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ALCWC

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party President and Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in the chair. The meeting was again adjourned at 10 pm. There are ad-hoc party committees in Magura, Kushtia, Cox's Bazar and Pirojpur — where councils were not held. For other district units, where full-fledged committees could not be formed due to disputes, councillors would be nominated by the ALCWC on the basis of the number of people of those districts.

Besides, a party tribunal headed by AL presidium member Gamruzzaman, is taking up cases of disputes in various district units one by one before the ALCWC takes a final decision. The size of the 65-member ALCWC is likely to remain unchanged while the number of joint secretaries would increase from two to three, said meeting sources.

AL council

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was always available in party offices in Dhaka for guiding organisational activities in the absence of 'minister-leaders'.

Amu, who played a vital role in holding councils of many district units over the past couple of months said, "I don't know anything about that... What I know is that I always do the jobs to be done, no matter in what capacity."

Mohammad Selim, who played a vital role in managing AL's electioneering during the June 1996 polls, declined to say anything about the party council.

Awami League — which was founded on June 23, 1949 with Moulana Abdul Hamid Khan Bhashani and Shamsul Haq as its founding president and general secretary respectively — had many ups and downs in its 49 years of existence. Except for a few months as partner of the Jukto Front government during the Pakistan period and a three-and-a-half year rule in post-liberation period in Bangladesh, the Awami League was always in the opposition, playing leading roles in democratic movements. It had led the country's liberation war.

Conspiracy on to tarnish my image: Ershad

LALMONIRHAT, May 4:

Jatiya Party chairman HM Ershad here today said a conspiracy is on within and outside his party to tarnish his image and destroy the party, reports UNB. "Scandals are being spread involving my name... Don't be confused by whatever is being written in newspapers. Those are false," he told a public meeting at the local Suhrawardy Maidan in the afternoon.

He said conspiracies were also hatched to destroy his JP during the five-year rule of BNP.

"I had extended support to Awami League to foil BNP's attempt to return to power. My target was to block autocratic BNP," said Ershad.

Former PP and BNP leader Adv Mahbubur Rahman joined the JP along with some 300 workers at the meeting.

Local MP and younger brother of Ershad GM Qader presided over the meeting. Earlier, Ershad addressed rallies in Hatibandha, Kaliganj and Aditmari thanas.

Environment

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To contain the increase of lead particles in the air of the city, Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Noor Uddin Khan said, the government is now importing lead-free petrol and diesel.

The government is encouraging the people to use compressed natural gas in vehicles, which will be cost-effective and pollution-free.

One participant suggested the preparation of organic fertiliser from waste to save water from pollution.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed suggested relocating the Hazaribagh tannery from the city centre and installing waste-treatment plants before the relocation of this industry.

Agriculture Minister Begum Matia Chowdhury expressed concern at the overuse of polythene bags and suggested that substitutes be introduced for the sake of environment.

Merrill calls on Hasina

Outgoing US Ambassador David N Merrill paid a farewell call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at Ganobhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Merrill noted that he had received full cooperation during his four-year tenure in Bangladesh.

He appreciated the role of Sheikh Hasina in restoring democracy in the country and remarked that democracy was strengthened during the rule of the present government.

The outgoing American ambassador also praised various government steps for the development of the country, particularly in food, agriculture and family welfare sectors.

RU forms to be distributed from June 1-30

From RU Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, May 4: The Rajshahi University authorities have rescheduled the timing of distribution and collection of admission forms of the first year Honours classes for the '96-97 session.

According to the revised schedule, the forms will be available from June 1 to June 30 in all departments of the university.

SEC body

From Page 1

dent, Institute of Chartered Accountants of Bangladesh, President, Bangladesh Employers Association, Mirza Asaduzzaman Al-Faruq, former secretary, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, Prof Abul Bayes, Economics Department, Jahangirnagar University, Prof Abu Ahmed, President, Bangladesh Share Investors Forum, Debapriyo Bhattacharya, BIDS, M Yunus, Chartered Accountant (Hawladar Yunus & Co), Zahiduzzaman Faruq, Economic Reporter, The Daily Ittefaq, Syed Ali Kabir, former deputy governor, Bangladesh Bank and Kabir U Ahmed, Adviser, Asian Development Bank.

Acid thrown on garments worker

By Staff Correspondent

A female garments worker sustained serious burn injuries when an unidentified gang threw acid on her at Shahadatpur under Gulshan thana in the city last night.

Nilufar, 35, came under attack when she was returning to her house at Shahadatpur from workplace at Gulshan section-2. She was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Bangabandhu

From Page 1

Ahmed, which did not constitute any offence of murder.

In this regard, he also mentioned that those three witnesses were beneficiaries and also expressed allegiance to the government of Khondker Mush-taque Ahmed and now they belong to Awami League, the present ruling party.

Discarding the defence agreement, Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Bhuiyan on behalf of the government submitted that sufficient materials appeared in the documents and the evidences to frame charges against accused Zobaidda Rashid.

"The charge has been duly framed on the basis of specific materials which can be prima facie proving her involvement in the conspiracy of the murder," the state counsel submitted.

He submitted, "The High Court should not interfere in the trial of such a sensitive murder of the founding President of the country."

