

Govt allows import of dish antenna

The government has decided that import, use and giving license of TVRO or dish antenna will remain open for all subject to the payment of existing tariff, tax and other duties on it, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at an inter-ministerial meeting held at the conference room of Ministry of Information under the chairmanship of Information Minister Nazmul Huda.

The meeting was attended by Post and Telecommunications Minister Mohammad Keramat Ali, Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Industry Minister Shamsul Islam Khan, Secretary, Ministry of Information, Secretary, Post and Telecommunications and senior officers of the concerned ministries and organisations.

The meeting held detail discussions on implementation of the decision taken at a recent cabinet meeting regarding import, production and use of dish antenna in Bangladesh.

Intending people to know about the existing tariff, tax and other duties on import of dish antenna have been advised to contact National Board of Revenue.

The meeting decided that industry for manufacturing of dish antenna can be set up under the existing industrial policy to bring down the price level of dish antenna within the reach of the people. The Information Ministry will also take decision on the licence fee for use of dish antenna which will be made known to all through a government notification soon. However, any body can import and use dish antenna or TVRO paying the existing tariff, tax and other duties pending the publication of government notification on licence fee.

The meeting further decided that after the issuance of the government notification on licence fee, the users of dish antenna or TVRO will have to pay licence fee and other related fees as per the provision of the notification.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing a seminar on 'Prevention of Maternal and Child Malnutrition in Bangladesh' organised by Bangladesh Population Association in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Court orders release of Zeenat

A High Court Division bench Tuesday ordered release of Zeenat Mosharruf from Detention if she is not wanted in any other case, reports BSS.

The court comprising Justice Mohammad Abdul Jalil and Justice Kazi Ebadul Huq delivering the judgement said that the order of her detention was without lawful authority.

Rokonuddin Mahmud and Murad Reza appeared for the petitioner.

Deputy Attorney General Shahabuddin Ahmed appeared for the state.

Nor'wester hits 3 Sirajganj upazilas: 25 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, May 19: A storm with a speed of 70 miles per hour swept over three upazilas of the district Monday night injuring at least 25 people, reports UNB.

The nor'wester that lasted for nearly 45 minutes hit Sadar, Belkuchi and Kamar-kandi upazilas at around 9 pm, damaged homestead over 300 partially and some completely.

Agriculture Extension Department said that standing boro crops on about 3,000 acres of land were damaged. Electric poles and trees were also uprooted.

Besides, the storm also caused considerable damage on Mango groves of the affected upazilas.

Foreign exchange reserve up

The foreign exchange reserve at the end of April last stood at 1382.21 million US dollar against 735.43 million US dollar during the corresponding period last year, registering an increase of 466.78 million US dollar, Bangladesh Bank press release said in Dhaka Tuesday, reports BSS.

The reason for the increase in reserve can be attributed to higher opening balance during the current fiscal year (about 361 million US dollar higher) against the previous fiscal year's opening balance.

During the current year the balance was 880.80 million dollar while it was 520.20 million US dollar during the previous fiscal year.

Higher receipts of foreign exchange owing mainly to increased export earnings and increased remittances by the Bangladeshis working abroad, less payment to IMP by way of debt servicing.

25 injured as police, workers clash at Adamjee

NARAYANGANJ, May 19: Police lathicharged and dispersed a workers rally in the Adamjee Jute Mills premises at noon today.

The Adamjee Jute Mills Sammilita Prati-rakkha Committee this morning called a rally and a symbolic hunger strike at the Shapla Chattar in the mills premises to protest an alleged 'conspiracy' to shut down the mills.

But the committee was obstructed by police from holding the rally and workers were lathicharged.

A statement by Committee Convenor Advocate Shah Majharul Huq said about 25 workers were injured in the lathicharge.

Denouncing the incident the leader said, police prevented guests and also the special guest of the rally from entering the mills premises.

PM: Malnutrition

From Page 1 Col 7

education, control of preventable diseases, Expanded Programme of Immunisation and treatment facilities.

