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The Daily Star



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Inside today

International



Agha Hasan Abedi, who founded BCCI and built it into a sprawling banking empire, is today a broken man
 Page 5

Article

Poverty Alleviation Programme: Government-Donor-NGO Interface

Business

Security market is highly depressed in the country as compared to capital market, a workshop on capital market was told
 Page 8

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Worldnet provides a model for BTV by S.M. Ali
 Page 3

Supplement

A special supplement on the National Day of France
 Pages 8 & 9

NEWS BRIEFS

Jamaat submits amendment bill

By Staff Correspondent
 Notice of a new Constitution amendment bill seeking to make permanent provisions for holding of parliamentary elections under a caretaker government was submitted on behalf of Jamaat-e-Islami Saturday.

Pirgacha chairman suspended

RANGPUR, July 13: Local Government and Rural Development Ministry suspended Pirgacha Upazila Parishad Chairman, official sources here said. Shah Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of Pirgacha Upazila Parishad was suspended temporarily on July 4, reports UNB.

20,000 tons wheat from France

PARIS, July 13: Bangladesh will receive 20,000 metric tons of wheat as grant from France under an agreement signed here on July 9 between Bangladesh and France, reports BSS.

18 acquitted in Sylhet

SYLHET, July 13: The Additional District and Sessions Judge here today acquitted all the 18 accused in sensational Munir-Tapan murder case. Chhatra League activists Munir-e-Kibria and Tapan Joyoti Dey were killed September 24, 1988 in a clash between supporters of Islami Chhatra Shibir and the Chhatra Sangram Parishad, reports UNB.

Two Indians held at Saikhira

From Our Correspondent
 SAIKHIRA, July 13: Three dacoits including two Indian nationals were arrested with arms and ammunition, police sources said yesterday.

\$ 1b more required for post-cyclone rehabilitation Special ECOSOC meet July 16

Star Economic Report

Bangladesh will require an additional amount of one billion US dollars in external aid support for its short, medium and long-term post-cyclone recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes.

The international community will be apprised of this additional funding requirement at the one-day special meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in Geneva on July 16 (next Tuesday).

The meeting, convened at the initiative of the UN Secretary General, will be of 'appraisal' nature and not a 'pledge-making' session. Finance and Planning Minister Saifur Rahman told newsmen at an informal meeting at his Sher-e-Bangla Nagar office on Saturday.

The Minister who left Dhaka last night for Geneva, would be leading a four-member Bangladesh delegation to the ECOSOC meeting.

The Geneva meeting will consider a detailed and 'authenticated' report, prepared by a joint task force of the United Nations and the Government of Bangladesh, on the extent of damage caused by the April 29 cyclone and tidal surge in the coastal areas and off-shore islands of Bangladesh.

The report has estimated the extent of total loss and damage by the cyclone and tidal surge at 1.7 billion US dollars, the Finance Minister said at the press briefing.

He said that Bangladesh would require in all 1.4 billion US dollars as external assistance to recover the loss and repair the damage. The rest 300 million dollars will be mobilised by the government from domestic resources, he added.

The Finance Minister said that Bangladesh had so far received external aid, either commitments or disbursements, totalling 435 million

dollars. Now one billion dollar will be needed as additional external resources support to "fully carry out" post-cyclone recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation programmes, he added.

Giving a break-up of phase-wise requirements of resources for the programmes, he said that short-term operations for a period up to June next would need 621 million dollars. The medium term needs, he noted, will be 369 million dollars up to June 1993 and the long term requirements, for implementation of programmes stretching

See Page 10 Col. 8



A group of Dhaka University Jagannath Hall students burnt a vehicle on the campus Saturday in a violent protest against derogatory remarks on Sree Krishna by a vernacular weekly. — Star photo

Students set vehicle ablaze

By DU Correspondent

The agitated students of Jagannath Hall of Dhaka University set a vehicle on fire Saturday at 12 am in front of Shamsunnahar Hall protesting an objectionable article in a national weekly on Sree Krishna.

The students earlier held a rally in front of the National

See Page 10 Col. 7

July 12 issue of Weekly Bichinta confiscated

The government on Saturday confiscated the July 12 issue of the Weekly Bichinta under the existing law of the country for publishing an objectionable article hurting the religious sentiments of a section of people, reports BSS.

The Minister of Home Affairs in a Press Note, said the sale, preservation, publicity, and reprint of the relevant issue of the weekly will be con-

See Page 10 Col. 8

Flood situation may worsen as major rivers continue to rise

The flood situation in country's northern districts worsened with rivers Padma and Jamuna overflowing danger levels submerging houses and crops in low-lying areas, reports UNB.

