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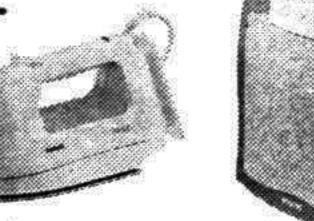
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Steam Iron

Nightmare buried, bright future waits

They are dubbed the miracle boys, for they have come back alive. Misery awaited them in the desert when they were res-

Arif, Shahjalal, Rubel, Amjad, Jahangir, Rajab Ali, Manik, Selim, Shafiq, Hossain, Sharif and Momenul came back to Dhaka on October 19, 1995. Local media were in a frenzy, lines after lines dedicated to the great escape.

The euphoria did not last long, though. After a few days, people con-

Happy faces

Looking forward to a bright future.

The communications min-

istry has contracted a foreign

company for conducting pre-

feasibility study of the proposed

Padma bridge allegedly violat-

ing rules which say such con-

through open bidding.

clear violation of rules.

tract should be awarded

local and foreign, recently

made a written complaint to the

communications minister and

demanded cancellation of the

contract, arguing that it was a

the British-Dutch company

RPT Nedeco has been given the

Jatka fish

ficers are managed with money

at every stage -- from catching

places right up to the distribu-

tion centres," said Abu Taher, a

admitted that legal action is

seldom taken against trading of

jatka. He, however, explained

that the fisheries department

officials could not take prompt

action against the illegal prac-

tice due to the complicated and

time-consuming process of

per cent of the total world hilsa

resource, could increase its an-

nual production of the tasty sil-

ver fish by 0.1-0.15 million

tons worth about Taka 5,000-

6,000 million if the jatka fish-

ing is stopped, according to a

report of the Bangladesh Fish-

eries Research Institute (BFRI).

jatka is caught every year from

their two biggest estuaries --

from Shatnol to Hajimara via

Neel Komol in Chadpur and

from Dublar Char in Khulna to

says the BFRI report, could help

the country earn a further 200-

Prayer Timings

April 23

Azan

12-45

4-45

7-30

Source: Islamic Foundation

4-30

Fair

Jumma

সি-৩১৫

Maghrib 6-25

Jamaat

4-35

1-20

4-55

6-30

300 crore Taka from hilsa ex-

Prevention of jatka catches,

Kuakata in Patuakhali.

Nearly 3,456 metric tons of

Bangladesh, the source of 75

dealing with the issue.

A fisheries ministry official

wholesaler at Swarighat.

From page 1

"Police and government of-

The ministry officials say,

Aspiring consultants, both

veniently forgot them. Arif was only in class II when his father decided to send him abroad to work. Amjad, Shahjalal, Rubel, Selim, Manik, Jahangir, Rajab Ali and others were even younger. The destination was the Gulf where, their parents were convinced,

The little boys were smuggled into India by road. Calcutta was the first stop, then New Delhi and finally Bombay. Only Arif can recall the details of

things went terribly wrong at the Bombay airport. The 'guardians', who had claimed to be the parents of the little kids, were arrested. The terrified lot was kept in a temporary shelter. What followed was a shameful episode. They were almost forgotten. After a while they were sent to a children homes where they forgot Bengali, learnt Hindi, and prepared themselves for a life on charity

Thackray found out accidentally about them. He contacted the local SOS Children's Village to ask whether they could be of any help to these 12 Bangladeshi boys stuck in Bombay. SOS Children's Village, an Austria-based organi-sation which looks after destitute children, took these boys under their wings and sent them back to Dhaka to the local SOS Children's authorities. Thus, after a six-year sojourn, the boys returned home.

SOS put them up in the Youth Village in Mirpur 13 and launched an immediate search for their families. All except Rubel's family was traced out. Only Jahangir's parents took him back while others wanted them to stay on at SOS as they felt they couldn't offer anything

The boys were sent out to different projects of SOS in Chittagong, Khulna, Bogra and Rajshahi. Only four remained at the Dhaka Youth Village. Today they are well settled at the village. Life is secured and future looks bright.

Arif, now in class seven, still detail unlike the others who have already forgotten the nightmare. The 14-year old is brilliant in his studies and cricketer when he grows up. He is not disillusioned and has

When contacted, Secretary of

Janiuna Bridge Division AK

Abdul Mubin said, rules were

not violated in awarding the

given the work by making an

amendment to the earlier con-

tract for the Jamuna Bridge," he

said. The company is experi-

enced in bridge construction

and soil formation and knows

the geographical scenario of

Bangladesh well'as it was in-

volved in the Bangabandhu

Jamuna Bridge since 1982. The

company will do the work at a

said a senior EPB official.

