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BCIC loses Tk 495cr for import, marketing of urea

Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC) incurred a loss of Tk 495.27 crore for import and marketing of fertiliser during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

Disclosing this in parliament yesterday, Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed said a national committee on fertiliser is working to evolve a coordinated marketing system for the soil nutrient.

Replying to a number of supplementaries, he said the new system is expected to be formulated before the next peak season to make fertiliser marketing more effective and efficient.

He said each thana will have equal number of fertiliser dealers and the additional dealership would be cancelled.

The minister said import of 428,252 metric tons of urea caused a loss of Tk 254.40 crore while marketing of the fertiliser produced by state-run BCIC caused a loss of Tk 240.87 crore.

He attributed the losses to the sale of local fertiliser at lower price than production cost and sale of imported fertiliser at a price less than landing cost.

Replying to Prof Shahidul Islam of BNP, Tofael said the landing cost, or the mean import cost, for fertiliser was Tk 10,170 per ton and the fertiliser

Bill on 'Control of Vesting Powers of Parliament' introduced

A private members bill on "Control of Vesting Powers of Parliament" was introduced yesterday and sent to the standing committee concerned for examination, reports BSS.

Moved by Jatiya Party member Dr Mohammad Rustom Ali Farazi (Pirozpur), the bill sought the control of vested powers upon the government machinery in preparing rules and regulations to ensure transparency and accountability of the executive organ.

The bill said that in most of the cases the departmental officials, empowered to formulate the subsidiary legislations, make the rules and regulations according to their legislations, according to their will.

The bill observed that the subsidiary legislations in many cases do not have any approval of the cabinet division or the minister concerned.

In the prevailing system, there is no accountability of the vested powers in formulating the rules and regulations.

82,254 industrial units set up from '91-96, JS told

By Staff Correspondent

A total of 82,254 new industrial units were set up in the country during the period from 1991 to 1996, Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed told the Jatiya Sangsad yesterday.

Replying to question from BNP lawmaker Mustafizur Rahman, the minister said the new units included 71 heavy and medium industries, 10,333 small industries and 71,850 cottage industries.

New electricity rate

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already been made with effect from March 1 and consumers have to pay the enhanced rate from that month.

He was replying to a written question from BNP MP Mohammad Akhteruzzaman.

The country suffered a total of 1972 hours' loadshedding during 10 months from June last year to March this year, Nooruddin said responding to another question.

Answering another question, he informed the House that 581 megawatt more power was produced between 1991 to 1996 through installation of four new power plants. But during the same period, 10 power plants with a generation capacity of 405 MW were shut down, he added.

Nooruddin also said PDB has now Tk 1282.727 crore outstanding with consumers, DESA Tk 715.71 crore and REB Tk 46 crore.

BSS adds: Nooruddin told the House that the government had no plan to import power

UNOCAL

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UNOCAL instead of open bidding, the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister said, "No contract has been signed, rather, BAPEX, Petrobangla and UNOCAL have signed a 'Letter of Intent' for exploration in a small portion of Block 10."

He added that UNOCAL had worked side by side with BAPEX over the last one and half years in digging a well at Shahbazpur.

"In last month's meetings in London and Houston we made it clear to foreign companies that Block 10 is yet free for gas exploration," the minister said.

Another BNP MP asked the minister whether four BNP leaders, including the former energy minister, were accused of 'subversive activities' in the probe report regarding recent power towers collapse in Pabna.

In response, the minister said, "That was a technical report and nobody is shown accused specifically in the report. However, eight persons have been arrested so far for possessing parts of the fallen towers. It is not possible yet to tell who was behind this subversive act."

"But," Opposition Whip Jaiul Abedin Faruq pointed out, "The head of the government had said on a previous occasion, at the airport, that BNP leaders were involved in the subversive act."

One killed in crossfire in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 13: A rickshawpuller was killed during a gunfight between two rival groups at Bakalia under Chandgaon thana this evening, police said.

According to police, he fell in a crossfire.

ADB loan

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velop capital market in Bangladesh, railway link over the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Project and Ganga Barrage Project also came up for discussion at the talks.

The ADB president agreed that his institution would expeditiously process the Bangladesh capital market development project on urgent and priority basis.

