

Fuel price hike for transition to market-based economy, says ADB President

Asian Development Bank (ADB) President Mitsuo Sato arrived Dhaka last night for an appraisal of Bangladesh's future development agenda, reports UNB.

Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport, Sato said his 4-day visit is aimed at further strengthening the ties between Bangladesh and ADB.

Describing Bangladesh as an important member of ADB, he said the implementation of different ADB-funded projects here had improved a lot in recent times.

He declined to comment on the general strike called by the opposition parties protesting

See Page 12 Col 7

Khaleda leaves for Pakistan

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday embarked on a fortnight-long tour of Pakistan and the United States.

She is first paying a three-day visit to Pakistan at the invitation of Pakistan Premier Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif.

The BNP chairperson accompanied by her party leaders Dr Abdul Moyeen Khan MP, Salahuddin Ahmed MP and Selima Rahman, flew for Karachi by a Biman aircraft at 6.57 pm from Zia International Airport.

A close aide of Begum Zia told UNB that during her stay in Islamabad, the former Prime Minister would pay a courtesy call on Nawaz Sharif and exchange views on various bilateral matters as well as regional and international issues of common concern.

See Page 12 Col 8

IUTA announces fresh agitation programme

From IU Correspondent

KUSHTIA, Aug 23: The Islamic University Teachers' Association (IUTA) today announced its new agitation programme demanding removal of vice-chancellor Prof Inam-ul-Haq.

Addressing a press conference at the University Club this evening, the IUTA General Secretary Sarwar Jahan announced the programme.

The programme includes sit-in in front of the Prime Minister's Secretariat from 10 am to 12 noon on August 31, token strike at the same place from 10

See Page 12 Col 6

Petroleum dealers withdraw programmes

The Bangladesh Petroleum Dealers Association (BPDA) has withdrawn its programmes following a solution on the demand regarding commission on fuel and tank lorry fare, a press release of BPDA said yesterday, reports BSS.

Anwar Zahid, Prodhan held

BNP leader Anwar Zahid and JAGPA chief Shafiqul Alam Prodhan were arrested in the city last night, family and party sources said. Plainclothes policemen picked up Anwar Zahid from his New DOHS residence at about 10.30 pm. Police earlier arrested Prodhan at about 9 pm from his Purana Paltan party office, reports UNB.

Inside Today

Article

The Economy: Was the Petroleum Product Price Increase Necessary

Column: Insight by Kabir U Ahmad Page 4

Focus

Law and Our Rights

The role of national commissions on human rights: A South Asian appraisal Page 5

Business

Crisis in Kenya comes as a boon for Bangladeshis: Quality is all that counts now

\$3b investment proposals registered with BOI Pages 6, 7

Accord likely as CHT talks resume Sept 7

By Shehab Ahmed

The next round of talks between the National Committee for Chittagong Hill Tracts (NCCHT) and the Parbatya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) will be held on September 7 in Dhaka, authoritative sources said last night.

Earlier on Wednesday, the PCJSS sent a message to the NCCHT through the liaison committee proposing that the next round of talks be held on September 7.

The sources told The Daily Star NCCHT is sending its reply soon confirming the date.

The meeting is being seen as very important since the last round of talks between the two sides in Dhaka ended on July 6

inconclusively after five days. The last meeting, however, made 'satisfactory progress,' working on a draft for a permanent ceasefire in the CHT, scene of decades-old insurgency by Shantibahini, military wing of PCJSS.

The PCJSS delegation, led by its Chairman Jyotirindya Bodhipriya Larma alias Shantu Larma, then went back to their headquarters in Southern Tripura via Dudukchhari carrying a draft of the proposed agreement. Officials said an agreement is likely to be initiated at the next round of meeting.

This will be the sixth round of talks between the two sides

since the government reconstituted the NCCHT in October last year. It resumed dialogue with the PCJSS, making rapid progress, resulting in the PCJSS leadership arriving in the capital in January this year for the first time to hold talks.

Shantu Larma, however, is facing enormous pressure from hardliners in his camp, who are pressing for total autonomy and expulsion of the settlers from the CHT along with withdrawal of the security forces.

