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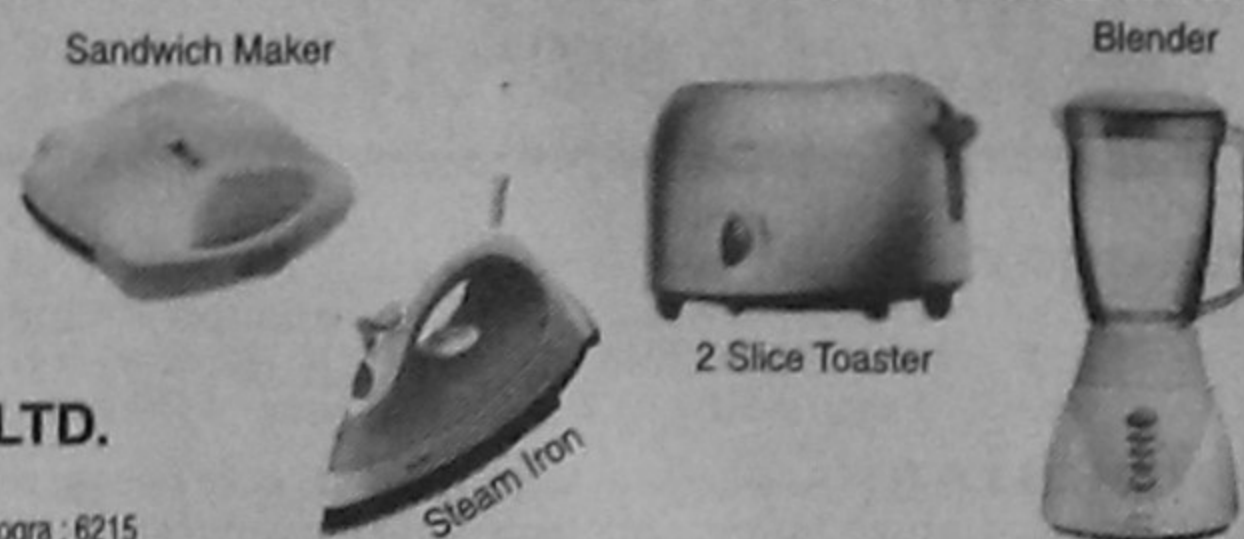
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HSC exams Apr 27 392 yet to get admit cards in Bagerhat

BAGERHAT, Apr 23: A total of 392 examinees of the district may not be able to sit for HSC examinations beginning Thursday across the country allegedly due to negligence of college authorities, reports UNB.

Only three days before commencement of the examinations, these students are yet to get admit cards, the candidates complained.

College authorities, however, acknowledged that admit cards of 232 students were withheld by the board for faulty filling of registration forms and subject-code cards.

"The other 160 students still don't know why they are not getting admit cards," said one college principal.

The aggrieved examinees held the college authorities responsible for the failure while the teachers blaming the students for the irregularities.

The principals of Chittalmari Degree College and Bangabandhu Women College told the news agency that they were still trying to collect admit cards for 385 students of the two colleges from the Jessore Education Board.

Khaleda

From Page 1

against the BNP leaders and workers while the ruling party goons are resorting to terrorism. Police are arresting only BNP activists.

Some 500 detainees are stuffed in the Feni jail against a capacity of 122, Khaleda said.

The opposition leader warned the local administration that the consequences will not be good if they carry on repressive activities "at the sweet will of any individual".

"We are writing down name and address of those carrying out illegal orders of ruling party. Reply will be given in due time," she warned.

Protesting the killing of two Bangladeshi nationals by Indian BSF personnel at the Feni frontier, Khaleda said the government could not take necessary action due to its weakened foreign policy as well as subservient attitude to the neighbouring country.

Presided over by Mosharraf Hossain MP, the meeting was also addressed by Oli Ahmed, Abdul Matin Chowdhury, Khondoker Mosharraf Hossain, ZA Khan, Akbar Hossain, Mirza Abbas, Sadek Hossain Khoka, Salauddin Qader Chowdhury and Mahbubul Alam Tareq.

