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# The Daily Star

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 গহ্বর  
 বাংলাদেশ শক্তি কুটির ও দেশসেবা  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**National govt in India?**  
 NEW DELHI, May 22: India's leading left and rightwing party leaders met President Ramaswamy Venkataraman today to discuss the possibility of forming a "national government" the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported, reports AFP.

**South Korean PM resigns**  
 SEOUL, May 22: South Korean Prime Minister Ro Jai Obong on Wednesday tendered his resignation to President Roh Tae Woo to help resolve the current political crisis sparked by massive student protests, an official spokesman said, reports PTI.

**Dange dead**  
 BOMBAY, May 22: Veteran Communist leader, Shripad Amrit Dange, died Wednesday morning after a prolonged illness. He was 91, reports PTI.

**Three JU students arrested**  
 SAVAR, May 22: Police today arrested three students of Jahangirnagar University in connection with an incident of violence in the campus. The students brandishing arms were arrested when they tried to forcibly occupy some rooms of the Shaheed Salam Barkat Hall.

## Rajiv's funeral Friday : Unknown group claims responsibility of killing

# Mourners turn violent : Army called out, polls deferred



Sonia Gandhi (with sunglasses) and daughter Priyanka (right) are seated before the coffin bearing the remains of former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Wednesday. — AFP photo

NEW DELHI, May 22: A dazed nation Wednesday mourned former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi, whose assassination has struck at the roots of India's unruly democracy, report agencies.

"It is a serious threat to

democracy. It is a shame for us," Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar said.

The army was today called out in the capital and in Ambala in Haryana to assist the civil administration to curb violence and protect sensitive

installations in the wake of the assassination.

The state government have been asked to take the help of the army wherever required to meet any eventuality. Minister of State for Home Subodh Kant Sahay told newsmen New

Delhi after reviewing the law and order situation in the country with senior Home Ministry officials.

Subodh Kant said 20 columns of the army had been deployed in Delhi and they had staged a flag march throughout the city.

The army has been asked to guard all vital buildings in the capital along with para-military forces, he said.

**Polls postponed**  
 Lok Sabha polls to 303 seats in 21 states and union territories and elections to over 630 assembly constituencies in West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu and the Union Territory of Pondicherry has been postponed to June 12 and 15.

Seshan said the date of completion of the elections which was May 31 will now be June 18.

He said the commission had also put off the repoll in over 1000 polling booths affected by booth capturing and violence in the first phase to June 12.

**Sonia party leader**  
 NEW DELHI, May 22: India's dominant Congress Party Wednesday elected Rajiv Gandhi's widow to lead the party following the assassination of the former prime minister.

See Page 10 Col. 3

## Saifur says many of donors' terms unreasonable

Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman Wednesday termed "unreasonable" many of the conditionalities put by the aid giving countries which cannot be borne by Bangladesh, reports UNB.

Conditionalties like withdrawal of subsidy on agricultural inputs and import liberalisation conflict national interest, Rahman said while speaking at a meeting with members of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) Wednesday afternoon.

The pre-budget meeting was held to exchange views on fiscal measures aiming at speedy growth of industries.

"We are equally concerned as you and the government will try to the last minute to protect national interest in dialogues with donors," he told the industrialists.

The Minister is going to Paris on Saturday for the Bangladesh Aid Club meeting there.

The industrialists vehemently opposed donors' conditionalities saying those will greatly hamper growth of industries and render the economy import-oriented.

Publication of the list of bank loan defaulters was a major issue that came up at the meeting. Some industrialists alleged the list projected "half-truth" about the loanees' real position.

"Take action against the willful defaulters but those who are victims of government policies and internal and external factors should get due

consideration and compensation," said A M Subid Ali, President of the Chamber of Industries.

Rahman pointed to the "extremely low" recovery of bank loans. He however held out categorical assurance that the honest and those fell victims of circumstances would get due compensation.

"Our intention is not to malign anybody by publishing defaulters' list, we only want loans be paid back so that the money is invested in new ventures," he said.

"Donors have put strong pressure on the recovery of loans and also the government wants seriously to bring discipline in financial sector," the Finance Minister added.

BSS adds: The Finance Minister said the BNP government believed in market economy and would like to see that competition replaced monopoly.

"We want minimum restrictions and free the industry and trade from the clutches of the few individuals," the Finance and Planning Minister said.

Stressing on reducing the expenditure on unproductive sector, the Finance Minister said the government was committed to increasing spending on development activities. Our efforts would be to generate economic and productive activities through public spending, he said.

The Finance Minister said a decision had been taken to extend assistance to the indus-

See Page 10 Col. 1

## Bangladesh leaders shocked

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed has expressed deep shock at the sudden death of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in a bomb explosion, reports UNB.

In a message to Indian President R. Venkataraman, the Acting President described the assassination of Gandhi as a dastardly crime. "I find no language strong enough to condemn it," he said.

