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# The Daily Star

শক্তি স্বপ্নের গল্প  
চলচ্চিত্র শিল্পীরা ও দেশের  
সকল মনে  
বহির্ভূত কামুক  
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**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Mustafiz arrested**

By Staff Correspondent  
Mustafizur Rahman, the brother-in-law of former President H. M. Ershad was arrested Saturday night from his cantonment residence. He was detained under Special Power Act and sent to Dhaka Central Jail, according to police sources.

**Hasina leaves for Singapore today**

By Staff Correspondent  
The chairperson of Awami League and Leader of the Opposition at the Jatiya Sangad, Sheikh Hasina leaves for Singapore today (Monday) for medical treatment, according to a press release. Sheikh Hasina has been suffering from ulcerative colitis and low blood pressure for the last few days.

**Judgement on WB award stayed**

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court Sunday stayed for six-week the judgement of the High Court Division given on May 30 on implementation of the Wage Board award for the Journalists and employees of the newspapers and news agencies, reports BSS.

**Kuwait's polls next year**

KUWAIT CITY, June 2: Kuwait's Emir announced Sunday that parliamentary elections would be held in October 1992, but the opposition said 16 months was too long to wait and demanded an earlier vote, reports AP.

**Quake rocks western Nepal**

KATMANDU, June 2: An earthquake of moderate intensity rocked western Nepal Sunday, officials said.

**Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Feni, Ctg affected**

## Extensive damage to crops, dwellings as cyclone hits

By Staff Correspondent

The cyclone which crossed the Meghna estuary early Sunday caused extensive damage to standing crops and thatched houses. But there was no immediate report of casualties.

The maximum wind speed of the cyclone ranged from 75 kilometres per hour (KPH) in Patuakhali to 110 KPH in Chittagong.

It lashed the coastal areas of Barisal, Bhola, Patuakhali, Noakhali, Feni and Chittagong districts and was coupled with a three-to-six-foot high tidal

surge.

According to reports reaching Dhaka the tidal surge caused further damage to coastal embankments already damaged by the April 29 cyclone. Low-lying areas of the coastal districts, their offshore islands and chars were inundated.

The cyclone which ushered in the monsoon caused extensive rainfall all over Bangladesh. Rajshahi recorded the highest (213 millimetres) followed by 97 mm in Sylhet, 48 mm in Srimangal and 47

mm in Feni, Met office said.

Meanwhile, the cyclone weakened into a land depression after crossing the Meghna estuary Sunday morning and moved in a north-eastern direction. By the evening it moved on to Assam weakening into a low. Under its influence rainfall was continuing all over Bangladesh till last evening.

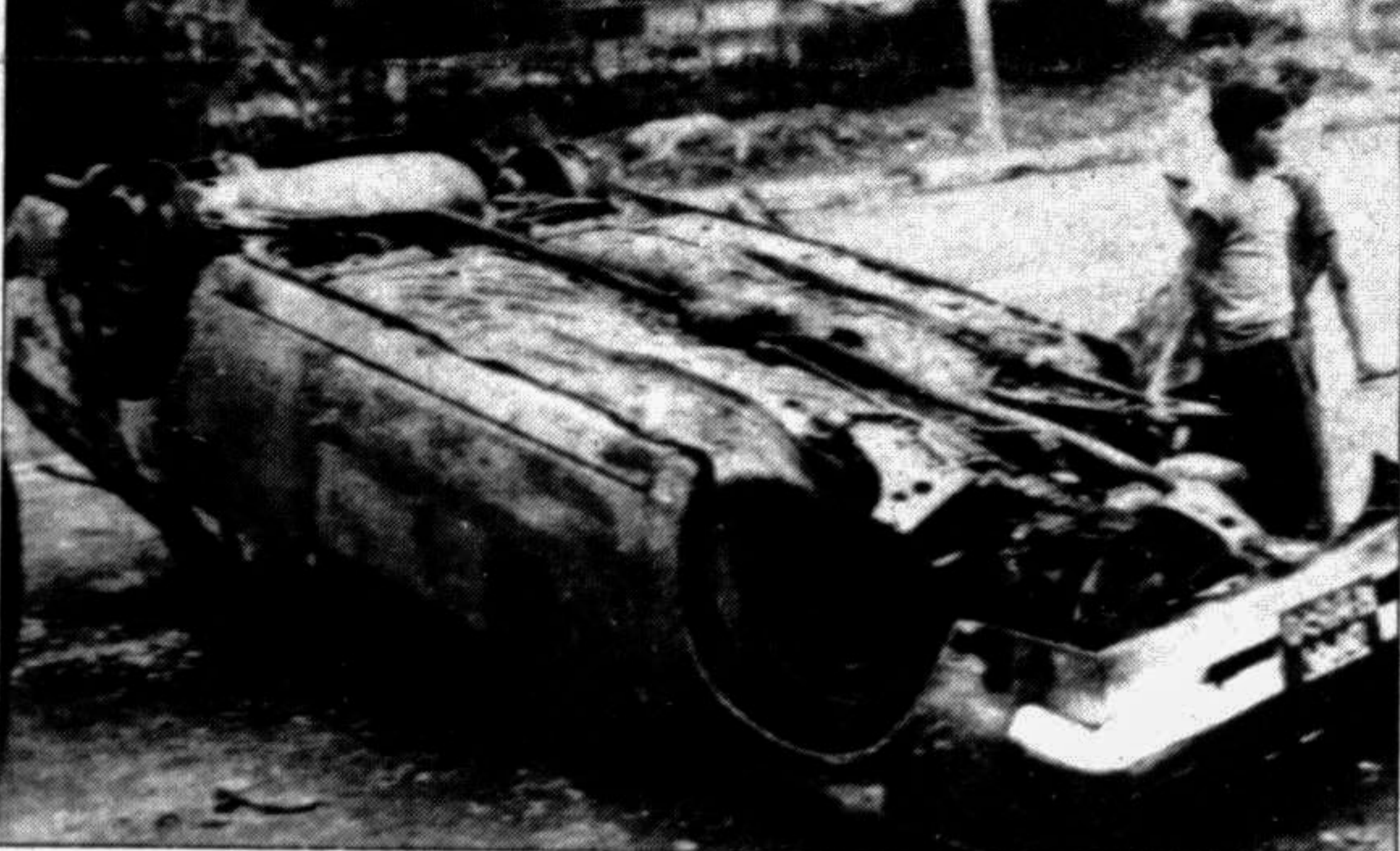
When contacted over telephone Sunday afternoon, administration sources of the coastal districts told the Daily Star that they did not receive

