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Inside Today
Metropolitan
Dhaka Day by Day



Australian Aboriginal art shows link of people with land and proves the country is theirs
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Article

Muslim faithful are already beginning to arrive in Saudi Arabia for this year's Haj — the annual pilgrimage to Makkah. The Saudi-Iranian accord, drawn up after 1987 when 400 Iranian pilgrims were killed, and a subsequent Iranian boycott of the Haj, has yet to pass its sternest test
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Feature

Education
A recent study concludes that a feasible package of reforms can reduce the recurrent costs of education systems by 25 per cent
Page 6

International



Business
Taka 14 crore, lying unutilised under the Third Telecommunication Credit, is likely to be refunded by World Bank
Page 8

NEWS BRIEFS

Hasina's condition unchanged
The condition of the Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina remained unchanged on Friday, party sources said. She has been suffering from low blood pressure and fever since Thursday. The Awami League leader is now under the treatment of Prof. Nurul Islam, reports UNB.

British aid for flood victims
The British government will give CARE (Britain) pds 20,000 (Taka 13 lakh) to help families affected by the recent flooding in the districts of Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Habiganj, reports BSS.

Agri institute closed
By DU Correspondent
The Agricultural Institute of Sher-e-Banglanagar was closed since die after clashes between BCL (J-A) and JCD on Friday. A procession was brought out in the Dhaka University campus last night to protest the closure.

Students clash: Over 100 rooms ransacked, set ablaze
Agri Varsity closed

From Our Correspondent
ransacked during the clash. Belongings of the rooms were also set ablaze.
A tense situation was prevailing on the campus following the incidents. Police and BDR have been posted in and around the campus.
When contacted, Proctor of the university Dr. Ataur Rahman said the clash originated from Isha Khan Hall on Thursday night on the issue of watching TV and VCR. The BCL workers wanted to watch VCR when the programme on the death anniversary of Ziaur Rahman was on the air. But the JCD workers opposed the BCL proposal.
BCL and Chhatra Union workers brought out a procession in the town this evening protesting the clash on the campus. They charged JCD for the incident.
The acting president of JCD Suruzzaman and general secretary Mahbul Alam in a statement blamed BCL for the clash and demanded punishment of those responsible for it.
On the other hand, the vice-president and general secretary of Bangladesh Agricultural University Central Students Union (BAUCSU) AKM Abdur Rafiq and Awlad Hussain in a statement said when the university authorities ordered the students to vacate halls, some outsiders under the banner of JCD ransacked the rooms and hunted for the BCL workers. They also demanded punishment of those responsible. Both the groups urged the authorities to reopen the university.



It was "World No Tobacco Day" yesterday. Programmes including bringing out processions were taken up to highlight the danger of smoking. And let us hope it would generate some amount of awareness, if not today — tomorrow.
— Star photo.

Many feared killed: People fleeing Peshawar
Blast in Pak ammunition depot

PESHAWAR (Pakistan), May 31: Thousands of people fled Pakistan major garrison city today after a powerful explosion rocked an army ammunition depot, killing an unspecified number of people, police and officials said, reports AFP.
Officials have released no casualty figures but residents feared dozens of people may have been killed.
People fleeing to the nearby district of Pabbi were seen screaming for missing relatives.
Thick black smoke billowing from the Badrashi depot engulfed the city of Nowshera.
some 50 kilometers (30 miles) east of Peshawar along the Afghan border, while authorities have ordered evacuation of about half a dozen localities, the officials said.
A Defence Ministry statement said the army had cordoned off the area as "sporadic explosions continued" until late evening.
"No casualty or damage to property has so far been reported," the statement said, adding that the situation is under control and measures have been taken to deal with any emergency.
Residents did not rule out sabotage because of the presence of a large number of Afghan Mujahedeen fighters supplied with arms through Pakistan.
But Colonel Ghulam Sarwar said the "sudden rise in temperature" could have triggered the blast. He added that an enquiry would be conducted into the causes of the explosion.
Hundreds of families arriving in Pabbi said the first blast was heard at around 5.00 pm (1200 GMT).
"We heard a big roar," former Minister Syed Muzaffar
See Page 10 Col. 3