Justice Shahabuddin said, "as President of the Indian National Congress, established a century ago, Rajiv maintained its high ideals and principles of democracy and secularism inspite of many odds."

The Acting President said, in the death of Gandhi, India lost a great "indian" in the real sense.

He expressed his heart-felt condolence to the members of the bereaved family.

**Khaleda**  
 Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia expressed her deep shock and grief at the tragic death of Rajiv Gandhi.

In a condolence message to See Page 10 Col. 1

## Khaleda to attend Rajiv's funeral

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will attend the funeral of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on Friday in New Delhi. It was officially announced Wednesday night, reports BSS.

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman, among others, will accompany the Prime Minister.

## Hasina leaves for Delhi today

By Staff Correspondent  
 Awami League Chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina will attend the funeral of former Indian prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. She will leave Dhaka for New Delhi this (Thursday) morning. Ali General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury will accompany Sheikh Hasina.

## Marilyn Quayle visits affected areas in Sandwip

From Our Staff Correspondent  
 CHITTAGONG, May 22: Mrs. Marilyn Tucker Quayle wife of United States Vice President Dan Quayle and Chairperson of the International Disaster Advisory Committee arrived here today morning by a US C-130 aircraft. Mrs Quayle was welcomed at Chittagong Airport by the Communications Minister Col (Rtd) Oli Ahmed, the commander of the US Task Force Major General Stacpole, GOC Chittagong Major General Mahmudul Hasan, City

See Page 10 Col. 7

## 10 killed in bus, truck collision in Manikganj

By Staff Correspondent  
 At least ten persons were killed and more than 30 injured when a bus collided with a truck at Manikganj on Tuesday night.

The incident occurred when a Khulna bound night coach Diganta Paribahan ramed an Ansar truck at 11.30 pm near Zagir, a mile from Manikganj.

The DC of Manikganj said nine persons died on the spot while a child succumbed to her injuries in hospital.

Most of the victims were See Page 10 Col. 2

## Haj pilgrims to get free visa

The Embassy of Saudi Arabia in Dhaka will issue free visa for Haj pilgrims in a simple manner. The Chief of the Consulate section of the Embassy said in Dhaka Wednesday.

Abdullah Nasser Al-Bosseri told UNB that the embassies of Saudi Arabia all over the world issue Haj and Umrah visas free of cost or without any charge.

For example, he said, an Umrah-pilgrim needs only to produce a return ticket to get a visa for performing Umrah. A Haj pilgrim is required to submit a return ticket and a draft of SR 879.00.

## Flood waters in Sylhet, Moulvibazar start receding

# Waterborne diseases spread fast

With flood water starting to recede from the greater Sylhet region, diarrhoea and dysentery and spreading fast among the affected people, reports received in Dhaka on Wednesday said.

The Flood Warning Centre in Dhaka said the overall flood situation in the region would be improving from tomorrow.

On Wednesday, all the rivers in the region continued to fall. All rivers except the Kushiya at Sheola were flowing below the danger levels.

The Surma registered further fall by 12 cm at Sylhet and 8 cm at Sunamganj and was flowing below the danger level at both the points.

The Kushiya at Sheola also marked fall by 7 cm but was still flowing 13 cm above the danger level.

The Manu at Moulvibazar recorded fall by 22 cm and

By Staff Correspondent  
 was flowing 2cm below danger level. The Khowat at Habiganj fall by 5cm and was flowing 65 cm below the danger level.

**Sylhet**  
 The Sylhet district flood control room sources said, except Balaganj and Biantbazar upazilas, the overall flood situation in Sylhet district slightly improved with the recession of the rivers.

The situation in those two upazilas remained unchanged. The Surma at Sylhet was flowing 49 cm below the danger mark and 9 cm below the mark at Kanaighat.

Rainfall recorded on Wednesday was 5 mm in Sylhet town, 37 at Kanaighat, and 63 at Biantbazar.

One more person died in Biantbazar upazila raising the death toll to 46 in flood and no'wester in the district.

The District Flood Control Room quoting UNO of Jayanta-

pur upazila told The Daily Star that 20 people were attacked with diarrhoea and 24 with dysentery in the upazila on the day.

With the deployment of an additional 20 medical teams in the affected areas the number of such teams rose to 92.

Meanwhile, the road communication of Sylhet with Dhaka and Jakiganj has been restored.

**Moulvibazar**  
 The flood situation in Moulvibazar district improved slightly as the Manu receded further.

Authorities have geared up relief operations in the areas where waterborne diseases like diarrhoea and dysentery are spreading fast. A total of 50 medical teams are working in all the six affected upazilas.

The affected people were See Page 10 Col. 6



Flood waters threaten a bailey bridge at Sadipur on Sylhet-Dhaka highway. —Photo Rajatkanti Gossami.

