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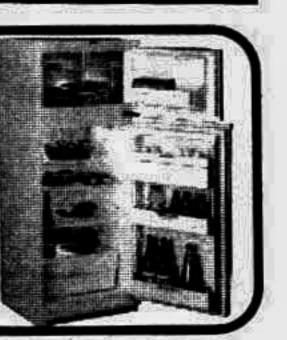


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Technology transfer

Bangladeshis in US wake up to help motherland

From Govinda Shill

ATLANTA, Apr Bangladeshi immigrants work-ing with different US companies, institutions and university systems, wish to dedicate themselves to transfer modern technologies to their mother-

They will hold a Tech-Transfer Convention, the first of its kind by Bangladesh origin Americans and residents, during July 31 to August 1 this year to materialise their dream to build a prosperous country.

A senior cabinet minister from Bangladesh may be invited to inaugurate the convention to be held at the Saint Peter's College, New Jersey. The college is a 15-minute drive from New York City and one and half an hour by plane from Atlanta.

Some 20,000 Bangladesh origin specialists and professionals in engineering. medicine and physical sciences are working in the United States, according to an initial estimate done by Tech-Bangla, a non-profit charitable organisation based in Georgia.

RAJSHAHI, Apr 5: The date

Election of students' repre-

Meanwhile, some student

They also demanded that the

of Rajshahi University Central

Student's Union (RUCSU) polls

sentatives in the Senate will

also be held on the same day.

organisations demanded read-

mission of old students who in-

tend to continue further studies.

date of admission of new stu-

dents be fixed beyond the elec-

tion date and that all examina-

tions scheduled to be held 15

days before and after the elec-

Awami League-backed

Bangladesh Chattra League

(BCL) and BNP-backed Jatiy-

atabadi Chattra Dal (JCD)

raised the demands, the sources

date, two student organisations

- Jatiya Chhatra Samaj and

Jamaat-e-Islami-backed Islami

Chhatra Shibir — have called a

She said the government has

destroyed all democratic and

established institutions in a

pre-planned way to make

Bangladesh a vassal state of a

foreign country. The economy

is now in its worst state. "The

Awami League octopus has

grabbed the economy of

Bangladesh. The AL leaders are

now sucking the blood of the

countrymen. They have started

to reintroduce BKSAL through

sucking the blood and wealth of

Kagoj, she said people of Gopal-

ganj, the prime minister's

home district, are even passing

their days without food and in

serious hardship. If PM's home

town is stricken by poverty and

lawlessness, then think about

other areas of the country,

tivists of the ruling party have

started grabbing lands of other

people. They have even started

grabbing lands in Gulshan and

Dhanmandi lakes and a temple

at Narayanganj. There are also

reports of land grabbing from

activists have set a record of

murder, dacoity, mugging,

snatching, toll extortion and

all sorts of criminal activities

in last three years. The extor-

tionists of AL even collected toll

from 1 yers and traders of sac-

rincia. nimals during the Eid-

ernment didn't take any step

when all transport operators

stopped using Jamuna Bridge

due to extortion. "They have

given extortion and snatching

her 82-minute speech also

spoke about the law and order.

electricity crisis, repression on

women and violence on the

had removed former energy

minister Noor Uddin Khan for

his alleged failure to bring

normalcy in the power genera-

tion. She took herself the

She said the prime minister

The opposition leader during

an institutional shape."

The BNP chief said the gov-

Khaleda said the AL and its

different parts of the country.

She alleged leaders and ac-

Khaleda Jaid.

ul-Azha.

campus.

Quoting Sunday's Ajker

run the state affairs.

Protesting the shifting of the

has been shifted to May 20.

campus sources said.

tion be postponed.

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

"It is just not possible to survive in the stiffly competitive global market by begging, borrowing and buying backdated technologies. Bangladesh must develop its own modern technology base." said Dr Shaikh Mizan, the chief co-ordinator of the convention.

