

May Day

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National dailies will publish articles upholding the significance of the day.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message on the eve of the historic May Day said that the day was enlightened with great inspiration to recognise the dignity of labour, ensure rights of toiling masses and human rights.

The President emphasised on carrying out hard labour, maintaining austerity and pursuing a prospective economic policy to build up a sound national economy.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and leader of the Opposition in the Parliament Sheikh Hasina in separate messages also underscored the significance of the day.

Khaleda Zia will address a public rally today jointly organised by BNP and its labour front Sramik Dal at Gopur Chandana high school premises at 3 pm to mark the day.

Sheikh Hasina will address a public rally today at 3 pm near Nabisco Biscuit Factory at Tejgaon marking the day. Labour wing of Awami League Jatiya Sramik League will organise the rally.

Bangladesh Federal Union of Journalists (BFUJ) and Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) will jointly hold a discussion at the Jatiya Press Club at 4 pm.

A joint rally will be held in front of the Press Club at 10 pm by Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation, Bangladesh Jatiya Sramik Federation and Srama Bikash Kendra.

Bangladesh Sarak Paribahan Sramik Federation will hold a rally at Fulbaria Bus Terminal at 10 am.

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy in observance of the day will hold a discussion meeting and a musical programme at 4 pm at the academy auditorium. The musical programme will be participated by artists from Udichi artists group, JASAS, academy artists and others.

The Labour Directorate of the Labour and Manpower Ministry has organised a seminar on 'May Day' at BCIC auditorium at 9.30 am. Jatiya Sramik Party will hold a rally at Mununjan Textile Mills maidan at 3 pm.

Bangladesh Khelafat Majlish will hold two separate rallies at Tongi and Damra today while Islamic Foundation Bangladesh will hold a seminar on 'Rights, Responsibility and Duty of Workers in Islam' at its auditorium at 5-15 pm.

Bangladesh ex-cadets association and Dantoshha Sangathan will jointly hold a discussion meeting and a voluntary blood donation programme at the gymnasium of Motijheel colony.

Bangladesh Trade Union Sangha (Nirdalya) will hold a rally at Bangabandhu avenue at 4 pm. Dhaka University Students Union (DUCSU) will hold a seminar on 'May Day' at the TSC at 4 pm today.

Leader of different political and social organisations Thursday delivered their message to the workers community wishing their peace, prosperity and establishment of labour rights.

Bangladesh Communist Party, Bangladesh Samajtantrik Dal, Samajtantrik Sramik Front, Jatiya Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) Rab, JSD-Inu, in their message denounced the government for its decision of workers retrenchment.

Jatiya Sramik Party, Jamaat-e-Islami Bangladesh and other organisations expressed their support for the workers movement.

Bangladesh Krishak Sramik Mukti Andolan will hold a rally at Tongi today. The Andolan will also hold a discussion meeting at its central office at Chamelbag.

Bangladesh Jana Parishad will hold a discussion meeting at the party's central office at Siddeswari at 4 pm.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Thursday underlined the need for maintaining cordial relationship between owners and workers to help achieve one of major targets of the present government in attaining the overall welfare of the workers of the country, reports BSS.

In a message on the eve of historic May Day, the Prime Minister said the great May Day is being observed in a new atmosphere this time. Now a democratic government is responsible for running the country, she pointed out.

Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in the Jatiya Sangsad Sheikh Hasina Thursday called for taking a pledge to fulfil the basic needs of the working class and establish their rights.

In a statement on the eve of the historic May Day, Sheikh Hasina expressed her good will to the working class of the country and world over. She also wished peace, happiness and prosperity of the working class.

Referring to the condition of the working class in Bangladesh, the Awami League chief said closure of mills and factories and retrenchment have made their life miserable.



A village woman treading a treadle pump. —Star photo

Treadle pump : A beacon of hope

By Masud Hasan Khan

Dr K A Manzur never dreamt that his 6.6 acres of highland in Savar could ever be manually irrigated.

The arid land, locally known as "tango", is 40 feet above the ground water table and is seasonally washed by monsoon rains. But after the rainy days it is Eliot's "waste land" come-true.

On Thursday the bone-dry plot of land of Dr Karim soaked water from a deep set treadle pump, a locally invented and developed pump considered to be a major breakthrough in the country's agriculture irrigation.

Now, with the water gushing out of the deep-dug pump, Dr Manzur is ready to start farming his once-dry-in-winter land.

The treadle pump is a foot-operated irrigation pump which works on the suction mode. It has a double-piston cylinder with foot valve, two bamboo treadles, a bamboo frame and a PVC pipe to lift ground water.

