

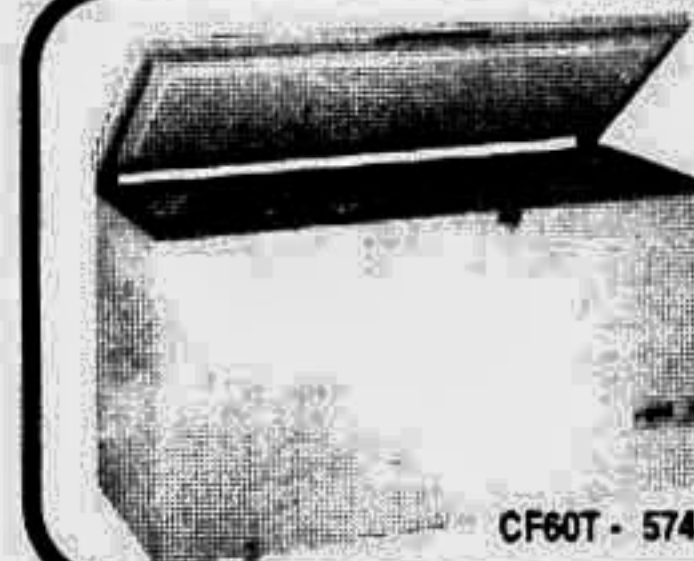


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Technology transfer

Bangladeshis in US wake up to help motherland

From Govinda Shill

ATLANTA, Apr 5: Bangladesh immigrants working with different US companies, institutions and university systems, wish to dedicate themselves to transfer modern technologies to their motherland.

Tech-Bangla is holding the convention to bring in about 300 experts to find strategies to help Bangladesh advance in science and technology.

Tech-transfer convention is aimed at locating potential areas mainly in textile, information and communication technology, agriculture and food processing, electronics, petrochemicals, power and energy, medical science for transferring technology to Bangladesh.

JS tidbits

From page 1 to thank him for the disaster he is bringing to the AL government. The finance minister himself is enough to ensure the government's downfall and we won't need any agitation to topple it.

The House enjoyed some lively comments between Deputy Speaker Abdul Hamid and BNP MP Akhtaruzzaman, both from Kishoreganj district, with prime minister Sheikh Hasina joining in.

Deputy Speaker: But similar kindness from her may make things worse. At this, the prime minister interrupted, saying it was a 'Kishoreganj-Kishoreganj tie'.

