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The Daily Star

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A New Column

Noted educationist, Prof Zillur Rahman Siddiqui writes on the campus violence in "Passing Clouds", a regular column he starts today for The Daily Star
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Dhaka Day by Day



There is more substance in frugal Joygopal's drawings than many of the sophisticated works that one sees in the city
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International
 Nearly 1,000 Kuwaitis defied a ban on rallies on Tuesday, the first since the country's liberation from Iraqi rule in February
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National Day of Sweden
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Business
 With five lakh tons salt in stock import is unnecessary though domestic production suffered a setback because of the devastating cyclone and tidal surge of April 29
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NEWS BRIEFS

BNP public meeting today
 By Staff Correspondent
 Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia will address a public meeting at Gullistan Square today at 3 pm. Ministers and central leaders of the party will also address the meeting.

AL body meets today
 By Staff Correspondent
 An emergency meeting of Awami League Working Committee will be held today at 11 am at the central office of the party at Bangabandhu Avenue. The meeting will review and discuss Acting President's address to the nation.

Rabindra-Nazrul celebrations
 A two-day national-level celebrations to mark the 130th birth anniversary of poet Rabindranath Tagore and the 92nd birth anniversary of National Poet Kazi Nazrul Islam begin here today.

Kabul seeks entry to SAARC
 KABUL, June 5: Afghanistan will press for membership to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) when the grouping holds its sixth summit this year. Foreign Minister Abdul Wakil said here today, reports AFP.

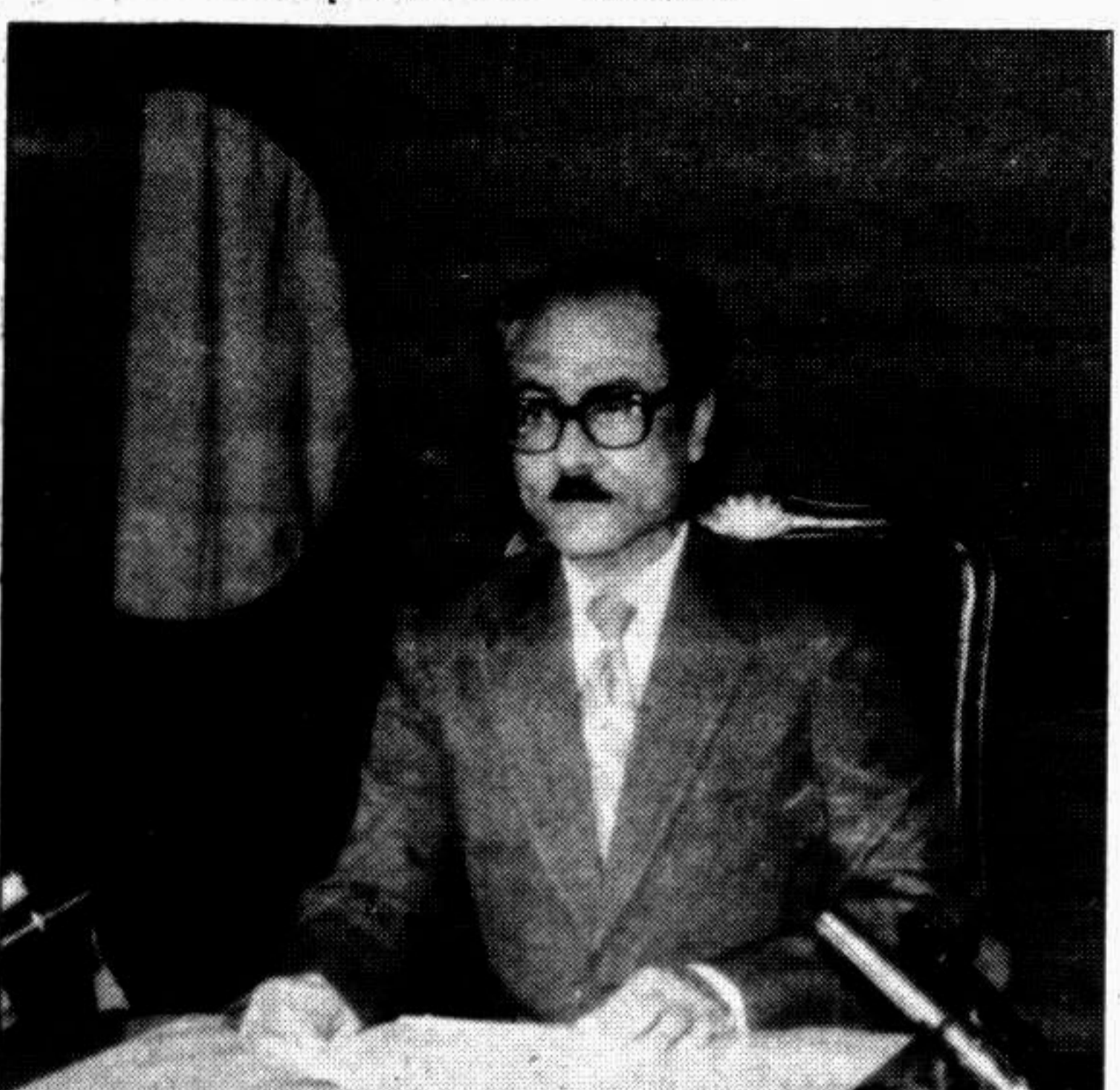
Early settlement of form of govt issue urged Shahabuddin asks JS to pave way for his exit

Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, Wednesday urged the Jatiya Sangsad to take constitutional measures at the outset of the coming budget session to pave the way for his exit from the present position, reports BSS.

In a nationwide address over television and radio, the Acting President also called for an immediate settlement of the issue of the form of government which, he said, had "created a lot of speculations".

Justice Shahabuddin said the consensus of all political parties was the basis of his being the Acting President. He said such a basis no longer existed and therefore he would prefer to quit his present position before any controversy generates.

In this context, Justice Shahabuddin said a state minister had stated in the last session of Parliament that the Acting President could vacate his position at his will by transferring power to the Speaker.



Acting President on the air: Looking for exit —PID photo

This he said, meant that he had clung to power willfully adding such a statement could not be construed as the view of an individual since the party concerned did not refute it.

Justice Shahabuddin said a question was being raised as to "who is ruling the country — the Prime Minister or the Acting President." Some say the ghost of diarchy has descended on the nation. "This has thrown me in a very embarrassing situation," he said.

The Acting President called upon the Jatiya Sangsad to settle the controversy and appealed to the nation to nourish the democratic process set in motion.

In his 11-minute speech, Justice Shahabuddin touched upon the political scenario of the last three months and reiterated his eagerness to relinquish his present position. "I came to this post as a non-partisan person", he asserted.

The Acting President reminded the nation that the three political alliances, in a joint declaration, had urged him to take over as the Acting President. "I kept their request on condition that I would return to my original position after holding parliamentary elections at the earliest".

He said the alliance leadership particularly the two lady leaders, had made a commitment to me on December 5 that they would settle the constitutional question, if

See Page 10 Col. 3

BNP decides form of govt in coming Sangsad session

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) leaders have resolved that a decision about the form of government will be taken during the ensuing session of Parliament.

In a guarded reaction to the address of the Acting President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, the BNP Secretary General Barrister Abdus Salam Talukdar said that measures would also be taken to facilitate the honourable return of the Acting President to his original post.

BNP leaders had a closed door meeting at Prime Minister's office at 'Sugandha' immediately after the Acting President's address to the nation over radio and television.

BNP chairperson and Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia was in the chair. The meeting lasted till 10-30 pm.

Salam Talukdar said that the Acting President in his address made two points — the first about his going back to his post, and the second about the form of government.

He said the meeting was of the view that the points made by the Acting President were very significant and meaningful in the context of the prevailing national political situation.

The BNP leaders, mostly ministers and state ministers, who attended the meeting looked composed and content. Begum Khaleda Zia left her office smiling.

They remained tight lipped as to the nature of the decision to be taken about the form of government.

