

payee cheques.

personnel are paid.

According to sources, today's

payments will start at 9:00am and

continue until the 3,800 retired AJM

From tomorrow, 472 officials,

1,384 employees and 17,237 work-

ers will receive their gratuity and

other benefits. The amount of other

benefits would be disbursed on the

fied the workers into five categories

on the basis of their service period.

Workers serving for more than 25

years would get 13 per cent of their

years will get 18 per cent; from 15 to

20 years 22 per cent; from 10 to 15

years 27 per cent; and five to 10 will

get 29 per cent of their gratuity as

of mill No. 1 will get their money of gratuity and other benefits in two

separate cheques. Another 1,800

workers of the same mill will be

getting their payments on Tuesday

tee for the AJM at its meeting yester-

The golden handshake commit-

The workers of mill No. 2 would

till July 20 and the workers of mill

No. 3 would get paid between July

The committee yesterday also decided to clear all the payment of

the AJM officials and workers who

are on LPR on July 31. A committee

member told The Daily Star that the

number of such officials and work-

ers are not more than 100.

and the rest 1,200 on Wednesday.

Tomorrow around 1,800 workers

Workers serving for 20 to 25

The AJM authorities have classi-

basis of their service length.

gratuity as other benefits.

other benefits.

# Mirpur Road

duced in every route before stopping the movement of non-mechanised ransports through it.

Besides high officials of the DCC the meeting at Nagarbhaban was attended by representatives of the World Bank, Roads and Highways Division, Bangladesh Road Transport Corporation (BRTC) Bangladesh Road Transport Authority (BRTA), Rajdhani Unnayan Kartripakkha (RAJUK), Dhaka Transport Coordination Board (DTCB) and Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP).

# 9 Europeans hurt in grenade attack

in Pakistan representatives of the localities. The MPs and ward commissioners of the PESHAWAR, AFP areas concerned will be invited to the

> At least 12 people, including nine Europeans, suffered minor injuries in a grenade attack in Pakistan's North Western Frontier Province yesterday, police said.

The victims had stopped near an archaeological site in the district of Mansehra, 150 kilometres (93 miles) east of here, when an unidentified man lobbed a grenade at them, a police official told AFP.

The wounded were rushed to a local hospital released after treatment

"All the injured persons are out of danger." a doctor at the Mansehra District hospital told AFP. The victims included seven

Germans, one Austrian and a Slovak

national. A Pakistani national and two

Pakistani children were also injured.

Accused in Ratan Sen murder case held

### STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna An adequate number of motor-

Aminul Islam Shagar, 34, a listed criminal and chargesheeted accused in CPB leader Comrade Ratan Sen murder case was arrested at midnight on Friday.

### Acting on a tip-off, Khulna thana police led by SI Belal raided a house at Mirzapur road and arrested Shagar from there.

Six general diaries (GDs) were filed against Aminul Islam with Khulna thana in the last two months OC said.

Promotion of dy secys stayed for 3 months BSS, Dhaka

The High Court yesterday issued a rule asking the government to show cause within seven weeks why the promotion of 170 deputy secretaries to the post of joint secretary should

not be declared illegal. The court also asked the governch those promotions we effect would not be declared illegal It directed the government not to take further steps for promoting deputy secretaries to the post of joint secre-SRO/Notification for a period of three months. The court further ordered that the secret policy along with related documents should be produced before the court. A Division Bench comprising Justice Shah Abu Nayeem Mominui Rahman and Justice Mohammad Aravesuddin passed the order upon a writ petition moved before the court said a press release issued by the lawyers concerned.

# against SI of WEATHER TODAY Badda thana **COURT CORRESPONDENT**

# Thundershowers likely

UNB. Dhaka

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

Day temperature may remain nearly unchanged over the country during the period, Met Office said.

Yesterday's highest temperature of 36.6 degree Celsius was recorded at Jessore and the lowest of 21.6 degree Celsius at Sylhet.

The sun sets in the capital at 6.49 pm today and rises at 5:20 am tomorrow.

The highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

		,		
City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	33.3	25.8	80	74
Chittagong	30.4	27.0	79	66
Rajshahi	36.3	28.4	83	75
Khulna	35.0	28.5	88	80
Barisal	34.5	24.8	89	81
Sylhet	29.0	21.6	96	85
Cox's Bazar	33.3	27.2	86	95



## Film show

Zahir Raihan Film Society in cooperation with the High Commission of India will screen a film titled 'Tahader Katha' directed by Buddhadeb Dasgupta. Venue: High Commission of India Cultural Centre, Satmasjid Road. Time:

## Conference

The closing session of the conference on Wetlands: People, Land Water and Fish' will be held with Land Minister M Shamsul Islam as chief quest. Venue: IDB Bhaban, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Time: 4.00pm.

# Annual conference

the Officers' Club will be held. Venue: The annual conference of Bangladesh Officers' Club, Bailey Road. Time: After Society of Microbiologists will be held Magreb pravers. with Health and Family Welfare Minister Dr. Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain as Computer course chief guest. Venue: Department of A special computer course on Microbiology, Dhaka University. Time:

## Drama

9.00am

On the occasion of its 19th founding anniversary, Mohakal Natya Sampraday will stage a drama titled 'Sunai Koinyar Pala' directed by Humayun Kabir Himu. Venue: Guide House auditorium. Time: 7.00pm

### **Memorial meeting** Gono Sangskriti Front will hold a meeting

in memory of Nizamul Huq, a progressive cultural personality of sixties. Venue: 31/F, Topkhana Road. Time: 5.00pm.



# Film show

with the High Commission of India will screen a film titled ' Charachar' directed by Buddhadeb Dasgupta. Venue: High Commission of India Cultural Centre, Time: 6.30pm.

### Bridge tournament The monthly Pair Bridge Tournament of

till 7 pm yesterday. Earlier on Wednesday, PBCP cadres demanded toll of Tk 2 lakh from Milon. But he refused to give in to their demand

construction of a culvert.

## Multimedia, organised by the Institute of Computer Communication and Technology (ICCT), will begin. Venue: House-28/1, Road-6, Dhanmondi.

day.

nvestigation.

this to anyone.

plainant added.

directed the officer-in-charge (OC)

of Badda thana to take legal action

against the accused after proper

The victim. Mosammat Lovely

Akhter of South Badda, complained

to the court that at about 10:30 pm

on June 26, Nuruzzaman entered

her residence. He raped her and

also threatened her not to disclose

complainant said, she screamed for

help. At this, Abdus Samad, a neigh-

bour, rushed there. But the SI sent

message to the thana to send a

police team to the spot. On arrival

there, the police team arrested her

and Abdus Samad and filed a cheat-

ing case against them, the com-

**PBCP** cadres

abduct engr

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna

Armed cadres of Purbo Banglar

Communist Party (PBCP) have

abducted Assistant Engineer of

Thursday evening in front of Hatiadanga Public School while

engineer Milon was supervising

and supervisor Rafiqul Islam Pachu,

34, were injured in an armed attack

Contractor Abdul Mannan, 40,

The incident took place on

in Khulna

But ignoring the threat, the

Inauguration The inaugural ceremony of two projects titled 'Bridging the Digital Divide' and 'Strengthening the Young Change Agents Network', organised jointly by the British Council and the Working For Better Life, will be held. Venue: British Council auditorium. Time: 10.00am

Zahir Raihan Film Society in cooperation

Koyra upazila

# Apparel exporters stage hunger strike today

UNB, Dhaka

am to 5 pm

deafears.

released.

ports. They will assemble in front of the BGMEA Building at Karwan Bazar to stage the hunger strike from 10

has remained suspended for years.

marched towards the Prime

Minister's Office to get the funds

Restriction on yarn import

through land port also came as a

blow to apparel manufacturers as

the seaport imports take time and

An FBCCI-brokered negotiation

Another association in textile

sector. BTMA. however. remains

21, of Rangunia and Shah Alam, 41,

Local people recovered two

other bodies from Dangerchar,

about 700 yards from the accident

spot. One of the bodies has been

identified as that of Choton

Chowdhury, but no details could be

known. The other body could not be

Police said bodies of the identi-

fied victims have been handed over

to their relatives and the unidentified

out of the agitation programme.