reports of any casualties and that the people living in the coastal belt and off-shore islands had been shifted earlier to safer places.

In many areas, devastated by April 29 cyclone, residents voluntarily moved to shelters or places considered safe from the surge.

However, district administrations and other sources said that the surge caused extensive damage to standing crops while the storm destroyed a large number of kutcha

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Vehicles set on fire by students of Chhatra League (S-A) who went on rampage on the DU campus yesterday in protest against arrest of two of their leaders. —Star photo

## BCL students go on rampage, set fire to 8 vehicles

By DU Correspondent

Panic gripped the Dhaka University campus Sunday afternoon when agitated Chhatra League (S-A) activists went on rampage protesting arrest of two of their fellow party members.

The unruly students set ablaze at least eight vehicles including one belonging to the Dhaka University and damaged several others in and around the campus.

Shisir and Guddu, two leaders of Chhatra League (S-A), were arrested by plain clothes policemen from the Armanitola area of the city in the small hours of Sunday. When contacted, police said they were in Ramna police custody but did not disclose the reason for the arrest. No case was however filed against them, police said.

Witnesses said, the Chhatra League workers from Jahurul Huq Hall brought out a militant procession at 3.30 pm to protest the arrest of their fellow workers. The processionists became violent when they reached Plassy crossing. They started pelting stones at vehicles and setting them ablaze on the roads from Plassy to the Rokeya Hall via the Central Shaheed Minar. They burnt two vehicles at Plassy, one private car near Jagannath Hall, two scooters in front of the Shaheed Minar, one private car each near the British Council and Jahurul Huq Hall and a Dhaka University pick-up

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## Govt firm to uproot terrorism from campus : Khaleda

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said on Sunday the Government was determined to uproot terrorism and maintain peace in educational institutions.

Inaugurating the central programme of the Education Week 1991 at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium she said that from now on the government or the law enforcing agencies would not be silent spectators during clashes or terrorist activities on the campus.

Education Minister Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, State Minister for Education Principal Md Yunus Khan, Education Secretary A N M Yusuf and

joint secretary Nuruddin Mahmud Kamal, also spoke on the occasion.

Begum Zia called for open exchange of views to check copying in examinations, terrorism and other problems of the campus.

She said that the government wanted to ensure the right to education to all and make it universal instead of keeping it a monopoly of a handful of people. Late president Ziaur Rahman had introduced mass education keeping this in view, she recalled. Only an educated nation could safeguard independence and consolidate democracy, she observed.

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## Govt enjoys trust of donors: Saifur

Star Economic Report

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman said in Dhaka on Sunday that the Paris Aid Consortium demonstrated "a greater trust and confidence" in the democratic government for promotion of sustainable development by pledging 2.3 billion dollars external assistance for 1991-92.

