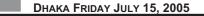
METROPOLITAN/NEWS

The Baily Star





Jatiya Nari Unnayan Niti Paribartan Pratirodh Committee stages a demonstration in front of the High Court in the city yesterday protesting amendments to the National Women's Development Policy.

SUNAMGANJ BY-ELECTION

EC accused of violating **HC** directives

election.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a roundtable yesterday accused the Election Commission (EC) of violating the directives of the

Film censor appeal board reconstituted BSS, Dhaka

The government yesterday reconstituted the Bangladesh Film Censor Appeal Committee with Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister as its chairman

The members of the reconstituted appeal committee are: Information Secretary, Principal Information Officer, Bangla Academy Director General, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy Director General, Bangladesh Film Censor Board Vice-Chairman, Daily Independent editor Mahbubul Alam, Daily Manobjamin editor Motiur Rahman Chowdhury, Secretary General of Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) Ruhul

High Court (HC) to collect details of the candidates and make them public

ahead of the Sunamganj-3 by-"The EC's failure to comply with the directives is tantamount to con-

tempt of court, and that's why we are thinking to go to HC again," said Prof Muzaffer Ahmed, convenor of Sujan, a coalition dedicated to promoting good governance. The roundtable was organised by Sujan at the National Press Club in

the city. The HC had clearly directed the EC to collect detailed information

about the candidates in order to inform the voters, he said, adding, "We do not know what the EC has so far done in this regard despite repeated attempts.'

Prof Ahmed said honest and competent people should be recruited to the EC for proper exercising of its power.

'The HC directives are very crucial in keeping the black money holders away from the parliament election, but the commission has failed to implement them properly," said Member Secretary of Sujan Prof

Badiul Alam Maiumdar.

"With a view to knowing the details of the candidates of the by-election, we have sought original affidavits from the chief election commissioner (CEC), but failed to receive them

despite repeated requests," he alleged. The CEC's remark that the HC

directives are not mandatory will definitely foil the purpose of a free and fair election, said Prof Majumdar. The forthcoming Sunamganj by-

election provides a test case for implementing the directives enabling the voters to know detailed information about the candidates. he asserted.

Former law minister Abdul Matin Khasru stressed the need for reaching a consensus to keep the election free from the influence of black money and muscle power.

Jatiya Party Presidium Member GM Kader MP, Awami League leader Dr Md Abdur Razzak MP, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal leader ASM Abdur

Rab, Prof Asif Nazrul, Prof Md Masum and Prof Anwar Hossain also spoke on the occasion.

Govt, Bapex, Niko Political parties, people blamed for plamed for Tengratila blowout

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar vesterday blamed the government, the Bapex and the Canadian company Niko Resources for the blowouts in the Tengratila gas field.

They also called on the government to take over the Niko's share in Feni gas field as compensation for the massive waste of gas.

formed a 'Nagorik Commission' to The Bangladesh Economic Association (BEA) organised the detect all the irregularities in all the agreements signed for gas exploraseminar on 'The impact of Tengratila tion and assess the losses caused gas well blowout on the country' in by gas field explosions. the city

Terming the Niko a small and

WOMEN'S DEV POLICY **Rights** activists threaten movement STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Women's rights activists staged demonstrations across the country vesterday in protest against the amendments to National Women's Development Policy, saying that the changes were made to curb the fundamental rights of the women.

In the capital, leaders and activists of rights and non-government organisations and civil society members held a protest rally at the Central Shaheed Minar demanding immediate cancellation of the amended policy.

They also called for the restoration of the original policy framed in 1997.

The leaders also threatened to launch a tougher movement if their demands are not met immediately. They said the government

amended the policy without any discussion with the women leaders. bringing fundamental changes to the policy.

The amendments are designed to restrict the women's participation in politics, decision-making process and in economic activities, the leaders said.

Jatiya Nari Unnayan Niti Paribartan Pratirodh Committee organised the programme.

to upgrade city services

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka Water and Sewerage Authority (Dhaka Wasa) needs over Tk 12.958 crore to implement 38 projects to upgrade its services for the city dwellers. This was stated by acting managing should decide on CG

Says German envoy

criticised the government for signing STAFF CORRESPONDENT

There was no logic in awarding The political parties and people of the contract to Niko as the three Bangladesh should take the decinational companies -- Bapex, sion on reforms of the caretaker BGFCL and SGFCL -- have records government, said outgoing German of successfully conducting such Ambassador Dietrich Andreas BEA President Dr Qazi yesterday. Kholiqquzzaman said the BEA

"It is not up to the foreign ambassadors. Rather, it is up to the Bangladeshi people and the political parties to reach a consensus on the caretaker government issue," said the German envoy emerging from a farewell meeting with the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sudha Sadan residence.