Mizan, a doctorate of Biochemical genetics at the University of Georgia (JGA), told this correspondent in Atlanta about his plans to open Bangladesh chapter of Tech-Bangla after the convention.

Mizan, here for last eight years, is wrapping up his life in America to go back to Bangladesh and establish a non-profit organisation there to work for technology transfer. Tech-Bangla will also work to build a chain between technologists and potential entrepreneurs so that they come forward to invest.

day-long strike tomorrow on

and demanded polls on the ear-

re-open tomorrow after a 12-

JCD and Shibir today held ral-

Hossain, an Executive Commit-

tee member of RU BCL com-

mented, "RUCSU elections is a

headache of the university au-

thorities, so they will decide

when and how the elections

The polls date has been re-

fixed to remove certain compli-

cacies relating to rules and pro-

cedure and to ensure fair elec-

charge of the energy ministry

about a year back, but the power

generation has further deterio-

rated since she took over the

can be removed for failure, then

why will the prime minister not

step down as she also has mis-

erable failed to improve the

power situation," Khaleda said.

Basically, the prime minister

has different reasons for taking

over the charge of the min-

istry...may be for leasing out

prime minister and her gov-

Presided over by JCD presi-

dent Habibunnabi Khan Sohel,

the function was addressed,

among others, by Oli Ahmed

MP, Khandaker Mosharraf

Hossain MP, Moudud Ahmed,

Amanullah Aman MP and JCD

general secretary Nasiruddin

Govt has failed

to run country,

BNP meet told

By Staff Correspondent

its different front organisa-

tions yesterday said that the

present government had com-pletely failed to run the country

and asked the government to

resign immediately and hand

over of power to a neutral care-

with party secretary general

Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in the

chair, the meeting termed the

ruling Awami League

"incompetent and a total fail-

eral, presidents and general

secretaries of front organisa-

tions, city BNP convenor and

joint convenors attended the

BNP joint secretaries gen-

Held at BNP central office

taker government.

A joint meeting of BNP and

failures and incompetence.

the gas blocks.

Ahmed Pintu.

"If the minister concerned

lies in support of the strike.

lier fixed date of April 22.

They termed it 'a conspiracy

The university is schedule to

JCD supported the strike.

On the other hand, Anwar

RUCSU polls now on May 20

Shibir calls strike

today, JCD backs

From Our Correspondent

the campus.

day vacation.

would be held."

tions, he said.

Khaleda tells JCD

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 transfer-

ring technology to Bangladesh. The idea is Tech-Bangla would carry out studies to find specific projects which have a ready market in Bangladesh and abroad and would ask investors to implement those pro-

"Investors at home (Bangladesh) and abroad will implement the projects, because those will be cost-effective. more productive and will replace existing technology," said Dr Rouf Mian of the UGA, who is an advisor to the Tech-

Rouf is working on Plant Breeding and Molecular Biology. "which might implicate greatly on Bangladesh's agricultural development if specific project could be taken."

Meherpur-1 polls AL invites

nomination

(AL)) has invited nomination from the intending candidates to contest the Meherpur-1 by-

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.

for one

Sports Reporter Vice-Chancellor Prof Abdul Khaleque viewed that consensus of all student organizations was a must for free and fair Antigua Test yesterday.

> Curtly Ambrose captured his 367th wicket — trapping opener Greg Blewett for seven. Michael Slater was unbeaten

Earlier, the home side added further 25 runs to their overnight first innings total of

Kaptai Lake

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

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 BNP chief demanded immediate resignation of the ernment as she and her cabinet members have shown limitless tional Grid for distribution outside Chittagong, they said.

Industrial policy From page 1

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.

ing 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.

be given for the growth of agrobased industries in the country. The industrial policy has given topmost priority to export-oriented and backward-linkage industries.

has decided to increase the institutional supports for rapid industrialisation and planned growth of this sector. The Cabinet in the meeting

also endorsed the proposed Bangladesh-Italy, Science and Technology Cooperation Agreement and amendment to "The Negotiable Instruments

Ministers and state minis-

JS tidbits

The Baily Star.

