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## Foundation of third EPZ at Mongla laid

MONGLA, May 23: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today said the government is going to announce a new industrial policy to boost industrialisation and attract foreign investment in the country, reports UNB.

The formulation of the new industrial policy, in line with the free market economy, is at final stage, she said after laying the foundation of the country's third export processing zone (EPZ) here this morning.

Mongla EPZ, covering an area of 460 acres, expected to be operational by the end of the next fiscal year.

In the first phase, 140 acres of land will be developed at an estimated cost of Tk 58.29 crore. There will be 162 industrial plots, each with 2,000 square metres.

The Prime Minister called for attracting the entrepreneurs of the developed countries who are looking for new areas of investment as foreign investment in the ASEAN countries reached a saturated point.

"The foreign investors are looking for new areas of investment and now have focused on South Asian countries," she said. "We'll have to take advantage of this situation."

See Page 12 Col 1

## Govt has failed to meet power, water needs: BNP

CITY BNP yesterday brought out a procession from its office at Nawab Yusuf Market demanding immediate solution of power and water crises in the city, reports UNB.

Prior to the procession, city BNP convenor Sadek Hossain Khoka told a rally that the government has totally failed to meet the requirement of electricity and water.

He said frequent disruption of power and lack of water supply has resulted in immense suffering of the city dwellers.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who has taken over the charge of energy ministry, also failed to improve the loadshedding situation, he added.

The BNP leader warned that if the problem is not resolved immediately, people will be compelled to take to the street.

He asked the party leaders and workers to prepare for tough action programme against the government.

Among others who addressed the rally and joined the procession were Mirza Abbas.

See Page 12 Col 2

## 2 JCD leaders get RI for burning Bangabandhu's photograph

FENI, May 23: Two JCD leaders, tried in absentia have been sentenced to rigorous imprisonment for tearing off the photograph of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, reports UNB.

Of them, convenor of sadar thana JCD Shawkat Ali Shakil was awarded two years' jail term while city JCD leader Mamun for six months.

The prosecution, in brief, was that Shakil and Mamun damaged the framed picture of the Father of the Nation hanged in the local Circuit House on August 29, 1996.

The District Administration filed the case and police after investigation submitted charge-sheet against them.

Additional District Magistrate Mohammad Mujibur Rahman after examining the witnesses and records awarded the punishment on Tuesday.

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## Developments over Indian N-tests Delhi, Islamabad both seek Dhaka's support

By Staff Correspondent

India and Pakistan have both sought Bangladesh's understanding and support as a 'good neighbour'.

Prime ministers of both the countries in separate letters to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina stated that they valued Bangladesh as a good neighbour and sought Dhaka's cooperation and understanding.

Officials in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the letters were sent to Sheikh Hasina against the backdrop of nuclear tests conducted by India recently.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee's letter to his Bangladesh counterpart was delivered by a senior official of the Indian High Commission to Foreign Secretary Mustafizur Rahman on May 19.

The letter from Pakistan premier Nawaz Sharif was delivered by his country's High Commissioner in Dhaka Karam Elahi to State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan

Chowdhury on May 21 at 7 pm at the latter's office.

The letters were later forwarded to the Prime Minister.

The Indian premier in his letter is learnt to have explained that the nuclear tests were conducted for peaceful purposes. India was not indulging in any new arms race, he said.

Without mentioning China by name, Vajpayee said that

## Nasaka kidnaps 5 Bangladeshis

CHITTAGONG, May 23: Members of Myanmar Border Security Force, Nasaka, allegedly abducted five Bangladeshi fish traders along with their two trawlers from the Naf river early today, reports UNB.

Police said a Myanmar trader, Ali Ahmed, is involved with the kidnapping.

The kidnapped fish traders See Page 12 Col 3

India was concerned at "Pakistan's collaboration with its northern neighbour," according to diplomatic sources.

The Indian premier also wrote that his country took Bangladesh into confidence and was always hopeful about receiving its understanding and support.

