

The Daily Star **ROUNDTABLE ON INDUSTRIALISATION IN RANGPUR**

Call for separate industrial policy, tax holiday for ten years

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Rangpur

Speakers at a roundtable called for a separate industrial policy, tax holiday for ten years and gas supply through pipeline in Rangpur to foster rapid industrialisation in the region. They also demanded exemption of duty on import of machinery for setting up industries in Rangpur and exemption of VAT on products at the initial stage. The Daily Star organised the roundtable titled 'Prospects of and obstacles to industrialisation in

Rangpur' at Rangpur Rotary Centre Auditorium on Tuesday.

Leaders of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, politicians, bankers and civil society members took part in the discussion. Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam moderated the roundtable. Only industrialisation can help alleviate poverty in Rangpur and its adjoining districts, the speakers said and urged the government to meet their demands in this regard. A large number of people in the region are unemployed, said GM

Quader, a lawmaker from Rangpur-3 constituency. "Poverty cannot be reduced unless they are provided with job opportunities."

He underscored the need for a separate industrial policy and incentives such as bank loan with low interest rates to attract investors.

The lawmaker identified the lack of infrastructure as the major obstacle to industrialisation in the northern region. He also demanded gas supply in Rangpur and its adjoining districts.

Mostafa Azad Choudhury, presi-

dent of Rangpur Chamber of Commerce and Industry, said there are huge prospects of developing agro-based industries, agricultural machinery industry, milk processing industry and jute industry in the region.

He called for providing bank loans with 10 per cent interest rates on easy terms to entrepreneurs.

He also called for opening a branch of Export Promotion Bureau in Rangpur to help export-oriented industries.



CPD Executive Director Dr Debapriya Bhattacharya speaks at a roundtable on 'Future development challenges' at the Brac Centre Inn in the city yesterday. On his right are Brac Chairperson Fazle Hasan Abed and Prof Amirul Islam Chowdhury and on his left is Dr Rushidan Islam Rahman, research director of BIDS. The Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) organised the roundtable.

Govt employees demand permanent pay commission

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Leaders of Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Samannaya Parishad at a rally yesterday demanded of the government for formation of a permanent pay commission and service commission.

They also demanded 30 per cent dearness allowance until formation of the permanent pay commission. The rally was organised at the Central Shaheed Minar in the city to press their five-point demand.

The demand includes extension of the service age of the employees to 60 years, regularisation of the temporary employees according to government circular, upgrade the designation similar to secretariat employees, stop appointment of the employees on consolidated salary.

The leaders at the rally announced fresh agitation programmes, including campaigns in support of their demands at district and upazila levels from June 1 to June 10, two-hour demonstration in offices on June 18 and 19 and two-hour sit-in in front of the secretariat on June 20 if their demands are not met immediately. Parishad President Abdul Mannan said Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, while in opposition, assured us of meeting our demands if her party (BNP) goes to power. But the demands are yet to meet.

2 boys drown in DU pond

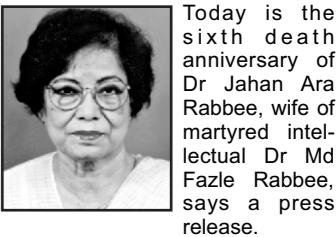
DU CORRESPONDENT

Two outsider boys drowned in the Shahidullah Hall pond of Dhaka University (DU) yesterday afternoon. They were identified as Rubel, 13, and Khokon Lal Das, 11.

They are residents of Aga Sadeque Road, Sweeper Colony, Pakistan Math in the city. Relatives of the dead said Rubel, Khokon and another boy went to Shahidullah Hall pond for taking bath at around 3:15pm.

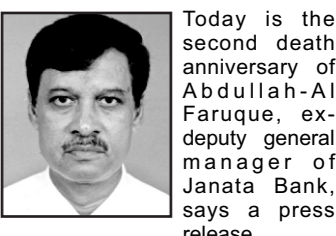
At one stage, two of them drowned, witnesses said. Some students rescued them and sent to Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH). No autopsy of the bodies was held as the relatives of the dead snatched the bodies after those arrived at the DMC Morgue.

Death anniversary



Today is the sixth death anniversary of Dr Jahan Ara Rabbee, wife of martyred intellectual Dr Md Fazle Rabbee, says a press release. Wreaths will be laid on her grave and fataha will be offered at the New Azimpur Graveyard in the morning to mark the day. Khame Quran and doa mahfil will be held at the Salmulla Etmikhana. Foods will also be distributed among the orphans.

