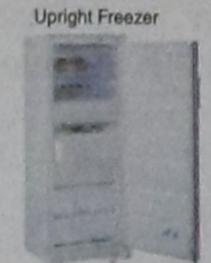


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Erratum

Due to computer error, our backpage story headlined 'PM's cheque for BDR families' was a repetition of a front-page item. We regret the mistake and print it today.

Roumari incident PM's cheque for BDR families

BSS, Dhaka

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina Tuesday handed over cheques for Tk 100,000 to each of the families of three BDR personnel who embraced martyrdom at Baraibari border outpost on April 18.

Sheikh Hasina also presented some gifts to the family members of Shaheed Lance Naik Mohammad Waheed Miah, Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman and Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Abdul Kader.

The prime minister expressed her deep condolence to the members of the bereaved families who called on her at her office on Tuesday. Sheikh Hasina assured them of all possible help and assistance in maintaining their families as well as meeting educational expenses of their children.

She enquired about the wellbeing of each of the three families especially about the schooling of their children. She asked them to take special care for the education of the children.

Sakhina Khatun, wife of Shaheed Lance Naik Mohammad Waheed Miah, Mohammad Amjad Hossain, father of Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Mahfuzur Rahman and Safia Begum, wife of Shaheed Sepoy Mohammad Abdul Kader received the cheques from the prime minis-

The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) Headquarters also donated Tk 50,000 to each of the families.

Director General of BDR Major General A L M Fazlur Rahman was also present at the occasion.

PM opens new ferry service

BSS, Shakhipur (Shariatpur)

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday opened the Chandpur-Shariatpur ferry service, establishing a shortcut communication route between Chittagong port and the southeastern areas of the country including Mongla port.

The 10-kilometre route, a striking milestone in the country's communication sector, will shorten the distance between Chittagong port and Mongla port by 130 km. It will also ease traffic pressure on the capital and help reduce transport cost and cut air polition.

Water crisis grips many city areas as summer sets in

Illegal use of water pumps continues

RAZIUR RAHMAN

Dhaka WASA's failure to meet the increasing demand of water in summer coupled with illegal use of pumps and low pressure in supply lines has exposed residents of many areas in the city to severe water crisis.

Rampura, Mugdapara, parts of Dhanmondi, Rayer Bazar, Adabor, Shankar, Agargaon, Kafrul, Senpara, Shewrapara, Islampur, Kaptan Bazar and most parts of the old city are the worst-affected areas.

People in these areas complained that due to inadequate supply combined with low pressure in the supply lines, they were unable to fill their underground reservoirs. Sometimes there was no water in the supply lines, they added.

Armanitola and some parts of the old city has foul odour, local people complained.

at the minimum. The demand is increasing by five per Dhanmondi area. cent every year.

If all of its 359 pumps operate in full capacity, WASA can only meet the minimum demand. However, the reality is that the WASA cannot supply more than 120 core litres a day, sources concerned said.

On Monday last WASA supplied 10 crore litres less water than its target of 127 crore litres, said an official.

"But this shortage does not result in severe water crisis," he added. "Only a few parts of the city may get less than their maximum demand."

The official also attributed the crisis to existence of old pipelines with very low diameter. Meanwhile, indiscriminate use of water pumps that sucks out water from WASA supply lines is also depriving

consumers. High-rise apartments, multi-storey buildings are Besides, WASA water at Shyamoli, Agargaon, illegally using powerful water pumps, which deprive

other consumers getting adequate water. "When the flow of water is very low in the supply line, According to WASA estimate, per-day demand of we do not get any water as illegal pumps of the buildings water during summer ranges between more than 150 take away all the supply water before it reaches our crore litres at the maximum and around 127 crore litres reservoir," said a resident of Crescent Road in city's

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Policeman killed as gun goes off accidentally

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A police constable was killed when a shot-gun accidentally went off while being cleaned by a havildar in the armoury of Rajarbagh Police Lines yesterday morning.

The victim Safiul Alam, 27, son of Noor Mohammad of Daulatpur in Manikganj died on the spot.

According to police, the gun was issued to a naik named Monir. Monir found the barrel of the gun problematic and informed the havildar Delwar of it.

Delwar took the gun and was trying to fix the barrel. Suddenly a bullet came out of the gun and hit in the throat of Alam.

The victim's body was sent to his village home after a namaj-e-janaza at the Rajarbagh Police Lines after Asr prayers.

Police sources said the havildar was closed and a one-member inquiry committee was formed to investigate the incident.

