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Schoolboy killed in crossfire in city

A school student was killed in a crossfire between two groups of alleged miscreants in Gandaria area of the city last night, reports BSS. Relatives of the victim said, Sohail Mohammad, 14, a student of class eight of Gandaria High School sustained bullet injuries in his chest at about 8-30 pm when he was returning home from a coaching centre. He was immediately taken to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where the attending doctor declared him dead. His body was kept at the morgue of the hospital for autopsy. The victim was the son of late Kalai Fakir of 51, Dhakanagar Lane, Gandaria. A case was registered with Sutrapur police station.

AL activists

From Page 1 that, the outgoing committee of Sylhet district would continue to work. He also announced that Syed Abu Naser and A N M Shafique, outgoing president and general secretary of Sylhet district unit would be the convenor and member-secretary of the 51-member ad hoc committee for a period of three months. The rest executives and members of the outgoing committee would be members of the ad hoc committee, Tofael said. Earlier, the inaugural session of the conference was held at the Registry Maidan with Syed Abu Naser in the chair. Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad was the special guest. Tofael Ahmed, Prime Minister's Parliamentary Affairs Adviser, Suranjit Sen-gupta, Sultan Mohammad Mansur, Nurul Islam Nahid, Syeda Zubunnessa Haque, and former DUCSU VP Aktaruzzaman spoke.

DC holds court as District Magistrate

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Mar 19: It is the first time since independence that a Deputy Commissioner of a district has held his court as a District Magistrate. Md. Hatem Ali Khan, Deputy Commissioner of Barisal started his court today as the District Magistrate here. So far, no Deputy Commissioner had held any court earlier in Barisal since independence. The Deputy Commissioner also constructed a new court room at his office building.

Edward College

From Page 1 out to help her husband, the armed men also attacked her and her three-year-old child. They asked the Principal to leave Pabna or to face dire consequences. The district administration officials visited the house of the principal. It may be recalled that the Edward College students' union has been demanding removal of the Principal for the last several months. Meanwhile, the Edward College Teachers Council at a meeting today condemned the attack on the principal and demanded immediate arrest of the culprits. The teachers also brought out a procession and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner demanding action against the attackers. They also decided to observe a strike tomorrow. Waziuddin Khan MP, Rafiqul Islam Bakul MP and other local political leaders met the principal. The BCL and the JCD brought out processions accusing each other of the incident. A case has been filed.

Private EPZs

From Page 1 vate EPZs would have to be approved by the authority concerned and plans be governed by regulations to be amended as and when necessary. It fixed the licence fee for setting up industries in the EPZ at US dollar 10,000, payment of which will be prescribed by relevant regulations. First meeting of the Board of Governors was held on October 20, 1996 and the decision for setting up private processing zones came into being through the Bangladesh Private Export Processing Zone Act 1996. Yesterday's meeting also approved in principle decision for establishing a police outpost in the Korean EPZ project in Anwara thana of Chittagong district. A 50 per cent rebate on stamp duty was also approved at the meeting, where the Prime Minister mentioned her government's all-out steps for attracting local and foreign investment to boost the economy.

15 houses, 3 shops gutted at N'ganj

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, Mar 19: At least 15 thatched houses and three shops were gutted in two fire incidents in the town during the last two days. A fire broke out reportedly from a gas stove in a house at Golachipa area at about 10 pm on Tuesday. The blaze engulfed the area and gutted 15 houses, local people said. Fire fighters from Mondolpara and Haziganj stations rushed to the spot and extinguished the blaze after two hours, fire brigade sources said. In another incident of fire, three shops were gutted in Pikepara area early today. The cause of the fire could not be known immediately. Fire fighters brought the blaze under control within an hour, fire service sources said.

Interest on FC account of Bangladeshis working abroad

Bangladesh Bank asked the authorised dealers to give interest on foreign currency accounts of non-residents, including Bangladeshis nationals working abroad, reports UNB.