Recently the militants have taken over control of various fronts of PCJSS and left its student wing, Pahari Chhatra Parishad, split on peace nego-

See Page 12 Col 3

Peak hr power demand to be 4051mw by 2001

The peak hour estimated demand for power in the country by the year 2001 and 2002 has been projected at 4,051 megawatt with an installed generation capacity of 5,132 mw and in-built reserve margin of 1,081 mw, Dr. Lutfor Rahman, member, General Economics Division of Planning Commission, told BSS.

Giving an outline of power sector projection in the draft Fifth Five-Year Plan (FFYP) in the city yesterday he said, 'we have planned to add another 2,459 mw power generation capacity to the present power infrastructure to raise the installed power generation capacity to 5,334 mw. An investment of Tk 8100 crore will be needed

for the purpose."

The FFYP proposed significant private sector investment along with the government investment to mobilise adequate funds required for the programme and also to encourage the participation of the private initiatives in the generation and transmission of electricity.

The plan laid emphasis on development of extensive power transmission and distribution network in the urban and rural areas of the country, with the target for transmission and distribution line set at 1,580 kilometre and 59,091 kilometre respectively, Dr. Rahman informed.

He said the desired growth of

See Page 12 Col 7

Space theatre to be built at Agargaon

By Morshed Ali Khan

The country's first Space Theatre, a modern version of a conventional planetarium, will be built in the city's Agargaon area within the next two years, sources concerned said.

The Space Theatre, named after Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, will be built on three acres of land at a site near the National Museum of Science and Technology at a cost of Tk 52 crore. Prof AM Azizur Rahman Khan, Director of the Museum and the Space Theatre Project said.

With its modern tilted dome, the 350-seat Space Theatre will

See Page 12 Col 1



Abahani forward Maksudul Amin Rana is intercepted by an unidentified Old Benedictines defender during the first match of the double-leg Asian Cup Winners' Cup first round encounter at the Mirpur Stadium last night. Abahani won 5-0. (Report on Page 10) — Star Photo

Pvt doctors charge fees many times the rates fixed by govt

By Naimul Haq

Private medical practitioners in the country are charging consultation fees many times the rates permitted by law.

According to the Medical Practice and Private Clinics and Laboratories (Regulation) Ordinance, 1982, a private practitioner is allowed to charge a maximum of Tk 40 for first consultation and Tk 20 for second and subsequent consultations for the same illness. For medical consultation at home, a practitioner can charge a maximum of Tk 80 for each visit.

But doctors charge up to Tk 500 for private medical consultation. There are allegations of consultation fees being charged up to Tk 1000 but it could not be confirmed. Popular senior doctors practising in the

metropolitan cities charge between Tk 300 and Tk 500 while those who fall in the category of general practitioners' charge between Tk 100 and Tk 200. The minimum fee charged by a junior doctor is Tk 40 to Tk 100.

When the matter was brought to the notice of Dr Muniruzzaman Bhuiyan, General Secretary of Bangladesh Private Medical Practitioners' Association, he said, 'The law was passed by the then military rulers. We reject the law. We shall abide by the terms being processed under the health policy. The policy regulates new rates of fees which should be reasonable for both patients and private practitioners.'

About the fixed rates of consultation fees, Dr Bhuiyan said, 'Doctors never demand fixed

fees. It depends on the ability of the patient. Some doctors charge consultation fees based on the patient's apparent wealth.' Sighting an example, he said, 'A patient from a poor family was asked to pay what-ever she could afford while the same doctor charged Tk 300 from a patient who was a businessman from Chittagong.'

The 1982 Ordinance states, 'Every registered medical practitioner carrying on private medical practice shall issue receipts to patients and keep a copy for inspection. Practitioners must also display a list of fees and keep a register of patient's names and addresses.'

Majority of the patients complained that the regulations were being violated in the

See Page 12 Col 1

Madhupur jungle counts its days



Sawed off trees near Madhupur forest in Tangail. — News Network photo

BNP-called countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal today

The BNP has called a dawn-to-dusk hartal across the country today to protest the price hike of gasoline, reports UNB.

'The consequences will be dreadful if the government takes up any repressive measure during the hartal hour,' BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said in a statement last night.

This will be the first day-long hartal by the main opposition party against the 14-month-old administration of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina.

Earlier, BNP enforced to half-day hartals on March 23 and July 3 on different national issues.