The Flood Forecasting and Warning Centre in Dhaka Saturday said the flood situation in the Ganges (Padma) and the Brahmaputra (Jamuna) basins might take "a serious turn" as the major rivers kept rising sharply.

Four deaths in drowning in the last four days were reported yesterday from the badly-hit areas of Sirajganj and Bogra districts. Fisherman Sirajuddin was washed away by gushing water as a ring-dam he was fishing by collapsed in Sirajganj Sadar Upazila on Thursday and was reported dead.

All 274 prisoners from Sirajganj Jail have been shifted to Pabna Jail as the flood water entered the prison, while the panicky residents of the town were searching for safe shelters sighting cracks on the town protection embankment.

State Minister for Irrigation, Water Development and Flood Control Ansar Ali Siddiqui and State Minister for Relief Lutfur Rahman Khan Saturday visited the flood-affected areas of Sirajganj where the situation was reported serious.

Sherpur district headquarters remained cut off from rest of the country since Friday afternoon as road communications snapped following inundation of the highway between Puradokan and Fokritola.

Six unions of Sherpur Sadar upazila have been badly

hit by the swirling waters of the Brahmaputra pouring through two large breaches in the flood protection embankment, officials and villagers said.

Some 200 families have been reported marooned in low areas due to onrush of flood waters.

In Kurigram district, flood waters Saturday engulfed low-lying areas along the bank of the Dharla as the river rose sharply and was flowing 28 cm above the danger mark.

Eight of the nine upazilas in Sirajganj and six upazilas in Bogra have been badly affected.

The situation in Bogra also took a serious turn as the overflowing waters of the Jamuna, Bangalee, Ichamoti and Karotoa flooded more 300 villages in 35 unions during the last two days.

BCL students gherao office of DU VC

By DU Correspondent

Awami League-backed Chhatra League (A-A) gheraoed the office of the Vice Chancellor of Dhaka University Saturday demanding arms-free campus before the forthcoming DUCSU elections.

BCL(A-A) held a rally and handed over a memorandum to the Vice-Chancellor.

The rally, addressed by Golam Mostafa Suzan and Quamruraman Ansari, President of the VC's office.

See Page 10 Col. 2

CU rival student groups call hartal at Ctg

From Our Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, July 13: The all-party Students' Unity (APSU) and the pro-Shibir Sangrami Chhatra Oikya, two rival student groups, have separately called a dawn-to-dusk hartal here the same day, Monday.

APSU has called the hartal

See Page 10 Col. 1

Select Committee may need more time for scrutiny

By Staff Correspondent

The Parliamentary Select Committee on Constitution amendment bills may seek extension of time today to complete scrutiny of the amendment bills.

Reliable sources told The Daily Star that the 15-member committee Friday started clause-by-clause discussion on

See Page 10 Col. 2

Primary education key to success in literacy drive: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia Saturday said that mass literacy programme could be implemented if primary education was given maximum importance in our national life, reports BSS.

"Primary education is the main pillar upon which our total education system would largely depend," Begum Zia told the members of National Federation of Teachers Associations when she called on her at the secretariat office.

She said there was no alternative to education for the development of society and the country. "We have to increase

the rate of literacy and also to raise the standard of education in the country," she added.

In this connection the Prime Minister reminded the great role of the teachers in making the government programme a success. She expressed the hope that the teachers would contribute their utmost in this regard.

Begum Khaleda Zia said her government would take measures to develop the primary schools in the rural areas of the country. She sought their suggestions and cooperation in this connection.

The teachers congratulated the Prime Minister for convening last night's grand conference of political leaders to remove violence from the educational institutions and restore peace and discipline.

The grand conference Friday night reached a consensus to make united efforts to keep the campus violence free and restore proper academic atmosphere in the educational institutions of the country.

The teachers extended their total support and made a firm pledge to make the efforts of the meeting a total success. They opined that such an initiative had been long awaited.

The federation members said that previous regime had patronised violence in the country's educational institutions during the past nine years to achieve their own self-interest.

The association members also submitted a memorandum to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia.

The teachers' delegation was led by Secretary-General of the National Federation of Teachers Associations, Prof. M Shauful Islam.

Ministry of primary education will be set up

Star Economic Report

The Planning Ministry has proposed for creating a new ministry of primary education. The proposal is aimed at giving "an all-out thrust" on the programme for attaining the objective of compulsory primary education for all children by 1995.

This was stated by Planning and Finance Minister Saifur Rahman at an informal meeting with newsmen on Saturday at his Sher-e-Bangla Nagar office.