## Rule on Deputy Commissioner Dhaka rejected

# Tribunal directed to proceed with Ershad's trial

**Anwar's release ordered**

A Division Bench of the High Court Division Wednesday directed that the detenu Anwar Hossain Monju be set at liberty forthwith, if he was not wanted in connection with any other case, reports BSS.

The court comprising See Page 10 Col. 2

By Staff Correspondent  
 A High Court Division Bench yesterday directed the Special Tribunal to continue proceedings in Ershad's arms case after discharging the Rule issued on the Deputy Commissioner Dhaka for transferring the case.

The two Judge High Court Division-Bench comprised of Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury and Justice Habibur Rahman Khan delivered the judgement after hearing a Defence petition, for transferring Ershad's case

from the Special Tribunal, for three days.

In the petition, deposed President Ershad, now facing trial for possessing illegal arms, alleged that he would not get fair judgement at the Special Tribunal as the Judge seemed bent towards the Prosecution, as was seen during the proceedings of the court.

But the High Court during its three-day hearing on the petition found no evidence See Page 10 Col. 7

## APSU facing split over DUCSU polls

By Staff Correspondent  
 The All-Party Students Unity (APSU), a combine of 24 student organisations, are facing split as the major partners are planning to contest the Dhaka University Central Students Union (DUCSU) elections separately. The main rivals, Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) backed by BNP and pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL) are making all preparations to face each other in the elections.

Both JCD and BCL are trying to increase strength by encouraging students to join their respective organisations. Recently a group of students

Tension flared in the Dhaka University Wednesday following a dispute between the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and the Chhatra League (SA).

The expulsions of 12 JCD members from the organisations, far their alleged involvement in Dr Milon's murder and their joining the BCL has aggravated the situation to a great extent.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal and the JCD backed Chhatra League (N-S) brought out processions and held rallies on the Dhaka University campus protesting the decision of the Awami League backed Chhatra League to provide shelter to

## JCD-BCL row makes DU campus tense

By DU Correspondent  
 The persons identified as collaborators of the autocratic regime.

The JCD rally was addressed by Habibunnabi Sohel, President of JCD Dhaka University unit, Ali Akkas Nadim, Secretary of the same unit and Ilius Ali.

Speakers at the rally said Sheikh Hasina and her party betrayed the blood the martyrs who sacrificed their lives to root out autocracy. Those who joined the Chhatra League (S-A) were the identified enemies of democracy, they added.

Speakers also called upon the students to resist the ens. See Page 10 Col. 2

## Task Force starts sending fresh water to islands

COX'S BAZAR, May 22: The Joint Task Force 'Sea Angel' has begun a new phase of humanitarian operations as US marine, navy, army and air force units joined forces to bring fresh water to the devastated islands Wednesday, reports BSS.

Fresh water and food remain critically needed in many parts of Bangladesh as the country slowly recovers from the disaster left in the wake of the April 29 cyclone which killed as many as 138,000 people, left hundreds of thousands more homeless and liv-

ing in squalid conditions.

"Moheshkhal and Kutubdia islands, in the Cox's Bazar district, suffered the greatest loss of life and infrastructure in terms of fresh water and food along with much else," Major Mohammed Salam, Joint Task Force liaison from the Bangladeshis Supreme Command has said. The support being provided by the Joint Task Force is crucial to returning life to normal in the Cox's Bazar district, Major Salam said.

In addition to Cox's Bazar, Joint Task Force Sea Angel has

provided logistics and medical support to inhabitants of northern districts.

To date, marine corps helicopters and navy landing craft, and approximately 6,900 personnel from those amphibious ships and other navy-marine corps teams have served as the cornerstones of relief efforts. Additionally, US army Blackhawk helicopters and special forces personnel, and air force logistics teams have played a critical role in Operation Sea Angel.

"The World Food Organization, Red Crescent

Society, CARE and the Agency for International Development are all providing relief assistance to Bangladesh," Major Salam said. "Those organizations are providing needed materials and supplies. But the helicopters and medical assistance we are receiving from the combined US Task Force is tremendous. All this assistance is helping us fight the results of this disaster just as we would fight an enemy in war."

**Japanese team**  
 Japanese disaster relief team is continuing relief activi-

ties since its arrival in Chittagong, a Japanese Embassy press release said Wednesday night.

After experimental flights to Sandwip, Kutubdia and Maheshkhal Monday morning, the team began relief work of distributing food and medicine in Kutubdia.

Three days are expected to required to wrap up the first phase relief operation of distributing 13 tons of relief materials. Upon the completion of first phase of operation, phase two disaster relief operation will begin.

Thai Ambassador in Bangladesh Chalya Chindawongse handed over 984 tonnes of rice to the Communications Minister, Oli Ahmad.

This was the first consignment of 5,000 tonnes of rice, the Thai government has committed.

Two Royal Thai navy ships brought the rice to Chittagong port.

Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) continued its relief work for the cyclone affected people in cooperation with the "Operation Sea Angel".