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### **NEWS BRIEFS**

### PM lays N'ganj press club foundation today

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will lay the foundation stone of the new building of Narayangani Press Club today at 3.45 pm. Begum Zia is expected to address a public meeting at Narayanganj Launch Terminal at 4:00 pm, says a PID handout.

#### Air chief off to Saudi Arabia

The Chief of Air Staff Air Vice Marshal Altaf Hossain Chourdury, left Dhaka yesterday for Saudi Arabia on a weeklong goodwill visit. During the visit Air Vice Marshal Choudhury is scheduled to call on the Saudi Defence Minister. chief of the general staff, services chiefs and other Saudi officials, reports BSS,

#### Yslav defence minister resigns

BELGRADE, May 8: Yugoslavia's acting Defence Minister Blagoje Adzic has resigned and the commander of the federal military in Bosnia, Gen. Milutin Kukanjac, has been fired, the Tanjug news agency reported Friday. Both have been sharply criticized in Serbia for failures in the war in Bosnia- Herzegovina, where the Serb-led federal army has decided to relinquish the command of its troops, reports

### Magic festival

State Minister for Textiles Major (Retd) Abdul Mannan Friday called for popularising the traditional art of magic which, he said, can help the youths in building a strong moral character. The State Minister was addressing the national magic festival and prize distribution ceremony of the City Magic Circle at the PG Hospital auditorium yesterday evening, reports UNB.

### Shibir, NDP fire on BCL meet in Ctg

# Four killed, 150 injured, former AL MP missing

CHITTAGONG, May 8: A barrage of gunshots in Fatikchhari Upazila Friday left four activists of Awami League killed and more than 150 pcople injured, reports UNB.

Party sources said Chittagong Awami League leader and former MP Mosharraf Hossain was kidnapped with bullet wounds during the firing, the worst incident in recent time. Police confirmed the death

of one person but Chittagong Awami League sources said three leaders of Chhatra League and one of Juba League were killed by a joint attack of Islami Chhatra Shibir and NDP.

They allegedly launched the attack on a biennial council of Fatikchhari Chhatra League at Fatikchhari Upazila auditorium

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia addressing the inaugural function of Tagore's birth

Tagore's poems hastened

independence: PM

terrorism, hatred and jeal-

The function was also ad-

dressed by State Minister for

Cultural Affairs Jahanara Bc-

gum. State Minister for Law

and Justice Aminul Hug, Be-

gum Raushan Elahi MP, Ka-

mruddin Yahya Khan MP, Mi-

rza Muraduzzaman MP and

Secretary Cultural Affairs IU

Minister said Rabindranath

was a poet of truth, beauty and

welfare. She said in our task in

building of Bangladesh the na-

create a healthy and prosper-

ous society by removing

poverty, illiteracy and all social

evils. To achieve this objective

our people have to work unit-

edly forgetting all differences

in the greater national inter-

est. The country, she said, had

to be made self reliant to fulfil

the hopes and aspirations of

Referring to influence of na

ture and people of Bangladesh

on the creative work of Rabin-

dranath, the Prime Minister

said the Baul songs of this

region deeply influenced him.

He developed an intimate

relationship with the Bauls of

tion of entire society for the

first time towards the mysti-

while spending his days in

Shahjadpur, Shilaidhaha and

Patishar, Rabindranath wrote

numerous poems songs, sto-

The Prime Minister said

cism of Baul songs

this area and drew the atten-

tion had been endeavouring to

In her speech the Prime

anniversary yesterday at Shahjadpur, Sirajganj.

SHAHJADPUR, May 8: Pri-

me Minister Begum Khaleda

dranath Tagore, after coming

to this part of Bangladesh.

discovered a new life that was

pulsating in rural hamlets and

ccremony of Rabindra Jayanti

at national level Begum Zia said

the poems and songs written

on Bangladesh by the great

poet had given us inspiration

in our War of Liberation and

hastened the attainment of in-

The Prime Minister said,

"we the people in Bangladesh

are proud of Rabindranath. The

people and nature of Bang-

ladesh have taken form in nu-

merous poems and songs of

the poet was imbued with the

spirit of humanism while he

came in touch with simple but

hardworking people of this

area. Late he became the poet

of humanism and poet of world

a profound world view. He was

moved at the worldwide dis-

quiet and clashes. The Prime

Minister said there still are

clashes in different parts of

the world, even fatricidal war

in some countries. She said,

"let us on this day of Rabindra

Jayanti at the remote quiet vil-

lage of Bangladesh call upon

the conscience of the world to

discard clashes, animosities,

Begum Zia said the poet had

The Prime Minister said

dependence.

the poet.

