

Inside Today

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India, a non-signatory to the Non-Proliferation Treaty, plans to sell nuclear reactors and reprocess spent fuel. India exploded an atomic device in 1974.
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Lynda Chalker, Britain's overseas aid minister and a familiar figure in the developing world, in a wide-ranging interview with Gemini News Service's editor Derek Ingram looks at Britain's aid programme and problems of human rights.
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Jute industry loses Tk 1,986 crore in eight years.
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Dhaka Day by Day

Pensioned off persons have knowledge and expertise but grey hair and count of years go against them.
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Parliament proceedings

NEWS BRIEFS

Mother, child die in train mishap

An unidentified young woman and her five year old child were crushed under the wheels of a running train near Pagachong Railway Station on Sunday night. Police said, the victims were travelling by Akhaura bound train from Dhaka and fell down from the train.

Kurigram rocked

A mild tremor hit the town and its adjoining areas in the early hours Monday. The tremor which lasted for eight seconds at around 1.30 am shook buildings and houses causing panic among the people, reports UNE.

No defence pact with India

Foreign Secretary Abdul Ahsan Monday contradicted a Pakistani Press report that India had proposed a joint defence pact with Bangladesh when the Indian army chief General Sunil Franchis Rodrigue recently visited Dhaka. "I don't have knowledge of any such proposal", he told newsmen when his attention was drawn to the report published.

About 24,000 polling centres will be set up : CEC
Referendum on Sept 15

A referendum will be held on September 15 to seek people's verdict whether the Acting President should give assent to the 12th Constitution Amendment Bill for return to parliamentary form of government, reports BSS.

He pointed out that the 12th Amendment Bill proposing to switch over from presidential form of government to parliamentary system and delegate executive power to Prime Minister under parliamentary form of government was passed unanimously on August 6 by the Jatiya Sangsad.

The Acting President in his directive of August 10 requested the Election Commission to put the bill to a referendum whether he should give assent to it under Article 142 (1A) of the Constitution.

Justice Rouf said the Constitution of the People's

Republic of Bangladesh enshrines that all powers in the republic belong to the people. The Constitution is the ultimate expression of people's hope, he said.

The Chief Election Commissioner said to conduct the referendum, the Secretary of the Election Commission Secretariat has been made returning officer and all deputy commissioners have been appointed assistant returning officers.

Justice Rouf said about 24,000 polling centers would be set up to facilitate people to cast their votes properly on the referendum day and ensure that people do not have

to go far to cast their votes. In all possible places separate polling centres for male and female voters will be arranged or separate booths kept, he added.

The Chief Election Commissioner said all citizens enlisted as voters could be able to give their verdict on the question of form of government by participating in the referendum. He said if voters could know their serial numbers before casting the ballot, the polling could proceed well and in a disciplined manner.

Special measures will be taken so that the voters can know their serial numbers, he said.
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OBJECTS OF BEAUTY TURN DEATH TRAPS : Two fountains in the Ramna Park that added to its beauty are now two gaping holes, hazardous to unwary visitors. —Star photo

"Treat HIV infected with love"

AIDS figures in Sangsad discussion

By Staff Correspondent

Azizur Rahman, an Awami League MP on Monday urged the government to take adequate precaution against the spread of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome).

Taking the floor he drew the attention of the chair that the people in the greater Sylhet region were panicked at the news that three Bangladeshis deported from Dubai for carrying the AIDS virus were hiding themselves out of fear.

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People infected with the Human Immuno-Deficiency Virus (HIV) should be treated with love and care to prevent the spread of the virus.

The virus is transmitted only through blood and sex, say experts.

A man infected with HIV develops into a full-blown AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) patient in 10 to 15 years.

People having HIV, however, do not suffer any difficulty before the disease is full-blown.

Experts say the virus can spread if needles of syringes are shared, or blood from a HIV infected person is transfused into another man. The virus is also transmitted

through sex. But there is no fear of being infected even if a healthy person hugs a HIV infected person or even kisses the latter provided the former does not have any mouth infection, researchers around the world have revealed.

Experts also say that there is no reason to view AIDS patients as social outcasts, because one may contract the virus by just sharing a syringe or needle in a clinic or dispensary or while taking injectible drugs with others.

Thus a doctor treating patients without any knowledge of the existence of HIV positive persons may cause spread of the dreadful virus.
 See Page 12 Col. 3

Hasina demands white paper on cyclone relief

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina Monday demanded publication of a white paper on the receipt, disbursement and distribution of cash money and relief materials, received by the government from home and abroad, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina, in a statement, said the sufferings of the distressed people in the cyclone and tidal bore-affected areas have aggravated due to the laxity in relief works, corruption and partisan attitude in distribution of relief materials.