BSS adds: Referring to the reported threat of a ruling party MP in Feni about capturing the Feni-1 constituency, now being held by Khaleda herself, in the forthcoming general elections, she said people will not allow anyone to 'capture' the seat of their representative.

She said Awami League captured power by rigging in the 1996 elections.

Quoting a newspaper report that Awami League will get only 31 seats and the opposition alliance will get 269 seats, she said the AL will not even get 31 seats in future election.

Khaleda alleged that AL activists obstructed the BNP workers at different points, including Chhaganaiya, Poruram, Fulgazi and Dagonbhuiyan, from joining her meeting.

She also demanded the arrest of the pro-govt top terrorist at Feni, who, she alleged, had closed down polytechnic institute and damaged the medical college.

Radars

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With the installation of the two new radars, the number of air defence radars would rise to six. Of the existing four, three are low looking and one positioned at Tangail is high powered and capable of scanning the horizon. Its surveillance radius is around 240 miles. The new 'look down' radars have a scan radius of around 80 miles each.

The radar procurement follows acquisition of sophisticated MIG-29 aircraft by the BAF.

"These aircraft are packed with both speed and punch and possess superior avionics which make them capable of engaging intruding aircraft within seconds. The new radars would bolster the Air Force's early warning system further," said defence analyst.

Opposition yet to finalise next action programme

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the BNP-led opposition alliance continued discussion to finalise next course of action programmes to be announced from a joint public meeting at Rajshahi tomorrow.

BNP Chairperson Khaleda Zia, Jatiya Party Chairman H M Ershad, Jamaat-e-Islami Ameer Golam Azam and Islami Oikya Jote Chairman Azizul Haq will address the meeting. Earlier, they addressed such meetings in Dhaka and Chittagong.

Sources said the Central Liaison Committee is yet to finalise a series of programmes it had drafted, including a countrywide dawn-to-dusk hartal to protest ruling party's recent remarks on High Court judges as chiefs of the parties did not give their consent about the programme, till last night.

"No programme has yet been finalised as there are differences among the policy makers of the BNP about the draft programmes prepared by the liaison committee," said a BNP Standing Committee member.

"Fresh programmes are likely to be finalised tomorrow (Monday)," he said.

He said discussion is going on at BNP's top level where policy makers are giving their opinion for and against the proposed hartal of the CLC on May 4.

Sources said most of the senior leaders have suggested party Chairperson Khaleda Zia should first observe government's motive behind its latest move against the judiciary and the judges.

They said Khaleda Zia is not personally interested to call hartal because she is now busy with hectic mass contact programmes in different parts of the country. During her meeting with the members of the CLC on Saturday, she advised them to

take up tougher programmes after observing the government's motive on judiciary.

Sources at the BNP said a section of BNP leaders and its alliance partners are pressing to go for tougher action programmes centering the judicial issue. Alliance partners and BNP's hardliners suggested the BNP chief that a vigorous movement can easily be launched through announcing counter programmes against the AL.

But Khaleda Zia and other policy makers of the party said they want to first observe the government's motive and then take decision, the sources said.

Meanwhile, the members of the CLC yesterday met JP Chairman H M Ershad at his Baridhara residence at 12.30 pm. Jamaat Ameer Golam Azam and IOJ chief Azizul Haq at his office at 7.30 pm.

Sources said they discussed about the draft programmes with the chiefs of three parties.

Talking to The Daily Star after the meetings, Jamaat assistant secretary general Mohammad Kamaruzzaman, who is representing the party at the CLC, said "We have got unanimous views from the four chiefs and their views are almost same," he said, adding that the chiefs have approved the draft programmes prepared by the CLC.

Another CLC member said though the chiefs have okayed the draft programmes but those are yet to finalise. He said the proposed date for hartal on May 4 may be shifted while other programmes will remain unchanged.

He said most of the CLC members will accompany their respective party chiefs during their visit to Rajshahi to attend a joint public meeting.