Abdullah-Al Faruque



Today is the second death anniversary of Abdullah-Al Faruque, ex-deputy general manager of Janata Bank, says a press release.

Invest in jt venture with overseas partners

UNB, Dhaka

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the Bangladeshi expatriates in the UAE to invest in joint venture with overseas investors for the country's economic progress.

"You'll have to encourage entrepreneurs here to invest in Bangladesh and apprise them of our liberal and competitive investment policy," she told a reception hosted by Bangladesh community at Jumeriah Beach Hotel.

Khaleda, who flew to Dubai for Abu Dhabi Tuesday night, said some vested quarters are spearheading a pernicious campaign at home and abroad to push Bangladesh and its citizens into difficulties.

"You'll have to give them an appropriate reply. You'll have to project the country's real picture and uphold the nation's image," she said.

Stressing the need for continuity of the government for development, she mentioned that Malaysia and Singapore achieved faster growth and development because of continuity of their governments.

Khaleda said former Malaysian prime minister Mahathir Mohammad ruled his country for 15-20 years bolstering Malaysia's economy.

Describing the UAE as a great

friend of Bangladesh, the prime minister said she requested the UAE government to increase bilateral cooperation and recruit more workers from Bangladesh.

'Protect garment workers, save industry'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Five left leaning parties demanded implementation of their seven-point order to protect the garment workers and save the industry, says a press release.

They placed the demands at a press conference at the Sramik-Krishak Samajbadi party office in the city yesterday.

Their demands include unconditional release of all arrested workers including labour leader Moshrefa Mishu, compensation of Tk 7 lakh to the families of those killed and Tk 1 lakh for those injured and enforcement of 'Industry Law 1965'.

Leaders of left parties Tipu Bishwas, Abdus Salam and Nirmol Sen were present at the conference.

Saarc countries urged not to take step harmful to members

UNB, Dhaka

Pointing at some environmental adversities facing Bangladesh, Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday urged the Saarc member countries not to take any step that harms another country.

"Let us confirm that efforts by one country do not harm another country and we can all be benefited from a caring attitude to others," he said while addressing as chief guest the inaugural session of the seventh meeting of Saarc Environment Ministers at a city hotel.

Without mentioning any country's name, Saifur said Bangladesh is experiencing a number of natural calamities for various steps of neighbouring countries.

He also indicated that economic and planning process of a country often proves damaging for the environment. In this connection, he said construction of roads and bridges crisscrossing rivers caused waterlogging that cast negative effects on water bodies.

New building code to be enforced in few months

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Professionals pinned high hopes on newly formulated 'Building Construction Regulation 2006' terming it pragmatic though Rajdhani Unnayan Corporation (Rajuk) is poorly staffed and ill equipped to oversee construction of the establishments.

The regulation is aimed at making the fast growing capital greener and comfortably liveable mega-city in future.

They were speaking at a press conference organised by Rehab, Bangladesh Institute of Planners (BIP), Institute of Architectures, Bangladesh (IAB), Institute of Engineers' Bangladesh (IEB) and Bangladesh Parishad Andolon (Bapa) at the National Press Club in the city yesterday.

The newly formulated regulation will be enforced in the capital in few months and other parts of the country will come under the regulation in phases.

Under the rule, any new establish-

ment will require prior approval of Rajuk and its construction will be supervised at every stage.

To protect misuse of residential areas for commercial or manufacturing purposes, the owners are to obtain 'occupancy certificate' from Rajuk after completion of construction and get it renewed every five years.

The regulation will also save time required for getting construction approval from one and half years to

only one month as Rajuk will soon launch 'one window service cell' comprising 17 different services such as electricity, water, sewerage, civil aviation etc.

A high powered Citizens' Committee comprising professionals of Rehab, IEB, IAB, BIP, Rajuk authorities and Secretary of Housing and Public Works Ministry was formed to monitor enforcement of new construction code.

General Secretary of IAB Md Mahbubur Rahman said the regulation provides for 'Floor Area Ratio' that will spare more space for the city-dwellers.

Regarding ill condition of the existing buildings, he said though these were built in compliance with the older law, their renovation or extension would require compliance with the new rules.

Member Secretary of Bapa Iqbal Habib said, 'Security of the construction workers did not get due importance in the regulation'.

The power and functions of the Citizens' Committee is also vague in the regulation, he added.

