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PM assures help for expansion of scout movement

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday said the government has undertaken specific measures to bring up the children as worthy citizens, reports UNB.

"We have taken a national working plan for the development of children," she said while addressing the "Shapla Cub Awards" distribution ceremony at ICC in the morning.

Bangladesh Scouts "Shapla Cub Awards" has been introduced for the first time in the country to encourage the children in cub and scouting

The Prime Minister assured the cubs, scouts and girls guides of all possible help and assistance from the government for the expansion of the movement.

She said the present government is committed to checking child marriage, repression and trafficking of children and child labour.

Appreciating the scout movement in building the children as worthy citizens, Hasina said the movement gained momentum under the guideline of father of the nation Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rah-

The Prime Minister recalled the memories of five rover scouts killed in a road accident at Dhamrai while returning from a jamboree last year.

She distributed family saving certificates worth Tk one lakh to the family of each scout killed in the road mishap and also to the family of an injured scout.

From Page 1

Abdul Latif Mirza, an AL

member from a Sirajganj con-

stituency, took the floor to

claim that it was the BNP which

had been disrupting law and or-

der across the country. Quoting

a recent newspaper report, the

AL legislator said that police

recently arrested a BNP activist

who is allegedly involved in or-

ganised crime like snatching

cars from different parts of the

Khan Tipu Sultan, another

ruling party MP, echoed his col-

league. 'The opposition is delib-

erately disrupting the law and

order," he said. Sultan was also

critical of Begum Khaleda Zia.

Leader of the Opposition in

Parliament, for her failure to

disown the said "car snatcher

Rafigul Islam who present in

the House at that time did not

seek for the floor to say any-

thing about the opposition alle-

claimed that prices of some

consumer goods like rice, onion

and green chilly were going be-

Minister loves to blame Begum

Khaleda Zia for the price hike,

when a ruling party MP is the

official leader of the rice whole-

Writ rejected

and amounted to floor-cross-

mitted that the 'consensus gov-

ernment', as propagated by the

government, has no sanction of

Wadud Bhuiyan, opposing the

writ petition, submitted that Dr

Alauddin and Hasibur Rahman

were appointed by the President

as per Article 56(2) of the Con-

stitution which cannot be chal-

lenged in any court as per Arti-

there is no provision in the

Constitution against formation

any MP from any political

party to the office of Minister of

the government, since the Con-

stitution says that 910 of the

number of Ministers shall be

appointed from amongst the

Members of Parliament", he

also submitted that there is no

evidence that the two BNP

Members of the Parliament

have violated Article 70 of the

Constitution and as such their

seats in the Parliament have

Ctg landslides

From Page 1

In Chittagong port, the

Met Office here recorded 295

mm rainfall in the past 36

rainfall had disrupted cargo

Banskhali and Satkania.

hours till 6 pm today.

The Acting Attorney General

submitted.

not been vacated.

rainfall.

He further submitted that

There is no bar to appoint

cle 51(i) of the Constitution.

of 'consensus government.'

Acting Attorney General A

Barrister Abul Hasib sub-

yond the reach of the poor.

sellers," he said.

the Constitution.

Mashiur Rahman of the BNP

"It is an irony that the Prime

Home Affairs Minister

who is also a killer".

constituency.

country.

gation.

A total of 54 cubs were given the Shapla Awards at the func-tion for their contributions to the cub movement.

Workers of SOEs to gherao PB office

By Staff Correspondent

A group of trade union lead-ers of state-owned enterprises (SOEs) yesterday declared a gherao and sit-in programme in front of the Privatisation Board (PB) office on Sunday, protesting the Board's recent 'propa-ganda' against the SOEs.

Addressing a press conference, leaders of three left-leaning labour organisation declared the joint agitation programme against the Privatisation Board campaign to create awareness among the people about what is happening in the loss making SOEs.

The agitating organisations are Patkal Sramik-Karma-1 chary Sangram Parishad Bangladesh Suta-Bastrakal Sramik-Karmachary Federa tion and Bangladesh Bastra Shilpa Sramik League.

