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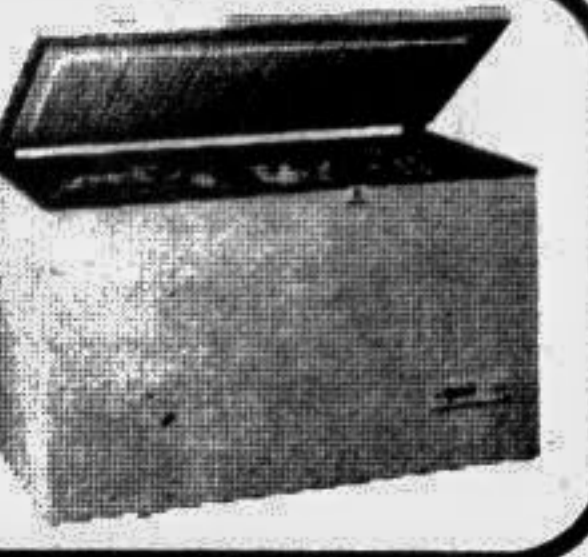


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Industrialisation must to get rid of poverty: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for taking adequate steps for rapid industrialisation to get rid of poverty and boost economy. Reviewing the activities of the Industries Ministry at a high level meeting at Shilpa Bhaban, she said, 'we are committed to eradicate poverty and generate employment for which industrialisation is essential.'

Two stabbed in city incidents

By DMCH Correspondent Muggers stabbed two persons and snatched Tk 35 thousand in two separate incidents in the city yesterday. A gang of about four snatchers intercepted a rickshaw on which Arif Hossain, 25, a businessman, was travelling near Doel Chatter at about 2 pm.

Pak N-scientist

From Page 1 Michael J Wildes said Wednesday in a statement from his New York office. But the Pakistani government said today in Islamabad that first-strike strategy would not be discussed with scientists or Khan, who they say was a low level civilian engineer who did not have access to such information.

Infant dies at central jail

By Staff Correspondent A one and a half month old child of a female prisoner at the Dhaka Central Jail died yesterday morning. Police identified the dead as Baby, daughter of Parvin, who was arrested from the city's Mirpur area on charges of child trafficking. Parvin has been a prisoner at the central jail since November last.

Hartal

From Page 1 started from Paltan Maidan. She also announced that her party would gherao the Bangladesh Television (BTV) Bhawan on July 9 to protest against BTV's 'partisan' role. Jamaat-e-Islami and Jatiya Party (Z-M) also announced similar programmes at separate rallies in the city prior to their processions.

Latino challenge

From Page 1 went on to win both titles. The Argentines, suddenly unabashed enthusiasts of the spot-kick roulette wheel, would like to follow the same trail. 'It's the most dramatic way to end a game,' said Argentina's coach Daniel Passarella. 'It's very hard to watch it from the sidelines... It's very sweet to send the English back home. Very sweet.'

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Australia departs 15 Bangladeshis

Australia has deported 15 Bangladeshis who entered there unlawfully by boat in May, reports UNB. Australian Minister for Immigration and Multicultural Affairs Phillip Ruddock said those who arrived in Australia illegally have already been returned to Bangladesh, according to a press release issued by the Australian High Commission in the city yesterday. A group of 15 persons reached Ashmore Reef in Australia aboard two small boats without having any visa and necessary document in May.

14 fall sick allegedly after drinking contaminated tubewell water

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, July 1: At least 14 people of seven families fell sick allegedly after drinking contaminated tubewell water at Dakkhin Shehar in Fatulla Tuesday night. Neighbours rescued the sick persons, breaking open the doors of their houses as they were late to get up, police said. The victims are Shahidullah, 50, Nizamuddin, 12, Ainal Haq, 30, Anwar Hossain, 25, Mizanur Rahman, 18, Arunessa, 40, Hosneara, 22, Julia, 25, Fatem, 25, Rahima, 26, Zakir Hossain, 25, Monir Hossain, 22, Suman, 14, and Aleya, 3.

