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Tel # 9565114; Fax # 9565112

MOUCHAK

108, D.I.T. Road
Malibagh, Dhaka
Tel # 9345261

KAWRANBAZAR

33, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawranbazar, Dhaka
Tel # 9130647, 9130906

DEPZ

Dhaka Export Processing Zone
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ART290 - 265 Litres



Pakistan test fires short range ballistic missile

ISLAMABAD, Feb 7 : Pakistan today successfully test fired a short-range Hatf 1 surface-to-surface ballistic missile, the official news agency said, reports AFP.

The new design allows greater payload, improved accuracy and can successfully destroy targets at up to 100 kilometers (60 miles) using a variety of warheads, the Associated Press of Pakistan said.

The test was a sequel to several related tests conducted in previous years, the announcement said.

All Pakistan's neighbours were informed in advance about the missile test, the agency said.

The missile is an "indigenous effort and contributes significantly to Pakistan's national security and deterrence strategy," it said.

Night guard beaten to death in city

A night guard of Siddiq Bazar Market was beaten to death by a crowd for his alleged link with a robbery at a shop yesterday, reports UNB.

Alamgir, a 35-year-old resident of Siddiq Bazar in the old city, was working as night guard at the market. The owners of the Bazar suspected Alamgir's involvement in a robbery. The crowd beat him to death at 4 am.

BGMEA

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and a fresh initiative by the government will be more effective in this regard.

There is a great opportunity for Bangladesh to get some 'extra facilities' from the US during President Clinton's visit, Sirintha observed.

As child labour has been eliminated from the readymade garments sector in the country, the government can seek a 'reward' for this from the US authorities, he observed during the meeting.

More than 53 per cent of Bangladesh's readymade garments exports go to US. During the first six months of the current financial year, readymade garments worth 795.84 million dollars and knitwear worth 170.75 million dollars were exported to the US.

Sirintha also sought immediate solution of some domestic issues, which 'tarnish the image of the country abroad and create problems in getting facilities from the US government'.

Another major issue is US government's pressure for withdrawal of restriction on trade union activities in the two Export Processing Zones (EPZs) in the country.

Following a petition from AFL-CIO, the US government has been pressuring the government to withdraw the restriction or lose the GSP (Generalised System of Preferences) facilities, now enjoyed by Bangladesh's exports to US. AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labour and Congress for Industrial Organisation) is the largest trade union organisation in the US.

The BGMEA delegation observed that this issue should be resolved.

Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Commerce M N Nabi, other high officials of the ministry, BGMEA Vice-president Anisul Haq and Chief Executive Officer Uzair Afzal were present during the meeting.

Hunger strike

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ing or the sit-in.

However, three Jamaat-e-Islami MPs will not take part in the hunger strike because of their 'religious point of view', but they are going to join the sit-in. Islami Oikya Jote which has no MP in the parliament will join the sit-in at Paltan Maidan.

Prior to the hunger strike, Khaleda Zia had a meeting with her party MPs at 29 Minto Road yesterday.

Eighty-three out of 110 BNP MPs attended the meeting that discussed preparation of today's hunger strike and next course of movement. Some 15 lawmakers spoke at the meeting.

A senior BNP leader who attended the meeting said that the discussion mainly focused on today's hunger strike and the current movement. The MPs were in favour of launching a massive movement as soon as possible to topple the government, he added.

He said a good number of MPs elected outside Dhaka told the meeting that the enactment of the Public Safety Act has created negative reaction among the common people. They suggested a militant movement by making the PSA main issue of agitation.

The BNP chairperson asked the party MPs to go for a massive campaign against the Act and explain to the people why the BNP and other opposition parties are agitating against it. She also urged party MPs to join today's hunger strike and the combined mass public rally and procession in the capital on Friday.



Resident rickshaws

Despite a recent crackdown on unauthorised rickshaws, their overwhelming numbers still clog city roads. Pictured here is Purana Paltan road yesterday.

CF60T - 574 Litres

Launch campaign to protect bio-diversity: PM

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina has asked for launching a campaign for protecting biodiversity to fulfil the basic needs of human life, reports UNB.

