

Another accord for power generation signed with HK co

By Staff Correspondent

The third agreement for power generation in private sector was initialled here yesterday between the Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) 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 base-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, Sumitjee Corporation and Ameejee Vajellee 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 all 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 (retd) 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 Bajekala 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 kutchha 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

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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.

The blaze was started by a burning firecracker that fell on a tent inside the temple yard and more than 120 priests prepared for tomorrow's big prayer. Press Trust of India news agency said.

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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 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.

"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.

"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

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 Mange Research Centre in Chaitpawabganj.

Horticulturist Quamruzzaman said they expected over three lakh tonnes of mangoes from about 60 thousand acres of land under cultivation in Chaitpawabganj, 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 Chaitpawabganj, Gomostapur, Rohonpur