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 top-

Angered by the BNP MPs' remarks, minister Kibria questioned their tastes and termed their allegations as a 'play of broken records'. "People listening to the opposition lawmak-ers would be ashamed of their tastes and cultural standard... Abuses come only when there is no logic and substantive speech", he commented.

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.

Some BNP lawmakers wondered as Akhtaruzzaman was given the floor shortly after he attended the day's business. "It's a coincidence," the BNP lawmaker said and quickly charged Hamid for not allowing him to speak even for once during the current session. "That's why I've allowed you

today as soon as I saw you," retorted a witty Deputy Speaker. Akhtaruzzaman: So kind of you. Had the PM been as kind as

you have been, it could have brought much benefits for the Deputy Speaker: But similar kindness from her may make

At this, the prime minister interrupted, saying it was a "Kishoreganj- Kishoreganj tie". Turning to his notice on a matter relating to the agricul-

ture ministry. Akhtaruzzaman

then regretted that the relevant minister was absent. "The minister is very much in the House. Look carefully all around before saying anything like that," the Deputy Speaker advised the BNP MP.

Agriculture minister Matia Choudhury was then sitting on another minister's chair, adjacent to that of forest minister Sajeda Choudhury. "I could not see her as she was hiding behind the jungle minister," a puzzled Akhtaruzzaman said.

Petrobangla From page 1

hanced budge. Cairn had enhanced the budget for Sangu's development to 264 million US dollars from 178 million dollars without Petrobangla's ap-

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 Petrobanglafixed royalty for use of the

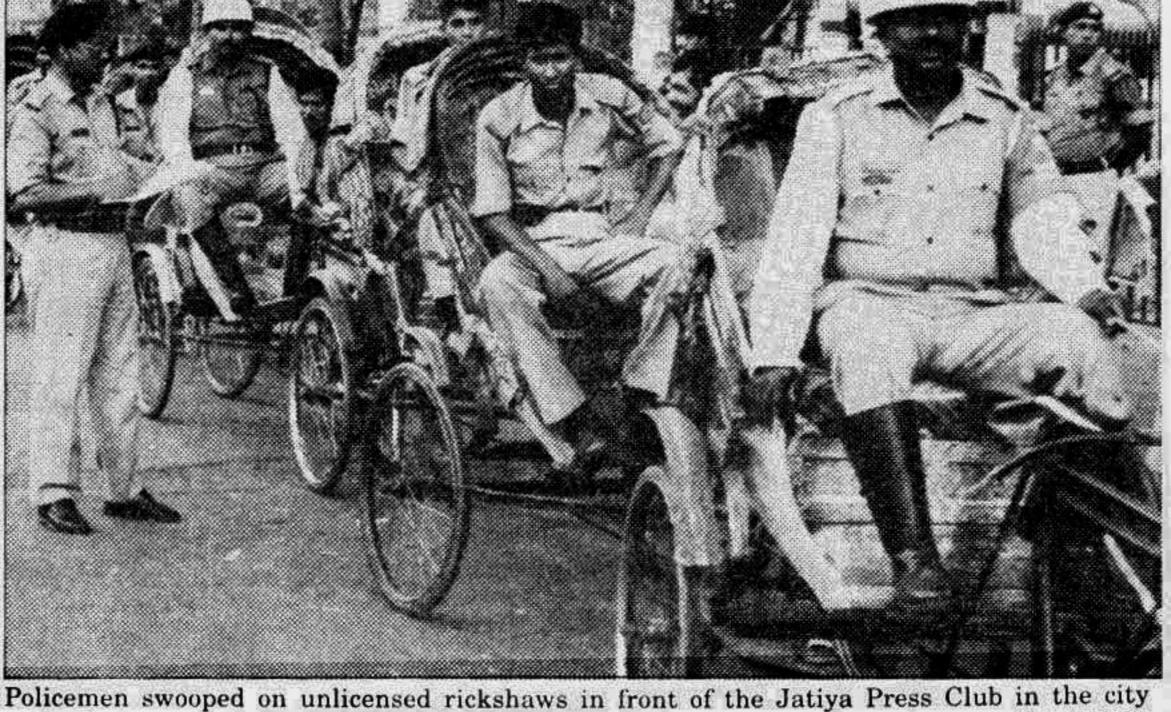
Manpower training issues. 4. Cairn's purchase of shares of Holland Sea Search. Although Cairn and Holland Sea Search jointly signed PSCs with the government, Cairn took over Holland Sea Search without informing the government. This issue created a legal crisis in the PSC. 5. Transfer of operation to