Opposition hails address, wants constitutional amendment

Star Report

The opposition political parties, reacting to the Acting President's address to the nation on Wednesday, stressed the urgency of resolving the constitutional crisis to hasten transfer of power to end diarchy in administration.

The leaders of political parties said that the ruling party should respect to the November 19 Joint Declaration of the three mainstream political parties.

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PM stresses disaster management Green belt in coastal areas to be built up

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia has stressed that disaster management programme should be made an integral part of environment protection and development, reports agencies.

The Prime Minister has also called for launching an effective social movement involving all sections of people to ensure protection of environment and its development.

"Bangladesh along with other developed nations will continue to take firm steps to overcome the environment pollution," she told a seminar organised in connection of the observance of World Environment Day at Osmany Memorial Hall here Wednesday.

Begum Zia said immediate steps have to be taken to build up a green belt in the coastal areas of the country.

"We have to take tree plantation programme as the most powerful weapon to protect ecological balance as well as development," she said.

She said we have to attach top priority to tree plantation in the rural areas, around the houses and on the road sides.

Begum Zia called upon the people to plant at least one tree each and nourish them so that the number of trees increase by 11 crore every year and a green Bangladesh emerges.

Organised jointly by the Department of Environment and the Department of Forest and

See Page 10 Col. 8

Dr Milan's killers will be punished

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia reiterated her government's determination to keep the country's seats of learning free of terrorism for ensuring academic atmosphere and security of life of students, reports BSS.

Begum Zia was talking to the leaders of the central committee of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal who met her on Wednesday at her Secretariat office to hand over a memorandum.

It was the responsibility of any government to keep peace in the campuses of all educational institutes and ensure security to the students, Begum Zia said, adding, as a government elected through the mandate of the people BNP

See Page 10 Col. 6



Chiefs of three services called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda at her office on Wednesday. From left: Lt Gen Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan, newly appointed Naval Chief Commodore Mohaiminul Islam and Air Chief Air Commodore Altaf H. Choudhury. —PID photo



Action from yesterday's second semifinal between Mohammedan Sporting and Mohun Bagan at Dhaka Stadium. MSC won 1-0 to set up a final with Abahani KC in the 8-day BTC Club Cup meet. Story on Page 7. —Star photo

Charge of amassing wealth beyond known sources Ershad in dock again

By Staff Correspondent

The second case against deposed President Ershad on charges of amassing wealth beyond his known sources of income began yesterday (Wednesday) at the Special Judge Court headed by Divisional Judge Mohammad Ali Khan at a Gulshan house.

Deposing before the court as the first Prosecution Witness the informant of the case Deputy Director of the Bureau of Anti-corruption Salehuddin Ahmed said that the case was lodged as the accused usurped power to grab government property and thus accumulated a huge amount of money disproportionate to his known sources of income.

Primary evidence from the report of the Inventory Committee showed that an amount of Taka 1,90,81,565 recovered from his Sena Bhaban residence was not compatible with his known sources of income, he added.

The accused Ershad submitted to the Court that he was surprised to see the list of the recovered items and the value placed against those, Taka two crore.

He said that the articles recovered from his residence could have included gifts like the Quran Shafr.

Most of the items in his residence were gifts he said, adding that they were kept in the house as decoration pieces.

He said he had repeatedly urged that he or his wife be allowed to identify their goods.

The Prosecution Witness on his part gave a description of

USS St Louis leaves Saturday

The US Navy amphibious cargo ship, USS St Louis, will leave the Bay of Bengal on Saturday after completing "Operation Sea Angel" operations, a USIS press release said in Dhaka on Wednesday, reports BSS.

The ship, with its crew of 356 officers and sailors, and 226 Marines, has supported Joint Task Force relief operations since its arrival off the coast of Bangladesh on May 29, using its landing craft to move relief supplies.

Agitation by rival student groups continues

By DU Correspondent

Various student organizations demonstrated Wednesday in the city in support of their respective stands on the recent arrests in connection with Dr Milon's murder and assault on Maulana Nazami.

Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) held a rally in front of the National Press Club demanding immediate arrest and

See Page 10 Col. 2

'Wilful defaulters must be identified'

Star Economic Report

Four leading chamber bodies of the country on Wednesday called for clear identification of wilful defaulters in repayments of bank credits. This should be done once for all to stop "calculated move for wholesale maligning of the private sector and thwart the conspiracy in the growth of market economy", they said.

In a joint statement, the chiefs of the chamber bodies said, the business community was looking forward to "seeing sound economic policies from the democratically elected government which will be free from manipulations by vested quarters in the administration."

The signatories to the statement included F I M

Mohsin Bulbul, acting president of Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry, Syed Manzur Elahi, president, Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI), Mahbubur Rahman, President, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and Amir Khasru Md. Chowdhury, President, Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI).

They demanded immediate formation of an "industrial commission" with quasi-judicial powers and induction of the representatives of the private sector in it to determine the causes of default and sickness of industries and recommend measures to help over-

See Page 10 Col. 7

Failure will endanger peace : Gorbachev

OSLO (Norway), June 5: Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev used his Nobel lecture on Wednesday to issue a strong appeal for Western aid, saying the failure of his reforms could jeopardise "a new peaceful period in history", reports AP.

"We are now approaching what might be called the crucial point, when the world community, and above all the states with the greatest potential to influence world developments, will have to decide on their stance with regard to the Soviet Union, and act on that basis," Gorbachev said.

His hour-long speech before 900 invited guests was interrupted twice by hecklers criticising Soviet involvement in the Afghan civil war. Gorbachev responded briefly, remarking that their freedom to comment was an example of perestroika, or reform. He then continued his speech as security men removed the hecklers.

Later, about a dozen members of the Norwegian Afghan Committee shouted, "Go home, Gorbachev" in English as he was driven away, waving out the window of his Limousine.

Thousands of people lined the streets, clapping and cheering as he passed, but police kept the crowds far back and refused to let children cross a street to present him with flowers when he emerged from a meeting with the Nobel Committee.

Gorbachev was saluted as the greatest contributor to the end of the Cold War when he arrived at Fornebu airport. The new atmosphere of trust prevailing between East and West is largely a result of the fundamental, far-reaching decisions that have been taken in the Soviet Union," Norwegian Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland said welcoming Gorbachev.

Gorbachev is the first Soviet President to visit Norway, although Nikita S. Khrushchev visited in 1964 as General Secretary of the Communist Party.

"You have made a far greater contribution than any other individual towards ending the Cold War", the Nobel Committee chairman, Francis Sejersted, told Gorbachev.

Gorbachev's Nobel lecture, delayed since last December 10 by the crisis in the Soviet Union, was his most cogent appeal yet for Western help to integrate the Soviet Union into a peaceful new world order.

But he warned Western leaders against setting unrealistic conditions.

But he said his country must stabilise its "democratic process" within a "new constitutional order."

National Board of Revenue NOTICE

The date for advance Income Tax payment for the fourth quarter of the current financial year is June 15, 1991. The advance Income Tax payable by the concerned tax payer is paid through IT Form No-I-T 31 (B) (Amended) challan. The tax payers should pay the advance tax filling in the said challan form as usual by replacing the figure "74 (1)" with the figure "64" as many places it occurs in the form.

It may be mentioned that the financial limit of total income for payment of advance Income Tax in case of income of Tk 50,000/= as decided on the basis of Tax Imposition Order finalised latest by amendment to the relevant clause of Income Tax Ordinance under Finance Act 1990, has been redefined as follows:

(A) For company domiciled in Bangladesh Taka 20 thousand.

(B) For non-domicile tax payers Taka 5 thousand.

(C) For other tax payers Taka 60 thousand.

All tax payers concerned are requested to pay their advance Income Tax for the last quarter of current financial year for the 1991-92 tax year under this system by prescribed date.

Rule to impose simple interest @18% per year will be applicable if the advance Income Tax is not paid or paid less than the amount of payable advance tax.

DFF (G) 6567-3/6 National Board of Revenue
 G-184 Dhaka.