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Keep port operational to ensure flow of investment : PM

MONGLA, May 23: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina today urged the port workers to work sincerely and keep the port running to attract more investment, reports UNB.

"If the image of port remains high, then more investors will come here, more jobs will be created, and more earnings will be ensured," she told a huge public rally in Mongla Port area.

The Prime Minister arrived here in the morning to lay the foundation of the third export processing zone (EPZ) of the country.

Hasina said it is the duty of all to keep the port operational. If any strike hampers the port activities, its image will be tarnished and the investors will be disheartened, she added.

"If any problem crops up then it can be solved through discussion... don't go for strike any more she urged the port workers."

The Prime Minister called upon all to work for the interest of the nation and for economic

Mongla EPZ

From Page 1

The Prime Minister said her government believes in the balanced development of all regions of the country.

This EPZ would help increase economic activities in the backward southern region and strengthen the economic base of the country, she said.

Referring to 11 per cent contribution of BEPZA to the country's total exports in last fiscal year, she said the growth rate of setting up industries in the country's EPZs has risen to 28 per cent, of employment to 55 per cent, investment to 60 per cent and of export to 84 per cent.

The Prime Minister said the signing of the CHT peace accord has created an opportunity for exploration and utilisation of the vast natural resources in the region, including forest and mineral resources.

The accord, she said, also opened up avenues for setting up tourism and other industries available there.

Power crisis

From Page 1

Blade' of the unit broke down on April 12 last. Power generation in the Steam Turbine, the third unit or the plant which produces 30 MW power also came down to 15 MW due to the stoppage of generation in the second unit, the sources said.

The three units - Gas Turbine-I, Gas Turbine-II and the Steam Turbine generate 30 MW power each. Jalilabad Gas Transmission and Distribution Systems Ltd supply gas to the first two units while the third one runs with the steam from these two units.

The PDB has formed a three member team to investigate the matter. The team, headed by a superintending engineer has already visited the plant and it is expected to submit its report to the authority within a day or two, the source added.

Meanwhile, an expert from Hitachi company of Japan, the manufacturer of the plant, has reached Fenchuganj to detect the fault.

A senior official of PDB told this correspondent that, it would take at least three months to import the Turbine Blade' from Japan.

The 90-megawatt power plant was built in 1995 with Japanese assistance.

development.

She said that after the setting up of the EPZ here, more mills and factories will be established and a huge scope for work will be created.

The government has also plans to expand the port and elevate it to international standard, she added.

There is a great prospect for investment and future industrialisation, she said, suggesting the local people to take advantage of the opportunity and cooperate wholeheartedly for the development of the entire region.

The Prime Minister said gas will be supplied in the area from Shabbazpur to facilitate investment and industrialisation.

Other development activities in the area, including the construction of roads and bridges, will also be taken up in course of time, she said.

Later, addressing a women's rally at the Mongla College ground, the Prime Minister said the government has given special emphasis on women issues.

Advani takes charge of Kashmir affairs

NEW DELHI, May 23: Hard-line Hindu nationalist Home Minister Krishna Lal Advani has taken charge of affairs in Kashmir, a state rocked by a Muslim secessionist campaign, an official statement said today, reports AFP.

"The President of India, as advised by the prime minister, has directed that the prime minister will relinquish the charge of the Department of Kashmir Affairs and LK Advani, Minister of Home Affairs, will assume charge of the department," said a presidential statement.

BNP: Water

From Page 1

Gayeshwar Chandra Roy, Haris Chowdhury, Amanullah Aman, MP, Nazimuddin Alam MP, Abul Bashar and Morshed Khan.

The procession, chanting anti-government slogans, paraded different streets before dispersing at Golap Shah Mazar crossing.

Our Staff Correspondent adds: BNP is scheduled to organise demonstrations at all the thanas in the city today in demand for regular supply of power and drinking water.

Ctg: 17 held

From Page 1

Police said they were reportedly involved in terrorist activities in the Baubazar, Bakolia and Khatunganj areas. They committed various crimes including killing and kidnapping of 8 businessmen, committing bank robbery and extorting money.

Shazneen murder

From Page 1

The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court on Thursday rejecting the bail prayers ordered a fresh two-day remand for the three accused, who were involved in various work in Rahman's Gulshan residence.