Labour leaders Abul Bashar, Shahidullah Chowdhury Badrul Alam Lavlu and Shah Alam addressed the conference while Igbal Majumdar, Z M Kamrul Anam, Lutfur Rahman, Masiud Dowla, K Alam Belal and Shariat Ullah were also present.

Food and Agriculture Minis-

ter Matia Chowdhury reacted to

ment godowns had already

reached a satisfactory level, she

Accusing the BNP of making

said that there was no possibil-

attempts to mislead people

about the price of consumer

tion was out to create artificial

chilly, the minister said, "It

Minister Tofael Ahmed said

dishonest traders sometimes

tried to increase prices for self-

ish ends. "When the newspapers

report price hike of certain

commodities in certain areas of

the country, the dishonest

traders try to exploit it in other

parts of the country", Tofael

said. Clearly hinting about a

BNP role behind the dramatic

price hike of salt a few months

back, the minister called upon

all concerned not to do politics

World Cup

From Page 1

For the Netherlands the Ar-

senal attacking duo of

Bergkamp and Overmars have

been embarrassing defenders

all through the World Cup, and

Bergkamp's last minute goal to

oust Argentina in the quarter-

finals is one of the goals of the

opening game against Belgium.

looked sharp again on his re-

turn and Edgar Davids, Philip

Cocu and Ronald de Boer are in-

world's most expensive defender

after his 10-million-pound

(16.7 million dollars) move

from PSV Eindhoven to

Manchester United, has been

guilty of errors that gave away

three first round group games.

the French forwards seem to

have forgotten how to find the

such as Zinedine Zidane, Youri

Djorkaeff and Emmanuel Petit

have supplied plenty of ammu-

nition, strikers David

Trezeguet, Thierry Henry,

Guivarc'h couldn't score against

lone French goal in those games

At the least the defense, with

Croatia, the complete out-

Robert Jarni, Goran Vlaovic

Blanc and Marcel Dasailly

looking consistent, have only

sider left in the competition.

upset three-time titlist Ger-

and Davor Suker hit the goals

after the Germans had a player

sent off. But the Croatians have

stars from big Italian and

Spanish clubs who have tested

club soccer at the highest level

and won't feel out of their depth.

even against the home team.

many 3-0 in the quarterfinals.

yielded one goal in five games.

Laurent Blanc.

After scoring nine goals in

Although midfield stars

fluential support players.

Kluivert, sent off in their

over prices of essentials.

previous games.

championship.

goals.

About the price hike of

Commerce and Industries

goods, she said that the opposi-

food crisis for political ends.

will be all right soon."

ity of food crisis.

the comments sharply. Claim-

ing that rice stock in govern-

Jatiya Sangsad debate

turns worse

GUWAHATI, July 5: The flood situation in Assam turned worse today with the waters of Brahmaputra and other rivers submerging fresh areas in the 15 affected districts, reports

Assam flood

situation

Official sources said the rivers are flowing above the danger level in many parts of the state due to incessant rains for the past few days.

Pete Sampras

From Page 1 from 1976-80.

Sampras also moved into a second-place tie with Borg and Rod Laver on the all-time list of Grand Slam victories, just one behind the record of 12 held by Roy Emerson.

By reasserting his grasscourt superiority, and extending his Wimbledon record to 44-2 since 1992. Sampras ended a year-long slump in which he failed to get past the quarterfinals of the last three Grand Slam events.

For Ivanisevic, it marked his third defeat in a Wimbledon final. He lost to Andre Agassi in 1992 and Sampras in 1994.

