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## Hasan Mashud made new army chief

M ANWARUL HAQ

The government has appointed Major General Hasan Mashud Chowdhury, now ambassador to the United Arab Emirates (UAE), as the new Chief of Army Staff (COAS) with effect from June 16.

The new chief has been given a three-year term and will be promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General from the day of appointment, sources said.

Meanwhile Lt. Gen. Harun-ar-Rashid, Bir Pratik, the incumbent army chief, goes into retirement the same day. The government has decided to send him into early retirement although he was appointed for a three-year tenure by SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## TUs still rule Titas

### Fresh clash over control of union office

ZAYADUL AHSAN

Two BNP-backed trade unions of the Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited yesterday clashed over control of the union office.

On May 16, in the wake of widespread criticism against the unions' misdeeds, union leaders agreed to refrain for three months from all non-union activities like interfering in the administration and upsetting the company's environment.

Meter readers-cum-unionists are draining out as much as Tk 200 crore in revenues from gas sales a year, fronting it as systems loss.

Yesterday's clashes were just a manifestation of the continued misdeeds by the unions.

A top Titas official said, "Two BNP-backed unions went to occupy the union office room and fought with each other (yesterday). I'm now sure that there will be bloodshed in Titas in a few days if things go on this way."

On condition that he not be named, the official blasted State Minister for Energy Mosharraf Hossain for publicly patronising union leaders and humiliating officials, calling them corrupt at the same time. High officials are ready to resign if the state minister can prove it, said the high official.

Jatiyatabadi Sramik Dal President and Food Minister Abdullah Al-Noman had assured on May 16 that the three ruling party-backed unions affiliated with the Sramik Dal would be merged into one. However, no such move is on the horizon.

The Sramik Dal chief did not officially inform the Titas management about the three-month restriction. "Officially, we are not aware of the restriction," the Titas official said.

Meanwhile, the Habib-Shahnoor-led union under the banner of Jatiyatabadi Sramik Karmachari Union continues to hamper normal functions of Titas. The SEE PAGE 11 COL 1

## Meter reader Mahub blessed by minister

ZAYADUL AHSAN

One and a half months after facing specific corruption charges, the ruling BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Sramik Karmachari Union leader of Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Company Limited and millionaire meter reader Mahubur Rahman is yet to face action.

Sources said Mahub remains untouched and unquestioned thanks to his political connections. The authorities have not even served a show-cause notice on him.

On the contrary, State Minister for SEE PAGE 11 COL 1



No French connection...Danish keeper Thomas Sorensen is first to the ball against a French quadruple of David Trezeguet (L), Zinedine Zidane (2nd/L), Djibril Cisse (3rd/L) and Sylvain Wiltord (R) yesterday at the Incheon Munhak Stadium.

## Taxes, other issues AL calls hartal on June 15

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Opposition Awami League (AL) has called a dawn-to-dusk countrywide hartal on June 15 protesting 'massive' taxes on the poor in the proposed budget, political persecution and attacks on opposition activists and other issues.

The other issues include what it called harassment of people by BDR in the name of raid on terrorists and recent killing of a female student of BUET on its campus.

The hartal will be preceded by a series of programmes including country-wide demonstrations and rallies on June 13 and 14.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## AL decides to join House

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The long-standing political stand off seems to have an end as the main opposition party Awami League has decided in principle to join parliamentary proceedings.

The AL after its Central Working Committee meeting last night gave a clear indication that it would join parliament session. But it did not say how and when it will join parliament session.

"We will decide it shortly at a joint meeting of the (AL) Parliamentary Party and the Central Working Committee," AL chief Sheikh Hasina told newsmen last night after the CWC meeting.

Hasina who presided over the meeting did not mention when the

two bodies will have a joint meeting.

Sources in the AL said the meeting would take place between June 15 and 20 to decide how and when the party would go to parliament and chalk out its strategy in the House.

AL has been abstaining from attending sessions of the eighth parliament since it came into being, citing that the October general election was 'crudely rigged' and the party faced a landslide debacle due to this.

The immediate past ruling party bagged 62 parliamentary seats in the October 1 election.

Later, the party alleged that there was 'lack of a congenial atmosphere' to join parliament session as

SEE PAGE 11 COL 6

## BUET students' memo to PM

Body formed to probe killing of Sony

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Students of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) yesterday submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia to press home their five-point demands.

Meanwhile, the government on an instruction of the prime minister yesterday formed a three-member inquiry committee to determine the 'administrative responsibility' for the killing of Sabequn Nahar Sony, a BUET student, in crossfire on Saturday.

National University Vice-Chancellor Dr Abdul Momin Chowdhury is the chief of the probe body. Other members are Additional Secretary of the education ministry

Abdur Rashid Khan and Deputy Secretary Sheikh AK Motahar Hossain, said a press release. The committee will submit the report to the government within seven days.

In the memorandum, the students demanded expulsion of those responsible for the killing of Sony, immediate arrests and trial of them, resignations of the vice-chancellor and the director of the Students Welfare, security on the BUET campus and return of normalcy to the campus.

In the morning, agitating students brought out a procession from the Central Shaheed Minar and paraded to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

But police intercepted the pro-

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2

## Supplement

One page supplement on the 'National Day of Russian Federation' on page 17.

## Indifference to gangsterism led to BUET shootout

ABUL KALAM AZAD

The unbridled rise of a criminal group on the campus of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) has pushed the institution to the present explosive situation, say many students and teachers.

The indifference of the BUET authorities to taking action against Mokammel Hayat, nicknamed Muki, a JCD leader, for the last two years gave birth to the group consisting of some BUET students and activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) based in Lalbagh in the city.

But BUET Vice-Chancellor (VC) Prof. Nooruddin Ahmed said the authorities were not indifferent to the deteriorating law and order. In fact, the authorities were unaware of the violence simmering over bidding since the beginning of June.

"How can I know that Muki is leading a gang with firearms?" asked Prof. Nooruddin. "Moreover, it's not my responsibility to find out criminals and take action...it's a law enforcers' job."

Asked about Muki's involvement in Saturday's gunfight, the VC claimed that none of BUET students was involved in it. Last year, the university cancelled his SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

## German grit

AFP, Shizuoka

Three-time champions Germany eased into the second phase of the World Cup with a 2-0 victory over Cameroon here yesterday in a match, which produced an unwanted record number of bookings.

A clinical finish from Marco Bode and an almost-inevitable header from Miroslav Klose put the Germans through but the Group E match very nearly descended into farce as an ill-tempered encounter SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

# Forget France

REUTERS/AFP, Incheon

Holders France were dramatically dumped out of the World Cup here yesterday, making a humiliating early exit from the competition with the worst record of any defending champions in history.

France are suffering the acute embarrassment of becoming the first defending champions to be knocked out of the World Cup in the first round for 36 years.

After dominating world and European football for the last four

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7

## Grameen Match Report

## DHL Spec Report