Addressing the inaugural

the countryside, reports BSS.

Zia said here today that Rabin-

at about 3-30 pm.

The dead were identified as Harun Basher of Juba League, Yunus Gani and Jasimuddin, President and Social Secretary of Chittagong Uttar Chhatra League, and Jamiruddin, General Secretary of Nazirhat College Chhatra League.

Police sources said about 100 to 150 armed people launched the attack killing

- PID photo

ries and dramas. The natural

beauty of the region deeply

touched his heart and his sto-

rics and poems had depicted

the lives and contemporary

She said Rabindranath dur-

ing his stay here found that life

was not complete without na-

ture. He saw the varied aspects

of nature which is sometimes

calm, sometimes turbulent,

sometimes quiet and some-

The Prime Minister said

Rabindranath had felt charmed

at the indomitable courage of

the people of this region to

conquer the diversity of na-

Cultural Affairs said Rabindra-

nath had developed a spiritual

relationship with the rural

people by acquainting himself

The Prime Minister later

After attending the func-

tion, held at the Shahjadpur

Government College premises,

the Prime Minister visited

"Kuthibari" where Rabindra-

nath had spent six years. She

also went round the Kuthibari

and witnessed a photo and

book exhibition organised on

augurated the Shahjadpur and

Makhdum Shadaula (R) mazar

protection embankment.

Begum Khaleda Zia also in-

the occasion.

with their happiness, sorrows,

enjoyed a cultural programme

staged by the local artistes.

hopes and aspirations.

The State Minister for

this region.

times tumultous.

Jasimuddin on the spot and fled by a truck and a minibus,

They also confirmed that Awami League leader Mosharraf Hossain remained missing after the incident.

Of the injured, 20 were admitted to Holy Crescent Hospital and 10 in critical condition to Chittagong Medical College Hospital.

### Shahjadpur buzzing with cultural activists

From Asit Chowdhury

SHAHJADPUR (Strajganj) May 8: This sleepy town. where history hums with the memories Rabindranath Tagore, has turned into the cultural focal point today.

Politicians, scholars, poets, cultural activists and motley crowd thronged the 123square kilometre town to celebrate the 131st birthday of the Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia inaugurated the three-day national celebration of the anniversary of birth of Tagore, the first of its kind being organised here. People of all ages, both from

home and abroad, joined the inauguration ceremony on the Shahjadpur Government College premises while thou sands of others, who could not Sec Page 12 Col 5

### Gunshots rock DU campus

By Staff Correspondent Two rival groups of students exchanged at least 50 rounds of gunshots on the Dhaka University campus last night.

Witnesses said, the feuding groups might be two factions of Jativa Samajtantrik Dal (JSD) backed Bangladesh events of the rural masses of | Chhatra League (N-S). The gunbattle stemmed at about 7:45 pm and continued for half an hour, they added.

> Police lobbed several rounds of teargas shells to disperse the clashing students.

No report of injury was received till writing this report at 11:30 pm but tension prevailed in the campus.

### JP presses for fresh elections

By Staff Correspondent

KHULNA, May 8: Jatiya Party leader Barrister Moudud Ahmed today demanded fresh election to Parliament to establish what he said people's

He was addressing a public meeting at Khalishpur here this afternoon.

Presided over by S M A Rab the meeting was addressed among others by Kazi Zafar Ahmed, Shah Muazzem Hossain, Shah Mohammad Abu Zafar, H M A Gaffar, Mansur Ali, Miah Musa Hossain and Siddique Ahmed Sardar. Barrister Moudud urged the

Election Commission to probe into the issue of violating the See Page 12 Col 6

## Lawyer advised BB to take BCI to court

Star Special

The Bangladesh Bank (BB) has always been within its right to "file an application before the High Court Division for the winding up of Bangladesh Commerce and Investment Company Ltd (BCI)" for alleged irregularities committed by the organisation.

This was the expert opinion given to the central bank by a noted lawyer here in a detailed note written on May 22, 1990, when his views were sought on the activities of BCI by a wellplaced BB official.

Speaking to The Daily Star on the basis of anonymity, the lawyer said yesterday that once a financing company which is a non-banking institution violated rules laid down by the central bank, BB was competent enough to move against such a company under Articles 52-56 of the Bangladesh Bank Order, 1972, in a series of actions, finally taking up the matter with the High Court for winding up the institution.