Henceforth, the authorised dealers (banks) may apply interest at prevailing Eurocurrency deposit rates on non-resident foreign currency accounts specifically maintained as term deposits. But the balances of such deposits should not be less than 1000 US dollars, 500 pound sterling or equivalent in other currency lying in the account for one month or longer, a central bank announcement said yesterday.

The decision to apply interest was taken to encourage the non-resident persons or institutions, including the Bangladeshis nationals working abroad, to maintain their deposits in Bangladesh. The non-resident account holders are now subject to applying interest at prevailing Eurocurrency deposit rates on accounts maintained as one, three, six or twelve month-term deposits.

But due to absence of any general provision for applying interest on the non-resident accounts not specifically maintained as term deposits, the account holders do not earn reasonable return on their funds even if substantial balances are maintained for period of one month or longer. For this, the non-resident account holders do not feel encouraged to maintain their deposits back at home and it prompted the central bank to take the decision, the announcement said.

Mannan

From Page 1 minutes... We're not well informed of the incident since the government did not discuss the issue with us either in the parliament or outside it... I can't tell you this elaborately over telephone. Please, meet me sometime after the hartal. The BNP started a 28-day countrywide demonstration programme from March 3 protesting, what it said, wrong policies of the government that aggravated the law and order and weakened the national economy.

Talks today

From Page 1 Panchhari TNO Rashedul Haque and Dighinala TNO M B I M Shafiguddin. The Tripura side at the meeting will be led by district magistrate K Rajeswar Rao. A delegation of the Tripura Refugee Welfare Samity, led by Upendra Lal Chakma, will remain present at the meeting.

Teacher robbed of Tk 2.13 lakh

A retired teacher lost his savings as a mugger snatched Tk 2.13 lakh from him while returning home after encashing his saving certificates from GPO in the city yesterday, reports UNB. Police said Chowdhury Abdur Razzak, a retired professor, went to the GPO in the morning and encashed his saving certificates worth Tk 2,13,800 from the central post office. He came out of the GPO at about 1:30 pm and was waiting near the east gate of Bangladesh Secretariat for a Farmgate-bound bus to go to his house at East Razabazar.

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BNP calls hartal

From Page 1 the country and who don't", Begum Zia said. She accused the Awami League government of signing another slavery treaty giving corridor to India before the expiry of the 25-year slavery treaty then the AL government had signed in 1972. "In 1972 and 1997 are not the same. This time BNP will resist along with the people," Begum Zia said.

Blaming the government for 'miserably failing' to protect people's interests in the past nine months despite her party's 'cooperation', the BNP chief asserted "as this government is protecting only foreign interests it can't get any more cooperation." "In the last nine months, this government has proved its incompetence in running the country", Begum Zia said adding, "We had to govern the country amid non-cooperation by them (the then opposition parties)."

Turning to the existing crises of power, gas and water, the BNP chief alleged that the ministers concerned and even the head of the government were constantly speaking lies to hide their failures. "They're often heard blam-

Diarrhoea claims 24 in Bhola

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Mar 19: Diarrhoea claimed at least 24 lives in the district of Bhola during the last two weeks.

According to the Red Crescent Society in Bhola, the death toll may go up. Most of the deaths were reported from Char Zahiruddin and Char Nizam.

Bangabandhu

From Page 1 The following lawyers have been appointed as state defence for the absconding accused: Gazi Zillur Rahman for Col (ret'd) Khandaker Abdur Rashid, Khorsheed Alam Azad for Maj (ret'd) Bazul Huda, Abul Hasib for Lt Col (ret'd) MAHMB Noor Chowdhury, Pran Nath for Lt Col (ret'd) Shariful Haq Dalim, Fariduddin for Lt Col (ret'd) Aziz Pasha, Jasimuddin for Lt Col (ret'd) M A Rashed Chowdhury, Amir Hossain for Maj (ret'd) A K M Mohiuddin, Awlad Hossain for Risalder Moslemuddin, Mokhesur Rahman Badal for Maj (ret'd) Ahmed Sharful Hassan, H M Nurul Haq for Capt (ret'd) Kismat Hossain, Saiful Islam for Capt (ret'd) Nazmul Hossain Ansari, Gazi M Shah Alam for Capt (ret'd) Ali Hossain for Marfat Ali and Moazzem Haq for Abul Hashem. So far, police arrested six accused in the case. They are former minister Taheruddin Thakur, Col (ret'd) Syed Farooqur Rahman, Lt Col (ret'd) Shahriar Rashid Khan, Lt Col (ret'd) Mohiuddin, Hon Capt (ret'd) Wahab and Zobaidda Rashid, wife of absconding accused Col (ret'd) Khandaker Abdur Rashid.

