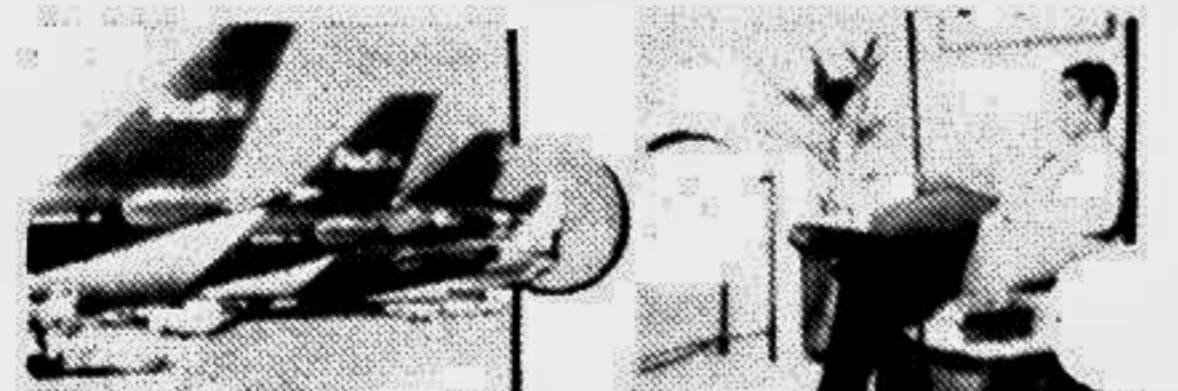
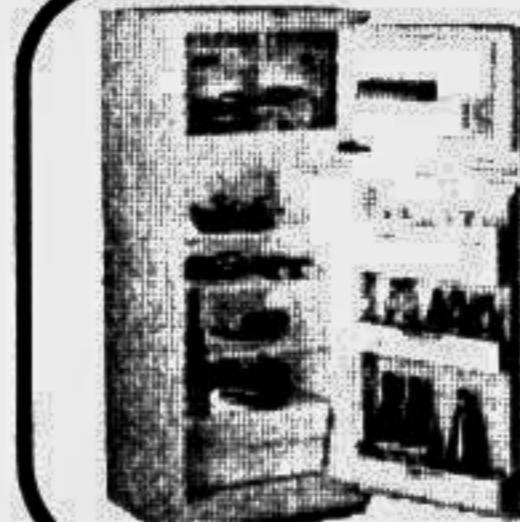


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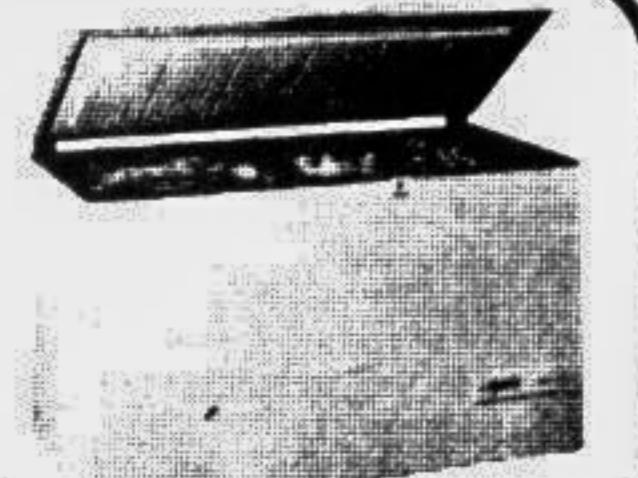
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BNP's return to JS

From Page 1

B Chowdhury rejected the Speaker's arithmetic that it would have taken three years and eight months to dispose of all the notices and amendments to the four CHT bills.

"It was the highest degree of falsehood from on less than the chair of the Speaker," he said, adding that this was nothing but an attempt to mislead the people.

He added that if the opposition members were allowed to speak on the notices for one minute each, it would have taken five to 12 hours only.

In reply to a question, the BNP leader denied the ruling party allegation that the huge number of notices and amendments were intended to obstruct the passage of the bills.

The bills on the CHT were unconstitutional and unprecedented. So, such huge number of notices and amendments were brought to the bills," he said.

The Deputy Opposition Leader questioned the neutrality of the Speaker and said the chair did not allow BNP to discuss the bills following a 'secret consultation' with the ruling party.

"By doing so, the conspiracy succeeded but the government was defeated morally and politically," he told a questioner.

Chief Whip of the Opposition Khandaker Delwar Hossain said despite their demand, the Speaker did not convene the Business Advisory Committee meeting to discuss and decide the process of considering the bills in such a unique situation.

Replying to a question, Delwar said the government did

not want us in the House during the passage of the CHT bills as "we could have exposed the loopholes of the bills and explained how they are contrary to the Constitution."