"It's just really sweet," Sampras said. "I can't believe I've won five of these.' The match was dominated by big serves and featured few

extended rallies, another example of the power tennis which has typified Wimbledon finals in the 1990s. Ivanisevic had 32 aces and

Sampras had 12. But the key statistic was Ivanisevic's 20 double faults. The match turned in the

sixth game of the fifth set when Sampras broke for 4-2, ripping a backhand return at Ivanisevic's feet. The Croatian couldn't dig the ball out, dumping a forehand volley into the net. After Sampras held for 5-2, a

distraught Ivanisevic buried his head in his towel and muttered to himself in Croatian during the changeover. Sampras then broke him at love in the next game to end the 2 hour, 52minute match. "Goran played a great game

to break me in the fourth set. and the fifth set is anybody's ball game," Sampras said. "It was just a couple of points here and there. I was very nervous in the fifth set. I was able to raise my level just a little bit. The next thing I knew I won the match. It was kind of a weird feeling."

Microbiology

From Page 1 the government was not making best use of whatever expertise the country had.

Dr Naiyyum Chowdhury said, "in 1993, the government had set up a national committee on biotechnology productivity to identify limitations and application of microbiology in the country. Till now, there is no outcome of the committee re-

The speakers said, extensive application of microbiology in areas like genetic engineering. biogas, biofertiliser and production of various enzymes should be given due attention. They emphasised wider application of chemicals produced from microbes for 'hygiene and environment friendliness.

Dr Munirul Alam of Microbiology Department of the DU said the science and technology ministry had 'little interest' in research activities in the sector. Others who participated in

the discussion are Prof M Mozammel Haq. Dr Shamir Kumar Shaha and Mohammad But Jaap Stam, hailed as the Elias.

The mini roundtable, held at the conference room at The Daily Star office, was moderated by Editor Mahfuz Anam.

Taxi Cab Service opened in the city yesterday.

- Star photo

Statement of Nargis' uncle

From Page 1 Abul Kashem in his statement before the CMM's Court said, Muksuda, mother-in-law of Nargis and maid Rezia, who worked at the flat, came to his house and informed him about the incident. Then he rushed to the spot and found Naim dead.

A professor of Sociology at Dhaka University commenting on the incident said, it was "a sudden outburst of blows and counter blows and conflict in personal, family and social

"This sort of incident usually does not have any motive," the sociologist said preferring anonymity. Police investigation so far

revealed that Nargis was not happy in her conjugal life for the last few months, said a DB official

The relation between Nargis and her husband deteriorated since doctors detected an infection inside her mouth. Nargis feared that she had a cancer and alleged to her husband that he was not providing her with proper treatment.

DB officials said Hasan took Nargis to a number of doctors to convince his wife that she was not suffering from cancer. "How come a mother slaugh-

ter her son?". This was the only question from people who

heard about the incident. Dr Tazul Islam, a psychia-

trist, talking to The Daily Star said, "People usually kill someone out of anger. But, in some cases, too much love could instigate one person to kill an-

Dr Islam opined that if the information revealed by police so far was authentic, the second reason — too much love for her son — had led Nargis to slaughter the seven-year-old son. The psychiatrist termed this sort of killing as a 'mercy killing.'

Nargis became psychologically disturbed as she was not happy in her conjugal life. The uneasy relationship with her husband led Nargis to think of cancer when doctors detected her oral infection, he said. Nargis began to suffer from

'anxiety depression' and started to believe that she would die soon. Besides, she feared that her son would be in great sufferings without her, he said. Dr Islam is former registrar of Mental Disease Department of Dhaka Medical College Hospi-

Meanwhile, the condition of Nargis, was improving at the Intensive Care Unit in Dhaka Medical Collège Hospital (DMCH). "Her condition is quite stable and but it can not be said that she is totally out of danger." said doctor.

Nargis was taking breath by means of artificial tracheal respiration.

PCJSS meeting not held

A scheduled meeting of the

whether their top leaders held a closed door session yesterday to review their meeting with PCJSS thana and district leaders on Saturday. Neither they would disclose

to newsmen the progress of Sat-

Special envoy

the two countries where major discussions were held on bilateral and regional issues.

The Pakistan High Commission in a press release said the special envoy, apart from delivering a message from the Pakistan Prime Minister to his Bangladesh counterpart, is likely to "brief Bangladeshi leaders on Pakistan's perceptions of security in South Asia following detonation of Nuclean tests by India, and Pakistan's response to correct the balance of power in the area."

on matters of mutual interest.

