

The Daily Star

THIRD EDITION

TODAY'S ISSUE 24 PAGES



COMMITTED TO People's Right to Know

REGD. NO. DA 781

VOL. XVI NO. 156

DHAKA THURSDAY JUNE 22, 2006

www.thedailystar.net

ASHAR 8, 1413 BS

JAMADIUL AWAL 24, 1427 HIJRI

24 PAGES PLUS RISING STARS PRICE: TK 10.00

Demand for EPZ in Sylhet

The Daily Star roundtable with Sylhet business leaders told the move will enhance trade with India

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Sylhet

Business leaders and academicians of Sylhet stressed the need for immediate establishment of an export processing zone (EPZ) or an industrial park in the greater Sylhet region for boosting trade with the seven north eastern states of India as well as for utilising the investment opportunities in the region rich in natural resources.

The opinion came out of a roundtable discussion organised by The Daily Star at Hotel Fortune Garden in Sylhet city on Tuesday

afternoon. Prof MA Aziz, a veteran educationist also dean of the school of humanities and social science at Metropolitan University presided over the event where Prof Kamal Ahmed Chowdhury, dean of the faculty of social science at Shahjalal University Of Science & Technology (SUST) presented a paper on 'investment opportunities: Sylhet perspective'. Editor of The Daily Star Mahfuz Anam also spoke.

Prof Kamal in his presentation said a large number of Bangladeshi

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Iajuddin to be released from CMH 'June 24'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

It is still uncertain when President Iajuddin Ahmed will take charge of his office although he returned to the country on Tuesday after his treatment in Singapore.

Now undergoing treatment at

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Debate in JS over 'two presidents'

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Jatiya Sangsad yesterday witnessed a brief debate between the lawmakers of the ruling BNP and opposition Awami League (AL) over the current status of presidency.

Replying the AL lawmakers'

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GRAFT IN SHIP PURCHASE JS body to complain against Akbar to PM

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A parliamentary body decided yesterday to lodge a complaint with the prime minister in seven days against Shipping Minister Akbar Hossain for corruption in purchasing a new ocean-going ship.

Irked by the shipping minister's rigid stance to buy the new ship at a higher price, the parliamentary standing committee on shipping ministry at its meeting also threatened to refer the case to the Anti-Corruption Commission (ACC).

Akbar allegedly increased the price of the ship from Tk 91 crore to Tk 130 crore in three tenders.

Sources said the shipping minister left the meeting prior to the beginning of discussion on the

issue, saying he was feeling physically unwell.

Ruling BNP lawmaker and committee Chairman Golam Mohammad Siraj told reporters after the meeting, "We will lodge a written complaint with the prime minister in the next seven days against the unilateral and rigid decision taken by the shipping ministry."

The Bangladesh Shipping Corporation (BSC) had earlier decided to buy old ships in three months. It could easily procure at least three new ships at the same cost, the chairman said, adding, "But the process to purchase a new ship will take at least three years."

The committee members

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Argentine striker Lionel Messi (L) is under pressure from Dutch defender Kew Jaliens during their final Group C World Cup in Frankfurt's Waldstadion yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Dutch hold Argentina

AFP, Frankfurt

Two-time World Cup winners Argentina drew 0-0 with the Netherlands here Wednesday to

finish top of Group C and line up a last of 16 clash with Mexico on Sunday.

The Dutch team, who like the Argentines posted two victories

over group rivals Serbia and Montenegro and Ivory Coast, finished in second place on goal difference and will play Group D

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ORIENTAL BANK Share trading halted to stop owners' securities sell-out

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The Securities Exchange Commission (SEC) yesterday suspended trading of Oriental Bank's shares to prevent the banks' owners from selling out their shares in an effort to escape the probe of the investigators. The owners of Oriental had allegedly siphoned off a huge sum of money from the bank in forms of loans.

A day after the Bangladesh Bank

(BB) took over the control of the troubled bank, the price of Oriental Bank's shares suspiciously shot up by 32 percent at the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Tuesday.

The unusual incident prompted the central bank to write a letter to the SEC asking it to stop trading of Oriental Bank's shares at DSE.

The authorities suspended the trading of shares of the problem bank as per section 9(7) of the SEC

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CEC rigid on no door-to-door visits

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Chief Election Commissioner (CEC) MA Aziz remains rigid on his decision not to conduct door-to-door visits for preparation of voters' list.

Aziz yesterday again rejected demands from both opposition and ruling parties to conduct door-to-door visits and told reporters yesterday, "We will follow what the government or ministers said in preparing the voter list. We will revise the voter list in accordance with the court's order."

Apart from the opposition political parties, electoral and legal

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INDEFINITE STRIKE CONTINUES Primary teachers ignore PM's call

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government primary schools and community primary schools remained closed for the fifth consecutive day yesterday as the teachers vowed to continue their indefinite strike till their demands for better pay scale are realised.

Teachers of community primary schools have continued their hunger strike until death.

Despite attempt to open the schools by government officials including thana education officers and deputy commissioners follow-

ing Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's order, around 95 per cent schools were kept under lock and key yesterday, agitating teachers said.

LATEST: Community primary school teachers called off their fast-unto-death strike when PM's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury met them at Mukattang late last night, reports UNB

Leaders of Bangladesh Primary Teachers Association said they can not depend on the prime minister's

SEE PAGE 4 COL 3

Ivory Coast win a 5-goal thriller

REUTERS, Munich

Ivory Coast fought back from two goals down to beat Serbia & Montenegro 3-2 and secure their first World Cup win in an entertaining and fiercely fought battle on Wednesday to avoid ending bottom of Group C.

Substitute Bonaventure Kalou struck the winner from the penalty spot after Serbia defender Milan Djudic handled the ball in the area for the second time, having given away a blatant first-half penalty that let Ivory Coast back into the match.

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TODAY'S MATCHES	TEAM	TIME	VENUE
	Czech Rep v Italy	7:50 pm	Hamburg
	Ghana v USA	7:50 pm	Nuremberg
	Japan v Brazil	12:50 am (Friday)	Dortmund
	Croatia v Australia	12:50 am (Friday)	Stuttgart

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