

Use **Touch** Facial tissue
Table Napkin
Memory Plate
Paper Clip

143/A, NEW BAILY ROAD, DHAKA TEL: 417424

The Daily Star

Dolce Vita Restaurant will remain closed on **June 2nd** and **3rd '92**. Sorry for the inconvenience

Dolce Vita (Italian restaurant)
54 Kemal Ataturk Avenue Ph: 600589
Banani Dhaka 607980

VOL. 11 NO. 130 REGD. NO. DA 781 JAISTHA 16, 1399 BS, DHAKA SATURDAY MAY 30, 1992 ZILQAD 26, 1412 HIJRI 12 PAGES: PRICE TAKA 4.00

Inside Today

Article

LTTE: India's embarrassment

Column: Between the Lines by Kuldip Nayar Page 4

International

Germany rejects Chilean stance over Honecker

Pak Military gets special power to quell Sind Page 5

Business

BCIC sings contracts to export Tk 113 crore urea till July Page 7

Feature

Education

Pattern of gender disparity in education Page 8

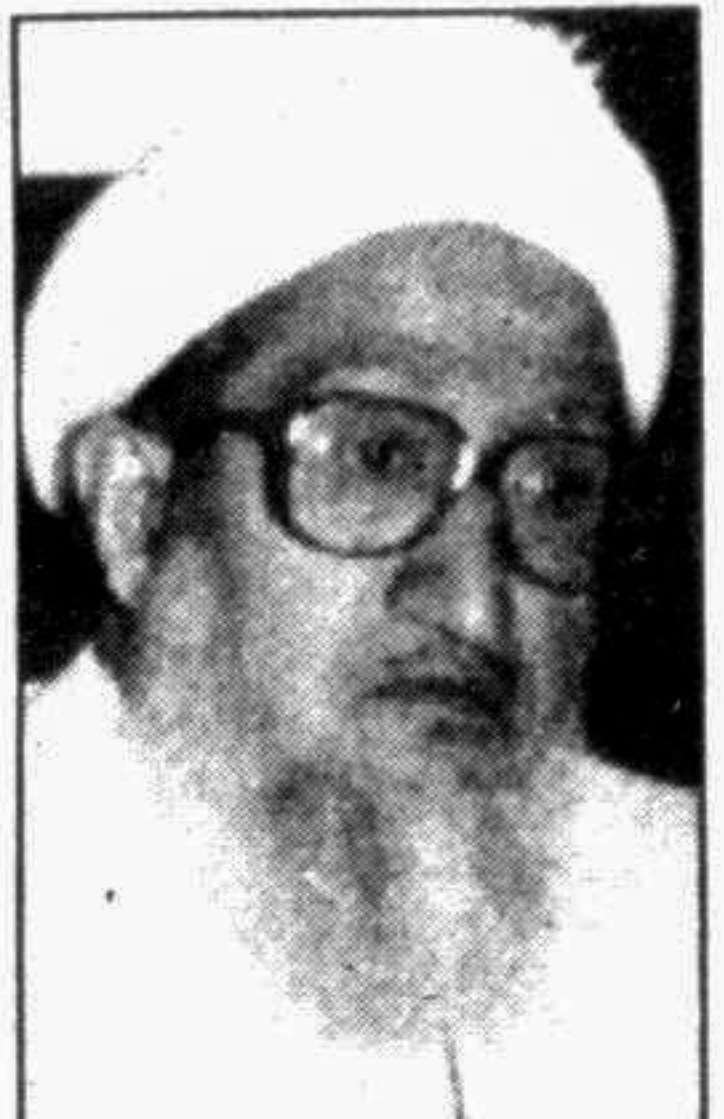
Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day

Where have all the lakes gone? Page 3

Co-pilot hurt as shrapnel tears thru' cockpit

Rebels fire rockets at Mojaddedi's plane



Sibghatullah Mojaddedi

KABUL, May 29: Muslim rebels fired three rockets Friday at a plane carrying Afghan President Sibghatullah Mojaddedi back from Pakistan, officials said, reports AP.

Mojaddedi was unharmed, but the co-pilot was injured when shrapnel tore through the cockpit. A Tehran television reporter said that the plane was only 20 meters (65 feet) above the runway when it was hit.