Some traders having one or

two genuine garment factory

open another one only for get-

ting allotment from reserved

quota. On the other hand, some

traders who do not own gar-

ments factory submit fictitious

documents of garments licence

and bonded warehouse facility.

lakhs of takas every year by

selling those 'free quota'.

A trader can earn several

The EPB cancelled licence of

319 such garments factories

over the last two years and is

now making a fresh list of fac-

tories which provided false

documents for getting free

quota allotment. While inves-

tigating, EPB officials did not

even find any existence of some

The US and Canadian gov-

Bangladesh will be allowed

to export more than 3.5 crore

dozen pieces of apparels to the

US and Canada this year under

21 and 10 quota categories re-

spectively. Of the total, five per

cent remains reserved for new

exporters and rest is utilised by

ernments give quota facility ev-

ery year for garments export

of those factories.

from Bangladesh.

the regular exporters.

"The company has been

contract.

forgiven his parents for their mistake. He hopes to do great

things in life. Shahjalal is in class IV and wants to be a painter. The walls in his room at SOS Youth Village is adorned with his masterpieces.

Rubel still believes that life was far more interesting when he was in Bombay. He loves to act, play the tabla and wants to be an actor when he grows up. Amjad, the youngest one with large dreamy eyes, is too shy to mumble more than a few words. But his face which breaks into broad grin every now and then tells one that he is not at all unhappy.

These boys have a clear fu ture chartered out before them. SOS looks after all its children as its very own. They get the best of education. Other residents of the SOS family have made their way up the ladder one is doctor, another a major in the army, some are studying abroad for higher degrees.

The other boys sent out to other SOS villages are probably just as happy. But what about Jahangir who was taken back by his parents? Is he still alive? Or have his parents packed him off to some other place for a fistful of money? What happens to the other boys who were not lucky enough to have been adopted by SOS villages? How are they today?

No-one wants to know. The questions go unanswered.

Violence, blasts mark BNP demonstration

Bomb blasts, damage of motor vehicles and firing of teargas shells marked the Opposition's electricity office gherao programme in the city yester-

Police fired at least four tear gas shells and dispersed a BNP procession when the processionists, on their way to gherao the PDB office at the WAPDA building, tried to break a barbed wire road barricade near the Jiban Bima Bhaban at about 12:20 pm.

Over a dozen crackers were exploded and the processionists, coming from near the Notredame College under the leadership of some front ranking party leaders after a rally. disappeared within minutes.

Some BNP activists threw brickbats at vehicles, while fleeing. Traffic movement was halted for some time. There was no report of any injury in the

Senior BNP leaders, including General Secretary Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, MP, Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain, MP, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Mirza Abbas and Sadek Hossain Khoka, MP participated in the procession.

BNP later alleged that activists of ruling Awami League

exploded the bombs and accused police of obstructing their peaceful demonstration. Huge contingents of riot po-

lice and BDR were deployed earlier near the WAPDA building at Motijheel commercial area in the city as part of the government's special security measures in all power generation

The Sonali Bank has filed

cases against five companies of

Saleh Group of Industries with

the Bankruptcy Court, Chit-

crore overdue loans, sources in

to file cases against two other

companies in Dhaka and

Narayanganj as they failed to

pay Tk 65.16 crore loans lying

Textile Industries and Ahmed

Group were filed against its

Managing Director Rezaul

Karim Chowdhury and direc-

The two companies are Lina

The cases concerning Saleh

The cases were filed by the

the bank said.

port city recently.

outstanding for long.

Jutex Mills Limited.

tors of the companies.

By Staff Correspondent units and electricity offices across the country in view of the oppositions countrywide

gherao programme protesting persistent power crisis. Normalcy returned at Motijheel within 10 to 15 minutes of the incident A Jamaat-e-Islami procession led by ATM Azharul Islmam reached there at about 12:35 on its way to gherao the PDB office at the WAPDA build-

Stopped by police, they sat on the street and staged a demonstration for about 15 minutes. During Jamaat's demon-

stration, more than 100 BNP activists led by Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Mirza Abbas, Sadek Hossain Khoka and Anwar Zahid regrouped, came in a procession at about 12:40 and staged a demonstration in front of Bangladesh Bank. An Islami Oikkya Jote pro-

cession led by Fazlul Haq Amini and ARM Abdul Matin reached there at about 12:45 pm. Being obstructed by police from proceeding towards the WAPDA building, they staged a demonstration there.

