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Shifting of Hazaribagh tanneries to Savar proposed

By Rafiq Hasan

A National leather industry task force has recommended that all tanneries be shifted from the city's Hazaribagh area to a proposed leather estate at Savar.

In the 12-point recommendation it recently submitted to the government, the task force suggested continuing export facilities for crust leather until the year 2000.

The task force, headed by President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Yusuf Abdullah Harun, also suggested that leather and leather goods industries be given financial assistance similar to that received by garment industries.

See Page 12 Col 6

3 JP rebels call party council

By Staff Correspondent

The three 'rebel leaders' of the Jatiya Party in a joint press statement last night appealed to all concerned in the party to take preparation for holding the council session of the party.

The date for the council session will be announced within the next few days, the statement said.

The three senior presidium members — Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, Shah Moazzam Hossain and Kazi Zafar Ahmed — in an earlier joint press statement on April 10 had announced their plan to convene the council session of the party by May.

About the appointment of Anwar Hossain Manju as the first vice-chairman of the party, they said yesterday, "We are not aware of any such instance in the history of political parties across the world where the secretary general simultaneously holds the post of vice-chairman."

See Page 12 Col 4

Ershad not allowed to enter cantts?

By Staff Correspondent

The name of former President and the Jatiya Party chief H M Ershad has been included in the list of persons not allowed entry in to cantonments across the country, according to sources close to Ershad.

Officials of the ISPR, when contacted, however, expressed their ignorance about the matter.

According to the sources, Ershad's license for playing golf at the Kurmitola Golf Club in Dhaka Cantonment was not renewed.

In this regard the sources also mentioned that when Ershad fell ill in Rangpur, before the Eid-ul-Azha, he was treated at the emergency unit of the Combined Military Hospital (CMH) there and referred to the Cardiac Institute in Dhaka, not to the CMH in the capital.

Inside Today

Article

Memorable Win, Applicable Lesson

Column: Beneath the Surface by Abdul Bayes Page 4

International

Suu Kyi praises Clinton for imposing sanctions on military govt

Jiang winds up Russia visit on a positive note Page 5

Business

Iran offers Bangladesh use of Caspian Sea port

Bangladeshi and other Asian workers abused in US-controlled Pacific territory Page 8

Literature

Rushdie's Shame: His Story about Her Story, Desnos, The Poet of The Night and the chime of the countryside Pages 6, 7

UN demands at special session Halt Israeli settlement in East Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS, Apr 25: An emergency special session of the General Assembly today demanded an immediate halt to the construction of an Israeli settlement in East Jerusalem, reports Reuters.

A resolution passed by 134 votes to three, with 11 abstentions, also called for an end to all assistance to "illegal Israeli activities" in the occupied territories.

The negative votes were cast by the United States, Israel and Micronesia.

The special session, convened on Thursday, was the fourth debate by a UN body on Israel's decision last month to build 6,500 homes for Jews at a site between Jerusalem and Bethlehem called Har Homa in Hebrew and Jabal Abu Ghneim in Arabic.

The resolution "Condemns the construction by Israel, the occupying power, of a new settlement in Jabal Abu Ghneim. It demanded "immediate and full cessation of the construction... and of all other Israeli settlement activities."

In an approach to sanctions, Dhaka deplures Israeli move

Bangladesh has strongly deplored the Israeli action to change the demographic structure as well as legal and physical character of the holy city of Jerusalem, reports UNB.

Dhaka reiterated its firm belief that attainment of the inalienable rights of the Palestinian and settlement of the

See Page 12 Col 2

which only the Security Council can impose, the resolution called for "the cessation of all forms of assistance and support for illegal Israeli activities" in the occupied territories, particularly settlement activities.

Earlier, US Ambassador Bill Richardson bluntly told the United Nations today to stay out of the dispute over Jewish housing in a disputed part of Jerusalem.

Richardson told the special session that America had an obligation to tell "our friends in the United Nations frankly" that UN bodies "should not insert themselves into issues that the negotiating partners have decided will be addressed" in future talks.

"This can only harden the positions of both sides and

See Page 12 Col 1



The traditional 'Jabbarer Boli Khela' at the Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday. (Inset) Kamal Boli — Three-time champion in the competition. Story on page 10 — Star photo

Plan to revamp DSE, dissolve its council

Star Report

The authorities are considering ways to revamp the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) as its price index eroded by over 200 points since April 2, when the market regulator, the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) charged 36 people with fraud to tailor prices to mint millions during a bull run last year.

A number of options are being considered, including reorganising the stewardship of the DSE by dissolving its council, under relevant rules of business. But there are suggestions also to "step cautiously," according to highly placed officials sources.

Seshan to run for presidency

NEW DELHI, Apr 25: India's former electoral chief, TN Seshan, today announced he would contest the country's next presidential election due in July, reports AFP.

The pugnacious former bureaucrat, who launched reforms aimed at cleaning up elections in the world's largest democracy, said he would not represent any political party and would stand as an independent candidate.