No one claimed responsibility for the attack, but suspicion fell on radical guerrilla groups that have become increasingly critical of Mojaddedi.

The attack created Pandemonium among the airport staff and government officials who were waiting to greet the 75-year-old president.

Airport officials said three rockets were fired at the Boeing 727 jetliner as it landed at Kabul airport at about 5 pm (1230 GMT).

All three missiles missed, but one of them struck the runway and exploded in front of the plane, sending shrapnel through the cockpit window.

Passengers said they heard whistling noises and then saw flashes of light as the rockets slammed into the runway. Mojaddedi, shaken and looking ashen, emerged later with the other passengers.

"The incident was serious. But the plane landed safely and the president was not hurt," said Mojaddedi's son Zahibullah.

The co-pilot was taken to a hospital with wounds to one of his arms, officials said, adding

that they did not believe the injuries were life-threatening.

The plane was bringing Mojaddedi and a 70-member entourage, that included several Cabinet ministers and rebel commanders, home from a three-day state visit to Pakistan. The neighbouring Islamic nation served as the staging arena for the Muslim rebel's 14-year struggle against communist rule.

It was Mojaddedi's first official trip outside Afghanistan since he was sworn in as head of the interim Islamic government that replaced ousted President Najibullah on April 18.

Friday's rebel attack was not the first on aircraft landing at the airport.

Earlier this month, rebels fired heavy artillery at an

Acrofloat plane sent to take Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev and his entourage back to Moscow. The shots missed by more than a mile (kilometer).

A rocket narrowly missed the plane carrying Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif back to his country after the installation of the rebel government, an official said.

Diplomats dismissed any suggestion of a plot against Mojaddedi, saying that rebels accustomed to war simply fire on aircraft, largely out of boredom.

But the president's son Zahibullah, blamed the attack on fundamentalist rebel groups, particularly the radical Hezbe-Islami faction headed by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar.

"Ninety per cent of us be-

lieve it was Hekmatyar's group," the younger Mojaddedi said.

Hekmatyar's support is centered in southern Kabul, but the missiles fired at Mojaddedi's plane came from the north, diplomats said.

Other fundamentalist groups have become increasingly critical of Mojaddedi in recent days for his decision to promote Gen. Abdul Rashid Dostam — commander of a fierce militia that rebelled against Najibullah and then kept Hekmatyar from seizing Kabul.

Mojaddedi also created a furor when he suggested that his term as caretaker president should be extended from two months to two years. The idea was immediately rejected by other rebel leaders.



Anniversary of Zia's death today

By Staff Correspondent

The 11th death anniversary of President Ziaur Rahman will be observed today (Saturday).

Shahed President Zia, a valiant freedom fighter and founder of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) was assassinated at the Chittagong Circuit House on this day in 1981.

The ruling BNP, its front organisations and various socio-cultural bodies have taken up elaborate programmes to observe the day with due respect.

The day's programmes include holding Quran Khwani and milad mahfil, offering fatiha and laying wreaths at the mazar of the late President at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city.

Besides, discussion meetings on the life and works of the late president will be held in different parts of the country.

At the BNP central office, party flag will remain halfmast and black flag will be hoisted marking the day.

A Quran Khwani will start at Zia's mazar from 6 in the morning. BNP central leaders will place wreaths and offer fatiha at 9 am.

A discussion under the auspices of BNP will be held at the Engineers' Institution at 4 pm. Central leaders of the

See Page 12 Col 7



Garment employees held a rally in front of National Press Club demanding equal pay for men and women. —Star photo

Smuggling of frog legs rampant

By Staff Correspondent

Frog legs, banned for export since 1989 are being smuggled out in shrimp cartons and re-routed through third countries to western markets, according to a source at the Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association (BFPEA).

Limited availability and high demand have led prices of frog legs to soar in the international markets in recent years.

Local businessmen involved in the smuggling of the item, price of which has sharply declined in local markets, are using their excess profit to purchase shrimp at higher-than-normal market price. This, in turn, is destabilising the international shrimp market causing 'genuine' exporters great difficulties, shrimp exporters said.

