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Icelandic pop star and actress, Bjork, starring in Danish Lars Von Trier movie "Dancer in The Dark" was named 'Best Actress' while Chinese actor Tony Leung received the Best Actor trophy for his role in "In The Mood for Love", directed by Chinese Wong Kar-Wai. "Dancer in The Dark" won the Golden Palm 2000. — AFP photo

## US energy sector undergoing continuous restructuring

By Staff Correspondent

US energy experts said yesterday the American energy sector is undergoing continuous restructuring to boost system efficiency, reduce regulatory uncertainty and support development and commercialisation of technologies that reduce costs and increase choices available to consumers.

Energy experts from the Energy Information Administration (EIA), US Agency of International Development (USAID), the Energy Ministry and Petrobangla have organised the workshop, which is being participated by government officials, private sector representatives, teachers and journalists.

Some 8000 gas producers of USA now enjoy freedom of pricing their commodity. However, the states regulated gas price until 1979.

US has 160 companies operating 285,000 miles of gas pipeline. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission regulates these companies. Similarly, the State Utility Commissions regulate 1500 local gas utilities.

A new class of market players have emerged in the recent

years as the natural gas marketers are unregulated. They purchase gas from the local gas utilities and gas producers and fix their own price to sell gas to consumers.

Price wise, this system ensures in a competitive way the interest of 53 million residential consumers, 4.5 million commercial and 40000 industrial users.

In power, the average power tariff for industrial buyers was the lowest: 4.48 cents per unit of power, while the tariff for domestic users was 6.74 and 7.74 cents for commercial users.

Unlike Bangladesh where industrial users pay the highest, US industries pay less for power because it involves least connection cost for the power marketer or utilities.

Though coal was an old source of energy, it generates about 60 per cent of US's energy. However, the coal used in USA is the cleanest in the world while new environment-friendly technologies minimised pollution.

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11-pt demand placed before Rajuk

By Staff Correspondent  
Leaders of different associations have demanded that Rajuk meet their 11-point demand without delay to resolve the age-old problems.

Led by the ward commissioner of Baridhara (ward No. 18) Wakil Uddin, the leaders of different associations from Baridhara, Gulshan, Banani, Uttara and Nikunja met the Rajuk chairman yesterday and forwarded their 11-point demand. The meeting was held at the seminar room of the Rajuk at about 11:30 a.m.

The demands include handing over of allotted plots in Baridhara block "J", eviction of occupants in Baridhara next to Japanese School, proper supply of water, electricity and gas, construction of road in Madani Avenue in Baridhara block "J", completion of registration of all 268 allotted plots (affected in Gulshan and Banani) in south Badda.

They also demanded hand over of two bighas of land for a market in Natun Bazar in Baridhara, providing government job to those affected by the Rajuk eviction in different areas.

The leaders alleged that a section of officials at the Estate Department of Rajuk demand bribe for doing their job. They demanded action against the corrupt officials. The chairman assured them of action against the culprits.

**SAARC Secy Gen in city**

Secretary General of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Nihal Rodriguez arrived in Dhaka yesterday on a three-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Foreign Ministry Director General (SAARC) Munshi Faiz received the SAARC secretary general at the airport.

Rodrigo during his stay here will call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Foreign Minister Abus Samad Azad and State Minister for Foreign Affairs Abdul Hasan Chowdhury.

Rodrigo will hold official talks with Foreign Secretary Shafi Sami on the wide range of subjects relating to SAARC and strengthening of regional cooperation in South Asia.

He will also hold meetings with Energy Secretary Dr Tawfiq Elahi Chowdhury and Commerce Secretary Golamur Rahman.

**Sec 144 on Bazar Station Square in Sirajganj**

SIRAJGANJ, May 22: The district administration imposed Section 144 on Bazar Station Square here today as two factions of the Opposition BNP called meeting at the same venue same time, reports UNB.

District BNP called the meeting marking the 25th death anniversary of Shaheed Comrade Moniruzzaman Tara.

The administration imposed Section 144 as another group of BNP (Kajal Group) announced programmes demanding withdrawal of expulsion of their leaders Kajal and Hejal.

The two factions later held separate meetings at their respective offices protesting imposition of Section 144.

BNP Secretary General Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan in a statement today condemned the imposition of Section 144 saying that the "fascist government" foiled the meeting in an undemocratic way.

**Swedish minister arrives**

Swedish Minister for Development Cooperation, Migration and Asylum Policy Maj-Inger Klingvall arrived here yesterday afternoon on a five-day official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria received the minister at Zia International Airport. ERD Secretary Mashru Rahman, Swedish Ambassador to Bangladesh Anders Johnson and senior officials were present.

The visit is aimed at reviewing the state of development assistance and to help formulate a new Swedish country assistance strategy for Bangladesh in 2001, the minister told newsmen on his arrival at the airport.

Ms Klingvall said, "Best development cooperation exists between Bangladesh and Sweden."

Asked whether Sweden would enhance the volume of assistance to Bangladesh, she said that this would depend on the performance of existing projects and results of discussions with the Bangladesh government.

**Windies 30/2**

Sports Reporter

West Indies were 30 for two while chasing an improbable victory target of 275 half an hour after lunch on the final day of the second Test against Pakistan at Bridgetown, Barbados yesterday.

BSF did not turn up for flag meet

## Fate of besieged people at Mashaldanga uncertain

KURIGRAM, May 22: Bangladesh authorities are yet to extend assistance to the besieged Bangladeshis at Mashaldanga enclave, as the BSF did not turn up at the scheduled flag meeting between border security forces of the two countries today, reports UNB.