By Special Correspondent

top leaders of Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) did not take place at Khagrachhari yesterday, PCJSS sources said. But they would not say

urday's review.

From Page 1

The special envoy will also address a select gathering on the current situation in South Asia, and meet several local leaders for an exchange of views

14 hours before being rescued. moved the writ petition. Peace Corps

Owners of the three boats,

Pak offer

From Page 1

was obviously a major shift in the country's stand as till now Islamabad's declared stand was that it would sign the CTBT only after New Delhi does so. While replying to a query, Altaf conceded that it was a

spokesman also stressed that the situation has changed after May 28 when Pakistan carried out its nuclear tests.

shift in stand on the crucial CTBT issue was visible during last week's visit of foreign secretary. Shamshad Ahmed, to the United States when he had met senior officials of US State department including acting secretary of state. Strobe Tal-Ahmed had told newsmen

after the meeting that Pakistan was in a process of evaluating He further said that Pak-

eral dialogue process with India the spokesman said that Pakistan was in favour of an "integrated approach" while stressing that the peace and security issue in the South Asian region should be linked to the Kashmir

Effects of El Nino being studied to help farmers face weather change

Bangladesh is studying the effects of El Nino to develop a model to help farmers face the global phenomenon that gov-erns the weather pattern when ocean currents in the Pacific coast off Peru warms up or cools down.

"We are monitoring the phenomenon that is responsible for rains or drought worldwide to help our farmers cope with the whims of the brat of the Pacific," said Dr A M Chowdhury Director of the Space Research and Remote Sensing Organisation (SPARRSO).

He told The Daily Star yes-terday that the farmers needed help to chart their crop calendar keeping themselves updated with the changing mood of nature, to better cope with it, varying the sowing and planting pe-

The model will be prepared by the SPARRSO and the Bangladesh Agriculture Research Council (BARC).

"It has become imperative in the backdrop of past performance of El Nino, in Spanish meaning Christ's child, and its reverse, which Latins fondly call La Nina or the girl," the weather expert said.

Now La Nina was casting its eye on Bangladesh for the past few days, bringing much needed rains, since El Nino went 'rereating in May. The reverse is likely to trig-

36 feared drowned

From Page 1

The sunken fishing boats FB Noor Alam, FB Faruk and FB Arzoo-2, had no life-saving gears or radio on board, they

Motaleb Khan and Hossain Khan of Barguna, also said that the missing persons could not be traced and they were leared to be drowned.

not clarify whether Pakistan will sign the CTBT before India or after it but analysts felt it

change in Pakistan's stand saying, "change in the sense that (earlier) we were ready to do anything that India was ready to do in terms of signing CTBT or NPT." The foreign ministry

The first signs of Pakistan's

its position on CTBT and NPT.

istan would take a decision on the CTBT and NPT issues. "When we will think that now is the time to do so." While referring to the bilat-

Some plot owners in Dhan-

mondi said they were not worried about what the government could offer to them in terms of utility services. "Time is coming when, we know, we will

said a resident who has just signed a contract to convert his two-storied two-unit house into a six-storied apartment block. As per PWD documents, in Dhanmondi residential area, there are 800 plots each measuring one bigha or more 194 plots of 10 katha to one bigha each and 90 plots of less than 10

katha each. In the late 40s, 594 acres of land were acquired for Dhanmondi residential area. At present, the residential plots cover 294 acres, roads 71 acres, lake 92 acres and lakeside green space covers 18 acres. These exclude Abahani and Dhanmondi fields measuring 10 acres each. PWD sources said the problem worsened after 'plot sub-

heavy lobbying by developers for permission to build highthat in no circumstances per-

Shinepukur secures foreign loan purchase of the additional Tk 44 crore, the lands to be purforced sale value of the land to

Participants in The Daily Star mini-roundtable on 'Prospects of Microbiology in

Bangladesh' held at the conference room at its office yesterday.

