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TRANSCOM ELECTRONICS

Gas field fire erupts at another point

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

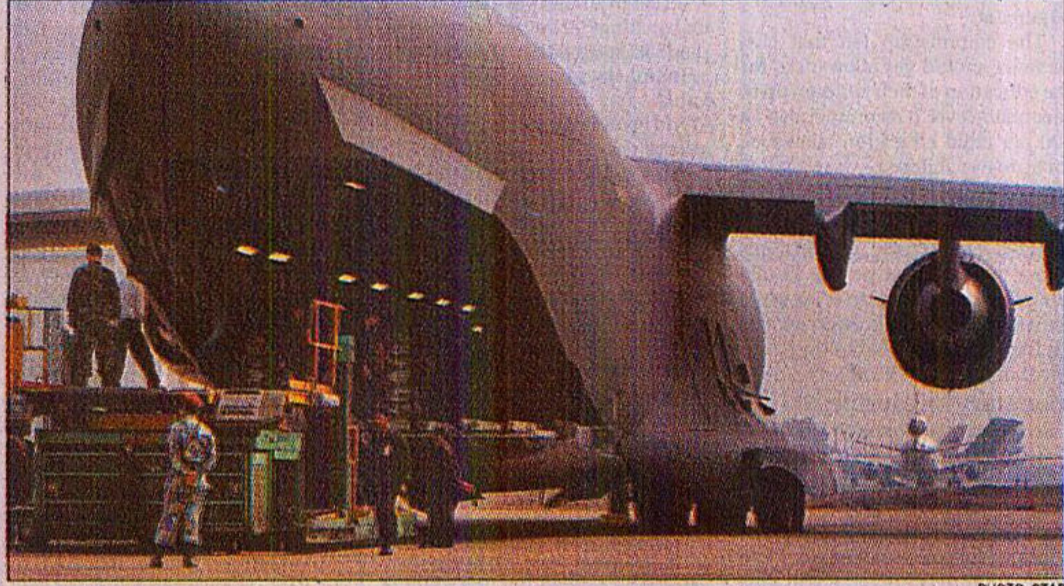
The Tengratila gas field in Sunamganj started erupting fire at yet another point from yesterday afternoon.

The flames are 15 to 20 feet high, witnesses said.

Meanwhile, the older fire spewing points kept alive while gas continued to leak in bubbles from 30 points in and around the gas field till yesterday afternoon. However, it seems to be dying down with the flames leaping less than five feet from Wednesday.

The authorities yesterday shifted 54,000 litres diesel stored in five oil containers in the gas field area. The fuel remained safe even after the huge fire, an official said. The payment of compensation for the worst affected inhabitants of the

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A US cargo aircraft is being loaded at Zia International Airport yesterday with 700 tonnes of Bangladesh-made high-nutrition biscuits for tsunami victims in Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

AK47 found in pond

UNB, Narayanganj

Police recovered an abandoned AK47 assault rifle from a pond in Sumilpara area of Adamjee yesterday morning.

Acting on a tip-off, a team of the detective branch went to the area and netted the rifle in the pond at 8:00am.

Police suspect the rifle was used in criminal acts in the area and dumped in the pond, as anticrime operations are going on.

There had been frequent armed clashes between rival groups in the area when the now-defunct Adamjee Jute Mills was in operation. Criminal gangs were also once active in the area.

Ban on tobacco ads, smoking in public places in the offing

Bill to be placed in next JS session

SHAKHAWAT LITON

An antismoking bill will be placed in the upcoming parliament session proposing a ban on all types of advertisements of tobacco products considered as a serious threat to public health.

The health ministry has submitted the much-talked about bill to the Parliament Secretariat for enacting a law that will also ban smoking in public places.

The law will prohibit the publication of advertisements of tobacco products in newspapers, books and magazines and broadcast through radio, television and cinema.

Putting up billboards and printing leaflets and handbills or any other documents containing advertisement of tobacco will also be banned, the bill proposes.

No company will be allowed to distribute tobacco free of cost, arrange any competition and make any offer of scholarship or donation to make publicity of tobacco products.

