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LONDON, May 18: Calling

India's nuclear test 'a very sad

thing,' President Clinton said

today he hopes to persuade

leaders of Pakistan to avoid a

response that triggers

widespread nuclear prolifera-tion. "We've got to find a way out of this," he said, reports AP. He and British Prime Minis-

ter Tony Blair made a 30-

minute call together to Pak-

istani Prime Minister Nawaz

"They said a decision not to test

would be strongly supported by

made no commitments' but ex-

plained the difficulties he faces

in making the decision.

today, reports UNB.

Lama police.

McCurry said that Sharif

Clinton and Blair told

Minor girl raped

in Bandarban

l l-year-old girl was violated at

a village in Lama thana here

said the girl, a class three stu-

dent of Ballarchar government

primary school, was raped al-

legedly by Abul Kashem, 24, of

Khiunimukh village. She was

going to school when Kashem

the girl and sent her to Sadar

hospital in a critical condition.

Local people, later, rescued

They also nabbed Kashem

and handed him over to the

A case under Women and

Children Repression Preven-

intercepted and violated her.

BANDARBAN, May 18: An

Police and hospital sources

the International community.

left for Geneva.

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PHILIPS

US Embassy's advice on DV visa theft

The US Embassy in Dhaka yesterday said any DV winner who has reason to believe that his or her appointment letter has been stolen should report this immediately to the National Visa Center, 32 Rochester Ave. Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 03801-2909, USA, reports

The letter should include a recent photograph of the winner, his or her case number, signature, and basic biographic data. A copy of the letter should be sent to the Consular Section, US Embassy, Madani Avenue, Baridhara, GPO Box 323,

In a special release, the US Embassy said it encourages anyone whose letter has been stolen to notify local law enforcement authorities, who have the responsibility to uphold the laws of Bangladesh.

They cannot take action without information from the public, it said, adding that the US Embassy will be pleased to cooperate with Bangladeshi authorities, but has no law enforcement authority in Bangladesh.

Recently some media articles have reported on irregularities involving the United States Diversity Visa (DV) Programme. The principal allegation concerns the theft from local post offices of DV correspondence. It is alleged that the corre-

spondence is held hostage by criminal elements until a fee is paid or the DV winner agrees to add an unqualified person, such as a spouse or child, to his or her family. The US Embassy said it

wishes to clarify that the theft and misuse of DV correspondence is unlikely to benefit The Embassy's Consular

GCO procession batoned, 25 injured

By DU Correspondent

At least 25 students of Dhaka University were injured when police charged batons on a procession of Ganotantrik Chhatra Oikva (GCO) near the SAARC Fountain in the city's Kawranbazar area yesterday.

The processionists were going to gherao the Prime Minister's secretariat as per an earlier programme of the GCO demanding arrest of "terrorists" from the DU campus and protesting the "conspiracy" to ban student politics.

Nine of the injured persons were admitted to Dhaka Medical College Hospital. They were Ziaul Huq, 32, Dipu, 25, Arun, 22, Shahidullah 32, Elias, 18, Sultan, 20, Sujit, 22, Zahid, 22, and Tuku, 21, hospital sources

Khaleda

From Page 1 intended to 'hand over' CHT region. This accord and another on Ganges water sharing were signed by the present government to 'protect the interests of a neighbouring country at the cost of our own country,' she

Referring to her recent visit to the northern region of the country, she said all rivers including the Padma had dried up following the water treaty. She quoted Indian newspapers as writing that the 30 year-water treaty had become ineffective within three months. In this regard, she termed the Awami League government as "champion of signing unequal and useless accords.

The Opposition Leader described the situation in the country as very bad and blamed the government for 'total failure.' She also advised the government to "refrain from causing further injuries to the country" and step down immediately.

Under the Awami League government, Begum Zia said the people are now deprived of all their fur. lamental rights.

The BNF emef advised party workers to gearup political and organisational activities in their respective areas.

Suharto

From Page 1

a special session of the People's Consultative Assembly, which only re-appointed the President to a new five-year term in

Hundreds of students who had been waiting at the parking lot of the house of representatives screaming hang Suharto...' jumped with glee and pumped their fists in the air when other students relayed the

But only hours later Wiranto countered that, "abri (the armed forces) is of the opinion and understand that the statement by the house speaker that Suharto should resign is an individual stance and opinion although it was expressed collectively."