BNP's Independence Day programme begins today

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will inaugurate the party's week-long programmes to celebrate the Independence Day at the Ramna Green at 3 pm today, reports UNB. Convenor of the party's Independence Day celebration committee Mir Shawkat Ali and its member secretary Redwan Ahmed have requested all to join the function.

UNDP grant

From Page 1 government and UNDP after the approval of the Country Cooperation Framework by the executive board of UNDP in 1996. The project agreements were signed by Economic Relations Division (ERD) Secretary Dr A K M Mashiur Rahman and resident representative of UNDP David E Lockwood in the Finance Ministry.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria and UNDP's Assistant Administrator and Director for its Asia Pacific Regional Bureau in New York, Nay Htun were present on the occasion. The next tranche of programmes in the areas of environment and advancement of women amounting to 40 million US dollars, equivalent to Tk 172 crore, is expected to be signed in mid-1997, said a UNDP press release.

Boy burnt alive in Jamalpur

JAMALPUR, Mar 19: A minor boy was roasted alive and 16 houses were gutted in a fire at Banarpara in Sadar thana of the district today, reports UNB. Witnesses said the fire originated from a kitchen at 4 pm and gutted 15 houses and one shop. Fire fighters extinguished the blaze after two hours.

NOTICE

Telephone Nos of different offices at the 1997 temporary Haji Camp:

- 1. Haj Office : 891007, 891456, 891006
2. Biman : 891008, 891457, 891458
3. Health Department : 891741
4. Public Works : 891742, 897020
5. Fire Service & Civil Defence : 892201
6. Islami Bank : 892076
7. Police : 892202

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CHELUM



The Chelum of late Al-Haj Reazuddin Ahmed (Bhola Mia) a valiant freedom fighter and former minister of the Govt. of Bangladesh and former Deputy Speaker of Bangladesh Parliament will be held on March 21, Friday after "Asr" prayer at House No. 83, Road No. 23, Gulshan-1. All his relatives, well wishers and friends are kindly requested to join the "milad mahfil" and pray for the salvation of the departed soul.

Sajada Reaz Roxena Quader Sajjad Shahnawaz Ahmed Sajjad Sarwar Ahmed

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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কেন এই বিদ্যুৎ সংকট

প্রিয় দেশবাসী,

এই দেশ আমার, আপনার, আমাদের সবার। দেশের সমস্যা ও সাফল্যে আপনিও সমান অংশীদার। তাই আপনাকে জানাতে চাই - কেন এই বিদ্যুৎ সংকট।

বিগত বছরগুলোতে ক্রমবর্ধমান চাহিদার সাথে সঙ্গতি রেখে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন এবং গ্যাস সরবরাহ বৃদ্ধি করা হয়নি। যার ফলে আজ সারা দেশে লোড শেডিং হচ্ছে।

এই সংকট মোকাবেলায় বর্তমান সরকার সর্বাঙ্গিক চেষ্টা চালাচ্ছে

এপ্রিল মাসের মধ্যে ৫৮ কিলোমিটার দীর্ঘ আশুগঞ্জ-বাখরাবাদ গ্যাস পাইপ লাইনের কাজ সমাপ্ত হচ্ছে। এর ফলে দেশের উত্তর - পূর্বাঞ্চলের গ্যাস চট্টগ্রাম অঞ্চলে সরবরাহ সম্ভব হবে এবং গ্যাস চালিত বন্ধ বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্রগুলো পুনরায় চালু হবে। ফলশ্রুতিতে মে মাসে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন উল্লেখযোগ্যভাবে বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