India will hold by-elections on May 29 to fill three vacancies in the lower house of parliament, the Lok Sabha, officials said today.

See Page 12 Col 4

US ratifies treaty banning use of chemical weapons

WASHINGTON, Apr 25: The US Senate voted Thursday night to ratify a treaty designed to ban chemical weapons around the globe, reports AP.

The vote was 74-26, seven more than the two-thirds needed for approval. All Democrats voted in favour of the measure, while majority Republicans were split.

The treaty, opposed by many conservatives, bans the use, development, production or stockpiling of all chemical warfare agents and requires the destruction of existing stockpiles over the next decade.

It has been signed by 164 nations thus far, and ratified by 75. With or without American ratification, the pact will take effect on April 29.

"Once again America has displayed the leadership that

we must demonstrate," Clinton told reporters at the White House minutes after the vote count was in.

"The chemical weapons convention truly was made in America," he added. "It is right for America."

Meanwhile, Russia's parliament postponed ratification of a global chemical weapons treaty today, saying Russia cannot afford to destroy its stockpiles at this time.

The Communist-dominated lower house of parliament, the State Duma, usually objects to treaties favoured by Western countries. Before the vote, several lawmakers declared that ratification would be "unpatriotic" and "one more concession to the West," the ITAR-Tass news agency reported.

Armed miscreants go on rampage, kill two in Barisal

From Staff Correspondent

BARISAL, Apr 25: Two persons including a boy were killed and three others injured when an armed gang attacked them in the Satikhola bazar area under Bakerganj thana this morning.

The gang also went on a rampage and set a house on fire in which the boy was killed.

The dead were identified as Asmat Sardar, 48, and Sahdat, 10.

Witnesses said a gang of 30 to

See Page 12 Col 2

Snatching of forms 2 Shibir workers held in Rajshahi

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 25: Two activists of Islami Chhatra Shibir were arrested last night in connection with the snatching of application forms for Rajshahi University admission tests.

The arrested, Alauddin and Motahar Hossain, were produced before the court today.

Meanwhile, Chhatra Shibir has called a three-day strike from tomorrow to protest the new admission systems.

Police also raided two residential halls of the university midnight last night and arrested six persons.

Later, three of them were released and the others were produced at the court today.

CHT crisis Equal rights for tribals, Bangalees demanded

A national conference on Chittagong Hill Tracts yesterday demanded a permanent solution to the long-standing crisis in the region on the basis of equal rights of both tribal and Bangalee people living there, reports UNB.

Participants at the conference criticised the government for, what they said, conspiring against the country's political independence and territorial integrity by holding talks with the terrorist Shantibahini.

After the inaugural session, some 2,000 Bangalees, who came from the three hill districts — Rangamati, Khagrachari and Bandarban — to attend the conference, marched towards Bangabhaban with a procession and submitted a memorandum addressed to the President for ensuring their rights in

See Page 12 Col 3

Sarbahara Party men kill two ex-comrades

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, Apr 25: Two persons were brutally killed allegedly by Sarbahara partymen in a village under Sadullahpur union of Pabna Sadar thana late last night.

Those killed are Belayet Hossain, 25, son of Hasem and Eken Ali, 28, son of Rajab Ali both of the village Shar Hapania under the union.

According to police, both of them were called out of their houses at night allegedly by 30-40 armed men and were stabbed to death. Both the bodies were recovered by police this morning.

Police further stated that the two murdered men were expelled from the underground party more than a year ago and after expulsion they allegedly killed one of their former comrade. Police suspects this killings might be retaliatory.

Both the victims were accused in a number of criminal cases, police said.

Proposal to reduce subsidy Govt likely to raise fertiliser price

By Inam Ahmed

The government is actively considering raising the price of fertiliser in view of the huge subsidies it has to provide at its current price, according to authoritative sources.

A proposal to reduce subsidy in fertiliser has already been mooted by the Industries Ministry. The World Bank in a mid-term review meeting with the government in April had also pressed for raising government administered prices including that of fertiliser, the sources said.

The increase in fertiliser price has become imperative for the government because the current selling price is much below the production cost and price of fertiliser in the world market. Moreover, there is a strong possibility of increase in

gas price which would further push up production cost of fertiliser, the sources said.

However, they hinted that the new proposal for increase in fertiliser price was still below its production cost. The cost of production of one ton of urea is now Tk 5011 while its sale price is Tk 3725, they said.

The proposal is likely to be discussed in the cabinet soon, the sources added.

This year alone, over Tk 483 crore subsidy was given to fertiliser because of price mismatch. The government had to give Tk 212 crore subsidy this year for import of 350,000 tons of urea at prices ranging between Tk 9000 and 10,000 per ton to avoid an impending fertiliser crisis.

Former JP leaders join BNP Appoint a SC judge as CEC: Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia has demanded immediate resignation of Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) Mohammad Abu Hena and appointment of a Supreme Court judge to the constitutional post "for the sake of free and fair conduct of all the future elections."