The lawyer was unable to say why his opinion, sought by a BB official, was ignored by the central bank. In this context, he argued that BB could indeed act against BCI on its own, without asking for en hanced power from the authorities, and thus save the financial world the avoidable shake-up now caused by the BCI scandal

Last week, a well-placed BB source had told the Star that two years ago, the central bank had advised the government to

under the Company's Act. thus taking the line that BB was unable to move against the offending institution under its own existing authority.

It was this line of thinking by BB which was challenged by the noted lawyer two years ago and, indeed, is being challenged now.

Elaborating on various provisions of the Bangladesh Banking Order, 1972, the lawyer said that Article 52 gives authority to the Bangladesh Bank "to issue directions to such a financing company (as BCI) to furnish statements, information or particulars relating to any deposits received by any nonbanking institution, as may be specified by general or special

Again, under the same Article, the central bank has also necessary power to "give other directions" to such finance companies on its own, without necessarily going through the Ministry of Finance. in short, the central bank

as a watchdog over the activities of non-banking finance institutions on a day-to-day basis, and to take remedial measures against offenders. As a well-placed trade source put it yesterday, it was

enjoys extensive powers to act

in this function that central bank officials here "miserably failed" at the cost of the coun-

The Article 56 of the See Page 12 Col 7

## suspend" the operation of BCI Financial sector will be streamlined in

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Friday said the entire financial sector would be brought under strict discipline within the next six to eight weeks and nobody could escape the rule of law for misdeeds, reports BSS.

He was addressing as chief guest the opening ceremony of the Centre for Development Management (CDM), established by Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC), at Rajendrapur, Gazipur.

Referring to the mushroom growth of so-called financial institutions, the Finance Minister said these were the products of the misrule of the autocratic regime, indulging in irregular activities.

The Finance Minister said efficient and skilled management was one of the cardinal ingredients for the success of the development programmes

He said efforts of all developing countries like Bangladesh so far failed to yield expected results for lack of skill in resource management.

The Finance Minister said the democratically elected BNP government under Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia now sets the nation on a sound macro-economic foundation and the country is poised to take off with priority programmes to deliver much coveted results.

The crying need of the time is the efficient managers both in public and private sectors,

2 months: Saifur he pointed out.

The CDM is the out come of the 20 years work of BRAC in Bangladesh since its involvement in 1972 as a Non-government Organisation (NGO) in different programmes and approaches, suited to the development needs of the rural poor of Bangladesh.

The CDM, sprawlling over 21 acres of calm woodland at Rajendrapur, is ready to provide training to development managers with modern equipment in a rural atmosphere.

Since 1972 BRAC has spread its operation in 1200 villages of Bangladesh involving 7000 clients, of which 65 per cent women, and is running 700 primary schools, providing education to 2000

Chaired by the BRAC chief Fazle Hasan Abed, the function was addressed by State Minister for Religious Affairs Prof. Abdul Mannan, British High Commissioner in Bangladesh Colin H Imray, Ambassador of Sweden Carl Olof Cederblad, Ambassador of the Netherlands, Gajtaan, Director of programme Dr Salauddin Ahmed and programme coordinator Dr Golam Samdani Fakir.

The function was attended by former Advisor Azizul Haque, former Finance Minister M Saiduzzaman, secretaries of the government, diplomats, prominent NGO personalities and BRAC officials.

### **BCI MD still** at large: police pick up son By Staff Correspondent

The police raided the house of Mustafizur Rahman, the Managing Director of Bangladesh Commerce and Investment (BCI) Limited at Jogi Nagar, Warl again on Friday morning and picked up

After the raid at about 7 am, Sutrapur police said they did not find Mustafiz in the house, and picked up his eldest son so that they could trace him. The police also said that

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Saudi embassy

### mistake throws 140 Bangladeshis in distress

By Staff Correspondent

A simple mistake by the Saudi embassy in Dhaka led to instant deportation of 140 Bangladeshi workers from Jeddah airport on May 5. These workers were re-

fused entry allegedly on the ground of false visas. But after on their return it was found that the responsibility lay with the Saudi embassy here. The workers were recruited by a Jeddah-based

firm, Centre for Technology and Services, and left Dhaka by Biman flight number BG-107 on May 5. After their arrival at the Jeddah airport they were sent back to Dhaka by the same

Biman flight for reasons stated On enquiry it was found that

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### Khaleda, Salam have falsehood factory, says Nasim

Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim has bitterly criticised BNP Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukdar for his "indecorous" remarks about "popular leader of the masses. Sheikh Hasina, and their beloved organisation Awami League," reports UNB.

