



Rooppur project
Plan to sign
20-yr accord
with US

Dhaka and Washington are planning to sign a 20-year nuclear cooperation agreement to revive the Rooppur Nuclear Power Plant, diplomatic sources told UNB.

The sources indicated that the issue of nuclear cooperation might be raised during US President Bill Clinton's visit to Bangladesh on March 20.

The cabinet recently approved the action plan of the project designed to produce 600-MW of electricity.

The project, initiated in 1962 at Ishwardi in Pabna, was virtually stalled due to lack of interest by previous governments as well as shortage of fund and technological assistance. Initial cost of the plant is likely to be US\$900 million to US\$1 billion.

A cabinet committee headed by Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is working to put the nuclear plant in action.

Atomic Energy Commission sources said that a 10-year agreement earlier signed with Washington expired in 1992. The new agreement, which will be the extension of the previous agreement, may envisage transfer of nuclear technology.

All factors are now in favour of setting up such a nuclear plant after Bangladesh signed the agreements on Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT).

Work on the plant is likely to start some time this year. An open tender seeking funds and technical assistance would be floated shortly, the sources said.

The Atomic Energy Commission has already sent documents of the project to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

**Judgement in
Zainal Murder
Case today**

From Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, Feb 19: The judgement in Zainal Khan Murder Case will be delivered by the Special Court here tomorrow.

Of the 10 accused, five including Ershad Shikdar will be produced before the special court to hear the judgement. Five accused are being tried in absentia. They are Jamil Faruque, Shebab Ali, Nasir Khan, Zainal Sheikh and Idris Jamal.

Approver Noor-e-Alam will also be produced before the court alongwith Shikdar, Liqat Lashkar, Tunda Harron and Nazim Sarder.

The judgement is expected in

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Our new numbers
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February 20		
Fair	Azan	Jamaat
5-30	6-00	
Zohr	12-45	1-20
Asr	4-30	4-45
Magrib	6-00	6-02
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

The Daily Star

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Pak forces ready to counter any attack

Gen Musharraf warns Delhi against war mongering

ISLAMABAD, Feb 19: Military ruler Gen Pervez Musharraf accused uneasy neighbour India of war mongering today and warned that Pakistan would defend itself against aggressive action from across its border, reports AP.

Today Pakistani officials said two women were killed when Indian troops fired a volley of artillery shells into the Neelum Valley. Another seven people were injured, also by Indian shells, in a nearby village, they said.

"We are fully alive to the threats being hurled from across the border," Musharraf was quoted as saying in a statement issued by the army's public relations wing.

Musharraf made the comments while addressing officers in Multan, in eastern Punjab province, some 400 kilometers south of the capital Islamabad. He accused India of war mongering of out frustration.

Both India and Pakistan

larly trade fire along the disputed Kashmir border, with each side accusing the other of firing the first shot. In recent months the incidents of cross-border firing has increased substantially.

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possess nuclear weapons, having conducted tit-for-tat nuclear tests in 1998.

India has been particularly belligerent toward Pakistan since the Pakistan army took power last October, throwing out the civilian government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup.

India has urged other countries to ostracize Pakistan while the military rules.

Relations took a further turn for the worst last December when an Indian Airlines plane was hijacked and taken to Kandahar in southern Afghanistan.

AFP adds from Delhi: France and the US this week increased pressure on India to resume a dialogue with bitter rivals.

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5 more liquor victims die Negligence of duty by 2 DNC men

By Staff Correspondent

Gross negligence of duty by two officials of the Department of Narcotics Control (DNC) led to the Feni tragedy in which 56 people died of methanol poisoning till yesterday.

DNC officials who returned to the city yesterday after investigations in Feni told The Daily Star that two of their officers — Inspector Shahabuddin and Assistant Sub-Inspector Abul Kalam — were not present at their stations for three days from February 15.

While talking to this correspondent, the DNC officials wondered why the suggestion was not implemented by the authorities.

"Since methanol has got industrial use, it can not be banned. But a special colour can be mixed to make it look different," one of the officials said.

A case was filed with Feni thana, but none was arrested till filing of this report at 7 pm today.

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Law Minister tells The Daily Star I'm still confident of neutral application of PSA

By Nurul Kabir



Abdul Matin Khasru

investigating officers failing to produce objective reports, police officials failing to execute warrant of arrests and official witnesses failing to appear before the Tribunal concerned.

Khasru maintained that the special kind of law was essential to combat special types of crime the entire society is now exposed to. "I am sure the com-

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Young man shot dead in Feni From Our Correspondent

FENI, Feb 19: A young man was shot dead and his two brothers were injured by unidentified assailants at village Kalidah under Feni thana last night.

Police identified the victim as Babul Chandra Sutradhar, 20, son of Hemanta Chandra Sutradhar. The injured are Mridul Sutradhar, 25, and Ranjan Sutradhar.

According to police and family sources, a group of armed men stormed Babul's house at midnight and shot him point blank. He died on the spot.

Babul's two brothers — Mridul and Ranjan were beaten up mercilessly by the armed men as they tried to resist the attackers.

Babul's body was sent to Feni hospital for autopsy. The injured were admitted to a private clinic in the town.

A case was filed with Feni thana, but none was arrested till filing of this report at 7 pm today.

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PSA to overburden IOs, affect quality of investigation'

By Staff Correspondent

Filing of cases under the Public Safety Act (PSA) will increase the load of police officials and may affect the quality of investigation, some top police officials said.

In addition to routine duty, an Investigating Officer (IO), who is usually a Sub Inspector of a thana, now simultaneously deals with 30 to 35 cases in the city. At times, the number goes up to 50, they told The Daily Star.

"In an ideal situation, an IO investigates eight to ten cases at a time in addition to his or her routine job," an official said.

The routine job of an SI includes patrol and security duties, executing warrants and maintaining law and order. Besides, they need to concentrate more on serious cases like murder.

The number of piled up cases under an IO will swell when filing of cases under the PSA will increase, he said.

"Special tribunals are being set up for dispensation of quick justice but there has hardly been any mention about increasing the number of IOs and their logistics," another top police official noted.

"Cases filed under the PSA

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Police using 'condemned' vehicles

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

Violating law, police are using "condemned and unfit" vehicles for routine duty, official sources said.

"These vehicles can not be withdrawn immediately due to resource constraint," said a top police official when asked why police, being law enforcers, were breaking law.

A total of about 164 police vehicles were declared "condemned and unfit" by the authorities concerned at the end of last year but many of these are still being used, he added. These vehicles are minimum 10 years old. Many are even 20 years old.

Of those vehicles, 60 belong to the DMP. The rest are being used by police in districts.

He said DMP's condemned vehicles are kept at Rajarbagh Police Line and are not used

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