Responding to a request from Kibria, Sato said he would look into the matter of increasing the annual lending level of ADB to Bangladesh.

Computer database

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system and the records will be maintained in Bangla, they said.

When contacted, sources in the Computer Science Department of BUET said they are developing the software for the system the government is planning to install. Work on the project began last month, they said.

The system will be installed in the Cabinet Division and will be connected with the Prime Minister's Secretariat.

Sharif

From Page 1

bilateral issues that could hamper regional cooperation.

Gayoom's call for more political dialogue was echoed by Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga, who suggested more frequent, informal and confidential talks among SAARC leaders.

Govt to consider proposal for Tk 2000 minimum wage for garments workers

The government will consider the proposal for a minimum wage of Tk 2000 for garment workers after the formation of wage board, Parliament was told yesterday, reports UNB.

State Minister for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan gave the assurance on a resolution moved by Harunor Rashid Khan Monnu.

In his motion, Monnu suggested that workers in garment industries, particularly in the Export Processing Zone, be given minimum wages of Tk 2000 in view of the rise in cost of living.

He said garment workers are deprived of different financial facilities when workers in other industries enjoy annual bonus, leave benefit or group insurance.

BCL continues strike at CU

From Staff Correspondent

The strike called by the Bangladesh Chaatraya League (BCL) continued at Chittagong University today.

The activists blocked the entrance to the university and as a result no vehicles carrying the students and teachers could enter the campus, sources said.

No classes were held.

The BCL has called the strike for an indefinite period in protest against an alleged attack by the Islami Chhatra Shibir activists during a reception to newcomers on May 5.

3 shot in city

By DMC Correspondent

Three persons received bullet injuries in separate incidents in the city yesterday.

Velayat, 30, the owner of a medical store at Mahakhalai was attacked reportedly by extortionists yesterday morning for his refusal to pay tolls. He was admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH), hospital sources said.

Earlier, an employee of Velayat, working at his medical store, also received bullet injuries after he refused to pay the toll money demanded by some local hoodlums.

In another incident, one Anwar Hossain, 30, was attacked by armed gangsters near the Asad Gate under Moham-madpur thana yesterday evening.

The gangsters are reported to have snatched Tk 10,000 from Hossain, who is also the owner of a store at Tajmahal Road. The victim was admitted to the DMCH.

Dhaka, Yangon agree to resume Rohingya repatriation

COX'S BAZAR, May 13: A high level official level talks between Myanmar and Bangladesh on Rohingya repatriation was held at Maungdow today, reports BSS.

In the meeting, the seven-member Bangladesh team was led by Refugee, Relief and Repatriation Commissioner A Q M Kamrul Islam while Myanmar delegation was led by Director of the Border and Immigration Department U Wint Mint.

Both sides have agreed to resume the Rohingya repatriation process at the quickest possible time which was unilaterally postponed by Myanmar side since May 1.

The meeting decided that the refugees who have got their clearance will be repatriated soon while the clearance of rest of the refugees will be available from the next meeting to be held at Maungdow town of Myanmar next month.

SAARC: Micro-credit

From Page 1

ign Secretary Ferooz Sobhan told BSS.

The leaders also endorsed the proposal mentioned by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the summit calling for establishing direct airlift between the capitals of SAARC countries. The Prime Minister also forcefully argued that steps to be taken by all SAARC countries against trafficking of women and children. The leaders agreed that tough measures should be taken to combat trafficking of women and children.

The leaders endorsed the idea of setting up of an Eminent Persons Group (EPG) which will undertake a comprehensive appraisal of SAARC and examine ways and means to enhance its effectiveness.

Ferooz Sobhan said the heads of state and government also decided that the eminent persons group should formulate a perspective plan of action. It is expected that the EPG will include at least one person of great eminence from each SAARC member countries but not more than two persons will be chosen from one country.

Child trafficking

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Women's Human Rights Council (Bangalore, India), Meena Seshu of SANGRAM (Maharashtra, India) and Meena Poudel of Oxfam, Nepal.

The delegation apprised the leaders about the increasing trend of intra and inter-country trafficking in the South Asian countries specially those of Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Nepal.

They requested them to take leading role in solving the problem.

Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina assured the NGO leaders of her all-out support saying that she had already discussed the matter with other SAARC leaders. She said the matter is being discussed at the official level.