Nawaz Sharif in his letter said Pakistan was deeply concerned at India's nuclear detonations. Pakistan, he wrote, wanted no new arms race in the Sub-Continent. Sharif termed Bangladesh "an important and concerned neighbour" and sought Dhaka's total understanding and cooperation.

Bangladesh's position as a leading member of the Muslim Ummah was important, he noted.

Sharif said, "We intend to do things by keeping Bangladesh informed."

It was not known when replies to the letters would be sent.

## Heat wave: Water and power crises add to people's miseries in city

By Special Correspondent

As the heat wave continued in the country unabated and rain-bearing clouds remained elusive, miseries of people mounted yesterday with high humidity amid loadshedding.

In the city, crisis in water supply, added to the sufferings of the people.

Rajshahi recorded the highest temperature of 38.5 degrees Celsius. In Dhaka, it was 35.7 degrees and the humidity was 75 per cent in the morning and 71 per cent in the evening, the Meteorological office said.

Barring Sylhet and Cox's Bazar, there was no rainfall in the country.

Power supply in the country yesterday was 1731 MW against a demand for 2100, forcing PDB to go for loadshedding in phases, PDB source said.

In Dhaka city the shortfall was supposed to be 38 MW but it rose to 90 MW in the peak hour. Heavy loads tripped power supply in Khilgaon, Kamalapur, Baridhara and in certain areas of the old city, the sources said.

The loadshedding was 84 MW in Chittagong, 79 MW at Khulna, 78 MW at Rajshahi, 40 See Page 12 Col 3

## Severe power crisis grips 4 dists of Sylhet Divn

From Iqbal Siddiquee

SYLHET, May 23: Power supply in the four districts of Sylhet division has come down to about one-third of the requirement.

It is seriously disrupting industrial and agricultural production including tea, affecting treatment at hospitals and mounting sufferings of the people, already reeling under a heat wave.

The daily requirement in the

four districts is 99 MW but the supply is between 25 and 40 MW since May 16.

The supply was 30 to 40 MW on May 16 and 17, 35 to 40 on May 18, 30 to 40 on May 19, 25 to 35 on May 20 and 25 to 35 MW on May 21, according to sources in the local office of the PDB.

There is three to four hours' loadshedding in Sylhet town daily. It is much more in rural areas, affecting irrigation. Production of tea in almost all the tea gardens is also suffering badly from the beginning of the season, said a manager of a privately owned tea estate.

The two major power plants in Sylhet region, Shahjibazar Thermal Power Plant and 90 Megawatt Fenchuganj Combined Power Plant are operating at almost half their installed capacity, the sources said.

The Gas Turbine-II of the Fenchuganj plant, which was generating 30 MW power was shut down after the Turbine See Page 12 Col 1

## Power supply in 5 dists restored

By Staff Correspondent

Power supply in five districts of greater Mymensingh, was restored yesterday evening after more than 47 hours following repair of the snapped wires of a high-rise tower of a 132 KV grid line at Bhairab.

Power supply in Mymensingh, Netrakona, Kishoreganj, Sherpur and Jamalpur districts was disrupted at 7:58 See Page 12 Col 8

France '98  
COUNTDOWN  
17  
Days Away

## Maldini makes his choice

COVERCIANO, Italy, May 23 (Reuters/AP/AFIP): Italy coach Cesare Maldini decided today to call injured Juventus striker Alessandro Del Piero to the national squad's training camp next week, despite lingering doubts about his fitness.

Maldini told a news conference Del Piero, who pulled a right groin muscle in the European Champions' Cup final in Amsterdam three days ago, would join the rest of the squad in Tuscany from Wednesday.

As a precaution, he said he was also calling up Parma striker Enrico Chiesa, who had not previously been named in the World Cup squad.