From Page 1 group's record with banks like IFIC and AB Bank"

Legal or illegal, the key question raised by the banking circles is that such a guarantee has been given to a company which is facing charges of manipulating stock market and whose sister concerns borrowed tens of Bernard Diomede and Stephane crores of taka under fictitious accounts from different banks either Paraguay or Italy and the and later owned them after the Bangladesh Bank detected the came from central defender

> The Sonali Bank headquarters received a proposal from its Dhaka local office for approval to issue a bank guarantee for 17 million US dollars (equivalent to about Tk 78 crore) on account of Shinepukur Holdings Ltd. which had arranged the loan from ANZ Investment Bank in London.

According to the Shinepukur proposal, it has taken up projects to develop two townships, Sun City at Savar and Gulshan Lake Town at Badda. It said the company had purchased 4.3 acres of land at Badda and 67.86 acres at Savar, investing approximately, as it claimed, Tk

44 crore. The company said it would purchase additional 10 acres of land at Badda and 60.14 acres at Savar, for which it had made

initial payments. Shinepukur said the foreign loan would be used to finance

lands at Badda and 60.14 acres at Savar and development of the plots in the two townships for sale to members the public. According to documents ob-

tained by The Daily Star, ANZ Investment Bank, London, has agreed to extend the loan facility under a mode of financing called Morabaha, an Islamic Banking Scheme, against the guarantee of Sonali Bank. According to the ANZ terms.

by another year. The interest rate is 12 months' London Interbank Offer Rate (LIBOR) plus 3.5 per cent. LIBOR is now 5.7 per cent. which puts the total interest rate at 9.2 per cent.

the two-year loan is renewable

However, bankers point out that the rate, in reality, would be much higher if the annual depreciation of the Taka is taken into account. Last year. the Taka was devalued by over five per cent. If this trend continues, the interest rate would stand at around 18 per cent in two years, making it equivalent to local interest rate.

"This will increase the liability of SB as it has given unconditional guarantee in US dollar and second charges over assets financed," said a banker. According to Sonali Bank. Shinepukur has offered five

types of securities: a cash mar-

gin of Tk four crore, already

purchased property valued at

chased valued at Tk 52 crore. pledge of shares of companies of Beximco valued at Tk 15 crore and corporate guarantee of the company. Sonali's credit committee. reviewing the Shinepukur pro-

cided to send it to the Board saying that the projected sale price of plots at Savar appeared to be high, given the prevailing market price in the area. The committee also pointed out that the lumpsum margin of Tk four crore against the guarantee value of Tk 78 crore stood

posal on May 27 this year, de-

should be 10 per cent. Later, the Board approved the proposal of Shinepukur with conditions that the cash margin of the bank guarantee should be 15 per cent.

at only five per cent which

"The issuance of the above bank guarantee will not affect the current fund position of the bank. On the other hand, the bank will be in a position to earn some fees/commission without any investment or involvement of our fund," Sonali Bank officials argued while seeking approval of the Board.

However, the Board said, on mortgage of 10 acres of Badda land to be purchased by the company, the percentage of margin will be reduced to the extent of 10 per cent and the excess margin of five per cent will be returned in cash provided the

be mortgaged covers five per cent of cash margin. The Board also attached another condition that excess

-Star photo

rate or change in interest rate must be borne by Shinepukur. This condition however does not minimise Sonali Bank's risk if the company defaults because of the unconditional guarantee.

monetary involvement due to

any fluctuation in exchange

As mentioned earlier, several Beximco companies have over Tk 152 crore worth of liabilities with the Bank. Shinepukur also applied to the Board of Investment (BOI)

ceived promptly despite the fact that many questions were raised about the proposed pro-ANZ officials in Dhaka said they were not aware of the deal which was being funded by ANZ

for registration, which it re-

Investment Bank, London. "This is real estate development with foreign money," said a top economist. "Why is this not being done with local currency loan? This is exactly how the crisis of many SEA countries including that of Thailand began.