Arrangements have been made for free distribution of Vitamin A tablets for prevention of blindness and production of sufficient quantity of iodized salt and its easy marketing had been ensured so that goitre caused by iodine deficiency could be prevented. She said iodization of salt had been made compulsory by the next year.

The Prime Minister said the desired success in dissemination of nutrition education was achieved and the vulnerable groups of the villages had been brought to the focus of development activities through the 'safety net programme.'

The Prime Minister said 'we are aware that there is no room for complacency at the success we have so far achieved. Our preparation, considering the enormity of the problem is limited. We still have a long way to go.'

Describing the impact of malnutrition in the country the Prime Minister said about half of the newly-born babies have less than normal weight at the time of their birth which is the highest in the world, she said.

The Prime Minister said physical growth of about 60

'Quit Bengal' movement against Jyoti

CALCUTTA, May 19: The Union Minister of State for Sports, Mamata Banerjee, who is also the state Youth Congress-I chief, today vowed to launch a 'Quit Bengal' movement against the CPI-M in the last week of August to mark the 50th anniversary of the Quit India Movement.

Addressing a youth Congress-I rally, Banerjee said that a massive rally would be organised at the brigade parade ground for launching the movement.

She said that Congressmen could not allow Jyoti Basu to remain in power any longer following the ruling Left Front's misdeeds and to save Bengal from CPI-M oppression.

Given the factional rivalries in the State Congress political observers viewed the sharing of the same platform by Mitra and Banerjee as an attempt to demonstrate solidarity among themselves in the post-organizational poll period.

Banerjee lost to Mitra in a keenly contested election for the post of the state party president.

Storm

From Page 1 Col 8

parts of southeastern region," the Met official added.

The deep depression which formed over the southwest Bay on Sunday later turned into a cyclonic storm.

Maritime ports of Chittagong, Cox's Bazar and Mongla, however have been advised to keep hoisted local Cautionary Signal Number 3 (three).

Meanwhile, the capital experienced drizzle with a gale of wind Tuesday night.

Meanwhile, BSS adds: Khulna town, its adjoining areas and Mongla Tuesday evening experienced occasional gusty wind accompanied by light rainfall as an impact of depression in the Bay of Bengal which passed through the area after it became weak.

The sky remained overcast during the evening.

Loading and unloading in Mongla port was not hampered despite warning signal, port sources said.

Diarrhoea claims 5 in Noakhali

MAIJDEE COURT, May 19: Diarrhoea claimed 5 lives in five upazilas of the district during the last 72 hours, unofficial sources said, reports UNB.

Another 28 people, suffering from the disease, were admitted to Sadar Hospital.

One death was reported at Ramnathpur village in Sadar upazila Thursday and 4 others at East Nurpur of the same upazila Wednesday.

At least 2,000 people were reportedly attacked by the disease that broke out in Sadar, Chalkhil, Chapainawabganj, Senbag and Begumganj upazilas during the period.

The cause of the sudden outbreak of the disease was attributed to acute scarcity of drinking water.

Murder

From Page 1 Col 8

Lalbagh police Tuesday morning.

The postmortem examination of the body was done at the Forensic Department of the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday but police are yet to receive the report.

Abu Hossain supplied tobacco leaf in the area and he lived in the house alone. His wife Sufia Begum and his three years old son lived in his village Sariatpur.

Meanwhile Lalbagh police declined to comment on the motive for the murder. The murderers killed Abu Hossain and left the spot without taking anything from the house, they added.

Death squads

From Page 1 Col 5

cleared early Tuesday morning by troops in a hail of gunfire, killing scores of people.

A volley of gunfire was heard nearby in mid-afternoon, after a mob reportedly attacked a police station to press demands that those arrested during the unrest be released.

Chamlong Srimuang, a former Bangkok governor and a key opposition leader, and close aides were arrested Monday, and a government-run television station reported that 4,000 people had been arrested when troops quelled the anti-Suchinda protest.

Pockets of rioters gathered in other central Bangkok areas, and in one incident, three buses were set ablaze.

