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PHILIPS
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Khaleda

From Page 1

ing rice, pulse, oil and onion, are beyond the reach of the common people.

The agricultural production is being hampered due to soaring price of agriculture inputs like diesel, fertiliser, seeds and insecticides, she said, adding that on the other hand, the farmers are not getting fair prices for their produce.

She said the country's integrity and sovereignty are now under threat following the signing of the CHT accord.

The BNP Chairperson also observed that people's hopes and aspiration has been shattered by politicisation of government machinery, nepotism and corruption, and pursuance of subservient foreign policy.


Prof Badruddoza in his speech alleged that out of nearly 250 political killings during the Awami regime, most of the victims were the members of peasant families.

He said the farmers are forced to stop sending their children to schools as they are hit hard by the government's faulty agriculture policy.

The Deputy Opposition leader also alleged that the present government wants to destroy the agriculture sector for serving the purpose and interest of the neighbouring country.

Chowdhury said the government endangered the country's existence through signing the CHT accord.

Turning to the nuclear tests conducted by India, he said the government did not utter a single word against India as it has no courage to protest against India.



Deputy Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury inaugurating the biennial council of Jatityatabadi Krishak Dal at the Engineers' Institute in the city yesterday.

— Star photo

Decomposed body found inside plastic factory in city

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered the partially decomposed body of a young man from a room in a plastic factory at Islampur under Lalbagh thana in the city yesterday.

Police identified the dead as Amirul Islam, 28, son of Hasem Mollah. The body, having deep cut marks in the throat, was lying on the floor, covered with jute sack.

Amirul lived in the room along with one of his relatives. Police said that when they went to the factory after being informed, they found the door of the room locked from outside.

None was arrested in connection with the incident till filing of this report last night.

The body was sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital for autopsy. Lalbagh police said they were preparing to file a case in this regard.

In another incident, a young man, Rezaul Hosain Titu, 22, was gunned down at Ashulia by gunmen of his rival group following an altercation at about 9-30 Friday night, police said yesterday.

Ctg port

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The ships are now required to overstay for 15 to 20 days. Earlier, those used to stay at the port only for 5 to 6 days, the sources said.

Talking to this correspondent, a port official said that eight container ships were waiting at the outer anchorage for one week seeking berthing space at the port jetties while five others were overstay.

The containers are unloaded very slowly due to space problem. Over 13,000 containers are now dumped at the port sheds which have a capacity to accommodate about 10,000 containers. The importers are also very slow in taking delivery of container cargo, causing space problem, the official said.

The port authorities are contemplating increasing charges to force importers take quick delivery of goods from port sheds, sources said.

BNP: Long march

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The NEC meeting with BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the chair, envisages that Begum Zia and other central leaders of the party gather at a particular spot in the capital on June 9 and start their march towards the CHT in cars, stopping at several places like Comilla and Feni for the party chief to address public rallies.

The second option provides that Begum Zia and others reach Chittagong city by June 9 and from there start the planned long march towards the CHT region.

The NEC meeting decided to go for massive publicity for the long march through holding public rallies all over the country.

It also decided that the district leaders of the party and the present and former MPs of the party will join the May 20 hunger strike in their respective areas. Party leaders of the thana and pourashava units have also been asked to participate in the programme.

It also took up elaborate programmes to mark Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman's death anniversary on May 30.

JCD-BCL clash in Sirajganj: 11 injured

SIRAJGANJ, May 16: Eleven people were injured in a clash between pro-Awami League Chhatra League and opposition BNP's student front Jatityatabadi Chhatra Dal on Kalibari road in the town today, reports UNB.

Witnesses said the clash erupted at about 8 pm as a sequel to a series of clashes between the two rival groups in last four days.

Police fired tear gas shells and resorted to lathicharge to disperse the clashing groups.

Of the injured, two were admitted to the General Hospital. Additional police were deployed in the area to avert further trouble.

Hasina: CHT

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and non-tribal to work unitedly for speedy development of the region.

Now economic freedom of the people will be ensured through the implementation of the peace accord, she said and added, "I want cooperation from all quarters for the development of the region."

Prime Minister said peace agreement has been signed through political negotiation and now the government will implement the agreement properly for the development of the region.

She said the government has already taken up a nearly Tk 2000 crore plan for the development of CHT region.

Under this programme the infrastructure will be developed with construction of bridges and roads, she said.

The government is taking steps to develop the region into an attractive tourist spot, the Prime Minister said. Steps are also being taken to solve power problem, she added.

Sangu

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will be supplied to the BGSL through its Fauzdarhat city gate station everyday.