Angry examinees

From Page 1

about 11 a.m. and waited three hours but they didn't get an appointment.

A guardian said an official from the prime minister's office told them to talk to the board authorities about the issue.

He also said that none of the students were on campus during the attack and could not have been involved.

"We held a rally in Shahbag at that time... the incident could be conspiracy hatched by the college authorities,"

UNB adds: Education Ministry yesterday spurned suggestion of its parliamentary watchdog for allowing the 132 girls of Motijheel Model College to sit for HSC examination on humanitarian grounds.

It will be an irregularity and if it is done once, question of considering thousands such anomalies will come, Education Minister A S H K Sadique and Education Secretary Kazi Rakib Uddin Ahmed were learnt to have said.

They informed a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education Ministry at Sangsad Bhaban in the

Shima rape case

Accused policemen seek transfer of case to another court

CHITTAGONG, Apr 23: The police personnel, accused of concealing the evidence of rape and murder of a young girl, Shima, today sought transfer of the case to another court, reports UNB.

Granting the petition, fourth Special District and Session Judge A S A Mahfuz ruled that the accused should secure the High Court order for shifting the case to another court by May 15, failing which hearing would resume on the following day (May 16).

Advocate Elina Khan, a human right activist, who filed the case observed that the accused wanted to kill time and thus obstruct the process of trial.

Shima was raped and murdered by some policemen in custody in Rawzan thana few years ago.

Raozan plant

From Page 1

a number of blades damaged. The PDB authorities blame CMEC for the mishap, saying that it did not hand over the information guidebook of the plant.

But the sources said inefficiency of PDB employees is the cause of the disaster. They said that on April 10, poor operation by PDB employees caused the turbine to vibrate. As a precaution, the operators shut down the plant. On the following day, without investigating the cause of turbine vibration, the operators restarted the plant. The turbine failed.

Unlike the first unit of the Raozan plant, which is known to have tripped more frequently than any other plant in the country, the second unit had been performing satisfactorily under the technical supervision of the Chinese company since September 97.

After its hand-over in 1998, CMEC had been operating the plant under an operation and maintenance contract till September 21 last year. Afterwards, PDB assured an extension of the contract and CMEC continued to work till October 10 last year when PDB gave it a notice to withdraw from the plant.

But the plant faced an unwanted shut-down in October last year and PDB reassigned CMEC to operate it for the next three months.

PDB expressed its plan to extend the contract but delayed the process till March. An extension contract was signed in March but CMEC was not given any schedule to start operation.

The sources said that the two units of Raozan power plant require over 470 personnel for operation and maintenance but there are only 200 now.



Members of the Christian Community at a prayer session on South Plaza of the Sangsad Bhaban on the occasion of Easter Sunday yesterday. — Star photo

Computer programming contest now to be held at nat'l level

PM tells BUET delegation

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina announced yesterday that computer programming competition would now be held at national level annually as part of the measures to flourish information technology industry, reports UNB.

"We have given utmost importance to the development of science and technology and flourishing information technology," she told a delegation of BUET who joined international computer programming contest in USA and met the prime minister at her office to apprise her of their good performance.

The BUET team secured 11th position in the prestigious international computer programming competition held at Orlando in Florida from March 15 to 19.

The prime minister announced that she would give Tk 1 lakh each to three members of the team who took part in the international computer programming contest.

They are Mostaq Ahmed, Monirul Abedin and Rubaiyat Ferdous.

Hasina said the government has taken steps to remove obstacles to the growth of software industry and spread information technology.

"We have also opened up V-sat and Internet service for smooth growth of the sophisticated industry," she said, adding that the government had introduced e-mail and fax systems for data transmission under digital data-network systems.

She said the government has already allocated 47 acres of land in Mohakhali to set up an IT village and 144 acres of land in Kaliakoir to establish high-tech park.

"We have also taken measures to have connection with the optical fiber-link which has connected the continent with submarine cable for easy data transmission across the world," she told the delegation.

Hasina said to rear skilled manpower in science and technology sector the government had introduced Bangabandhu fellowship.

