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# The Daily Star

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## Another accord for power generation signed with HK co

By Staff Correspondent

The third agreement for power generation in private sector was initiated here yesterday between the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPPB) and a Hong Kong-based company, the Wartsila Power Development.

The final agreement is expected to be signed within a month, a PDB press release said.

Under this Power Purchase Agreement (PPA), Wartsila will build a 100 MW barge-mounted power plant on build-own-operate (BOO) basis in Khulna and supply power to the national grid within the next 10 months.

Wartsila Power Development (Asia) Ltd and Associates United Enterprise, Summit Corporation and Ameejee Valjee will sell power to the

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## Cell to monitor cases of violence against women to be set up

By Staff Correspondent

The Ministry of Home Affairs is planning to establish a cell to monitor the cases of violence against women and other crimes committed across the country, according to official sources.

The cell will be headed by a senior official of the Ministry.

The cell will keep itself updated with the development of the cases and maintain their records in the ministry.

Asked about when the cell will start functioning, the officials said, they were expecting it to start work shortly.

Regarding the possibility of access of journalists to the records documented by the cell, the officials said, it would probably not be possible until some changes were brought about in the government rules and regulations.

The Secrecy Act prohibits government officials from sharing information with the

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## Port Users Forum to boycott Ctg Port from June 15

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, June 7: The Port Users Forum (PUF) announced a port boycott programme from 7 am on June 15 demanding the implementation of the Prime Minister's decision for allowing the use of private equipment at Chittagong port.

Addressing a press conference at Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industries office today, the convenor of PUF Kamal Uddin Ahmed said that the boycott programme would continue until private equipment was allowed to be used at Chittagong port.

"The government was suffering from indecision about allowing the use of private equipment due to the evil hand of unseen forces," he said.

"Earlier, we had also announced a boycott programme but with the assurance of the Prime Minister for allowing the use of private equipment the

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## Sectt employees call off agitation programmes New nat'l pay scale from July 1

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that the new national pay scale for government officials and employees would be implemented from July 1, reports UNB.

The Pay Commission formed by the government will submit its report by the middle of this month and the government will prepare the new pay structure on the basis of that report.

The Prime Minister gave the announcement at a meeting at ICC with officials and employees of the Secretariat who had been demonstrating for a pay hike and in protest against the new office timing for the last

few days.

With cheers and clapping the government servicemen hailed Hasina's proclamation and instantly called off their agitation programmes.

Announcing the pay scale the Prime Minister said the government is determined to ensure rapid uplift of the nation with the cooperation of all.

"All of you will have to work hard and sincerely for the rapid growth and for increasing GDP to remove poverty with an aim to build a prosperous nation," she told the officials and employees.

Regarding the new office timing, the Prime Minister said

the government took the decision considering some important issues which help increase the working hour and efficiency of the officials and employees.

She said with the new office timing, corresponding hours with different countries increased, which will help augment trade and business of the country.

"Bangladesh will get 12-hour time advantage with Europe and 20 to 30 hours per week with the Middle-Eastern countries with the introduction of new office timing," she told the meeting.

Hasina said the new office

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## AL, BNP announce nominees for Manikganj bypolls

By Staff Correspondent

The ruling Awami League and opposition BNP yesterday announced the names of their respective party nominees for the June 30 by-election to the Manikganj-3 Jatiya Sangsad seat.

Jatiya Party candidate for the by-polls was named on Friday.

Col (ret'd) Abdul Malek has been named the Awami League candidate. BNP has nominated Abdul Wahab and Jatiya Party, Ramzan Ali.

The JS seat fell vacant following death of BNP lawmaker Nizamuddin Khan on April 8 last.

The three candidates and some others from smaller parties are expected to submit their nomination papers to the Election Commission today, the last date of submitting nomination papers. There may be

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## 7 killed as storm lashes Rajshahi

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, June 7: A severe nor'wester lashed Rajshahi city and its adjoining areas this afternoon, leaving seven persons killed and over 30 others injured.

Three of the dead were identified as Shahin, 30, Kamrul, 24, and Kripa of Kasiadanga village. They died on the spot at Kasiadanga mango garden when branches of a tree broke down on them during the storm.