But, following the government's warnings, the rest of the city emptied rapidly as hundreds of police were deployed late afternoon at key city intersections with rifles and shotguns. They also erected barricades on major avenues in an apparent bid to freeze all traffic and paralyze this city of some eight million people.

Government announcements over television repeatedly warned of the danger of motorcycle gangs, Monday night, hundreds of motorcycle gangs spread throughout the capital, attacking police, smashing police boxes and traffic lights in an orgy of destruction.

During his television broadcast, Suchinda accused a former military leader with links to the communist move-



Bangladesh Railway Sramik League brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting government's move to retrench workers. — Star photo

Uganda to recruit manpower

Uganda is likely to recruit skilled manpower from Bangladesh for its on-going development projects, reports UNB.

This was indicated by Ugandan State Minister for Foreign Affairs Kirunda Kivejinja Tuesday on his arrival in Dhaka on a two-day official visit of Bangladesh.

Kivejinja, who flew in Dhaka on his way back home after attending NAM meeting in Bali, Indonesia, was received by State Minister for Education Principal Yunus Khan at the airport.

"Uganda looks forward to taking teachers from Bangladesh for its universities and other educational institutions," he told newsmen at the airport.

The minister from the East African state said the visit, follow up of his country's President Muavian's stopover in Dhaka last month, would provide an opportunity to develop "a" fruitful cooperation between the two countries in the light of South-South Cooperation.

He will meet Education Minister Jamiruddin Sircar and Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman today before leaving for Islamabad.

Kivejinja said there is a prospect of developing cooperation between the two

Political clash leaves 14 hurt in Nepal

KATHMANDU, May 19: At least 14 people were hurt in a clash between Communist activists and the ruling Nepali Congress in the western city of Pokhara, the Nepalese Home Ministry said today.

Senior Home Ministry spokesman Ramananda Vaidya said the 14 injured included both Nepal Congress and opposition Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) activists.

A reliable source in Pokhara 225 kms (140 miles) west of here, told AFP by telephone that police had opened fire Monday after using teargas to try to disperse protesters against the Nepali Congress.

300 killed in Nigerian riots

LAGOS, May 19: At least 300 people have been killed in two days of religious and ethnic fighting in northern Nigeria, diplomats in the troubled city of Kaduna said today.

"Up to 300 people have been killed. It is terrible and sad," a foreign diplomat told Reuters from Kaduna, political heartland of Nigeria's mainly Muslim north.

"I saw mortuaries and hospitals filled with the injured and corpses, some beaten beyond recognition. Others had slit throats", he said.

Newsman dead

Senior journalist Nurul Hussain Talukder, Chief of the Reading Section of the Daily Ittefaq, died of a heart attack at his residence at Mugdapara in the city early Tuesday, a press release said, reports BSS.

He was 50.

Talukder left behind his mother, wife, two sons, two daughters and a large number of colleagues and well-wishers to mourn his death.

His Namaz-e-Janaza was held at Mugdapara mosque after Zohr prayer and later he was buried at Azampur graveyard.

Rima murder Defence terms phone call as 'dubious'

The hearing of appeal against the judgement in the Rima murder case continued for the third day yesterday before a High Court Division Bench comprising Justice Mohammad Badruzzaman and Justice Mohammad Ruhul Amin, reports BSS.

Senior Advocate M A Malek, appearing on behalf of Munir Hossain placed evidences of prosecution witnesses that on April 9, 1989 at 8 pm a journalist without giving name and particulars just informed to Humayun Kabir Chowdhury, the maternal uncle of deceased Rima, that she was murdered by Munir but this journalist never identified himself and nobody knew who murdered Rima.

Malek also mentioned that the question arose, how somebody posing as a journalist could say Rima was murdered by Munir. So the telephone call to Humayun Kabir Chowdhury

on the date mentioned was motivated and dubious in nature because no journalist till today had come forward to say that he was the person who informed the matter to Chowdhury or to any resident of the victims father, late Nizamuddin Ahmed's house.

He further mentioned that the sheath of USA made knife was found on April 23 from the place of occurrence but the knife reportedly recovered by a child and seized by Demra police and subsequently produced in the court two weeks later, was made in Switzerland.