No realistic programme has been taken in the affected areas for the rehabilitation of the

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AL serves legal notice on BSS

By Staff Correspondent

A legal notice on behalf of Awami League has been served on Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha (BSS) asking the news agency to beg apology publicly within a week for its false report 'creeded recently'. Advocate Zillur Rahman issued the notice on the Managing Director and Chief Editor of BSS, DP Barua, Chief News Editor Hasanuzzaman Khan and Staff Reporter Shamsul Alam Belal, an AL press release said Monday night.

The legal notice also asked for publication of a news item regarding BSS apology to AL chief Sheikh Hasina in the Inqilab, the Danik Bangla and other national dailies which, the AL press release said, published the 'false report' misquoting her that she would resist passage of the Constitution 12th Amendment Bill. Otherwise, the legal notice warned, the persons concerned would be shed as per the country's civil and criminal laws.

Hasina invites Khaleda to Aug 15 milad

By Staff Correspondent

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina has invited Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to a milad mahfil to be held in observance of the death anniversary of her father Sheikh Mujibur Rahman.

The milad mahfil will be held at the 32, Dhanmordi residence of Sheikh Hasina Wednesday.

Party insiders said the invitation was extended when Sheikh Hasina attended a dinner hosted by the Prime Minister at her Sugandha office on Sunday night in honour of the members of parliament.

JS body to probe campus violence

By Staff Correspondent

Parliament decided on Monday to set up a special parliamentary committee to probe the campus violence and recommend measures to restore a congenial academic atmosphere in all educational institutions.

Deputy Leader of the House and Education Minister Prof Badruddoza Chowdhury winding up the discussion on campus violence in Parliament proposed the formation of the 15-member committee headed by Law and Justice Minister Mirza Golam Hafiz.

As many as 28 MPs participated in the two-day discussion which began Sunday. Professor Chowdhury said

that a section of political leaders was not only protecting the armed terrorists but also patronizing them directly or indirectly.

He said that armed terrorists whoever they be must be identified and brought to book. He said that he would request the Home Ministry to take all possible actions against those linked to violence in educational institutions.

Responding to suggestions by some of the MPs the Education Minister said he would welcome a joint declaration of the BNP, Awami League, Jamaat-e-Islami, JSD (Inu) and Chhatra Maitri, making
 See Page 12 Col. 1

JCD calls strike in CU today
Siege of VC's residence lifted

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Aug 12: The Islamic Chhatra Shibir-backed Sangrami Chhatra Oikya (SCO) today lifted its siege of the Vice-Chancellors residence after 12 days.

An SCO press release said on Sunday night that the siege was being temporarily lifted to honour the Education Minister's assurance to resolve the problems of the university.

The SCO, however, vowed that it would not give the Vice-Chancellor Prof Alamgir Mohammad Sirajuddin any chance to hold Syndicate or Senate meetings on campus and asked him to stay away from doing any official jobs.

Meanwhile, Tension mounted in the Chittagong University campus today as Jatiyatibadi Chhatra Dal gave a call for hartal tomorrow (Tuesday) in the campus to protest the violence that occurred Sunday.

Campus sources said that the JCD brought out a procession on the campus in support of Tuesday's hartal and in protest against Sunday's incident which left at least 30 injured.

Islamic Chhatra Shibir and the All-Party Students Unity (APSU) also brought out separate processions in the campus protesting the violence.

BADC chairman gheraoed for 14 hours

By Staff Correspondent

The 14-hour gherao of the chairman and the directors of Bangladesh Agriculture Development Board (BADC) ended at 11 pm Monday. The gherao started at 9 am when
 See Page 12 Col. 6

Terrorism hindrance to democracy : PM People's involvement in anti-corruption drive a must

Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia Monday called upon the people to launch a movement against bribery, corruption and other anti-social activities to help establish a society based on justice and fairplay, reports BSS.

Begum Zia said "we want to involve the patriotic forces in all our development programmes at all levels to implement those successfully."

The Prime Minister was addressing a function at her Sugandha office when more than three thousand political leaders, workers and eminent persons of Chandina Upazila of Comilla district headed by Redwan Ahmed, MP, joined

the BNP. State Minister for Labour and Manpower Rafiqul Islam Mia, State Minister for Energy and Mineral Resources K Mosharrar Hossain, Akbar Hossain MP, Jubadal President Goyeswar Roy and Redwan Ahmed spoke on the occasion.

