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The Daily Star

এখানে পাবেন
 অত্যাধুনিক ডিজাইনের
 সাবস্ক্রিপশন, কমিউনিটি ও শাখা
 নাহার মার্কেট (দেওয়ানী)
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Donors hail victory of democracy in Bangladesh

Aid Club pledges \$2.3 b

PARIS, May 30: The Bangladesh Aid Consortium meeting today pledged assistance of 2.3 billion dollars for the country for the next fiscal year, reports BSS.

The amount is 500 million dollar higher than last year's pledge of dollars 1.8 billion and without any condition for a mid-term review by the donors.

This is the highest ever pledge of assistance for Bangladesh which demonstrates the confidence of the international community in the financial management of the economy by the new government.

The meeting which concluded today was presided over by Attila Karaosmanoglu, Vice President World Bank and participated by representatives of Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States, ADB, EEC, IMF, UNDP, WFP, IFAD, Kuwait Fund, OECD and the Saudi Arabia.

The meeting was held in a very cordial and friendly atmosphere.

The delegates of the various countries and organisation to meeting congratulated the people of Bangladesh for their victory in the struggle for democracy and expressed sympathy for the devastation caused by the recent cyclone.

The meeting also expressed satisfaction at the prompt measures taken by the government to provide relief and for the measures being undertaken to rehabilitate the affected people. The meeting noted that a study on cyclone damages and reconstruction was being undertaken jointly by the government, UNDP and the World Bank which will be presented at the July meeting of the ECOSOC of the UN.

The discussions in the ECOSOC meeting is expected to result in additional assistance for cyclone rehabilitation.

The Chairman of the meeting Karaosmanoglu in his opening statement, said that



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, accompanied by Cabinet members and BNP leaders, offering 'fateha' after placing wreaths at the mazar of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman on Thursday. —Star photo

Zia's death anniversary observed

Call to uphold nationalist spirit

By Staff Correspondent

The nationalist politics introduced by late President Ziaur Rahman emancipated the nation from the dark days of 70s and inspired the people to fight against the autocratic rule for long nine years.

This was the observation of the speakers at a discussion meeting held at the Shilpakala Academy auditorium in observance of the 10th anniversary of Zia's death on Thursday.

A patriotic leader Ziaur Rahman would be remembered all time to come for his politics which has stood the test of time, they said.

Glowing tributes were paid to late President and founder of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Ziaur Rahman on the occasion of his death anniversary.

The day was marked by placing wreaths at his mazar, milad mahfils and discussions, blood donation programmes and feeding the destitute.

Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia placed wreaths at the mazar of Zia at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the morning. Accompanied by Cabinet members and BNP leaders, Begum Zia offered fateha at the late leader's mazar.

The Prime Minister also attended a milad mahfil at the mazar premises where special prayers were offered for peace of the departed soul of Zia, progress of the country and also for the victims of the recent cyclone.

Besides, various units of BNP and its front organisations including Jubo Dal, Mahila Dal, Sramik Dal, Chhatra Dal, Zia Parishad, JASAS, DUCSU and different other socio-cultural organisations went to the mazar to pay respect to the late President.

Speaker Abdur Rahman Biswas and Deputy Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali also placed wreaths at the mazar.

BNP's cultural wing, Jatiyatabadi Samajik-Sangkritik Sangstha (JASAS) organised a discussion meeting on life and contributions of President Zia at the Shilpakala

Teachers decide non-cooperation

Shibir students lock up CU VC, demand resignation

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 30: The Vice-Chancellor of Chittagong University, Prof Alamgir Md Shirajuddin, was today locked up in his office room by Islamist Chhatra Shibir workers demanding his resignation.

Earlier, the Shibir workers gheraoed his office.

The Shibir workers demanded the VC's removal on the basis of the report of the Inquiry Commission on the December 22 clash on the campus.

The Commission reportedly observed that the VC had failed to prevent the clash between workers of Shibir and the All Party Students Unity (APSU) on the day.

Shibir workers went ahead with their gherao programme after their 48-hour ultimatum for the VC's resignation expired Wednesday.

The workers locked up the VC when he reached his office at 2 pm to attend a Syndicate meeting scheduled to be held at 3 pm.

The gherao continued till writing this report at 9.30 pm.