Meanwhile, the CID is likely to bring eight carpenters working in Rahman's residence to the CID headquarters for questioning in a couple of days.



Residents of Sabujbagh area barricaded the Biswa Road near Kamalapur Buddhist temple in the city yesterday demanding water supply. —Star photo

Heat wave

From Page 1

MW at Comilla, 23 MW at Sylhet and 27 at Mymensingh.

In the city the main opposition BNP staged street protests, demanding regular supply of water. At Sabujbagh, a group of housewives blocked the main road near the Buddhist temple with empty pitchers and buckets demanding water.

WASA sources said they supplied two bowlers full of water to the Sabujbagh residents, whose woes have been compounded by poor supply from its pump station at Mugdopara.

A high official of WASA said the water crisis in Mugdopara area will be over soon as it has decided to replace the old pump machine with a new one to augment the supply. Another pump is going to be added to the WASA pump station at Mayakanon near Mugdopara, he said.

Elsewhere in the city, the WASA, beleaguered by a declining water table and frequent power cuts and low voltage, had to cope with the situation by arranging extra supplies with bowlers.

A pump near the Dhanmendi Eidgah which went out of order on Friday night, resumed production yesterday morning.

WASA's bowlers supplemented the meagre supply at Mirpur Section-1. The crisis there is likely to be addressed next week, WASA sources said.

Accident

From Page 1

at around 10:30 pm yesterday. The dead were identified as Amina Begum, 40, Putul, 35, Eva, 8, Fazlur Rahman, 55, and Swapan, 10.

All the bodies were sent to Narayanganj General Hospital morgue for autopsy while the injured people were rushed to various hospitals and clinics in Dhaka and Narayanganj.

Police seized the bus and truck after the drivers of the vehicles managed to flee from the spot.

A case has been lodged with Bandar thana in this connection.

Nasaka

From Page 1

are Abdur Rahim, 40, Siraj, 25, Noor Mohammad, 53, Nikhil Barua, 20, and Abdus Sobhan, 45.

Local people said Ali has been carrying out his foreign exchange and other businesses in the bordering area for long.

On Thursday, some cheats took away his all currencies just after his arrival in Teknaf. They said Ali in collusion with the Nasaka members abducted the traders to realise his money.

Careless batting costs

From Page 1

per right-hander, completely deceived by a slower delivery from Thomas Odoayo, returned to the dressing room offering a simple return catch. The welcome drinks in the Madras heat arrived when Bangladesh were 102 for three. But it hardly helped Minahzul Abedin or captain Akram Khan, the two most experienced campaigners, who instead of trying to build the innings, perished quickly in the most woeful fashion.

Minahzul, five runs short of what would have been his maiden half-century, went for an unnecessary lofted drive over cover, but ended up offering a tame catch. Akram committed a *hara-kiri*. The big man ran himself out while chasing a non-existent single. Although there was no devil on the wicket, Akram and his pompous top-order wilted under

pressure, themselves contributing nothing, without any great effort from the Kenyan bowlers. Khaled Mahmud and Naimur Rahman held the rocking boat, putting on 56 runs for the sixth wicket. Mahmud chanced his arm for an invaluable 28.

Naimur went after Asif Karim in the 44th over, clobbering eight runs from the first three balls. But Asif had the last laugh when he had Naimur caught by Hitesh Modi at long-on. Naimur scored 41 off 54 balls.

Bangladesh required 37 runs from the last 30 deliveries with three wickets in hand. Wicket-keeper Khaled Masud fell for five. He was caught by Oduembe at mid-wicket while going for a big hit. Hasibul scored two runs from one ball before being bowled by Karim. Last man out was Enamul Haq who went for a second run that was never there.

No surprise at the end of the match when Steve Tikolo was awarded Rupees five thousand for being the man of a rather exciting match.

Bangladesh will take on India at Mumbai tomorrow.

Kidnapped man

From Page 1

ransom of Tk five lakh. He asked Ali to start for Dhaka with the ransom money on Friday by inter-city Ekota Express. He also told Uzzal's father that someone on behalf of the gang would collect the money from him during his journey to Dhaka.