Khaleda

From Page 1 Apart from the leaders and workers of BNP and its front organisations, professionals including lawyers, doctors, traders, university teachers and trade unionists also participated in the programme. Begum Zia moved in an open-roof jeep amidst thunderous slogans mainly demanding adequate supply of water, power and gas. They also chanted various anti-government slogans demanding resignation of the two-year-old Awami League government and mid-term election.

Overdue loans

From Page 1 this, a loan will be classified within three months of becoming overdue. The committee said this definition of defaulted loans would clear all confusion in this regard. The committee also said the BB should issue specific circular on restricting fresh loan facilities to a defaulting company or any related company. The circular should clearly spell out the definition of 'loan facilities' and 'organisation related to the interest of a defaulting company'. It said all kinds of 'funded and non-funded' financial facilities should be included in the 'loan facilities' term. The committee also spelled out that any person or organisation controlling a defaulting company through ownership, partnership or directorship will be considered as an organisation related to the interest of a defaulting company. The person, in this case, will also include the members of his/her family, like husband, wife, parents and dependent children.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin, followed by Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-Hwa, shaking hands with performers at the end of a performance celebrating the first anniversary of Hong Kong's return to Chinese rule, held in Hong Kong yesterday.

The boy who averted train accident missing

Abul Khair, the wonder boy who saved lives of hundreds of passengers by averting a major train accident two years ago, has been missing since June 21, reports UNB. Khair's father Abdul Matin of Hajiganj in Chandpur said his son left the house after he scolded him for not being serious in studies. Before leaving home, Khair told a friend, 'I will go to such a place where no one will be able to trace me,' said Abdul Matin.

Gold seized at ZIA

By Staff Correspondent Gold worth about Tk 25 lakh was recovered from three passengers of a Singapore Airlines flight at Zia International Airport on Tuesday night. Airport sources said the three who came by the flight from Singapore informed customs personnel that they had 15 kg of silver with them. As their movement was suspicious, customs personnel searched their bodies and recovered gold bars weighing about 330 totals.

Gayoom in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD, July 1: Maldives President Maumoon Abdul Gayoom today called for concerted efforts at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to create regional harmony, reports AFP. Gayoom arrived here from India on a two-day visit during which he will hold talks with Pakistani leaders on bilateral cooperation and multilateral issues, officials said.

Many underaged girls found at Tanbazar brothel

By Special Correspondent A delegation of Bangladesh Jatiya Mahila Ainjibi Samity visited Tanbazar brothel at Narayanjan on Tuesday in search of a garments worker, abducted from the city's Mirpur area. They could not find the victim, Najma, but came across at least 50 underaged girls, kept in hiding in secret chambers in the brothel, on a multi-storied flat said to be owned by a person identified as Zakir Khan, according to a press release of the Samity. However, they failed to win freedom for the helpless girls as police did not show any interest. They were told that many more underaged girls, provided with licence for prostitution, were languishing there.

Janice G Raymond, Executive Director of the Coalition Against Trafficking in Women International, along with Salma Ali of BNWLA, talking with some under-aged inmates of Tanbazar brothel at Narayanjan on Tuesday.

Pvt pathological labs

From Page 1 Most of the centres on contact services on the condition that qualified pathologists would sign the report sheets in advance without seeing the actual report. 'Such diagnostic centres, doing business without qualified staff pay very high fees to those doctors who refer patients to them,' said the owner of a reputed diagnostic centre. There are a number of such pathological laboratories where they would give you test reports without even conducting any tests,' said Col (Retd) M N Nurul Islam, who has been in the profession for over 25 years. Patients who have little knowledge on the subject and are mostly poor ultimately suffer. Most of the diagnostic centres offer cheaper rates for a costly test. Patients are at the mercy of doctors who advise the patients to have tests done in a laboratory of their choice. The patients, completely unaware of the fact that poor quality tests are conducted go to the laboratory of doctors' choice for giving specimen. 'I have had four tests for urinary tract infection (UTI) in four different laboratories. Doctors are yet to detect the symptom,' said Goutam Deb, a small trader from Chuadanga. He added, 'My doctor advised