The violent students cut the

JCD, BCL (S-A) clash: 20 injured

MADARIPUR, May 30: At least 20 students were injured, two seriously, in a clash between supporters of Chhatra League (S-A) and Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at Nazimuddin Govt College here today, reports UNB.

Chhatra League leaders

Arrest of Nizami's attackers demanded

By Staff Correspondent

The Central Working Council of Jamaat-e-Islami on Thursday slated the attack on party's Secretary General Moulana Matur Rahman Nizami and demanded immediate arrest and punishment of the attackers.

The council meeting, chaired by Nayeib-e-Emir Shamsur Rahman, in a resolution said the attack was a conspiracy to kill the Secretary General and the leader of parliamentary party.

It said in a press release that the incident occurred due to the irresponsibility of the Vice-Chancellor and the government. The VC resisted the police in taking action against

Experts call for disaster preventive measures

By Staff Correspondent

Experts at a seminar on 'cyclones' Thursday stressed on adopting preventive measures to lessen loss of life and property in cyclones.

Speaking at a seminar titled 'Cyclone, tidal surge, environmental problems and solutions,' organised by the Communist Party of Bangladesh (CPB) at the Institution of Engineers, Professor Aminul Islam, Dean of Dhaka University Faculty of Science called for the improvement of warning systems, evacuation and emergency relief measures, land use regulations, building low-cost high quality houses and multi-purpose community shelters in cyclone-prone areas.

Student groups demand ban on communal politics

By DU Correspondent

Various student organisations held demonstrations on the Dhaka University campus Thursday demanding a ban on communal politics.

They also demanded dissolution of the judicial probe body, formed by the government to inquire into the assaulting of Maulana Matur Rahman Nizami.

The demonstrating student organisations were the Chhatra League (S-A), Jatiya Chhatra League (JCL), Chhatra Union (BCU) and Chhatra League (N-S).

The BCL (S-A) held a rally at the Madhu's Canteen premises which was addressed by Golam Mostafa Suzan and

Hasina blames Govt for campus terror

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief and the Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina Wazed has said police in power have often resorted to violence to destroy the academic atmosphere.

Addressing a group of students of the Bangladesh Institute of Technology (BIT), Chittagong at Bangabandhu Bhaban on Thursday she said the student community should organise united resistance against terrorist forces.

Sheikh Hasina alleged that old tactics were being adopted to create terror in educational institutions in a planned way. Guardians, teachers, officers and employees of educational institutions should come forward to resist violence as they did in the past, she said.

She said the students had

Rebel-demonstrator clashes continue in Addis Ababa

ADDIS ABABA, May 30: Rebel soldiers fired automatic weapons to quell new demonstrations in the capital Thursday, killing at least one protester and wounding several others, reports AP.

There were also reports of shooting at the central market and residents said an undetermined number of people were killed there. The report could not be confirmed.

The sprawling warren of small shops and stalls — sub-Saharan's largest bazaar — has been looted by poor, unemployed youths and ex-soldiers in the past week.

At least three groups of demonstrators defied a ban Thursday to protest what they see as US involvement in the insurgent's takeover two days earlier of Ethiopia's government. Washington gave its blessing to the takeover by the Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, led by Tigreans who launched an insurgency in their northern province 14 years ago.

Crowds of several hundred people, mostly youths, chanted anti-American slogans near the Defence Ministry, Mexico Square and Revolutionary Square at midmorning Thursday. Soldiers of the new administration fired warnings directly at the protesters, reporters and photographers said.

One body was seen in Mexico square and at least two people were wounded in the demonstrations near Revolutionary Square, both near the centre of the city.

The Tigrean rebels, whose ethnic group makes up 12 per cent of Ethiopia's population, say they want free, multiparty elections. But most residents of Addis Ababa and the surrounding central highlands are Amhara, and the protests seem to suggest some suspicion of the new rulers. The two groups speak different languages.

The main ethnic group, the Oromo, makes up 40 per cent of the population, the Amhara

Writ challenging 4th Wage Board Award rejected

A Division Bench of the High Court Division Thursday rejected the writ petition filed by Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad (BSP), challenging the implementation of the Fourth Wage Board Award of the journalists and employees of the newspapers and news agencies, reports BSS.

The court, comprising Justice M Abdul Jalil and Justice M Badruzzaman, in its judgement, held that the petitioner, BSP, did not have any locus standi to file a writ petition under Article 102 of the Constitution of Bangladesh.

