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PHILIPS

in Short

Housewife burnt to death

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A housewife was burnt to death allegedly by her husband and in-laws in Keraniganj early yesterday.

Halima Afroz, 20, died around 2:00am soon after her husband Mamun Ahmed of Pashchim Dhaleshwar and his family members set her on fire following a quarrel, said Sadat Hossain, victim's father.

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Lightning kills 6

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kishoreganj

Six people were killed and three injured as of lightning struck in Bazitpur and Nikli upazilas of Kishoreganj district yesterday.

The deceased were identified as Shuklal Das, 28, Ishak, 40, and Ibrahim, 60, of Naogaon village in Bazitpur and Shamsuddin, 50, Manik Mia, 38, and Russell Mia, 16, of Purbagram village in Nikli upazila.

The injured Kala Chan, 35, Fazr Ali, 38, and Kafil Uddin, 16, were rushed to Bazitpur Upazila Health Complex.

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Set up Tagore Centre in 3 universities

UGC suggests govt
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A committee of University Grants Commission (UGC) has recommended to set up a 'Tagore Study Centre' at Dhaka University (DU) and 'Tagore Chair' at Rajshahi and Chittagong universities in a bid to do research on the Nobel laureate poet Rabindranath Tagore, said a press release.

Forming the committee for establishing the centre and the chair was a part of the joint activities of Bangladesh and India

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Ensure adequate green funds

PM urges developed nations to provide easy access for climate-change victims

BSS, Geneva

The industrialised nations should provide adequate fund for adaptation and easy access of green technology at an affordable price to vulnerable economies, urged Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina yesterday at Geneva.

"The fund, we envisage should be adequate, sustainable and easily accessible to meet the full cost of adaptation," she said while speaking at the high-level segment of the 16th Congress of World

Meteorological Organisation (WMO) at Geneva International Conference Centre.

Contribution to this fund should be based on population and vulnerability ratio, she said and urged the developed nations to make the climate fund "operational" soon for adaptation.

Presided over by WMO President Alexander Bedritskiy, the opening session of the congress was also addressed by First Vice-President Ali Mohammad Nooriyan, Second Vice-president Tyrone Sutherland

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Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina addressing the 16th Congress of World Meteorological Organisation yesterday in Geneva International Conference Centre.

PHOTO: PID

Japan to give \$600m

Loan deal tomorrow for Padma Bridge, safe water project, SME development

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Finance Minister AMA Muhith yesterday said the Japanese government has agreed to give Bangladesh \$600 million loans for the Padma bridge project, a safe drinking water supply project in Khulna, and for the development of the SME sector.

Of the total amount, \$400 million will be given for Padma bridge, \$160 million for the water supply programme and the rest for the SME (small and medium enterprise) sector, Muhith said.

"The finance ministry and the

Japanese embassy will enter into an agreement in this regard on Wednesday (tomorrow)," the minister said at a seminar titled "Middle East and Japan Crises: Possible Impact on Bangladesh Economy" at the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) in Dhaka.

The minister said the agreement signing for the loans committed by the Japan government was delayed because of the natural disasters that hit Japan in March.

The Japan government has already assured Bangladesh that it

will continue to process and disburse all the loans despite the recent disasters in the country.

The minister said Bangladesh's imports may be affected for higher prices of petroleum products and food grains worldwide, though its exports are doing well till now.

He stressed the need for bringing discipline in manpower export as there are some irregularities in this business. "We have to focus on manpower export because this is one of the major foreign currency earning sectors of the country," he said.



A BSTI mobile court dumps 10,000 kg chemically ripened mangoes at a DCC dumping point in Matuail yesterday. Aided by Kotwali police and Rab, the court fined three shops in Badamtali Tk 30,000 each and ordered to detain the orchard owner and the importer of the mangoes. The mangoes were artificially ripened in the orchard and then brought to Dhaka.