Four others dead were identified as Shariful of Khairgachha village, Moni of Bakajla village, Alimuddin of Nirmalchar and Karim of Kasiadanga.

Seventeen persons were admitted to Rajshahi Medical College Hospital with arm and leg fractures.

The nor'wester, accompa-

nied by rain, lashed the city at a speed of about 100 miles per hour and lasted for nearly half an hour from 2 pm.

Over 100 kutcha houses of Rajpara thana were damaged, over 150 trees uprooted and about 100 digital telephone lines of the city were disrupted by the storm, the sources added.

Electric supply at different parts of the district was disrupted as trees fell on the electric poles. Rajshahi city was without electricity for nearly six hours. However, the authorities restored the lines at 9 pm.

The local Met of office recorded 15 mm rainfall today.

### 2 killed in Sirajganj

UNB adds: Two people were killed and 20 others injured

See Page 12 Col 3

## Wage Commission for workers soon: PM

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced yesterday that the government would constitute a Wage Commission soon to ensure that the workers get just payment for their labour.

"We want to free our country from poverty and hunger. If we try hard and mobilise our natural resources in a planned way, this country will no longer remain a poverty-stricken one," she said.

Hasina, also president of the ruling Awami League, was addressing a workers rally in the city, organised in observance of the Historic June 7.

Industrial workers, their leaders, activists of AL and its front organisations attended the rally organised by Jatiya Sramik League at Nabisco crossing in Tejgaon industrial area.

June 7 was observed in commemoration of the mass movement for realisation of the 'six-point' demand back in 1966, that eventually led to the

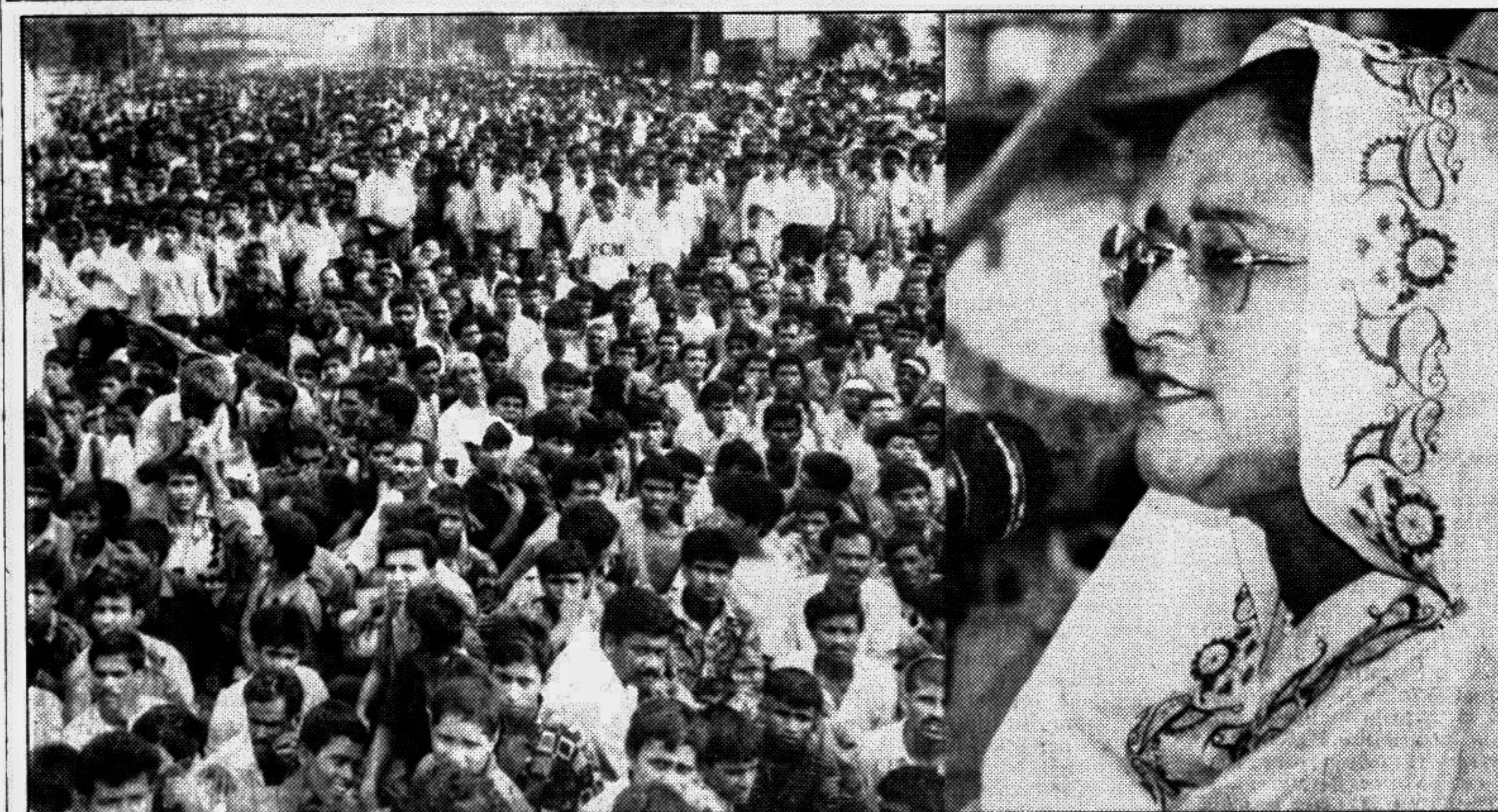
War of Liberation in 1971.