Dr Tawfique Elahi Chowdhury and former chairman of Petrobangla cussed various issues, including the bilateral relations between two

During the meeting, they dis-

countries, the envoy told reporters. Germany wants Bangladesh's democratic process to be stronger, Andreas said, adding that his country would do everything to consolidate the process

"We want the next general election to be held in a free, fair and transparent manner so that Bangladesh's journey towards the institutionalisation of democracy is consolidated," he added.

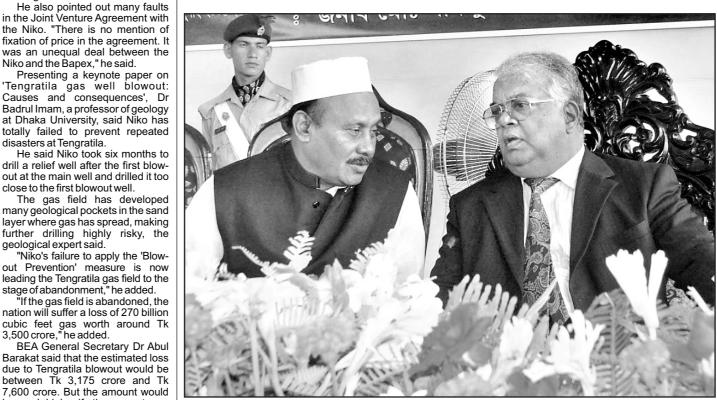
Briefing the reporters, Syed Abul Hossain, international affairs secretary of the Awami League, said the issue of establishing the rule of law, state of democracy and human rights situation came up for discussion during the German envov's meeting with the opposition leader. The German envoy wanted to

know what would be the strategy of the Awami League in future to establish the rule of law and strengthen the democratic process, he said. Quoting the envoy, Abul Hossain

said the EU and Germany want to see the next general election to be held in a transparent manner. "We have informed the ambassador of the Awami League's view

on the country's law and order situation, human rights situation and reforms of the caretaker government," he added.

Abul Hossain also said that there is a clear difference between the BNP-led alliance and the previous AL government in terms of establishing the rule of law and human rights situation in Bangladesh.



Communications Minister Nazmul Huda and Chittagong city Mayor ABM Mohiuddin Chowdhury discuss a point at the inaugural ceremony of 96 tank wagons at the Chittagong Rail Station yesterday.

Wasa needs Tk 12,958cr 5 dists most vulnerable First city bus to earthquake terminal opens

US Geological Survey expert says

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The country needs a fresh and and constructing power plants or

day.

other factories. This is also important for the

A city bus terminal, first of its kind in soil while expanding urban areas

, The terminal with a parking capacity of 600 buses will considerably reduce the traffic congestion on the roads at Gulistan, Fulbaria and

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

iects

rector Dr Quazi Ali Azam at a meeting

Badrul Imam, a professor of geology at Dhaka University, said Niko has totally failed to prevent repeated disasters at Tengratila. He said Niko took six months to drill a relief well after the first blowout at the main well and drilled it too

inefficient company, the speakers

Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal

former chairman of Power

Development Board, said that former state minister for energy

AKM Mosharraf, former secretary

Mosharraf Hossain are responsible

for the gas field disaster

Niko and the Bapex," he said.

a controversial agreement with it.

operations, they said.

close to the first blowout well. The gas field has developed many geological pockets in the sand layer where gas has spread, making further drilling highly risky, the geological expert said

"Niko's failure to apply the 'Blowout Prevention' measure is now leading the Tengratila gas field to the stage of abandonment," he added.

If the gas field is abandoned, the nation will suffer a loss of 270 billion cubic feet gas worth around Tk 3.500 crore." he added. BEA General Secretary Dr Abul

Barakat said that the estimated loss due to Tengratila blowout would be between Tk 3,175 crore and Tk 7,600 crore. But the amount would be much higher if other aspects are

Netherlands government.

The participants at the meeting assured their assistance for the pro-

detailed geological survey to specify the dangers of earthquake, said the experts at a seminar yesterday.

Bangladesh Earthquake Society at

In a presentation on 'Seismic

Hazard for Bangladesh,' Dr John W

survey, Dr Whitney, also one of the

authors of National Geological

Map of Bangladesh, said, "The

engineers must consider the seis-

Brac University in the city.

earthquake in the country.

plants.

mic data to learn the nature of the

the capital, was inaugurated yester-

Rickshawpullers

taken into consideration, he added.