The formal inauguration of the gas supply from the Sangu-1 through the city gate station of BGSL is expected to be held at the end of the current month.

Suharto

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More than 10,000 people, most of them students, marched peacefully to the local governor's office today in the city of Bandung, which has long been a stronghold of student activism, news media reported. Similar student-led marches were reported in the towns of Semarang and Aceh.

Rangamati Betar

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Hasina said construction of a television relay station at a cost of Tk 13.33 crore is on. She assured the people that she would come again to inaugurate the TV relay station.

Referring to the 18-point recommendation by SAARC Information Ministers' conference held in Dhaka last month, the Prime Minister hoped that popular programmes of Rangamati radio station may be incorporated in the SAARC exchange programmes.

The opening function was also addressed by State Minister for Information Prof Abu Sayeed. Information Secretary M Akmal Hossain and the Director General of Bangladesh Betar.

DU admission test: Fake candidate arrested

A fake candidate was caught by the teachers during the admission test of 'Ka' unit of the Dhaka University yesterday, reports UNB.

The fake candidate was identified as Monirul Alam. He was appearing in the examination instead of Golam Mustafa.

Teachers who were on duty at the Applied Chemistry Department building discovered that Alam is not the genuine candidate and later handed over him to the Ramna police.

Schoolgirl kidnapped

PABNA, May 16: Mamata Rani Sharma, an SSC examinee, was kidnapped by some miscreants when she was returning from her school at Santhia on Thursday, reports UNB.

The victim's father, Madhusudan Sharma of village Raghunathpur in Santhia thana, filed a case with local police against four persons.

However, nobody was arrested till today.

Temperature

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disappearing formation of clouds.

The highest temperature recorded yesterday was at Rangamati with 37.3 degree Celsius and the minimum at Rajshahi at 20.3 degree Celsius.

The Met Office said yesterday that rain or thundershowers, accompanied by temporary gusty or squally winds, are likely to occur at a few places over Dhaka, Barisal and Sylhet divisions, and one or two places over Khulna, Chittagong and Rajshahi divisions.

Meghnaghat

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March 31, AES replied reconfirming its earlier commitment to supply 1.39 billion kilowatt hour of free electricity.

But at the same time AES noted that during the period of free electricity the company would operate either "Simple Cycle Units" (the primary power generation system) or "Combined Cycle Unit" (the final generation system) and for this reason, the IOP period should not be considered.

AES also requested PDB to reconsider the use of ABB Gas Turbines saying that it would be buying power from the company, not machinery. It said that whichever Gas Turbine installs, AES guarantees the tariff and its performance. The US company added that "compelling" it to use machines of certain brand would be a "violation of the original terms of bidding".

Since, AES's answer did not comply with the Purchase Committee's conditions, PDB again sought a fresh response in early April. AES re-affirmed its earlier stance.

The PDB told the Energy Ministry that it can not take any decision on Meghnaghat project since AES did not agree on the IOP and the plant machinery.

In a letter to the Ministry, PDB said that although AES claimed that compelling it to use any brand machine would be a violation of the bid terms, it was AES which had proposed to the PDB that it would use a certain model of ABB turbine. It had also given the technical details of the model and therefore, the bid terms were not violated.

Bangladeshis among 83 arrested in UAE

ABU DHABI, May 16: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) yesterday said it had arrested 83 illegal Asian workers as part of a crackdown launched last year to restore discipline to its labour market, reports AFP.

The 83 expatriates, mostly from Bangladesh, India, and Pakistan, were rounded up in the Musaffah industrial area near Abu Dhabi city during a surprise night raid by a special police squad.

Those arrested include expatriates whose residence visas have expired and those who have absented from their sponsors," said Hader Al-Muhairi, Director of the Abu Dhabi Department of Immigration.

Pak options

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jpayee, asked at a press conference in Delhi.

He said, however: "The planned tests are over".

India will soon develop the complete infrastructure to launch a rapid cross-border nuclear strike, a former chief of India's Armed Forces said today.

Retired General Vishwanath Sharma said the five underground nuclear tests carried out by India this week were the first step towards developing a comprehensive nuclear weapons command-and-control system.

Sharma said the Vajpayee government would now only have to synchronise warheads with its long-range missiles and develop the necessary computer software.

Another report says, hundreds of demonstrators marched through New Delhi today protesting India's nuclear bomb tests.

They shouted anti-nuclear slogans and carried placards saying: "bread not bombs, home not tombs" "before we go nuclear, let us feed the poor" and "he walks Hitler's way will meet Hitler's fate".

