

PM distributes honorarium among language martyrs' families

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday distributed the first-ever government honorarium to families of the five martyrs of the Language Movement.
At the Ekushey Padak awarding ceremony on February 20 this year, the prime minister announced monthly government honorarium for the families of Shaheed Abul Barkat, Shaheed Abdul Jabbar, Shaheed Abdus Salam, Shaheed Rafiquddin Ahmed and Shaheed Shafiqur Rahman who made supreme sacrifice in the Language Movement in 1952.
As per her announcement, a decision was taken to provide each family of the five language martyrs with a monthly honorarium of Tk 5,000.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

426 fishermen missing in Bay

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Khulna
At least 426 fishermen aboard 33 fishing trawlers remained missing in the Bay of Bengal after the violent storm on Sunday night.
It could not be ascertained whether these trawlers managed to move to safer places or have been washed away by the sea currents, Sarankhola Fish Wholesalers' Association sources said.
Due to the rough weather and strong gales, the fishermen could not net hilsha fish in the Bay since Sunday, a prominent fish trader of the upazila told The Daily Star over phone.
FB Tanzila, a fishing trawler owned by a fish trader Anwar Hossain, capsized in the Bay when it was caught in the storm on Sunday night.

PM urged to take initiative for nat'l unity

UNB, Dhaka
Prime Minister Khaleda Zia yesterday urged the business community to take initiative for national unity on important issues.
The prime minister made the call when a DCCI team, led by its President MA Momen, met her at the International Conference Centre (ICC).
Khaleda said she repeatedly made calls at public meetings and in the Jatiya Sangsad for national unity and for working unitedly irrespective of party, opinion and path for welfare of the country.
The prime minister said they always want to sit together for

SEE PAGE 15 COL 2

CONDITION FOR PRGF TRANCHE

IMF for further fuel price hike

Banks still cannot open LCs for petroleum import

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) may not disburse the \$80 million sixth tranche of its anti-poverty loan if the government fails to take concrete steps to further reduce the losses of the Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation (BPC).
Jonathan C Dunn, resident representative of the IMF, yesterday informed Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman about the Fund's position regarding the Poverty

Reduction Growth Facilities (PRGF) tranche scheduled in July.

The government raised petroleum prices last month by 10 percent for kerosene and diesel and by 30 percent for octane.
But the IMF observes this price hike is very nominal compared to the loss of the BPC due to subsidising petroleum prices.
"The IMF has asked for reducing the BPC loss either by raising petroleum prices or by other alternatives," Saifur told reporters yesterday. "But we can't afford to

increase price further. So we are considering subsidising the BPC from the budgetary block allocation. Alternatively, we can manage funds from less priority projects."
He mentioned that the recent price hike did not solve the liquidity crisis of the BPC and the banks still cannot open letters of credit to import petroleum.
The IMF representative also expressed the Fund's dissatisfaction over the slow pace of tax and banking reforms.

VOTER LIST Govt, opposition differ on ways to make it flawless

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The ruling BNP and the opposition Awami League (AL) lawmakers yesterday in parliament agreed about the need for a flawless voter list, but differed on the ways to have it prepared.
The AL lawmakers called for the voter list to be prepared through reconstitution of the Election Commission (EC). They said the chief election commissioner (CEC) and two election commissioners must resign for the people to regain confidence in the EC.
In reply to AL lawmaker Abdur Razzak, Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Moudud Ahmed said they too want a flawless voter list, but the constitution does not allow the government power to remove any member of the EC.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 4



Oil tanker Banglar Shourabh, which caught fire after an explosion at the outer anchorage of Chittagong Port on June 24, was towed to Anwara Parki Beach yesterday.

PHOTO: STAR

UN invited to monitor arms before Nepal polls

Sickness delays Koirala's parliament address

REUTERS, Kathmandu

Nepal has invited the United Nations to monitor weapons held by Maoists rebels and government troops ahead of elections for an assembly that aims to map the nation's political future, an aide to the prime minister said on Tuesday.
A letter from Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala to Secretary-General Kofi Annan seeking UN help was handed over at the world body's office in Kathmandu on Monday, Suresh Chalise said.
Monitoring arms is seen as

crucial to a free and fair vote as the guerrillas control large swathes of the Himalayan nation and are known to enforce their writ through threats.
"We have requested the United Nations to assist the government of Nepal in the peace process," Chalise told Reuters without elaborating.
Koirala, appointed after King Gyanendra gave in to pro-democracy protests in April, and Maoist chief Prachanda last month agreed to include the rebels in an interim government to oversee

elections for a special assembly to prepare a new constitution and decide the future of monarchy.
The interim government and the Maoists also agreed to seek UN help to monitor and manage their armies and arms ahead of the vote. No date has been set for the polls yet.
The vote and the new constitution are seen as a first step toward ending a decade-old Maoist insurgency, that has killed more than 13,000 people since 1996.
Maoist leaders have blown hot