To protect the bio-diversity and maintain natural equilibrium, safe coexistence of plant and animal is a precondition maintaining natural equilibrium, she said inaugurating the newly constructed National Herbarium Bhaban at Mirpur yesterday.

Hasina observed that the growing population and unplanned management are ruining bio-diversity.

Observing that floods, droughts and epidemics and cyclones are the result of ecological

Ekushey

From page 1
some cultural functions at some important places in Dhaka.

A special supplement under the auspices of Information Department will be published and a website introduced on the basis of information about the Amar Ekushey Film and Publication Directorate will screen documentary films and bring out special edition to its publications and publish colourful posters.

Mass Communication Department will also show documentary films in different schools and colleges throughout the country and it will also hold musical soiree in different parts of the capital city. Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha will also circulate special articles highlighting the significance of day, said an official handout.

The main task of the herbarium is surveying, monitoring and preserving flora of Bangladesh and properly exploring natural plant wealth and its sustainable utilisation towards overall socioeconomic development and the strategic planning of national policy.

The herbarium holds a key position in development of natural wealth and its sustainable use. Environment and Forest Minister Syeda Sajeda Chowdhury told the function.

State Minister for Environment and Forest H N Ashiqur Rahman, environment and forest secretary Syed Margub Morshed, British High Commissioner in Dhaka Dr David Carter and Director of the Herbarium Dr M Motiur Rahman also addressed the function.

The herbarium is identifying and collecting species of trees and herbs that are under threat of extinction. The collection

of the herbarium has now over one lakh species.

The Bangladesh National Herbarium was established by Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman on July 1, 1975.

The National Herbarium Bhaban, furnished with modern equipment, has the capacity to preserve more than five lakh species. The construction of the building has been completed with Tk 10.40 crore financial assistance of the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British government.

She reiterated her government's commitment to protecting and developing and bio-diversity and environment and said Bangladesh is committed to the convention on bio-diversity (CBD) held in Brazil in 1992.

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EC to prepare fresh voters' list from Mar

By Staff Correspondent

The Election Commission has decided to prepare a fresh voters' list by October this year. The Commission will begin the job early next month.

"We will start preparing a fresh electoral roll from early March and try to finish it by October," said the acting Chief Election Commissioner, Moshtaque Ahmed Chowdhury. "Our people will go from door-to-door for preparing the fresh roll."

Meanwhile, the EC has started consulting political parties as to how to prepare a pre-election voters' list. The Commission has already discussed the issue with the Left Democratic Front, Gano Forum on Sunday and with Ganatantri Party yesterday. Although invited, the Islami Oikya Jote did not show up yesterday.

We would also have discussions with other parties including the Awami League and BNP," the acting CEC said.

The Commission had issued separate invitation letters to the AL, BNP, Jatiya Party and the Jamaat-e-Islami yesterday.

APSA on strike

General students' memo to DC for reopening CU

From CU Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Feb 7: Police arrested four alleged muggers after an exchange of fire from Nasirabad area last night.

Two of the arrested muggers were admitted to Chittagong Medical College Hospital with bullet injuries.

The gunfight began at 10 pm at Nasirabad near GEC crossing when patrol police challenged the muggers who allegedly snatched money from a pedestrian earlier.

The muggers opened fire and threw cocktails at police to escape arrest.

Police returned fire at the muggers and at one stage caught all of them.

Police also seized the auto-rickshaw carrying the muggers.

Meanwhile, APSA continued strike at the CU for seventh day today. Classes and scheduled examinations were not held but offices at the administrative building remained open during the strike. No shuttle train or bus carrying students and teachers pilled between campus and the city.

APSA began strike for an indefinite period on February 1 after a 17-day siege programme on the campus two press home its demands for release of 54 Shibir activists and arrest of the killers of two Shibir activists.

Earlier today general students of the university under the banner of General Student Council submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner (DC) of Chittagong demanding immediate reopening of the University.

The Council will also submit a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor of the university tomorrow.

BNP: Body

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representative law. "To counter the move, you have to go to the people and project the positive aspects of the law," the PM told her colleagues.

We shall launch a massive campaign to refute BNP's arguments that the law has curtailed human rights of the citizens," a Cabinet member said after the PM's instruction.

"We would hold rallies across the country and go to the press to counter the opposition propaganda."

Remove confusion

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