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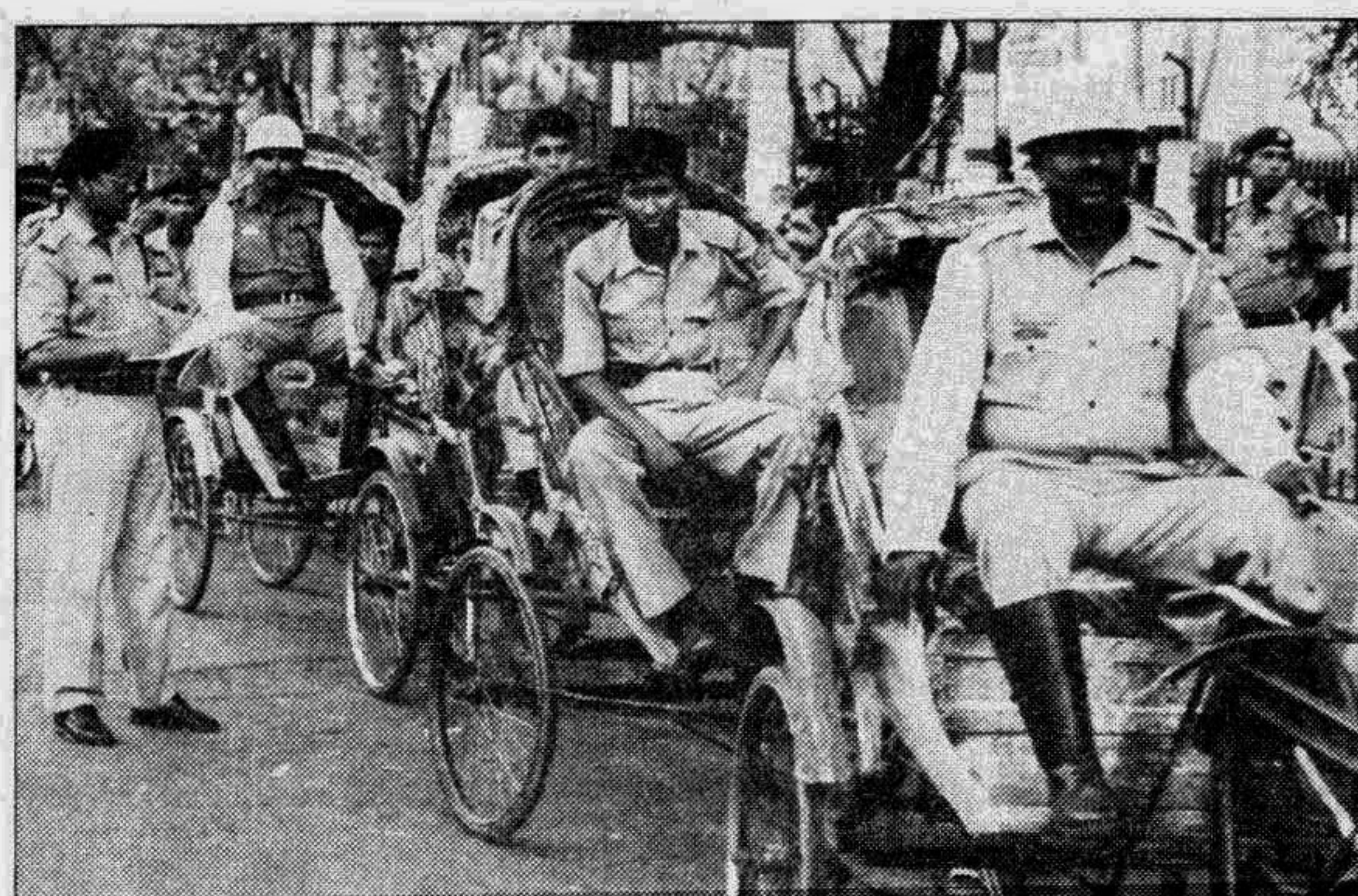
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Policemen swooped on unlicensed rickshaws in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday.

Libya hands over 2 suspects in Pan Am bombing for trial

THE HAGUE, Apr 5: Clearing the way for justice after more than a decade of defiance, Libya today handed over two suspects in the 1988 Pan Am jet bombing for trial in the Netherlands, reports AP.

Its surrender of alleged former intelligence agents Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamun Khalifa Fhimah means the pair finally can be tried under Scottish law on charges of planting the suitcase bomb that shredded Flight 103 over the Scottish village of Lockerbie.

The December 21, 1988 bombing killed 270 people — including 189 Americans — and

were to be held in a prison there or in the port city of Rotterdam pending proceedings to extradite them to British custody in the Netherlands, Correll was to hold a news conference in Rotterdam later Monday.

Dutch authorities said the extradition process could be completed within a week to 10 days, but could take months if the suspects decide to fight it.

Once extradited, the suspects will be arraigned on charges of murder, conspiracy to commit murder and violations of international aviation laws. They then will be transferred to a cell at Camp Zeist, a deserted former US airbase near the central Dutch city of Utrecht, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) southeast of Amsterdam, where the trial will be held under heavy security.

The source also said that Anwar, canteen manager at the DB office, continued to deny his involvement in the murder. He is on a five-day remand for interrogation.

UNB adds: CID is likely to interrogate AC of DB Humayun Kabir who recently joined Chittagong Metropolitan Police after working in DB Office at Mintoo Road for about 6 years. He is being notified to appear before the investigators.

With information trickling down the investigation, the Detective Branch is passing through bad days. Every DB man is suspecting each other, sources said.

Clandestine sources have circulated a leaflet gratifying the Detective Branch and accusing a vested quarter for destroying its image. It also criticised the officials investigating the killing of Jalal Ahmed Shafi.

The leaflet highly praised the role of DC of DB Altaf Hossain Mollah.

DB Inspector Ziaul Ahasan who was interrogated more than once by CID told UNB last night that he did not know Jalal and never saw him.