A Jatiya Party procession started from near the Brothers' Club at Gopibagh but it was halted by police near the Madhumita Cinema Hall. A cocktail was also exploded at about 12:20 pm while JP workers were demonstrating there.

Earlier, addressing the BNP rally in front of the Notredame College, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan alleged that foreign investors who had signed agreements during the BNP government to set up power plants,

Saleh companies sued

Sonali goes to Bankruptcy Court for Tk 95.39 cr

left the country after the Awami League government announced a plan to import power from In-

Bhuiyan said the government which cannot ensure supply of water and electricity and security of life has no right to stay in power. He demanded immediate resignation of the government and announcement of a mid-term election.

Former energy minister Dr Khandaker Mosharraf Hossain also addressed the rally.

UNB adds: At least 20 people including a policeman were injured in a chase and counter chase between opposition activists and police during its gherao of PDB office at Agrabad in Chittagong yesterday. Witnesses said the trouble

ensued when police intercepted a joint procession of BNP. Jatiya Party and Jamaat in the area at about 11 am. To disperse the procession-

ists, police charged baton and lobbed tear gas shells. The unruly opposition activists also hurled crackers at

the police. The three parties will hold a joint public meeting at Laldighi Maidan on April 29.

The BNP-led opposition gheraoed the local power office at Sherpur. They gheraoed the office for an hour from 11:30 am and

submitted a memorandum to

the PDB resident engineer. They also held a rally in frent of the PDB office and criticised the government for its failure to solve the country's power crisis.

By Muneera Parbeen Arif remembers as Baba Shaheb

'gold litter the roads'.

their 'journey'. Fortunately,

contract worth around Tk five

crore without any open bidding

tants say, it is "merely an ex-

cuse" and not a tenable argu-

one of the consultants said, he

fears that no other company

will "get any work later in a fair

way" since a particular com-

pany has already been "blessed"

with a contract without any

of a fair deal and encourage

nepotism" in future, he said.

"It will diminish the chances

Using forged documents that

they own garments factories, a

section of unscrupulous traders

get quota allotment reserved for

Sources at the Export Pro-

potential exporters every year.

motion Bureau (EPB) said they

also manipulate with bonded

warehouse facility that is a

must for getting the quota al-

quota among the exporters. EPB

sources said after getting the al-

lotment from reserved quota

called 'free quota', the traders

"They earn a huge amount of

sell it to the genuine exporters.

up the economic, physical, so-

cial and legal infrastructures in

the country. Hasina said her

government's fiscal and mone-

tary policies and stable macro-

economic framework have been

t's special focus on infrastruc-

ture development through pri-

vate sector participation,

Hasina said a number of policy

initiatives have been intro-

duced, including Build, Operate

and Own (BOO), Build, Operate

Operate, Own and Transfer

(BOOT) models in the areas of

power generation, gas explo-

ration and toll-highways in-

cluding in bridge, parks. EPZs

and Transfer (BOT), and Build,

Mentioning her governmen-

praised by all.

EPB distributes garment

lotment

open bidding.

But the aggrieved consul-

Talking to The Daily Star.

because of time constraint.

They would have remained there if not a local elite whom

Star photo: Zahidul I Khan

By Gobinda Bar

started the pre-feasibility study on the banks of the Padma and

on the Dhaka-Mawa road. It is

expected to complete the pre-

liminary study in next two

The pre-feasibility study in-

volves study on the form of the

soil, site selection, technical

and financial viability and

possibility of setting up of gas

and rail lines on the proposed

bridge which will connect the

capital with the southern and

western regions and reduce the

Quota forgery goes on

By Rafiq Hasan

money every year through this

process as government allowed

transfer of export quota," one

involved in the quota misap-

propriation process," the source

As many as 2,500 applica-

tions were submitted for allot-

ment from reserved quota this

year. The EPB is now scrutinis-

ing the applications for free

quota disbursement. The regu-

lar quota has been distributed

tributed within a few weeks,

The free quota would be dis-

Hasina said some of the in-

centives offered to the foreign

investors in Bangladesh in-

clude no restriction in equity

participation, non-discrimina-

tion in treatment in respect of

facilities and incentives to both

local and foreign investors, no

foreign-owned or joint venture

enterprises to purchase land in

Bangladesh for the operation of

industries, private Export Pro-

cessing Zones, and issuance of

multiple entry visas to the for-

Corporation, the World Bank

and ANZ-Grindlays hosted the

Investors' Forum meeting in the

French capital, following the

April 19-20 Bangladesh Devel-

The International Finance

eign investors.

opment Forum.

restriction for the 100 per cent

"Some EPB officials are also

travel distance drastically.

months.

source said.

in February.