Bus plunge

of Pahartoli area in the city.

FROM PAGE 12

dentified

evening.

one is with them.

died in the accident.

for an amicable way out of the

extend their lead-time for exports.

mpasse has also failed.

**Settlement time** Rape case filed FROM PAGE 1 all their payments through account

However, the government has decided to disburse Tk 165 crore in provident funds during the second

week of August. A rape case against a sub-inspector Earlier, there was a plan to (SI) of the Badda Police Station in complete all sorts of payments for the city, -- Nuruzzaman -- was filed the AJM officials, employees and with the Chief Metropolitan workers within August 7. Magistrate's Court, Dhaka, yester-

Government officials said the initial plan has been changed in After hearing, Magistrate A K M order to complete the entire process Abdus Salam Miah took the 'complaint case' into cognizance and

of payments properly. State Minister for the Ministry of Industries Rezaul Karim said vesterday. "We have decided on it so that the audit is done correctly and any complaints regarding the payments can be reviewed during the first phase." He is the convenor of the golden handshake committee for the AJM.

The Bangladesh Jute Mills Corporation (BJMC) has already appointed six chartered accountant firms for the pre-audit of gratuity, provident fund and other benefits of the employees. The audit and payment of gratuity and other benefits would be done simultaneously. Authorities have decided to disburse the money for the provident fund after the audit is complete, the BJMC officials said.

day decided to stick lists containing Meanwhile, during the last two the names of the workers and the amount they would get at different days thousands of workers of the recently liquidated AJM have points of the AJM, a day before the returned to the mills premises for payment is made. Such a list of the their payments. Most of the workers first 1800 workers of mill No. 1 will left the Adamiee area after getting be stuck today. their wages for the last week of June start receiving payment from July 18

and a month's house rent on July 7. A cabinet committee meeting on June 24 decided to close down the AJM and put a cap on the huge losses the enterprise had been incurring each year. Its accumulated losses was no less than Tk 1,200 crore. Its current liabilities stand at Tk 750 crore

From today, all the AJM officials, employees and workers will receive

# New turn in politics

21 and 23.

## FROM PAGE 1

by PBCP cadres when they tried to the MP anticipatory bail and asked free engineer Milon from being to him to appear before the trial abducted. Police could not trace him court by July23.

Ali was later shifted to a hospital in the district headquarters as he fell sick at the jail

A report from Shariatpur said Ali was implicated in the case filed regarding the killing of one Kazi Delwar Hossain in a clash between his supporters and those of an independent candidate, Sultan Mahmud Simon, on August 29 last.

Another case was also filed accusing Simon and others of the killing. Both sides then claimed the dead to be their activist.

Owners of garment and knitwear industries will observe hunger strike Leader of the Opposition in the today as part of their ongoing agita-Jatiya Sangsad and AL President Sheikh Hasina slammed the govtion for release of pipelined cash incentive and allowing yarn import ernment for arresting her party through back-to-back L/Cs in land lawmaker 'without permission' of the Speaker.

At a hurriedly called press briefing at the party's Dhanmondi office in the evening, Hasina asked the

not take permission from the Speaker," she said, adding that the law restricts arrest of an MP without approval by the Speaker.

Hasina termed the arrest a fresh assault on the opposition that she alleged has been under continued repression by the coalition government of Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

Referring to her party's contact with acting Speaker Akhtar Hamid Siddiqui, the opposition leader said the Speaker did not know anything about the arrest made at a time when the government invited her party to sit for a dialogue aimed at resolving the political crisis.

"We received the report of arrest when I was meeting my senior colleagues in the party to discuss the matter (the government's fresh offer for a dialogue). Do they at all want us to be in the parliament? Hasina questioned.