Thana attacked From page 1 7:15 in the evening.

At one stage, the angry protesters stormed into the police station and pulled down the boundary walls 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 Mur-

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



- Star photo 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 Lamen 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

From page 1

four Inspectors, nine Sub-in-

spectors, several constables,

drivers and canteen boys of

The decomposed body of

Meantime, the general diary

Jalal Ahmed Shafi was found

off March 25 and it was identi-

lodged by Abbas, son of Shafi,

with Ramna thana was sent to

the CMM's court to add it as a

FIR of the case, sources in the

that have isolated Libya from the West for the past seven years. With the suspects' arrival, those sanctions were automatically suspended. Their handover came after

led to United Nations sanctions

intense lobbying by South African President Nelson Mandela and Saudi Arabian and UN officials. Libya had promised last month to turn over the men by Tuesday. Accompanied by UN legal

chief Hans Corell, who witnessed the handover in the Libyan capital. Tripoli, the pair arrived at the Valkenburg military airport in The Hague. They DB investigation

ments so that it does not go

against the DB office", the

Arju Miah had earlier con-

fessed 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

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 in-

interrogate AC of DB Humayun

Kabir who recently joined Chit-

tagong Metropolitan Police af-

ter working in DB Office at

Mintoo Road for about 6 years.

He is being notified to appear

down the investigation, the De-

tective Branch is passing

through bad days. Every DB

man is suspecting each other.

circulated a leaflet gratifying

the Detective Branch and accus-

ing a vested quarter for destroy-

ing its image. It also criticised

the officials investigating the

the role of DC of DB Altaf Hos-

who was interrogated more

than once by CID told UNB last

night that he did not know

GD with Ramna police saying

that Inspector Zia and SI Arzoo

produces dioxin, one of the

Jalal's son Abbas had filed

Jalal and never saw him.

The leaflet highly praised

DB Inspector Ziaul Ahasan

killing of Jalal Ahmed Shafi.

Clandestine sources have

With information trickling

before the investigators.

UNB adds: CID is likely to

Munshigang district.

Mentionably, Sub-inspector

source said.

terrogation.

sources said.

sain Mollah.

or in the port city of Rotterdam pending proceedings to extradite them to British custody in the Netherlands. Corell was to hold a news conference in Rotterdam later Monday. Dutch authorities said the

were to be held in a prison there

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 secu-

Rajshahi lawyers to boycott

courts Apr 7 From Our Correspondent RAJSHAHI, Apr 5: Members of Rajshahi Bar Association

will boycott courts on April 7. The decision was taken yesterday at a general meeting of the Bar Association.

The lawyers demanded administrative action against the Thana Nirbahi Officer (TNO) and Officer-in-Charge (OC) of Durgapur thana for their alleged involvement in attack by miscreants on the meeting of advocate Kabir Hossain MP and advocate Nadim Mostofa MP.

They urged the authorities to form a probe committee under a judge of the High Court and called for punishment to the attackers.

Chhatak From page 1 critical injury.

