation.

Following its pragmatic measures, the per capita income has increased to US dollars 386, literacy rate to 62 per cent while poverty level declined to 44 per cent.

Appreciating Japan's commitment to global peace, she said both Dhaka and Tokyo have a common stake in peace, progress and stability in Asia and the world at large. This is a commitment we deeply share <sup>o</sup> We also share with Japan a desire for a harmonious international code.

#### Navy

rents were much over two

From page 12

RTR state television, reporting from a rescue ship, said the currents were still strong at depth and had hindered Russian rescue efforts. The sea was calm, with only a ripple of Many of the wives and

mothers of the men on board the Kursk have gathered in northern Russia, waiting anxiously for news. In Moscow, Patriarch Alexiy

Il offered his prayers for the crew at the Cathedral of Christ the Saviour. Interfax news agency said Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov and Prime Minister Mikhail Kasyanov had joined him and over 10,000 Mus-

The commander of the

Northern Fleet, Vyacheslav Popov, said on Friday the sub had been crippled by an explosion which could have been caused either by a collision or a blast inside. His comments appeared to reconcile the insistence of other

Russian officials that the dam-

age was caused by a collision

and Western intelligence re-

ports of explosions.

## Deeba never returned

From page 1 According to the autopsy report, Deeba suffered a fatal injury on her neck. Some one tried to pour poison into her mouth 'to make her death look like suicide'. Traces of poison were found in her mouth and throat but not in her stomach. The poison was administered after she had been killed,

The case was handed over to the CID amid pressure from various organisations to find out the killers. About five years have passed, but like numerous other unresolved murder cases. "Deeba Murder Case" remains shelved. And the CID investigators, headed by Abul Kahhar Akhand, are yet to make any headway in the case. Akhand told The Daily Star

that all evidences including the autopsy report suggested that Deeba was murdered but they could not find any 'clue' to the murder. CID investigators interrogated a large number of people but to no effect. Things were too difficult since there was no specific allegation against any one and the case had to be 'closed', he said.

"It does not mean further investigation will not be made. If from the thana files. we get a new clue, we will reopen the case," said the CID official.

An investigation by The Daily Star however found some known as Karnapara Bridge, cry for justice.

near the Bank Para area in Savar. Under the same bridge, another young woman's body was found sometime in the same year. She was a relative of a top leader of a left leaning political party. The Victim's family is still living in fear and prefers not to talk about it.

Investigation also revealed that a young daughter of a woman Ward Commissioner in Rayer Bazar area of the city escaped from the grip of her abductors in the same year. She was abducted from a road at Dhanmondi and taken to Karnapara area in Savar. But she managed to flee from a room where she was confined 'near an abandoned brickfield'.

Sources concerned said her family eventually found out that the gang was operating from a house at Zigatola and was led by an 'influential leader's son'. Fearing reprisal, the family did not pursue the matter any more.

When this correspondent went to Mohammadpur thana to have a copy of the General Diary lodged by Deeba's father, police failed to find any trace of it. The GD had simply vanished

While the investigators fail to unearth the mystery behind these horrific crimes and book the criminals, the aggrieved clues. The bridge under which families and relatives of the Deeba's body was found is victims silently shed tears and

She requested the Japanese

PM to send a large number of

election observers to monitor

next general national polls well

and his government is fully

aware of Bangladesh's political

situation and hoped that the

country would continue its

struggle to establish democracy.

in Bangladesh, he said, there is

no alternative to a free, fair

election. The Japanese PM said

the role of Khaleda Zia in the

transition to parliamentary

system of democracy is highly

appreciated and the achieve-

ment would be considered as a

ple like Khaleda very much and

consider her as one of their

closest friends. He said the peo-

ple of Japan closely watched the

Mori said the Japanese peo-

For establishing democracy

Prime Minister Mori said he

## Khaleda urges Mori always stick to the path of peace

and stability.

milestone.

ahead of the voting.

From page 1 the sunset industries in Bangladesh and increased Japanese investment for the benefit of the two countries.