The hearing will resume on tomorrow.

Serajul Huq, M A Malek appeared on behalf of appellant while, Attorney General Aminul Huq, Deputy Attorneys General A F M Shahid, Amirul Kabir Chowdhury and Assistant Attorney General Obaidur Rahman Mostafa appeared for the state.

Hasina at Fatikchhari

From Page 1 Col 7

bloody conflicts to drive the nation to a civil war.

Hasina accused the Jamaat-Shibir forces of spoiling the sanctity of mosques by using the sacred place of worship as their party offices. She called on all true Muslims and her party workers to perform their prayers in mosques and maintain its sanctity at all costs.

"People won't allow them (Jamaat-Shibir) to use mosques as their party offices... Our people are religious minded but not fanatics," the Awami League chief said. "Beware of these misinterpreters of Islam", she cautioned.

Hasina, reiterating her demand for trial of Golam Azam, said war criminals all over the world are still being searched out and put on the dock. "Unfortunately, war criminals in Bangladesh are being rehabilitated."

She, however, said the new generation has become conscious about the conspiracy of the anti-liberation elements and this was manifested in the trial of "war criminal" Golam Azam on March 26 by the "Gano-Adalat" (people's court). "It is now the responsibility of the government to execute its verdict."

Criticising the government for not responding to the verdict, the Awami League leader alleged that the present government allowed Golam Azam, a foreign national, to dabble in politics and hatch plot against the country.

Presided over by local Awami League leader Zahurul Haq, the meeting was addressed by Pulin Dey, Ataur Rahman Khan Kaiser, Ivy Rahman, Mosharruf Hossain, Abdullah Al-Harun, Abdul Mannan, Syed Najibul Bashar, MP, A B M Mohiuddin Chowdhury, Nurul Alam Chowdhury, Ishaq Miaj and newly elected Chhatra League President Mainuddin Hasan Chowdhury.

The Awami League President criticised the BNP government for what she said not resolving the basic problems facing the common people. "Its 14 months of misrule, inefficiency, corruption

and nepotism further aggravated the misery of the people", she alleged.

Also accusing the ruling party of non-fulfilment of its election pledges, Hasina said, "they are enjoying power forgetting their commitment to the people".

Unbridled price-hike of essentials, increasing lawlessness and growing unemployment have already generated frustration among the people, she said. Any fresh burden of taxes on gas, electricity and water as well as enhanced rail fares would further increase the sufferings of the people.

Hasina charged the ruling party for repression on its political opponents and warned that autocracy must succumb to the combined strength of the masses. Autocratic Ershad was not spared by the people, she reminded.

The opposition leader also rebuked the government for "backing out" opposition news in state-run radio and television. "Begum Zia is virtually ruling the country, stepping into Ershad's shoes and putting on his spectacles."

Criticising the move for retrenching nearly one lakh industrial workers, she warned that the government will not be allowed to do it without arranging alternative employment for them.

Quoting statistics, she said the number of industrial workers was recorded at one crore 15 lakh in 1975 when the total population was seven and a half crore. But the number of workers gradually came down to only 45 lakh when the population has risen to over 11 crore.

The rate of unemployment has increased to 50 per cent presently from 15 per cent in 1975, she added.

The Awami League chief also addressed a public meeting at Kathirhat High School premises. One her way from Chittagong to Fatikchhari, she also addressed as many as 16 wayside gatherings. Earlier, Hasina visited the houses of martyred Awami League and Chhatra League workers and consoled the members of the bereaved families.

Editor: S. M. Ali
Executive Editor: Mahfuz Anam
Published by S. M. Ali on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000 and printed by him at Offset Printing Dialogue Publications Ltd., 19 Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: 28/1, Toynbee Circular Road, Dhaka-1000. Tel: PABX- 246023-4, 245061-2. Advertisement: 245063 & Ext. 20, Fax No. 88-02-863035. GPO Box No. 3257. GRAM: DAILY STAR, DHAKA.