

Gas deal with Bangladesh on cards Vajpayee tells parliament

From Pallab Bhattacharya
NEW DELHI, May 4: Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said here today consultations for import of natural gas from Bangladesh are at an "Advanced stage" and there could be some agreement in this regard.

He said India is talking to Bangladesh for import of natural gas after certain difficulties cropped in the proposal to import the same from Iran through a land-based pipeline passing through Pakistan.

The Prime Minister of Bangladesh is very keen on the proposal and consultations are at advanced stages and there could be some agreement with that country," Vajpayee told parliament intervening during a reply by Petroleum Minister Ram Naik on a question on the natural gas reserve in the southern state of Andhra

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Welcome to Dhaka City

Once out of the concourse, a passenger is greeted by sheer disorder on the parking lot at the ZIA. There are allegations that taxi drivers and brokers subject passengers to extortion.

—Star photo: Sk. Enamul Haq

ULFA chief in Dhaka, in touch with Pak embassy Indian daily reports

NEW DELHI, May 4: Commander-in-chief of the outlawed United Liberation Front of Assam (ULFA) Paresh Barua was flown from Dhaka to Islamabad where he had talks with the military regime last month, an Indian daily, The Pioneer, reported today, says BSS.

Indian intelligence agencies, the paper said, have traced the cellular phone number of Barua. "It is confirmed that Barua is in Dhaka and is close to top officials of the Pakistan high commission there," the report said.

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Our new numbers
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DMCH in total disarray

An eye-witness account of the woeful condition the country's leading public hospital is in

By Naimul Haq

Beware! If you are grievously injured and going to Dhaka Medical College Hospital, make sure you have some life saving injections and an artificial respiratory device with you. And keep on praying to God for a doctor. He sends a doctor for you. If your injury is in the head, make sure you reach the hospital before 2:30 pm or else you may have to wait till next morning for surgery, no matter how serious your injury is.

Commonly used life saving injections like corticosterone, adrenalin, dopamine and tetanus toxoid are not in supply at the country's biggest and busiest hospital where about 26,000 patients were admitted for emergency treatment last year. The suction and oxygen pipeline systems often do not work, rickling life.

If more than one injury patient come at the hospital beyond the 8 am - 2:30 pm office hours, there is none at the Casualty Wards (ward 30 and 31) to attend them.

How does the hospital emergency handle patients with serious injury? To find out, this correspondent spent ten hours at the hospital from 4 pm on Thursday to 2 am on Friday last week.

Precisely at 6:03, five young men carried a bleeding young boy to the emergency. The patient was received by a ward boy. A ticket was purchased at Tk 6 and the Emergency Medical Officer signed it.

The patient, 17-year-old Hanif, a mechanic at a vehicle workshop, was sent to Ward 30. As the trolley rolled, blood dropped from his mouth and nose.

At Ward 30, (neurosurgery department), a ward boy was attending another patient grievously injured in the head. Hanif had to wait.

Hanif was injured while repairing an automobile at the workshop at Karwan Bazar. He became unconscious and was bleeding profusely.

When Hanif's turn came, he was examined by the ward boy, who reported to the on-duty doctor, resting in the doctors' room at the corner. The doctor signed the ticket for admission. Hanif was sent for X-ray.

While X-ray was on, a list of life saving drugs including Fliclo-500 mg and Ranitidine HCL was handed over to Selim, the owner of the workshop, who brought Hanif to the hospital. "Bring the injections. Without these, Hanif's condition may deteriorate," came the instruction from the ward boy.

Selim sent one of the young men to bring the drugs, most of which were similar having different brand names. But the ward boy could not explain the

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Dhaka asks New Delhi to hand over Preeti Chakma

By M Anwarul Haq

Bangladesh has asked India to hand over Preeti Kumar Chakma and other tribal insurgency leaders and group members who have been given sanctuary in India.

It also expressed concern at smuggling of arms and ammunition into the country from the northeastern states.

Dhaka also wants an end to the inflow of a huge quantity of contraband drugs including Plensidyl to Bangladesh.

The issues were raised during the two-day home secretary-level talks between the two neighbouring countries in New Delhi on April 27 and 28. Home Secretary M M Reza who led the Bangladesh delegation also called on Indian Home Minister L K Advani and the foreign secretary following the official talks.

The home secretary told the Daily Star that Dhaka's position was conveyed in "great detail" to the Indian leaders and officials.

He said Dhaka had specific information that tribal insurgency leaders, including Preeti Chakma were staying in the capital of the northeastern Indian state of Assam and sought New Delhi's help to bring them back as soon as possible.

The officials at the home secretary-level talks also pointed out that Bangladesh had been the victim of insurgency in the neighbouring eastern states of India.

"The north-eastern insurgents sometimes enter Bangladesh, which must be prevented by them (India)," said M M Reza.

India also alleged that some suspected insurgents have entered Bangladesh.

