

Come to CHITTAGONG Come to  
**BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT**  
 The only place for ORIGINAL THAI FOOD & SEAFOOD  
 in CHITTAGONG (NO BRANCH). Please try us and you  
 will love BANGKOK THAI RESTAURANT more than  
 ever before.  
 1403 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y.M.C.A. NASIRABAD.  
 CHITTAGONG. TEL: 226603. Fax: (0880) (31) - 225238

VOL. II NO. 127 REGD. NO. DA 784

# The Daily Star

JAISTHA 13, 1399 BS,

DHAKA WEDNESDAY MAY 27, 1992

ZILQAD 23, 1412 HIJRI

The finest Ice cream from Italy  
 Made with all natural ingredients and Italian technology  
**dolce vita gelato**  
 gelateria, ice cream parlour  
 54 Kamal Ataturk Ave.  
 Ground floor, Barani, Dhaka Ph: 607960

12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

**Inside Today**

**Article**  
**What Use a Ministry of Culture**  
 Column: Passing clouds by Zillur Rahman Siddiqui Page 4

**International**

**International**  
 Ogata, Mandela talk repatriation of exiles to South Africa  
 Israel to build homes for 1.3m more Jews in West Bank Page 5

**Feature**

**Banking and Finance**  
 Need for a pragmatic budget Page 8  
**Business**  
 Better exchange of farming know-how among SAARC countries urged Page 7

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**  
 Sartorial changes in Bangladeshi males Page 3

**NOTICE**  
 The results of MBBS admission test have been published on Page 2

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Two cyclone centres open**  
 MONGLA, May 26: Two cyclone centres were formally opened at Joymani and Kalatala near Mongla Monday. Khulna City Mayor Sheikh Tayebur Rahman inaugurated the centres by unveiling the plaque. Funded by CARITAS, an NGO the centres, costing Tk 70 lakhs, will house about 4,000 people during calamities, reports UNB.

**CU admission date extended**

CHITTAGONG, May 26: The date of admission to MA final year of 1989/90 session of the Chittagong University has been extended up to May 31, 1992, a university press release said today. Admission seekers will have to pay Taka 100 as late fee, reports BSS.

**Hasina leaves for Bandarban today**

Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina leaves for Bandarban today (Wednesday) on an organisational tour. She will address public meetings and meet party leaders and workers of the hill district, reports BSS.

**Philip Habib dead**

DIJON, France, May 26: Philip Habib, former US Presidential envoy to the Middle East, died of a heart attack Monday at the age of 72 at a hotel in Puligny-Montrachet, near here, US sources said. Habib's body will be sent back to the United States, the US consulate in this central French city said, reports AFP.

Trade, Chakma issues figure in Dhaka-Delhi talks

## Rao for interim water sharing arrangement

NEW DELHI, May 26: The first round of formal official level talks between Bangladesh and India was held at the South Block here today, reports BSS.  
 The talks began immediately after the informal meeting between Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, and lasted for half an hour.  
 Bangladesh side was represented in the talks by Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman, members of parliament Akbar Hossain and Rozi Kabir, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman, and High Commissioner to New Delhi Farooq

Sobhan.  
 Indian State Minister for External Affairs E. Felero, State Minister for Personnel Affairs Margaret Alva, Foreign Secretary JN Dixit and Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh Ragnath were present from the Indian side.  
 Earlier, in an hour-long informal talks, Narasimha Rao today called for finding out a comprehensive and permanent solution to the Ganges water sharing problem which would be satisfactory to both the sides.  
 The Indian Prime Minister also supported a suggestion of Begum Zia to make a new time-frame for solving the wa-

ter sharing problem.  
 Briefing the newsmen who accompanied Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Foreign Secretary Reaz Rahman said both the leaders exchanged views in an atmosphere of cordiality.  
 Rao assured Begum Zia during the meeting that some interim arrangement on the sharing of water would be made to ensure that the people of Bangladesh were not put to hardship.  
 Rao said that he would ask the Indian Water Minister to work out arrangements so that the needs of both the countries were met.

