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A total of 9,325 posts of teachers are now lying vacant in government schools and colleges of the country
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Dhaka Day by Day



The strength and perseverance of the people are heartening, says Phoebe Fraser, Chairperson, CARE Australia
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Business

The system loss of Power Development Board rose to 40.6 per cent, over eight per cent more than World Bank suggestion
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NEWS BRIEFS

Indian copters

The remaining three Indian M 1-17 helicopters which joined the post-cyclone and tidal surge relief activities in the coastal and off shore islands left Saturday after a 15-day mission, reports UNB.

Shibir ultimatum to CU VC

CHITTAGONG, May 25: Chittagong University unit of Islami Chhatra Shibir today gave an ultimatum to the Vice-Chancellor Alamgir Mohammad Serajuddin to submit his resignation within 48 hours, reports BSS.

Cong (I) plea to put off polls

NEW DELHI, May 25: The Congress (I) today urged the Election Commission to postpone the second and third phases of the Lok Sabha elections scheduled for June 12 and 15 respectively, reports PTI.

Rajiv's ashes to be immersed

NEW DELHI, May 25: The ashes of Rajiv Gandhi will be collected from the site of cremation at Shakti Sthal Sunday morning and will be taken with full military honours to Allahabad for immersion by a special train on Monday, Defence Ministry spokesman said today, reports PTI.

Khaléda, Gabid hold talks in Jeddah

Extensive response to OIC call for post-cyclone help



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia attends the funeral of Rajiv Gandhi along with other world leaders in New Delhi on Friday. Seen in the picture: (from left) Sheikh Hasina (standing at the back), Benazir Bhutto and Yasser Arafat. —PID photo

JEDDAH, May 25: Secretary-General of OIC Hamid Al-Gabid called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the Royal Conference Palace here today, reports BSS.

Gabid expressed his deepest sympathy for the cyclone victims of Bangladesh and informed the Prime Minister he had urged all Muslim countries to extend their all-out assistance and cooperation to Bangladesh. He said he was already getting extensive response in this regard.

Gabid underscored the need for strengthening unity and brotherhood among the Islamic countries and said as one of the biggest Islamic country Bangladesh would play a vital role in this respect.

He recalled the contributions of late President Ziaur Rahman in strengthening the relationship among the Islamic countries and especially mentioned his role during the Iran-Iraq war.

Gabid told the Prime Minister that Islamic Foreign Ministers Conference would be held in Jeddah on June 6.

Begum Zia meets Venkatraman, Shekhar

Bilateral issues can be resolved thru' talks

NEW DELHI, May 25: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has stressed the need for amicable settlement of all outstanding bilateral problems through dialogue, reports UNB.

Begum Zia who was here for former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's funeral called on the Indian President R Venkatraman at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Friday.

This was her first trip abroad since she took over as the Prime Minister in March 1991. She was accompanied by Foreign Minister ASM Mustafaizur Rahman, State Minister for Post and Telecommunication Shamsul Islam.

Reciprocating, Venkatraman said his country would try to evolve ways to cooperate in Bangladesh's development efforts.

Ganges water sharing, transfer of Tin Bigha Corridor, ownership of South Talpatti Island are the main irritants

See Page 10 Col. 7

Choosing of new leader put off

Sonia's refusal lands Congress in trouble

NEW DELHI, May 25: Assassinated Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress party has put off choosing a new leader in hopes of persuading his Italian-born widow to take the job, senior party officials said today, reports Reuter.

They said an appeal would be made to Sonia Gandhi, 44, to reconsider her refusal to lead Congress in the delayed remaining phases of general elections after its top body unanimously elected her to the post of president.

"Without her, I might as well quit politics. She is the only one who can keep the party together. Anyone else would split the party into factions, with each leader having five supporters," said a dismayed Congress leader from the younger generation.

Party leaders had scheduled a meeting for today to decide on what to do, but postponed it until she had been asked again.

Sonia Gandhi, known to dislike politics, but who played the dutiful political wife, firmly rejected the post of Congress president on Thursday and threw the party into turmoil.

Its leaders were not hopeful that she would change her mind.

