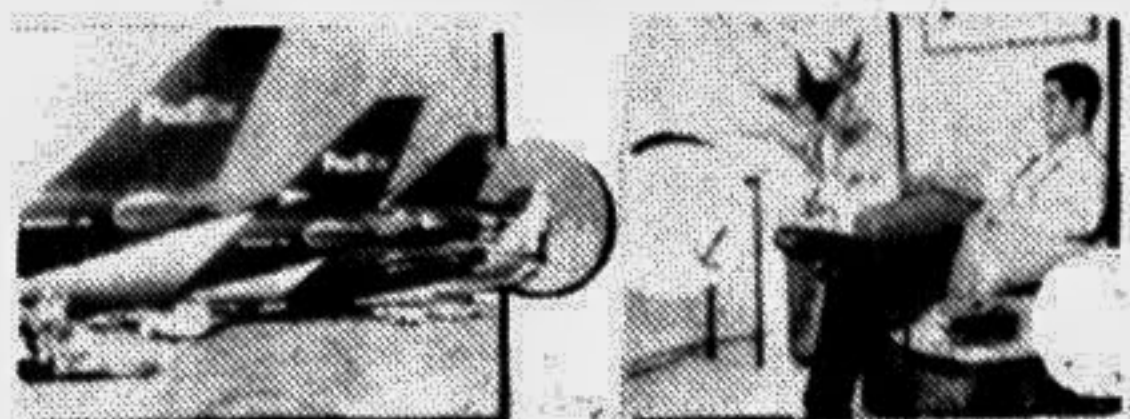
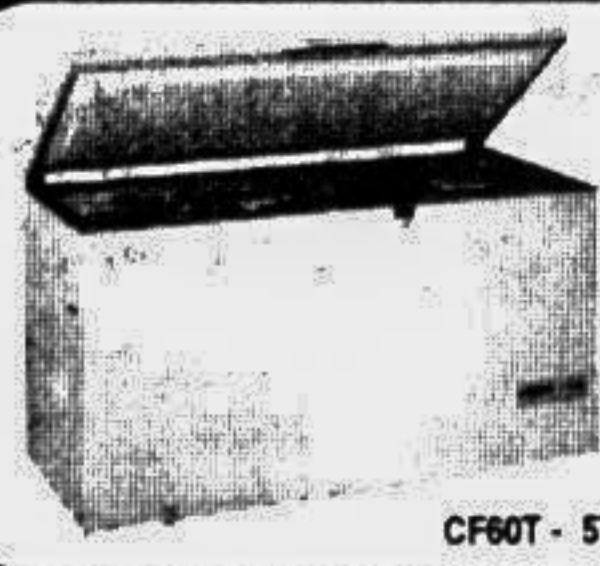


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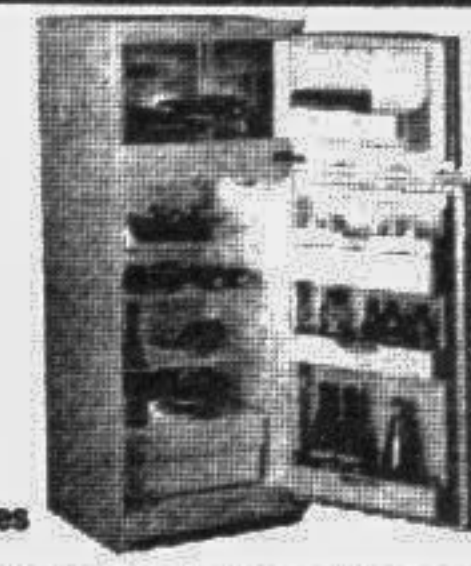


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**'Opposition party trying to do sabotage in power sector'**

By Staff Correspondent

State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources Rafiqul Islam yesterday made a fervent appeal to all electricity consumers to face the power supply situation with patience and to extend cooperation to the PDB employees "in the wake of provocative statements and conspiracy by a particular party."

The minister was giving a statement in the Jatiya Sangsad on the June 20 failure of the national power grid.

He also urged the power sector employees to discharge their responsibilities sincerely and with utmost care.

Rafiqul Islam said, the government is making sincere efforts but the problem, "accumulated over a long period of time can not be resolved fully overnight."

The minister informed the House that the six-member committee, formed to probe the June 20 incident, will submit its report by 10 days. "Stern action will be taken if anyone is found responsible for this unwanted incident."

