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Inside Today

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



When it comes to finding new ways of raising money for our cyclone victims, one must give full marks to the members of the British community in Bangladesh
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International

Video film on sequences of Rajiv Gandhi's assassination has been seized by Research and Analysis Wing (RAW)
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Article

As US Secretary of State Baker shuttles round the Middle East in an attempt to convene a regional peace conference he is not having much luck. The Israelis are as rigid as ever about holding on to Jerusalem and the occupied territories.
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Feature

Health



Avoidance or cessation of the risk factors can lead to the prevention of coronary heart disease and heart attacks
Page 6

Tomorrow

First in a series of three articles, Prof M Aminul Islam writes on 'Cyclone Hazard: A Plea for Damage Reduction Programme', in tomorrow's weekly feature page on Environment

NEWS BRIEFS

Afghan rebels capture district

ISLAMABAD, May 26: Afghan rebels said today they had defeated government forces and captured another district in the northern province of Takhar bordering the Soviet Union, reports Reuters.

124 held in cop crackdown

By Staff Correspondent
 Dhaka Metropolitan Police in a massive crackdown Sunday arrested 124 people in connection with various crimes from different parts of the city.

Sihanouk to attend peace talks

BANGKOK, May 26: Cambodian guerrilla leader Prince Norodom Sihanouk has said he will attend peace talks in Indonesia next week, the Thai Prime Minister said, reports Reuters.

Boy drowned

By Staff Correspondent
 A four-year-old boy was drowned in the river Buriganga on Sunday evening when a boat with six passengers capsized near Kaliganj. Fire Brigade said.

Khaleda accorded reception in Riyadh

Bangladeshis urged to invest in country

JEDDAH, May 26 : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has urged the Bangladeshi nationals living in Saudi Arabia to invest in the country's industrial sector to help build up a strong self-reliant economy.

She was addressing a reception accorded in her honour at the Bangladesh Consulate General's office here Saturday evening. Foreign Minister ASM Mustafizur Rahman also spoke on the occasion.

Begum Zia said her government wanted to increase production in mills and factories through proper utilisation of the manpower. "We have to build our national economy with our own limited resources", she said.

Begum Khaleda Zia said her government was going to formulate an industrial policy where the Bangladeshi nationals living abroad could contribute their mite. "The pace of industrialisation will be further accelerated with your active participation and cooperation," she told them.

She said her government would take all-out measures to send skilled manpower abroad.

The Prime Minister gave a resume of the relief and relief operation being carried on in Bangladesh after the killer cyclone struck the southern parts of the country on April 29. She said early warnings had minimised the loss of life but the damage to property

were devastating. She said the recent cyclone was much more severe than that of the 1970.

Dr Salahuddin, a child specialist living in Saudi Arabia, handed over a cheque for Taka 52 lakh to Begum Zia to Prime Minister's Relief Fund. Earlier they also donated Taka 27 lakh to the PM's Fund.

Another report says : Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia flew in the Saudi capital today on the second day of her four-day official visit to Saudi Arabia.

Prince Salman Bin Abdul Aziz, governor of Riyadh and western zone, received Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at the gateway as she alighted. See Page 10 Col. 2

'Understanding on loan repayment a must'

Defaulters list will not affect existing arrangements

Star Economic Report

Existing arrangements for working capital support and other normal lending operations by the scheduled banks will remain undisturbed even after the publication of the defaulters list.

Only no renewal of such facilities beyond the terms and conditions under existing arrangements will be allowed for the defaulters. For renewals, the defaulters must come to an understanding with their respective banks for repayment of outstanding loans.

Briefing newsmen about the new drive for recovery of bank

credits from the defaulters, Governor of Bangladesh Bank S B Chowdhury said on Sunday that the commercial banks had borrowed so far Taka 4000 crore from the central bank to overcome their operational problems because of poor credit recovery performance. The "default culture" has shaken the banks and they will cease to function if discipline is not enforced in the overall financial sector, he observed.

S B Chowdhury said, the recently enacted bank companies law empowered the central bank to assert its supervi-

sory role for disciplining the banking sector. He however hastened to add that the list of defaulters had been provided by the scheduled banks to Bangladesh Bank. More lists will be published by the central bank in addition to those being published by the individual banks, he added.

About renegotiations including rescheduling of credits realisable from the defaulters, the governor said it was a matter between individual banks and their defaulters. The central bank See Page 10 Col. 8



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and OIC Secretary General Hamid Al-Gabid having talks at the Royal Conference Palace in Jeddah on Saturday. —PID photo

Sonia again says 'no' : Younger leaders disappointed

Congress turns to ailing Rao

NEW DELHI, May 26 : India's Congress party is expected to ask veteran politician Narasimha Rao to lead it in the election after failing to persuade Sonia Gandhi to succeed her assassinated husband Rajiv as its head, Congress sources said today, reports Reuters.

Rao, 70, will be acting president of a party tipped by opinion polls before Gandhi's death in a bomb attack on Tuesday to win the election, the sources said.

