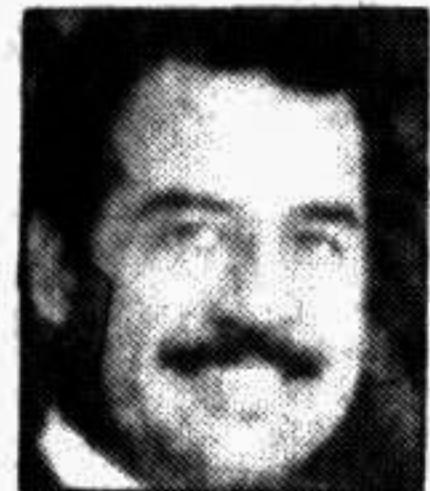


Inside Today

International



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein escapes assassination in an attack at Karbala that killed three members of his entourage

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Dhaka Day by Day



The sight is not
appetising but it's still
just about the best
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NEWS BRIEFS

Anwar's writ
rejected

A Division Bench of High Court Wednesday rejected the writ petition challenging the validity of detention of former Communications Minister and Jatiya Party MP Anwar Hossain Manju, reports UNB.

Zafar's detention declared void

By Staff Correspondent
A High Court Division Bench Wednesday declared the detention of former prime minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed void.

Milam calls on
Hasina

The US Ambassador to Bangladesh, William B Milam met Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina at the latter's Sangsad Bhaban office. The General Secretary of Awami League, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury MP was present, reports BSS.

Bush sets terms
for aid to Moscow

WASHINGTON, July 10 : President George Bush on Wednesday lifted the five-year old economic sanctions against South Africa, saying there had been a "profound transformation" toward dismantling the racially segregated apartheid system, reports AP.

Bush said he expected continued progress toward equality, and added that an arms embargo would remain in effect.

Steps for phasewise withdrawals being examined BCCI asked to prepare two lists of depositors

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

Bangladesh Bank has instructed the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (Overseas) Limited (BCCI) in Bangladesh to prepare two lists of depositors with the bank, banking sources said Wednesday. One list should contain the names of clients having deposits below Tk 60,000 and the other with those having deposits above Tk 60,000.

The Central Bank's move is aimed at taking some steps for arranging phase-wise withdrawal of funds by the depositors.

As a last resort, the Central Bank may extend cash support to the BCCI to facilitate the withdrawals, if necessary.

Meanwhile, reports from UAE suggested good progress in talks in London between the Sheikh Zayed's two-member delegation and the Bank of England. The UAE Emir, Sheikh Zayed, who owns 77 per cent shares of the Bank along with his family threat-

ened retaliatory action against what he called "Bank of England's treachery." The UAE team comprised of Governor of UAE Central Bank and Al Mazroui, former Managing Director, Abu Dhabi Investment Authority. Both are directors of BCCI.

A banking source indicated that Bangladesh Bank was buying time for the developments in the UAE and London. If the issue is amicably settled, the See Page 12 Col. 3



With their fate uncertain, upazila chairmen brought out a procession in the city yesterday.

— Start photo

UZ chairmen call for hartal
July 21

Upazila Parishad Chairmen Samity Wednesday called for countrywide half-day hartal on July 21 to protest a reported move to dismiss the upazila chairmen, reports UNB.

The countrywide hartal, the first to be called after the fall of Ershad government December 6 last, came amidst reports on possible introduction of a bill in parliament to dismiss the upazila chairmen.

Announcing the protest programme at a press conference at Jatiya Press Club yesterday afternoon, Joint Convenor of the Samity Ahsanullah Master said they would organise processions and rallies in all the upazillas July 19-20 and observe half-day hartal on July 21.

The Samity will submit a memorandum to the Speaker of Jatiya Sangsad on July 14.

Ahsanullah, who is the Chairman of Gazipur Sadar Upazila, demanded a government

See Page 12 Col. 3

VAT will accelerate uplift, strengthen democracy : Saifur

Finance and Planning Minister M. Saifur Rahman said the BNP government was committed to building up a self-reliant economy in place of "dependent and stagnant one" for ensuring benefits of national independence to the people, reports BSS.

In his speech over television Wednesday night on the National Budget and Value Added Tax (VAT), the Minister said introduction of VAT would accelerate economic development and institutionalise democracy.

The main objective of the development policy of the government was to accelerate the economic growth and alleviate

poverty through balanced economic development, he said adding, democracy, socio-economic development, alleviation of poverty, economic and administrative efficiency and social justice are inter-woven with one another.

The premature death of Shaheen President Ziaur Rahman affected the growth of development initiated by him, he said. Later during the autocratic rule, normal growth of economy was hampered because of excessive governmental control, increase of expenditure in unproductive sectors and other distortions.

The Finance Minister said See Page 12 Col. 1

DUCSU elections July 31

By DU Correspondent
The Dhaka University Central Students' Union (DUCSU) and the hall students union elections will be held on July 31.

The decision was taken Wednesday at a meeting of Dhaka University Educational Atmosphere Council (DUEAC) held at the conference room of the Register's Building with Vice Chancellor Prof Moniruzzaman Miah in the chair.

The polls were originally scheduled for July 18 which was re-scheduled for July 23, but postponed due to continued campus violence.

See Page 12 Col. 1

EUCSU polls postponed

By BUET Correspondent
The Election Commission for Engineering Central Students' Union (EUCSU) has postponed the EUCSU election, which was scheduled to be held July 18.

In an official notice circulated by the election commission Wednesday, it stated that due to unavoidable reasons the decision had been taken in an extended meeting of the commission.

