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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 60 per cent, of investment to 50 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 based on the natural resources 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 of 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. Jalalabad 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.

### গ্যাস লাইন বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ অভিযান

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

গ্যাস সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন্নকরণ এড়নোর জন্য সম্মানিত ধারকদের অবিলম্বে বকেয়া গ্যাস বিল পরিশোধ করার অনুরোধ আনন্দে হল।

বকেয়া আদায় এবং গ্যাসের অবৈধ ব্যবহার বা অপচয় রোধকরে সহযোগিতা একান্ত কাম্য।

### তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন

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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 bowers full of water to the Sabujbagh residents, whose woes have been compounded by poor supply from its pump station at Muddapara.

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.

### Advani takes charge of Kashmir affairs

NEW DELHI, May 23: Hardline 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

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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 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.

### Nasaka

From Page 1

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

According to official sources, the project cost is Tk 86,89,729.

### Careless batting costs

From Page 1

per right-hander, completely deceived by a slower delivery from Thomas Odoyo, 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 Minahazul 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.

Minhazul, 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

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