Two killed by lightning

From Staff Correspondent

SYLHET, May 16: Two persons were killed by lightning yesterday in Baralekha thana of Moulvibazar district.

Sohrab Ali, 55, of village Boali, was struck by lightning in the morning while he was working in the paddy field.

Kamala Begum, 50, of village Soaral who came to her son's house died at about 7-30 am when she was struck by lightning.

BUET deadlock continues

By Staff Correspondent

Informal negotiations to end the stalemate at the BUET so far failed to produce any positive result, official sources said yesterday.

The students are scheduled to return to the campus today after their mid-term break but the teachers are on an indefinite strike since May 5.

The BUET Teachers Association is planning a silent procession towards the Prime Minister's Secretariat to hand over a memorandum to the Prime Minister this week.

Some mediators involved in the negotiation told The Daily Star that they were continuing their efforts and hoping for an end to the deadlock.

The Chancellor's office is yet to respond to the resignation letter submitted by BUET Vice-Chancellor Prof Iqbal Mahmud on May 4, the sources said. "Communication between the BUET teachers and the higher authorities was essential to resolve the stalemate," one source said.

The BUETTA called the indefinite strike after the resignation of Prof Iqbal Mahmud and 71 teachers from their administrative posts protesting interference by higher authorities in the internal affairs of the BUET.

Prof Iqbal Mahmud however resumed his 'routine duties' as VC on May 12.

Hasnat-Larma meet

Formation of CHT Regional Council discussed

KHAGRACHHARI, May 16: Chief Whip Abul Hasnat Abdullah today had an exclusive meeting with PCJSS leader Jyotirindriya Bodhipriyo Larma alias Shantu Larma and his aides at the local circuit house, reports UNB.

At the nearly three-hour meeting from 7 pm, the two sides discussed formation of the proposed Regional Council and reorganisation of the three hill district councils.

The Chief Whip was aided by Minister Kalpa Ranjan Chakma and Dipankar Talukdar MP while Shantu Larma was assisted by Rupyann Dewan and Gautam Chakma.

After the meeting, the Chief Whip told newsmen that it was a courteous call.

He said the government would take initiatives to form the CHT Regional Council and reconstitute the three hill district councils of Rangamati, Khagrachhari and Bandarban immediately after the President assented to the bills.

Parliament passed the regional council and the three hill district council bills early this month.

4 policemen suspended

COMILLA, May 16: Four police personnel including a Naik were suspended today for negligence of duty, reports BSS.

District police said, they suspended three constables and a Naik and closed them to the police lines. They are Naik Abdul Mannan, Mohammad Selim, Mohammad Farid and Mohammad Mostafizur Rahman.

The sources said one Nil Miah, an accused in a woman and child repression case, escaped from Comilla General Hospital last night when the four police personnel were on duty.

Police could not trace the accused till tonight.

Rape attempt

From Page 1

quoted the young girl as saying that she went to the court premises yesterday morning to collect some articles from a person, reportedly a police constable.

While roaming in area yesterday morning, the girl somehow met CMM's bodyguard Zahurul. The girl told police that Zahurul, at one stage, caught her hand and forcibly took her to the second floor of the CMM's court building.

Night guard Taslim then unlocked the door of the office room of the Judicial Munshikhana (JM Section) there. Peon Bashar was also present there at that time. Zahurul and Bashar forced the girl to enter the room. Taslim locked the door from outside and guarded the room standing on the verandah, police said.

As the girl cried out for help, some people, and on duty policemen in the area rushed to the second floor and caught two of them.

Police produced the two arrested persons before the CMM's Court after the girl filed a case with Kotwali thana accusing the three persons. The court sent them to the Dhaka Central Jail, our court correspondent reported.

The girl was also arrested by Savar thana police on March 15 for her alleged involvement in anti-social works, police said. She was produced before the CMM's Court the next day and the Court sent her to Dhaka Central Jail, according to police. She was released on April 21 on bail.

Quoting the girl, police said that while going to jail earlier, she had deposited her spectacles and a wrist watch to one person at the court prison and she had gone to the court area yesterday to collect those.

Earlier, a six-year-old girl was raped near a police barrack at the CMM's court building on March 10.

Science & tech varsity will be set up in CHT: PM

RANGAMATI, May 16: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated the centenary festival and reunion programme of Rangamati Government High School today, saying that education is the key to all developments, reports UNB.

Opening the colourful programme of the school on hill-top, she said her government has taken up a massive programme to remove illiteracy from the country by the year 2006.

The government, she said, has also taken up 14 projects to expand technical education throughout the country.