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



Hartal defers HC verdict for today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

The High Court judgment on the sensational Shazneen murder case will be pronounced today as it was not delivered yesterday due to hartal.
The Death Reference Bench of the High Court (HC) comprising Justices Ali Asgar Khan and Emdadul Haque will give the judgement.
"As the court will work today according to the cause list of yesterday, the verdict will be delivered

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3



Policemen stand guard in front of the shattered windowpanes of Iris Fashion Ltd at Zirabo in Savar yesterday after angry workers went on a rampage demanding information on a missing co-worker.

PHOTO: STAR

Most prisons overcrowded

Babar tells JS
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Most of the prisons of the country have been overcrowded, State Minister for Home Affairs Lutfuzzaman Babar yesterday informed the House.
A total of 71, 290 inmates are housed in the prisons whereas the capacity of the prisons is 27, 291, added the state minister.
Replying to a query by Awami League lawmaker Rahmat Ali, the minister said there were 68,992 male and 2,298 female inmates in 67 prisons in the country till June 1 against the accommodation capacity for 26,163 male and 1,128 female prisoners.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

PROF TAHER KILLING Shibir parties with 'mastermind' Salehi back on campus

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi

Rajshahi University (RU) Islami Chhatra Shibir (ICS) staged a show of strength as its President Mahbul Alam Salehi returned to the campus yesterday.
Meanwhile, panic gripped RU teachers and students following repeated anonymous death threats made to them over telephone.
Released on interim bail on

Monday, Salehi, a key suspect of Prof S Taher Ahmed murder, appeared on the campus for the first time after he went into hiding five months ago.
He entered the campus escorted by central Shibir leaders and a large number of outsiders on motorbikes. He addressed Shibir activists in a brief closed-door meeting at RU central mosque in the morning

SEE PAGE 4 COL 4

Conjoined twins in good state

SHAHEEN MOLLAH

The condition of the conjoined twins born at Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) on Monday is improving with the doctors expressing hope that they may grow up normally.
Prof Kabirul Islam, head of the department of Paediatric Surgery, told The Daily Star yesterday that the twins are being fed through pipe and are better than the previous day.
The ultrasonography test of the newborns reveals that they are of different sexes having one liver, one rectum, two kidneys instead of four and one urinal bag instead of two. They, however, have separate

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

Bangla Bhai man held

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Rajshahi
Police in Bagmara yesterday arrested an accomplice of the militant kingpin Bangla Bhai over a murder during the JMB (Jama'atul Mujahideen Bangladesh) operations in Rajshahi region.
Aminul Islam of Sakoa village was arrested in connection with the murder of Shahidul Islam Shahid, of Baruihati village of the upazila.
Sources said Shahid was killed after being kidnapped by Bangla Bhai and his men in May 2004.
His father filed the murder case after Bangla Bhai was captured last March.

Iraqi minister, 19 guards kidnapped

REUTERS, AFP, Baghdad

Gunmen abducted Iraq's deputy electricity minister and 19 bodyguards after ambushing their convoy in eastern Baghdad yesterday, police and Interior Ministry sources said.
Deputy Minister Raad al-Harith was travelling in a convoy near Baghdad's Shia Sadr City district when gunmen in up to seven vehicles wearing military uniforms

blocked their way and kidnapped them, police said.
The Electricity Ministry said it could not confirm the report, but an official said Harith had not arrived for work. Police said the abduction took place at 7.30 a.m. (0330 GMT).
It comes three days after gunmen kidnapped Sunni legislator Taiseer Najah al-Mashhadani and seven of her bodyguards in a

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

US unveils F-16 package for Pakistan

AFP, Washington

The White House on Monday unveiled plans to sell Pakistan up to 36 F-16 fighters in a deal that could total five billion dollars and which drew an unhappy response from US ally India.
"Pakistan is a major non-Nato Ally, which has cooperated closely with us in the global war on terror. This proposed sale demonstrates our commitment to a long-term relationship with Pakistan," spokesman Tony Snow said in a statement.
"The proposed sale includes 18 new F-16 aircraft with an option to purchase another 18 new planes, a support package for up to 26 used F-16s, a munitions package, an upgrade package for Pakistan's current fleet of 34 F-16s, and logistical support," Snow said.
US President George W. Bush's administration notified the US

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Prayer Timing		
July 5		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-10	4-45
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	5-00	5-15
Maghrib	6-55	7-00
Esha	8-17	8-45

Source: Islamic Foundation