Receiving the information from Uzzal's uncle Rasheduzzaman, a special DB team of the Dhaka Metropolitan Police rushed to Bonarpur and started journey towards Dhaka with Uzzal's father by the inter-city train.

When the train was crossing the Airport Station in the city at about 7 am yesterday, one person named Azizul Haq approached Ali and asked him about the ransom money. The detectives travelling along with Ali immediately arrested him.

When the train reached Kamalapur station, another team of detectives joined the DB team. They then raided Motiheel T&T Colony following Azizul's statement and arrested four alleged kidnappers. The DB personnel later raided the North Kazipara house of one Belal Uddin, rescued Uzzal from a ground floor room at about 9:40 am and arrested another alleged kidnapper, Saidul Islam who was guarding the house.

A case was lodged with Motiheel thana in this connection.

Jamuna bridge

From Page 1

TANGAIL, May 23: Roads and Highways Department is developing part of Tangail-Madhupur and Tangail-Dhaka roads on an emergency basis for making easy approach to Tangail side of Jamuna Bhandu Bridge, reports BSS.

According to official sources, the project cost is Tk 86.89.729.

Over 72 pc N Ireland voters back Belfast peace deal

BELFAST, May 23: A larger-than-expected majority of Northern Ireland's voters have backed the historic Belfast accord, endorsing a new era of political compromise and peace in this long-divided land, election officials announced today, reports AP.

To cheers of jubilation and sighs of relief, Chief Electoral Officer Pat Bradley said that 71.12 per cent had voted 'yes' in Friday's referendum.

The margin of victory meant easy ratification of the agreement, struck April 10 among the British and Irish governments and eight parties.

The vote cleared the way for Northern Ireland to hold a June 25 election for a new Belfast Assembly, from which a multi-party administration is to be drawn.

It also represented a narrow victory for Ulster Unionist chief David Trimble, leader of the largest pro-British Protestant party, who had set a 70 per cent 'yes' vote as his goal. Anything above that, he said, would indicate that most Protestants were willing to make Northern Ireland's new compromise government work.

Trimble's deputy, John Taylor, admitted that given the level of dissent within Ulster Unionist ranks, he hadn't expected to top 70 per cent. He said Trimble 'has had to endure so much intimidation and insult and misrepresentation during a very difficult campaign' - and prevailed 'beyond my expectations'.

Nonetheless, the still-substantial 'no' vote, registered almost exclusively by Protestant hardliners, signalled troubling times ahead in making the new Northern Ireland government work.

The Northern Ireland results came as officials continued counting ballots in the neighbouring Irish Republic, where voters were asked to approve dropping their country's territorial claim to the British-ruled north as part of the compromise deal.

Exit polls and early returns were indicating landslide approval, with the 'yes' votes forming about 95 per cent of ballots cast.

The southern Irish vote would allow the country's 60-year-old constitution to be amended to eliminate its blunt definition of Northern Ireland as part of 'the national territory'. New wording would declare Irish hopes of eventual unification - but only if most Northern Ireland residents want it, too.

Every southern Irish party supported the 'yes' campaign. But in Northern Ireland, the Protestant majority - fearful that sharing power with the north's Catholics would mean a slow slide to Irish unity - was split bitterly down the middle.

Students continue protest in Jakarta Habibie's minister backs demand for early polls

JAKARTA, May 23: Pressure for early elections to choose a new leader swelled today, with students rallying against President B J Habibie and a respected Cabinet Minister saying new government was the key to economic recovery, reports AP.

His power base far from secure, Habibie swore in what he dubbed a "reform" Cabinet hours after troops flushed out 2,000 students who had been occupying Parliament in an anti-government protest.

With Indonesia in economic and political turmoil, Habibie faces a persistent foe in the thousands of students who have hastened the ouster of his autocratic predecessor, Suharto, on Thursday.

If they have their way, the

Thai envoy calls on Khaleda

Thai Ambassador in Dhaka Pithaya Pookaman called on BNP chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia at her official residence yesterday, reports UNB.

This is the first meeting of Pookaman with Begum Zia after taking his new assignment in Bangladesh.

During the half-an-hour meeting they discussed bilateral and regional issues of common interest.