The Indian Prime Minister observed that the democratic government in both the countries provided a better chance to solve the bilateral problems.  
 Turning to the Chakma issue, the Indian Prime Minister said, "We do not want to keep a single Chakma on the Indian soil and there should be no doubt about the return of Chakma refugees to Bangladesh. He said India stood committed to solving the Chakma issue.  
 Rao said the resolution of Tin Bigha issue, a long-standing irritant would lead to creation of goodwill between  
 See Page 12 Col 1



Bangladesh Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia being greeted by the Indian Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao on her arrival in New Delhi yesterday. —AFP photo

Emergency goes

## Thai coalition to be dissolved

BANGKOK, May 26: Thailand's acting premier today lifted as state of emergency imposed during bloody anti-government protests last week and the Justice Minister said the ruling coalition had agreed to dissolve itself to make way for a new government, reports Reuter.  
 "It appears now that the said state of emergency has ended and it is deemed appropriate to terminate the declaration of the state of emergency," said an order signed by the acting premier, Mechai Ruchepan.  
 The decree had been imposed on Bangkok and some provinces on May 18 by General Suchinda Kraprayoon, who resigned as Prime Minister on Sunday after his troops killed scores of protesters last week.  
 The emergency allowed the authorities to decree a curfew

and a ban on political rallies. Pongpol said an official announcement would be made later in the day.  
 Justice Minister Sawas Khamprakorb told reporters the five parties which chose Suchinda as premier had agreed in a Monday meeting to dissolve their coalition, clearing the way for the appointment of a new premier.  
 He said a new coalition could include opposition parties.  
 He said the meeting suggested four possible Prime Ministers — the leader of the opposition, General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, Chuan Leekpai, head of the opposition Democrat Party, Arthit Kamlang-ek, a member of the pro-military Samakkhi Tham Party, or Samak Sundravaj, head of the smallest party in the coalition, Prachakorn Thai.

30000 workers

## of T&T, PWD R&H face retrenchment

By Staff Correspondent  
 Leaders of Bangladesh Workers' Federation (BWF) have alleged that more than 50 per cent of the workers of three government departments are faced with retrenchment orders despite the announcement of the Prime Minister that her government will not fire any workers.  
 Addressing a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club Tuesday afternoon, the leaders said that orders had been sent to the Telegraph & Telephone, the Public Works and the Roads and Highways departments for retrenchment more than 30,000 workers.  
 M A Muttalib, president of BWF, said a Finance Ministry order on May 23 asked the secretary, PWD to retrench 50 per cent of its total workers.  
 About 30 per cent of the workers employed in different development projects of the  
 See Page 12 Col 7

## Russia to try CP in Nuremburg style

MOSCOW, May 26: Russia's highest court decided Tuesday to put the former Soviet Communist Party on trial and ordered its last leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, to represent the party in proceedings described by officials as a second Nuremburg report AFP.  
 In a resolution, the courts' 13 justices ordered Gorbachev and two other former top party officials, Valentin Kuptsov and Vladimir Ivashko, to represent the Communist Party either personally or through their representatives during the trial.  
 The court then recessed until July 7 to give prosecution and defenses time to prepare their cases and for the judges to study documents relating to the trial.  
 The courts' rulings marked a blow to hold over communists who had petitioned the court to rule only on the legality of President Boris Yeltsin's decrees issued last August and November banning the communist party.  
 Gorbachev on Monday told the court's Chief Justice,

Valery Zakin, that he was prepared to testify at the proceedings even though he had already told everything to questioners involved in other party-related investigations.  
 The decision to subpoena Gorbachev appeared based on the need for flesh-and-blood representation for the party in court and it was not clear if the former Soviet leader would be subject personally to legal action as a result of his participation in the proceedings.  
 There was no immediate public response from Gorbachev to the court's ruling, but communist deputies in the Russian parliament voiced mixed feelings on the decisions by the justices.  
 If Gorbachev has enough courage he must take part in the trial, Ivan Ribkin, a communist deputy, said adding that other members of the Soviet party's Politburo between the 1960s and the 1980s — including Russian President Boris Yeltsin — should also be summoned to appear in court.  
 See Page 12 Col 7

## Badal murder: DU student arrested

Police yesterday arrested a Dhaka University student accused of killing Chhatra League leader Moniruzzaman Badal, reports UNB.  
 Abu Jamal Rajib, also an expelled activist of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League, was picked up by plainclothes police from Shahbagh area at about 2 pm, police said.  
 Badal, central Organising Secretary of BCL, was gunned down on the DU campus on January 9 allegedly by his rival colleagues.  
 Chhatra League expelled more than a dozen leaders and activists for their alleged involvement in Badal killing.  
 Meanwhile, three rounds of gunshot were heard in the TSC area at about 10.30 pm. None was hurt.  
 Witnesses said a group of youths came out of the Jagannath Hall and fired heavy guns. They reportedly belong to the BCL (M-I).  
 Police rushed to the spot, but failed to catch anyone as the gunmen fled the scene.  
 Panicky students and passersby ran helter-skelter for safety