They said the ailing Rao had emerged as a consensus candidate because he was acceptable to all factions and also because he was a political

lightweight who could be easily ousted in a power struggle after the polls.

Asked by Reuters on Saturday whether he would accept the post if Sonia Gandhi refused, Rao said, "I don't deal in hypothetical situations."

His appointment would temporarily end efforts to draft the 44-year-old widow for a post many in the party believe is crucial for the election. Voting was interrupted by the murder and postponed to June 12 and 15 after a day's polling on May 20.

Normally, the president of the party would become prime minister if it won enough seats See Page 10 Col. 6



Body of the woman bomber who blew up Rajiv. (Related story on Page 5) —TV photo

Japan donates \$7.5 million

Japanese Embassy Sunday handed over a cheque of 7.5 million US dollars for execution of its relief and rehabilitation programme for the cyclone victims, reports UNB.

Tetsuo Ito, Minister of the Embassy, delivered the cheque to AMM Shawkat Ali, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance yesterday.

The money will be utilised for purchase of fertilizer (FSP) for Agricultural Rehabilitation Programme, rehabilitation of the Chittagong and Cox's Bazar Airports, procurement of essential housing materials, contingency and transport cost.

Earlier, Japan donated 2 million US dollars as emergency grant and relief materials worth of 5 lakh US dollars consisting of medicine and medical equipment, water purifier, portable water tank etc.

Japan will also extend food aid of 1.5 billion yen for purchasing wheat.

Saifur off to Paris

Finance and Planning Minister M Saifur Rahman left Dhaka for Paris early Sunday morning to attend the Bangladesh aid consortium meeting to be held in the French capital on May 29-30, reports BSS.

Saifur Rahman is leading a six-member delegation which includes Principal Finance Secretary Khorsheed Alam, ERD Secretary Enam Ahmed Choudhury, Members of Planning Commission Dr Mokshed Ali and Dr Ekram Hossain and Chairman, National Board of Revenue Nurul Hussein Khan.

The consortium meeting will discuss various aspects of aid for the next development budget of Bangladesh. The delegation will also highlight the losses caused by recent cyclone and tidal surge and seek increased help for reconstruction.

Kazi Zafar's detention: Rule Nisi on Govt

By Supreme Court Correspondent

A Division Bench of the High Court Division issued a Rule Nisi upon the government to show cause as to why the detention of Kazi Zafar Ahmed, former prime minister, should not be declared to have been made without any lawful authority. Justice Md. Abdul Jalil and Justice Md. Badruzzaman issued the Rule on Sunday.

Proceedings stayed

In another writ petition another Division Bench comprising Justice Anwarul Haque Chowdhury and Justice Habibur Rahman has issued a Rule upon the government and others to show cause as to why the proceedings against Kazi Zafar Ahmed under Special Powers Act, Sec 7B should not be quashed and pending hearing of the Rule stayed all further proceedings in the Special Tribunal case.

'Ajker Kagoj' editors, reporter released on bail

By Staff Correspondent

The Chairman of the Board of Editors, Editor and Senior Reporter of the 'Ajker Kagoj' who were arrested on Saturday night were released on bail Sunday.

They were arrested under Section 500/501 when one Kaiser Rahman sued them for publishing an allegedly defamatory story against Finance Minister Saifur Rahman.

Barrister Amirul Islam who was assisted by Advocate Shirin Ahmed Chowdhury. Ad- See Page 10 Col. 5

Bouddah Purnima today

The Bouddah Purnima, the most sacred festival of the Buddhists all over the world will be celebrated throughout Bangladesh in a spirit of festivity, reports BSS.

The Purnima commemorates the birth of prince Siddhartha, attainment of his enlightenment as Bouddah and his passing away.

Nearly one million of Buddhists throughout the country See Page 10 Col. 1

Beggars : From den to heaven

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, May 26 : Almost all beggars and members of the floating population have deserted the Port City for the various relief camps set up for the victims of the April 29 cyclone.

The exodus has been triggered by the massive relief operations being carried out by different organisations. The beggars and floating people have moved in particular to the relief centres at Patenga, Sitakunda, Mirsarai, Anwara, Banskhali and Kutubdia.

They wait with the hundreds of victims in these camps for help-droppings of relief materials and share the same too. Their need for door-to-door begging has vanished.

Sources said that the flooding of the affected areas with relief goods by the US Task Force, NGOs and other

organisations has sent beggars swarming to these areas.

The footpaths, verandahs, rail stations, bus stops and shopping areas are now mostly free of beggars and floating people who just the other day made movement of the public very difficult. The people who used to reside in the slums and other places of the city came mostly from Sandwip, Hatiya, Moeshkhali, Anwara, Banskhali and other far-flung areas when their homesteads were devoured by the sea or when affected by floods and storms.