me to go for more tests to confirm the UTI case. I have already spent quite a lot of money. I don't know how much more I would have to spend on this.' Except a few reputed city diagnostic centres, none of the laboratories follow proper waste disposal process. Almost all of those wash off the culture plates, slides and test tubes containing blood and other specimen in the common basin using water and ordinary washing detergent as cleansing agents. The unhygienic method of cleansing contributes to spread of various diseases in the city. During an investigation it was found out that there was no arrangement in most of the laboratories for 'safe' disposal of the wastes. All the basin water runs to open drains. Normally, a pathological laboratory should have an 'autoclave' - a device that sterilises things in it under high steam pressure. The Directorate of Health Services, responsible for action against such illegal business, seems to be completely in the dark regarding the matter. There has been no inspection by the authority since April. When contacted, Director of Hospitals Dr Manindra Chowdhury said, 'We cannot

France: Thierry Henry

From Page 1 play,' said French coach Aimé Jacquet of his 20-year-old forward, who has been the French revelation of the tournament so far. Henry sprained the ankle during the second-round victory over Paraguay on Sunday. 'If I can, I will play,' Henry said. 'If not, we are not going to take any risks.' Jacquet, however, will be able to count on star playmaker Zinedine Zidane, back after sitting out a two-game suspension for kicking an opponent in France's opening match against Saudi Arabia. Goalkeeper Fabien Barthez also put a scare into the team Wednesday when he abruptly stopped training because of pain to his right thigh. He was kicked during Sunday's game, but should be fine by Friday. Midfielder Emmanuel Petit, who left the Paraguay game with a pain in his right hamstring, is recovering well and should be ready to play alongside captain Didier Deschamps. In what is widely expected to be an extremely close game with little space available, the French hope Zidane will finally start working his magic. 'I have forgotten everything

3 killed in Feni road accident

FENI, July 1: Three people were killed and 25 others injured in a road accident on Choumuhani-Feni road near Setubhanga Bazar in Begumganj today, reports UNB. The accident took place at about 3 pm when a Feni-bound coach fell into a ditch while giving side to a speeding truck. The victims could not be identified immediately. The injured were sent to different clinics and hospitals.

SOFA

From Page 1 Chowdhury said 'Signing of SOFA is under consideration. The draft is still under study.' A high official of the foreign ministry said it is not correct that Dika has given a negative response to Washington regarding reaching the accord. 'We are trying to take a decision. We have neither said yes nor no.' Foreign Minister Abdus Samad Azad in response to a question by newsmen if India was pressurizing Bangladesh not to sign SOFA had said on Tuesday that it was not correct. Said he: 'We will go ahead with our own policy. We will go ahead with our own thinking.' US ambassador to Bangladesh John C Holzman told journalists in Sylhet on Tuesday, 'We are expecting a positive response from the Bangladesh government in respect of signing the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) between the governments of Bangladesh and the USA.' He also said that US volunteers under the Peace Corps programme are expected to arrive in Bangladesh later this year. A spokesman of the US embassy told The Daily Star yesterday that negotiations between the two governments 'are still going on.'

Myanmar

From Page 1 Between August 1996 and June this year, said officials of the Home Ministry, adding that correspondence between the two governments regarding their repatriation did not yield any positive result yet.

Ctg can emerge

From Page 1 Railway. The Indo-Bangladesh Dialogue was the sixth of its kind to be held and was organised by the Centre for Policy Dialogue, Bangladesh and the Centre for Policy Research, India.

World Bank

From Page 1 health services to make them more cost-effective and efficient, and laying the groundwork for broader health sector reform. The programme will also address the 'unfinished' population and health issues, such as maternal and child health and nutrition, unmet need for family planning, and a potential HIV/AIDS epidemic. The project will also finance improvements of public sector hospitals and develop partnerships with non-profit and NGO-run hospitals. It will also examine options for cost-recovery and introduction of user charges. In addition, the project addresses other pressing public health problems, which include health problems resulting from exposure to hazardous industrial waste. The total project costs are 2.9 billion US dollars. The government has allocated 2.2 billion dollar to support the programme and the World Bank will provide the rest 250 million dollars equivalent credit from the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's concessional lending affiliate.