He alleged that since the last week of May, the main opposition party began issuing provocative statements regarding power supply situation and its activists made attacks on offices of DESA, PDB and REB

and on some power stations protesting loadshedding. The state minister said army has been deployed at key installations and security measures stepped up at power substations and control rooms.

He alleged that the main opposition party became impatient after failing to gain public support for its June 9 'long march' towards the CHT and is now 'desperate to cause a mishap in the power sector. They pursued the tactic of making people agitated by doing sabotage in the power sector.'

He added, "The mishap was caused at a time when power generation and transmission came to a stable position" he said.

**Dr Jinnah**

From Page 1

the Bar Library.

The armed goons dragged them out of the library and beat mercilessly. People around rushed to rescue victims. One of the armed-men, Miladur Rahman Moon who is brother of Dr Jinnah, was caught and handed over to the police.

A case was filed with Kotwali police in this connection.

Bar Association held a protest meeting and demanded arrest of the culprits within 48 hours failing which it threatened to go on strike.



Relatives of Maksud wailing after miscreants shot him dead in the city yesterday. — Star photo

**Trader shot dead in city**

By Staff Correspondent

A gang of miscreants shot dead a trader in Sawarighat area in the old part of the city yesterday morning.

Labagh police said Maksud, 35, was shot seven times in his chest and head.

A pitha seller at Champatoli Lane, Maksud died on the spot. He resided at Debidashghat Lane.

Police were yet to find out the motive behind the killing.

Some local people, however, said that a gang of five attacked Maksud as he refused to pay them toll for buying 10 sticks of cigarette.

Some others said the gang refused to pay after taking pitha from Maksud's shop on footpath. As he demanded payment, one of the gang members opened fire on him.

Police could not arrest any one of them till the filing of this report last night.

The victim's father filed a case with Labagh Thana.

**Wife beaten to death in city**

By Staff Correspondent

A young housewife was beaten to death allegedly by her rickshawpuller husband in a slum at Mirpur in the city yesterday morning.

Police identified the housewife as Bela Begum, 25, wife of Abdul Hai.

According to the FIR, Bela sustained fatal injuries in her head when Hai severely beat her up at their shanty in Gudaraghat slum at about 11 am. Bela died on the way to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Mirpur police arrested Hai on charge of killing his wife.

Nurul Islam, Bela's brother, lodged a murder case with Mirpur thana accusing Hai of killing his sister. Police sent Bela's body to the DMCH morgue for autopsy.

**CMC student**

From Page 1

identified gang of terrorists in the city.

A senior police official claimed today that the arrests and continuous drive by police teams forced the abductors to release the victim.

During interrogation Mahub told police that he was set free after about two hours' journey in an autorickshaw. While releasing him the abductors threatened him not to open the blind-fold till they left the scene. He then returned to his uncle's residence from where police took him for interrogation.

Mahub also told police that after abduction, he was blind-folded and taken to an unknown place outside the city 'after over one hour's drive in a microbus.'

He was kept confined in a small room which lacked electricity. He was supplied with food and mineral water, he told police.

**France**

From Page 1

the Group C. Denmark, with four points, needed a point to make sure of second place, while a win would have given it top position.

Coach Aime Jacquet rested Laurent Blanc, Bixente Lizarazu and Didier Deschamps, three players who picked up yellow cards in France's first two matches, as well as Lilian Thuram and Thierry Henry. He was also without the suspended Zinedine Zidane and the injured Christophe Dugarry.

In Zidane's absence, Djorkaeff took on the role of chief playmaker and within the first four minutes the Inter Milan star played a fine defence-splitting backheel to create an opening for Vieira, whose 15-yard shot was well saved by Peter Schmeichel.

In the last minute, a 25-yard free kick from Danish substitute Stig Tofting was just kept over the line by Barthez.

**Dhaka welcomes**

From Page 1

Sheikh Hasina was given a hearty welcome when she flew in her to discuss the post-nuclear test situation with Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

Nawaz Sharif received her at Chakkala Airport at 11:10 am. During the talks, Pakistani Prime Minister shared his thoughts on peace and security in South Asia and the urgency of finding a settlement to the Kashmir problem.

The prime ministers felt that for the development of the region, eradication of poverty, development of education, empowerment of the women and assuring the rights of the children should be matters of priority concern.