8 killed as boat capsizes
Short-term plan for telecom rehabilitation

GHORASAL, May 31: Eight bodies were recovered but 50 people still remained missing after an engine boat capsized in the river Sitalakha near Taraganj in Kapasia upazila of Gazipur district today, reports UNB.
Witnesses said the 100-passenger capacity boat with about 150 people on board sank in midstream while on way to Rangganj this afternoon.
Six of the bodies were identified as Zakir Hossain (22), Rokhana Begum (16) and Kamrunnahar Lipi (12) of Khalapara in Kaliganj upazila, Masuma Akhter Shipa (12) and Ershadur Rahman (four months) of Pachahara in Gaffargaon upazila and Rawshan Ara Begum (40) of Nasera in Kapasia upazila.
Telephone and Telegraph Board has taken up a Tk 50 crore plan to rehabilitate the damaged installations located mainly in the coastal areas.
The emergency rehabilitation project has been submitted to the Planning Commission and the Economic Relations Department (ERD) for review and subsequent approval, board sources said.
The short-term plan envisages construction of two towers, one at Paradisi Hills and the other at Agrabad in Chittagong, installation of ten 120-channel ultra high frequency (UHF) systems and 100 high frequency (HF) systems in the offshore islands.
The T & T Board has already raised a 60-metre tower, built with local expertise. The temporary tower replaced the damaged tower and restored the 800-channel national telelink and international telephone connections with the outside world. Television connection could not be given but separate arrangement is underway to restore it.
The board has already floated an international tender for construction of a permanent 120-metre tower at Chittagong with a capacity to withstand cyclonic storm with a
See Page 10 Col. 3

Kremlin going for radical reform: Bush

WASHINGTON, May 31: President George Bush said today he had the impression the Soviet Union had embarked on radical economic reform and was therefore "feeling more positive" about US aid to its former cold war adversary, reports Reuter.
"I'm feeling more positive on a wide array of specific questions," Bush told reporters in the White House Rose Garden after talks with Soviet envoy Yevgeny Primakov.
The talks covered such issues as the Kremlin's bid for trade concessions, farm credits and an invitation to the July summit in London of the world's leading industrial democracies.
Primakov briefed Bush on new Soviet plans for moving to a market economy.
"Yes, I had the impression that they are undertaking what for them is and what the world will see as radical economic reform," Bush said when asked if he believed Soviet authorities were prepared to take the steps necessary to move away from a state-controlled economy.
"I liked what I heard and we have some decisions ahead of us," the president added. "The visit by Primakov was extraordinarily helpful."
Bush said he would meet in the next day or two with team of US experts who visited the Soviet Union recently to study its food distribution system to get more details on the Soviet plan.
He said the team came back "leaning forward" on the issue of whether to grant the Soviet request for 1.5 billion dollars worth of farm credits.
Bush also said he had "a little homework to do" on Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's request for an invitation to the July 15-17 London summit of the world's seven biggest industrial democracies.
In another development in Moscow leaders of the three Soviet Baltic republics have denounced attacks by Soviet troops on their territory as Stalinist and said they should preclude the west from giving any financial aid to the Kremlin.
See Page 10 Col. 2

Dhaka City Corporation has Tk 138cr debt

Shortage of funds is keeping the debt-ridden Dhaka City Corporation away from providing adequate amenities to its 70 lakh residents, on Friday.
In an exclusive interview with UNB, the newly-nominated Mayor of the Corporation Mirza Abbas said, "We are only providing the conservancy services, street lights and few emergency services and are not in a position to carry out other development activities for lack of funds".
A special allocation is needed to carry on the development work and normal responsibilities of the Corporation, he said.
The Corporation has a debt of Tk 138 crore for which mayors and administrators of the previous government were responsible, Abbas said, adding those mayors and administrators used the corporation as a
See Page 10 Col. 1

'World No Tobacco Day' observed

By Staff Correspondent
The "World No Tobacco Day" was observed throughout the country Friday as elsewhere in the world. The day was observed at the call of world health organisation with the slogan for this year, "Public places and transport: Better tobacco free".
Different social organisations arranged seminars, discussion meetings and workshops to boost up campaign and create awareness against the hazards of smoking.
"Adhunik", an organisation engaged in campaign against smoking, held a seminar Friday afternoon at the National Press Club auditorium. Education Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury and others addressed the seminar.
Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB), Dhaka Ah-sania Mission, Anti Drug-Smoking-Alcohol Society and other organisations observed the day through different programmes. (More news on Page 3)