Jalal's son Abbas had filed GD with Ramna police saying that Inspector Zia and SI Arzoo used to maintain contacts with his father.

When asked if any permission from top officials is required to arrest the DB personnel, a member of the CID team said, "We have already received instructions from the authorities concerned to perform as required for the sake of bringing the killers to book".

On the other hand a CID source said the DB personnel confessed nothing to the investigators except repeating the same statements like "We do not know anything. Only God knows".

"DB men were under tremendous pressure to restrict statements so that it does not go against the DB office", the source said.

Mentionably, Sub-inspector Arju Miah had earlier confessed that he knew Shafi. But on the next day, told newsmen at the SB office that he had not said that he knew Shafi. Arju, who was at the DB office earlier is now posted at Luhajang in Munshiganj district.

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8 held in Atrai killings so far

NAOAGAN, Apr 5: Police so far arrested eight people for their alleged involvement in the March 30 murder of Atrai thana Awami League president Advocate Siddique Rahman Raja and Srani League leader Arun Kumar Sarker, reports UNB.

The arrested are: Mozammel Huq, Suruj, Azaharul, Mofiz, Emran, Anwar, Babu and Karim.

But none of them were named in the FIR, police said.

Meanwhile, advocate Raja's brother Nazimul Islam filed a case accusing nine people, including BNP MP Alamgir Kabir and his younger brother, Anwar Hossain Bulu, for the two killings.

The other accused, mostly BNP leaders, workers and supporters, were said to be the absconding accused in the Lalur murder case. Lalu, a Jubo League leader, was killed at Atrai last year.

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RUCSU polls now on May 20 Shibir calls strike today, JCD backs

From Our Correspondent

RAJSHAHI, Apr 5: The date of Rajshahi University Central Student's Union (RUCSU) polls has been shifted to May 20.

Election of students' representatives in the Senate will also be held on the same day, campus sources said.

Meanwhile, some student organisations demanded readmission of old students who intend to continue further studies.

They also demanded that the date of admission of new students be fixed beyond the election date and that all examinations scheduled to be held 15 days before and after the election be postponed.

Awami League-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) and BNP-backed Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) raised the demands, the sources said.

Protesting the shifting of the date, two student organisations — Jatiya Chhatra Samaj and Jamaat-e-Islami-backed Islami Chhatra Shibir — have called a

day-long strike tomorrow on the campus.

They termed it 'a conspiracy' and demanded polls on the earlier fixed date of April 22.

The university is scheduled to re-open tomorrow after a 12-day vacation.

JCD supported the strike. JCD and Shibir today held rallies in support of the strike.

On the other hand, Anwar Hossain, an Executive Committee member of RU BCL, commented, "RUCSU elections is a headache of the university authorities, so they will decide when and how the elections would be held."

Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque viewed that consensus of all student organizations was a must for free and fair election.

The polls date has been fixed to remove certain complications relating to rules and procedure and to ensure fair elections, he said.

charge of the energy ministry say a year back, but the power generation has further deteriorated since she took over the charge.

"If the minister concerned can be removed for failure, then why will the prime minister not step down as she also has miserably failed to improve the power situation," Khaleqa said.

"Basically, the prime minister has different reasons for taking over the charge of the ministry...may be for leasing out the gas block."

The BNP chief demanded immediate resignation of the prime minister and her government as she and her cabinet members have shown limitless failures and incompetence.

Meherpur-1 polls AL invites nomination

Bangladesh Awami League (AL) has invited nomination from the intending candidates to contest the Meherpur-1 by-election, reports BSS.

The nomination papers will be available at the Dhanmondi Awami Foundation office on April 8 between 10 am and 4 pm and the nomination papers will be received on April 9 from 2 pm, said a party press release.

The Awami League parliamentary board will interview the nomination seekers on April 9 at 5 pm. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is also the president of the board, will chair the interview board.

Australia 22 for one

Sports Reporter Australia, 81 ahead, were 22 for one in their second innings at lunch on the third day of the Antigua Test yesterday.

West Indian fast bowler Curtly Ambrose captured his 367th wicket — trapping opener Greg Blewett for seven.

Michael Slater was unbeaten on 11 and No 3 Justin Langer had made three.