## Crop production declines

By Staff Correspondent  
 Production of jute, sweet potato, tobacco, mustard, til, all types of pulses, banana, mango and brinjal has continuously fallen in the country for the decade from 1979-80 to 1989-90, according to a crop diversification study of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and International Food Research Institute (IFRI).  
 The growth rate of agricultural crops for the same decade has also been calculated to be 1.61 per cent which is largely at variance with the official figure of 2.73 per cent.  
 Commenting on the difference with official data, Professor Wahiduddin Mahmud, co-ordinator of the study, said the growth rate was overestimated because of different methodology used by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. This, in return, influenced most of the World Bank position while drafting country's economic profile, he added.  
 The study report further says that the production of wheat has almost reached a

saturation point in the country. One of the reasons attributed to the situation is fluctuations in weather.  
 According to the study, during the decade mentioned earlier, the production of spices, paddy, vegetables, sugarcane and tea grew by 1.86 per cent, 2.31 per cent, 1.98 per cent, 0.58 per cent and 0.61 per cent respectively. During the period, minor cereals has the highest rate of loss in production — 11.96 per cent.  
 According to the study, for the period from 1979-80 to 1990-91, the production of all types of rice had a growth rate of 2.63 per cent. Of this, modern variety of Aman, and Boro showed better prospects, which has been termed as 'hope for future'.  
 Referring to annual growth rate ranking of the districts, the report shows that the districts of Kushtia, Jessore, Faridpur, Bogra and Rajshahi fall in the category of high growth rate for the period from 1979-80 to 1989-90. The districts of Dinajpur, Rangpur, Comilla and Noakhali fall in the

medium category while the districts of Barisal, Pabna, Patuakhali, Mymensingh, Chittagong, Sylhet, Dhaka, Tangail and Chittagong Hill Tracts fall in the low category for the same period.  
 The report shows that the use of fertilizer did not contribute much to the land productivity in the country, rather it shows a declining trend in productivity.  
 Commenting on the situation Prof. Mahmud said that the reason could be over the unplanned use of fertilizers. This proves the concerns of the environmentalists and agronomists, he added. Prof. Mahmud further said the situation could be corrected by restoring biomass balance and introducing green manure.  
 The report also shows that a huge area of high, medium high, and medium low arable land of the country are still not covered by any type of irrigation. Though modern irrigation system is gradually replacing the traditional system, it is yet to meet the demands of irrigation, the report says.

## Banquet speech

### A framework for addressing differences essential: PM

NEW DELHI, May 26: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia tonight laid emphasis on consolidating and expanding bilateral relations between Bangladesh and India and pooling efforts for solving the major problems faced by the South Asian countries, reports BSS.  
 Referring to links between the two countries, rooted in history, Begum Zia said the purpose of her visit to India was not only to strengthen the links but also to create new ones.  
 The Prime Minister was speaking at a banquet hosted in her honour by Indian Prime Minister Narasimha Rao at the Hyderabad House.  
 Underlining the need for creating a framework of relations for addressing the differences between the two neighbouring countries the Prime Minister said, "Two neighbours, however friendly, are  
 See Page 12 Col 3

## Distortion of history erodes values: Hasina

By Staff Correspondent

Sheikh Hasina yesterday said that the continued distortions of the history of the war of independence by the governments in power after 1975 were resulting in the erosion of moral values of the people.  
 The Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina was addressing a seminar at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in observance of the 68th birth anniversary of Ruhul Kuddus yesterday.  
 An accused in the Agartala Conspiracy Case, Ruhul Kuddus was the Secretary General in the Mujibnagar government during the War of Independence in 1971.  
 One of the close associates of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the fifties, Ruhul Kuddus was made the first chief secretary of state after independence of the country and he voluntarily resigned the job after the killing of Mujib in 1975. He died in September, 1991.  
 Ruhul Kuddus was known to be the author of the historic six-point charter of demands of the AL.  
 While speaking on Ruhul Kuddus and especially on his contributions in formulating the six-point charter of demands, Hasina said:  
 See Page 12 Col 7

tion in Parliament and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina was addressing a seminar at the Engineers' Institution auditorium in observance of the 68th birth anniversary of Ruhul Kuddus yesterday.  
 An accused in the Agartala Conspiracy Case, Ruhul Kuddus was the Secretary General in the Mujibnagar government during the War of Independence in 1971.  
 One of the close associates of Sheikh Mujibur Rahman from the fifties, Ruhul Kuddus was made the first chief secretary of state after independence of the country and he voluntarily resigned the job after the killing of Mujib in 1975. He died in September, 1991.  
 Ruhul Kuddus was known to be the author of the historic six-point charter of demands of the AL.  
 While speaking on Ruhul Kuddus and especially on his contributions in formulating the six-point charter of demands, Hasina said:  
 See Page 12 Col 7