A case was filed with Motifheel at the Rajarbagh police lines yesterday morning. police station in this regard.



PHOTO STAR

The body of Safiul Alam, a police constable who was killed when a shotgun accidentally went off while being cleaned



Siddig Boli and Malek Boli in action during the final of the Abdul Jabber Memorial Wrestling Championship at the Laldighi Maidan in Chittagong yesterday. Siddiq Boli (which means wrestler) won the title for the third consecutive

Jabber Wrestling Siddiq 'Boli' lifts title

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Siddiq 'Boli' became champion for the third time in a row in the Abdul labber Memorial Wrestling.

Held at its traditional venue a Laldighi maidan here. Siddiq, 35 clinched the title defeating Malek 'Boli' of Banshkhali in mere 10 minutes.

In the first round of the threeround bout Siddiq easily overpowered Malek Boli, who was also a champion for consecutive three years Malek obtained full points in less than three minutes.

In the second round Malek gave in and refused to fight anymore as he could not even stand up. The judges declared Siddig the winner.

Siddig won the 'Mayor Gold | Medal' and was also awarded a champion's crest and a prize money of Tk 2.5 thousand. Malek Boli received runner-up crest and a prize-money of Ik two thousand.

BGMEA says Hartal costs garment sector \$2maday

UNB, Dhaka

BGMEA has appealed to political parties to include a clear announcement in their respective election manifestos that they would not enforce hartals.

It reminded both the ruling and the opposition parties of their responsibility to ensure a stable atmosphere for uninterrupted economic activities.

BGMEA president Kutubuddin Ahmed in a statement yesterday termed hartals as a major stumbling block to economic growth and urged the political parties to avoid hartals and work out alternative political programmes.

Apart from escalating political instability, frequent hartals are badly affecting the country's export business, particularly the garment exports, he said. "The garment Minister for Labour and sectoralone incurs abusiness loss of

SEE PAGE 11 COL 4

Hasina tells Khaleda

Don't kill people in the name of hartal

UNB, Noakhali

Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday asked the opposition leader to take preparation for election instead of killing innocent people in the name of hartal and movement.

Addressing a massive public meeting at Kabirhat Government College ground, the prime minister said the people did not respond to the hartal sans issues of the opposition alliance.

Hasina said when she was ready to give election at that time the opposition leader launched fresh movement rejecting the proposal, she issued ultimatum and called hartals. She said the present government has already passed four years and ten

months and still the opposition leader is issuing ultimatum and calling hartals. "The opposition parties have blackened every institution. Even they did

not hesitate to unleash terrorism in Parliament. High Count and the mosques," said the prime minister.

SEE PAGE 11 COL 8

Will journalist Tipu remain disabled?



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STAR REPORT

Jatiya Party Chairman HM Ershad is trying hard to form a new alliance of pro-Islamic political parties and to create a split in the BNP-led fourparty opposition alliance, sources

Ershad is planning to go to Saudi Arabia this month and to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) later.

deposed president's illegal money is deposited with the United Bank in

draw his money to fund his party for the coming election, Ershad told The Daily Star, "Does money grow in trees? Can any one get money just by going abroad?"

opposition alliance a couple of weeks ago, recently met arrested

sending bills for January STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Telephone Board (BTTB) said it has started sending phone bills for January to its subscribers under Uttara, Tongi and Mirpur exchanges.

would start distributing the bills under Gulshan exchange today. The board hoped to send the bills of other exchanges also within this month and would be able to issue the pending bills of February and March by May.

However, the board regretted the inconveniences caused to its subscribers due to delay in issuing bills and sought subscribers' cooperation for the payment.

the land-based phones, failed to wearing masks had entered the prepare bills for January, February and March thanks to the non-

Islamic Oikkyo Jote (IOJ) Secretary General Mufti Fazlul Haq Amini at Rangpur jail. IOJ is a component of the alliance. To another question he said he is

to Amini in this regard. "Amini is my old friend." Asked if he is holding talks with leaders of other pro-Islamic parties including Fazlul Karim of Islamic

trying to form an alliance and talked

Sashantantra Andolon, he said, "The process is on." The sources claimed that Ershad started the process to form an alliance of pro-Islamic parties after getting a 'green signal' from the

government.

"BNP will be weaker if pro-Islamic parties under the banner of 10J can be separated from the alliance. This will also eliminate the possibility of nomination of candidates from the alliance. If so, BNP will not get vote of pro-Islamic parties in the coming election." said

The sources said that the Fazlul Karim has refused to form an alliance with Ershad. 10J chief Azizul Haq and other

leaders of party have also expressed their reservations about forming an alliance with Ershad, they said.