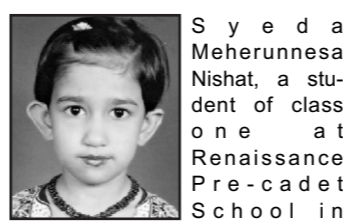
Humayun made HC to Australia

UNB, Dhaka

The government has decided to appoint M Humayun Kabir, currently serving as Bangladesh Ambassador to Nepal, as the next High Commissioner to Australia.

A career diplomat Humayun Kabir joined the BCS (Foreign Affairs) cadre in 1981. He had his Honours and Masters degree in Political Science from Dhaka University.

Appeal for help



Syed Meherunnesa Nishat, a student of class one at Renaissance Pre-cadet School in Mirpur, has been suffering from thalassaemia, a type of blood cancer, since she was seven-month old, says a press release.

Nishat, now six and a half years, has been given regular blood transfusion, but doctors said she needs bone marrow transplant immediately, which involves about Tk 50 lakh.

But her father Syed Zunayed Kamal, a small trader, could not afford such expensive treatment.

He has appealed to generous people to extend a helping hand to save her daughter's life.

Contributions can be sent to the following account: Syed Zunayed Kamal, Savings A/C No.- 5104238019, NCC Bank Ltd., Mirpur Branch, Dhaka.

Interested persons can also contact her family over mobile phone - 01711018246.

Cost of internet use set to go down

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Call centres and software exporters can rent half circuit 64 Kbps facility for Tk 151,200 and full circuit for Tk 272,160 for a year. General users may avail the same for Tk 201,600 and Tk 362,880 respectively.

The tariff rate for ISPs through satellite for 64 Kbps half circuit is: registration fee- Tk 20,000, installation and testing- Tk 120,000, for 64 Kbps & 128 Kbps the lifetime modem charge (optional) Tk 84,000 and Tk 21,000 rental (if modem provided by BTTB). For 192 Kbps to 1 Mbps, the lifetime modem charge is Tk 126,000 plus an annual rental of Tk 31,500. For speed above 1 Mbps, the lifetime modem charge is Tk 231,000 plus an annual rental of Tk 57,750.

The BTTB circular said that the customers are barred from sharing or further leasing out of bandwidth. The Internet Private Leaseline Circuit (IPLC) is disallowed to terminate calls. Besides it added some terms and conditions on the use of voice-based application.

"If any illegal transmission of voice is detected in IPLC, a penalty of Tk 350,000 will be added to 64 Kbps half circuit annual

charge... if the customer is a licensed operator, in addition to this penalty, respective clauses of Telecom Laws will also be applicable," the circular stated.

The 10-page circular also laid out cost structure for leased line, long-term connection, and different types of clients.

The South East Asia-Middle East-West Europe 4 (SEA-ME-WE 4) project is the fourth project in the SEA-ME-WE series. On March 27, 2004, a consortium of 16 international telecommunications companies signed construction and maintenance agreements for the new optical fibre submarine cable system linking South East Asia to Europe via the Indian Sub-Continent and Middle East with Terminal Stations in Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Italy, Tunisia, Algeria and France. The contract is being awarded jointly to Alcatel Submarine Networks, France and Fujitsu Ltd, Japan and the estimated project cost is \$ 500 million.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia inaugurated the cable in Cox's Bazar on May 21.

Major reshuffle in police admin

UNB, Dhaka

Eighteen police officials were transferred in a major reshuffle in police administration yesterday.

Superintendent of Police (SP) Kazi Fazul Karim of Gopalganj has been transferred to Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) as Deputy Commissioner (DC). Additional SP Masudur Rahman of Special Branch (SB) replaced Kazi, Home Ministry.

DC Monir Hossain of Chittagong Metropolitan Police (CMP) has been transferred to DMP as DC. SP Golam Rasul of Cox's Bazar to DMP as DC. Additional DC Shahnir Rahman of DMP to Jhenidah as SP. Additional SP Ekramul Habib of Police Staff College to Madaripur as SP.

Masum Rabbani of Police Headquarters has been transferred to APBn Bogra as Commanding officer, SP Abul Kashem of Police Staff College to Highway Police as AIG and he was replaced by AIG Telecoms Musharrif Hossain, Humayun Kabir of Police Headquarters has been transferred to Telecoms as AIG. Additional DIG Nazibur Rahman of Tangail PTC to SB Training School, Dhaka as Commandant.

DC Shahidul Islam of Detective Branch (DB), Additional Commissioner Jasimuddin of CMP and Additional DIG Manjur Quader Khan of Rajshahi Range have been posted as Joint Commissioners of DMP.