He said the army was instead proposing to set up a council of reform drawing in figures from the government, the campuses

and outspoken critics. "The council will work alongside the parliament and

work hard," he said.

Section has the original DV application letter, which includes the applicant's photograph, signature and basic biographic data. Access to these letters is controlled by the American

Any DV applicant who appears for an interview is checked against the original application, and the Embassy investigates any significant discrepancies such as the addition of a spouse or children.

There are limits on the number of Diversity Visa available to applicants in Asia. Visas not issued in Bangladesh are routinely reassigned to neighbouring countries where there is a demand, such as Sri Lanka and Pakistan.

Correspondence stolen from the post office ultimately costs deserving citizens of Bangladesh their opportunity to immigrate to the United States.

Colombo summit: Dhaka still hopeful

Despite a cloud hanging over the prospect of the SAARC summit in Colombo following recent developments between India and Pakistan over nuclear tests by New Delhi, Bangladesh is still hopeful about holding of the 10th summit in July, reports UNB.

"It's too early to say that the summit will not take place said State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury.

But the uncertainty about the summit on the seven South Asian leaders looms large as the Indian intelligence agencies considered advising Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee against visiting Colombo following the nuclear

Talking to journalists in the Foreign Office yesterday, Abul Hasan Chowdhury said the SAARC Telecommunications Minister's conference will be held in Colombo on May 20-21.

Water crisis

From Page 1

that kept the pumps non-functioning are responsible for the current shortage of water. Low voltage had caused 15 per cent less production, affecting residents of Dhanmondi, Mirpur and Green Road areas, among others.

The crisis has become acute in the old part of the city where more than 100-year-old Chandnighat water works is finding it difficult to maintain supply low due to voltage and mechanical troubles, WASA officials preferring anonymity

Arrear salaries

From Page 1

the banks concerned, said an official handout.

Meanwhile, in a statemen vesterday. Chairman of Bangladesh Teachers' Association Federation Sheikh Abdullah and Secretary General Kazi Farooq Ahmed have congratulated Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina and Education Minister ASHK Sadique for the inclusion of non-government teachers in the national pay scale for the

Four lakes

From Page 1

Rajuk's move to investigate comes following recent reports in The Daily Star on massive irregularities in allocation of plots and indiscriminate filling up of Gulshan lake. The Minister for Housing and Public Works visited the lake area and asked Rajuk to conduct investigations.

Several complications were delaying the investigations. The four-member committee which would look into problems concerning Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara lakes, has already started its field work.

A Rajuk source said that the committee has asked Rajuk's Estate Section to provide plans and other documents of 'several' structures and under construction structures along Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara lakes.

The Estate section was now going through 'tonnes of files' to find the relevant papers. The source said it was now 'absolutely necessary' that Rajuk introduced computer database in its offices. This would not only save time and funds but would also help curve corruption, he added.

The other four-member committee would look into problems relating to Uttara lake and its adjacent areas to find out why the lake had narrowed down. Sources said massive encroachment has taken place in the Uttara lake area.

Rajuk officials were confused over how to deal with people who claimed to have bought the lakes from private owners. Some of them have already obtained their building plans approved by the authorities.

But as per a recent order from the Prime Minister's Office none will be allowed to fill up a lake or low-lying area without permission from the Prime Minister, a Rajuk official pointed out.



Jatiyatabadi Mohila Dal brought out a procession in the city yesterday protesting re- Star photo pression on women and rape of children.

AL patronising terrorists: BNP

BNP vesterday accused the ruling party of patronising terrorism across the country with a special mention of Feni which is 'in the grip of Joynal Hazari.' reports UNB.

Addressing a press conference in the city, Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuivan said not only Feni but the entire nation is in the grip of terror ists unleashed by the govern-

Mannan expressed grave concern at the deteriorating law and order situation. He said about 200 BNP activists were killed, a large number rendered disabled or maimed and thou sands implicated in false cases during the 22 months' rule of Awami League.

"If the situation continues the country will proceed toward a civil war," he said and warned the government that it should bear all the consequences.

Pointing to the situation in Feni, BNP MP Mosarraf Hossain said Joynal Hajari had publicly declared that there is no need of police in Feni and he will perform the responsibility of picking up leaders and work ers of BNP and its front organi sations and conduct their trial in his court.

