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2 killed, 100 hurt as tornado hits 18 villages in Kurigram

KURIGRAM, May 2: Tornado lashed 18 char villages on the Brahmaputra basin in Nageswari thana early today, leaving two people dead and more than 100 injured, reports APB.

The dead were identified as Hekmat Mistri, 42, of Shing-mari village, and Sonu Miah, 58, of Mollapara.

About 300 cattle were lost and some 4,000 houses damaged as the tornado hit the villages with a speed of about 120 km per hour, local people and officials said.

Standing crops on hundreds of acres of land were damaged.

The tornado rendered some 2,000 families homeless in the worst affected Kedar Boller Khas, Kalliganj and Nageswari Sadar union. They were reportedly living under open sky without food.

A number of schools and madrassahs and some local offices were damaged.

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Minister hands over 16 partymen to police

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 2: Health and Family Welfare Minister Salahuddin Yusuf has set an example of political neutrality by handing over 16 leaders and workers of Fultala Thana Awami League, Jubo League and Chhatra League to police Saturday night.

They were wanted in different cases and handed over to the law enforcers at a simple ceremony at the Khulna Circuit House, said police Super Ataul Gani.

The accused are: Rezaul Kabir, Aslam Khan, Mrinal Hazra, Abu Taher Ripon, Bidhu Bhuiyan, Nazimuddin Molla, Raushan Ali, Alamgir Molla, Maruf Molla, Bappi, Sahab Ali Bhuiyan, Shaheen Morol, Litu Bhuiyan, Saiful Morrol, Mok-sad Gazi and Bishnu.

BCL confce in Ctg attended by minister ends in pandemonium

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 2: A conference of the ruling party-backed Bangladesh Chhatra League (BCL) attended by a minister ended in a pandemonium amid gunfire at Fatikchhari Degree College maidan yesterday evening, police and witnesses said.

The minister was unhurt and he left the venue under heavy police escort.

Police said two rival groups in BCL traded gunfire in and around the conference venue while Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Mosharrar Hossain was addressing it at around 6 pm.

Police lobbed tear gas shells and chased the trouble-makers. Panicked people ran away from the meeting venue.

Police recovered a gun and

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Prayer Timings

May 3

Azan	4:30	Jamaat
Fajr	4:30	4:35
Zohr	12:45	1:30
Asr	4:45	4:55
Maghrib	6:30	6:33
Esha	7:45	8:00

Source: Islamic Foundation

JP (Mizan-Manju) also to boycott Meherpur-1 polls now a ruling party show

By Nurul Kabir

The by-election in Meherpur-1 constituency of the Jatiya Sangsad due to be held tomorrow is virtually going to be a ruling party show.

The major opposition parties—BNP, Jatiya Party led by former president H M Ershad and Jamaat-e-Islami—had decided to boycott the by-polls much earlier.

Besides, Jatiya Party led by Sheikh Hasina's cabinet Anwar Hossain Monju decided yesterday not to take part in the polls. The party took the "in protest against the Election Commission's refusal to defer the polls, especially when the court is yet to give a final verdict on the issue of its election symbol—plough."

The Supreme Court yesterday extended the time-limit of one of its previous order that stayed the operation of a High Court judgement directing the authorities concerned to allocate plough as election symbol of Mustasim Billah. Billah is the candidate of the JP (Monju). The full bench of the SC's Appellate Division, headed by Justice Mustafa Kamal, fixed May 4 as the next date of hearing on the issue, said our SC correspondent.

The fresh date of hearing, however, coincides with the by-election date.

The HC verdict was delivered by a division bench comprising Justice Kazi Ebadul Hoque and Justice Mozammel Hossain, on April 28 following a writ petition by Mustasim Billah. The court directed the Election Commission, Returning Officer and Assistant Returning Officer concerned to allocate 'plough' to Billah.

Immediately afterwards, H M Ershad filed a petition before the 'Chamber Judge' for 'provisional stay' of the HC verdict. The judge stayed the verdict till the matter is heard in the Appellate Division on May 2.

Yesterday, a delegation of JP (Monju) went to the EC yesterday.

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Petrobangla's U-turn over controversial gas pipeline project

By Sharier Khan

Petrobangla, which earlier opposed the controversial Western Region Integrated Project (WRIP), has initiated a survey to determine the route for construction of a regional gas pipeline in greater Khulna for the project under instructions from higher authorities, sources said.

Petrobangla has also finalised bid documents for the WRIP with US company Unocal, which proposed the project, although the documents are supposed to be prepared by a consultant which is yet to be appointed under a US assistance, the sources said.