The cabinet at a meeting on August 18 raised the prices of all petroleum products due to

See Page 12 Col 1

Tight security

By Staff Correspondent

Nearly 6,000 police, BDR and Ansars will be deployed during the dawn-to-dusk hartal in the city today.

Police sources said plainclothes police will also be on the lookout for troublemakers during the hartal hours while some 30 mobile teams will patrol the city.

Tight security measures have been taken around Suhrawardy Uddyan, Jatiya Sangsad Bhaban, Gono Bhaban, Bangladesh Television and other key installations.

Body of another BUET student recovered

COX'S BAZAR, Aug 23: The last of the four BUET students washed away by the Bay waves was found dead on a shore today, reports UNB.

Moheshkhali thana administration recovered the dead body from a char in the thana. The dead was identified as Mozammel Hossain Shahin, son of Moazzem Hossain, an officer of Water Development Board.

The kind of the victim identified the body by seeing his clothes. The body was sent to Dhaka.

Four students of Mechanical Engineering department of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology (BUET) were washed away by ebb-tide in the Bay here on Wednesday.

BSS adds: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today condoled the death of four BUET students. She expressed profound sorrow and conveyed her sympathy to the members of the bereaved families.

Krira Parishad lottery draw results

The holder of ticket number Ka-0663905 has won the Tk 40 lakh first prize of the Jatiya Krira Parishad lottery, reports UNB.

The second prize of Tk 5 lakh went to each of the holders of ticket no Gha-0321596 and Gha-0092306.

Uma-0831073 and Ga-0782015 won the 3rd prize worth Tk 2 lakh each while no Uma-0540349, Kha-0229009 and Ga-0527651 the 4th prize of Tk 1 lakh.

The draw of the Krira Unnayan Tahsil lottery was held in the city yesterday. Jatiya Krira Parishad launched the first part of the second phase of the lottery to create fund for the development of sports.

LCRD and Cooperatives Minister Zillur Rahman inaugurated the draw in presence of invited guests and journalists.

State Minister for Youth and Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader attended the function as special guest.

(See draw results on page 3)



BNP brought out a torch procession in the city yesterday to drum up support for today's hartal. — Star photo

Clashes, cracker blasts during BNP processions

By Staff Correspondent

At least 20 people were injured and some shops and vehicles damaged at Natore during clashes when a torch procession in support of today's hartal was attacked by some

people in front of the Uttara supermarket in the town, our correspondent reported last night.

In Khulna, four persons were injured when some crackers exploded in a BNP torch procession.

In the capital, police lobbed several tear gas shells in front of the BNP office at Purana Paltan to disperse party activists and a torch procession was attacked by anti-hartal activists in Gulistan area injuring sev-

eral activists, including some female ones, a party press release said.

Police said they hurled tear gas shells to disperse the crowd to avert violence after some home-made bombs were exploded in front of the party office where torch-carrying BNP activists had assembled at about 7.45 pm.

None was injured in the bomb blasts and hurling of tear gas shells, police said.

Quoting witnesses our Natore correspondent reported that the attackers had chanted slogans in support of the ruling party when they hurled some

See Page 12 Col 7

8 drown as boat capsizes in Khowai

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, Aug 23: Six women and two children were drowned in a boat capsized in the river Khowai near Habiganj town yesterday.

An engine-boat with about 25 on board overturned due to strong wind. All but the eight managed to swim ashore, witnesses said. Local people recovered the bodies.

The group came to visit a peer at village Sultanshi from Aastagram thana of Kishoreganj district Thursday afternoon. They were returning to Aastagram.

See Page 12 Col 7

Teenage bay stabbed to death in city

By Staff Correspondent

A teenage boy was stabbed to death at Lalmatia under Mohammadpur thana in the city last night.

The dead was identified as Mustafa, 18. Police said a gang of about five youths attacked Mustafa near a market at Lalmatia and stabbed him indiscriminately. He died on the spot at about 9.30 pm, police said.

A resident of New Colony drivers' quarters, Mustafa came under attack allegedly following a conflict among friends, police said. However, the real motive behind the killing could not be known immediately.

Mohammadpur police sent the body to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Besides, they were preparing to file a case in this connection last night.