"The nation that fought out to liberate the motherland can't remain poor. We will remove illiteracy within the next 10 years and provide all landless with land," said the premier.

Giving a brief note of account of the successes of her administration, the Prime Minister said foreign investment is being attracted, the nation recovered from image-problem in outside world, subsidy was provided to agri-sector and prices of essentials were kept stable.

Paying rich tribute to workers leader Monu Mia and others, who had embraced martyrdom in 1966, Hasina announced that a school named after Monu Mia would be re-started soon and a hospital exclusively for industrial workers would be re-opened. The hospital would be named after Sheikh Fazlul Haq Moni, the youth leader who was assassinated on August 15, 1975.

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Prime Minister and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina addressing a big rally in Tejgaon industrial area yesterday, organised by Jatiya Sramik League in observance of the June 7. — Star photo

## Khaleda warns AL govt

## Stop selling out national interest or face ouster

BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday warned that the ruling Awami League will be evicted from the soil of Bangladesh "if it does not abandon its plan to sell out the country's independence and sovereignty," reports UNB.

"Stop selling out national interests to others. Otherwise, BNP along with the people will evict you (AL) from the country forever," she said at a meeting to welcome newcomers to her party at her Minto Road official

residence last night.

Party sources said more than 5,000 leaders and workers of Jatiya Party and its front organisations from Kulaura, Srimangal and Kamalganj thanas of Moulvibazar district, led by former MPs Nabab Ali Abbas Khan and Abdul Ahad Miah, formally joined BNP at the meeting.

Begum Zia called the government a subservient one and alleged that it has made all preparations to make the country a 'vassal state'.

"These cannot go unchallenged. We cannot allow the ruling party to trade our independence and sovereignty. Time has come to start a vigorous movement against the government to protect our hard-earned independence," she added.

The Leader of the Opposition alleged that the ruling party in a planned way is destroying all mills and factories, agriculture and educational institutions to make the nation dependent on others.

She said a large number of local industries have already been closed and hundred others are facing closure as the government has opened all the borders of the country.

"The local quality products

are being defeated by low quality Indian goods as those are entering into the country without any hindrance," she said.

Begum Zia said India is dumping its low quality products in Bangladesh and Indian traders are supplying their products in credit to destroy the local industries.

Terming the electricity crisis artificial, the BNP Chairperson said the government is creating power crisis to close

See Page 12 Col 7

## Tk 1.7 lakh snatched in city

By Staff Correspondent

A businessman was reportedly assaulted and robbed of Tk 1.72 lakh in the city Friday night.

Sources at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) said some unidentified people kidnapped businessman Noor Ahmed from Nawabpur Road in the old part of the city Friday night.