The Energy Ministry has shortlisted three companies for appointment of a consultant and has sent the names to USA for suggestion. The consultant is also supposed to scrutinise the WRIP components.

The 150-km proposed pipeline under the WRIP is designed to connect Shahbazpur Gasfield in Bhola with Khulna.

Alongside this, unsolicited negotiations for setting up of four proposed power plants in Bhola, Barisal, Khulna and Gopalganj with a total capacity of 350 MW are also at "final stage", the sources said.

Meanwhile, Unocal has signed an agreement with oil giant Shell Oil, seeking cooperation in "areas of mutual interest" in Block 10 including Shahbazpur Gasfield and WRIP components.

Experts of Petrobangla and even the World Bank said that the WRIP was being pursued without adequate feasibility study. Petrobangla experts had been resisting it saying that by signing this "uneven contract", Bangladesh would lose at least 2 billion dollars.

Petrobangla detected several significant loopholes in the proposed WRIP. These include high pipeline tariff offered (one dollar per unit of gas transmitted), duration of pipeline ownership (initially proposed for 99 years) and inconsistencies in its power projects.

The US Department of Energy earlier observed that the WRIP was a complicated project, which might affect Bangladesh's interest if it is not scrutinised properly. It maintained that its "pricing" needed to be reviewed and procedural transparency ensured. It also said that Bangladesh did not have the necessary expertise to scrutinise WRIP and therefore, it suggested appointment of a

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Pay hike for industrial workers effective from July, '97: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Saturday announced pay hike for industrial workers with retrospective effect from July 1997, report agencies.

"The increased wage scales will be fixed after placing of the National Wages and Productivity Commission recommendations and will be effective since July 1997," she said at the inaugural function of May Day programme at Osmani Memorial Hall in the city.

Hasina said efforts were also on to solve the labour problems of jute and textile mills through tripartite negotiations among the government, owners and workers.

The Prime Minister assured that her government is taking steps to meet all legitimate demands of the workers in phases.

The Prime Minister said keeping in mind the concept of open-market economy and globalisation the government was trying to groom the workforce of the country by imparting proper training and education.

"We have taken necessary steps to raise skilled labour suiting international standards," she said mentioning government move for setting up eleven Technological Training Centres across the country at a cost of Tk 100 crore.

In addition, she said, in five divisional headquarters five TTCs for female workers will be constructed soon. The government is also trying for employment generation in the country.

Referring to the setting up of labour-intensive industries in the country, the Prime Minister said the government had taken steps to set up EPZs, industrial parks and more small and medium-scale industries.

In this regard, she called upon the private entrepreneurs to take initiative for industrial investment availing government's incentives for private-

Beximco lawyer tells court Classification of loans to affect banks, company's business, repayment

By M Shamsur Rahman

Beximco lawyers yesterday told the High Court that classification of its loans would affect banks as it would affect the company's business and repayment of loans.

Four Beximco directors—Sohel F Rahman, Salman F Rahman, MA Quasem and Iqbal Ahmed—were served with notices earlier under the banking law after they failed to repay loans. Two of them are directors of AB Bank and two others are of IFIC Bank.

The four later filed a writ petition seeking the notices—Barrister Nazmul Huda, appearing for MA Quasem and Iqbal Ahmed, told a Division Bench of the High Court that these directors had set up the banks and they have interest in these.

Senior judge of the Bench, Justice Ebadul Huq, pointed out that it was also true the banks

Stop construction work, filling up of lake: HC

By Staff Correspondent

The High Court yesterday directed Rajuk to take measures for suspension of all construction work and filling up of the lake and lakeside areas in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara Model Town for three months.

A Division Bench of the HC gave the directive following a writ petition filed by Bangladesh Environment Lawyers Association (BELA), said a BELA press release.

The Bench comprising Justice K M Hasan and Justice Md Abdul Kuddus asked Rajuk to prepare and submit a detailed and complete statement regarding allotment of plots and filling up of the lake and lakeside areas within three weeks.

It also issued a rule nisi upon the Ministry of Works and Rajuk to show cause as to why the allotment of plots in the lake and lakeside areas in Gulshan, Banani and Baridhara shall not be declared to have been made in violation of the Town Improvement Act, 1953, against public interest and why they should not be directed to restore public property in a manner best suited to public interest.