She said there are a large number of skilled workers in Bangladesh and the Japan can help enhance the skills and productivity of the workers by setting up industries in Bangladesh and by importing manpower from here, too. The BNP chairperson, re-

calling the contribution of Japanese assistance in different sectors since the independence, said BNP when in power tried to reduce dependence on foreign aid and make Bangladesh self-reliant. She said it will continue to pursue the policy if voted to power. Morshed Khan said the

Japanese premier showed keen

interest about the proposals

made by Khaleda Zia and assured her of looking into the matters, especially the one concerning development of infrastructure, with utmost impor-During the meeting, the op-

position leader also apprised try's political situation.

the Japanese PM of the coun-The opposition leader said that her party had introduced multi-party democracy and parliamentary system and is

now striving to give democracy

a firm footing. Khaleda said

BNP will try its best for ensur-

ing a free and fair parliamen-

tary polls in the country and

developments in Bangladesh and roles of late President Ziaur Rahman and Khaleda Zia Khaleda said the "highly important" visit of Mori will definitely go a long way to boost

between the two countries. It Prof. AQM Badrudozza Chowdhury, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Khandaker Delwar Hossain, M Shamsul Islam, M Morshed Khan and MM Rezaul Karim of BNP and four MPs and high officials from Japan attended the meeting.

relations and understanding

# Gas price hike

From page 1

tariff once again, he added. Chairman The Bangladesh Chemical Corporation (BCIC) said cost of fertiliser production will increase but there has not yet been any indication from the government that fertiliser price

will be raised. "It will depend on the government's decision whether it will increase fertiliser price or give more subsidy," he said.

A leading economist noted, There is a need for adjustment, But this hike is self-defeating because reforms in the gas sector were not taken in to consid-

"There is private sector participation at the upstream (exploration and production) now but no reform at the down stream (distribution). Such price adjustment works when there are other measures, which the government has not taken, he added.

The economist said gas price should not be fixed on the basis of international prices because it is not a globally traded commodity. Besides, when the price is enhanced on the ground that many other countries have higher tariff structures, the government does not consider the disadvantages it causes to the people.

more subsidy on power and fertiliser, he said, gas price rise triggers a chain reaction involving many sectors and subsectors, but there is no method to consider this while giving "There is a limit to give sub -

Regarding possibilities of

sidy. The country must be able to bear it. With a poor revenue collection situation now, it will have negative impact," he ob-

He said fertiliser price will ultimately go up. If the rice price is not adjusted accordingly, the situation will worsen, he maintained. "In the last two months,

there were only price-related adjustments but no other action by the government. It will dampen demands," the economist said. The Power Development

Board (PDB) never earned any

profit from power sale due to inconsistencies in the tariff structure, among other reasons. Till recently, the sale price of PDB's per unit power remained at least 20 paisa less than the production cost of Tk 2.4 (including transmission cost). Two months ago, the power tariff was increased to Tk 2.45 per unit as per an ADB prescribed formula.

PDB owes Petrobangla over Tk 400 crore for purchase of gas. Enhanced gas price will only increase its burden. sources observed. On the other hand, enhanced

power tariff never benefited PDB as its outstanding bills with DESA - the biggest defaulter- crossed Tk 3000 crore. This is increasing. For DESA, enhanced power tariff means more theft of power. Fertiliser prise, which is a

ment, was increased by more than Tk 1000 per tonne in June The cost of production of 'dust urea' is about Tk 5.500 and granular urea Tk 5700 per tonne. However, the govern-

ment is selling both the items at

Tk 5300 per tonne.

sensitive issue for any govern-

# Policeman, 2 others

Three people including a policeman were shot in separate incidents in the city yesterday. police and hospital sources The policeman, identified as

SI Atiar Rahman, 35, was hit by

bullet when he along with one of the sons of his colleague went to a photo studio at Tikatuli in the city at about I pm yesterday. Miscreants of the area came to the studio during that time to collect toll earlier demanded from its owner, police said

adding that they thought Atiar was brought there to counter The gang left the place firing shots and one of the stray bullets hit Atiar in his leg. Atiar was rushed to the Orthopaedic

Hospital in the city. No case was filed and none was arrested till filing this report last night. In another incident at Gopibagh 6th Lane two persons including a woman were hit by

bullets, said police and hospital sources. Hena Akhter, 35, wife of Kabir Hossain, a resident of Gopibagh 6th lane and Sobhan, 25, a passerby were hit by bullet during crossfire between two rival groups of miscreants of the

The rival groups were clashing over taking possession of a makeshift market near the rail line at Gopibagh at about 2:30 pm, police said quoting witnesses

# shot in city By Staff Correspondent