However, Bangladesh told India it does not provide any assistance, nor does it allow any militant groups to operate from its territory, said the Bangladesh home secretary.

"Bangladesh has never provided any quarters any sanctuary. We have no reason to aid and abet insurgency. We have ourselves been the victims of insurgency for over a decade.

"We arrested Anup Chetia, since we detected him. The Indians did not provide the information," he said.

The Bangladesh home secretary said the issues of border demarcation and exchange of enclaves were also discussed at the New Delhi meeting. He said both sides agreed to complete the demarcation of 6.5 kilometres of the nearly 4000 kilometres Bangladesh-India border at the earliest.

The meeting also discussed the exchange of enclaves. India suggested that a population census be held before the exchange of enclaves. However, Bangladesh insisted on preparing a proper voter list before holding any such census.

According to the agreed list prepared by the two countries, Bangladesh will get 111 enclaves against 79 of India. Bangladesh will gain approximately 10,000 acres of land after the exchange of enclaves.

No end to passengers' woes at ZIA

By Shaikh Nazrul Islam

A large crowd of heterogeneous elements always remains vigilant at the passenger exit point at Zia International Airport (ZIA) to take the first opportunity to virtually besiege the incoming passengers. Many of them quickly grab passengers' luggage apparently extending a helping hand while many others offer various help - all with the motive of extorting money.

In the melee, some passengers lose their baggage, some are forced to board run-over vehicles at the parking lot and some are made to part with some of the foreign exchange they carry with them. Still worse, some are even manhandled.

Talking to this correspondent, some passengers who returned from Gulf countries and Singapore made these allegations recently.

This correspondent also witnessed how taxi drivers and brokers trap the passengers and make them pay as demanded.

"I am fortunate they did not assault me," said one passenger. The elements controlling the

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Stop flow of undocumented job-seekers to Thailand

Bangladesh mission in Bangkok urges govt

By Reaz Ahmad

The Bangladesh mission in Bangkok has asked the government to immediately stop the flow of undocumented job seekers to Thailand.

After the recent death of a Bangladesh national in Thailand, the mission wrote to the Home Ministry and the Foreign Ministry to stop export of unauthorised manpower.

Sources quoting embassy officials in Bangkok told the Daily Star that the undocumented labourers heading for Malaysia for a better job end up being caught by Thai police and stay there as paupers.

The embassy informed the government about its helplessness and financial incapability in handling the cases of undocumented Bangladeshis and sending them back home.

Some representatives of the Welfare Association of Repatriated Bangladeshis Employees (WARBE) visited an immigration detention centre in Bangkok recently to see the plights of 51 Bangladesh nationals detained there.

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Election Commission Secretariat Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka Notice

Preparing Fresh Voters' List

This is for information of all that the Election Commission is going to start the field level work of preparing fresh voters' list across the country from May 15, 2000 (Monday).

To include the names of those Bangladeshi nationals whose age is 18 years or more on January 1, 2000 —

- Persons responsible for collecting data will collect information from door to door.
- An application form will be given to each person eligible to be a voter present at the house.
- Every individual will have to fill in the forms with the information regarding his name, father's/husband's name, address, date of birth, age, profession etc.
- Signature or thumb mark will have to be given in form.
- To give false information is a punishable offence.
- Voters' list will be prepared on the bases of the address in which you generally reside.
- An individual can become a voter only in a single voters' area, none can become voter in more than one voters' area.
- Your name will have to be included in fresh voters' list although your name is already in the existing voters' list.
- If your name is not included in the fresh voters' list, you cannot cast your vote in the election, so the inclusion of name in the voters' list is very important.
- To express your opinion through vote, your name will have to be included in voters' list.
- Remember an accurate voters' list is the pre-condition for a fair election.
- Extend your all-out cooperation to such an important task to the persons of the Election Commission responsible for collecting information.

DFP-10445-2/5/00 G-818

BDR deployed at Savar EPZ

Probes into Wednesday's skirmishes launched

By Staff Correspondent

BDR and additional police force were deployed at the Export Processing Zone (EPZ) at Savar following Wednesday's police-employee clash that left two persons dead and at least 50 others including 10 policemen injured.

Savar police said yesterday they arrested six workers of Ring Sign garments factory - a Singapore-Malaysia joint venture - and filed two cases against them. The six are Majed, Sarwar, Salahuddin, Ashraf, Asad and Shamsul.

One case was filed under the Public Safety Act (PSA) on charges of ransacking and looting Ring Sign factory. The six were arrested in the case under PSA. Another case was filed on charges of attacking police and Ansar but none was arrested so far in this connection.

Two inquiry committees were formed so far to investigate the incident. The Home Ministry formed a one-member committee comprising an Additional District Magistrate while Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authorities (BEPZA) formed a three-member committee.