Talking to the delegation Prime Minister of Pakistan Nawaz Sharif assured, "I will look into the matter."

Prime Minister of India I K Gujral expressed his total commitment to the issue and assured the delegates that he would immediately take up the matter with his counterparts in the region. He regretted the fact that the issue was not included in the agenda for the Ninth SAARC Summit.

Appointing of a special rapporteur, a convention and setting up of a regional court on trafficking in women and children were among the main recommendations put forth to the SAARC leaders.



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Shitalakhya DOE to survey, identify causes of pollution

By Staff Correspondent

The Department of Environment (DOE) is to survey the river Shitalakhya and its surrounding areas to identify the causes and extent of pollution in its water, DOE sources said.

The move comes after thousands of fish died over a four-kilometre stretch near Narayan-ganj town on May 7. Officials suspect industrial pollution was the main cause of the death of the fish.

A DOE official said, three days after the sudden deaths of the fish, the department "tested samples of the river water but found no trace of any lethal toxins." The official, however, admitted that the test was done 'too late'.

To determine the real cause of the death, we should have done the tests on the day of the incident," he said. He attributed the failure to 'shortage of manpower' of the department.

JCD-BCL clash in Sirajganj: 15 hurt

SIRAJGANJ, May 13: A clash between the activists of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and Chhatra League in Kamarkhand thana today left 15 injured, reports UNB.

Sources said the clash occurred following the joining of some JCD workers to BCL at Jamtoll Bazar in the evening.

Three of the injured were admitted to Kamarkhand thana health complex and two others to Sadar Hospital.

4-hr token strike in newspapers, agencies today

By Staff Correspondent

A four-hour token work-stoppage programme will be observed in the offices of all newspapers and news agencies in the country today at the call of the coordinated body of journalists, newspaper employees and press workers, said a press release.

The Kendrio Samannaya Committee (central coordination committee) gave the call of work-stoppage from 11 am to 3 pm to press the demands for immediate announcement of the Fifth Wage Board Award and withdrawal of "The Newspaper Employees (Conditions of Service) (Amendment) Ordinance, 1997."

Besides, the newspaper employees and journalists will hold a rally at 11 am today in the Jatiya Press Club premises and later proceed in a procession towards the Jatiya Sangsad to hand over memorandums to the Speaker and the Leader of the House.

CHT talks

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unless they change their mind."

The sources said "disagreements continued to dog the negotiations" on the prickly issues of the settlers, who constitute nearly half of the CHT population of about 800,000, whom the PCJSS wants out of the 14,200 sq km area.

Another issue that plagued the talks was formation of new local government councils in the three hill districts with nominated members when their term runs out in June. But the PCJSS wants the councils to be replaced by a regional council with wide powers and having an autonomous status.

The issue of land rights for the tribals also remained unresolved. Besides withdrawal of security forces, as demanded by PCJSS also remained unresolved.

The current round of talks, the fifth in the series since the National Committee was reconstituted by the present government last year, and 24th since 1986, were the third in the city.

JS: Unique example

From Page 1

him in running the affairs of the House.

On the private members days, the legislators belonging to both the Treasury and Opposition benches move resolutions seeking solution of various problems, especially in their respective constituencies.

Usually, the Treasury Bench members withdraw their resolutions following the ministers' assurances, while the Opposition members prefer to put their resolutions to vote.

But yesterday, even the Opposition MPs withdrew their resolutions after the ministers concerned assured them to address the problems.

Jafrul Islam Chowdhury of the BNP moved a resolution seeking setting up of a vocational training centre at Baskhali Thana in his constituency.

The Education Minister told the House that his ministry was convinced of the necessity for setting up vocational training centres in different areas including Baskhali. Requesting the BNP lawmaker to withdraw

BSP protests withdrawal of CRF facilities

President of Bangladesh Sangbadpatri Parishad (BSP) Qazi Shahed Ahmed yesterday vehemently protested and condemned the withdrawal of clean report findings (CRF) facilities by the government, reports BSS.

In a statement, he said the importers of newsprint will face difficulties due to the withdrawal of CRF facilities for the import of newsprint and this will create obstacle in publication of the newspapers.

Qazi Shahed urged the government to reconsider the unilateral decision and reintroduce the CRF facilities for the import of newsprint.