"If she was going to change her mind, she would have done it already," one said. "We just don't want to give India the impression that she has not been given a fair chance. There is a lot of emotion on the subject."

Gandhi's assassination ended the hold of the Nehru dynasty on the Congress party unless Sonia Gandhi agreed to extend it.

NEW DELHI, May 25: The RDX explosives used in the bomb that killed Rajiv Gandhi Tuesday in the southern state of Tamil Nadu were the same as those used in the assassination of Wijeratne in Colombo on March 2, investigating officials here said, reports AFP.

Killers of Mujib, Indira have killed Rajiv: AL leaders

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League paid glowing tributes to India's slain leader Rajiv Gandhi and party MP Ilias Ahmed Choudhury at a meeting on Saturday.

The meeting condemned the killing of Rajiv Gandhi whom the AL leaders described as a champion of democracy and secularism in the sub-continent. The speakers felt that Rajiv's killing was a setback to the cause of democracy.

See Page 10 Col. 1

Row over sheltering of Dr Milon's killers

APSU splits

By Staff Correspondent

The All-Party Students Unity (APSU) formed to lead the movement against the autocratic rule of Ershad has split.

The split came following a row over the sheltering of alleged killers of Dr Shamsul Alam Khan Milon by the Awami League-backed Chhatra League.

The situation in the Dhaka University campus has become tense with allegations and counter allegations being exchanged among the components of the APSU.

The pro-BNP student front Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) accused the Awami League-backed Chhatra League of giving shelter to some of the alleged killers of Dr Milon in its shelter.

See Page 10 Col. 3

University campus has become tense with allegations and counter allegations being exchanged among the components of the APSU.

The pro-BNP student front Jatityabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) accused the Awami League-backed Chhatra League of giving shelter to some of the alleged killers of Dr Milon in its shelter.

See Page 10 Col. 3

Health officials fear diarrhoea epidemic

From S. Y. Bakht

SYLHET, May 25: The floods that have engulfed vast areas in the greater Sylhet district are said to be the worst in recent memory.

"I haven't seen such an onrush of water in my lifetime," said A. S. M. Anwarul Islam, the 46-year-old Chairman of Pashchim Gouripur union of Balaganj upazila of Sylhet, one of the worst affected areas in the region.

"Even the older people in the area say that this flood is much worse than the great flood of the Bangla year 1336," he noted.

Huge areas of Sylhet, Maulvibazar, Habiganj and Sunamganj have been inundated due to excessive onrush of water from the Borak basin in neighbouring India.

All major rivers in the districts including Surma, Kushiyara, Monu and Khowai recorded a sharp rise in their water levels far above the danger levels recently.

Incessant rainfall and frequent storms in the area have further aggravated the flood situation in these districts.

Damage to life and property is reported to be colossal. Relief materials reaching the affected areas are said to be very inadequate and some discrepancies in the distribution system have been found.

There is a severe shortage of drinking water in the affected areas as most tubewells have been submerged and the supply of water purifying tablets is also inadequate.

Water-borne diseases are spreading fast in the districts and health officials fear an outbreak.

See Page 10 Col. 1



Flood water about to enter the LSD godown at Balaganj. Food is being carried out from the godown by boat. —Star photo by SY Bakht

'Parliamentary system can end autocracy'

By Staff Correspondent

Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami, the Secretary General of Jamaat-e-Islami and leader of party's parliamentary group said introduction of parliamentary system in the country, could lead to an end to autocratic system.

Addressing a meeting of lawyers at the Comilla District Bar Association Saturday, the Jamaat leader alleged that in the name of presidential system, autocratic rule has been continuing in the country for 16 years.

The fall of autocratic regime was possible after nine years' movement and an election was also held under the caretaker government, but the autocratic political system still prevails.

Homesickness grips Task Force troopers

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, May 25: Though proud of being here on a humanitarian mission, most of the US Task Force members appear gripped by a strong nostalgia for home.

Talking to some of the troopers of the Force it was learnt that many of them had left home at least seven or eight months before the outbreak of the Gulf War.