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Police in a dilemma over case against 5 ministers

By Staff Correspondent

Even 10 days after filing of the complaint, officials at the police headquarters are still confused whether the Motiheel police registered a case against five ministers or had lodged a general diary against them.

"Higher officials are looking into the incident," said an officer during a press briefing at the police headquarters yesterday.

Asked whether the complaint was registered as an FIR or a general diary, officers present at the briefing said, "The DMP is looking into the matter."

When asked whether the case was also included in the list of registered cases lodged under the Public Safety Act, an official said, "I am not aware of it."

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BNP plans more mass contact programmes

By Rezaul Karim

Buoyed by the "grand success" of the public meetings in different parts of the country, BNP plans to take up more such mass campaign programmes to mobilise people's support in its favour.

Undoubtedly, the public meetings in Chittagong, Cox's Bazar, Jessore, Satkhira, Khulna and Bagerhat have been a "grand success" as evident from the spontaneous gatherings everywhere, said a top BNP leader quoting the party Chairperson.

He said party chief Khaleda Zia was "moved by the unprecedented response of the people" during her visit to those districts in the last one month.

Sources concerned said the BNP Chairperson, while talking with the party policy makers and senior leaders over the last few days, expressed the view that the public meetings had a greater impact than hartal or such other action programmes.

A number of senior leaders also expressed similar views during the discussions.

One of the leaders said "The recent programmes of the party chief have encouraged her to go ahead with such mass contact campaigns instead of hartals which paralyse normal life, badly affect the national economy and cause immense sufferings to the party's field level activists".

A close aide to Khaleda Zia said she has already planned a series of tour programmes beginning on May 10 and she is expected to continue her visits till the end of the month. She may not be able to continue the tour programme in the next month because of the rainy season, he added.

The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament is scheduled to visit Monohardi in Narsingdhi district on May 10, Kurigram and Nilphamari districts from May 13 to 15 and Nagarkanda in Faridpur and Pangsha in Rajshahi on May 17-18.

The aide said senior party leaders told Khaleda Zia that the mass campaign programmes have enhanced the image of the party and attracted support of tens of thousands to the Opposition's anti-government.

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তিতাস গ্যাস ট্রান্সমিসন এন্ড ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন কোম্পানী লিমিটেড
(পেট্রোলিং একটি কোম্পানী)
১০৫, কাজী নজরুল ইসলাম এভিনিউ
কাওরান বাজার বাণিজ্যিক এলাকা
ঢাকা-১২১৫
ফোনঃ পিএবি এরঃ ৮১১২১৩৫-৪১, ৮১১৯৩৭৯, ৮১১৯২১৪

গ্যাস সরবরাহ বন্ধ/বিঘ্নিত সংক্রান্ত জরুরি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

এতদ্বারা নারায়ণগঞ্জ জেলার শীতলক্ষ্যা নদীর পূর্ববর্তী এলাকার সম্মানিত গ্যাস গ্রাহকদের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে সংশ্লিষ্ট এলাকার গ্যাসের বর্ধিত চাহিদা পূরণার্থে তারাবো "টিবি এস" মডিফিকেশন/ কমিশনিং/ টাই-ইন কাজের জন্য নিম্নবর্ণিত তারিখ ও সময়ে নিম্নলিখিত স্থানসমূহে গ্যাস সরবরাহ সাময়িকভাবে বন্ধ/বিঘ্নিত হইতে পারে।

তারিখ ও সময় স্থানসমূহ
০৫-০৫-২০০০ইং জরুরি সন্ধ্যা ১১.০০ বন্দর, রূপগঞ্জ, আড়াইহাজার, সোনালগাঁও ধানার আংশিক,
ঘটিকা হইতে বিকাল ৫.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত। কাচপুর, তারাবো, কাঞ্চন, রূপসী ও তুলতা।
জরুরি প্রয়োজনে উল্লিখিত টেলিফোনসমূহে যোগাযোগ করা যাইতে পারে। সম্মানিত গ্যাস গ্রাহকদের সাময়িক অসুবিধার জন্য কর্তৃপক্ষ আন্তরিকভাবে দুঃখিত।

বিনা প্রয়োজনে গ্যাস জ্বলতে থাকা আর বিপদকে ডাকা একই বিষয়

তিতাস/জনসংযোগ-১১৩/৯৯-২০০০
জিডি-৪০৮

কর্তৃপক্ষ

স্বাস্থ্য, শক্তি, উদ্যমের জন্য চাই

ওভালটিন

পৃথিবীর প্রথম মল্টেড ফুড ড্রিংক
যা বাড়ন্ত শিশুদের যোগায়
প্রয়োজনীয় পুষ্টি।
আর এর স্বাদ- তুলনাহীন,
কি ঠাণ্ড, কি গরম।

ওভালটিন প্রতিদিন

একমাত্র পরিবেশক : ড্যানিশ ডিস্ট্রিবিউশন নেটওয়ার্ক লিমিটেড