Congratulating those who joined BNP Monday Begum Zia said her government was pledge-bound to implement the 19-point development programme of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman to achieve socio-economic emancipation. She called upon the newly joined party members to strengthen organisational ac-

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BNP bill on procedure of presidential election likely today

By Staff Correspondent

The BNP may introduce a bill in Parliament today providing a procedure for holding the president election under the 12th amendment to the Constitution, said a Parliament Secretariat source.

The bill has become necessary as both the BNP and the Awami League failed to reach a consensus on the issue of the president election, whether it would be held by an open or a secret ballot.
 See Page 12 Col. 6

VAT imposed at donors' directives, says Opposition

By Staff Correspondent

Opposition members of Jatiya Sangsad on Monday criticised the government for introducing the value added tax (VAT) and complained it was done in keeping with instructions given by donors.

They said the new national budget marked no departure from the past. It had failed to reflect the hopes and aspirations of the people, they said.

Treasury Bench members on the other hand said that the new budget was a step towards the achievement of self-reliance. They, however, called for explaining VAT to the people to remove misgivings about it.

They also said the new national budget promised to move the nation towards the establishment of a transparent administration. BNP government kept its pledges in the past and would fulfil its commitment to graduate corrup-

tion. General discussion on the budget is expected to be concluded today with a winding up speech by Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman.

Memo to Speaker for reopening Dhaka University

By DU Correspondent

The Dhaka University Education Action Committee Monday submitted a memorandum to the Speaker in the Sangsad Bhaban, demanding immediate reopening of the university.

The committee also demanded effective political steps to free the campus from terrorism.

The committee brought out a procession from the 'Aparajeyo Bangla' at about 10 am and marched towards the Sangsad Bhaban.

The procession, while pass-
 See Page 12 Col. 5

Dhaka to request BCCE to take over BCCI branches

Star Economic Report

Dhaka is likely to request the majority shareholders of Bank of Coedit and Commerce Emirates (BCCE) to take over the branches of the BCCI in Bangladesh.

According to BBC monitored in Dhaka on Monday evening, Bangladesh Foreign Minister will make a formal request to the UAE ruler Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Al-Nahyan in this connection.

UAE ruler and his family owns 77 per cent shares of the bank. Operation of the BCCI branches in Bangladesh were suspended on July 6 following
 See Page 12 Col. 4

Owners threaten water transport strike from Aug 23

By Staff Correspondent

Water transportation will come to a halt in the country for an indefinite period from mid-night August 23 if the government does not relax the fuel-oil prices at the pre-Gulf war level by August 22.

"We will be compelled to shut down operations of all kinds of diesel-run vessels after August 23 as it has become impossible to keep the vessels operational any longer
 See Page 12 Col. 3

Islamic Jihad wants global swap of prisoners

BEIRUT, Aug 12: Lebanese kidnapers who freed a British hostage last week have told the world they want a "global" exchange of prisoners, trading their remaining western captives for jailed comrades in Israel and Europe, reports Reuter.

Their letter, made public in Geneva today, disappointed Israel and the United States but has not quashed hopes that a deal may grow from the fast moving events which saw three Western hostages released since Thursday.

Muslim fundamentalist sources in Lebanon say the broad outline of an exchange had been agreed even before Israel's top hostage negotiator, Uri Lubrani, met UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Sunday evening.

Perez de Cuellar received the letter earlier on Sunday from British television journalist John McCarthy, 32, whose release on Thursday after more than five years in captivity launched the latest phase of the hostage saga.

Islamic Jihad, an underground Shiite fundamentalist group which held McCarthy and still has at least three other Westerners, filled the letter with strident denunciation of the "Great Satan" America, of Israel and of the UN as Washington's puppet.

Israel, which holds some of the keys to unlocking the long Lebanese hostage statement, found no clues to the fate of its own servicemen missing in Lebanon and judged the letter a disappointment, defence Ministry sources told Israel Radio.

US President George Bush protested himself baffled. "Release these people all around the world — nobody knows quite what that means," Bush said. "There is no detailed information. We're back in the rumor game, the broad demand game."

Geneva on Sunday, a meeting not disclosed until Monday.

Israel has indicated it is ready to release about 400 Arabs taken prisoner in Lebanon if it gets back all seven of its missing soldiers or at least their remains.

"We absolutely must find out what happened to them. That's a sine qua non [absolute necessity]," an Israeli source said.

British officials said the letter's appeal to Perez de Cuellar under Israeli control "would be helpful in terms of

maintaining the momentum of the current situation."

American Edward Tracy, 60, a five-year hostage, was freed on Sunday. So was French aid worker Jerome Leyraud whose brief abduction was an attempt by hard-liners in the kidnap underworld to halt the momentum begun by McCarthy's release.

Tracy, held by the another Shiite group, the Revolutionary Justice Organisation, was the first American hostage freed in 18 months.