AIG Benzir Ahmed of Police Headquarter has been transferred to PTC Tangail as Commandant, SP of Madaripur Abdul Malek to DMP as DC and Additional DIG of SB Training School Mainur Rahman Chowdhury has been transferred to CMP as Additional Commissioner.

Exhibition of Dhamrai metal craft begins

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Ambassador Patricia A Butenis yesterday urged all concerned to help develop the bronze and brass industry in order to preserve the country's rich heritage.

"We are extremely happy and the American community here also appreciate the artworks," she said after inaugurating an exhibition of metal craft of Dhamrai titled 'Oitihya Aparup' (A splendid tradition), at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts in the city.

The 10-day gallery has organised the 10-day exhibition in collaboration with the American Center. The US ambassador also launched a VCD titled 'The Metal Craft of Dhamrai' at the inaugural ceremony.

The exhibition showcases bronze and brass statues of Shiva, Krishna, Bishnu, Parvati, Ganesh, Garur and other Puranic characters and utensils with various designs produced by Dhamrai Metal Craft.



Thundershowers likely

UNB, Dhaka

Rain or thundershowers accompanied by temporary gusty wind is likely at a few places over Khulna, Barisal, Chittagong and Sylhet divisions and one or two places over Rajshahi and Dhaka divisions in the next 12 hours until 6:00pm today.

Day temperature may fall slightly over the country, Met Office said in a forecast.

Highest temperature 37.7 degree Celsius was recorded yesterday at Jessore and lowest 23.5 degree Celsius at Rangamati.

The sun sets in the capital at 6:39pm today and rises at 5:12am tomorrow.

Highest and lowest temperature and humidity recorded in some major cities and towns yesterday were:

City/Town	Temperature in Celsius		Humidity in percentage	
	Max	Min	Morning	Evening
Dhaka	34.5	25.5	65	69
Chittagong	34.0	24.6	66	72
Rajshahi	36.0	26.6	--	56
Khulna	36.8	27.2	64	--
Barisal	35.5	26.5	70	84
Sylhet	35.8	25.0	69	70
Cox's Bazar	34.0	25.5	69	70

Obituary



Alhaj Haider Chowdhury (Russel), managing director of Quality Distribution, Khulna and son of late Dr Ashraf Ali, passed away due to pneumonia on Wednesday at the age of 43, says a press release.

Russel left behind his mother, wife and three daughters to mourn his death.

He was buried at the Mirpur Intellectuals' Graveyard.

His kulkhwani will be held at his residence at 13/E Eastern Housing, Siddheswari in the city after Asr prayers tomorrow.

Mahmunir Ahmed

Mahmunir Ahmed, wife of Alhaj Khandkar Jamaluddin Ahmed, former Conservator of Forest, passed away due to old age complications yesterday at the age of 81, says a press release.

Her kulkhwani will be held at Modhubon Concord at House # 21, Road # 05, Dhanmondi R/A after Asr prayers tomorrow.

TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

News Bulletin

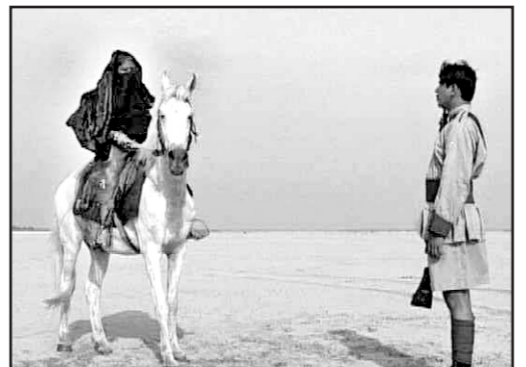
- BTV**
News Headlines (Bangla) at 8:55 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.
- CHANNEL-i**
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 10:30pm, 12:15am.
Telecast of BTV news (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
- ATN BANGLA**
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11pm.
News (English) 8:20am, 7:00pm.
Telecast of BTV News (Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.
- TARA BANGLA**
News Headlines (Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News (Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.
Tara News Bangladesh (Bangla) at 9:30 pm.
- BBC WORLD**
Every hour on the hour