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

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 Bazlur Rahman may also visit the place of occurrence and the district headquarters some time this month, he added. No further details were available.

BUET students

From page 1 procedure. The university chancellor took the responsibility of executing the said deci-

The BUET students declared the Architecture Department as 'an autonomous institute' under the total authority of the

teachers over its activities. The said agreement had been reached last year following students' agitation and teachers' resignation protesting the new admission procedure in the Ar-

chitecture Department. Earlier, the students submitted a memorandum to the Chancellor and Vice Chancellor for realisation of their de-

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

Rotten rice

From page 1

'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 Nopaka. M V Khalid and M V Jan.

8 held in Atrai

thana Awami League president Advocate Siddiqur Rahman Raja and Sramik League leader Arun Kumar Sarker, reports

Huq, Suruj, Azaharul, Mofiz, Emran, Anwar, Babu and

JS: Kibria

They criticised the government for not punishing the people involved in the share scandal that rendered pauper mil-

ring to the devaluation of the Taka 16 times and the 13.5 per cent rate of inflation, said the banking sector was running without money.

He claimed that the economy was stable and discipline re-

stored in the banking sector following legal and administrative steps taken by the present government. Responding to the "wild criticisms," Kibria said the opposi-

done during the BNP rule by ex-

standing loans is satisfactory. The Finance Minister said that despite last year's severe flooding, the economy remained stable and investment was increasing. The GDP growth is also expected to be posi-

Kibria said transparency in share market would be ensured and investors' money protected with the introduction of the de-

Depository Bill, 1999 by voice vote rejecting the amendments brought by the opposition.

From page 1

DCC earns nearly Tk 100 crore annually from holding tax. The on-going drive comes at a time when the corporation

wanted in the eyes of law," said an on-duty police officer at the

Dhanmondi Lake

Road-28 near the Kabi Bhaban.

Apparently the building has en-

ferent modern housing complexes and from several illegal structures along the lake. A huge makeshift shed house about a dozen foreign-bred cows that dumps its wastes into the

25 have built their residential quarters without any permission from the authorities. Their wastes also flow into the lake. Nearby, several households have built concrete soak wells (septic tank) on the public land. DCC officials monitoring

Dhanmondi lake development project said they had served written notices on each and every household to relocate their waste lines but nobody cared. "All these people living here are so influential that at our level we do not have anything else to

A site engineer said that before parting on Eid holidays his

"But after we got back from holidays we found this part filled with water again. Now we have to start from zero," the engineer said.

pointed out that a latrine line at the extreme end of Road 15A was discharging wastes into the lake area, he pleaded ignorance and said he would immediately cut off the line.

DCC officials said many encroachers were now officially buying up the encroached area to legalise their unlawful act.

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

meeting

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Bangladesh Awami League

election, reports BSS. The nomination papers will

Australia 22

Australia, 81 ahead, were 22 for one in their second innings at lunch on the third day of the

West Indian fast bowler

on 11 and No 3 Justin Langer

had made three.

From page 1

Without complete shut down

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 Na-

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

It also emphasises increas-

Special incentives will also

In the policy the government

ters of different ministries. Cabinet Secretary, principal secretary to the PM's Office and secretaries concerned were pre-

A senior official of CID told this correspondent that they

BDB office.

fied on March 31.

were planning to interrogate some senior DB officials in connection with the incident. They may be held responsible for suppressing information, he said. When contacted, a legal ex-

pert pointed out that the incident involving the DB was very interesting. "This is a case in which investigators, informants and suspects are members of the police force. In these circumstances one has to advance in a very careful and organised manner."

When asked if any permission from top officials was 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 tremen-

used to maintain contacts with dous pressure to restrict statehis father. Hazardous saline, blood bags

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

Phthalates, chemically known as di-2-ethylhexyl-phthalate (DEHP), is "highly toxic", the research findings In Bangladesh a large number of medical products are made with DEHP chemicals,

tries glass bottles are used to infuse solutions, saline and blood. The Daily Star conducted an investigation following an email to this correspondent by the Health Care Without Harm, a Washington based organisation that campaigns for environmentally sound health care.

exposing a large segment of the

population to threats of toxic

materials. In developed coun-

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 PVČ) is a hard plastic that re-

quires chemicals called phtha-

lates or DEHP for pliability.