The pledged amount is 28 per cent higher than the last year's and may finally touch 2.5 billion dollar mark when Japan makes its pledge on completion of its budgetary formalities, he added. Annual aid commitments by Japan averaged 300 million dollars, he pointed out.

The Finance Minister assessed the outcome of the just-concluded meeting of the

Aid Consortium with a very encouraging note a press conference held at the auditorium of National Economic Council (NEC) Bhaban at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar.

He said, the donor community "has strongly commended the efforts of the representative Government to enforce budgetary discipline, restrain growth of unproductive expenditure, increase development spending and improve overall economic management. The credit and monetary situation is also under control, the donors noted. Besides, the post cyclone disaster management was appreciated by the Aid Club, the minister added.

Giving a breakup of the pledged 2.3 billion dollar, Saifur Rahman said it included 1366 million dollar project aid, 543 million dollar commodity aid, 208 million dollar food aid and 108 million dollar technical assistance. Besides, 75 million dollar aid has been pledged for development activities by non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and others.

He noted that the Aid Club members took a strong note of additional funding requirements for Bangladesh for the post-cyclone reconstruction and rehabilitation needs. Some additional funds will be coming for this after the mid-July UN-sponsored meeting in Geneva which will consider the report of a joint task force, comprising officials of the United Nations, the World Bank and the Government of Bangladesh, he added.

The Finance Minister stated that the Paris Aid Club meeting this year was held in a very congenial environment with a strong mutual trust between

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## High-powered Saudi team arrives Thursday

A six-member high-powered Saudi delegation arrives here Thursday to identify areas of cooperation in combating recurrence of natural calamities in Bangladesh, reports UNB.

The visit comes as a follow up of discussions between King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during her recent three-nation trip to the Gulf.

The Saudi monarch assured Begum Zia of his country's all possible help to long and short term rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes to fight natural hazards including cyclone and flood.

## Official industrial statistics misleading, says MCCI

Star Economic Report

The share of manufacturing sector in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is 16 per cent, almost double of what the official estimates show.

This is revealed by the just-completed Bangladesh Manufacturing Industries Survey (BMIS) by Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI).

The GDP is the aggregate value of goods and services produced in the economy.

The MCCI survey report reveals "very starkly serious weaknesses of industrial statistics" as generated by Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), a government agency.

The weaknesses are in areas of under-coverage, delays in reporting (time lag), inaccuracy and unreliability, the report notes.

The chamber entrusted the task of conducting the survey to a team of leading economists and statisticians who worked for more than a year to prepare the report.

A comprehensive report on the MCCI survey was handed over to Minister of Industries Shamsul Islam Khan on Sunday by the functionaries of the chamber. The survey was sponsored by the MCCI at the instance of the government to bridge the data-gap relating to industrial sector. The chamber

carried out a nation-wide survey of the manufacturing sector to prepare the report.

According to the MCCI survey, the private sector accounts for more than 85 per cent of the total manufacturing sector. The growth rates in the private manufacturing sector were more than 9 per cent in 1985-86, nearly 8 per cent in 1986-87, more than 12 per cent in 1988-89 and only around 5 per cent in 1989-90. Such rates were substantially higher than those of the public sector, the report said.

The 300-page report revealed that the official estimate

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## Attack was an act of fascist forces, says Suranjit

By Staff Correspondent

Ganotantri Party leader and MP Suranjit Sengupta has said, no code of conduct has so far been determined for the components of the Eight-party Alliance inside and outside the parliament.

In a press conference on Sunday at the National Press Club the Ganotantri Party leader, who returned from India on Saturday said, the recent attack on his residence was designed by fascist forces and the incident was of communal nature.

He said the attackers chanted slogans 'Joi Bangla' and 'Sheikh Hasina agye cholo' (Sheikh Hasina go ahead), but it did not mean that the attackers belonged to

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## India wants better ties with Dhaka: Shekhar

NEW DELHI, June 2: Indian Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar today stressed the need for closer economic and trade cooperation between India and Bangladesh and resolving their outstanding problems through "negotiations".

"We are ready to have meaningful talks and closer cooperation with Bangladesh for betterment of peoples of both the countries, the Prime Minister said in an interview with two Bangladesh journalists including BSS Special Correspondent, ASM Habbibullah, at the official residence of the premier.

The 65-year-old Prime Minister, in his interview touched on Indian political situation, regional cooperation and expressed his reaction to the outstanding problems in-

cluding Farakka and Tin Bigha issues and trade imbalance between Bangladesh and India.

Mr Chandra Shekhar who is now heading a caretaker government since last November believed that there were not many problems existing between India and Bangladesh.

Sometime earlier, he said talks were initiated with former Bangladesh President (Ershad) in Male during SAARC summit in November last year.