She said the offer of talks was a deception. "It's has been a heinous act that an MP has been arrested while the parliament is in session

supposed to inform the Speaker after a member of parliament is arrested if the parliament is in session," he said, adding that a lawmaker has the immunity not to appear before a court when a parlia-

The committee yesterday also

When contacted, Jute Minister

decided to provide the workers with

transport facilities so that they could

Hafiz Uddin Ahmad told The Daily

Star that they have taken all prepa-

rations to clear the payment of the

officials, employees and workers of

According to him, the amount for

olden handshake would range

between Tk 20,000 and Tk 9.5 lakh

12 UPDF men

abducted in

OUR CORRESPONDENT,

Khagrachhari

Khagrachhari

Twelve supporters of the United

People's Democratic Front (UPDF)

have been abducted allegedly by

the activists of Parbatya Chattagram

Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS)

from five villages under Perachhara

Union of Khagrachhari district, said

Bimal Kanti Chakma, 40, Kujh Bihari

Chakma, 46, Neel Ranjan Chakma,

45, Kalabo Chakma, 38, Tukla

Chakma, 35, Kala Chakma, 37,

Anitya Lal Kheesa, 48, Gyanendu

Chakma, 30, Montu Gul Chakma,

40, Neel Purna Chakma, 50, Shakya

Kalpa Chakma, 25, and Bin Dhar

abducted on July 9, while the rest 11

were abducted yesterday (Satur-

Of them, Bin Dhar Tripura was

The abducted UPDF men are

a UPDF press release yesterday.

get with their money safely

the AJM properly.

per person.

FROM PAGE 1

Cantonment Sadar Road will remain

open from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm for light transports under the third diversion.

cerned will hold talks with the authori-

ties of Dhaka Cantonment so that

public transports can pass through

the cantonment area during peak

the temporary sufferings in public life

during the period of construction of

the fly-over," Sadek Hossain Khoka

Corridor, the mayor said it would

require some political involvement to

make the long route from Gabtali to

Azimpur free of non-mechanised

transports. "So we will talk to the elected

July 22 meeting where the date will be fixed for implementing the

Demonstration Corridor project," he

added. According to an official source, the DCC was under pressure

from the World Bank to implement

the Demonstration Corridor project

Dhaka city, six routes were selected

to make them free of non-

mechanised transports. However,

the route from Azimpur to Gabtali has

been selected for implementation

first. If this Demonstration Corridor

project comes out successful, other

routes will also be made free of non-

Gabtali-Kalabagan-Sonargaon Hotel

ntersection-Shahbagh-

Matsabhaban-Gulistan, (2) Mirpur 12-Rokeya Swarani-Taltala-

armgate-Sonargaon Hotel

Intersection-Shahbagh-Gulistan, (3)

New Airport Road-Mohakhali-

Farmgate, (4) Bangla Motor-Moghbazar-Mouchak, Kakrail-

Fakirerpool-Motijheel, and (5)

Progati Swarani-Rampura-

ised public transports, particularly

double-decker buses, will be intro-

The five other routes are: (1)

mechanised transports in phases.

To improve the traffic system in

from July 15.

Referring to the Demonstration

"We took the decisions in view of

hours from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm.

told the BSS after the meeting.

Moreover, the authorities con-

Referring to his talks with the acting Speaker, Chowdhury further told the BBC in the evening that latter was not informed about the

Terming the arrest a judicial matter, he said: "As far as I know, there was not any order by the government to arrest him (Ali)."

Asked about Hasina's demand tration."

the deputy commissioner of Natore, allegedly influenced by a deputy

Rule nisi on govt STAFF CORRESPONDENT A High Court Division bench vester-

Mouchak

day issued a rule nisi on the government as to why the order cancelling declaration of the Uttarbanga Barta would not be declared 'illegal and without any lawful authority'. The bench comprising Justices

Abu Naim Mominur Rahman and Md Arayes Uddin gave the ruling on a writ filed last Saturday by Advocate Hanif Ali Sheikh, editor and publisher of the newspaper.