Nawaz Sharif informed Hasina that Pakistan was ready to talk with India on all bilateral issues, including Kashmir.

The Bangladesh Prime Minister thanked Nawaz Sharif for taking Bangladesh into confidence in Pakistan's compulsions to go ahead with the nuclear tests.

"All aspects of our bilateral relations were discussed at the talks that were held in an environment marked by friendliness and cordiality," she said.

Further, the visit has afforded me to develop the personal rapport that I have developed with the distinguished Prime Minister of Pakistan, having worked closely with him for the last couple of years."

Both the side also agreed on taking necessary steps to implement the decisions reached

at the Bangladesh-Pakistan Joint Economic Commission meeting held in Islamabad early May this year.

"Both of us shared the view that frequent exchange of visits at the level of Prime Minister would help our relations to grow in strength in the time ahead," Hasina added.

After the meeting, Pakistan's Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Benazir Bhutto called on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Punjab House, where Hasina was staying.

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina left Dhaka in the morning for Islamabad to discuss with her Pakistan counterpart Nawaz Sharif the situation arising out of last month's nuclear tests by India and Pakistan.

The Prime Minister left by a special flight of Bangladesh Biman at 8:30 am.

**Hasina calls on Pak president**

ISLAMABAD, June 24: Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina called on Pakistan President Muhammad Rafiq Tarar at Aiwan-e-Sadr (presidential palace) this morning, reports BSS.

She spent some time with the President and exchanged pleasantries.

Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad, Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Eng. Mosharraf Hossain and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abul Hasan Chowdhury were present on the occasion.

**BNPPP**

From Page 1

Faruk spoke in yesterday's BNPPP meet.

Insiders said that the speakers preferred BNPs return to the House because their grievances could be better projected through participating in the proceedings.

Even those who had earlier opposed joining the session on ground of government's alleged violation of the four-point accord have now shifted from their position, an influential party leader who attended the meeting said.

**Barisal-5**

From Page 1

Iar, Muktiyodhya Sanghati Parishad; Al Islam Laskar, Alhaj Manirul Islam Manir, JP, Mahbuddin Ahmed, AL, AAA Sobhan Masud, AL, and Mahabub Alam Majumder of JAGPA.

Jamaat is not participating in the by-election.

The last date for withdrawal of the nomination papers is July 20.

**South Africa**

From Page 1

Shahrani outside the penalty area, but Issa retaliated inside the box and dragged al-Shahrani to the ground.

South Africa, which had scored only once in its first two games, took the lead when Bartlett got position on defender Fuad Amin and chased down Issa's through ball before beating goalkeeper Mohammed al-Deayea with a left-footed drive.

**President urges parties**

From Page 1

best law if it is applied with honesty, impartiality and faithfully, he added.

President Shahabuddin urged the law enforcers to apply the laws impartially and to refrain from using those for political or other gains.

Expressing his agony over the incidents of inhuman child repression in the country, Justice Shahabuddin said no legal action was taken against 20 to 25 employees of the police control room on the premises of the Dhaka Metropolitan Court where Tania, a six-year-old girl, was raped in broad day light recently.

Justice Shahabuddin suggested appointment of retired judges of the High Court and district courts and experienced women lawyers instead of the existing session judges to conduct the special tribunals to try the offenders of children and women repressions.

Referring to the proposed law, he said some women organisations have objected to the inclusion of provision of curbing terrorism in the same law.

Supporting them, Justice Shahabuddin observed that the Law Ministry may have not given proper suggestion to the

government in formulating the proposed women and children repression law.

He also questioned the necessity of inclusion of terrorism portion in the proposed women and children repression law instead of enacting a separate law.

The President said there was a separate law for curbing terrorist activities which was passed in the parliament in 1992. The law was for two years provision of capital punishment.

But, the then opposition lawmakers protested the law and staged walk out from the House in protest against passing of the law apprehending that the law might be applied for harassment of the activists of opposition parties and for political motive.

Under the circumstances, the duration of the law has not been extended although the necessity of the law still exists.

Jatiya Mahila Sangstha chairman Iy Rahman presided over the inaugural session.

State Minister for Women and Children Affairs Dr Mozammel Hossain and Women and Children Affairs Secretary Abdullah Harun Pasha also spoke on the occasion.

