

Lost radioactive isotopes recovered from Magurjhara

By Staff Correspondent

A disaster management team of Occidental on Wednesday last, unearthed from Magurjhara disaster zone the container having 16 radioactive elements that went under soil during the June 15 Magurjhara gas field explosion.

Sources said that the radioactive elements were used for detection of gas and other purposes in gas field exploration. Some of these elements had the potential of 'chains of radioactive sources,' thus having the capacity to cause heavy damage to environment in Magurjhara.

The Occidental's team which has been trying to seal the exploded gas well for the last four months, unearthed the container in intact condition while excavating an area.

The sources said that with this recovery, the risk of environmental hazard from radioactive sources has now been

See Page 12 Col 6

3 get 10-yr jail term in triple murder case

GAZIPUR, Oct 17: A court here yesterday convicted three people and sentenced them to 10 years in jail in a sensational triple murder case, reports UNB.

Additional District and Sessions Judge AKM Zahir Ahmed delivered the judgement in the crowded court and also fined the accused Tk 5,000 each, in default, to suffer two years more in jail.

The court, however, acquitted 39 other accused of the case, including a local Union Parishad chairman.

The convicts are: Abdul Momen and Sohrab Hossain of village South Dewra and Amir Hossain of Malita village in Poshash thana of Narsingdi district.

The case history in brief: On October 21, 1991, a group of armed dacoits looted 12-13 houses at Kapais village in Kaliganj thana of Gazipur district, including the house of the then chairman of Jamalpur Union Parishad Rajabuddin.

During the looting, the dacoits killed Sobhan, Sultan and Asiruddin of the village.

A case was filed against 200

See Page 12 Col 2

One killed as rival groups clash in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Oct 17: A young man identified as Raju, 22, was killed during a clash between two rival groups at Amanat colony at Nasirabad this evening, police said.

During the clash both the groups exchanged gunfire and blasted cocktails.

But the cause of the clash could not be known immediately, police said.

BNP standing body meets today

An emergency meeting of BNP standing committee will be held at 29 Minto Road at 6:30 pm today, reports UNB.

BNP Chairperson and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Begum Khaleda Zia will preside over the meeting, said a press release.

The Daily Star  
on the Internet  
<http://www.dailystarnews.com>

Inside Today

Article

What will the President Do?

by Matiur Rahman

Page 4

Star Literature

Dario Fo: A modern-day jester; and Fiction: Muddy waters

Pages 6 & 7

International

Former Marxist ruler proclaims victory in Congo's civil war

Page 9

Business

Aid from OECD members cut to lowest level since '50, study reveals

Page 8

Khaleda invited to discuss 'any issue' in JS  
Army won't be pulled out of CHT: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday invited the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament to participate in discussions in the House on any issue or ask any question, reported UNB.

She denied the BNP allegation that the Opposition was not allowed to talk inside the House and said, "Come to parliament, take part in the discussions and ask anything you want."

She was addressing the inaugural function of the First Dhakeshwari bridge in the afternoon. The function later turned into a huge public meeting.

The Prime Minister said it is not true that the main Opposition party is not allowed to talk in Parliament. "We have allowed them to discuss whatever issues they wanted to raise."

She mentioned that debates

were held on many important issues, including energy policy, industry, law and order, the Ganges water treaty and foreign policy. "But the Leader of the Opposition did not take part in discussion on any of the issues."

As Leader of the House, Hasina said, "I reply to questions every week." But the Opposition leader did not ask any question, she added.

About the ongoing peace process in the Chittagong Hill Tracts, the Prime Minister said that a peace agreement is to be signed soon to restore peace in the region.

In this regard, she said, the government has no plan to withdraw army from the Hill Tracts region even after the signing of peace accord.

Hasina said the opposition party is trying to hinder the peace process, as they do not want peace and stability. do not

See Page 12 Col 3

Want that citizens of the country return to their homeland."

She said, "We don't want our people, the citizens of a sovereign country, to stay as refugees in other countries."

She wondered how the country's independence and sovereignty will be endangered with peace restored in the CHT, when our citizens will return home."

The opposition party do not want the signing of peace accord, the Prime Minister said, alleging that when the present Leader of the Opposition was in power she spoke in favour of India and now she speaks against India.

"We have earned the independence at the cost of our blood and we'll be the first to give blood, if the need arises again," she said cautioning the people against those who are trying to jeopardise the peace

See Page 12 Col 7

World Bank chief calls on President, PM

Visiting World Bank President James D Wolfensohn made a courtesy call on President Shahabuddin Ahmed at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports UNB.

Welcoming Wolfensohn, President lauded the involvement of WB and other organisations like IFC in socio-economic development of the people of Bangladesh, and hoped that the Bank will continue its full cooperation.

Wolfensohn thanked the President for receiving him and his delegation members.