The gang beat him up and snatched Tk 1.72 lakh from him and left him beside a road near the DMCH. Local people took the injured businessman to the hospital in the morning.

## Mango output likely to be 40 pc lower

From M A Ali

NATORE, June 7: Production of mango in greater Rajshahi region this year may be 40 per cent less than expected due to nor'westers and pest attack, according to officials of the Mango Research Centre in Chapainawabganj.

Horticulturist Quamruzzaman said they expected over three lakh tonnes of mangoes from about 60 thousand acres of land under cultivation in Chapainawabganj, Rajshahi, Natore and Naogaon districts because flowering and sprouting was good. But not more than 1.80 lakh tonnes can be expected new, he said.

During a two-day visit to Shibganj, Gomostapur, Rohonpur, Volahat and Sadar areas of Chapainawabganj, this correspondent found that mango orchards were totally damaged in some areas and partially damaged in others.

According to the Mango Research Centre, greater Rajshahi region accounts for at least 25 per cent of the country's total mango production.

This correspondent also talked to some owners of mango orchards and traders.

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## Six killed as buses collide in N'ganj

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, June 7: Six persons including two children were killed and four others critically injured when a microbus fell into a ditch after colliding with a bus on the Dhaka-Chittagong highway in Sonargaon thana this morning.

All ten victims on board the microbus were coming from Dhaka to attend a ceremony at Sonargaon.

Police said, the accident occurred at 7:30 am when the microbus made a head-on collision with a Chittagong-bound passenger bus which also fell

into the same ditch in between Sonakhali and Mallikpur.

According to police and hospital sources, the driver of the micro bus was a six-year-old girl, Sejeta, died on the spot while Nilu Begum succumbed to her injuries at the Narayanganj Hospital. Sejeta's father Aminul Hassan, 40, Nilu's three-year-old daughter and Jahangir Alam, 48, expired at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Critically injured A B M Azim, Nilu's husband, was admitted to the P G Hospital while the condition of three other victims admitted to DMCH — Nurul Afzar, 35, his wife and another baby Dina — were stated to be critical.

### 3 killed in Jhenidah

Our Jhenidah Correspondent adds: Three persons were killed when a speeding truck hit a rickshaw van at Pirojpur on the Jhenidah-Jessore highway yesterday morning.

The victims were identified as Bahazzel Hossain, 40, van puller Shakhawat Hossain, 60, and Dharendra Nath Mandal, 60.

One person identified as Jaynal was seriously injured

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## Dacoity at city house

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of dacoits looted money, gold ornaments and other valuables worth about Tk 1.05 lakh from a house at Indira Road in the city Friday night.

Police said, the gang of about seven unidentified men stormed the residence of one Sharfuddin Ahmed at about 10 pm. They took away the goods at gun point.

However, none was arrested in this connection till last night. A case has been filed with Tejgaon thana.



## French Open Majoli's

PARIS, June 7: Iva Majoli stunned top-ranked Martina Hingis 6-4, 6-2 Sunday to win the French Open final and become the first Croatian to win a Grand Slam title, reports AP.

The 19-year-old Croatian broke once in the first set and twice in the second to upset the 16-year-old Swiss star, who was unbeaten this year coming into the final.

Hingis had won the Australian Open in January and had been unbeaten — in six tournaments. She was seeking her second Grand Slam title.

But her 40-match winning streak came to an end against Majoli, who was playing in her first Grand Slam final. Majoli became the lowest seeded player to win at Roland Garros in the Open era. She was seeded No 9.

## 50 killed in Tamil Nadu temple fire

NEW DELHI, June 7: More than 50 Hindu worshippers were killed today in a fire that broke out inside an ancient Hindu temple in the southern Indian town of Thanjavur, a local television channel reported, says AP.

United News of India news agency said police had confirmed only 20 deaths in the fire that was started by firecrackers at the Bragadiswara temple where several thousand Hindus had gathered for a festival.

Thanjavur, in Tamil Nadu state, is about 3,000 kilometres (1,900 miles) south of New Delhi.