According to this article, only an aggrieved person is entitled to file such a petition and in this case BSP does not have the status of an aggrieved person.

In rejecting the petition and discharging the rule on the technical ground of maintainability, the court held that the individual newspaper

Immediate implementation of Award demanded

Leaders of Journalists, press workers and general employees, in a joint statement in Dhaka on Thursday, called upon the owners of newspapers and news agencies to implement the Wage Board Award immediately with retrospective effect in the greater interest of their respective organisations, reports BSS.

Referring to the rejection by High Court of the writ petition filed by Bangladesh Sangbadpatra Parishad challenging the implementation of the Wage Board Award they said, the BSP had been 'conspiring' for long time to make

Clash at T&T Board office: 20 hurt, 4 held

By Staff Correspondent

Twenty persons were injured in a clash between two groups of employees Thursday afternoon at the head office of T & T Board at Mymensingh Road.

Five of the injured persons were admitted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital. Police arrested four persons from the spot.

Thursday's clash followed the one Wednesday between the supporters of Bangladesh Telephone Karmachari Parishad, the Collective Bargaining Agent (CBA) and T & T Sramik Karmachari Union when the leaders of the CBA were engaged at a meeting with the Board authorities.

Our DMCH correspondent reports, five persons who sustained

40 feared drowned: launch capsizes in Sandwip

CHITTAGONG, May 30: At least 40 passengers were feared killed when a boat carrying about 80 passengers capsized in the Sandwip channel. Witnesses said about 40 passengers swam ashore.

Some of them were rescued by a navy sea truck. The boat was carrying more passengers than its capacity.

The Chittagong bound passengers hired the boat to get on a BIWTC steamer waiting at the channel, witnesses added.

When contacted on Thursday police sources said search operations were on to find the missing passengers feared killed.

St Louis goes into relief operation today

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 30: The amphibious cargo ship USS St Louis could not go into relief operation today as it could not find suitable place for its landing craft.

The ship, now anchored off Cox's Bazar, is expected to start operation from Friday. Four landing crafts are expected to be used for relief operations.

NEWS BRIEFS

385.46m relief
 Bangladesh has so far received aid commitment of 385.46 million US dollars for post-cyclone relief and rehabilitation from 41 countries and nine international agencies. Of this, more than 350 million dollars would be provided through the government while 26.24 million dollars through NGOs and 9.218 dollars through the Red Crescent Society, an official handout said Thursday, reports UNB.

15 hurt in French explosion
 MARSEILLE (France), May 30: A powerful explosion ripped through an oil refinery near the southern French city of Marseille on Thursday, injuring 15 people, firemen said.

5 Maoist militants shot dead
 NEW DELHI, May 30: Indian police stormed a secret meeting of Maoist militants in a forest and shot dead five rebels, two of them women, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported today, says AFP.

US extends credit facilities to USSR
 WASHINGTON, May 30: The administration of President George Bush has decided to extend the Soviet Union's eligibility for bank and agricultural credits for another year, US officials disclosed Wednesday, reports AP.

Congress blasts withdrawal of special security cover for Rajiv

NEW DELHI, May 30: Next week's two-day Rajya Sabha emergency session is likely to be stormy with the Congress (I) taking up the issue of withdrawal of special security cover for Rajiv Gandhi by V.P. Singh government which they believed was responsible for Madras tragedy, report agencies.

Emergency session of Rajya Sabha has been convened mainly to condole the death of Rajiv Gandhi and to extend President's rule in Haryana.

Briefing newsmen Congress (I) spokesman Pranab Mukherjee today expressed resentment over the withdrawal of the 'Special Protection Group' (SPG) from the security rings of Gandhi by V.P. Singh in February last year.

The V.P. Singh government ordered the withdrawal of SPG — meant for prime minister — by an act, considering that continuation of the same would involve national exchequer lakhs of rupees every month.

Accusing Janata Dal leader V.P. Singh for withdrawal of SPG, Mukherjee said the group was created in 1985 specially with Rajiv Gandhi "in mind". "Had it been available, the Madras tragedy could have been prevented", he said. He said the Congress was now the only force to "withstand the devious, nasty politics of V.P. Singh and his National Front and the rabid communalism of BJP."

Meanwhile, the Congress (I) has drawn up plans to carry

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