Hazari, an MP of the ruling party, was described as the god father of the terrorists of Feni where at least 20 BNP activists were killed since the Awami League came to power in 1996

said Mosharraf Hossain. Mosarraf Hossain, who is also convener of Feni district. BNP, said terrorists not only resorted to attack and harassment on BNP activists but also on their relatives and innocent

WTO ministerial meet begins in Geneva

A three-day ministerial meeting of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) and Commemoration ceremony of 50 years of Multilateral Trading System (MTS) opened in Geneva yesterday, reports UNB.

rial meeting after the establishment of the WTO in 1995. The last one was held at Singapore in December 1996. The opening ceremony was presided over by Tascal

This is the second ministe-

Couchepin, Federal Councilor in charge of Trade of Switzer-Delegations led by Commerce Ministers of 132 member

countries of WTO, observer, delegations, International Organisations, NGOs and others joined the ceremony.

Ambassador John Weekes of Canada in his capacity as the

Registration of 7 travel agencies cancelled

The government has cancelled the registration of seven travel agencies on charge of violation of rules, reports UNB.

The travel agencies are: Khawja Travel International of Dhaka, Khawja Travel International and Chittagong Union Travels (BD) Ltd of Chittagong, Naz Travel Service, Ima Travels. Nazrul Enterprise and Travel Agency and Arif Trade International of Sylhet.

Chairman of WTO General Council and Director General of WTO Renato Ruggiero addressed

On arrival in Geneva Tofael participated in a meeting of the commerce ministers of SAARC countries.

The SAARC ministers decided to coordinate their activities in the ministerial meeting with a view to forging a common stand on matters of mutual interest relating to trade in the region, as well as globally.

advice not to publish names of rape victims

Bangladesh Press Council Chairman Justice Sultan Hossain Khan yesterday advised newspapers not to publish the names and identities of the violated women and children while making such reports, reports BSS.

In a statement, Justice Khan referred to some recent press reports and said for this, the life of the victims became more unbearable which was not desirable at all.

the function. BSS adds, an eight-member Bangladesh delegation led by Tofael Ahmed, Minister for Commerce and Industries, participated in the opening cere-

mony.

Press Council's

Tale of 'investment minister' Economic minister at the about the fate of possible in-From Page 1

in various financial institutions including the Nat West Bank for 16 years. He was General Secretary of ruling Awami League's UK chapter for some 16 years. He resigned from his party post six weeks after his appointment as investment minister. Joarder is aware that if he

fails to do his job, ability of political activists would be questioned. "I know very well that my 'failure' would eventually bring disgrace for the political elements who are trying to serve the country through the government machinery. But how can I operate effectively in a modern cosmopolitan city like London, without adequate logistics and continuous supply of relevant information?"

The appointment of Joarder caused a considerable amount of dissatisfactions among the bureaucracy.

The government had first decided to appoint Joarder Deputy High Commissioner in the London mission. But the decision was revised reportedly under 'tremendous bureaucratic pressure'.

Reluctant to welcome 'political outsiders into their domain', top foreign office bureaucrats even opposed the idea of creating the post of 'investment minister'. They had argued that the proposed responsibilities of the investment minister would clash with those of the economic minister — a post 'responsible for aid, trade, investment and development'.

London mission, Yahia Chowdhury, says he is 'aware of the lack of logistics for the investment minister. A career buminds. reaucrat, Chowdhury, has no complaint about staff support and logistics. "I am working hand in hand with Joarder,

But he says that his own unit is adequately equipped to take care of all his responsibilities — "looking after aid and development, trade and investment"

Chowdhury declares.

The appointment of Joarder also provoked bitter criticism in the opposition political camps. The opposition parties had accused the government of Sheikh Hasina of rewarding a party activist at the cost of taxpayers money. "Had the government been

really serious about separate investment processing unit, it would have gone for creating the same post in other Bangladesh missions," argued an opposition activist based in London. Joarder, however, has his defence. "Unlike in other coun-

tries, around half a million Bangladeshis live in different parts of the UK. Many of them have enough money to invest in Bangladesh. It is, therefore, a better place for an experiment on the effectiveness of a separate investment cell. Why are the rich Bangladeshis living in the UK are

apparently wary about in-

vesting in their own country es-

pecially when the country of-

fers such cheap labour? Joarder

says: "A sense of uncertainty

vestments still appears to be an obstacle for the non-resident Bangladeshis to make up their Ashraf Uddin, General Sec-

retary of the Bangladesh Caterers' Association in the UK and a member of the British-Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce echoes Joarder. "In the past, many of us went to Bangladesh to invest. Some actually invested their money. But they returned to Britain with broken hearts. Some of them could not even take back their capital not to mention profit.

