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The Daily Star

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Inside today Supplement



Shamsur Rahman reflects on poetry, literature, national identity and life.
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Article

The strategies and programmes to be fruitful will have to be sustained over a period of time. A consensus is needed, because change of government should not change the course of programme.
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Sport



Spitz soundly beaten in his comeback attempt
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International



Rajiv says he lost rapport with Indian electorate.
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Metropolitan

Dhaka Day By Day
Lick it and love it.
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Ershads sued for taking kickbacks

Two more corruption cases involving over Taka five crore have been filed against deposed President HM Ershad.

The Anti-Corruption Bureau has filed a case against former President Lt. Gen. (Retd) Ershad, his wife Begum Raushan Ershad and four other persons including political leaders and government servants for allotting RAJUK's property worth about Taka four crore to fake aggrieved persons at only Tk 23,22,600 for securing financial benefits in collusion with each other by abusing power, reports BSS. The four other persons involved in the case are: former RAJUK Chairman,

Md. Rahmatullah, former RAJUK member Maj (rtd) Kamrul Islam, former minister and Chief Whip Abdus Sattar and one Abdus Sukur Prodhan, according to an official handout issued in Dhaka Sunday.

The handout said the RAJUK authorities invited applications through advertisements in daily newspapers for selling two plots in Kawranbasar commercial area by auction. The plot numbers were 49 and 49A and each comprised 21 khatas. The date of auction was fixed for September 5, 1985.

The highest bid in the auction for each khata in plot number 49 was Taka 1,93,550 and the bidder was Abdus

Sukur Prodhan. The highest bid for each khata in plot number 49A was Tk 1,92,000 and the bidder was one Golam Kibria. But the RAJUK authorities at a meeting held on November 17, 1985 decided to construct a building on those plots as the highest bids for the plots in the auction were not considered just.

At a later stage when arrangement was made for auctioning the plots, some tax payers and others instituted three cases against the RAJUK authorities for keeping the auction in abeyance. When the cases were underway Abdus Sukur Prodhan and twelve other persons on August 26, 1989 claimed themselves as orig-

inal aggrieved owners and submitted an application to the former President praying for leasing the two plots to them at the auction price of 1985. Within two days the former President directed the RAJUK Chairman to allot the plots to them at the earlier highest bid rate as aggrieved persons.

Later, on the basis of their application submitted on September 11, 1989, the entire land was divided into four plots namely, plot no. 49, 49A, 49B and 49C and was allotted among them in four groups. In one such group, there were Md. Shahnur Islam, Md. Sadeque and Aftara Begum and the

See Page 12 Col. 5



COSTLY CELEBRATION: It's all for celebrating Eid with near and dear ones at village homes. When railway compartments are inadequate to accommodate them, the home-bound passengers are travelling on roots and even cramming the engine.
—Star photo

No interference in Iraq's civil war : Bush

MONTEOMERY (Alabama), Apr 13 : President George Bush today emphatically defended his policy of non-interference in Iraq's civil war, saying he did not want to commit the life of one USA soldier to the internal conflict between Saddam Hussein and his enemies, reports Reuters.

The President, addressing the Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama, brought up the Iraq situation in a speech dealing with America's relations with Europe and the Soviet Union in the post-cold war period.

He said Moscow must pro-

ceed with reform at home if international cooperation with the Soviet Union was to endure.

A determined-sounding Bush told the audience that the United States was participating in a massive international relief operation for Kurdish refugees fleeing Iraq's army but would not help the Kurds fight Saddam.

"Yes we want the suffering of those refugees to stop, and in keeping with our nation's compassion and concern we are massively helping," he said. "But yes, I want our troops

out of Iraq and back home as soon as possible."

The President said internal conflicts had raged in Iraq for many years, a reference to repeated Kurdish attempts to gain autonomy for their homeland in northern Iraq.

"I do not want one single soldier or airman shoved into a civil war in Iraq that's been going on for ages, and I am not going to have that," he said emphatically, to loud applause from the military audience.

"We will not interfere in Iraq's civil war. The Iraqi people must determine their own political future."

Preparations for Eid celebration

By Staff Correspondent

The holy Eid-ul-Fitr, the greatest Muslim religious festival, will be celebrated in Bangladesh tomorrow or the day after depending on the sighting of the Shawwal moon.