Assault on Nizami Students agitate for withdrawal of cases today

By DU Correspondent
Various student organisations have decided to demonstrate near the Home Ministry in the Secretariat this morning demanding withdrawal of cases filed against nine student leaders in connection with the assault on Jamaat leader Maulana Mathur Rahman Nizami.
The student organisations — are Chhatra League (S-A), Jatya Chhatra League, Chhatra League (N-S) and Chhatra Union, whose demands also include immediate ban on communal politics and arrest of the accused in Dr Milon murder case.
The student leaders against whom cases have been filed by Maulana Nizami accusing them of assaulting him in the office of the Dhaka University's Vice-Chancellor are: Ashim Kumar Ukil, General Secretary, Quamruzzaman Ansari, DU unit General Secretary, Altaf Hossain Tokon and Jamaluddin, activists of Awami League-backed Chhatra League (S-A), Jahangir Sattar Tinku, President, SM Kamal, General Secretary, and Pankaj Nath, a leader of BKSAL-backed Jatya Chhatra League and Nasir-ud-Doza, General Secretary of CPB-supported Chhatra Union.
None of the student leaders has however been arrested so far. But police are said to be searching for the accused.
The demonstrations will be followed by submission of
See Page 10 Col. 2

Depression again

By Staff Correspondent
A depression has formed over the south east Bay of Bengal. It is likely to intensify further and come over Bangladesh coasts.
In an exclusive interview with UNB, the newly-nominated Mayor of the Corporation Mirza Abbas said, "We are only providing the conservancy services, street lights and few emergency services and are not in a position to carry out other development activities for lack of funds".
A special allocation is needed to carry on the development work and normal responsibilities of the Corporation, he said.
The Corporation has a debt of Tk 138 crore for which mayors and administrators of the previous government were responsible, Abbas said, adding those mayors and administrators used the corporation as a
See Page 10 Col. 1

Attack on residence Suranjit in India, wife complains of insecurity

By Staff Correspondent
The Jigatala residence of Ganatantri Party leader Suranjit Sengupta came under attack by a group of unidentified persons on Thursday night.
The attackers numbering about 20 to 25 reportedly came after the screening of a T V programme where Suranjit made complimentary remarks to late President Ziaur Rahman.
The attackers damaged his Pajero Jeep and tried to break the front door of the house open. But failing to do so the attackers started to call him names and savaged him at the top of their voice for praising
Ziaur Rahman on the TV.
Suranjit Sen who is now in India for treatment in his recorded programme on Ziaur Rahman praised him for his call for independence and said that Zia declared the independence when the nation was expecting a call from the armed forces.
Suranjit's wife Dr Jaya Sengupta told the Daily Star that failing to break the door open the attackers shouted a hail of abuse at Suranjit.
She said that it was evident that the people were not safe even in their residences and it was happening when democ-
See Page 10 Col. 1



Suranjit's jeep damaged by attackers Thursday night.
—Star photo

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New BCS (admn) body floated

By Staff Correspondent
An organisation of the BCS (administration) cadres styled "Coordination Committee of BCS (admn)" has surfaced recently as a counter organisation to the BCS (admn) Association led by Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir.
Mohammad Abdus Sattar Khan, convener of the coordination committee said to have been formed on May 2 last in a letter issued to the deputy commissioners on May 26, alleged that the BCS (admn) Association was continuing its activities-violating the association's constitutional provision 13, according to which the election of the association was to be held on or before December 31, 1990.
The letter also described that the activities of the BCS (admn) Association was detrimental to the interests of the BCS (admn) cadres and said that 98 per cent of the former EPCS officers had expressed their disagreement with the activities of the association. Besides the letter alleged that the recent activities of the secretary general of the association was highly criticised in different newspapers. The letter stressed the need for formation of a new committee of the BCS (admn) cadres for safeguarding their professional.
Abdus Sattar Khan talking to the Daily Star said that 98
See Page 10 Col. 1

Mighty mouse does it

By Staff Correspondent
A power failure lasting more than nine hours forced Bangladesh Television (BTV) to run on its generators yesterday, seriously affecting the Friday morning transmission and the national news bulletins.
A blown transformer, suspected to have been caused by an intrepid mouse, cut off normal electricity supply around 11:30, disrupting the morning transmission. All on a sudden viewers saw their TV screens go blank.
It was not until around 8:50 pm that power supply was restored and the generator switched off.
The 8 o'clock Bangla news bulletin and the 10 o'clock English news was telecast with only one newscaster each because only one camera could be operated instead of the usual two.
Without airconditioning the male newscaster who presented the English news had to shun his jacket and face the viewers in shirt-sleeves and tie.