PM's another shot

RPT Nedeco has already

better to their wards.

remembers everything in vivid wants to be a professional

Foul play alleged in Padma bridge study

lower cost. The expenditure

would have been much higher

had a new company been given

the contract through a new bidding, he said. "The formalities for floating a new contract would have delayed the work significantly,"

Mubin said. "The feasibility study was a very nominal work in the perspective of the proposed bridge. It is to be done to prepare a document for presenting a project proposal to the donors before discussing with them partnership for constructing the bridge," he added.

Shazneen murder trial **Proceedings**

adjourned till **May 16**

By Staff Correspondent

The First Additional Metropolitan Sessions Judge's Court yesterday adjourned the proceedings of Shazneen murder case till May 16.

Exactly a year ago, Shazneen Tasnim Rahman, 15, youngest daughter of leading industrialist Latifur Rahman, was raped and murdered at their Gulshan residence. A murder case and another case under the Woman and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995 was filed with Gulshan thana regarding the brutal killing.

The Judge, AK Roy, passed the adjournment order after Mosharraf Hossain Kajal, lawyer for maids Parveen and Minu, filed a time prayer before the court yesterday. Earlier on April 13, Kajal

filed a criminal appeal with the High Court regarding framing of charges in the Special Court for Women and Children Repression, Dhaka in the Shazneen rape case.

The proceedings of the rape case are continuing in the Special Court.

By Rafiq Hasan

The five companies and the amount of overdue loans are: M/s Zarina Carpet Mills Ltd--Tk 23.12 crore, Saleh Zarina tagong, to recover Tk 95.39 . Ltd--Tk 6.79 crore, Saleh Jute Industries-Ltd -- Tk 22.38 crore, Saleh carpet Mills Ltd--Tk 35.52 crore and Zarina Gar-

bank's Agrabad Branch in the ments Ltd-- Tk 7.58 crore. The loans remained classi-The bank is also preparing fied for long.

On the other hand, the bank has sent relevant papers to its lawyers for filing cases against Gias Uddin Ahmed and his associates of Ahmed Jutex Mills Ltd at 210 Deobhogh Pucca

Road, Narayangnj. The mills' overdue loans stood at Tk 33.94 crore. The other case will be filed against Lina Textile's manag-

ing director Lutfur Rahman

more time to pay the loans. But the bank is not considering it because the company had been given enough time, bank offi-

> The bank decided to file cases against those companies as they did not pay the loans even after getting notices sev-

Khan and other directors for re-

The management of Lina

covering Tk 31.22 crore Loans.

Textile, however, has sought

eral times, the mentioned. The officials, however, think that it is very difficult to

recover money by filing cases with bankruptcy courts.

More cases will be filed to recover the bank's classified loans, which stood at Tk 4,711 crore at the end of last year,

Two killed, 150 hurt

Police, tribesmen clash at Khagrachhari

KHAGRACHHARI, Apr 22: At least two people were killed and 150 others injured in a clash between police and anti-peace accord tribesmen in southeast-

ern hill town of Khagrachhari Trouble also broke out at Dighinala and Lakkhichari. The dead were identified as

Pratul Chakma, 19, and Suromoni Chakma, 21. They died when police opened fire to disperse a mob at zero point and stadium area, witnesses and police said.

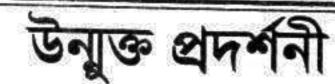
Ten of the critically injured were shifted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital. Ten policemen including ASPs Abdul Mannan and Devdas BhatFrom Our Correspondent

tacharya were also injured in the clash. Police arrested 37 people from Khagrachhari and Lakkhichari areas. Clashes also broke out at Dighinala and Lakkhichari between Pahari Gano Parishad (PGP) and Hill Women Federation (HWF) and their opponents belonging to Parbattya Chattagram Jana Sanghati Samity (PCJSS) and

police. A mob tried to attack the Lakkhichhari thana to free the detainees, police said.

The tribesmen led by PGP and HWF clashed with police in different parts of the town protesting prohibition on their rally at upazila maidan. They announced to hold the rally on the occasion of their second council.

