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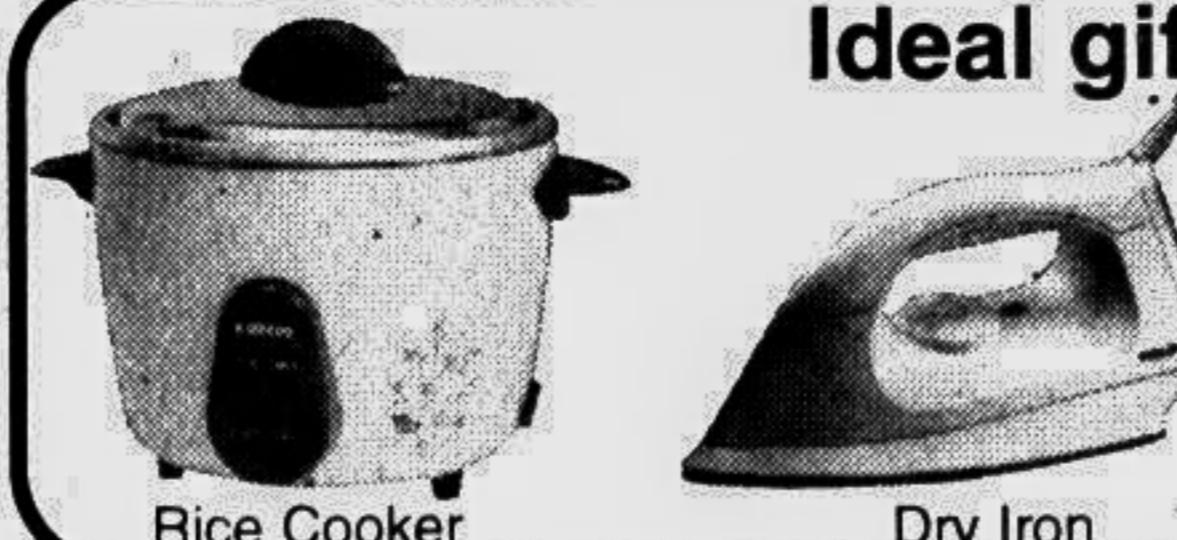


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Khaleda

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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.

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 white 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 Hossain 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 overstaying.

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 and 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.



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

— Star photo

JCD-BCL clash in Sirajganj: 11 injured

SIRAJGANJ, May 16: Eleven people were injured in a clash between pro-Awami League Chhatri League and opposition BNP's student front Jatiyatabadi Chhatri 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.

Meghnaghat

From Page 1

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 re-consider 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's machine.

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 arrested him over 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 Santia on Thursday, reports UNB.

The victim's father, Madhusudan Sharma of village Raghunathpur in Santia 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.

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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 or 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 absconded from their sponsors,' said Hader Al-Muhiari, Director of the Abu Dhabi Department of Immigration.

Pak options

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jpjee, 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 who 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 Baralekhia 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 Soartal who came to her son's house died at about 7:30 am when she was struck by lightning.

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

He said their original sponsors and those who provided jobs to the aliens would be prosecuted under new immigration laws introduced this year.

The UAE last year gave illegal workers four months to leave or face prosecution, resulting in the departure of nearly 200,000 aliens who came from India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan and the Philippines.

It then introduced stiffer penalties against those who quit their sponsors and foreigners who enter the country illegally.

Sponsors who allow their employees to work somewhere else are fined 10,000 dirhams (2,725 dollars).

Expatriates from those six Asian countries account for nearly 40 per cent of the UAE's total population of 2.4 million and more than half the 800,000-strong workforce. They started to stream in after oil was struck in the early 1960s.

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.

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.

The BUET Teachers Association will 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.