Briefing newsmen, Begum Zia's press secretary Ahmed Nazir said the Thai Ambassador explained the reasons behind the economic crisis in his country.

He said Thailand has made investment in the EPZ and other sectors in Bangladesh.

The Ambassador said that a Thai trade fair will be held in Dhaka next July. It will help expand economic cooperation between the two countries, he hoped.

Recalling her visit to Thailand Begum Zia assured the Ambassador of all cooperation and said the existing good relation between the two countries will be strengthened in future.

BNP secretary general Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan MP and M Morshed Khan MP were present in the meeting.

Sharif

From Page 1

taken in our supreme national interest."

"Since May 11 we are living under the dark shadows of Indian nuclear sabre-rattling. The fundamentalist Indian leadership bared its teeth even before the dust had settled at Pokhran (India's nuclear test site)," he said.

He said the threat of sanctions from the United States and Japan would not intimidate Islamabad.

2 murdered

From Page 1

case with Gulshan thana, accusing 12 persons, most of whom are local hoodlums.

Three persons were arrested as suspects in the murder case.

Pallabi police said a gang of about five assaulted Kamal Khalashi at Block-E in Pallabi due to previous enmity. They were yet to find out what caused the enmity.

Kamal's wife Selina Akhter lodged a murder case accusing five persons of the locality. None could be arrested.

Urology

From Page 1

department at BSMMUH also said that the hospital is facing similar problem. "We now have as many as 35 patients waiting to be operated upon. Some of the patients are waiting as long as 30 days. Stagnation of patients waiting to be operated upon continues throughout the year. This is very normal here in the face of limited surgeons and beds. On an average we received between 150 and 200 patients at the OPD. Only a few surgical cases are admitted on priority basis."

Salam, also secretary general of Bangladesh Association of Urological Surgeons, said, "At the institute we are equipped with very primitive equipment. Most of the patients from outside Dhaka arrive with advance stage of their symptoms. Often, in such a situation we are not able to help the patients."

Dr Kibria of DMCH said, "The best way to solve the problem is to open urology departments at all the medical college hospitals."

When contacted, Director General of Health Services Prof Nurul Anwar said, "We have plans to gradually introduce urology departments at the medical college hospitals. But it is very costly service, so, naturally we need more resources."

A number of private specialised hospitals also provide treatment to urinary tract infection patients, but they are restricted within the city. About 50 urology surgeons are involved in private practices.

students will run the 61-year-old technocrat out of office. They say he is a crony of the former president who groomed him for decades and is too corrupt to implement far-reaching democratic reform.

The diminutive Habibie lacks the once unassailable authority of Suharto and whose national leadership skills are largely untested. He may also have to tangle with dissent within his government.

Possibly setting himself at odds with the new president, who was sworn in the day Suharto quit, the coordinating minister for the economy, finance and industry backed student demands for early parliamentary elections. Analysts believe Habibie wants to serve out the remainder of Suharto's term, which ends in 2003.

Opposition leaders say Habibie should be a transitional leader and want newly elected legislators to pick a new president within six months. Parliamentary elections are not due until 2002.

"It is very important that we have a general election as soon as possible," Ginandjar Kartasasmita, the economics minister, said at a news conference. He has won international praise for efforts to implement economic reforms required by the International Monetary Fund in exchange for \$43 billion in loans.

A former air force general, Ginandjar was regarded as a possible candidate for vice president before March elections in which an assembly of loyalists awarded a seventh, five-year term to Suharto. However, Habibie was given the No 2 job.

More than 200 students who held a noisy, but peaceful rally at a monument to Indonesian independence in east Jakarta today said they wanted the president out at once. "Reject Habibie," they shouted.

At another rally, 500 high school and university students demonstrated against Habibie at the University of Indonesia in central Jakarta.

Most campus protesters took the day off after heavily-armed soldiers ejected jubilant students from the litter-strewn parliament building, after they had occupied it since Monday. Some students and journalists were roughed up by soldiers.

Habibie, meanwhile, swore in a 36-member cabinet that includes two Christians and a Hindu, a symbolic move aimed at reaching out to more segments of this predominantly Muslim nation of 202 million.

WC: Maldini's choice

From Page 1

whether to take him to France or not.