Former DSE chief indicted



বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ (সাইন্স ল্যাবরেটরী), ঢাকা ২৫-২৬ শে এপ্রিল, ১৯৯৯

সকাল ১০-০০ টা থেকে বিকাল ৫-০০ টা

উভয় দিন বাংলাদেশ বিজ্ঞান ও শিল্প গবেষণা পরিষদ (সাইন্স ল্যাবরেটরী), ঢাকা গবেষণাগারসমূহ জনসাধারণের জন্য উন্মুক্ত থাকবে।

আপনি আমন্ত্ৰিত

২৫শে এপ্রিল সকাল ১০-০০ ঘটিকায় প্রদর্শনীর শুভ উদ্বোধন করবেন **লেঃ জেনারেল মোহাম্মদ নুরউদ্দিন খান** পিএসসি (অবঃ) এমপি মাননীয় মন্ত্রী, বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়।

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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ties and Exchange Ordinance 1969 against them. Appearing as HMMS lawyer, Mohsin Rashid said that the

petition of complaint was based on a report filed by the expert committee which itself said that there were dealings that adversely affected the share market and recommended further inquiry.

But despite recommendations there were no further inquiry and based on an omnibus report the cases were filed," Rashid said.

He said that the report said that they had formed a syndicate and traded shares. "So where is the offence? The law permits them to form a

company and trade in shares. Besides, it's their business. They can trade as much as they want. And there is no law that prohibits them from buying or selling shares.' He also said the Ordinance

dealing with cognisance of offence said that "no court shall take cognisance of an offence punishable under this Ordiance unless there is a report constituting the facts ... so where is the report constituting the facts. It only says that further investigation is needed," the lawyer said.

He also pointed out that nipulated the market. of contravention of the Securi- Mustaque Ahmed Sadeque, who had already resigned on June 6, 1996, was also accused of manipulating the market during the period of July-December,

> The clients were accused on the basis of a report, which failed to reveal any facts, he said, adding that there was no evidence against his clients and there was no prima facie case, and that they should be discharged.

Amir Hossain Raihan appearing as lawyer for Ahmed Iqbal Hassan said that his submission was similar to that of Mohsin Rashid and that his client was not a member of the HMMS so he should be discharged

Special Public Prosecutor Syed Hayder Ali said that the defence had read out a section of the report trying to say that there was no evidence. But the same report also

says, "they were convinced that a syndicate of a few members have been influencing the market by being both selling and buying under mutual understanding," he added. He said that the defence did

not see any facts or evidence

while the committee after in-

vestigation said that they were

convinced that they had ma-

This is the evidence before the court. The report itself."

"The committee did not just accuse them out at their own will. They scrutinised documents, interviewed people and after being satisfied they wrote that they were convinced that they had manipulated the market," Hayder Ali said.

He said that there were specific allegations of offences as regards the unsettled trades.

"When a trade remains unsettled, it becomes artificial trade which inflates share prices and influences others to purchase. And that is the offence punishable under Section 17 of the Ordinance.

After hearing both sides Judge Mollah Mustafa Kamal then read out charges against

"As you all, through a syndicate, traded shares of different companies among yourself, resorted imaginary trading by deceptive means making them appear real and active trading, induced purchases by others. And since you have unlawfully accepted orders and traded shares violating securities law, you are, therefore, charged with offences under Section 17 (e) (ii) (iii) and (v)."

The trial has been scheduled for June 9.

সম্মানিত বিদ্যুৎ গ্রাহকদের প্রতি বিশেষ অনুরোধ

সন্ধা ৬টা থেকে রাত ১১টা পর্যন্ত পিক-আওয়ারে বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে সংযমী হোন। এ সময়েঃ

ওয়েন্ডিং মেশিন, আবাসিক পানির পাম্প, হিটার, ইস্ত্রি ইত্যাদি বন্ধ রাখুন। আলোকসজ্জা পরিহার করুন। দোকান-পাট বন্ধ রাখুন।

সকল স্থীল মিল, আর্ক ফার্নেস এবং ইভাকশন ফার্নেস কেবলমাত্র রাত্র ১০টা থেকে ভোর ৬টা পর্যন্ত চালু রাখুন।

প্রয়োজনের অতিরিক্ত বাতি, ফ্যান, এয়ারকুলার ইত্যাদি বন্ধ রেখে বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন।

অবৈধ বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারকারীদের সংযোগ বিচ্ছিন হলে বৈধ ব্যবহারকারীদের লোডশেডিং হ্রাস পায়। অবৈধ বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারকারীদের বিরুদ্ধে সামাজিক প্রতিরোধ গড়ে তুলুন।



গ্রাহক সেবার মান উন্নয়নে প্রতিশ্রুতিবদ্ধ ঢাকা বিদ্যুৎ বিতরণ কর্তৃপক্ষ (ডেসা)