Maldini had not been expected to make any evaluation of Del Piero's fitness until Sunday, although he has until June 2 to make a final decision on See Page 12 Col 7

## Kenya win by 28 runs Careless batting costs Bangladesh dearly

Sports Reporter

Bangladesh lost the initiative in their match against Kenya at Chennai last night and paid the penalty of reckless batting to go down by 28 runs. In their third match of the Coca Cola Triangular Series, Bangladesh failed to reach a revised target of 226 in 49 overs and saw their innings draw the curtains in the third delivery of the 47th over.

The target was revised due to six minutes being lost during the Bangladesh innings because of power failure.

The fizzle in the Bangladesh innings was lacking right from the start when opener Athar Ali Khan for a duck. Mohammed Rafique, who scored a match-winning 73 against the same side in Bangladesh's historic win at Hyderabad on May 17, started from where he had left.

But the southpaw, who hammered some lusty blows in his characteristically aggressive knock, was brilliantly caught by Ravindu Shah at short cover after scoring 23.

Vice-captain Aminul Islam was on only six when the defeat for Bangladesh means that the run-rate may be

crucial in deciding who meets India in the final at the Eden Gardens on May 31. After yesterday's match, both Bangladesh and Kenya have won one and lost two. Their remaining match against India will be vital to decide the other finalist. Bangladesh has a poor run-rate (-0.23) against Kenya's better run-rate (-0.01).

Bangladesh, in their chase, were off to a disastrous start, losing their opener Athar Ali Khan for a duck. Mohammed Rafique, who scored a match-winning 73 against the same side in Bangladesh's historic win at Hyderabad on May 17, started from where he had left. But the southpaw, who hammered some lusty blows in his characteristically aggressive knock, was brilliantly caught by Ravindu Shah at short cover after scoring 23.

Vice-captain Aminul Islam was on only six when the defeat for Bangladesh means that the run-rate may be See Page 12 Col 4

## 2 young men murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

Two young men, who were attacked by local gangs in Rampura and Pallabi areas of the city Friday night, succumbed to their injuries at the Dhaka Medical College Hospital yesterday.

Fazlul Huq Bhuiyan, 32, was shot and stabbed at Rampura while Kamal Khalashi, 30, was injured as a local gang severely assaulted him at Pallabi.

Police said Fazlul succumbed at about 1:30 am and Kamal at about 5 am yesterday.

Gulshan police said Fazlul had several deep cut marks and bullet wounds in his body.

Proprietor of a car rental business and a resident of West Rampura, Fazlul was attacked as he was reportedly trying for action against a gang who injured one of his relatives recently.

The gang, which was in hiding following that incident, attacked Fazlul to take revenge his family members alleged. The victim's father lodged a See Page 12 Col 6



The wailing wife of Fazlul Haq who was murdered in Rampura area in the city. —Star photo

## Kidnapped young man rescued

By Staff Correspondent

A young man who was kidnapped for ransom from near the Kamalapur railway station in the city on May 16 was rescued by DB police from the captors yesterday.

Ferdous Alam Prokash alias Uzzal, 18, was rescued from a house at Kazipara in the city's Mirpur area in the morning.

Six alleged abductors aged between 15 and 25 were also arrested, police said. They are Azizul Huq, Masudur Rahman, Abu Zafar, Anisur Rahman Tipu, Jamal Uddin and Saidul Islam.

Police said that an organised gang had kidnapped Uzzal and demanded a ransom of Tk five lakh from his businessman father. Mohammad Ali who resides at Bonapara in Gaibandha district.

Uzzal was kidnapped by the gang when he reached a tempo stand near the Kamalapur railway station. He was taken to an unknown place blindfolded. He was on his way home in Bonapara after appearing at admission tests at the Dhaka University on that day.

One of the kidnappers phoned Uzzal's father in Bonapara at about 7:30 pm on May 19 (Tuesday) demanding a See Page 12 Col 5

## Shibir postpones hartal in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 23: Islami Chhatra Shibir has postponed its planned 48-hour hartal in Chittagong from tomorrow in view of the on-going talks with the Chittagong University authorities.