Del Piero, seen as one of the Italian side's strongest guns, told reporters on Friday he wanted to play. "I'll do the impossible to be there," he said.

Chiesa, 27, is a highly-respected striker who won the last of his six caps for Italy's World Cup qualifier against England in Rome.

Del Piero arrived here late Friday and underwent an immediate ultrasound scan.

But the scan is unlikely to give a definitive answer. But Maldini said he did not want to wait too long before making his decision, even though he was optimistic about the 23-year-old's chances.

Maldini named 21 players, leaving one spot to fill by the June 2 deadline set by the international soccer federation for presenting the final 22-player lists.

"We are beginning the World Cup adventure with high motivations, which must be renewed day by day," Maldini said.

"The condition of Alessandro is the only worry at the moment," he added.

people. Yet, critics say the cabinet has too many holdovers from the Suharto era.

The government also confirmed that it was reviewing the cases of political prisoners, and that Habibie himself would make an announcement regarding them. Opposition forces have been demanding the release of political prisoners to help ease tensions.

The president faces demands from a number of competing factions, including the military led by his defense minister, Gen. Wiranto.

An economic crisis plunging more Indonesians into poverty threatens to create further unrest after a wave of riots earlier this month killed more than 500 people in Jakarta alone.

The International Monetary Fund said it would send a key official back to Jakarta in the coming week to survey its shattered economy, which is in desperate need of foreign cash.

The IMF last week suspended its bailout package for Indonesia because of the nation's leadership crisis.

Efforts to restore CU academic atmosphere on

CHITTAGONG, May 23: Chittagong University authorities continued dialogue with different student organisations in a bid to restore academic atmosphere, reports UNB.

Pro-VC Dr Abu Yusuf held talks with leaders of political parties, student bodies and social organisations to resolve the problems facing the university.

He hoped that with the active support from the concerned quarters, normal academic environment will be restored on the campus soon.

The university transports and shuttle trains are now plying normally.

Power: 5 dists

From Page 1

pm Thursday when wires of the 132 KV Ashuganj-Kishoreganj-Mymensingh-Jamalpur grid were snapped at Kathpatti in Bhairab in a thunderbolt.

The repair work was completed and power supply in the five districts restored at 7:28 pm yesterday, sources in the Power Development Board said last night.

About the surprise inclusion of veterans Roberto Baggio and Giuseppe Bergomi on the Italian roster, Maldini said their impressive form and performances this year prompted his decision.

"Baggio did extremely well this year, and was the leading Italian scorer in the league (with 22 goals). He's enthusiastic to be on the team and will have no special privileges," Maldini said.

Baggio, Italy's World Cup hero in 1994, rejoined the Italian team after playing only one match with the 'Azzurris', in the last three years.

Bergomi, 34, Inter Milan's experienced sweeper, is returning on the national team following a seven-year absence and starts in his fourth World Cup.

Maldini listed Brazil, France, Argentina, Spain and England as the top title contenders, along with Italy.

Italy will play their last warmup against Sweden, in Goteborg on June 2, before travelling to France on June 5.


The 'Azzurris' take on Chile in their first World Cup match in Bordeaux on June 11.

গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ অভিযান

বকেয়া আদায়ের লক্ষ্যে তিতাস গ্যাস কোম্পানীর আওতাভুক্ত এলাকায় খেলাপী গ্রাহকদের গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণের বিশেষ অভিযান শুরু হয়েছে। একই সাথে অবৈধ গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্ন কার্যক্রমও চলছে।


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জিডি-৩৭৮

Editor : Mahfuz Anam
Published by the Editor from City Publishing House Ltd., 90 Kakrail, Dhaka-1000 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd., 52 Motiheel C.A., Dhaka-1000. Editorial, News & Commercial Offices: House No: 11, Road No: 3, Dhanmandi R/A, Dhaka-1205. PABX: 866772-4, Commercial: 866771, Fax No: 88-02-863035, GPO Box No: 3257, Cable: DAILYSTAR, DHAKA. Internet edition address: http://www.dailystarnews.com and Email address: dstar@bangla.net



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Headquarters: Ramna, Dhaka - 1000, Bangladesh
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