PHOTO: RASHED SHUMON

Gunmen kill Saudi diplomat in Karachi

AGENCIES, Karachi

Gunmen on motorcycles shot and killed a Saudi diplomat in the Pakistani city of Karachi yesterday, police and the Saudi ambassador said, the second attack on the mission since the killing of Osama bin Laden increased tensions in the region.

Hassan al-Qahtani, a consulate employee, was attacked in the wealthy and normally peaceful Defence district.

The attack comes two days after grenades were thrown at the consulate building, causing no injuries, reports BBC.

Al-Qaeda is violently opposed to the Saudi government and has vowed revenge for the killing of its leader, Saudi-born bin

Laden, by US special forces in a Pakistani military town on May 2.

Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani, who yesterday held talks with US Senator John Kerry designed to repair ties damaged by the unilateral American raid, condemned the attack, AFP says.

Four people riding motorcycles opened fire on the Saudi diplomat's car, a Karachi police official said. The diplomat, a low ranking security official, was on his way to the consulate when the assailants struck.

"We condemn this attack. No one who carries out this kind of attack can be a Muslim," the Saudi ambassador, Abdul Aziz al-Ghadeer, told Reuters.

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No plan to cut ties with Libya

Foreign office says as 'US asks' Bangladesh to sever relations

REZAUL KARIM

Bangladesh has no intention to sever its ties with Libya, a North African nation wrecked by a civil war between Nato-backed insurgents and forces loyal to Muammar Gaddafi.

The United States, in a letter, has recently asked Bangladesh to cut its relations with Gaddafi regime for violation of human rights and other international rules, said foreign ministry officials on condition of anonymity.

The letter also asked the Bangladesh government not to receive a Libyan delegation that had been scheduled to visit Bangladesh on May 5 to explain Gaddafi government's position.

"We don't sever our ties with a country just because a foreign power wants it. We do whatever is good for our national interest," said a foreign ministry official, adding, "Cutting off ties with Libya is not on our agenda right now."

The officials said Bangladesh is right now focusing on the safety of around 25,000 of its nationals still living in

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River pillars to be checked

Govt body visits spot Friday to see anomalies, if any

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A government sub-committee will visit three rivers of the capital on Friday to check whether boundary pillars have been put up including the foreshores.

The decision was taken yesterday at a meeting of the 11-member sub-committee formed on April 26 in the wake of media reports and environmentalists raising allegations that the district administration set up boundary pillars along the dry-season lean watermark.

The committee led by Mostafizur Rahman, state minister for land, held its first meeting yesterday at the land ministry.

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No VALID PERMITS UAE set to deport 224 Bangladeshis

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The United Arab Emirates (UAE) will deport 224 Bangladeshi workers arrested by Abu Dhabi police on May 9 for having no valid residence permits.

"They are now in a deportation cell. The authorities here usually deport workers in a week after arrests are made for having no valid documents. The detained

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IMF chief faces more sex assault charge

Denied bail; French writer ready to complain

AGENCIES

A French writer is to make a complaint alleging Dominique Strauss-Kahn sexually assaulted her in 2002, her lawyer said yesterday, after the IMF chief was arrested in New York on a similar charge.

Novelist and journalist Tristane Banon, 31, previously made the allegation against the leading politician in 2007 on television



Dominique



Tristane Banon

and in an interview with a news website, but she had not made a formal complaint to authorities.

"We're planning to make a complaint. I am working with her," lawyer David Koubbi said, adding that his client had previously been persuaded not to take action by her mother, a regional councillor in Strauss-Kahn's Socialist Party.

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CHANGES TO LAW JS body seeks ACC opinion

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The parliamentary standing committee on law ministry yesterday for the first time invited the Anti-Corruption Commission for giving opinion on 10 proposed amendments to

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PRAYER TIMING			May 17
Fajr	4-10	4-45	
Zohr	12-45	1-15	
Asr	5-00	5-15	
Maghrib	6-36	6-40	
Esha	8-00	8-30	
Source: Islamic Foundation			