International Development Enterprise (IDE), a Swiss-funded non government organisation, is the developer of the treadle pump which earlier could only lift from shallow ground water table.

Treadle pump is the brainchild of a Bangladeshi in response to his country's recurrent pangs— drought and famine. Narendra Nath Dev., a farmer of Ulipur Upazila in Kurigram district first conceived the pump which was further developed by Rangpur Dinaipur Rural Services (RDRS), a leading NGO in Bangladesh. Later, the IDE developed another version of the pump with deep water lifting capacity.

With addition of the new model, the country's fragmented agricultural land, the unproductive rural work force and the water resource could be optimally utilised, promoters of the deep-set pumps hope.

Besides, the new innovation would bring the vast unproductive high lands of the country under irrigation facilities.

IDE, based in Denver, USA is working in Bangladesh since 1984 for establishing vital private sector commercial organisations to serve the needs of the small, marginal and the landless farmers of the country.

"It is a franchise... it's like Honda, Toyota cars for the poor people," says IDE's country director William H. Derringer explaining the use of the new version of the pump to a group of newsmen who visited a demonstration site at Savar. The cost of a deep set treadle pump would not go above Taka 3000, he says.

The IDE director says that the pump would help form a productive partnership between the wealthy farmer with unproductive land and the eager sharecroppers creating employment opportunities to thousands of rural families.

According to Derringer, there are some 6.5 million families in the country with plots of land too small to provide anything other than bare subsistence — the people whose lives precariously depend on rains or functions of the tubewell.

The deep set model of the treadle pump, which lift up to 20 gallons of water per minute, would also help the sharecroppers to orchestrate their

own agenda of farming — producing diversified crops.

According to the IDE director, there are some 700,000 traditional model of the treadle pumps in the country.

An IDE study on the utility of the new model, shows that a tenant farm family can earn more than 35 thousand Taka a year on one third of an acre of land, after all expenses are paid.

At present, the IDE is doing a bit of hand-shake job, under the brand name 'Krishak Bandhu' (farmer's friend), with some 75 manufacturers, 6000 dealers and 10,000 fitters, or 'mistris'.

Since 1984, the organisation has invested on behalf of Canadian CIDA and the Swiss Development Cooperation about 1,500,000 dollar for development and dissemination of the technology.

A BIDS report on the productive value of the treadle pump says that the country's landless people alone, equipped with the treadle pump, can produce 50 per cent of Bangladesh's food grain requirements.

IDE has also sent this Bangladesh innovation across the border. The organisation operates similar programmes in India, Nepal, Vietnam and Brazil where initial response to introduction of the pump was "very exciting" according to Derringer.

As the curious rural people of the nearby Savar villages close in to watch in awe, four kids begin strolling the deep set pump. Derringer says, "It's the world's only baby pump run by the babies" — a spark to re-ignite a roaring flame.

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Non-govt initiative

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of knowledge and science and technology there is no alternative to education, she said.

Begum Zia said "education is considered an essential ingredient in poverty alleviation and health services and hygiene."

The Prime Minister said her government had accorded the highest priority to education in accordance with the expectation of the people of the country and allocated maximum amount for the development and expansion of education.

Begum Zia said her government welcomes non-government initiative in making the education a community programme. She said all must contribute their mite as complementary to government efforts.

The Prime Minister pointed out that "at present, there is a primary school in every three square kilometres but we need one primary school in every two square kilometres." This is a gigantic task. Non-governmental and individual endeavours can contribute to a large extent for making it a success, she said.

Begum Zia said, "We have reintroduced countrywide mass education programme." "For creating equal opportunities for higher education for all, we have established an Open University," she said. "It is a manifestation of our support to and approval for non-governmental private and individual initiatives in the field of education," she pointed out.

Begum Zia said the inherent philosophy of nationalist spirit

was the expansion of education. As the upholder of this spirit, we are, therefore, continually attaching due importance to education," she added.

The Prime Minister thanked, UNDP, World Bank and members of other international organisations who are working with Bangladesh to accomplish the objectives in the education sector and extending their support in the nation's struggle against illiteracy.

The inaugural session of the conference which was held to effectively build up nationwide social mobilisation to accomplish the national commitment of education for all, was also addressed by Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar. State Minister for Education Prof Yunus Khan, Executive Director of UNICEF James P Grant, Education Secretary Saiful Alam and UNICEF country representative Cole P Dodge.

The Education Minister expressed his firm belief that the present government under the leadership of Begum Khaleda Zia would be able to achieve the target of education for all with the help of all.

The State Minister for Education said the government would be able to improve the lot of the people through the national consensus created at present on the issues relating to education.