Under the programme researchers will get scope to get higher studies in Asia, Europe and America.

For implementing this ten-year project the government has allocated Tk 12 crore from its own resources to send meritorious researchers abroad for obtaining higher skills.

Bangladesh will lead UN Kosovo mission

NEW YORK, Apr 23: Bangladesh will lead a delegation of the United Nations Security Council on a special mission to Kosovo later this week, reports BSS.

Ambassador Anwarul Karim Chowdhury, Bangladesh's permanent representative to the United Nations, will lead the Kosovo mission. The eight-member delegation leaves on April 27 on the five-day mission.

StanChart

From Page 1

Bangladesh, has employed more than 400 people while the SCB, with six branches, has employed more than 200 people.

The acquisition will patch a hole for StanChart, which while headquartered in Britain has 40 per cent of its assets in Asia. ANZ, one of the three biggest banks in the South Asia, will give StanChart access to 500,000 new customers and 40 branches in India.

The unit is expected to be sold in the first week in May and StanChart will retain Grindlays name. Bloomberg financial news service said quoting bank people.

An ANZ spokesman in Australia told the news service, "It's a unique business franchise, so we do get approached from time to time." But he declined to comment on any advances from StanChart.

The news service also reported, for ANZ, the sale offers the chance to exit a market in which it has never reached its profit targets. ANZ, which was founded in London in 1835 as the bank of Australia, bought Grindlays Bank Plc in 1984.

Head of financial services at HSBC Securities Australia Ltd told Bloomberg that the risk profile of Grindlays was inappropriate for ANZ's board strategy. HSBC estimates the book value of 146-year-old ANZ Grindlays at AS 1 billion.

ANZ's South Asian region - including Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka and Nepal - made a profit of AS 104 million in the 12 months to September, down 22 per cent on the year-earlier period, as local lending in India fell, reported Bloomberg financial news service.

'Jabbarer Boli Khela' in Ctg tomorrow

CHITTAGONG, Apr 23: Traditional wrestling competition, popularly known as 'Jabbarer Boli Khela', will be held at the Lalghigh ground here on April 25, reports BSS.

Minister for Labour and Employment M A Mannan will remain present on the occasion as chief guest, organisers said.

Wrestlers from all over the country will participate in the competition.

Jabbar Sowdaghar of Boxirhat, a freedom fighter had introduced the competition in 1909 to build up healthy youths to fight the British rule, organisers said.

Rivals cut tendons of BCL leader in Gournadi

From Staff Correspondent BARISAL, Apr 23: A BCL leader was seriously injured as his rivals attacked him at Gournadi today headquarters here today.

Police and witnesses said, Khokon Mallick, 25, a student of Gournadi College and vice-president of the college unit BCL came under attack allegedly led by Ikhtiar, brother of Bakhtiar, joint-convenor, BCL Gournadi Pourashava unit, today in front of the college.

The attackers cut the tendons of hands and legs of Khokon.

Khokon belongs to Rumi group. Rumi is the convener of BCL Gournadi Poura unit. Rivalry between the two groups is going on for years, sources said.

Khokon was sent to Barisal Sher-e-Bangla Medical College Hospital. His condition is stated to be critical, hospital source said.

Biman flight via Dubai, & London by June 3

By Shehab Ahmed

Bangladesh Biman has decided to introduce a once a week flight between Dhaka and New York via Dubai and London by June 3, Biman sources said.

The existing twice a week flight to New York via Delhi and Brussels would also continue.

Besides, One more Airbus flight would be added shortly to the twice weekly schedule in Sylhet-London route.

Biman would procure another DC-10-30 and its fourth Airbus 310-300 aircraft to facilitate operation of the new flights and reduce pressure on its long haul fleet of five DC-10-30 aircraft. Both the aircraft would be procured 'on a long term dry lease', the sources said.

Biman management board took the decisions at a meeting on Saturday.

The long awaited flight to New York via Dubai and London is likely to reduce losses of the national airlines, officials hoped.