পেট্রোলিয়ামজাত পণ্যের মূল্যবৃদ্ধি সাধারণ মানুষের জীবনযাত্রায় বিরূপ প্রভাব ফেলবে না

- * পেট্রোলিয়ামজাত পণ্যের সাম্প্রতিক মূল্যবৃদ্ধি দেশের অর্থনীতি ও সাধারণ মানুষের জীবনযাত্রায় ওপর কোন বিরূপ প্রভাব ফেলবে না এবং সাধারণ জনগণের ব্যবহার্য ডিজেলচালিত বাহনের ভাড়া কার্যতঃ এর কোন প্রভাব পড়বে না। কারণঃ
- * প্রতি বছর ১৬ লক্ষ টন ডিজেল আমদানি করতে হয়। কৃষিক্ষেত্রে যা ব্যবহৃত হয় সেচপাম্প ও গভীর নলকূপ চালানায় এবং পরিবহন ক্ষেত্রে বাস, ট্রাক, ট্যাক্সি, লঞ্চ ও স্টীমার পরিচালনায়। অর্থাৎ ডিজেলের যারা ভোক্তা ও এর শব্দহারের ওপর যারা প্রত্যক্ষ ও পরোক্ষভাবে নির্ভরশীল তাদের শতকরা শতাংশই সাধারণ মানুষ। ডিজেলের মূল্য লিটার প্রতি ২৫ পয়সা বৃদ্ধির ফলে বাস-ট্রাক-লঞ্চের ভাড়া বৃদ্ধির কোন কারণ নেই।
- * অন্যদিকে প্রতিবছর যে ৩ লক্ষ টন পেট্রোল ও অকটেন আমদানি করা হয় তার ৬০ শতাংশই ব্যবহার করে সরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান ও সংস্থা। অবশিষ্ট ৪ শতাংশ বেসরকারী খাতের যানবাহন ও ব্যক্তিগতমালিকানাধীন মোটর গাড়িতে ব্যবহৃত হয়, যা এই ব্যয় বহনে সক্ষম।
- * পেট্রোলিয়ামজাত পণ্যের ক্রয় মূল্য বিক্রয় মূল্যের চেয়ে বেশি হওয়ায় গত অর্ধবছরে ৪৫০ কোটি টাকা ভর্তুকি দেয়া হয়েছে। এ ভর্তুকি দেয়া হয় সাধারণ মানুষের ট্যাক্সের পয়সায়। বর্তমানে ভর্তুকি হাস বাদ সরকারী অর্থের যে শাশয় হবে তা জনগণের কল্যাণে ব্যয় করা হবে।
- * পেট্রোলিয়ামজাত দ্রব্যের গড় আমদানি মূল্য বা সরকারী ক্রয় মূল্য এখনো খুচরা বিক্রয় মূল্যের চেয়ে বেশি।
- * আন্তর্জাতিক বাজারে তেলের মূল্য বহু আগেই বৃদ্ধি পাওয়ার কারণে সৃষ্ট অস্থিতিশীল অবস্থা নিরসনে পেট্রোলিয়ামজাত পণ্যের মূল্য সামঞ্জস্য বিধান অপরিহার্য হয়ে পড়েছিল।
- * প্রতিবেশী দেশে প্রতি লিটার পেট্রোলের মূল্য বাংলাদেশী মুদ্রায় ২৬.৯৫ টাকা। মূল্য বৃদ্ধির আগে বাংলাদেশে তা ১৩.৭০ টাকা হওয়ায় পেট্রোলের পাচার রোধ করা জরুরি হয়ে দাঁড়িয়েছিলো।
- * পেট্রোলের পরিবর্তে সিনেজির ব্যবহার যানবাহনের পরিবর্তে নব্য ৭২ শতাংশ হাস করতে পারে। অর্থাৎ একই কাজে পেট্রোলের জন্য যেখানে ১০০ টাকা খরচ হয়, সিনেজি ব্যবহার করলে তাতে ব্যয় হবে মাত্র ২৮ টাকা। সিনেজির ব্যবহার পরিবর্তনকে দৃষ্ণমুখ রাখো।

ডিএফপি

জি-২০২৬



বাংলাদেশ পেট্রোলিয়াম কর্পোরেশন

See Page 12 Col 4