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NEWS BRIEFS Hartal in Comilla

tomorrow From Our Correspondent

COMMILLA, June 4: A halfday hartal has been called for Monday here demanding the formation of an administrative division in Comilia. The 6 am to 12 noon hartal was called by the Comilla Bibhag Bastobayon Committee. The committee is scheduled to hold railies and torch procession in the town

Prof Monirul Haq UGC member

Government has appointed Professor Monirul Hag as a member of the University Grants Commission (UGC) on a four-year term. Until this appointment Prof Haq was a teacher of the Geology Department of the Dhaka University.

Hasina shocked

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina yes terday expressed her deep shock at the death of more than 150 people in a tidal bore that hit the Java island in Indonesia. In a message to President Soeharto of Indonesia, Hasina, also the Awami League chief prayed for the families of the victims and hoped that they would be able to overcome the disaster caused by natural calamity, reports UNB.

Phensidyl seized

Police in the early hours yesterday seized 283 bottles of Phensidyl, ten cartons of foreign cigarettes and 200 pieces of locks. Demra police found the Phensidyl bottles from two Dhaka-bound night coaches coming from Chittagong.

Report on new labour law submitted to PM

The National Labour Law Commission submitted its report to the government yesterday codifying a new draft labour law aimed at ensuring sound growth of industries in the country, reports UNB. Chairman of the Commis-

sion Justice Mohammad Abdul Quddus Chowdhury handed over the report to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office. The commission has recommended that the labour of

those who had not attained the age of 14 should be defined as child labour. Some other important recommendations of the commisappointment made compulsory, provisions for death benefit, registered medical practitioner's certificate during discharge, two months' prior notice or salary return to the owner in case of labourer's self-termination from job. maintenance of climate conducive to establishing new industry and investment, prohibition of transfer of trade union president, general secretary, organising secretary and treasurer without their consent and ensuring provi-

dent fund in the private sector. Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Special Envoy of the Prime

bour and Manpower Secretary Dr Shah Mohammad Fariduddin, Commission member and Whip Mohammad Ashraf Hossain, Advocate Sigma Huda, Laila Kabir, Mohammad Abu Taher, Nurul Islam, trade union leaders Protabuddin and Advocate Nirmalendu Dhar were present on the occasion.

The commission was formed in 1992 at the instruction of the Prime Minister to formulate an uptodate 'Labour Code' through analysing the existing labour laws to ensure increase in production in peaceful atmosphere and good relations in the industrial sec-

See Page 12 Col 6



Chowdhury (R) handing over the Commission's report to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office yesterday. Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan (C) is also

Chairman of the National Labour Law Commission Justice Mohammad Abdul Quddus - PID photo

Biman to award fresh maintenance contract

Technology transfer sought

By Asiuzzaman

Biman Bangladesh Airlines. which will hand out fresh contracts for maintenance of its aircraft from January next year, will seek to ensure a degree of technology transfer for eventual D-checking of its DC-10-30s here in Dhaka.

Biman's three-year contract with Alitalia is due to expire in December and it has already floated tenders for fresh appointment of maintenance contractor for another threeyear period.

The tender schedule clearly mentions that the first two Dchecks, due in 1996, would be done under the contractor's supervision at Biman's Zia Airport hanger, while the third D-check in 1997 must be done by Biman engineers with the help of the contractor's transferred technology.

But local aviation experts differed on the new move un-

BANYUWANGI. Indonesia.

June 4: Hundreds of after-

shocks, including two strong

earthquakes, hit Indonesia's

Java and Bali islands Saturday,

as the death toll from high

ocean waves triggered by a

quake the previous day

casualties or damage from the

aftershocks were available

from the area, meteorological

aftershocks registered a pre-

liminary magnitude of 6.0 of

the Richter scale, meteorolog-

ical official Abdul Gafur said. A

second measured 4.8, and

more than 400 smaller after-

shocks also hit the region, he

a surface-wave magnitude of

7.2, according to the US Geo-

Friday's predawn quake had

One of Saturday's strong

No immediate reports of

climbed to 218, reports AP.

officials said.

dertaken by Biman and said "The national carrier has to pay a huge additional amount to the contractors if they perform D-check in Dhaka by bringing equipment and tech-

In a letter to the Managing Director of Biman, one of the local aerospace consultants, also questioned the clause regarding qualification of the bidder, alleging it would favour a particular group.