Amin Gazi, Jatiya Press Club General Secretary Shaukat Mahmud and Information Ministry Deputy Secretary (films).

The earlier notification of the Ministry of Information dated June 11, 2002 has been cancelled.

Obituary



Md Shamsul Haque, former chief enaineer of Power Development Board (PDB), passed away due to cardiac arrest at his village home Gurudaspur in

Natore early hours of yesterday at the age of 57, says a press release. He left behind his wife and three

sons to mourn his death

Abdus Samad Khan



Abdus Samad Khan, a social worker of Raibari, passed away due to old age ailments at the Holy Family Red Crescent Hospital in the city recently,

says a press release.

He was laid to rest at his family graveyard the same day at Khankhanapur in Rajbari district. His eldest son Shahiduzzaman

Khan is the Executive Editor of The Financial Express.

Jyotsna Rani Goswami

Jyotsna Rani Goswami, mother of Dr Karunamoy Goswami, died at the Gulshan Shikder Medical College Hospital in the city on July 8 at the age of 80, says a press release.

Her shraddha will be held in Narayanganj on July 18.

Matiur Rahman Falan

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Manikganj

Matiur Rahman Falan, an injured freedom fighter, died at his village home at Khanbaniara under Singair upazila in Manikganj yesterday afternoon at the age of 55. He fought during the War of Liberation under Sector-2. He was buried with state honour at the graveyard at his village.



Motiur Rahman, editor of the Prothom Alo, speaks at the inaugural ceremony of a training programme for young journalists of 'Mukta Khabar', a popular news programme on the Ekushey Television, at the ETV office in the city yesterday. On his right is ETV Chairman Abdus Salam and on his left is Chief News Editor Manjurul Ahsan Bulbul.



Light to moderate rain likely

UNB, Dhaka

Light to moderate rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at most places over the country till 6:00pm today. Moderately heavy to heavy falls are also expected over Dhaka, Khulna, Barisal and Rajshahi divisions during the period, Met Office

Day temperature may remain unchanged over the country. Highest temperature 32.3 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday

at Teknaf and lowest 22.2 degree Celsius at Chandpur.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:49pm today and rises at 5:21am tomorrow.

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

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius Max Min		Humidity in percentage Morning Evening	
Dhaka	28.5	24.8	97	81
Chittagong	28.7	24.0	85	86
Rajshahi	27.8	25.0	98	97
Khulna	26.2	24.4	97	94
Barisal	26.2	24.0	100	100
Sylhet	27.8	24.0	96	94
Cox's Bazar	32.0	26.0	79	79

between the government and foreign donor organisations at the external relations division (ERD) yesterday, Wasa sources said.

Of the total amount, Tk 6,489 crore ill be needed to implement 14 projects on water supply, Tk 4,559 crore for 16 projects on sewerage management and Tk 1,910 crore for eight projects on rainage management system

Presided over by ERD Additional Secretary Badiur Rahman, the meeting as attended by the representatives of Japan International Cooperation Agency, World Bank, Asian Development Bank, Department for nternational Development, Danish nternational Development Assistance. The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and the

submit memo to DCC mayor

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Rickshawpullers submitted a memorandum to the mayor of Dhaka City Corporation vesterday demanding that the DCC issue number plates for non-motorised three-wheelers and licences for them.

They also staged a demonstration in front of the Nagar Bhaban to press for their seven-point demand. They also tried to lay a siege to the Nagar Bhaban, but police pre-

vented them from doing so. Bangladesh Rickshaw and Van Chalak Sramik Federation organised the protest.

'Use ICT to enhance productivity'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Speakers at a seminar yesterday underscored the need for efficient use of information communication technology (ICT) to improve business and enhance productivity.

The seminar was jointly organised by Bangladesh Association of Software & Information Services (BASIS) and Junior Chamber International (JCI) Bangladesh at a city hotel.

Dr M Rokonuzzaman of Independent University of Bangladesh presented a keynote paper titled 'IT for business efficiency.' He said business and technology

innovation are the key driving forces behind the productivity growth.

IT plays a crucial role by providing creative management teams with a powerful tool to increase productivity. he added.

President of American Chamber of Commerce Aftabul Islam attended the seminar as chief guest.

He called upon business community to use IT as a tool for development saying "IT is the only solution and only future.'

BASIS President Sarwar Alam said without proper utilisation of IT and IT services, no business can achieve sustainable goal

Earlier, a memorandum of understanding (MoU) was signed between

BASIS and JCI to strengthen eco nomic, trade, technical and investment relations. It will also help develop mutually

beneficial programme for cooperation in the field of development of local software industry, and creation of software market both locally and internationally.