After about a month of 'siam' (self-restraint) observed through fasting and prayers, devotees are preparing for Eid celebration.

The National Moon Sighting Committee is keeping watch and will announce news about sighting of the moon.

Preparations are now gaining on to facilitate Eid congregations throughout the country.

See Page 12 Col. 5

Job, education quota for tribals to continue

The Council Committee on Chittagong Hill Tracts met in Dhaka Sunday at the President's Secretariat with Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed in the chair, reports BSS.

The meeting, which was attended by Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, reviewed the overall situation in the Chittagong Hill Tracts region. It decided that existing policies with regard to socio-economic development of the hill districts would continue.

It was further decided that existing quota in jobs and education for the tribals would continue.

The meeting noted with See Page 12 Col. 4

Economic prospects gloomy, says ADB report

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

Short-term prospects for economic development in Bangladesh have been clouded in the aftermath of the Gulf war. This situation is likely to affect Bangladesh and most countries in South Asian region, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) says in its 1990 annual report issued this month.

The world economy also faces extremely uncertain prospects in 1991 and world output is not likely to grow by more than 1 to 2 per cent, the report says.

Higher oil bills, lost export revenue arising from the trade embargo on Iraq and heavy losses on account of workers' remittances will squeeze the balance of payments of most of the South Asian countries including Bangladesh, the report says.

Assuming a normal monsoon, agricultural production will continue at least along the present level in Bangladesh, given the improved policies adopted in recent years.

Similarly, policy reforms to boost the efficiency of industries are likely to be further strengthened, the report says.

In 1990, the ADB report says, Bangladesh recorded a 16 per cent increase in its exports over the previous year's. Agriculture recovered from its lackluster performances in Bangladesh due to favourable weather and 'improved agricultural policies'.

The report says, Bangladesh recovered 'strongly enough' to record a 6.2 per cent growth, exceeding the government target. This was mainly due to a strong 7.7 per cent growth in agriculture and an equally impressive growth in industry.

The report says, besides favourable weather conditions, Imports grew by nearly 11 per cent in Bangladesh during 1990, partly due to government's 'policy of import liberalisation,' the report says.

'some of the dynamism in agriculture was attributable to improved policies, which helped expand irrigation and the supply of inputs.'

In most of the South Asian countries, inflation continued to pose a major problem although it differed.

In Bangladesh, the report says, an expansionary fiscal stance combined with a depreciation of the currency pushed inflation to 8 per cent, about 2 per cent over the 1989 level.

However, the country's terms of trade showed some improvements over 1989, due largely to higher prices of its exports, notably ready-made garments, raw jute and jute goods, leather and shrimps, the report notes.

During the year, the ADB report says, Bangladesh increased customs duties, raised excise duties on cigarettes, natural gas and banking services, and made an upward adjustment in the prices of petroleum and items produced by public enterprises.

As one of the Developing Member Countries (DMCs), Bangladesh received a \$351 million loan exclusively from ADB.

During the year, the Bank's first project exclusively targeting women as beneficiaries was approved for Bangladesh.

The scheme titled 'Rural women employment creation project', was designed to create non-farm employment in rural areas, the report says. (Details on page 8)



Eid Greetings

The Daily Star wishes its Readers, Patrons and well wishers a very happy Eid-ul-Fitr.

শুভ নববর্ষ

We also wish you all a very happy Pahela Baishakh and a prosperous New Year.

Supplement

Today's 12-page issue of the Daily Star contains a 4-page Supplement on Eid-ul-Fitr and Pahela Baishakh.

Holiday Notice

The Offices of The Daily Star will remain closed on Monday, April 15, on account of Pahela Baishakh, and on April 16, 17 & 18 on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr. Therefore there will be no issue of the newspaper on April 16, 17, 18 & 19, 1991.

Managing Editor

Pahela Baishakh today

By Staff Correspondent

The nation celebrates Pahela Baishakh, the first day of the Bangla New Year 1398 today (Monday) with traditional enthusiasm and fervour. As the day dawns today the See Page 12 Col. 2

NEWS BRIEFS

Shahabuddin attends Ifar

Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed attended an Ifar party hosted by the President's Guard Regiment at Dhaka Cantonment Sunday evening. Chief of Army Staff M. Nooruddin Khan, Cabinet Secretary Siddiqueur Rahman and high military officials were present, reports UNB.