CRF facilities

From Page 1

of Commerce and Industries, Foreign Investors Chamber of Commerce and Industries, Bangladesh Chamber of Industries and various business associations had requested the board to withdraw CRF facilities for the items at different times.

The board also took steps to impose tariff on some of these items on which tariff is not as yet fixed.

10 killed

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ttified as Sukumer Biswas 35, assistant teacher of Bandarban Residential School. Identity of the others could not be known immediately.

Police said ten seriously injured persons were admitted to Manikganj hospital while four others were sent to Dhaka for treatment.

Our DMC correspondent adds: At least three persons died in three separate road accidents in and around the city.


According to medical sources, an unidentified person was killed and six others injured when a Tangail bound bus collided head on with a Dhaka bound truck at Azampur under Tongi thana in the morning. The injured were admitted to DMCH, the sources added.

গ্যাসের সাথে কনডেনসেট বের হওয়া সম্পর্কে জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা শহরের কোন কোন এলাকায় গ্যাসের সাথে কনডেনসেট (তরল পদার্থ) বের হচ্ছে। যা অনেকই কেরোসিন বা তেল মনে করছেন। ইতিমধ্যেই সমানিত গ্যাসকন্ডেনসেট কোম্পানীর পক্ষ থেকে বিষয়টি অবগত করা হয়েছে। কোম্পানীর বিশেষ টিম এ সমস্যা দূরীকরণে নিয়োজিত আছে।

কোন এলাকায় গ্যাসের সাথে কনডেনসেট পাওয়া গেলে তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে কোম্পানীর জরুরী গ্যাস নিয়ন্ত্রণ কেন্দ্রে ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭, ৯৫৬৩৬৬৮ এ যোগাযোগ করার জন্য অনুরোধ করা হলো।

সমানিত গ্যাসকন্ডেনসেটের অসুবিধার জন্য আমরা আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।


জনসেবায় নিয়োজিত
তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোবাংলার একটি কোম্পানী)
ফোনঃ ৯৫৬৩৬৬৭, ৯৫৬৩৬৬৮, ৮১১৩৭৯ (দিবা-রাত্র) ৮১২১৩০-৪২১

ঢাকা ওয়াসা জরুরী বিজ্ঞপ্তি


পানির অপচয় বন্ধ করুন।। ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুরি রোধ করুন

ঢাকা ওয়াসার সম্মানিত গাহকবুন্দের জ্ঞাতার্থে জানানো যাচ্ছে যে, পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিক্রমের বিল পরিশোধে বার্থ গাহকবুন্দের সংযোগ তাৎক্ষণিকভাবে বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ কর্তৃক পরিচালিত বিশেষ অভিযানের কার্যক্রম আরো জোরদার করা হয়েছে।

সে সংগে গাহকবুন্দের স্বার্থে হালনাগাদ সমুদয় বকেয়া পরিশোধকারী গাহকবুন্দের পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিক্রমের সারচার্জ মওকুফের সুবিধা দানের সময়সীমা ৩১-৫-৯৭ইং পর্যন্ত বর্ধিত করা হল।

বকেয়া অনাদায়ের কারণে সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন এবং পিডিআর গ্র্যাটের অধীনে ম্যাজিষ্ট্রেটের কোর্টে মামলা এড়ানোর নিমিত্ত অবিলম্বে বকেয়াসহ হালনাগাদ আপনার পানি ও পয়ঃ অতিক্রমের পরিশোধ করুন। বিল না পেয়ে থাকলে রাজস্ব অঞ্চলসমূহের রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তার সহিত যোগাযোগ করুন।

বিল সংক্রান্ত কোন অভিযোগ থাকলে ঢাকা ওয়াসার সংশ্লিষ্ট আঞ্চলিক অফিস বা প্রধান রাজস্ব কর্মকর্তা (ফোনঃ ৩২৫২৪০) বা বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবস্থাপক (ফোনঃ ৯১২০৫৫৭) অথবা উপ-ব্যবস্থাপনা পরিচালক (অর্থ) (ফোনঃ ৮১৬৭৯৯) এর সাথে যোগাযোগ করুন।


ওয়াসা
আপনার সেবায় নিয়োজিত
ঢাকা ওয়াসা