In Thailand, much of the borrowed money was poured into real estate business. Sonali MD defends

Sonali Bank Managing Director Mahbubur Rahman Khan defended the deal as 'bankable' and, therefore, the board decided to give the guarantee. The loan is being secured

for real estate which is an industry. What is the problem if funds come from outside adding to the country's investing money?" he said. "Without development of

land how can one build houses?" Khan shot back when pointed out that the loan was being secured to finance purchase of lands and development of plots. The prudency of a bank's

decision to give guarantee depends on whether the company has strength to bear the liability. In this case, the company has the strength." he said. When pointed out that the

company could secure loans from local sources since the project does not have any import component. Khan said, The borrower felt that it is cheaper to get foreign loans at around eight per cent. It is less than half the local rate." But The Daily Star again

pointed out that if the annual depreciation of Taka is taken into account, the interest rate would go up by about 18 per cent and that Sonali Bank itself could give loans to Shinepukur. Khan replied: "This is equivaient to local interest rate. No local bank could give such a big loan and consortium of loans is also not popular here."

PHILIPS Khulna: 720304, Bogra: 6215

By Special Correspondent

ger rainfall and flooding, he Dr Chowdhury cited the past effects of El Nino in 1972-73, which reversed to trigger floods in 1974. Similarly, in 1982-83

it reversed into a spate of flood-ing. Again in 1986 El Nino led to the worst flooding when it reversed, in 1987 and 1988, he Earlier Dr Chowdhury, delivering a lecture on the impact

of El Nino at Bangladesh Insti-tute of Strategic Studies, said the phenomenon had been re-sponsible for only 40 per cent rainfall in the country during "Not only we had 60 per cent

less rainfall in June. but it also delayed the arrival of Monsoon by a month," he said. Organised by Bangladesh Institute of Intentional and

Strategic Studies, at its conference hall, the talk was presided over by Director General of BI-ISS Brig Shahedul Anam Khan. Former science secretary Dr A M Sharafuddin also spoke on

HC orders From Page 1 After reading the news item

headlined "Rape victim's 'Safe

Custody" with a photograph of

Bakul handcuffed to a hospital

bed, published in The Daily Star on May 15, Bangladesh National Women Laywers' Association through its president filed the writ petition. Advocate Seema Zahur

Before taking up their as-

signments, the volunteers will

From Page 1 teachers, said a USIS press re-

the occasion.

complete a training course. which will include intensive Bangla, learning about culture and history of Bangladesh, and technical information about the Bangladeshi education sys-According to an official

handout, the US Peace Corps, as per the accord, will dispatch volunteers to those areas where the Bangladesh government will make specific request. The Peace Corps volunteers will assist the socio-economic

development activities of

Bangladesh, particularly in the fields of education, rural development, housing, health, agriculture, environment and other areas to be mutually agreed upon the two sides. Since the Peace Corps was founded in 1961 by President John F Kennedy, more than

150,000 Americans have served in 135 countries. At present, 6,500 volunteers are working in 84 countries. The Peace Corps Volunteers were active in the then East Pakistan. Other Asian countries in which the Peace Corps

and Mongolia. Peace Corps' programme in Bangladesh will be directed by Margaret Goodman, who served as Peace Corps Regional Director for Asia and Pacific.

is active include Nepal. Thai-

land, the Philippines, China

Dhanmondi

From Page 1 vices are less than satisfactory and its roads are often clogged with traffic.

have to generate our own power and pump out our own water,"

katha each was allowed. In some cases, instead of one sixstoried building the plot owners constructed four, taking advantage of the sub-division law. This put more pressure on the existing facilities in the area as more flats were built, they said. The government has so far remained firm about the height of buildings in the area despite

division to a minimum of five

rise structures. In a recent directive, the Prime Minister said mission could be given to construct buildings more than six storied in Dhanmondi residential area. The directive, however, said if an owner builds a basement parking, that will not be considered a part of the six

handling activities, port officials said. Traffic movement also thinned here due to continuous

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