A press release issued by Shibir said that hartal and university gherao programme were postponed at the call of the university authorities. The authorities held talks with Shibir leaders yesterday.

Shibir had called the hartal to press what it called restoration of normalcy on the campus by expelling illegal occupants from dormitories.

Meanwhile, the CU authorities today held a dialogue with the leaders of Chhatra Oikya, an alliance of Chhatra League and Chhatra Union.

## Transport strike in northern districts today

From Our Correspondent

PABNA, May 23: The North Bengal Transport Owners and Employees Action Council has called a 24-hour transport strike in the northern districts tomorrow demanding reduction of the Jamuna Bridge toll rates for vehicles.

The programme was announced by Baby Islam, convenor of the Council at a press conference at the Pabna Motor Vehicle Owners' Association of office last night.

Islam said the toll rate of Tk 1250 for vehicles to cross the Jamuna Bridge was very high compared to rates for other bridges. The rate for Meghnad-Gumti bridge at Daudkandi is only Tk 175 for buses, he mentioned.

Islam said they will go for an indefinite strike if the rates are not reduced before inauguration of the Jamuna Bridge.

## 5 killed, 20 hurt as bus, truck collide

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, May 23: Five persons were killed and at least 20 others were injured when a Dhaka-bound bus with a bridal party collided with a Comilla-bound truck at Dewanbagh under Bandar thana on Dhaka-Chittagong highway See Page 12 Col 3

## Terrorists' den raided 17 arrested after gunfight at Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 23: Police in a pre-dawn raid at Baubazar area under Chandgaon thana arrested 17 people following an hour-long gunfight with a gang of armed men.

During the raid from 4 am to 10 am today, arms and ammunition including one SLR, two cut-rifles and two swords were recovered, police said.

Police said the most of the identified terrorists managed to escape after the gunfight.

UNB adds: The arrested people, including two women, are reportedly the members of a group involved in terrorist activities in the area.

Police said more than 200 policemen of Chandgaon, Pahartali, Kotwali and Panchlaish thanas of CMP took part in the operation.

Both the sides traded at least 70 rounds of gun shots during the encounter.

CMP DC Sayeed Akhter, who led the police drive, told the agency that Jahangir, an iden-

tified terrorist and his accomplices resorted to a barrage of bomb attack on the police when his den was raided at about 4 am.

His men took positions at four places around the den and opened fire on the police. The places are the house of Ruhul Amin Member, Alauddin Colony, Shishu Member's Colony and Doctor's Colony. Police instantly retorted the attack.

At one stage, Jahangir along with five of his accomplices managed to flee the scene.

Police then asked the armed men over loudspeaker to give up their arms and surrender.

Instead of laying down the arms, a woman member of the gang, Sonia, 20, asked the police to surrender to them. She was identified as the wife of Abdul Matin of Delu Colony.

The arrested were produced before the court and were placed on a five-day remand for interrogation. See Page 12 Col 2

## Separate meetings by rival Ctg city BNP groups

CHITTAGONG, May 23: Conflicting groups of the city BNP today held separate meetings accusing each other of spoiling the unity and discipline of the party, reports UNB.

Supporters of BNP president Mir Nasir Uddin held a meeting at BNP office in Nasimun Bhawan while the rebel group led by former city BNP president M Salimullah assembled at Zila Parishad Auditorium under the banner of 'followers of Shaheed Zia'.

The rebel group having the strength of 96 members of 158 member executive committee of Chittagong City BNP Friday charged Nasir Uddin with anti-party activities.

Responding to the allegation, the Nasir group alleged that an opportunist group being instigated by the vested quarters is trying to create rift in the party when the anti-government movement is moving towards its logical end.

The meeting chaired by Nasir Uddin decided to organise rally and procession, in the city on May 26 to protest at loadshedding and water crisis.

The Salimullah group at its meeting at Zila Parishad auditorium demanded removal of Mir Nasir Uddin from the office of the city BNP president.

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