Referring to their meeting with the President, the Opposition chief whip said as per advice of the President, the BNP members brought amendments to the bills on CHT and agreed to join discussion on it.

In reply to another question, Delwar said the parliamentary standing committees were not constituted and 11 other parliamentary committees not re-organised as per commitment by the government party.

He said the government is yet to implement the four-point agreement and withdraw political cases against the BNP leaders and workers.

"We'll take the decision of joining the budget session after examining the given situation," he said, adding that it would depend upon how much the government is interested in bringing the opposition back to the National Press Club.

Commissioning of towers of the 132 KV transmission line on the land of the project — Vito Food Industries and Tourism Complex Ltd in Comilla — by PDB is the main cause of her anger.

The Japanese investor sought direct interference from Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is in charge of Energy Ministry, in solving the problem.

"I don't want to go back with a bad experience ... think of what bad impact it may create among the enthusiastic Japanese and other foreign investors when your country is inviting more investment from outside," said the Japanese entrepreneur.

According to her, the problem was created as the PDB set up poles of the 132 KV line on the project's land despite a court's showcase notice and a Board of Investment (BOI) letter that recommended changing the path of the transmission line.

Masae said as the construction work of poles began on the land with police protection on Monday, she rushed to Dhaka to meet the PDB Chairman who didn't allow her to meet. The Member (Transmission) also refused to talk to her, she alleged.

"The project will turn into meaningless if the electric poles are constructed on the front side of the site," she said.

The deputy opposition leader was also critical of the government for not making any statement in the House on the nuclear tests carried out by India.

BNP leaders K M Obaidur Rahman, Shamsul Islam and Whip Mashru Rahman were present at the briefing.

PM: Long march

From Page 1

we're going to set up the regional council," she said.

Rounding up the businesses in the four-month-long session, the Leader of the House viewed that passage of the CHT bills in the session would be considered as the most remarkable task in the parliamentary history of India.

The project will turn into meaningless if the electric poles are constructed on the front side of the site," she said.

Citing other businesses including formation of the JS standing committees, she said that return of the main opposition party BNP to the House was another major event in the session.

She termed the BNP lawmakers' "rowdyism" in the House on April 15 as "the most scandalous incident in the country's parliamentary history."

Commenting on the Speaker's action of only warning the Opposition MP's responsible for the incident, she said, "You've been liberal enough not to go for any punitive measures. Punitive actions are taken against such behaviour in parliament in any country."

Replying to criticism by the Opposition lawmakers for stoppage of live broadcast of parliament proceedings by radio, the Prime Minister said that the government signed agreement with BNP for live broadcast of the question-hour only. The state-owned electronic media is functioning as per the agreement signed with BNP, she claimed.

Shibir

From Page 1

Railway sources said train service to and from Chittagong was normal.

At 7 am, some Shibir activists tried to put a barricade at Fouzderhat point but police removed it, Railway sources said.

Shibir called the barricade demolition of outsiders from some residential halls of Chittagong University.

Bangladesh-India tie

From Page 1

two enter the ground late this afternoon in the north-western Indian state of Punjab for the toss.

The day-long affair will start at 5:20 pm (BST) with confident expectation from Bangladesh cricket fans, many of whom will be glued to their TV sets with ESPN covering the match live from the spectacular venue at Chandigarh. Kenya is the other participating team in the meet, which will be played on a double-leg league basis across seven different venues in India.

Akram sustained an injury on his back during a light practice session at Mohali on Tuesday and is certain to miss the match against India, though he killed Shazneen.

Hossain said that Bangladesh's final eleven will be decided this morning, but it was learnt that left-arm seamer Anisur Rahman and tweaker Enamul Haq were likely to be rested along with Akram.

But whatever may be the outcome against India, the real battle for the ICC trophy championships will begin when they renew their long rivalry with Kenya at Hyderabad on May 17.

Both Bangladesh and Kenya were awarded with one-day status by the game's ruling body ICC in June last year. To sum up in the words of Bangladesh's coach Gordon Greenidge, "Our aim is to defeat Kenya and qualify for the final. We all want to be there at the Eden Gardens." The final will be played in Calcutta on June 1.

Meanwhile, CID sources said, Shahid was again taken to the scene of the incident yesterday morning.

The Daily Star got a run down of events from CID sources who attributed those to Shahid's statements to the investigators.

Sources said Shahid's statement was almost similar to that he had given to the CID investigators.

