

BNP will invite officially if AL agrees to talks
Says MK Anwar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Minister for Agriculture MK Anwar said the ruling BNP would officially invite Awami League (AL), if the AL agreed to the secretaries general level meeting, for talks over the electoral reform issue.

"Prime Minister Khaleda Zia never ruled out the possibility of reforms, rather she insisted on the constitutional process. If it's needed, the constitution could be amended, provision for amendment is there in the constitution," he said, adding that the AL can tell people whether they would sit for dialogue or not and they do not have to formally tell BNP what they have decided.

During an hour-long discussion meeting yesterday on 'Face-to-Face: Women Journalists' at Bangladesh Centre for Development, Journalism and

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Bail eludes most mass arrest victims

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Hopes of the relatives of mass arrest victims to get them released were shattered as court granted bail only to a small number of them yesterday.

The mass arrests were made prior to Monday's grand rally of the opposition, which is being followed by its blockade programme today and hartal tomorrow.

Sources said the Metropolitan Magistrate's (CMM) Court, Dhaka, yesterday granted bail to lesser number of people compared to that on other days.

Besides, relatives alleged that many of the mass arrest victims were not released from jail although they were granted bail because they were shown arrested in other cases.

"We are lucky to get bail order

today (yesterday) for my nephew," said Masudur Rahman. But he had to spend Tk 10,000 to get the bail order, he alleged.

Masud said Ramna police arrested his nephew Nazmul Hossain on Saturday from Segunbagicha and implicated him in a case for police assault at Bangla Motor.

Nazmul, employee of a garment factory at Paltan, was in office at the time of the incident mentioned in the FIR (first information report) by police. He said he showed police a copy of the office records showing his nephew's presence but police ignored it.

A couple of days before the grand rally of the Awami League-led 14-party opposition combine, police arrested around 1,400 people in the capital alone.

This time most of them were

implicated in cases filed earlier, increasing the sufferings of the victims and their relatives.

TRANSFER OF PRISONER TO OTHER JAILS CAUSES SUFFERINGS

Kasar Banu, 55, was waiting in front of the Dhaka Central Jail gate yesterday with two cucumbers, some carrots and some green chillies in a polybag, which the poor woman brought for her son who is in the prison for seven months.

She waited at the jail gate from morning to meet her son Habibur Rahman. "Since morning I sent visiting slip twice but there is no trace of my son as yet," she regretted.

Like Kasar Banu, a number of others also did not get any satisfactory answer from the jail guards on

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

CITIGROUP AWARDS Nilufar's cricket bat gets her best prize for innovation

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Citigroup Microentrepreneurship Awards, a global effort of the Citigroup Foundation, were formally announced in Dhaka yesterday, recognising those who had set outstanding examples for others in micro credit activities in Bangladesh.

Jahida Begum won the Best Woman Microentrepreneur of the Year award 2006 while Zakir Hossain received the Best Microentrepreneur of the Year prize.

Eco-Social Development Organisation (ESDO) got the Best Microfinance Institution of the Year award while Rangpur Dinajpur Rural Service (RDRS) Bangladesh won the Best Programme for the Hardcore Poor award. Nilufar Yasmin received the

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7



PHOTO: STAR

Nilufar Yasmin receives the Best Innovative Micro Business of the Year Award from Education Minister Osman Farruk at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. Bangladesh cricket captain Habibul Bashar is also seen in the picture.

Hannan shown arrested in CPB blast case

COURT CORRESPONDENT

Investigation into the CPB bomb blast case has taken a new turn after a three-year lull as Mufti Abdul Hannan, operations commander of banned Harkatul Jihad (Huji) Bangladesh, was shown arrested in the case and remanded for 10 days yesterday.

The case was filed for bomb blasts on a rally of the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at Paltan Maidan on January 21, 2001. Five people were killed and 50 others injured in the incident.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1



PHOTO: STAR

A mobile court seizes a huge quantity of stale meat and fish at Khoshbu restaurant on Elephant Road in the capital yesterday. The court also fined the restaurant owners Tk 60,000.

Prayer Timing		
September 20		
	Azan	Jamaat
Fajr	4-40	5-15
Zohr	12-45	1-15
Asr	4-30	4-45
Maghrib	6-05	6-10
Esha	7-30	8-00

Source: Islamic Foundation

8 to die for B'baria triple murder

UNB, Ctg

The Divisional Speedy Trial Tribunal, Chittagong, yesterday sentenced eight people to death for triple murder in Brahmanbaria last year.

The convicts are Sirajul Islam, Rajib Ahmed, Sohel Rana, Masum, Kabir Hossain, Plash, Zamir and Manik. Of them, seven were in the dock, while Manik has been absconding since the gruesome murder.