Both Joarder and Ashraf Uddin say the potential investors are still doubtful. There are complaints about bureaucratic red-tapism corruption among government officials, illegal toll collection by hood-lums, unfavourable law and order, political instability, power disruptions and so on, they

Joarder says, his job as investment minister is to try to remove these doubts by showing people that things have already started changing with the government of Sheikh Hasina attaching the highest importance on foreign investment. He claims some success. He says, some British

builders have shown interest in the housing sector in Dhaka and are looking for "efficient" local partners. Some renowned Bangladeshi doctors who practised in the UK for a long time are thinking of setting up a 250bed modern hospital in Bangla-

emerge stronger' by avoiding a resumption of nuclear tests. But in Islamabad, Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub told the Associated Press Pakistan would proceed with a test. "It's a matter of when, not if, Pakistan will test," he said. At a news conference, Clin-

ton urged India to sign a global test-ban treaty, predicting that step would ease tensions.

Sharif to 'set out the case for not testing a nuclear device,' White House spokesman Mike Mc-Curry said before the President

The President and Blair set out the case for not testing a nuclear device," McCurry said.

chains seized at ZIA By Staff Correspondent

International Airport recovday morning.

scanned the luggage of the pas-senger and asked her whether with scotch tape.

tion Act was filed with Lama

Venue shifted From Page 1 pected 15,000 guests for the

half-day event. Official sources said that following the report, the Prime Minister directed the authorities concerned to shift the venue 'immediately.' An emergency meeting of the Deputy Commissioner, Dhaka, Chief Engineer of LGED. Director of Public Health Engineering Department and other LGRD Ministry officials then decided to shift the venue.

The date of the conference has also been shifted to May 28 from May 22, the sources con

cerned said. The date was shifted because the work on the huge pandal and the latrines was more than halfway through. Workers at the site said yesterday that it took them at least a week to complete the job. They said it would take them more than two

days to dismantle the structure. Many asked to know how much money has been wasted in the process and what measures have been taken to restore the garden after the structures will be removed.

CMC student From Page 1

year's HSC examination. He was coming by the bus from the campus to attend his classes

As news of Salehin's death spread, all the classes of Chit tagong Medical College were suspended today to mourn his death and protest the killing. A tense situation was prevailing in the college campus.

Students of Chittagong Uni versity also boycotted classes after the incident. Meanwhile, the authorities

of Chittagong University have suspended all classes of the university for three days from tomorrow to ward off any untoward incident following the killing of Salehin.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the Emergency Committee representing all the Deans of University with Act ing Registrar Mahbubul Huq presided. It was also decided in the meeting that police will conduct

search operation in the student dormitories every evening so that the outsiders could not stay The Chittagong University Teachers' Association (CUTA)

today expressed profound shock

at the killing of Salehin. In a statement, Prof Mohammad Shah Alam and Prof Siddique Ahmed Chowdhury acting President and General Secretary respectively of the CUTA conveyed sympathy to the members of the bereaved

family. They also expressed grave concern over deteriorating situation of the university and said the lives of all in the university were insecured.

Inflation From Page 1

at the same time some important sectors like leather, fertiliser and pharmaceuticals have continued to register significant decline.

The economists also said medium and large-scale industries have recovered well, but the small industries which are mainstay of the industrial sector, are in a bad shape.

Clinton, Blair urge Sharif not to conduct N-test dent Jimmy Carter criticised Sharif that 'Pakistan might

"I do not want to see us slip back. We were on the right track

as a world and I don't want to see us slip back," the President

Meanwhile, former Presi-

Tk 7 lakh gold

Customs officials at the Zia ered 1,433 grams of gold chains worth about Tk 6.70 lakh from a female passenger of a Biman flight from Abu Dhabi yester-

A Customs surveillance team intercepted the woman when she was approaching towards the green channel after arrival at 5.22 am aboard the BG-024 flight, said a press re-

Customs men, on suspicion she had any gold bar or ornaments. As the woman replied in the negative, the Customs officials searched her body and recovered the gold chains hidden in three small pouches wrapped

Shazneen From Page 1

man's residence, have already gave a judicial statement before a magistrate confessing that he

killed Shazneen. However, a CID official said confession of one person could not establish a guilt. It was one of the many evidence. There could be something more in it (the murder case), the official added.