"The condition for qualification of bidders, as published in the newspapers, appears to be pre-selective of only one bidder," the letter added Maximum 'in house capacity' D-check, overhaul of engines, auxiliary power unit (APU) and landing gear is to be considered as qualification of bidders, according to the tender

D-check is the highest

logical survey in Golden, Col-

orado. Surface-wave magnitude

mic waves that travel along the

age itself, but triggered a

series of six-meter (20-foot)

high ocean waves that hit

sleeping coastal villages on In-

donesia's main island of Java

about an hour later, killing at

least 218 villagers in Banyu-

wangi and Jember regencies,

East Java government.

said Susanto, spokesman of the

fish vendors in the coastal dis-

trict of Pesanggrahan in Banyu-

wangi. The hardest hit village

was Pancer, a poor fishing co-

mmunity about 1,080 kilo-

meters (675 miles) southeast

killed in Pancer, a village of

At least 81 people were

Most of the victims were

It did not cause major dam-

is based on an analysis of seis-

earth's surface.

maintenance work for an air craft, usually carried out after every 23,000 hours of flying. tired army official on behalf of a consultant company, also said that since aircraft maintenance was highly cost-intensive, the world's leading airlines had formed groups on cartels and distributed works among

themselves KSSU is one of such groups. that comprise KLM, Swissair, Scandinavian Airlines System (SAS) and UTA. Usually, if one group member does the engine overhaul, the other maintains the APU, while an other performs the D-check,

and so on. Another such leading maintenance group is AFLAS comprising Alitalia. Lufthansa. Air France and Sabena of Belgium. These two groups could collectively maintain

See Page 12 Col 7 Quakes kill 218 in Indonesia 2.000, and most of its about

> many with injuries, were evac-Hundreds of homeless people left other villages looking for shelter with relatives or

700 houses were completely

destroyed. About 1,000 people.

friends There were hysterical cries from women and children survivors as they searched through the rubble for family mem-

Susanto said the death toll may continue to climb since many fishermen were believed to the fishing at the time of the quake.

He said rescue team were still looking for survivors trapped under the wreckage. Banyuwangi, said tents and community kitchens were set up to accommodate hundreds of people left homeless.

Sangsad session from tomorrow

The Baily Star

By Staff Correspondent Jatiya Sangsad (JS) goes

into its budget session tomorrow with the Opposition remaining firm on boycotting the proceedings of the House. The Opposition parties in

Parliament boycotted the last session to press home their demand that the treasury bench move a bill seeking constitutional provisions for holding general elections under a caretaker government. The leaders of the Oppo-

sition parties are scheduled to meet this morning to review the latest situation and work out a strategy for realising their demands. Back stage government moves are learnt to have been going on to bring back the Opposition to the House and the Opposition

See page 12 Col 3

JS body holds informal talks with Shantibahini

From Staff Correspondent CHITTAGONG, June 4: The

Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Hill Tracts Affairs today held informal talks with the leaders of Shantibahini at Dudukchhari border village under Panchhari thana of Khagrachhari district. Official sources said the two

sides had detailed discussions to narrow down the gap and reach understanding. But they declined to give the details. The two sides also agreed

to sit again sometime this

The informal talks aim a paving the way for the next round of dialogue between the Parliamentary Committee headed by the Communications Minister Oli Ahmed and Shantibahini leaders.

The sub-committee comprises Rashed Khan Menon, Kalparanjan Chakma, Mostaque Ahmed and Md Shahjahan. The Shantibahini side was

led by J B Larma alias Shanto

Hasina condemns attack on 3

newspapers Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina

has strongly condemned Friday's attack on three national dailies - the Janakantha. Banglar Bani and Ajker Kagoj by a militant fundamentalist group, reports UNB.

In a statement yesterday, Hasina said the extreme communal forces, backed by the government, had launched the attack with firearms and bombs in presence of police.

Such attack is a blow on the independence of the press she said. The naked armed at tack in presence of police demonstrated that law and order is not under the control of the government."