মনোহরদী-নরসিংদী এবং মেঘনা-বাখরাবাদ এই দুইটি গ্যাস পাইপ লাইনের নির্মাণ কাজ দ্রুত সমাপ্তির পথে। কৈলাশটিলার একটি নতুন কুপের গ্যাস শীত্রই সরবরাহের আওতাভুক্ত হবে। ফলে গ্যাস চালিত বিদ্যুৎ কেন্দ্র সমূহের উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধি পাবে।

এ বছরের জুলাই মাসে রাউজান-এর নতুন দ্বিতীয় বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন কেন্দ্র চালু এবং বেশ কয়েকটি বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন কেন্দ্রের পুনর্বাসন সমাপ্ত হলে শীত্রই আরো অতিরিক্ত বিদ্যুৎ সরবরাহ সম্ভব হবে।

এছাড়া সরকারী এবং বেসরকারী উদ্যোগে বিদ্যুৎ উৎপাদন ও গ্যাস সরবরাহ বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে ব্যাপক কর্মসূচী হাতে নেওয়া হয়েছে।

বিদ্যুতের এই সংকটকালে কৃচ্ছতা সাধন করুন, বিদ্যুতের অপচয় বন্ধ করুন এবং আমাদের সহযোগিতা করুন।

এ সংকট কাটবেই

বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড ■ ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ ■ পল্লী বিদ্যুতায়ন বোর্ড

PM: Health Ministry

From Page 1 ferent projects under the ministry was 51.35 per cent while progress in family planning and welfare was 62.04 per cent and it was 40.67 per cent in the health sector.

Delay in releasing funds and appointing consultants for donor-aided projects also causes slow implementation of projects.

The prime minister was informed that there are 645 government and 288 private hospitals and clinics in the country.

There are 37,131 beds in country's government and private hospitals making a ratio of one bed for 3151 people.

There is one doctor for 4,572 people while there is only one nurse for 9,150 people.

"It is unfortunate," the Prime Minister said and directed the officials to create new posts for nurses and appoint nurses in various hospitals and medical centres.

The Health Ministry has already placed a proposal with

Crimes

From Page 1 cases was high," said a senior DMP official adding the situation had now changed.

Of the 1,623 cases filed in January last, 10 were lodged in connection with murder, six for dacoity, 449 for theft, 83 for burglary, 73 for embezzlement, 25 for kidnapping, 40 for smuggling, 35 for repression on women, 13 for police assault, 53 for drug abuse, 24 for carrying explosives, 38 for possessing arms and 102 for accidents, according to police sources.

In January, 1996, 17 cases were filed in connection with murder, three for dacoity, 304 for theft, 59 for burglary, 44 for embezzlement, 22 of repression on women, six for police assault, 17 for carrying explosives, 68 for possessing arms and 76 for accidents.

the Ministry of Establishment to create 4,000 new posts for nurses.

The Prime Minister, however, expressed his satisfaction over the steps taken by the ministry during last nine months to improve the health sector.

The steps, the officials said, include formation of a committee to formulate a health policy, formation of different sub-committees with renowned doctors and specialists, like Prof Nurul Islam and Prof Badrud-doza Chowdhury, as convenors to formulate the policy within 90 days.

Hasina was also informed of reconstitution of National Population Council, constitution of National Nutrition Council, National Aids Committee and a steering committee to prevent arsenic pollution.

A technical committee and a task force were formed to ensure treatment for the arsenic affected people and to make alternative source of water. The health ministry is also making arrangement to ensure safe water for the people in the arsenic affected areas by purifying the arsenic contaminated water.

To improve health service, a 15-member committee has been formed, the officials said adding the Departmental Promotion Committee held four meetings in last nine months against only two in last 10 years.

Nepal's new PM wins confidence vote

KATHMANDU, Mar 19: Nepal's new prime minister won a confidence vote in Parliament today, one week after he took over as head of a coalition government of royalist and leftist movements, reports AP. Prime Minister Lokendra Bahadur Chand's three-party coalition government secured 113 votes in the 207-seat house, 10 more than the minimum required to govern the country.