CID sources said the investigators were verifying Shahid's confessional statement and other statements which they recorded during interrogation of eight other accused persons.

The question of involvement of more than one person in the killing came as it was not so easy to stab a young girl to death in the way Shazneen was murdered, a CID official said

the Clinton administration's response to India's nuclear

Carter said that while he was disturbed by the nuclear tests. he also questioned how the US government could talk about sanctions against India when the United States has backed away from ratifying a treaty to ban nuclear testing.

"It is very hard to tell India it (shouldn't have nuclear weapons) when we will keep 8,000 or so," Carter said Sunday, in a speech at graduation ceremonies at Trinity College. Before about 3,000 graduates,

faculty and guests, Carter chided the United States for not doing more to help the poor and for spending less than 1 per cent of its budget on foreign aid, while less wealthy countries contribute more.

"We are the richest nation on earth, but we are also the stingiest," Carter said.

Goods stolen from **Uttara Motors** office: one held

By Staff Correspondent Share certificates, Fixed Deposit Receipts (FDRs), electronic goods and Tk 17.7 thousand in cash were stolen from the head office of Uttara Motors Ltd at city's Dilkusha commercial

area late Sunday night. Police arrested Md Dulal, a hired security guard of the office, in this connection.

Dulal, a guard from Watch and Watch security company, was found unconscious when the staff came to the Dilkusha office at about 9 am yesterday. They also noticed that the office rooms were ransacked, said a press release of Uttara Motors Ltd yesterday. The business house sus-

security company, in the theft. Delwar's duty schedule at Uttara Motors Ltd was from 10 pm Sunday to 8 am Monday. However, he was absconding till last Dulal told police that he became unconscious after Delwar fed him bread and banana at

about 9 pm Sunday. Delwar re-

portedly came to the Uttara Mo-

pected involvement of Delwar

Hossain, another guard of the

tors office about an hour before his duty was scheduled. Motifheel police recovered some iron rods used to break the vaults, ironshelves and

President's options

ment Secretariat, when the notice concerning the four Bills along with copies of the said Bills were distributed to all the 330 MPs of the House they were sent as Money Bills. It appears that none of the opposition MPs realised the importance of this notice and its subsequent implications. No member of the opposition ever challenged the Treasury bench's strategy of categorising these Bills as

It was on April 13th that

Money Bills.

these Bills were first introduced to the House in the presence of BNP. On the following day they were sent to the Special Committee for scrutiny, again in the presence of BNP. The opposition party participated in the proceedings of the Special Committee. When these Bills came back to the parliament BNP was present, though later it staged a walk out, without raising the issue of Money Bills. On May 4th, along with 60 MPs Khaleda Zia met the President and urged him not to give assent to these Bills. On the following day Begum Zia held a press conference and issued a 9 page statement giving details as to why her party opposed these Bills. Even in that detailed statement the issue of why these Bills were introduced as Money Bills was not raised. To make a long story short at no stage of the BNP's opposition to the CHT related Bills did the party challenge the Treasury bench's decision, or the Speaker's agreement to it, as to why these bills should be treated as the CHT Bills.

We have not had the chance to examine all the thousands of amendments that the BNP had tabled on these Bills. But to the best our knowledge the question as to why these Bills were tabled as Money Bills was never raised in those proposed amendments.

Articles 81(1) and 81(2) clearly specifies what can and what cannot be introduced as Money Bills. So if the Opposition MPs had understood the implication of it all, they could have very rightly raised questions in the parliament as to the legitimacy of these Bills being introduced as Money Bills. Law requires that before introducing Money Bills, prior permission of the President needs to be taken. We have confirmed that such permissions

were obtained. Having missed its opportunity to raise a legitimate issue inside the parliament the opposition's current expectation that the President can do something is unrealistic. It was the job of the opposition, which it failed to perform. Regardless of the President's views his hands are definitely tied. Within the framework of the law he has no option but to give assent to these Bills within the stipulated

We think all sides need to clearly understand the above Constitutional provisions so that the President is not misunderstood either by the opposition or anybody opposed to

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