Hasina addressing seminar yesterday. —Star photo

## Rule Nisi on govt for impounding Dohas' passports

By Staff Correspondent

A division bench of the High Court division of the Supreme Court of Bangladesh on Tuesday issued separate rule nisi's calling upon the government to show cause why its recent order to impound the passports of A R Shamsud Doha and his son Shahid Shamsud Doha shall not be declared without lawful authorities and why the government shall not be directed to cancel, withdraw and/or rescind the same.  
 The division bench comprised Justice Anwarul Haq Choudhury and Justice K M Hossain while Barrister Rukanuddin Mahmud appeared for the petitioners, says a press release.  
 See Page 12 Col 5

## Dockyard officer beaten to death

By Staff Correspondent

A Project Officer of a dockyard at Keraniganj, an outskirts of the city, was beaten to death in his office room Tuesday morning.  
 The victim, Abdul Matin 35, was reportedly beaten by a labourer, Akbar Ali, his office room in National Dockyard Engineering Service Private Limited, at around 9 am yesterday.  
 Abdul Matin was rushed to the Sri Salmullah Medical College Hospital. Later he was shifted to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH).  
 Soon after the admission Abdul Matin succumbed to his injuries at the DMCH.  
 Keraniganj police said the victim Abdul Matin, just an hour before the incident, slapped Akbar Ali charging him with stealing some spare parts of the dockyard.  
 Akbar Ali rushed to Matin's room with a plank and beat him severely, police said.  
 Police could not arrest Akbar Ali as he fled the spot immediately after the incident.

## Import liberalisation a must for consumers' interests: Saifur

By Staff Correspondent  
 Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman Tuesday said that quick disposal of surplus manpower was not possible because of social and human reasons.  
 The minister, responding to suggestions from different economists and politicians on cutting down the size of the administration said it was a difficult task to trim the size of the government.  
 He was speaking at a discussion meeting on national budget and consumers interest organised by the Consumers Association of Bangladesh at the Jatiya Press Club.  
 The discussion meeting was

also participated by Dr Kamal Hossain, a leader of the Awami League (AL), Mahbul Alam, Whip of Parliament, Rashed Khan Menon, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Workers Party, Jamaluddin Ahmed, former Deputy Prime Minister, Nurul Islam Moni, MP, Prof Dr Mozaffar Ahmed, an economist, Syed Abul Hossain, AL MP, Prof Dr Abu Ahmed, Dr Ali Ashgar, Dr Syed Rashidul Hassan and others.  
 The Minister said that the social condition must be considered while planning a cut in manpower. He said that the step must be taken from the white-collar employees and not from the blue-collar ones.

He said that the absence of any social safety for the people also acted as an impediment in the process.  
 The Minister said that there needed to be import liberalisation for the protection of the consumers. He stated that competitiveness must be developed for the consumers interest and to stop over profiteering.  
 Saifur underscored the need for peace and stability and said that it was possible to raise the domestic share to the Annual Development Programme (ADP) to 35 per cent by 1994, a year ahead of the original target if the situation prevailed.

He said that this year's share of domestic resource rose to 24 per cent despite the Taka 450 crore paid in addition for the salary hike and Taka 2600 crore written off as agricultural loans.  
 Saifur said that this year's budget would have a different approach from the previous year's because of the changed international scenario and stated that last year's development budget was totally dependent on external resources.  
 The Minister said that he had had broad discussions with members of different political parties for a consensus-based approach. He however admitted

that there was still a divergence of views among different quarters and pointed out that the country had different impediments in accommodating them.  
 On the question of a thriving market economy functioning for the protection of consumers rights, Saifur said that the private sector had not yet reached a thriving state.  
 He said that there needed to be a mixture of a free economy and a commanded economy for sometime for the economy to take off. "Even then one should not think that the introduction of market economy will solve all problems," the Minister said.

Saifur commented that the national exchequer had an excellent revenue collection this year. However, the Minister said that when he went through some files on taxes at the National Board of Revenue, he found that those who had big chunks of borrowings from the banks and multiple big companies did not pay taxes. "Actions are being taken against them," the Minister said adding that overnight actions could not be taken.  
 Saifur said that the development periphery must be widened for alleviation of poverty.  
 Related story on page 3