At the war's end they were on their way home when they were ordered to Bangladesh by US President George Bush to join the relief effort underway for the victims of the catastrophic April 29 cyclone.

Task Force member James Conner told this Correspondent that he was missing his wife and their only son now living in Texas. "I am ready to go back home as early as possible as I was out of the sight of my wife and my son for a pretty long time". He has been working with the US Navy for the last nine years.

Conner said, "After I left her in Texas I used to write to my wife twice a week".

Conner disclosed that he had for the first time joined such a humanitarian job. "I am really happy to come to help the distressed people of Bangladesh at the time of their need."

Tammy Hal, another homesick trooper, said she was missing her husband and two children.

See Page 10 Col. 3

CPB congress postponed

BY Staff Correspondent

The fifth congress of Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB), which was scheduled to be held in third week of June, has been postponed.

Considering the situation created by natural calamities in the country, the central committee of the party took the decision Saturday.

The committee meeting held with Mokbul Hossain in chair, also reviewed the relief activities in the cyclone and flood affected areas. The meeting deplored that indiscipline and lack of coordination were prevailing in relief and rehabilitation activities. The meeting also criticised the BNP leadership for its failure to unite all national forces in relief operations.

A section of BCS cadres plans noncooperation

By Staff Correspondent

There is a move by a politically motivated section of the civil servants to destabilise the administration. Some BCS cadres of the administration are learnt to have already started noncooperation with the Government in different cyclone affected areas.

The government has recently transferred 21 Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNOs) to other upazilas. According to sources, the UNOs in the cyclone-hit areas have virtually stopped functioning and are not cooperating with the government in its relief and rehabilitation efforts. Compelled by the situation, the government on an emergency basis has deputed one deputy secretary in each upazila of Chittagong and Cox's Bazar districts to monitor and coordinate the relief work, which was supposed to be done by the UNOs concerned.

According to the sources, about 29,000 BCS cadres, other than those of the BCS (Administration), have resented the discriminatory attitude in providing professional facilities, promotion and recruitment in the cadre services.

Akhter Hossain, general secretary of the BCS Coordination Committee, talking to the Daily Star said, conspiracy was being hatched in different tiers of the administration to stop the relief work.

See Page 10 Col. 4

No better ties unless Kashmir issue solved, Sharif tells Shekhar

NEW DELHI, May 25: The Pakistan Prime Minister, Nawaz Sharif, today said there could be no meaningful thrust in developing the Indo-Pak relations unless the Kashmir problem was resolved through "dialogue, once and for all," report agencies.

Talking to newsmen after his luncheon meeting with the Prime Minister, Chandra Shekhar he said India had to analyse whether it would live with this problem hanging for ever.

Even if Pakistan was not a party to this issue, it is a matter of great concern to India itself and it must, therefore, find a solution to this problem, he said.

Sharif said during his 25-minute meeting with Chandra Shekhar without aides he emphasised Pakistan's stand on the Kashmir problem.

He said the talk, which was preceded by lunch, which were held in a congenial atmosphere and bilateral relations were discussed in depth. He found a mutual will on either side to amicably resolve the issue.

A terrorist bomb that killed

Rajiv Gandhi doesn't bode well for the fledgling democracies in the region, Sharif told a news conference after returning from Gandhi's funeral in New Delhi. He feared an escalation of politically-motivated violence in the region.

"I fear that a trend like this coming into politics is very dangerous for any country and any democracy," he said.

We have condemned this terrorism," said Sharif.

Sharif also met with Lal Krishna Advani, the leader of India's Hindu revivalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP). Most of

Pakistan's 100 million Muslims believe that a BJP election win in India would be disastrous for their relationship.

"If the BJP comes to power that's it there will be war for sure," said a Pakistani journalist, who asked not to be identified.

The BJP platform envisions an Indian Hindu theocracy. Advani's rallying call is vote BJP "in the name of Lord Ram," the Hindu warrior god.

Political pundits in India say the BJP's popularity is second only to the Congress party and while observers say it's unlikely to form a government, Pakistanis fear it could be a major powerbroker.

The BJP is being blamed for the bitter communal violence in the past year.