Shahid planned to violate

Japanese investor complains about 'non-cooperation' of govt organisation



New Miss Universe Wendy Fitzwilliam of Trinidad and Tobago (center) poses with her 1st runner-up Miss Venezuela Veruska Ramire (left) and 2nd runner-up Miss Puerto Rico Joyce Giraud at the end of the 47th Miss Universe contest in Honolulu yesterday. —AP/UNB photo

PM to inaugurate Bangabandhu Bridge June 23

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina will inaugurate the Bangabandhu Bridge on the river Jamuna on June 23, an official press release said in the city yesterday, reports BSS.

The bridge, the world's 11th longest bridge, would establish direct road and railway links between northwestern region and the eastern part of the country.

Some Tk 3,700 crore (950 million dollar) is being spent for constructing the 4.8 kilometre long bridge with 18.5 metre width.

In a statement yesterday, he said: The whole world is against those trying frantically to become a nuclear power despite the poverty and hunger prevailing in different countries, including India.

Mannan Bhuiyan concerned at N-tests by India

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan has expressed concern over nuclear tests by India and criticised the government for its failure to raise voice against the nuclear weapons, reports UNB.

The JP members criticised the CHT agreement as unconstitutional and said the proposed Regional Council will create regionalism.

The government leaders disagreed with the opposition's view and said the Regional Council will only coordinate the development activities in the three hill districts.

At this state, Parveen opened the door and saw Shahid sitting on Shazneen's body. Shahid called Parveen in, but she went away.

Shahid immediately lifted himself from her body and stabbed her several times before leaving. He rushed to the bathroom, washed his hands and ran out of the room.

Shahid, at one stage, hurriedly approached her from the other side of Shazneen's bed. He reached one of the bed side lamps and put it off. This frightened the girl. At this stage, he jumped on her and tried to be in control, prompting Shazneen to kick him in the stomach.

Shahid then jumped on

Shazneen under threat. Keeping it in mind, he collected a kitchen knife from the kitchen and entered Shazneen's bedroom where she was alone and speaking over telephone sitting on the bed.

Seeing Shahid in her room, Shazneen started shouting, "Don't you know you should knock the door before entering into my room ... get out." Shahid turned back and acted as if he was leaving the room. Shazneen became busy with the phone again.

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Bangladesh yet to finalise state of forces accord with US'

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad yesterday said that Bangladesh is yet to finalise the State of Forces agreement with US, reports UNB.

Briefing newsmen at the Foreign Office yesterday evening, he said, "We could not yet agree with some of the proposals of the USA."

The major differences to be ironed out are visa-free movement of US forces and allowing them to bring in equipment without duty.

Samad said that Bangladesh will review similar agreements USA has with other Asian countries. US has such agreements with Japan, South Korea and Kazakhstan.

D-8 summit

From Page 1

Minister for Foreign Affairs, State Minister for Cultural Affairs, State Minister for Information, Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister and all other secretaries concerned.

A central co-ordination committee was formed with the Foreign Secretary as its head. Two sub-committees on security and media were also formed.

Samad said that it was decided to hold a three-day D-8 Cultural Festival beginning November 23.

An official-level meeting will be held in Dhaka on November 24-25, to review the preparation.

JS motion

From Page 1

5,000, but only 1100 to 1200 arms were surrendered after the peace accord.

Ershad feared that the power and autonomy vested in the tribal people through the agreement, might raise the demand for an independent state.

The JP members criticised the CHT agreement as unconstitutional and said the proposed Regional Council will create regionalism.

The government leaders disagreed with the opposition's view and said the Regional Council will only coordinate the development activities in the three hill districts.

Germany called off aid talks with Indian officials scheduled to have started Tuesday in Bonn. A portion of new development aid worth 300 million dollars (532 million dollars) for India was put on ice.

The Danish government announced that it had frozen its 190 million kroner (28 million dollars) in aid to India.

Vajpayee said he had hoped the Western governments would not impose sanctions, "but if these steps are taken, then as Indians we will face it. We are prepared for any difficulty."

Clinton sidestepped a question on whether US intelligence agencies were surprised by today's test as they were by the first in the series on Monday.

"Before this round of tests started, I did not know it was going to start," Clinton said. He said he had a "fresh look" at possible sanctions for India. "This was the wrong decision for them to take," he said.

Clinton sidestepped a question on whether US intelligence agencies were surprised by today's test as they were by the first in the series on Monday.

Clinton said he realises that the Pakistani government is under pressure at home, adding, "I can't say for sure what is going to happen."

On India's testing, he said, "I believe they were unjustified. They clearly create a dangerous new instability in their region." He suggested that India conducted the tests because it believes it is "underappreciated in the world as a great power."

"It's a very sad thing," Clinton said. He noted his wife and daughter had travelled to India. He has planned a trip later this month.

Four raped

From Page 1

sters near the Sat Salal area in Mohakhali area.