The division bench also asked the government to reply within the next four weeks. MI Faruki, Sultana Nahar, Ruhul

Kuddus and Farida Akhtar moved the petition on Sheikh's behalf. On July 4, Sadar Uddin Ahmed,

ment to explain why the impugned SRO/Notification on the basis of tary of the basis of the said

Tripura, 27.

day) morning

ment session is ongoing.

arrest until then

for Ali's release, the PM's adviser said they were yet to know the details of the incident. "I myself is trying to contact the local adminis-

Meanwhile, the arrest has made the AL's return to parliament uncertain. The opposition party staged a stormy walkout from the parliament Thursday night protesting the Chair's 'biased' role. It later said it would not rejoin the House unless the Speaker allowed it to speak about issues of public concern.

# Arafat starts talks

### FROM PAGE 12

Israeli forces must be pulled back to the boundaries of September 2000, when the Palestinian uprising began. In an Associated Press interview

Friday at his headquarters in Ramallah, Arafat sidestepped Bush's demand for his removal

Without saying whether he would seek re-election in January, the 73year-old Palestinian leader said: "I have been elected by the people. I am not a coward. I am not ready to betray the people who elected me.

Bush said the international community will begin working with the United States next week on creating institutions necessary for a Palestinian state

Powell will talk about reforming Palestinian institutions during meetings Tuesday in New York with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, European Union diplomat Javier Solana and Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, State Department spokesman Richard

### Commercial wings FROM PAGE 12

cials in missions have a vital role to play, although export volumes rise on the basis of performance by the businessmen.

The ministry has fixed export targets for each mission abroad for the next financial year. It warned the commercial officials of being called back if the target is not achieved.

The government's total export target for the current fiscal year is fixed at US\$6.75 billion.

# 10 hurt as rival groups clash in Laxmipur

## BSS, Laximpur

A clash between two rival groups yesterday left at least 10 people injured, eight of them seriously, at village Char Pol Con in Ramgoti upazila of the district.

Police said the clash erupted as one of the groups resisted the other while cultivating on a disputed land.

Of the injured, Abdul Wadud, 70, Kohinur Begum, 40, Mohammad Hanif, 45, Rafiqul Islam, 35, Nur Nabi, 50, Mohammed Hossain, 40, Al Amin, 20, and Khurshed Alam, 20, were admitted to the Laxmipur Sadar Hospital

Boucher said

They'll be joined at a second session that day by foreign ministers Ahmed Maher of Egypt and arwan Muasher of Jordan. Egyptian, Jordanian and Saudi

ministers are expected to come to Washington next week for talks at the White House, according to administration and diplomatic sources. Bush said they'll be working step-by-step toward a Palestinian state.

### DESA FROM PAGE 1 But then, instead of publishing the

tender in newspapers, the DESA officials printed fake newspaper copies showing that the tender was printed. However, the Department of

Films and Publications (DFP) unearthed that the DFP reference number shown in the DESA tender notices was false. The DESA documents mentioned that the advertisements were published in The New

Nation, Dainik Rupali, Bhorer Kagoj and The Independent on various dates in 1998 bearing DFP No. 642-12/1. But the DFP said this advertisement number originally belong to a Forest Department notice published in Giri Darpan, Azadi, Bhorer Kagoj and Probhati BAC has alleged that the fake

tender was designed by these DESA officials to award the job to Masseurs SA Rahman, a contractor. The firm was awarded the con-

tract showing that it was the lowest bidder for the trollev-mounted substation at Tk 9.95 lakh. But DESA had estimated the price for each sub-station at Tk 6.69 lakh, 48 per cent lower than the purchase price. Had the bidding really taken

place, DESA would have gone for re-tendering the project because of higher than estimated price quoted by the firm. But DESA did not do so.