He said the Planning Ministry had proposed that the Prime Minister should herself head the new ministry to demonstrate "the total commitment" of the Government to removal of illiteracy. The universal coverage under compulsory primary education within the next three years will be the major element of the Government's overall programme for human resources development, he added.

See Page 10 Col. 7

BCCI submits two lists of depositors

By Shahiduzzaman Khan

The Bank of Credit and Commerce International (overseas) Limited (BCCI) in Bangladesh has submitted two lists of its depositors to the Bangladesh Bank.

Banking sources said Saturday one list contained the names of depositors whose deposits were within Tk 60,000 for each case and the other with deposits above Tk 60,000.

Meanwhile, inspection teams from the central bank and the official auditors have been performing the stock-taking of the BCCI's assets and liabilities. The whole process may take at least one month to

See Page 10 Col. 1

FM satisfied at outcome of Moscow visit

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign Minister A S M Mustafizur Rahman has expressed satisfaction at the outcome of his official visit to the Soviet Union.

He said that the fruitful discussions with his Soviet counterpart would contribute to

See Page 10 Col. 6

Shafiullah replaced, called back

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh High Commissioner to London Lt Gen (ret'd) Shafiullah has been replaced by the Bangladesh Ambassador to Iran Rezaul Karim.

Shafiullah returned home July 10 after handing over charge to Rezaul Karim. His services may be placed under the Establishment Department for further posting.

Hasina blames Govt for campus terrorism

Awami League chief and

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina said in Dhaka on Saturday that it had not been possible to eliminate terrorism from the educational institutions due to "lack of sincerity on the part of the government", reports BSS.

Addressing the newly-elected office-bearers of Kumuria Nabojug Degree College of Dharmrai at Bangabandhu Bhaban she said the party in power had been indulging in terrorist activities through its student wing to maintain its dominance in the educational institutions. The government could wipe out terrorism if it so wished, she added.

Sheikh Hasina pointed out that literacy rate has slowed

See Page 10 Col. 2

Ershad wipes tears from his eyes

'Money kept to buy house for JP'

By Staff Correspondent

The defence in Ershad's wealth amassing case yesterday made a plea that the money recovered from the Sena Bhavan had been kept there to buy a house for the Jattya Party.

Two more witnesses deposed yesterday before the Special Court that resumed at 10.45 am with Judge Mohammad Ali Khan in the chair. Till yesterday a total of seven witnesses deposed before the Court.

In the dock, Ershad wearing a shirt sleeve white safari looked very depressed, his eyes reddish.

It seemed he was wiping

the tears from his eyes again and again with his handkerchief. He was once seen covering his eyes with his goggles.

The Prosecution first produced the ASP of the city Special Branch Atahar Ali who served the detention order against Ershad at the instruction of the Home Ministry.

Deposing before the Court he said that he served the detention order on December 12, 1990 while the ground for detention was served on December 24.

The Attorney General Aminul Haque examined him.

See Page 10 Col. 3

AG receives death threats

By Staff Correspondent

Attorney General Aminul Haque said Saturday that he has been receiving threats over telephone from different quarters due to a false report in a section of newspapers on July 4.

After adjournment of the court yesterday the Attorney General told newsmen that he had also received two letters from anonymous writers.

See Page 10 Col. 5

Iraq to supply new list of N-facilities

BAGHDAD, July 13: Faced with UN criticism and threats of military action, Iraq has promised to divulge a new, expanded list of its nuclear facilities, the chief of the UN inspection team said Saturday, reports AP.

The disclosure came a day after the five permanent members of the UN Security Council warned Iraq's UN Ambassador that his government must move quickly to disclose its nuclear capabilities or face serious consequences.

Western diplomats in New York declined to say it was an ultimatum, but said the warning was unmistakable and demanded immediate cooperation.

One diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Iraq was given a deadline of July 25 to comply.

Baghdad's new list would be the third and most detailed one delivered since April 27. It would be, in effect, yet another admission that the Iraqi government had cheated on nuclear disclosure.

"I am expecting the list tonight or tomorrow," said Dimitri Perricos, the chief inspector. "I hope to get it tonight."

The UN Security Council warning apparently came in response to reports from Perricos team, according to sources in Baghdad, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Two days ago, Perricos 37-person team made a surprise visit to a uranium production plant near the northern city of Mosul, Perricos said in an interview. The plant had not

been included on previous lists.

Under the UN cease-fire terms that ended the Gulf war, Iraq was required to disclose its nuclear facilities.

The government's initial list included 24 facilities.

Since then, the UN Special Commission overseeing the demolition of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction has acquired intelligence indicating there were more sites. The new list is expected to account for those, the sources said.

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