The Dhaka-New York flight via Delhi and Brussels was operating at a huge loss because the airline did not get adequate passengers in this route.

But its efforts to operate via London was stalled so far by the British Aviation Authorities. It agreed to allow Biman add one more flight at Heathrow airport on a reciprocal basis that allowed British Airways to operate two additional flights to Dhaka from London, raising the total to seven a week.

Biman would not be allowed to take New York bound passengers from London. The national airlines now operates seven flights to London a week, five from Dhaka and two from Sylhet.

Biman now has 13 aircraft in its fleet including three F-28s and two ATPs.

Meanwhile, Biman has appointed New York's Citibank as a consultant to find itself a 'strategic partner' under a blueprint for privatisation. The World Bank is funding the two million dollar project that would off-load 49 per cent shares of the airlines.

AES-PDB legal battle

From Page 1

The land developer invited PDB and AES in December to inspect the land. After inspection, AES claimed that the site was defective, which must be taken care of before take-over.

In such a conflicting situation, PDB's consultant for land development Mott McDonald allegedly played an ambiguous role in certifying CWHEC's work. Mott McDonald and CWHEC are represented by the same local agent, who was a minister in the present government.

The conflict intensified last week when Mott McDonald abruptly issued a 'take-over certificate' (TOC) to CWHEC for Section 1 of the work without proper authorisation from PDB.

PDB had earlier formed a committee to review the issues and report to its Board with recommendations. But even before the committee could review the issues and make a report to the PDB Board, the consultant, in its capacity as employer's representative, issued the TOC.

"This unauthorised and illegal action of the consultant has raised questions about its conflict of interest," one source said. "It is very unclear why and under whose authority Mott McDonald issued the TOC."

To avoid embarrassment, PDB management later instructed its committee to immediately submit its report 'recommending' issuance of the TOC.

Issuance of the TOC to CWHEC has significant implications. As per the contract, CWHEC is supposed to be penalised with a daily fine of Tk 14 lakh for failing to deliver the land in time. This means, PDB

could have collected over Tk 40 crore as penalty from CWHEC since July. Issuance of the TOC may make PDB forfeit the claim.

Earlier this month, the Energy Minister asked PDB about registration of the Meghnaghat LLA. PDB had said that it was still being processed. The LLA was supposed to be registered within 60 days of signing, which took place in July 29 last year.

PDB had served two similar notices to AES earlier to take over the land but AES gave a notice for removal of the defects.

The 450 MW Meghnaghat Project is the country's biggest power scheme with one of the world's lowest power tariff offers. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2002.

Heroin seized

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Abdul Karim were arrested in connection with the case.

In another raid, Teigaon police seized 1 kilogram of heroin from an Army Naik in Karwan Bazar Saturday night. Kamal Uddin, 30, was arrested in connection with the case.

According to police, the Naik arrived at a hotel in Karwan Bazar to sell the drug.

However, sources in the Department of Narcotics Control said 500 grams of the consignment was opium and the rest was heroin.

Nasim

From Page 1

tack on the vehicles.

Inspector general of police AYBI Siddiqui said formation of crime-prevention cells with the help of BGMEA is a rare example which will promote efforts for reducing crimes in community policing.

Branch shifting

Janata Bank, Dhukuria Bera Branch has been shifted Today the 24th April form the old address to new premises

New Address

Janata Bank

Dhukuria Bera Branch
Mouja-Bera
Dag No. S.A.-1569, 1570
Hal Dag No-2775, Khatian No. SA-40
Hal Khatian No-2147 J.L. No-102
Touji No-08, Post office-Dhukuria Bera
P.s.- Belkuchi, Dist. Seraigonj.

Old Address

Janata Bank

Dhukuria Bera Branch
Mouja-Bera
Dag No-1390/2586
Khatian No-1503/3, J.L. No-102
Post Office-Dhukuria
P.s.- Belkuchi, Dist. Seraigonj.

All patrons and well wishers are requested to transact Banking functions with the newly shifted premises.



Janata Bank
Dhaka Bangladesh

Editor: Mahfuz Anam

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