Those who have been accused in this case are Superintendent Engineer Ataul Masud, former another vehicle. general manager Abdul Hye, Member Abdul Mannan Mollah Deputy Director Jahangir Hossain factory, survivors said. Additional Chief Engineer ATM Faizul Karim, Executive Engineer Ataul Haq, Assistant Director Jashimuddin Ahmed, General Manager Biswas Harunur Rashid. former member (finance) Syed

Enamul Hag and the owner of M/S

SA Rahman, Syed Ataur Rahman.

authorities to release Ali before the parliament resumes its session this Three associations in apparel afternoon.

manufacturers and exporters --"We want to see him (Ali) in the BKMEA. BGMEA and BTTLMEA. parliament before tomorrow's and association of specialised (today's) sitting starts at 5.30pm. textile manufacturers -- BSTMPIA --Only then will we decide whether or announced the action plan on July 9 not to go back to the House." an as all their previous appeals "fell on angry Hasina told reporters as the news of Ali's arrest reached Dhaka The government owes around Tk in the evening 450 crore to textile sector as cash

The opposition leader wondered incentive, disbursement of which how the government could arrest Ali, who is a member of the parlia-The associations earlier met the mentary standing on private mem-Finance and Commerce ministers bers' bills and resolutions, while the on several occasions demanding parliament is in session. "They did release of the funds. They also

The opposition leader also questioned 'how many governments were working within the

government'. " One guarter is seeking discussion with the opposition while the other has an MP arrested... Salahuddin Quader Chowdhury, parliamentary affairs adviser of the

last night that it was not the government but a court that ordered Ali's arrest. Chowdhury said arrest of an MP

prime minister, told the BBC Radio

does not require permission of the Speaker. "As per law, the court is

This prompted the acting Speaker to invite the opposition party to a joint meeting with the ruling BNP yesterday morning. But the proposed meeting did not take place as the AL said it would meet the acting Speaker only after the opposition leader gave her nod to the offer on return to Dhaka from her ancestral home in Gopalgani.

minister, cancelled the declaration of the Uttarbanga Barta for a printing mistake for which the newspaper had already apologised twice.

In the petition, Shiekh, also the general secretary of the district Awami League, claimed that the DC's decision was influenced by local politics.

The petitioner also argued the DC did not have the legal authority to cancel the declaration for an unintentional printing error in or irregular publication of the newspaper or its irregular supply to the DC's office.

# Viqarunnisa in political web

### FROM PAGE 1

believe Hamida Ali irked some ruling party leaders by having turned down their 'unfair' requests to admit a good number of students who did not meet the criteria over the years. The government move has created angered the teachers. students and guardians of Vigarunnisa. Though the school closed yesterday, a number of teachers, students, guardians and members of the school governing body gathered at the college on hearing the news that the principal

was going be to removed. They slammed the government for its 'undemocratic and unethical' move and vowed to stand square behind the incumbent principal. They also resolved to save the college from politicisation.

Members of the aoverning body told reporters at the principal's office vesterday that whatever the government decides, they would stick to their decision on the extension of Hamida Ali's service for another two vears.

The divers continued their "The 10-member governing search for bodied in the area when body, the supreme authority to run the report was filed yesterday the school will stick to its position and never accept any undemocratic The bus with about 50 passendecision imposed by the governgers fell into the canal from a bridge ment regarding the principal." said after a head-on collision with Khandakaer Mustak Ahmed, a member of the aovernina body.

Most of the passengers were He said the five-year contract of workers of Young One garments Hamida Ali expired on July 9. "But we decided to extend it for two more Meanwhile, Peter Bower, vears on April 30 considering her Chairman of Young One Group tireless contribution in building up which owns the factory, is learnt to the institution.' Ahmed added. The have said that compensation would decision has been widely be given to the injured garment applauded by the students, teachworkers and families of those who ers and quardians alike.

The decision was sent to

Chairman of Dhaka Education Board Prof. Mohammad Zunayed on July 8 for approval through Abdul Mannan, MP, chairman of the school governing body. "But the chairman refused to approve it," he said.

Some teachers alleged that the chairman did not endorse the decision on instruction by the education ministry. They said the chairman summoned to the ministry with the file and asked not to approve it.

be reached despite repeated attempts

sentative met the education minister on Thursday and briefed him on the situation. The minister had assured to look into the matter for the greater interest of the institution.

