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Lankan president due July 12

DIPLOMATIC CORRESPONDENT

Sri Lankan President Mahinda Rajapaksa will pay a three-day visit to Bangladesh from July 12 and hold bilateral talks with Prime Minister Khaleda Zia.

This will be his first visit to Bangladesh since Mahinda assumed the office on November 19, 2005. He is the sixth president of Sri Lanka.

Foreign ministry officials termed the visit of the Sri Lankan new president significant in both bilateral and regional aspects. Bangladesh and Sri Lanka are members of South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (Saarc) and Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation (Bimstec).

They said both the countries have attached the greatest importance in strengthening relations

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400 DU teachers busy with off-campus jobs

Academic activities hampered as another 276 on leave

KAMRUL HASAN KHAN

Academic activities of Dhaka University (DU) are being hampered as more than 400 out of 1,492 teachers are engaged in private consultancy and part time jobs in NGOs, private universities and donor funded projects while some 276 teachers are now on leave.

Many of the teachers engaged in profitable jobs outside the campus have not taken prior permission and are neglecting their academic duties.

At least 276 teachers are now on

leave including education leave, deputation, lien and some extraordinary leaves.

Quality of education suffers, as teachers are more inclined to their off-campus duties, said a number of students of different faculties and institutions.

For their part, a number of teachers blamed poor salary and facilities that induced them to take up off-campus work.

Many teachers are irregular and unpunctual in their scheduled classes and careless about in-course and tutorial classes and

examinations, students said, adding that the teachers sometimes fail to notify about their absence from the classes.

Many teachers of applied physics, computer science, sociology and economics, commerce faculty departments, Institute of Business Administration are rushing for consultancies and part-time jobs at the private companies and educational institutions for lucrative pay, sources said.

High-level initiatives taken by the university administration in

SEE PAGE 19 COL 4

PM urged not to shift Ramna Kali Mandir

DU CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Puja Ujjapan Parishad yesterday submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Khaleda Zia urging not to move the historic Ramna Kali Mandir (Temple) from its century-old location.

It said that Hindu devotees have been offering prayers at the Ramna Temple and Ma Anandamoyee Ashram in the Suhrawardy Udyan for hundreds of years and the Hindus are shocked by the decision of the government of relocating those to a nearby place.

The memo also urged the PM to take measures to revoke the moving order of the temple for the sake of country's secular spirit.

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PHOTO: STAR

A section of the agitators of the fast-unto-death being observed and continued by Bangladesh Community Primary Teachers Association at the Central Shaheed Minar in the capital yesterday.

AL's founding anniversary today

UNB, Dhaka

Awami League will observe its 57th founding anniversary today.

On this day in 1949, East Pakistan Awami Muslim League was founded at historic Rose Garden in Old Dhaka. Later, the word "Muslim" was dropped to give it a secular character.

The AL led all democratic movements starting from the Language Movement of 1952 to the War of Liberation in 1971 under the leadership of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

To observe the day, the AL has drawn up elaborate programmes that include a rally from Suhrawardy Udyan to Bangabandhu Bhaban at

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FBI director praises Dhaka's anti-terror campaign

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

US Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director Robert S Muller lauded Bangladesh government for its efforts and success in combating terrorism.

The appreciation came during the FBI boss' meeting with Bangladesh State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfozzaman Babar, who is now in Washington on an official visit, on Wednesday, according to a home ministry press release.

Both Muller and Babar expressed mutual satisfaction at the present level of cooperation between the two governments and desired to remain constantly engaged for furthering the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

Two brothers among three electrocuted in city

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Three people died of electrocution in the capital yesterday in two separate incidents.

In the first incident, two brothers were electrocuted while fixing electric wires during yesterday's Argentina's World Cup match at Korail slum in Gulshan.

The dead are Abdus Sattar, 24, and his younger brother Abu Bakar, 21, both sweepers and residents of Korail slum in Gulshan.

The slum dwellers experienced

SEE PAGE 19 COL 3

SIDDHIRGANJ POWER PLANT ADB nod sought for unfit company

SHARIER KHAN

The Electricity Generation Company Bangladesh Ltd (EGCB) is seeking the approval of Asian Development Bank (ADB) for the controversial selection of an incompetent Chinese company, Harbin, to build the 240 MW Siddhirganj power plant.

About 10 days ago, the EGCB board decided to award the contract to Harbin ignoring the views of the project's consultant.

The ADB is funding the project

and its agreement with the government demands that the project's tender follow the ADB guideline for tenders.

The project's Dutch consultant, Kema International, earlier this month declared Harbin's bid as non-responsive as per the ADB guideline and recommended the EGCB to begin negotiations with the other bidder Indian Bhel.

Kema found Harbin in its financial offer hid the costs of spares worth Tk 22 crore which is 17.5 per cent higher than its initial quote Tk

90 crore. The ADB guideline allows lack of price quotation of some materials but that price should not exceed 15 percent of the bidder's initial quotation.

In addition, Harbin had dictated terms in its financial offer, which also disqualifies it.