PTI adds: Nawaz Sharif, said on Friday the Kashmir problem should be settled on the basis of United Nations Security Council resolutions in the same spirit as the world body's resolutions on the Gulf were implemented recently.

Sharif stated this during his meeting with US Vice-President Dan Quayle, at the American embassy here.

Sharif told the accompanying Pakistani journalists he favoured summit level talks with India on the Kashmir problem. Such a meeting was possible after the Indian elections, he felt.

The Pakistani Prime Minister was of the view the Indian leadership was desirous of a dialogue to find a peaceful settlement of the Kashmir problem.

He also said that if India and Pakistan start a dialogue with an 'open heart' they can settle the Kashmir problem.

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JUCSU polls postponed

By JU Correspondent

Elections of Jahangirnagar University Central Students Union (JUCSU) and hall students unions have been postponed for an indefinite period in view of the campus law and order situation. The elections were scheduled for June 6.

Members of the University Syndicate, Deans of four faculties, Provoosts of six halls, Proctor and the election commission in a meeting with Vice-Chancellor Prof Kazi Saleh Ahmed in the chair on Saturday took the decision.

Jahangirnagar University Teachers Association (JUTA) in a meeting earlier expressed deep concern at the deteriorating law and order situation in the campus. They condemned Rashidul Hasan Masum, Vice-President of the AFM Kamaluddin Hall Students Union, for threatening the Provoost of Salam Barkat Hall and the General Secretary of JUTA, Dr Alauddin Ahmed on May 22 and demanded his exemplary punishment. The association warned that the teachers would take up action programme if their demand was not fulfilled. They said a congenial atmosphere was essential for holding elections.

Meanwhile, a university bus carrying teachers was stopped near Aminbazar on Dhaka. See Page 10 Col. 2

Anniversary of Nazrul's birth today

By Staff Correspondent

The 92nd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam will be celebrated today. Different socio-cultural organisations have chalked out elaborate programmes to pay tributes to the late poet.

Dhaka University teachers, students, officers and employees will assemble at the Apurajoy Bangla at 6.15 a.m. and go to the 'mazar' of the poet in a procession. Vice-Chancellor Prof Montruzaman Mia will lay wreaths at the poet's mazar on their behalf. The Vice-Chancellor will also inaugurate a cultural function in the mazar premises.

Bangla Academy will hold a discussion meeting in its premises at 5 p.m. Prof Ataur Rahman will present the keynote paper. Khan Ataur Rahman and Asad Chowdhury will participate in the discussion. Prof Rafiqul Islam will preside.

Jatitya Nazrul Sahitya Sangsad, Nazrul Jatitya Smriti Sangsad, Nazrul Jatitya Sangkritik Academy and Nazrul Jatitya Sahitya Kendro will jointly observe the poet's birth anniversary. The organisations will place wreaths at the mazar of the poet at 9 a.m. and hold a milad mahfil. It will hold a seminar on "Politics of the sub-continent and Nazrul Islam" at 1/9. Kazi Nazrul Islam Road, Mohammadpur at 4 p.m. The

See Page 10 Col. 6

Chief Editor of 'Ajker Kagoj' arrested

Chief Editor of the daily 'Ajker Kagoj' Kazi Shahed Ahmed was arrested Saturday night, reports UNB.

Police raided Ahmed's Dhanmondi residence at around 9.30 pm and arrested him under Sections 500/501 for publishing a news item on alleged corruption of Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman.

Earlier, Dhanmondi police went to the Zigatola office of the newly-founded daily and conducted search for editor on an hour to seek out the Chief Editor and the concerned reporter.

According to Dhanmondi police, a case number 582 A/1/91 has been filed against Kazi Shahed Ahmed, now de-

See Page 10 Col. 6

Hasina likely to return today

Leader of the Opposition of Parliament and Awami League President Sheikh Hasina is expected to return from New Delhi today (Sunday), reports UNB.

She went to Delhi to attend the funeral of former Indian Prime Minister and Congress (I) President Rajiv Gandhi.

Awami League leaders Abdus Samad, Dr Kamal Hossain, Begum Sajida Chowdhury and Abdul Jalil accompanied Hasina.