He observed that the foreign aid is dependent on the smooth process of execution of development projects and said he has been impressed seeing the enterprising and hard working people of Bangladesh.

Wolfensohn also called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at her official residence Ganobhaban yesterday.

He said the World Bank will raise assistance to Bangladesh if the government can enhance aid utilisation and speed up implementation of various development

See Page 12 Col 7

Crackdown on illegal workers in KSA

10000 Bangladeshis waiting to leave

By M Anwarul Haq and Reaz Ahmed

At least 10,000 Bangladeshis are scrambling to leave Saudi Arabia following expiry of the grace period on October 16 for overseas workers staying without proper documents in the oil-rich kingdom.

The Bangladeshis are now waiting for being airlifted or brought back home by ships. Around 10,000 have already been issued travel documents by the Bangladesh Embassy in Riyadh and the Consulate in Jeddah, said Abdul Momin Chowdhury, Bangladesh Ambassador to Saudi Arabia, over telephone last night.

Of the 10,000, nearly 3,000 are staying in the deportation centres in Jeddah.

These people, it is learnt, have no financial ability to purchase a one-way air ticket to return home. The Saudi government is expected to make arrangements for sending them back by ships. However, sources said no development in this re-

gard took place till yesterday.

The Bangladesh ambassador said that in the last few days, nearly 5,000 Bangladeshis were issued travel documents by the Embassy and almost an equal number by the Consulate.

It seems most of the over-stayers or persons without authorised papers have been issued travel papers or exit passes. Perhaps only a handful of over-stayers are here in outlying areas. They are coming in from far flung places to collect their travel documents," ambassador Chowdhury told The Daily Star.

Mobile teams were also sent out to far flung places to enable over-stayers to avail of travel documents, he added.

Asked if the over-stayers would face further harassment like forced deportation, he replied, "It should not be the case." He, however, said that there was no follow-up action

See Page 12 Col 1

Japan ready to help organise int'l confce for Ganges Barrage

Japan has expressed its readiness to support Bangladesh in organising an international conference in the city early next year to galvanize assistance for the construction of Ganges Barrage Project, reports BSS.

Japan would extend all possible assistance for holding the conference, Japanese Parliamentary Vice Minister Takeo Kawamura told Water Resources Minister Abdur Razzaq during their meeting in Tokyo on Thursday.

Kawamura said in view of the magnitude and size of the project, support of other donors and agencies would be needed.

Razzaq thanked the minister and the Japanese government for their follow-up action for the implementation of Ganges Barrage Project for the economic development

See Page 12 Col 8

Interpol confce for universal extradition treaty

NEW DELHI, Oct 17: India today clinched two major victories in the ongoing Interpol Conference when members unanimously endorsed the need for a universal extradition treaty and for according legal status to red-alert notices for nabbing fugitive criminals, reported PTI.

The conference decided to urge the United Nations to adopt a universal extradition convention and asked individual governments to accord legal status to re-alert notices.

The decision of the world police body, on the third day of the week-long annual general assembly here, comes in the wake of a strong appeal by Prime Minister I K Gujral for adoption of such a universal treaty to end "agonising negotiations" for extradition of most-sought-after criminals.

This is the key development challenge of our time," he had told the Hong Kong meeting.

In Bangladesh, he only reiterated his vision of poverty alleviation after a first-hand experience of what was going on.

"People don't want charity, they want a chance," he said.

"Poverty alleviation is not giving them money ... it is giving them hope ... it is giving them a chance," he said.

See Page 12 Col 4

Fall in water level  
Ferry service between Fulchhari, Bahadurabad may be stopped

From Our Correspondent

GAIBANDHA, Oct 17: Ferry service between Fulchhari and Bahadurabad ghat may be stopped any moment due to fall in water level in the Brahmaputra, disrupting the East-West rail link.

The marine department at Testamukh Ghat on October 13 declared the Fulchhari-Bahadurabad route via Prozaptoti channel abandoned as the depth of water there did not allow movement of ferries.

The Railway, since then, is using the Kalasona channel. But they say this route will be stopped within next few days if

See Page 12 Col 4

Five killed in road accidents

By Staff Correspondent

Five people were killed and seven other injured in separate road accidents in the city and Savar yesterday and the day before.

Two young men were killed in a road accident at Banani in the city Thursday night.

Gulshan police identified the dead as Shahrukh Jalal, 22, son of Brigadier Shahjalal, and Moniruzzaman Mia, 21, son of Lutfur Rahman.

Both were fatally injured when their car hit a roadside tree on Road No 27 in Banani at about 11:30 pm.

Doctors declared them dead when the two were rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).

Police said Shahrukh, a stu-

dent of the Kalasona channel, was killed when his car hit a roadside tree on Road No 27 in Banani at about 11:30 pm.

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