The Opposition leader al leged that the government had not only snatched away people's right to vote and food but also their freedom of speech. Hasina demanded Tegal ac-

tion against the attackers and exemplary punishment to

Sylhet flood situation worsens

From Our Correspondent SYLHET, June 4: Flash flood situation in Sylhet has worsened further with more areas in Jaintapur and Jakiganj thanas inundated today.

About 1,000 acres of IRRI and Aush crops went under water in Telikhal project areas as flood waters started flowing through a breach in Sarigwain embankment in Jaintapur.

Some 12 villages in two unions of Jaintapur thana are badly affected. Diarrhoeal diseases have also broken out in these villages. So far some 400 people have been attacked

with the disease. See Page 12 Col 5

High grade uranium ores discovered at Fultala

By Staff Correspondent

Tk 20cr DCC mosquito

control project

By Nazmul Ashraf

High grade uranium ores have been discovered at Fultala in Harargani hill area under Moulvi Bazar district, a senior geologist of the Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission (BAEC) told a seminar in the city yesterday. The discovery of 'thorlonite' and 'uranothorite' ores was confirmed after mineralogical tests of the samples taken from radiometric anomalous zone in the region, Dr Eunuse Akon said. The tests were carried out in a laboratory in Japan, he added.

The seminar on 'mineralogical tests of uranium ore samples from Canada and Bangladesh' was held at the BAEC auditorium.

The Dhaka City Corporation

(DCC) has initiated a Taka 20

crore mosquito control project

to be implemented in phases

during the next three years,

highly placed DCC sources

now awaiting approval of the

Executive Committee of the

National Economic Council

(ECNEC) after being discussed

at a pre-ECNEC meeting re-

According to the Project

Concept Paper (PCP), the ward

commissioners will supervise

in their respective areas the

mosquito control activities to

be coordinated by the depart-

ments of health, cleaning and

engineering of the DCC. The

project will involve modern

equipment and adequate

manpower. The PCP suggests

participation of the NGOs.

students, youths and the peo-

cently.

The ambitious project is

BSS adds: bulk of the Fultala samples contained 0.1 per cent uranium while the uranium mineral especially thorionite was found to contain upto 40 per cent Uranium. The Fultala radioactive zone

was discovered in 1985 by scientists of the BAEC under the uranium and Thorium Exploration Project which started at the initiative of late President Ziaur Rahman in December, 1976, BAEC sources said. But the project was sus-

pended 'abruptly' by the Ershad government in 1986 at a time when a high grade uranium ore was detected at Fultala, a geo-chemical laboratory See Page 12 Col 4

ple in its implementation.

The PCP proposes that the

WASA, Railway, Rajuk and the

Public Works authorities

identify the sources of

mosquito breeding under their

control and clean those.

Derelict ponds, bogs and

swamps should be cleaned or

earthfilled and there should

be proper drainage to end wa-

Under the project, ade-

quate number of fogger and

hand spray machines and in-

secticides will be supplied to

each of the 90 wards of the

DCC. Adulticide spray will be

used from October to March

every year to kill the flying

sterilised through the planta

tion of aquatic plants in the

ponds after removing water-

hyacinth from there or some

Mosquito larvae will be

ter-logging, it says.

mosquitoes.

Taslima Nasreen in hiding as court orders her arrest

By Staff Correspondent

Taslima Nasreen, the controversial 32-year-old writer. went into hiding immediately after a court yesterday issued

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an order for her arrest. The court issued a warrant against Nasreen following a police case accusing her of "blasphemous statements" against Islam.

Chief Metropolitan magistrate, Dhaka, Shahiduddin Ahmed issued the warrant in a criminal case filed against her for "deliberate and malicious intention of outraging the reli-

gious feelings of the Muslims."

The government move against the writer came following statements made by Nasreen in her interview pub-See Page 12 Col 1

World Environment Day today

By Staff Correspondent The World Environment

Day will be observed today throughout the country as well as elsewhere in the world. President Abdur Rahman

Biswas in a message on the occasion, said the whole world should be considered a "global village" to prevent environmental degradation and ensure its improvement. He said Bangladesh is concerned about the urgent need for evolving common strategies for the preservation of sound environment worldwide. Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia in a message said human race should be united to face the challenges faced by the present civilisation and find out a safer world where there won't by any poverty and See Page 12 Col 1

BAU convocation

today

From Our Correspondent See Page 12 Col 4 MYMENSINGH, June 4: The third convocation of Bangla-

Star Report

'Prithvi' test fired

missiles.