The same bench of the HC earlier granted bail to Zobaidda Rashid which was subsequently affirmed by the Appellate Division of the Supreme.

Zobaidda Rashid in the wife of Col (rtd) Khandker Abdur Rashid, one of the accused in the case who has been absconding.

Peace Corps

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cial did not give specific time. She, however, indicated it would now depend on availability of fund to be approved by the US Senate.

Corey also could not say when the Peace Corps office would be set up in Dhaka and how many volunteers would be on the mission in Bangladesh.

At present 7,000 volunteers of the Peace Corps are working in 91 countries, including the countries in East and Central Europe, Asia and the Pacific region.

Hartal observed at Pirojpur

PIROJPUR, May 4: A half-day hartal, enforced by Jatiyatatabadi Chhatra Dal, was observed in the town today, reports UNB.

Jatiyatatabadi Chhatra Dal, the student front of opposition BNP, called the hartal protesting Saturday's police attack on the students of Government Suhrawardy College.

Rule on govt

From Page 1

Court comprising Justice Mahmudul Amin Chowdhury and Shah Mohammad Abu Nayeem Mominur Rahman, after hearing the anticipatory bail petition passed the bail order.

The former State Minister, prior to recent BNP-called hartal, led a procession that ransacked cars and shops in front of Press Club and on that allegation a criminal case was filed against him.

Fake medicine

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The CID personnel first raided the Mitford area, the biggest medicine market in the city, and arrested Babul Miah with spurious medicines.

Following his confession the CID team held Shamsuzzaman, reportedly a marketing associate of an insurance company. After interrogating the two, the CID police unearthed the factory in Ahmedbagh area under Shabujbagh thana late Saturday night and arrested the two others, police sources said.

Cases have been filed with Kotwali and Shabujbagh thana in this connection.

2 killed

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The injured — Ratan, 3, Abdul Aziz, 20, Helaluddin, 28, Sujl Begum, 20, Khaleque, 35, and two unidentified men — were admitted to General Hospital here in unconscious state.

Road accident

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under Tongi thana when a Dhaka bound passenger bus was hit by a truck from behind.

The seriously injured persons were admitted to Tongi hospital.

In another accident, one Abdul Motaleb, 45, was killed and five others were injured at Majukhan on the Dhaka-Kaliganj road at about 2:30 pm when a Tongi bound three wheeler was hit by a bus from behind. The injured persons were also taken to Tongi hospital.

Separate cases were registered with Gazipur and Tongi thanas.

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BNP: BGMEA request

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leaders to urge the government to create an atmosphere in which no hartal would be needed. "The country can't be saved if the government continues its misdeeds. We are unwilling to go for hartal. It is the government which is forcing us to do that path. What ever we do, we do for national interests," she said.

The BNP chief advised the BGMEA leaders to urge the government to stop repression on the Opposition, arrest the "terrorists," make the parliament effective, resolve national problems and to "abandon all conspiracies against the national independence and sovereignty."

Turning to her party's cooperation to the government, she said, "We did not go for street agitation in the last 10 months. But during the period, we faced repression and obstruction in holding public meetings to highlight the government's failures and misdeeds."

She mentioned alleged at-

tacks during her public meeting in Gafargaon and said, "Had it been Awami League, it would have called a hartal instantly. But we did not do so for national interests." She also claimed that export of garments declined by seven per cent in the last 10 months when the country did not witness any political turmoil.

Referring to frequent power-disruption, the BNP leader asked the business leaders, "How can you run your industries and expect foreign investment under such a unfavourable atmosphere?"

Thanchi

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fresh round of talks between the government and the Shantibahini scheduled on May 11.

The Parishad warned that if their demands were not met, they would enforce a dawn-to-dusk hartal on May 11 in the three hill districts — Bandarban, Rangamati and Khagrachhari.

Power shortfall

From Page 1

generating 630 mw electricity a day before Saturday's incident, generated 250 mw on Saturday night. It rose to 450 mw at 8:00 pm last night, the sources added.

The transformer of a 50 mw generating gas turbine which burst on Saturday would take another four days to be repaired. There are two gas turbines at Ashuganj plant which used to generate 100 mw electricity.

The machinery of the 15-year old gas turbine, the transformer of which burst, was in operation on trial basis for about a month, officials said adding that the machinery was rehabilitated recently.

Out of the five steam turbines at Ashuganj plant, two were under repair. Of the two, one is likely to become operational soon and other in June, officials added. The three steam turbines used to generate 430 mw electricity before the transformer burst.

তিতাস গ্যাস টিএন্ডভি কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
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ফোন ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭, ৯৫৬৩৬৬৮, ৮১৯৩৭৯ (দিবা রাত)
৮১২১৩৫-৮২, ফ্যাক্স নং ৮৮০-২-৮১৩০৩১

বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ রক্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ জোন অথরিটি (বিইপিজেডএ)-এর নিয়ন্ত্রণাধীন ঢাকা ও গাজীপুর রক্তানি প্রক্রিয়াকরণ এলাকায় গ্যাস সংযোগ প্রক্রিয়া দ্রুত সম্পন্ন করার লক্ষ্যে ONE STOP SERVICE COUNTER হিসাবে "শিখ গ্যাস সেল" স্থাপন করা হয়েছে।

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