To justify its decision, the EGCB said Harbin's power tariff offer is cheaper than that of Bhel. It adds, though the tender documents had referred to ADB guidelines; the documents did not categorically

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SHAZNEEN CASE

Hasan's crime proved beyond doubt

Claims prosecution

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Prosecution in the death reference and appeal hearing of Shazneen murder case yesterday said accused Hasan plotted to execute his plan to rape and kill Shazneen on April 23 night as he knew that a party was to take place in the house at that time.

"Hasan" knew Shazneen would be alone on the ground floor from 8:00pm to 10:00pm during the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Another case filed against Bulu

COURT CORRESPONDENT

A Dhaka court yesterday issued an arrest warrant against Boishakhi Director MNH Bulu after a businessman filed a case following the bounce of a cheque Bulu had written.

Metropolitan Magistrate Mamun Al Rashid passed the order after Noor Hossain, also former director of the EXIM Bank Limited, filed the case with the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate's Court, Dhaka.

After 18 days of confinement in jail, Bulu was released on June 17 securing bails in all three cases filed against him.

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Ex-official of BB, 2 others held with heroin

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A former high official of Bangladesh Bank (BB) and two others were arrested with 1 kg heroin at Pallabi in the capital on Wednesday night.

The arrestees are Nurul Islam, former joint director of the BB, Shahidul Islam, a contractor of the Military Engineers Services (MES), and Selim Mia, a timber trader of Mirpur Mazar Road area.

Police said the gang were looking for buyers after collecting the heroin believed to have been smuggled into Bangladesh from Pakistan recently.

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PHOTO: STAR

Workers of Dhaka City Corporation chop down large trees in Bangla Motor to widen the road stretching from Hotel Sonargaon to Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday.

Israeli PM apologises for civilian deaths Meets Abbas in Jordan

AGENCIES, Petra, Jordan

Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert apologised yesterday for the deaths of Palestinian civilians in recent Israeli army airstrikes after meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at an informal breakfast in Jordan.

Some 13 Palestinian civilians have been killed in Israeli airstrikes in the past week, including two people in a Gaza house on Wednesday and three children in

Gaza on Tuesday. Olmert said he felt "deep regret for the death of innocent Palestinians."

"It is against our policy and I am very, very sorry," he added.

Olmert did not mention a June 9 beach explosion in which another eight Palestinian civilians were killed. Palestinians blame Israel for that incident, but Israel has denied responsibility.

Maj. Gen. Eliezer Shaked, the

SEE PAGE 19 COL 6

Top Petrobangla posts still vacant

Govt appoints one director depriving seniors

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The government yesterday appointed Managing Director of Bangladesh Gas Field Company Ltd (BGFCL) Nazrul Islam as director in-charge of finance in Petrobangla, leaving people senior to him behind.

There are five posts of directors in Petrobangla which contributes over Tk 2,700 crore to the national

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AHMADIYYA MOSQUE CAPTURE Security upped to reign back zealots

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Dhaka is bracing for a clash as religious fanatics march today to capture an Ahmadiyya mosque and evict Ahmadiyyas from Uttara in the capital, while law enforcers and civil society members gather there to resist the move.

As the bigots, demonstrating under the banner of Khatme Nabuwat Andolon Bangladesh (KNAB), vowed to make their

programme a success, police said they would not let the zealots near the Ahmadiyya mosque or home-steads.

Panicked Ahmadiyyas, meantime, distributed leaflets in the trouble-torn Ashkona yesterday calling upon the people not to be misguided by the fanatics' false propaganda about Ahmadiyya beliefs and to oppose the zealots' destructive move.

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Pry schools kept shut for 6th day

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Government primary schools and community primary schools remained closed across the country for the sixth consecutive day yesterday as the pro-Awami League Bangladesh Community Teachers Association remained rigid on their fast-until-death programme.

The pro-BNP faction of the teachers' association however called off their strike on Wednesday night following talks with Prime Minister's Political Secretary Harris Chowdhury.

The pro-BNP community primary school teachers, who were on

hunger strike at Muktagong in the capital, called their hunger strike off at 10:45pm following negotiations between Harris and their association President Hafizur Rahman Khan.

Around 20 agitating teachers however refused to withdraw their strike. They joined the pro-AL Community Primary Teachers Association which have been continuing their hunger strike at the Central Shaheed Minar since last Sunday demanding the nationalisation of their jobs.

Habibul Ahsan Bablu, president of the association, told The Daily

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16 RMG labour bodies sign deal with owners

Suspend their agitation programmes

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Sixteen garments workers organisations yesterday suspended all their agitation programmes announced,

on June 18, following the signing of a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the owners.

The 16 workers body had jointly

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NOTICE



Channel i will telecast a special programme today at 5:30pm on "Regional Dialogue on National Election 2007: Civil Society Initiative for Accountable Development" organised by Centre for Policy Dialogue, The Daily Star, Prothom Alo and Channel i in Sylhet on June 17.

Prayer Timing

June 23		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-05	4-40
Juma	12-30	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-52	6-55
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation

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