BASIS President Sarwar Alam and National President of JCI Safina Rahman signed the MoU on behalf of their respective organisations

Buddhist Federation will be held. Death anniversary Venue: International Bouddha Bihar, Merul Badda. Time: 6.00pm.

Memorial meeting

Hathazari Samity-Dhaka organises a meeting in memory of its founding president Shah Alam Chowdhury Aman. Venue: 14/1, Sonargaon Road. Time: 4.00pm

Certificate

awarding ceremony The certificate awarding ceremony of a training course of Bishwa Kalakendra, an organisation of the teachers and officials of Dhaka University, will be held. Venue: Teachers Students Centre 2. Time: 7.00am

security of the local and foreign They said the existing geologiinvestors, he added.

cal data is not enough for the urban Dr Whitney said nobody knows planners and engineers to take how the underground soil is going to behave in the next 100 or 200 years. precautionary measures before planning any buildings or power In this context, it is imperative that the country needs a realistic The seminar was organised by

geological data, he said. The seminar was chaired by Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury, vice- chancellor of Brac University and chairman of Bangladesh

Whitney of US Geological Survey Earthquake Society. identified Rajshahi, Sylhet, He laid emphasis on more Comilla, Habiganj and Chittagong discussions on the issue and the regions as most vulnerable to steps to initiate a project on undertaking the survey. Proposing a detailed seismic

Director of Geological Survey of Bangladesh Mir Fazlul Karim and Prof Aftabul Alam of geology department of Dhaka University also spoke.

Joykali Mandir areas. City Mayor Sadeque Hossain Khoka inaugurated the terminal at

Sayedabad. He said the city terminal will ensure a comfortable movement of people in those roads

Dhaka City Corporation constructed the terminal at a cost of over Tk 8.71 crore.

The work started on April 30, 2001 and was completed on June 30, 2004.

Meanwhile, the improvement work of three inter-district bus terminals at Sayedabad, Mohakhali and Gabtoli is still going on.

ROBBERY IN CITY HOUSE

Cash, goods worth Tk 4.18 lakh looted

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Armed robbers looted Tk 4.18 lakh in cash, gold ornaments and other valuables from a house in the city early yesterday.

Police quoting the FIR (first information report) filed after the incident said a gang of six to seven entered the tin-shed house of one Sohrab Hossain at Shahjadpur in Gulshan cutting the window grill at around 2:30am.

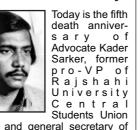
Confining the family members to a room at gunpoint, the robbers looted Tk 60,000 in cash, 30 tolas of gold ornaments, one mobile set and other valuables.

Police could neither arrest anyone nor could recover the looted cash and kinds as of 7:00pm.

In another incident, a gang of criminals took away Tk 1 lakh from two marketing officers of private firm feeding them something mixed with sedatives

Mamunur Rashid and Monir Hossain of Colour View Limited at Gulshan were admitted to Dhaka Medical College and Hospital (DMCH) in critical condition.

Hospital sources said the gang fed them sedatives soon after they got into a bus from Gulshan on their way to Nayabazar



(Rucsu) and general secretary of Bogra Źila Krishak League, says a press release

On the occasion, a Qurankhwani and milad mahfil will be held at his village Takahut under Joypurhat district

Political colleagues, friends and relatives have been requested to attend the milad.

education sector and their solution. Venue: VIP Lounge of the National Oath taking ceremony

Bangladesh Awami League organises a roundtable on the problems in technical

Press Club. Time: 3.00pm.

Roundtable

Education and Human Resource Development Sub-Committee of

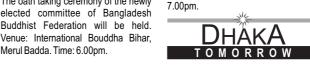
DHÂKA

Auditorium. Time: 5.00pm Musical evening

D.Net and fortnightly Anannya jointly organise an evening of Tagore's song. Venue: National Museum, Shahbagh Time: 7.00pm.

Theatre

Udichi Central Drama Section will stage a drama titled 'Chilekothar Sepai' by Akhtaruzzaman Ilyas. Venue: Mahila Samity Auditorium, Bailey Road. Time: The oath taking ceremony of the newly



Discussion

Ekatturer Ghatak Dalal Nirmul Committee will hold a discussion on the European conference on human rights situation in Bangladesh. Venue: WVA Auditorium, House- 20, Road-27, Dhanmondi. Time: 4.00pm.

Book launch

The international launch of the book titled 'Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince' will be held. Venue: Words 'n Pages, 125 Gulshan Avenue, Gulshan-