Grant said in order to change the present situation in education, the awareness and energies of the entire nation have to be aroused and organised. "All sectors of the population have to come to seek — and come to participate in — Education for All."

Dodge suggested that the government should look for the natural partners who were already engaged in education out of their own commitment to education.

The conference was jointly organised by Ministry of Education and UNICEF. The Prime Minister unveiled the logo of the Education for All Programme.

The landmark case was the first time a group of policemen has been convicted of a mass killing despite repeated accusations of security force involvement in black township violence.

The management, however, said that there was shortage in the supply of jute in the mill. The supply will be normal within the next few days, it added.

It said the total working force in the mill is 29000 out of which six thousand are 'body' (part time) workers.

Children's summit

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Referring to preparatory arrangements for the summit, Grant said before the summit the countries concerned are expected to prepare a national plan of action for basic primary education, and have a mini summit in each country with participation by leading government, non-government functionaries.

China, India, Indonesia, Mexico, Brazil and Nigeria are some of the countries which would participate in the summit. Grant came of Dhaka on April 29 on a three-day visit to Bangladesh. On the day of arrival he attended commissioning ceremony of a salt iodization plant at Keraniganj and addressed the National Education Conference yesterday as special guest.

Addressing the press conference Grant said that over the last decade the world had changed and the change was more significant during the last five years.

He said that ten years ago mothers and children were most vulnerable in most of the countries but today the world has begun to see a change in their situation.

Praising the political leadership of Bangladesh Grant said that Prime Minister Khaleda Zia was committed to alleviating the problems of women and children.

Appreciating the achievements of Bangladesh in immunising the children and ensuring safe drinking water in every village, Grant said that the plan to bring every child to school was a do-able goal. But the existing system of Bangladesh was inadequate to meet the goals and for a success changes will have to be brought into the system.

Cole P Dodge, UNICEF Country Representative, was present during the press conference.

Grant agreed to this proposal.

Principal Secretary of Prime Minister Syed Hasan Ahmed and ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Chowdhury and country representatives of UNICEF in Dhaka Cole P Dodge were present in the occasion.

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The Midnight File

India recognises new Afghan govt

NEW DELHI, Apr 30: India today recognises the new Mujahideen-run government in Afghanistan, after a decade of staunch support for ousted President Najibullah. He officially acknowledged that this council is functioning as the interim government of Afghanistan, Eduardo Falcio, Junior Minister for External Affairs, told parliament. He added that India's ambassador in Kabul, Vijay Nambiar, was in touch with members of the new government and was received by interim President Sibghatullah Mojaddadi, reports Reuter.

Sierra Leone President flees to Guinea

CONAKRY, Apr 30: President Joseph Momoh of Sierra Leone fled to neighbouring Guinea by helicopter today after mutinous soldiers said they had seized control of Sierra Leone, official sources in Conakry said, reports Reuter.

One killed in Khagrachari blast

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 30: One person was killed and another seven injured in bomb blasts at a frontier village in Khagrachari this morning.

According to district Administration sources, a cowherd of Amtali in Dighinala upazila was killed when a time bomb exploded in a cattle grazing field near the border at around 10:30 am.

Immediately after the explosion, villagers rushed to the spot when another bomb exploded leaving seven others injured.

Law enforcing officials suspected the involvement of outlawed Shantibahini activists in operating the explosion.

Azam Khan, Nila Chy held

By Staff Correspondent

Police arrested two central leaders of Jatiya Party yesterday from their residences under the Special Powers Act of 1974.

Nila Chowdhury and Azam Khan, members of Central Committee of the party were later sent to the central jail.

According to police, Nila Chowdhury was arrested from her Green Road residence early in the morning while Azam Khan was picked up from his house in the afternoon.

Cattle bazar

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issue circulars to the MPs and DCs requesting them to prepare lists of the people who had been victimised by the Ershad government for taking part in the democratic movement.

The last meeting of the standing committee decided that all the cases registered with the police against the political activists during the last democratic movement would be withdrawn unconditionally.

Held at the Sangsad Bhaban, Wednesday's meeting began at 4:30 pm and ended at 10:00 pm.

NCL

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tions of measures to be implemented in case NCL goes into red.

Depositors, who wanted to withdraw money from NCL yesterday, were refused by different NCL branch executives.

NCL sources said the depositors, gripped by panic, have withdrawn more than Taka 23 crore from the company during the last one month.

People maintaining fixed deposit account with NCL were told that the Bangladesh Bank has instructed not to allow encashment of the same.