However, after the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge people from those areas did not require to rush to the city for shelter and food as the US Task Force tackled a major part of the relief operation. See Page 10 Col. 2

Fresh violence on DU campus feared

By DU Correspondent

Resident students of Dhaka University fear fresh violence may flare up any moment as tension is mounting on the campus with the armed activists of the major student organisations moving freely.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) and pro-Awami League Chhatra League (BCL), which are expected to face each other in the next DUCSU elections are trying to mobilise support in favour of their respective organisations. In the

face of tense situation the Vice-Chancellor is planning to convene a meeting of the political leaders and guardians to discuss the possible way out. He has also sought cooperation of the political parties in its effort to clean the campus of arms.

Although the campus witnessed no terrorist activities in the last 10 days, the situation remained tense till Sunday. A series of armed See Page 10 Col. 7

Indian police hunt for an attractive woman, fake journalist

MADRAS, May 26 : Indian police hunted for an attractive woman and two men today as suspected accomplices of a woman who killed former Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi with a bomb concealed round her waist, police sources said, reports Reuters.

Police believe the woman was wearing a belt packed with an American-made plastic explosive called RDX and hundreds of steel pellets which she detonated with a toggle switch as she bowed down.

The woman, whose face was intact after the blast, was the only one of 17 people killed with Gandhi who was not identified and the only one whose torso was severed by the blast.

Witnesses saw a dark-complexioned woman wearing glasses rush to put a flower garland around Gandhi moments before the blast. They said she arrived at the rally in a car with another woman, a See Page 10 Col. 7

Hasina returns

Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina returned home Sunday evening after attending the cremation ceremony of former Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi in New Delhi, reports UNB.

During her stay in Delhi, Hasina met separately with Indian President R. Venkataraman, Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar and widow of assassinated leader Ms. Sonia Gandhi.

Hasina conveyed to them sympathy of herself, Awami League and the people of Bangladesh following the See Page 10 Col. 8

Nazrul inspires fight against injustice

By Staff Correspondent

The 92nd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam was celebrated all over the country Sunday amid pledges to uphold his ideals and fight injustice.

Speakers at different functions organised to celebrate the day observed that the heritage and culture of the Hindus and the Muslims found perfect harmony through the works of Nazrul.

They said that Nazrul's writings would inspire the people in the hours of national distress in all times to come.

In a message on the occa-

sion, the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed termed the National Poet as a pioneer of the anti-imperialist movement and the Muslim renaissance in the subcontinent.

Scores of socio-cultural organisations took up elaborate programmes including visits to the mazar of Nazrul and placing of wreaths there, seminars, discussion meetings, poetry recitation sessions and cultural functions on the day.

National newspapers brought out special supplements, articles and features on the life and works of the poet

while Radio Bangladesh and Bangladesh Television put up special programmes.

Prof Md Harunur Rashid, Director General of Bangla Academy said in a discussion meeting at the Academy that Nazrul's poems and songs inspire the people in times of any national calamity.

Poet Ataur Rahman who presented a paper at the function said that the hopes and aspirations of the people found expression through Nazrul's songs of equality.

Poet Asad Chowdhury who See Page 10 Col. 2

Flood situation in Sylhet, Moulvibazar unchanged

By Staff Correspondent

The flood situation in Moulvibazar and Sylhet districts has remained unchanged while it has improved slightly in Habiganj.

The rivers in Sylhet district registered slight rise due to rainfall on Sunday. The Manu at Chadrighat was flowing 39 cm above danger level. The Surma was flowing 60 cm and 3 cm above danger marks at Sylhet and Kanaighat respectively. The Kushiara at Sheola

was flowing 8 cm above danger level. But Khowai was flowing 2 cm below danger level.

The flood situation in Balaganj upazila of Sylhet remained unchanged. The road connection with the upazila was still cut off. Diarrhoea and dysentery have spread in all the 11 upazilas of the district. A total of 107 medical teams are working in the affected areas. Nearly one and a half lakh people have been affected by

the flood.

Moulvibazar

In Moulvibazar, the flood situation is improving slowly. Water has receded in Kamalganj, Kulaura, Baralekha and Rajnagar upazilas. Over seven lakh people have been affected in six upazilas of the district. Ninety-eight cases of diarrhoea and 262 cases of dysentery were reported on Sunday from different upazilas, District

Flood Control Room said. Sixty-nine medical teams were working in the affected areas.

Habiganj

The flood situation in Habiganj is improving gradually. The Khowai river was flowing 2 cm below danger level.

Flood Forecasting Cell of Water Development Board said the Surma at Sylhet and Sunamganj, the Kushiara at Sheola, the Manu at Moul-

vibazar and the Khowai at Habiganj are likely to rise. The flood situation in the greater Sylhet district is likely to deteriorate in the downstream of the Surma and the Kushiara.

Our Sylhet Correspondent S B Das adds : The government is going ahead with plans for agricultural rehabilitation to offset any food shortage in Sylhet district.

Tariqul Islam, State Minister for Social Welfare and

Women Affairs, who is coordinating the relief work in Sylhet and Sunamganj districts told The Daily Star Saturday evening at local Circuit House when his attention was drawn to widespread apprehensions of a famine due to loss of crops by flood. He said as the first step road communication are being quickly restored with upazilas and breaches on the upper Surma and Kushiara See Page 10 Col. 1