When contacted, the chief election commissioner, Dr Ehsanul Haq told The Daily Star, that the election might be held two or three days later, adding that the new schedule would be published soon.

Meanwhile, different student organisations brought out processions and held rallies in front of the Vice Chancellor's office protesting the decision. They however demanded immediate announcement of the new schedule.

Gen Rodrigues meets Shahabuddin

The visiting Indian Chief of Army Staff, General Sunith Narin Rodrigues, called on the Acting President, Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed, at President's Secretariat here Wednesday, reports BSS.

Gen Rodrigues stayed with the Acting President for some time during which they discussed matters of mutual interest.

The Acting President said exchange of visits at the highest military level would promote goodwill and friendly relations between the two countries.

Chief of Army Staff Lt General Muhammad Noor Uddin Khan and Indian High Commissioner in Dhaka K Srinivasan were present. See Page 12 Col. 5

Dhaka-Moscow consular convention signed

MOSCOW, July 10 : Bangladesh and Soviet Union in a significant move today signed a consular convention as a step to further develop friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries, reports BSS.

The signing of the important convention which is under negotiations since 1975 followed high level official talks here.

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman led the Bangladeshi side while the Soviet delegation was headed by Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh in the talks that lasted for two hours on the Soviet Foreign Ministry.

The meeting, first at Foreign Ministerial level after many years was marked by a cordial atmosphere and all issues of common interest came up for discussions.

Gayoom arrives July 19

By Staff Correspondent
President of the Maldives Maumoon Abdul Gayoom will arrive in Dhaka on a two-day visit to Bangladesh on July 19, according to official sources.

President Gayoom, now chairman of (SAARC) is expected to meet the Acting President and the Prime Minister to discuss matters of regional and bilateral interests.

President Gayoom will be accompanied by Mrs Nasrina Gayoom, the Foreign Minister, Mr Fazlul Jamil and other high officials.

Khaleda stresses narrowing police-people gap

She also described the police force as the symbol of peace and security, saying the people need to rush to the police for help when security of individual and social life is disrupted.

The expectations of the people from police are high..... They want to get police as their friends in time of danger, she added.

The Prime Minister reviewed the parade and took salute of the impressive marchpast. She also witnessed the sworn-in ceremony of the new ASPs.

Mahbubur Rahman was adjudged best cadet, and he re-

ceived the best man trophy from the Prime Minister.

Present at the function, among others, were State Minister for Establishment Osman Gani Khan, State Minister for LGRD and Cooperatives Kabir Hossain, Home Secretary Lutfullah Majid, Major General Sadequar Rahman, IGP A M Chowdhury, Abdus Salam, Principal of the Police Academy, and Mizanur Rahman Minu, Mayor of Rajshahi City Corporation.

The Prime Minister said it is the responsibility of police to maintain law and order.

See Page 12 Col. 8

Ershad sings loudly in confinement : Sirajul Haque

Case not politically motivated : CMM

By Staff Correspondent

Prosecution witness Chief Metropolitan Magistrate (CMM) Azizul Haque Bhuiyan said that the corruption case on Ershad's amassing wealth from beyond his known sources of income was not politically motivated as suggested by the Defence.

During his cross-examination yesterday at the Special Judge Court the CMM replied to a lot of questions made by the Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque for two hours.

Earlier, the Attorney General completed his examination of the CMM who was the Chairman of the Inventory Committee.

The hearing resumed yesterday at around 10 am, at the Special Judge Court, chaired

the Sena Bhavan. After examination by the Attorney General, Defence Counsel Sirajul Haque cross-examined the witness.

Sirajul Haque (DL) : Did you make any other inventory list of any president's belongings from 1987 to 1990?

CMM : I don't know.

DL : Is there any law for making inventory?

CMM : No, I don't know.

See Page 12 Col. 3

Cyclone loss pegged at Tk 6,957 cr

Star Economic Report

Total loss, caused by the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge in the coastal areas and islands, stood at Taka 6,957 crore, according to the latest official estimates.

This was stated by State Minister for Relief and Rehabilitation Lutfur Rahman Khan during question hour in the Jatiya Sangsad on Wednesday.

In reply to another question, he said that cash donation to the Prime Minister's Relief Fund totalled Taka 33.63 crore till July 3, 1991.

Besides, Japanese grants worth 9.5 million US dollars have been deposited with the Prime Minister's Relief Fund, he added.

Reliable sources say, BNP

may modify its bill and instead

propose to disqualify such an

MP from contesting the subsequent by-election.

And there may not be any bar for such an

MP to contest the next general election.

See Page 12 Col. 8

BNP may soften stand on floor crossing

BY Mostafa Kamal Majumder

BNP proposes stringent measures against floor crossing with a view to ensuring stability and continuity of the government.

The bill introduced by ruling BNP provides that such a member will not only automatically vacate his seat in parliament, but will also be disqualified to contest parliamentary elections for five years.

Reliable sources say, BNP

may modify its bill and instead

propose to disqualify such an

MP from contesting the subsequent by-election.

And there may not be any bar for such an

MP to contest the next general election.

See Page 12 Col. 8

Upazila chairman post

Hasina opposed to abolition

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina described the move to abolish the post of democratically elected public representatives through an ordinance as fully autocratic, reports BSS.

Sheikh Hasina made this comment when a delegation of upazila chairmen led by Md Firoj Kabir, Convenor, Bangladesh Upazila Chairmen Samity, met her on Wednesday.

During the meeting the delegation members apprised the Leader of the Opposition of their various problems including the move to abolish the post of upazila chairmen.