Forged dollars recovered

CHITTAGONG, Apr 14: Kotwali police recovered forged US dollars and Bangladesh judicial and revenue stamps worth nearly Taka 2.5 crore and arrested three persons in this connection yesterday, police press release said today, reports BSS.

Raushan's bail rejected

Bail petition moved on behalf of Begum Raushan Ershad, wife of former President Hussain Muhammad Ershad, was rejected Sunday by the Additional Chief Metropolitan Magistrate. The petition was moved by Advocate Serajul Haq, reports BSS.

Sun and Itar timings

Business Day Last Time for Sun. Itar
29 Monday 4.15am 6.25pm
30 Tuesday 4.14am 6.25pm

Khaleda at JCD iftar party

Those who can't accept BNP victory out to create anarchy

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia on Sunday called upon the students to become worthy citizens to ensure bright future. See Page 12 Col. 5

Foil conspiracy against Joint Declaration : Sheikh Hasina

Awami League President Sheikh Hasina on Sunday asked the people to unitedly resist any conspiracy against See Page 12 Col. 3

DU murder : A story of triangular love

By Staff Correspondent

Two college girls, Setu and Baby, arrested in connection with Khokan's murder in Zahurul Haque Hall, have been taken on a three-day police remand for further interrogation.

The remand was granted by the Chief Metropolitan Magistrate when the girls were produced before him Sunday morning.

Moinul Hasan Khokan (23) was murdered Saturday morning in a room of Zahurul Haque Hall.

Khokan was an outsider in the Hall and has been identified by police as a member of a notorious criminal group of the city.

As regards the motive of the murder, police said that a triangular love affair was probably responsible for the killing of Khokan.

He had an affair with Setu for quite some time, but Setu recently developed a good relationship with Habb, another member of the criminal gang.

Setu and Baby are the students of Habbullah Bahar College and Siddheswary College respectively.

They were allegedly present during the killing of Khokan and police took them into custody Saturday evening from their residences.

The Ramna Thana Police, See Page 12 Col. 1

Moscow sending team to Pakistan Fresh move to end Afghan war:

ISLAMABAD, Apr 14 : Moscow is sending a high-powered delegation to Islamabad for talks on Afghanistan amid a flurry of diplomatic activity to resolve the 12-year-old war, a senior Foreign Office official said today, reports AFP.

The talks, proposed by Moscow, are expected later this month, Inamul Haq said, adding the date had yet to be finalised.

He said Pakistan welcomed the offer which coincides with

its own hopes of finding a peaceful political solution to the problem.

The Soviet delegation, empowered to hold substantial negotiations, will be led by a senior Foreign Ministry official.

This will be the first direct contact between Moscow and Islamabad after the Afghan resistance's surprise capture of the strategic eastern garrison city of Khost.

The victory at Khost on March 31 served as morale booster for the Mujahadeen

guerillas fighting the Moscow-backed regime in Kabul.

Kabul has blamed the Pakistani army for the Khost debacle saying it was directly involved in the attack, although Islamabad, which harbours more than three million Afghan refugees and provides moral and material support to the resistance, has denied the charge.

Soon after the fall of Khost, Pakistan, embarked upon a diplomatic initiative to seek a political settlement to the

conflict which has let more than a million people dead.

The Pakistani Foreign office has contacted Iran, Saudi Arabia and the United States, who all support various factions of the Mujahadeen, as well as United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez De Cuellar to step up efforts for a peaceful resolution.

Islamabad wants to replace the regime of President Najibullah with a broad-based government in Kabul acceptable to a majority of Afghans.

MILO Feeds back lost energy

An exciting game or a hard day's work takes out a lot of energy from your body. Leaving you tired and exhausted. What you need then is an energy food that puts back all the energy you've lost.

That's why people all over the world specially sportsmen take MILO to replenish depleted energy. MILO is a chocolate flavoured, fortified tonic food drink that provides vitamins, calcium, minerals and other energy giving ingredients so essential for the body.

Above all you will love its delicious chocolate taste.