"The present CEC has totally failed to perform his job impartially... We can't expect any fair election from him as none of the by-polls held under him was free and fair... He must quit immediately for national interests," she said.

Addressing some newcomers to the BNP at her Minto Road official residence in the city yesterday, Begum Zia also accused the Awami League government of "behaving undemocratically, repressing her party

workers and jeopardising national interests" and urged all "nationalist forces" to resist the moves.

Former law minister in Ershad government and Jatiya Party presidium member Justice Habibur Islam Bhuiyan, Kishoreganj district JP president Mujibul Haq Chunnun, Advocate Faijul Kabir, ATM Mostafa and some other JP leaders from Kishoreganj along with some 500 party workers and supporters joined the BNP at a simple ceremony.

Welcoming the new comers to her party, the Leader of the Opposition said that "nationalist forces" were rallying round the BNP, understanding that there was no alternative to the party to "protect the national independence and sovereignty." She also urged them to work

See Page 12 Col 6

Proposal to set up Metropolitan Court of Sessions

By Mizan Ali

The government is actively considering creation of a Metropolitan Court of Sessions (MCS) for the Dhaka metropolis to improve the law and order in the city and ensure speedy and easy dispensation of justice.

Official sources said that a proposal in this regard is under scrutiny in the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs. It also envisages similar courts in other metropolitan areas in the country subsequently.

The mandatory provision for creating the MCS has so far been ignored. Unless the MCS is made an inseparable part of the metropolitan area, the dispensation of criminal justice and law and order cannot attain expected improvement," the proposal said.

"The trial of criminal cases by the judges of the sessions court of the Dhaka sessions di-

vision is probably not being proper after the amended provision of Sections 7 (4) and 9 (1) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) became effective on August 10 in 1979," it noted.

According to the proposal prepared by the Law Ministry, the provision of MCS was made as early as in 1976, to be effective from 1979, under the same law which provided for creation of metropolitan magistracy and metropolitan police.

When contacted, Secretary of the Law Commission Kazi Habibur Awad said "For desired improvement of law and order in the cities specialised court like MCS are required to be set up."

He added that crimes committed in the metropolitan areas were much more 'sophisticated and different in nature'.

He pointed out that "under the Section 9 of the CrPC, it is

mandatory for the government to set up a metropolitan court of sessions for the metropolitan area."

According to official sources, over five lakh cases are pending with the lower courts in the country and around another one lakh cases with the higher courts. Some of these cases were pending even for 15 to 20 years, they added.

Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Abdul Matin Khasru told The Daily Star "We are making best possible efforts to introduce MCS in all the metropolitan areas of the country at the earliest possible time."

"The government is also contemplating introducing Grameen courts at the grass-roots level for speedy, easy, in-

See Page 12 Col 7

National council AL yet to form full-fledged bodies in 30 districts

Star Report

Absence of full-fledged committees of various district units of Awami League is delaying the process of nomination of councillors for the party's May 6-7 national council, party sources said.

Though councils of 64 organisational districts out of the seventy have already been held, full-fledged committees could not be formed in 30 districts.

District units are supposed to nominate councillors for final approval by the AL Central Working Committee (ALCWC) prior to the national council. A total of 2,400 councillors, one for every 50,000 people, would be nominated this time, the sources said.

A party leader, however, told The Daily Star yesterday that absence of full-fledged commit-

See Page 12 Col 4

Govt official murdered in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Apr 25: Director of the Bureau of Industrial Statistics, Md Mostafa, 55, was assassinated allegedly by his nephew last night at a residential area near Atura Deput under Panchlaish thana, police said.

Police arrested the victim's elder brother Md Solaiman, who is also a government officer here while his killer son, Iftekar Ali Haidar alias Khokan went into hiding.

Police said Mostafa arrived here from Dhaka and stayed at his elder brother's residence. He slept last night along with his nephew Iftekar who, at dead of night, hit his uncle on the throat with a chopper, killing him instantly, police said.

Police said though the mystery behind the murder is yet to be unearthed, they thought that refusal of a proposal for marrying the daughter of his uncle might have angered the nephew who allegedly killed him.

A case was filed with Panchlaish thana and investigation was going on, police said. The body of Mostafa was taken to his residence in Dhaka after postmortem. Mostafa's village home is at Fatikhchari thana area under Chittagong district.

6 more Manipuris being interrogated

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Apr 25: Interrogation of 36 Indians from Manipur who were caught by the BDR from Ballaghat border on April 20 night is going on, official sources said.

All of them are now on police remand for interrogation. Interrogation of five of them has already been completed and 6 others are being interrogated, the sources said.

BDR caught the 36 Indian nationals along with two Bangladeshis on charge of unauthorised entry into Bangladesh.

The BDR suspects that the 36 Indians were involved with some outlawed insurgent groups in the Indian state of Manipur. However, they pleaded that they came to visit Bangladesh and meet the Manipuri community here.

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