

PM for nat'l consensus on gas export issue

STAR REPORT

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday said any decision on gas export would be based on national consensus.

The assurance came when chairmen of two national committees on gas reserve and utilisation submitted their reports to the PM at her office.

Khaleda also said there would be discussions on the reports in the Jatiya Sangsad while the cabinet and the government would discuss the issue with political parties and

different civil society groups before taking any decision.

Khaleda also assured two reports would be made public when the committee members requested that a national debate be held on optimum utilisation of gas resource.

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman, LGRD Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Health Minister Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, Industry Minister MK Anwar and State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources AKM Mosharraf Hosain were present on the occasion.

PM's Principal Secretary Dr Kamal Siddiqui and Political Secretary Haris Chowdhury were also present.

Chairmen of the two committees -- BUET Vice-chancellor Professor

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12 hurt at BUET as police swoop on striking students

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

At least 12 students were injured as police baton-charged the activists of the Progressive Students' Unity (PSU), an alliance of eight left-leaning student bodies, yesterday at the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) campus.

The PSU called a countrywide student strike yesterday, demanding withdrawal of ban on political activities at the BUET and punishment of the killers of Sabequon Nahar Sony.

Sources said, police baton-charged the supporters of the strike when they refused to give away their hand mike and leave the BUET campus yesterday noon.

PSU members locked the main gate of BUET at around 5:30a.m. Couple of hours later, BUET teach-

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Police club a student on the BUET campus during a strike called by the Progressive Students Unity yesterday against the ban on students politics at the institution.

PHOTO: STAR

	Gas reserve inadequate for export, limited export if reserve increases
	Extensive explorations stressed
	Petrobangla should get remaining onshore gas blocks
	Donors' funding, IOCs' investments nothing wrong
	IOC production cost 5 times higher than Petrobangla's
	9.9-17.4 TCF gas demand till 2020, 39.3-151.3 TCF till 2050
	Net recoverable gas reserve ranges between 12.04 TCF and 15.55 TCF

WHEATGATE S

Secretarial probe finds 4 BNP MPs guilty

REAZ AHMAD

The secretarial committee to probe the wheat scam submitted its report yesterday stating that in many cases government silos bought foreign wheat instead of homegrown one at the fag end of the 135-day internal wheat procurement drive.

Besides, the report also blamed four ruling BNP lawmakers and frontline local BNP leaders for wheat

purchase irregularities, sources said. A syndicate comprising some ruling party men and officials of the food ministry and food directorate was directly orchestrated the scam, the probe report noted.

The BNP lawmakers mentioned in the report are Helaluzzaman Talukdar Lalu of Bogra, Selim Reza Habib of Pabna, and Khurram Khan

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Highlights

- * Four BNP MPs involved
- * A syndicate of food officials found guilty
- * Wheat of foreign origin detected
- * Two probe reports match on many points.

Boy rescued, 'abductor' arrested

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Police rescued a four-year-old abducted boy from Kaliakair in Gazipur and arrested the abductor last night.

Ashik Ali was abducted from South Dhania in the city yesterday for a ransom of Tk 5 lakh, sources said.

Earlier, Shyampur police received an abduction case in this connection but said they believe it might not be a case of kidnapping.

They said the young man, Badal,

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Tk 3.42cr forex haul at ZIA

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Customs authorities at Zia International Airport (ZIA) recovered foreign currencies valued at Tk 3.42 crore from under seats of a Dubai-bound Biman flight just before its take-off on Monday night.

The currencies were being smuggled out of the country, customs officials said.

Acting on a tip-off, a customs team, headed by Joint-Commissioner Sultan Mohammad Iqbal, searched the aircraft and recovered the currencies in two packets kept under seats 35D, E of economy class of the flight BG-025.

State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mir Mohammad Nasiruddin who was at the airport at that time ordered prompt action to find out the culprits and said whoever found responsible will be punished.

Passengers were yet to board the plane and only crewmembers were inside, customs sources said. After the recovery, the customs officials asked the crew about it, but they kept mum.

"It is not possible to keep such a packet under seats without the knowledge of the crew," a top customs official later said.

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Computer glitch delays DU probe report

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The submission of a report by the judicial probe body to investigate the police excess at the Shamsunnahar Hall of Dhaka University has been delayed at least by a day due to a glitch in the computer of committee head Justice M Tafazzal Islam on Monday.

According to sources, the computer Justice Islam was working on to prepare the report crashed at

around 11:00pm, damaging a major portion of the report. Some parts of the report have been permanently deleted and technicians have failed to restore them.

However, the commission is trying to finish the report in a bid to submit it to the home ministry today, the sources added.

Justice Islam told journalists yesterday that some parts of the report had to be retyped from the

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Ishtiaque for SC verdict with direction to save ETV

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Barrister Syed Ishtiaque Ahmed, counsel for ETV Chairman AS Mahmud, yesterday pleaded with the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court for a verdict with the direction to save the private television channel.

On the fourth day of hearing on review petition of the ETV case, the eminent lawyer pointed out that there was the High Court verdict contained some observation in the private channel's favour. "For example, the court said that licence was an agreement and its transfer to the ETV Limited was not illegal."

However, the High Court still declared the transfer of the licence illegal because of ill motive, he argued, adding that the Appellate

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Jubo Dal leader held for triple murder

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Habibur Rahman Habib, organising secretary of the Kotwali thana unit of the Jubo Dal, was arrested yesterday by police for alleged involvement with killing of three fellow activists.

Police sources said that Habib was involved in extortion and other criminal activities of the area. The duty officer of Kotwali Police Station said they were investigating the matter.

Sources said that Habib along with three Jubo Dal activists - Mohammad Mukter, Mohammad Mijan and Akran Miah - went to Keraniganj on August 12. Habib returned home but they three did not. Their bodies were found floating on the Buriganga the following day.

Later, Keraniganj Police filed a murder case and an unnatural death case in connection with the killing.