"His (Talukdar's) remarks are indecorous as well as untrue, an inherent trait of BNP, Nasim said in a rejoinder to the statement of Salam Talukdar which appeared in different national dailies

Since its inception, BNP did not follow the accepted political process, said Nasim, also the Publicity Secretary of Awami League. Its leaders were always in the habit of uttering "imbalanced, dirty, non-political and irresponsible remarks which have no basis," he added.

He said activities of Khaleda Zia-Salam Talukdar clique over the years show that possibly there is a "factory in their office for manufacuring false-

From that place, he said, they create fictitious stories in Goebbles-style with a heinous design to impede the implementation of hopes and aspiration of the people.

The Awami League leader said that after the fall of the autocratic regime, people expected restoration of peace and discipline alongside the establishment of democracy and rule of law. Unfortunately, people's

See Page 12 Col 4

### 93 die of liquor poisoning in Cuttack

NEW DELHI, May 8 : At least 93 people died and scores were battling for life after drinking poisonous liquor in India's eastern state of Orissa, domestic news agencies said today, reports Reuter.

They said at least 11 people suspected of being involved in the sale of the lethal brew had been arrested in the city of Cuttack.

Hundreds of people had been admitted to hospital since Wednesday night, many in critical condition, and more victims were arriving, the United News of India (UNI)

Most patients suffered convulsions and stomach pains after drinking the liquor, the news agency said. Several went blind before they died.

## Delhi turns down US rocket engine sale offer?

### US pressure won't work: Rao "But the United States firm

NEW DELHI, May 8: Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao said Thursday that any attempt to pressure India will prove futile as it is determined to stand on own feet, reports Xinhua.

Addressing members of the Congress Parliamentary Party (CPP), Rao emphasised that India will neither adopt confrontation approach nor embrace isolation, while refusing to be arm-twisted by others.

'India cannot afford to be arm-twisted even if you want to, it is not possible ... armtwisting is out of question ... then confrontation is equally out of question, the Prime

Minister said. Commenting on Rao's remarks, 'Indian Express' said

sumed particular significance in view of the recent US threat to penalize India under the provisions of Special 301 and to thwart the Indo-Russian Reuter adds: The United

today in an article that they as-

rocket deal. States on Thursday denied offering to sell India rocket engines similar to the type New Delhi is seeking from Russia over heated US objec-

Officials sources in New Delhi quoted Narasimha Rao as telling a Foreign Affairs Parliamentary Committee on

Wednesday that the United

States and France had offered

to sell cryogenic rocket

engines, powered with liquid

nitrogen, which India says it

wants for its space pro-The sources quoted Rao as

saying India approached Russia for the engines because the United States and France were asking higher prices. US State department spo-

keswoman Margaret Tutwiler dented this "It's not true. No United States firm has made a formal bid, or submitted an export li-

cence application for such a

sale to India," she said. Tutwiler said that some time ago India informally approached a US aerospace company to provide and upper rocket stage to be mated to the lower stages of the Indian space vehicle to launch satelconcluded that the deal was undesirable to pursue." The United States said on

Monday that Russia's US dollar 250- million contract to sell rocket engines to India could lead to trade penalties for both countries.

Tutwiler said the sale would violate the missile technology control regime, an agreement among Western states to limit the spread of missile technology, particularly to the Third

India will start receiving the engines by 1994. Russian first Deputy Prime Minister Gennadi Burbulis said on Tuesday that Russia would go ahead with the sale despite US threats.

### Amendments to banking law proposed By Inam Ahmed and Sohel Manzur

counted as the annual capital Some changes in the exist-

ing banking law have been proposed by the high-powered body under the Ministry of Law in view of the recent crisis in the financial sector, according to a Finance Ministry source. The body felt that no direc-

tor of any bank should be allowed to remain as a director for more than six years, the source said, adding that it also proposed changes in the system of accounting the capital of the directors. According to the proposed

system the annual capital of the directors will be accounted by averaging their capital on the last days of each of 52 weeks of the year, the source mentioned. According to the existing law, the capital on the last day of the year is ac-

of a director. The committee also proposed that prior permission of

the Bangladesh Bank must be obtained to dismiss any managing director of the banks. According to the existing banking law, the shareholders of the banks are given full power to dismiss their manag ing directors on their own. The report on the proposed

amendments to the banking law were in the meantime sent to various agencies of the government for comment. After a final review of the

report in view of the comments, the final report will be sent to the cabinet for ap-Meanwhile, the proposal of

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his eldest son, Mita Rahman.