An acute water crisis has gripped the capital causing sufferings to the citizens.

The requirement of water in the city is around 140 crore litres per day but the WASA is capable of supplying only half of it, sources concerned said.

Water has become so scarce in many areas of the city like Khilgaon and Malibagh that it now sells at Tk 4 to 5 per pitcher. In some other areas like Dhanmondi and Mirpur, people sometimes have to go without water for almost half of "The water supply in Dhaka

city is almost entirely dependent on the sub-soil water since the inception of WASA back in 1963. With the sharp growth of population in the city the resource had been exploited up to a danger level, the sources pointed out.

When WASA was set up the per day demand for water was 15 crore litres while the supply was 13 crore litres! in

NEW DELHI, June 4: India

Saturday successfully con-

ducted final tests on a ballistic

missile that it is deploying de-

spite opposition from the

The 8-meter-long (26-feet)

'Prithvi' missile streaked into

the sky above the Bay of Bengal

from a firing range on India's

eastern coast at 11.40 local

time (0610 GMT). Press Trust

at Chandirpur-on-sea, about

2,000 kilometers (1,250

miles) east of New Delhi, after

residents of the area were

evacuated from around the

were put off last month be-

cause Prime Minister P V

Narasimha Rao did not want to

anger Washington just before a

The final tests on Prithvi

The tests were conducted

of India said

launching zone.

United States, reports AP.

1970, the demand was 26 crore litres and the supply was

The demand rose to 55 crores litres in 1988 with a supply shortage of 25 crore litres. In 1990, the shortage was 49 crore litres daily with a peak demand of 100 crores.

18 crore litres.

With a persisting supply shortage, the WASA installed 170 deep tube wells to supply 70 crore litres of water per day. Only three per cent of the total supplies are provided by the city's only surface water plant at Chandnighat. This plant was set up 120 years ago. "The WASA should have

concentrated on utilising the river waters available near the city long ago. It had such plans but those were forgotten after the liberation, a source said.

The water crisis in the capital will be worse in the coming days. But the implementation of WASA's Sayedabad water treatment plant may tem-See page 12 Col 3

summit with President Clin-

two days before he left for the

United States, that India was

under pressure to scrap an

ambitious 285 million dollars

programme to build short-

range and intermediate-range

The missile was fired from

a mobile launcher mounted on

an army truck to replicate

conditions of its actual use

when the weapon is deployed

in a few months on India's

western border with Pakistan

carry a one ton payload up to

250 kilometers (156 miles)

and the longer range 'Agni'

missile are showpieces of the

project handled entirely by In-

dian defence scientists.

The Prithvi, which has can

But Rao denied on May 12,

Water crisis in city desh Agriculture University will be held tomorrow at 10:30

Abedin auditorium. The second convocation was held more than 21 years

The Chancellor of BAU. Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, will confer the degrees for the years 1988 and 1989.

am at the Shilpacharya-Jainul

A total of 1273 graduates and 241 post-graduates will be awarded certificates on this occasion. Besides, 26 others will get doctorate degree.

The first convocation of

BAU was held on March 28 in 1968. The second convocation was held on December 31, 1972. BAU was established in

213 DU teachers oppose polls under caretaker govt

By Staff Correspondent Two hundred and thirteen

teachers of the Dhaka University in a joint statement yesterday opposed the demand for holding national elections under a caretaker government.

"Giving more power to the Election Commission and sincerity of the political parties can only ensure a free and fair election", the statement said.

PM resumes 'meet the people' programme

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia listened to the problems and suggestions of some 17 distressed and helpless people during her 'Meet the People' programme that resumed yesterday evening after a couple of months, reports UNB.

The people who went to Sugandha to meet the Prime Minister sought her help in resolving their problems as well as implementing some welfare oriented projects.



Rush Rush Rush LAST DAY TODAY (up to 10 pm) for Quiz 5 Entries

You can win 2 Philips Powervision Colour TV (21 inches) and 2 B/W

Philips TV (17 inches), and the other regular prizes Send as many Entries as you like

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