The court ordered stoppage of construction work and earth filling at plot 26 on Road-71, plots 28 and 10 on Road -76, plot 9 on Road -78 in Gulshan,



The Sammilita Nari Samaj took out a procession in the city yesterday on the occasion of the May Day. — Star photo

Two teenage girls raped

By Staff Correspondent

The owner of a furniture shop was arrested allegedly for raping a teenage girl in IG Gate area in the city yesterday morning.

In another incident, a girl of nearly 13 years was violated allegedly by two youths at a Chopra slum under Ruppaganj thana in the early hours of yesterday, hospital sources said.

The 14-year-old girl was raped when she and her mother went to the furniture shop of a Tajul at about 10 am to purchase a furniture, police said.

While the mother was talking to the owner, her daughter said that she needed to go to a toilet. Tajul said that his house was just beside the shop and that the girl could use the toilet there. The mother allowed her daughter to go with Tajul in good faith.

When the girl went to the house, Tajul locked the door and raped her.

Police arrested Tajul soon after the incident. A case was filed with Shyampur thana.

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Mass processions today Half-day hartal likely on May 11 or 13

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP-led opposition alliance will call a half-day hartal across the country on May 11 or 13 to protest electricity, water and gas crises, deterioration of law and order, terrorism, price hike of essentials and government's alleged failures.

The hartal is likely to be announced after today's mass procession programme, party sources said. A countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal was observed on the same issues on April 18.

The decision to call hartal was taken at a meeting of the liaison committee yesterday at the central office of the Jamaat-e-Islami. Jamaat Secretary General Matur Rahman Nizami presided over the meeting, sources said.

Earlier, the parties had

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SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
JIBAN BIMA TOWER (15 & 16 FLOOR), 10, DILKUSHA C/A, DHAKA-1000.

ORDER

Ref: SEC/Sec-7/99-140 Dated: 28th April 1999

In exercise of its power under section 2CC of the Securities and Exchange Ordinance, 1969 (Ordinance No XVII of 1969) as amended by the Securities and Exchange (Amendment) Act, 1997, the Securities and Exchange Commission hereby imposes the following conditions:

(A) All public listed companies shall after submission to them the duly executed instrument of transfer (Form 117) of securities together with the related certificate(s) of securities complete all the transfer formalities:

- Within 7 (seven) days after submission of the duly executed instrument for transfer of the securities in all cases excepting Book Closure;
- Within 15 (fifteen) days after submission of the duly executed instrument for transfer (Form 117) of the securities in case of Book Closure.

(B) All public listed companies shall split any lot of securities into the market lot within 21 (twenty-one) days of submission of application by the shareholder for such split together with the related certificate(s) of securities and the splitting fee, if any, payable under the Articles of Association of concerned company for such split.

(C) Power to close the Company Register by the public listed companies shall be regulated as per the provisions under section 42 of the Companies Act, 1994.

This order supersedes all other previous order/orders issued in this respect and shall take effect immediately.

GD-348

M A Syed
Chairman

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World Cup NEWS

SL to issue coins on its winning of WC in '96

COLOMBO, May 2: Sri Lanka's Central Bank today announced the issue of a commemorative silver coin to mark the country's winning of the Cricket World Cup three years ago, reports AFP.

The limited-edition coin is released just ahead of this month's World Cup tournament in England where the Sri Lankan team will try to defend the title even though South Africa is tipped to be the favourites.

The 1,000-rupee (14 dollar) silver proof coin has the 1996 trophy on one side and on the other an unidentified Sri Lankan batsman driving the ball while the wicketkeeper looks on.

Central Bank said the coin will also mark this month's World Cup. The coins will be available for sale at a 200 rupee premium from Tuesday.

BUET: A section of students, teachers call for reopening

By Gobinda Bar

Students of outgoing Level-4 and Term-2 batch of BUET yesterday submitted a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor demanding special arrangement for holding their examinations immediately.

BUET Teachers' Association (BUETTA) also wants reopening of the university immediately provided the culprits responsible for the attack on teachers and damage university property on April 25 and 26 are identified and punished, sources in the association told The Daily Star yesterday.

Meanwhile a number of students of different batches at the BUET made telephone calls and some others came to The Daily Star office yesterday to communicate their demand for reopening of the university immediately and holding of examinations before the world cup cricket begins on May 14.

Condemning the heinous attack on teachers' residence they said their academic life would be at a stake if the university is not reopened immediately.

Meanwhile, talking on the April 25-26 incidents, some students claimed that a section of the students were "provoked" by the arrest of three students on charge of making petrol bombs on the night of April 26.

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