According to the prosecution, Sirajul Islam had a dispute with his brother Akhter Hossain over paternal property. On the night of August 10, 2005, Sirajul with the help of his accomplices murdered Akhter Hossain, his wife Sabrina Afroza Juli and their two and a half years old daughter Arna at their residence in Brahmanbaria Sadar upazila.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 6

Political conflicts badly hurting economy

ADB country chief tells of two major parties

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Country Representative of Asian Development Bank (ADB) Hua Du yesterday said that the country's economy has been badly affected by the recurring political conflicts.

"Confrontation between the two major political parties has been affecting the economy," she said speaking at a lunch meeting of the American Chamber of Commerce (AmCham) in Bangladesh.

She said she hopes the country however will tide over the difficult time ahead and there will be a smooth and peaceful transition of power to the elected government

SEE PAGE 2 COL 5

"We have noted that the political situation is becoming increasingly confrontational in the lead-up to the next general election. An integral part of the democratic system, elections should not interfere with the country's development and the regular business activities," she told the meet held at Hotel Sheraton.

The ADB country representative appreciated the economic progress that Bangladesh has made over the last one decade. She observed that the country has the ability to develop fast by seeing off the challenges it faces.

CTG ARMS HAUL CASE 3 witnesses declared hostile

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

A Chittagong court yesterday declared three witnesses of the sensational Chittagong arms smuggling case, filed in connection with the huge quantity of arms seized on April 1, 2004, as hostile.

The witnesses were declared hostiles for their inconsistent and irrelevant statements during the hearing in the Court of Metropolitan and Sessions Judge Anwar Hossain.

The witnesses are Security Havildar Omar Faruq, Security Guard Golam Morshed and Abdul Gafur, a shopkeeper of the Chittagong Urea Fertiliser Ltd (CUFL) Jetty area.

The three were also declared

SEE PAGE 15 COL 5

ZIA FERTILISER CO Workers block distribution of urea

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Brahmanbaria

Agitating workers of Zia Fertiliser Company Limited (ZFCL) at Ashuganj yesterday forced the authorities to stop release of urea from the factory, creating a long queue of at least 150 trucks near its main entrance.

The fertiliser market is already reflecting an artificial crisis following the news of the blockade as retailers shot up prices of urea.

Distribution of urea to 675 dealers of six districts -- Brahmanbaria, Comilla, Chandpur, Netrakona, Kishoreganj and Sunamganj -- was affected by the agitation.

SEE PAGE 15 COL 3

Bush warns Iran anew over nuclear plans

Tries to persuade sceptical world at UN to embrace his ME vision

AP, New York

President Bush, poised to outline to world leaders his vision of a 21st century framework for global security, pressed Iran once more yesterday to immediately begin negotiations on its nuclear program.

Just before going to the United Nations to address the General Assembly, Bush warned that any delay on the part of Tehran would bring consequences.

Iran's defiant pursuit of a nuclear program was at the top of the

agenda when Bush talked with French President Jacques Chirac on the sidelines of the three-day U.N. General Assembly meeting. The French leader is balking at the U.S. drive to sanction Iran for defying Security Council demands that it freeze uranium enrichment.

"Should they continue to stall," Bush said of Iranian leaders, "we will then discuss the consequences of their stalling." The president, speaking after his meeting with Chirac, said those consequences would include the possibility of

sanctions.

Chirac proposed on Monday that the international community compromise by suspending the threat of sanctions if Tehran agrees to halt its uranium enrichment program and return to negotiations. The U.S. and other countries fear Iran is trying to build nuclear weapons, while Tehran insists its uranium enrichment program is to make fuel for nuclear power plants.

Bush said that Iran must first

SEE PAGE 15 COL 7

5 criminals killed in 'crossfire'

STAR REPORT

Five criminals were killed in "crossfire" in incidents of shootouts between their accomplices and the law enforcers in the capital and elsewhere in the country yesterday. UNB from Dhaka says: A listed criminal was killed in a gunfight between his cohorts and the Rapid Action Battalion (Rab) at Mirpur early yesterday.

Jahangir alias Jakkha Jahangir, 30, was arrested by Rab at Pirerbagh on Monday with a loaded revolver. Following his confes-

sional statement, the Rab took him to Ahmadnagar at Paikpara at about 3:00am to seize illegal firearms from his den, the Rab sources said.

Sensing trouble, Jahangir's accomplices opened fire on Rab, which the law enforcers returned. Jahangir received bullets during the shootout as he tried to flee, the Rab sources said adding that he died on his way to hospital.

Hailing from Sheurapara, Jahangir was accused in seven

SEE PAGE 15 COL 1