The bill proposes a punishment

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4 die in 'crossfire'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Four people, including two leaders of outlawed groups, died while four law enforcers were injured during separate Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) and police operations throughout the country yesterday.

The dead are Billal Hossain, former general secretary of outlawed Gono Mukti Fouz (GMF); Mahamudul Haq Dilu, a top advisor of the outfit of GMF of Kushtia; Azizur Rahman, regional leader of the Puro Banglar Communist Party (PBCP-Janajuddho) of Jhenidah; and Abul Hashem alias Hashimma, an alleged criminal of Brahmapara Upazila in Comilla.

Kushtia
A team of Rab-6 arrested Billal

Hossain and Mahamudul Haq Dilu from the Motijheel area in Dhaka at approximately 1:30pm on Wednesday.

Billal had recently been hiding in the capital with his associates, including Dilu, after unleashing a reign of terror in the district from which he hails, village Baniapara in the Kumarkhali upazila of Kushtia, said Rab officials.

Under interrogation by Rab, the outfit cadres admitted to their involvement with the underground party and to their possession of arms caches at various locations throughout Kushtia.

Rab-6 later left Dhaka to seize firearms from the village Swastipur in sadar upazila in Kushtia. They were ambushed by GMF cadres when they reached the village's

Joynab Khatun non-government primary school at about 3:45pm, prompting them to retaliate. According to Rab, Billal and Dilu tried to jump from the Rab microbus during the hour-long gunfight and were caught in the crossfire. Both died on the spot.

After the shootout Rab retrieved one .22 rifle, one foreign rifle, one Kata rifle and 18 bullets from the spot.

Two Rab members were injured in the 'shootout', Rab sources said.

Police said Billal was accused in 18 criminal cases, including 7 murder cases filed with sadar and the Kumarkhali police. District police had also filed a number of allegations against Dilu regarding illegal procurement of government jobs.

Police sent the bodies to Kushtia

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Girl dies in Ctg slum fire

UNB, Chittagong

A girl was burnt alive and three women were injured in a fire at a slum near Agrabad in the port city early yesterday.

The dead was identified as Fatema, 4, daughter of a rickshawpuller. Identity of the injured could not be known.

Sources said the fire originated from a shanty at the slum named Bastuhara Basti at about 1:30 am and gutted all the shanties.

On receiving information, ten fire fighting units rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze at about 4:50am.

Classroom fire kills 15 Iranian students

AFP, Tehran

A teacher and 15 schoolchildren were killed when their classroom went up in flames in a village in southwestern Iran yesterday, the state news agency IRNA reported.

"Unfortunately 15 students and their teacher were killed in the classroom blaze when the oil heater caught fire," said an education official in the village of Safilian in Chahar-Mahal Bakhtiari province.

The fire intensified after students rushing out of the room in the village school knocked over an oil drum, the official added.

Partha indicted for email threat on Hasina's life

Trial starts from Feb 14

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Shaibal Saha Partha was yesterday indicted for issuing email threat on the life of Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina.

Rejecting the discharge petition filed by Partha's counsel, Judge Rabiul Hassan (in-charge) of the Fifth Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court framed charge against him.

The 20-year-old, who was present in court, pleaded not guilty and demanded justice before the court after the charge was read out to him.

The court fixed February 14 for trial of the case.

Earlier, the defence lawyer submitted a petition for discharging Partha from the charges brought against him both in the FIR (first information report) and charge

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AL moves to defuse internal disputes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The main opposition Awami League (AL) has moved to resolve internal squabbling at its grassroots level in an attempt to ensure victory for party candidates in the next general election.