Bomb attack on Kazi Aref's house: 2 held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Two persons were arrested yesterday from in front of the house of slain JSD leader and veteran freedom fighter Kazi Aref Ahmed in connection with the bomb attack on the house on Tuesday.

They are Mohammad Samir, 20 and Mohammad Sumon 17, Sutrapur police said.

Three unidentified miscreants house at Avoy Das Lane in the city

We are very sorry for the inconvenience. ZAMAN BANGLADESH LIMITED

PROGRAMME CANCELLATION

Due to some unavoidable circumst: ces, we

deeply regret to cancel the TANAIRIL

SYMPOSIUM, which was scheduled to be

held on 27th April, Friday at 6:00 p.m. in

The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel.

AP, Manila

and a last-minute flurry of moves

aimed at keeping him out of jail

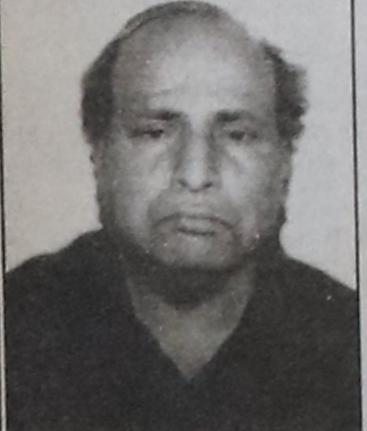
failed, the 64-year-old Estrada

defiantly maintained his innocence

and insisted he never gave up the

122, Tejgaon Industrial Area Dhaka, Bangladesh. Tel. 9886407, 602583

CHEHLAM Renowned Industrialist



Mr. Mujibur Rahman and owner of the Taj Tannery Expired on 17th of March 2001. A Milad Mahfil will be held on the Occasion on Friday the 27th April 2001 after Asr prayers at his residence House No-6, Road No-12, (31 old) Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka. Relatives, Friends well-wishers are and requested to attend the Milad Manfil to Pray for

the salvation of the departed soul. Wife and Sons

Hours earlier, the chief anti-graft Joseph Estrada became the first court, the Sandiganbayan, ordered Philippine leader to be arrested for Estrada's arrest for the non-bailable alleged corruption in office yesteroffense of plunder. The most serious day, spending the night in jail after charge in an eight-count indictment being taken from his home amid a carries the death penalty, although it tense standoff between thousands is considered unlikely to be imposed of his backers and riot police. if Estrada is convicted. After weeks of legal wrangling

presidency.

overhead.

Related Story on page 5

To clear a path along the narrow streets to his house in Manila's ritzy Greenhills district, riot police used truncheons and plastic shields to disperse angry Estrada supporters as a police helicopter hovered low

Vowing to block his arrest or go to jail with him, the crowd pelted police with stones.

"We will not even allow him to surrender. We are ready to die for

him," said Jojo Ibay, a 38-year-old supporter who had been outside Estrada's house for three days. Hundreds more Estrada support-

ers rallied outside the anti-graft court grounds near demonstrations organized by his detractors. Some wore T-shirts marked "Pro-God, Pro-Constitution," a reference to Estrada's claim that his ouster three months ago was unconstitutional.

Under the brutal midday sun, police were forced to climb over the Estrada compound's fence to unlock the gate so they could deliver the warrant.

The former action film star then was driven three kilometers (about 2 miles) to Camp Crame, the main police camp, where he was spending the night in jail. Police said it was possible he might be transferred

SEE PAGE 11 COL 7



Ousted Philippine president Joseph Estrada (R) and his son Mayor Jonggoy Estrada wait inside the police headquarters after being arrested yesterday on charges of financial irregularities.

Estrada arrested for corruption Ershad plans to form new alliance of pro-Islamic parties

concerned said yesterday.

The sources claimed that the

Asked if he is going to UAE to

Ershad, who broke away from the

BTTB starts

The Bangladesh Telegraph and

The BTTB in a release also said it

The BTTB, a state-monopoly in

Tuesday evening and hurled two

renewal of contract with the Lithi bombs. One of them was also carry-

EDITOR: MAHFUZ ANAM-Published by the Editor from Transcraft Ltd., 229 Tejgaon Industrial Area, Dhaka-1208 on behalf of Mediaworld Ltd. 52 Motijheel C.A., Dhak

SEE PAGE 11 COL 2 ing a bag.