Allegations against both BCI and NCL were surfacing for the last few months of violating the rules under which permission was accorded to them in 1985.

Bangladesh Bank permitted the establishment of NCL as an investment company.

The bank suggested some functions be undertaken by the company and imposed some restrictions.

The functions included making advances or loans either from own equity or by borrowing within the country or by syndication of foreign exchange loan, undertaking technical, economic and financial feasibility studies of the projects on behalf of its clients and providing managerial, technical and administrative personnel and services.

The major restrictions were the company would not accept any deposits, or handle I/C business or wage earners remittance. The company was also not allowed to open investor's account or issue unit trust.

Meanwhile, BCI depositors association held a rally Thursday in front of the BCI head office and later submitted a memorandum to the Governor of Bangladesh Bank.

The association demanded white paper on BCI and assurance by the government of getting back their deposits.

Mahathero back home

Bishuddananda Mahathero, President Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha, returned to the country after treatment in Bangkok, reports BSS.

OIC : refugees

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Senegal, Turkey, Kuwait, Cameroon and Egypt based in Riyad Papa Abdou Cisse, Ali Tygan, Abdourahman Al Bakar, Mohammad Labarang and Pethi Shazli respectively and Charge d'Affaires of Palestine Mustafa Hashim Sheikh Dib.

Dr Hamid also referred to the role of Begum Zia in the OIC summit and said it was commendable and the representative members of OIC were impressed with her deliberations. The Secretary General of the OIC recalled the contribution of late President Ziaur Rahman towards strengthening the OIC and said the organisation would always support Bangladesh in its socio-economic development programme.

Participating in the discussion the Ambassador of Senegal conveyed Begum Zia the good wishes of President Abdul Diouf. The Ambassador appreciated the diplomatic efforts which led to the signing of the agreement with the Myanmar authorities under which the Rohingya refugees would go back to their homes. Other Ambassadors also appreciated the Bangladesh's efforts in this regard.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said that Bangladesh gave shelter to the Myanmar refugees on humanitarian ground and tried to provide them succour and relief as best as it could despite the country's resource constraints.

Begum Zia conveyed her good wishes to the President of Senegal and thanked him for sending OIC mission to Bangladesh to see plight of Myanmar Muslims. She said that Bangladesh always gave all support to OIC for functioning of the organisation effectively.

Begum Zia mentioned that ICTVTR, a very distinguished institute located in Bangladesh, needed financial assistance and support from OIC member countries.

The Secretary General assured the Prime Minister that his organisation was giving due attention to this problem and three member countries had already sent their contribution

in this regard. He hoped that the problems of financial constraints of the institution would be overcome shortly.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman and Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister Syed Hasan Ahmed were present on the occasion.

The visiting Secretary General of the Organisation of Islamic Conference, Dr Hamid Al-Gabidi, called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban Thursday.

OIC Secretary General Dr Hamid Al-Gabidi left Dhaka Thursday for Saudi Arabia at the end of a three-day visit to Bangladesh.

Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman and Heads of Missions of OIC member states saw him off at the Zia International Airport.

SC grants Ershad's petition for appeal

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday granted former President H M Ershad's petition seeking leave to appeal against the judgement of the High Court Division which declared the detention order against him as valid, reports BSS.

Barrister Rafiq-ul-Huq, the counsel of Ershad, argued that the High Court Division had committed illegality in upholding the order of detention against H M Ershad.

Huq submitted that the High Court Division did not discharge its responsibility, as provided in Article 102 of the Constitution. He further said that the High Court Division had acted illegally in holding that once an order of detention passed by the President cannot be challenged in the court of law.

On behalf of the government, Attorney General Aminul Huq argued that whatever observation may contain in the judgement of the High Court Division it would not invalidate the detention of the detainee since it was based on cogent grounds, he added.

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক

প্রধান কার্যালয়

ঢাকা

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

সরকারের নির্দেশক্রমে বাংলাদেশ কমার্স এ্যান্ড ইনডেস্ট্রিয়েল লিঃ (বিসিআই) এর সর্বশেষ প্রকৃত অবস্থা যাচাই করার জন্য বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক কর্তৃক পরিদর্শন কাজ আরম্ভ করা হয়েছে। কিন্তু বিসিআই-এর সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীবৃন্দ কর্মস্থলে উপস্থিত না থাকার কারণে পরিদর্শন কার্যক্রম ব্যাহত হচ্ছে। উক্ত প্রতিষ্ঠানের সংশ্লিষ্ট কর্মকর্তা/কর্মচারীদের বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের পরিদর্শকদের সাথে সহযোগিতা করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাচ্ছে।

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