- 12:20** Special Programme on Nazrul Anniversary *Meher Negar*
- 02:30** Special Programme on Nazrul Anniversary *Kobitay Nazrul*
- 03:15** Special Programme on Nazrul Anniversary *Rakkushi*
- 08:00** Rock Link
- 08:30** Drama Serial: *Ferari Siren*
- 09:00** Special Programme on Nazrul Anniversary *Juddho Eboog Bhalobashar Golpo*
- 10:40** Special Programme on Nazrul Anniversary *Onoggo Shur*
- 09:45** Public Reaction *Grameen Phone*
- 09:50** *Trityyomatra*
- 11:05** Special Musical Programme *Meghla Motir Desh*
- 11:30** Special Discussion *Show Nazruler Protir Srodha*
- 12:05** Special Programme *Nazrul Adda Gaaner Adda*
- 01:05** Special Film: *Bangla Mayer Damal Chhelaye*
- 04:05** *Citicef Shora Shori Nazrul*
- 05:30** Children's Programme
- 06:00** Special Documentary Film: *Mukti Juddho O Nazrul*
- 06:30** *Tumi Shundor Tai Comillay Nazrul*
- 07:50** *Jak Na Nishi Gaaney Dokhina Pobon*
- 09:35** *Ajker Shokal Siddiqua Kabir's Recipe*
- 09:00** *Ami Hobo Shokal Belar Pakhi*
- 10:05** *Chalochchitro Kotha Nazrul*
- 10:30** *Shekol Bhanggar Gaan*
- 12:30** Special Programme: *Badal Borishnay Mukttangan*
- 02:35** Drama Serial: *Labonyoprobha Lator Gaaney Nazrul Nazruler Chitri Tomader Pelo Bangladesh*
- 03:15** *Smritir Janalay Shubho Shondhya Shundor Oitihy Esho Drama Serial: Kacher Manush*
- 09:10** Special Drama on

PICK OF THE DAY



Gaaner Adda
On Channel i at 1:05 pm
Special musical programme on Nazrul Anniversary
Hosted by: Nashid Kamal



Rikter Bedon
On ntv at 10:00 pm
Special TV play on Nazrul Anniversary
Cast: Litu Anam, Sumaiya Shimu

- 06:00** *Ilthasher Path Dhore Top News*
- 06:30** *Tomar Gaaney Gaaney*
- 06:45** *Otripto Kamona*
- 08:15** *Smritir Shurobhi*
- 09:15** *Shrishti Shukher Ullashey*
- 10:15** *Fugitive's Run*
- 12:00** *Gothika*
- 02:00** *Among Thieves*
- 03:45** *The New Guy*
- 05:30** *Phantom Force*
- 07:15** *What Dreams May Come*
- 09:30** *The Bourne Supremacy*
- 11:45** *Lethal Weapon 3*
- STAR MOVIES**
- 09:00** *Mr. 3000*
- 11:05** *Stepford Wives, The*
- 01:00** *Arachnophobia*
- 03:15** *Personal Effects*
- 05:10** *Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination*
- 07:15** *Me, Myself And Irene*
- 09:30** *Legally Blonde 2*
- 11:30** *Shall We Dance*
- STAR WORLD**
- 11:30** *Grey's Anatomy*
- 12:30** *Charmed*
- 01:30** *The A Team*
- 02:30** *The Oprah Winfrey Show*
- 03:30** *The Bold And The Beautiful*
- 04:30** *General Hospital*
- 05:30** *Angel*
- 06:30** *The Simpsons*
- 07:00** *The King Of Queens*
- 07:30** *Friends Sr 8*
- 08:00** *Seinfeld*
- 08:30** *American Idol*
- 10:30** *Less Than Perfect*
- 11:00** *The Drew Carey Show*
- 11:30** *Seinfeld*
- NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**
- 11:30** *Nat Geo Reveals*
- 01:30** *Wild Indonesia*
- 02:30** *Seconds from Disaster*
- 03:30** *Footballer & Beauty Queen*
- 04:30** *Nat Geo Junior*
- 06:30** *Wild Dog Wilderness*
- 07:30** *Storm Stories*
- 08:30** *Megastructures*
- 09:30** *Games People Play*
- 10:30** *Air Crash Investigation*
- 11:30** *Built for the Kill*
- DISCOVERY**
- 11:30** *Junkyard Wars*
- 12:00** *Amazing Baby Videos*
- 12:30** *Baby Whisperer*
- 01:30** *Wild Discovery*
- 02:30** *Detective Stories*
- 03:30** *Planet Dinosaur*
- 04:30** *Wild Discovery*
- 05:30** *Kings of Construction*
- 06:30** *Wind Drive*
- 07:00** *African Adventures*
- 07:30** *Wild Discovery*
- 08:30** *Story of Evolution*
- 09:30** *Wild Asia*
- 10:30** *Mean Machines*
- 11:00** *One Step Beyond*
- 11:30** *Crime Night*
- ESPN**
- 10:00** *Fifa World Cup Preview*
- 10:30** *Nba Celebration Finals*
-