The blaze was started by a burning firecracker that fell on a tent inside the temple yard as more than 120 priests prepared for tomorrow's big prayer. Press Trust of India news agency said. Neither SUN TV, the local station in Tamil Nadu, nor the agencies gave details of the fire in the 1,000-year-old temple.

## Indian truckers continue strike at Petrapole

JESSORE, June 7: Activities at Benapole land port remained standstill for the last eight days till Friday as the Indian truck drivers have continued their strike, reports UNB.

Nearly 500 trucks laden with vegetables and fruits are stranded in the area and some CNF agents apprehended that the goods might have started rotting.

The Indian truck drivers and workers have been agitating since May 27 for the release of a driver and a helper who were

See Page 12 Col 3

## Sec 144 in Nilphamari as rival AL units call rallies

NILPHAMARI, June 7: The district administration has imposed Section 144 on the town from 3 pm today as different organisations planned programmes at the same venue to observe the historic 7th June, reports UNB.

Officials said the prohibitive measure was taken to avoid trouble as pro-Awami League Chhatra League, Poura Awami League and Bangabandhu Sangskritik Gosthi announced separate programmes at local Kazi Nazrul Islam Hall premises at the same time today.

In the morning, the Deputy Commissioner held a joint meeting with leaders of the organisations and asked them to change their venue.

Failing to persuade them, the authorities imposed the Section 144 effective till 8 am Sunday.

## Dacoit snatched from police in Bagerhat

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, June 7: Some unruly people of Noapara village under Bagerhat Sadar thana snatched at gun point an alleged dacoit, Hafiz, from police Friday night, police said.

The miscreants beat up the policemen — sub-inspector Zulfiqar Ali and constable Asaduzzaman — and confined them to a house.

Later, an ASP and OC of Sadar thana rescued them. Six persons — Harun, Sultan, Ashraf, Abul, Eskander and Nurul Islam — were arrested in this connection.



Members of the Girl Guide administering Vitamin-A capsules to children at the Guide House at Shantinagar in the city yesterday, the first day of the Vitamin-A Week. — Star photo

## Disposable syringes often recycled defying govt ban

By Morshed Ali Khan

Disposable plastic syringes are often recycled and sold despite a government order to destroy those after use.

Bangladesh Chemist and Druggist Association (BCDA) sources said it was easy to 'repackage and sell' old syringes.

"It is so easy to find cellophane, print it with a brand name then seal a recycled syringe in the pack and make a carton of one thousand, and the pack looks impeccable," one source said.

Association officials estimated that between five and 10 lakh syringes were used in the country each day. A good percentage is probably recycled, they said.

The association's central executive committee member Abdul Hai said a 'used-syringe trader would just walk into any pharmacy, make a deal and sell the syringes. The chemist or druggist is under no obligation to buy those from any particu-

lar place. This gives enough scope for those traders to market the recycled product."

He further said "it is simply not possible for a shopkeeper to check every syringe in a pack. There is no way to prevent this problem other than by ensuring the destruction of all used syringes."

He said hospitals and clinics should destroy cartons and used syringes. City hospitals and clinics, however, have no incineration facilities and often depend on cleaners to destroy the syringes.

A tokai (street urchin) in Nolgolla area near Mitford Hospital, who was seen carrying a jute sack full of used syringes, told this correspondent that his ustad (boss) bought those from a hospital cleaner for Tk 20 per hundred. The young boy then crossed the Buriganga river in a gudara (country ferry boat).

When contacted, Director General (DG) of Health AKM Nu-

rul Anwar said about one and a half months ago, his Directorate had renewed its appeal to hospitals to destroy all used syringes.

"The existing law forbids re-use of syringes. We recently met hospital directors and formed a committee to make sure the syringes were destroyed," he said. Doctors in the districts and thanas were also advised to destroy the used syringes. "We know we will have to extend our activities further to stop the recycling of syringes," he said and assured that further action would be taken.

BCDA officials in the Mitford area said imported syringes are marketed through thousands of individuals and company agents in the country. All syringes in the market are manufactured overseas. More than 90 per cent of those come from Korea. The syringes cost Tk 3 each in shops.

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