Nazneen Begum, a guardian, told The Daily Star that all the guardians will gather at the college today and if necessary, will stand guard at the college gate. An agitated guardian said they could not allow anyone

to destroy the college. The teachers and students will resign en masse to stop the government from implementing its move," said Zannatul Ferdous, a teacher who also happened to be a student of Vigarunnisa.

"We are now very proud of Vigarunnisa and its reputation is increasing with the days due to the outstanding leadership of Hamida Ali. And we just can't let this reputation be damaged due to dirty politics," she reporters at her office vesterdav

The government's move apparently has also shocked the 56-year old principal who has devoted most of her life to spread education. Before taking charge of Vigarunnisa Noon School in 1981, she served the Narayanganj Women's College for 19 years.

"What I have achieved during my 39 years of teaching has been due to my devotion, struggle and hard work. And I don't want to lose the honour at any cost," she said.

"I took the school to this position in the last 19 years. So, I don't want to see its decay due to political reasons," she added

Asked about the government's move for her removal, Hamida Ali said. "Some sources told me that they (government) don't want to see me in this position any more." She believed the move might have been initiated due to her strict stance and refusal to entertain influential peo-

"Once I thought that the government would ask me to carry on if I had wanted to retire, but the reality has a different picture," said a frustrated Hamida Ali

Established in 1952, Viqarunnisa School and College is an autonomous institution. There has been no such political interference in its 50year history. The institution stated its journey as a preparatory school 50 vears ago.

As many as 10,000 students are now enrolled in the institution. Fifteen students got GPA-5 in the taneously. recent Secondary School Certificate examinations, which is an excellent result by any stan-Osmani, Petrobangla Director (Operations) Dr M Ismail, chartered dards.

Split gas body FROM PAGE 12 the country's annual export earnaccountant MA Hafiz and BIDS Research Director Dr KAS Murshid.

The committee has laid down its nas But this analysis was not acceptoptions based on a proven gas able to three members -- Prof M reserve of 15 trillion cubic feet (tcf) Tamim and Dr. liaz Hossain of the and the internal gas demand growth Chemical Engineering Department of the Bangladesh University of till 2020 and other complex economic analyses. Engineering and Technology (BUET) and Prof Momtajuddin BCL calls strike Ahmed of Dhaka University. They said am anti-export policy would dishearten the oil companies and at edu instts so, there should be an option for

country, they said, as there is a

continuos backlog of at least five

months' arrears with the oil compa-

by some members who said that the

payment backlog was created due

o an unforeseen macroeconomic

downturn last year. They also said

the current situation is comfortable

mainly a governance problem,

which needs to be addressed simul-

The committee also comprises of

Petrobangla Director (Finance) SR

enough to pay the IOCs.

Their arguments were countered

limited export.

today The BUET professors yesterday further argued that the country **DU CORRESPONDENT** would need around US\$ 15 billion in the next 20 years to purchase IOC

Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) gas and the government is not in a has called a strike at all educationa position to ensure the payment. In institutions across the country today addition, the country would need demanding immediate release of its huge investment to augment its own leaders including president and energy production. Payment to the general secretary. IOCs is already a problem for the

BCL also enforced a strike at the Dhaka University yesterday on the same demand. No classes and examinations were held at the university during the strike.

Additional police were deployed on the campus during the strike. No untoward incident, however, took

All university vehicles were off the road. However, central library remained open and other administrative activities were carried out partially

They further said the payment backlog still persists because of BCL brought out a procession on Petrobangla's difficulties in collectthe campus and held a rally on the ing its sales revenue. But this is Aparaievo Bangla premises.

Chaired by BCL DU unit president Delwar Hossen, the rally was addressed by acting BCL president Marufa Akter Poppy, acting general secretary Shaifuzzaman Shikhor and presidents and secretaries of different hall units.

The chairman however could not Dr Rakibul Hossain Rumi, an elected representative in the governing body, said a teacher repre-