Earlier, the home side added a further 25 runs to their overnight first innings total of 197-6.

Kaptai Lake

two 210MW units of Raozan Power Plant due to mechanical faults, PDB sources said.

Without complete shut down of the plant, it will be difficult to repair the faults, they added.

The two units of Raozan plant now generate around 200 MW of power, down from 300 MW earlier, they said.

The port city that requires over 300 MW of power, now faces a loadshedding of 80 to 90 MW daily as a large portion of the electricity generated in the Kaptai project and the Raozan plant is supplied to the National Grid for distribution outside Chittagong, they said.

Industrial policy

It offers a package of incentives for the local and foreign investors especially for setting up industries in remote areas, far off the capital.

The new policy adopted the strategy of easing up the institutional rules and regulations for setting up industries in the private sector and for foreign investment removing problems in this regard.

It also emphasises increasing domestic reserves, strengthening capital market through foreign investment and developing the energy, transportation and communications infrastructures in order to attain the policy goal of rapid industrialisation of the country.

Special incentives will also be given for the growth of agro-based industries in the country. The industrial policy has given topmost priority to export-oriented and backward-linkage industries.

Petrobrangla

hanced budget. Cairn had enhanced the budget for Sangu's development to 264 million US dollars from 178 million dollars without Petrobrangla's approval.

2. A decision on pipeline royalty for Sangu gas. Cairn is using Bakhrabad System's gas pipeline to supply Sangu gas from its processing plant to the National Grid. But it is disagreeing over the Petrobrangla-fixed royalty for use of the pipeline.

3. Manpower training issues. 4. Cairn's purchase of shares of Holland Sea Search. Although Cairn and Holland Sea Search jointly signed PSCs with the government, Cairn took over Holland Sea Search without informing the government. This issue created a legal crisis in the PSC.

5. Transfer of operation to Shell.

Thana attacked

At one stage, the angry protesters stormed into the police station and pulled down the boundary wall of the thana.

Earlier several thousand mourners brought out the procession after a rally at Court Shaheed Minar in protest against the killing of Chhatra League leader SM Golam Mursheed.

The central leader of Chhatra League was stabbed to death as hundreds of people looked on near a police post at Dhulur crossing on the Independence Day on March 26.

Hazardous saline, blood bags

causes cancer, according to research done by scientists in the US. The research findings were made available to The Daily Star.

Phthalates, chemically known as di-2-ethylhexyl-phthalate (DEHP), is "highly toxic", the research findings showed.

In Bangladesh a large number of medical products are made with DEHP chemicals, exposing a large segment of the population to threats of toxic materials. In developed countries glass bottles are used to infuse solutions, saline and blood.

The Daily Star conducted an investigation following an e-mail to this correspondent by the Health Care Without Harm, a Washington based organisation that campaigns for environmentally sound health care.

There has been no research on DEHP or survey on the harmful effects of use of such medical accessories in the country.

Research details made available to this correspondent through e-mail show that polyvinyl chloride plastic (or PVC) is a hard plastic that requires chemicals called phthalates or DEHP for pliability. DEHP which is mixed with the PVC leaches from the bags, gets mixed with the fluid and is infused into the body of patients.

Chhatak

critical injury. The team later went to the district headquarters and talked to the Deputy Commissioner, Additional Magistrate, SP, Civil Surgeon of the district.

During the daylong investigation today, the team gathered some important information related to the incident, an official said. The SP of CID from Dhaka Kazi Bazul Rahman may also visit the place of occurrence and the district headquarters some time this month, he added. No further details were available.

The Vice Chancellor was not available at his residence for comments when telephoned.

Rotten rice 'unfit' for human consumption, according to committee sources. But the sources could not say whether or when the 'unfit' rice worth about Tk 8 crore would be destroyed.

It was alleged that the smell coming from the rotten rice had posed a serious health hazard in the port area.

Captains of the three vessels which carried the imported rice to Mongla port were learned to have contacted the concerned departments for expediting works for removing the rotten rice. The vessels are M V Noppa, M V Khalid and M V Jan.

When contacted through fax, the Dutch manufacturer — Solvay Draka — confirmed supplying plastic sheets to Bangladesh but declined to give details.

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