BDR sources said they cannot take any effective steps due to limitations under the International Border Law as the enclave is separated from Bangladesh mainland by a 125-feet-wide patch of Indian land and the fate of the besieged people is still uncertain.

"Today's company commander level flag meeting scheduled to be held at international border pillar no 974 could not take place due to the absence of company commander of 52 BSF," said a source at BDR 24 Rifle Battalion.

There is no word from Indian side for a fresh date, the

BDR sources added.

Meanwhile, another 150 people came to the mainland fleeing from the enclave today, rising the total number of people to 350.

Those who managed to come into the mainland said the Indian police were continuing to impose Section 144 on the enclave prohibiting the local people from coming out of their houses.

The inhabitants of the enclave are facing acute food shortage, as they are not even allowed to go to the shops, they said.

Meanwhile, another 500 kgs of rice and 500 tins of biscuits have been allocated for the enclave dwellers. Earlier, on Sunday, the UNO of Bhurungamari thana allocated one metric ton of foodgrains for them.

The government officials in the mainland are still in the

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A group of people claiming to be activists of Awami League put up a party signboard after they captured the Ansar and VDP camp yesterday. —Star photo

## Bid to occupy Ansar camp

By Staff Correspondent

Police recovered the Ansar and VDP camp near Bangabazar yesterday few hours after it was occupied by some people who claimed to be activists of a front organisation of the ruling party, witnesses said.

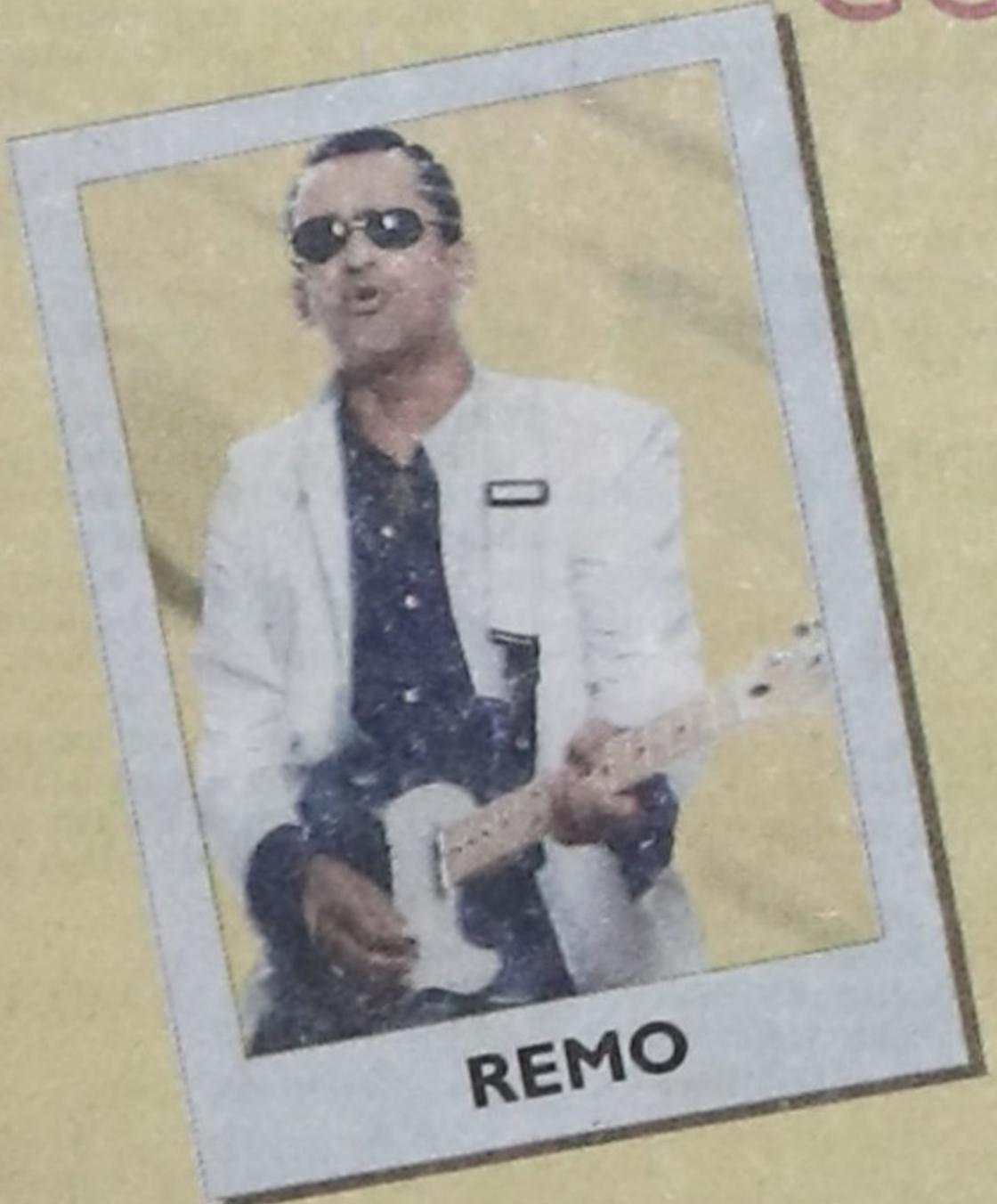
One VDP member was injured when the camp was taken over by the intruders. The victim was sent to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital.

Police recovered the camp at about 4 pm and handed it over to the Ansars posted on the camp.

Ramna police said they heard about the incident and that officials were investigating it.

Officials of Ansar department said measures have already been taken in this regard. They however, would not elaborate.

## LIVE & ELECTRIC CONCERT 2000



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