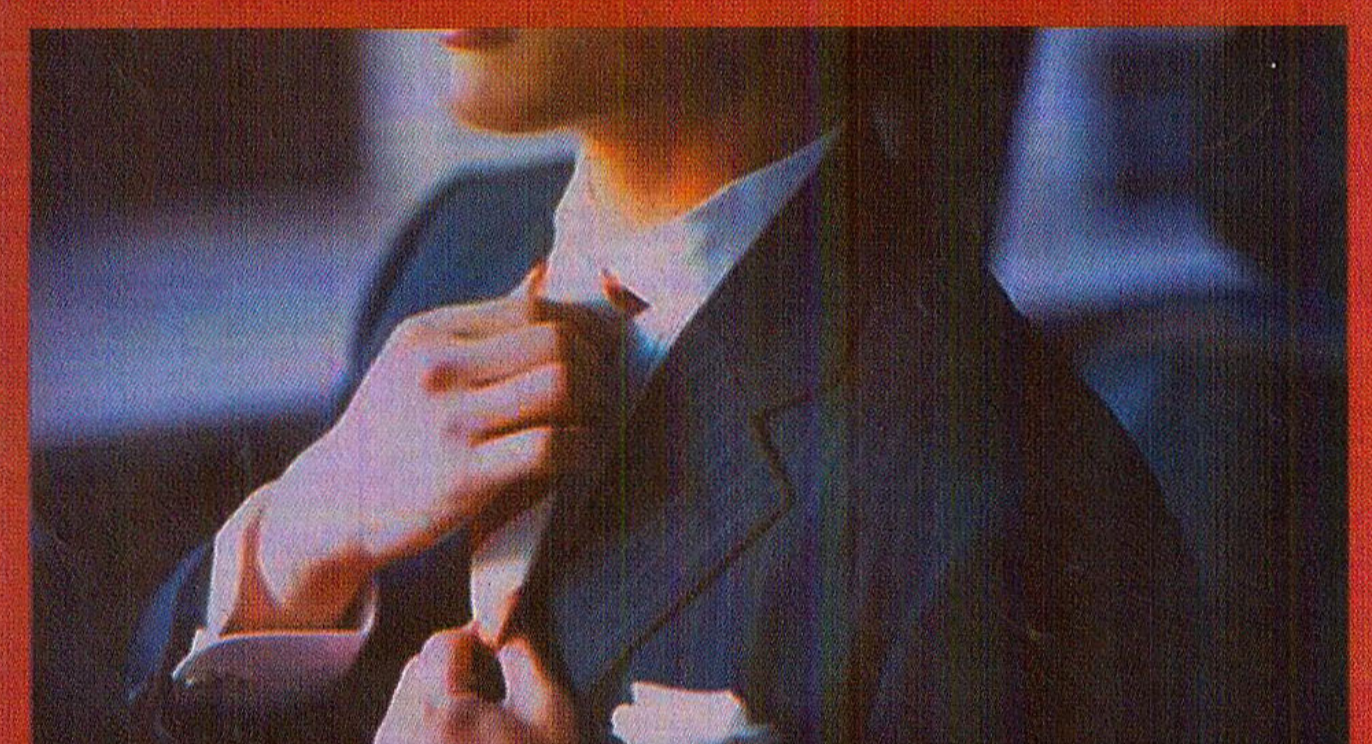
AL President Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked organising secretar-

ies to immediately report to her about internal feuds across the country and in the parliamentary constituencies where there is more than one aspiring candidate.

Hasina, also leader of the opposition in parliament, directed to complete the councils at district, thana and union levels, which are

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

The Suit King of The Garment



If any man runs for president, goes for high profile speech engagement, a high level job interview or books a good table at a very posh restaurant, it is likely that he will be wearing a suit. The suit with matching shirt, tie and a pair of shiny shoes, when worn knowledgeably remains the outfit of official power, signifying diplomacy, civility and a great display of physical confidence and grace. It is the final statement of man's social class. The majesty of suit is beyond comparison.

Even though the fashion in context of a man's suit has changed, but their basic pattern has not. Over the last century through the period of great social and cultural change the suit continues its eternal journey to dynamism of its unique composition, character and supremacy. No one has yet to devise any surrogate.

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Kamal hopes for Allah to forgive murtad callers

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Gono Forum President Dr Kamal Hossain yesterday said Allah might forgive those who had declared him *murtad* (deviated from Islam) and hoped wisdom will prevail in them soon.

On arrival at Zia International Airport (ZIA) at 12:45pm after visiting Palestine as a member of the UN election monitoring team, he said declaring anyone *murtad* is nothing

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Prayer Timing

January 14

	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	5-30	6-05
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	4-00	4-15
Maghrib	5-36	5-40
Esha	7-00	7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation



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