"We had some discussions," he said and added that situation had changed and a new government has come there in Bangladesh.

Describing river water issue and handing over Tin Bigha corridor to Bangladesh as the main problems the Prime

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## Congress presents facade of unity, but doubt persists

NEW DELHI, June 2: Rajiv Gandhi's orphaned party has closed ranks after weathering a storm over who succeed him, presenting a picture of unity ahead of a ballot it hopes to win on a wave of sympathy for its slain leader, reports agencies.

But doubts persist over how long the Congress (I) can maintain the facade of unity, and most observers are predicting a renewed power struggle after the elections are completed on June 15.

After failing to persuade a

grieving Sonia Gandhi to take over her slain husband's mantle in an episode that embarrassed the party, India's largest and oldest party elected veteran P. V. Narasimha Rao as Gandhi's successor.

The respected daily, the Hindu, said the election Wednesday "by no means" meant the struggle for power was over.

The urgency of having to move into the battle of the ballot as a "united house" had led to a "temporary papering-

over of emerging Schisms," it said.

For the first time, the 106-year-old party is going to the electorate without a definite prime ministerial candidate, leaving the post up for grabs in an uncertain post-election phase which looks like a free-for-all.

But for now, the party is united like a "closed fist", says Congress (I) General Secretary Ghulam Nabi Azad.

The unity theme was stressed at a public meeting here Saturday which marked

the relaunch of the Congress (I)'s election campaign for the 303 seats which will be decided in the remaining two phases of voting June 12 and 15.

Rao, who recently underwent heart bypass surgery, asserted that the Congress (I) had disproved "prophecies of doom" predicting the party would break up in an internecine struggle after Gandhi's assassination.

Meanwhile, former prime minister and National Front leader V. P. Singh has said the

Congress-I would meet with its political death soon because of its double standards on reservations for backward classes.

The Janata Dal President described as "meaningless" the 'hue and cry' raised over the withdrawal of the Special Protection Group (SPG) guarding former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, when the National Front was in power at the centre.

Rao said Sunday he was a "full fledged" chief of the party

and asked his countrymen to stop talking about dynastic rule.

"What do they think," Rao said when asked to comment on reports that the 106-year-old Congress Party will not survive after Gandhi's assassination and without the political leadership from the Gandhi family.

"Where is the talk? Where is the dynasty?" Rao shot back at a news conference, his first since he was chosen by the Congress Party as the presidential



LONELY, WET AND COLD: This fledgling perched on a bamboo stalk weathered the rains and gusts of wind yesterday without budging an inch. Perhaps it just had no other choice. —Star photo

## Rains paralyse city life

By Staff Correspondent

Intermittent rainfall caused by cyclone that hit the coastal districts paralysed life in Dhaka city on Sunday. It started raining from Saturday afternoon and continued till 2 pm on Sunday.

Met office recorded 83 millimetres (three and a half inches) rainfall in the metropolis during the 36 hours ending at 6 pm on Sunday.

Movement of pedestrians and vehicular traffic on city streets was very thin in the morning. Attendance in offices was thin and transactions in business establishments limited.

Most schools and colleges in the city did not function in the morning due to poor attendance of students.

The sky became clear by about 3 pm but it started raining again from 5-30 pm.

Some low-lying areas like Nimtali, Bashabo, Goran and Shantinagar experienced severe water logging.

## Appellate Division rejects Ershad's plea

By Staff Correspondent

The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court yesterday (Sunday) dismissed Ershad's petition against the judgement of the High Court Division Bench.

The High Court Division on May 22 discharged the Rule on the Deputy Commissioner, which was issued asking him why Ershad's arms case should not be transferred from the Special Tribunal.

Ershad's lawyers then appealed against the judgement in the Appellate Division.

After hearing both the Defence and the State lawyers yesterday morning the four-Judge Appellate Division un-

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## Shibir locks CU classrooms

CHITTAGONG, June 2: Students of the Chittagong University could not attend their classes today as the Islami Chhatra Shibir activists locked the classrooms to enforce a strike, reports UNB.

The strike was earlier called by Shibir dominated "Sammlita Chhatra Oikya Parishad" demanding resignation of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Alamgir Mohammad Strajuddin.

Again today, they called for

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## Rama Rao arrested

HYDERABAD, June 2: The National Front Chairman and Telugu Desam leader, N T Rama Rao, was arrested and taken to a local hospital early Sunday, reports PTI.

When police arrived to take Rama Rao to hospital on the advice of doctors, his followers, insisted that he be arrested, the Director General of Police, Prabhakar Rao said.

Following this police arrested him and removed him to the Nizam Institute of Medical Research.