DEHP which is mixed with the

PVC leaches from the bags, gets

There has been no research

mixed with the fluid and is infused into the body of patients. When asked through an email, Dr Michael McCally Professor of Community and Pre-

ventive Medicine at Mount Sinai School of Medicine, New York said, "Studies on DEHP warn about its toxic effects which include damage to the heart, liver, kidneys, lung, and tests of laboratory animals. Various toxic effects of DEHP exposure have also been observed in studies of primates, premature infants, and adult dialysis patients." The US Environmental Pro-

tection Agency (EPA) labels DEHP as a probable human carcinogen, which causes can-Manufacturers of medical products in the US also admit that DEHP can leach out of

vinyl IV bags into the solutions.

Effects of DEHP on fertility

have however not yet been studied. The research findings particularly cautioned against use of vinyl IV bags in treating pregnant women and children who are most vulnerable to the harmful affects of the chemical.

The hazards of DEHP were recognized as early as in 1986 when the Consumer Product Safety Commission in the US asked toy making industries to remove DEHP from children's teethers because of its toxicity and its ability to leach through saliva into children's digestive

The dangers posed by vinyl medical products do not end with their use in treatment of patients. Disposing of these materials through incineration

most toxic substances known to scientists as a "human carcinogen", because of the high chlorine content in vinyl. Professor Peter Orris, Director of Research at Great Lakes Center for Occupational and

contacted through an e-mail. He explained, "Besides the environmental hazard caused by the disposal of PVC plastic. the US Environmental Protection Agency considers DEHP, a leachate from PVC IV bags, a probable human carcinogen and we know that it is an endocrine disrupting chemical as

Environmental Safety and

Health, University of Illinois

School of Public Health was

But there is a good news. Alternatives to vinyl medical products are available now. Polyolefin IV bags, approved by the US Food and Drug Administration, do not contain DEHP, or create dioxin when incinerated, according to the Health Care Without Harm. Some 20 percent of IV bag producers have now switched over to Polyolefin IV bags, it said.

"Therefore, as alternatives do exist, it would be wise to switch away from PVC to a less toxic plastic in saline and blood bags". Prof Orris said. When contacted through fax, the Dutch manufacturer -

Solvay Draka - confirmed supplying plastic sheets to Bangladesh but declined to give

killings so far

NAOGAON, Apr 5: Police so far arrested eight people for their alleged involvement in the March 30 murder of Atrai

The arrested are: Mozammel

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 Lalu murder case. Lalu, a Jubo League leader, was killed at Atrai last year.

From page 1

ter for his "failure" to revamp the economy.

lions of people in 1997. The opposition MPs, refer-

Refuting the allegation, the Finance Minister said the BNP members were playing the "broken records" time and again to confuse the people.

tion was resorting to "irrelevance and nonsense" as they could not plunder money from the banking sector as they had

erting political influence. He said looting and plundering of bank loans have been stopped and realisation of out-

tive, he added.

pository system. The House later passed the

DCC warrants

is in critical financial crisis. When contacted, Dhanmondi thana police said, defaulting in payment of holding tax is not a "serious crime". "After receiving the warrants we go to the defaulter's address and ask him politely to go to the DCC court and secure a 'recall' which means the person is no longer

thana.

From page 1

croached upon half the lake. About 50 sewer lines are flowing into the lake from dif-

At one corner, employees of the DESA sub-station at Road-

do," said a DCC official.

men had pumped out all the water from that part of the lake for excavation. "We had a feeling that the residents would relocate their waste line because they are the people who would benefit from the project," he

When a developer was