"Steps have been taken to establish 12 new science and technology universities besides creating new infrastructure facilities for the existing universities," she added.

The Prime Minister announced that one of the 12 new science and technology universities will be set up in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Responding to various demands of the school, the Prime Minister assured all possible help to meet the demands.

She said decision has been taken to remove the police lines from the school premises and steps will be taken to solve other problems of the school.

Former students of the school, their family members and elite of the town also attended the function.

From the school, Hasina went to the Old Court Building ground to address a public meeting.

Cricket

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with ODI status by the games ruling body ICC last June.

Although the odds are in favour of Kenya, who handed Bangladesh two consecutive heavy defeats in a tri-nation tournament at their own den last year, the ICC Trophy champions on the other hand will be looking forward to extending their hundred per cent success on neutral zone after their triumph in Malaysia.

With Akram back in the side, the axe will fall on Mehrab Hossain. It was also learnt that Bangladesh might go for a minor change in the team that played against India. With the vulnerability of the Kenyans against spin attack and the Hyderabad wicket likely to be slow, left-arm spinner Enamul Haq may be included in the roster replacing opener Sanwar Hossain.

Asif Karim, the tall left-arm spinner who is recent past has developed into a good all-rounder, will lead Kenya, for whom it is their second visit to India after the 1994 World Cup.



Activists of the Forum Against Nuclear Testing (FANT) protesting the five nuclear tests conducted by India in New Delhi yesterday.

— AP/UNB photo

COMMERCIAL PLOT FOR SALE

A COMMERCIAL PLOT MEASURING APPROXIMATELY 15 KATHS AND ADJACENT TO SHEIKH MUJIB ROAD, AGRABAD, CHITTAGONG IS AVAILABLE FOR SALE. THE PLOT IS AT A WALKING DISTANCE FROM CHITTAGONG STOCK EXCHANGE, CHITTAGONG CHAMBER AND CGO BUILDING. IT IS EASILY APPROACHABLE FROM PORT, CUSTOMS, MAJOR BANKS, EPZ AND AIRPORT.

INTERESTED BUYERS MAY INQUIRE AT THE BELOW MENTIONED PHONE NUMBER IN CHITTAGONG FROM 9 TO 10 AM IN THE MORNING AND FROM 4 TO 6 PM IN THE EVENING FOR DETAILS.

MUJIB CHITTAGONG (031) 621756

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Status of Forces Agreement

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Foreign Ministry who are going through the draft agreement are learnt to be awaiting some clarifications from the US authorities on some suggestions made by Bangladesh.

A senior official of the Foreign Ministry said, "We are considering signing the SOFA after having studied it fully and after receiving necessary clarifications. Bangladesh should be able to sign it after some trimming and pruning. Both sides are showing flexibility."

The differences over the signing "have now narrowed down considerably. We look for greater US support and cooperation after we have been able to be a signatory to SOFA," the official said.

Discussions on the signing of SOFA between Bangladesh and the US have been going on since the completion of Operation Sea Angels mission by the US Armed Force in April 1991 in the wake of the severe cyclone that hit the southern districts. US troops provided emergency relief assistance at that time.

It was learnt that

Bangladesh has sought clarifications mainly on two aspects. Firstly, about movement of US military personnel during an operation without going through immigration formalities. Secondly, the movement of military hardware and supplies like fuel without being subjected to prior inspection.

The US military authorities are learnt to have explained to Bangladesh officials that the arrangements in SOFA are "standard" in nature. The basic characteristics of the proposed agreement is similar to that the US has signed with its other allies. Military personnel will carry ID cards and move in groups and therefore "normal immigration formalities are not routine," they noted.

They have also learnt to have explained that military gear in the form of standard hardware like trucks, fuel and supplies to conduct disaster relief operations should pose "no logistical problem."

The US Armed Force have signed similar agreements with some Asian countries including Japan, Korea and Kazakhstan.

Defence analysts said that signing of the SOFA would enhance the potential for building a useful and fruitful military relationship between the two countries.

"The Armed Forces of the two countries are already cooperating in a number of areas and some Bangladesh Army officers have received training in specialised US military institutions," said an official source.

Besides, there have been many training exercises and exchange programmes between the US and the Bangladesh Armed Force. Dhaka has also received some hardware and supplies from Washington. Bangladesh received some T-37 trainer aircrafts and is expected to receive some C-130 transport planes shortly.

Recent issues of the authoritative US defence journal — Asia-Pacific Defence Forum — highlighted the participation of Bangladesh military personnel in several exchange or special programmes of the US military. The skill and efficiency of the Bangladesh Armed Force was also highlighted in the defence journal.