In recent months, the BFPEA source said, a number of shrimp exporters have resorted to introducing 'undergrade and underweight' consignments to remain competitive. This has resulted in

See Page 12 Col 1

Garments workers threaten strike

Garments workers warned at a rally in the city yesterday that they would go for work stoppage unless owners met their 8-point demand, including disbursement of arrears wages, reports UNB.

They also demanded issuance of appointment letters, payment of Eid bonus, weekly holiday, maternity leave for woman workers and the right to trade union activities.

Jatiya Garments Sramik Federation and Sramabikash Kendra jointly organised the rally in front of Jatiya Press Club.

They will observe 'protest day' on June 6 if workers are not paid Eid bonus by June 5.

See Page 12 Col 3

Rio summit unlikely to see success

SINGAPORE, May 29: Unresolved differences over financing and the future of forests could make the chances of success for next week's Earth Summit quite bleak, Koh told a briefing for local reporters Thursday.

Koh, whose comments were carried in the Singapore press Friday, headed the committee preparing for the summit, to be attended by leaders or representatives of some 170 nations. He will be part of the Singapore delegation.

The veteran diplomat said the convention on climate change recently concluded in New York gave grounds for pessimism on the outcome of the Brazil summit, formally known as the UN Conference on Environment and Development.

He said the convention, billed as the centrepiece of the summit, has not met with the expectations of many people in the international community who had hoped it would have more teeth and a time frame for implementation.

The convention obliges industrialised nations to limit their emissions of greenhouse gases and to protect forests which absorb them. It also provides for financial and technological help for developing countries.

Koh expressed concern that the lack of political will would also hamper negotiations on financing, the most important issue on the agenda for most developing countries.

He said he wished the United States had taken more of a lead negotiations on various conventions and urged Japan to play a greater role in environmental diplomacy.

See Page 12 Col 3

Troublemakers in party to be punished: Khaleda

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here Friday that the members of BNP had to work for creating awareness among the people to help build the country down from the bottom of the society, reports BSS.

She was addressing a function held at the Prime Minister's Sugandha Office to mark the joining of more than 100 people of different political parties including Awami League and Jatiya Party and various professional groups of Bagerhat district.

The Prime Minister said "We have to make our organisation bigger and stronger to involve people from all walks of life in activities for increasing production and achieving development." She said all the development work had to be initiated from the rural areas.

Begum Zia said "We must remember that no development can be possible keeping our rural community neglected and deprived."

She said according to the constitution of BNP all its leaders and workers were dedicated to establish a society based on justice and free from exploitation.

Begum Zia called upon the newly joined BNP people to start their journey with a pledge to establish an exploitation free society.

Begum Khaleda Zia said the rural people who had been oppressed for long had voted BNP to power with an expectation that it would end their sufferings by making the country prosperous and self

See Page 12 Col 8

AL may do away with presidium

By Nurul Kabir

The Awami League (AL) high command is planning to replace the party presidium with an advisory committee comprising senior people representing different professional groups of the country, sources say.

The present presidium members over the age of 65 would be included in the advisory committee while those yet to reach the age would be accommodated in the post of vice presidents to be revived, sources add.

According to sources close to the AL high command, since the party constitution does not allow this sort of reorganisa-

tion, the AL central council session scheduled for June 27 and 28 will witness an amendment to the party constitution.

All the proposed amendments will be discussed in the AL's Working Committee meeting now going on in the city, sources say.

The Working Committee meeting that begun Thursday is likely to take up the party sub-committee report on the draft amendments to AL constitution and manifesto for discussion today, a senior Working Committee member of the party informed The

See Page 12 Col 4

435 foreign nationals in country's jails

By Farid Ahmed

There are 435 foreign nationals, including ten women, in different jails of the country, according to a jail source.

The highest number of foreign prisoners are Myanmar (158, including a woman) followed by Indians (151, including three women).

Besides, 70 Thai nationals, 35 Pakistanis, five Filipinos, four Sri Lankans, five Somalian women, an American girl, a Briton, a German, two South Africans, a Tanzanian, an Indonesian and a Nigerian have also been imprisoned in different jails of the country.

The source also said that most of the foreign nationals were charged with smuggling contraband, especially gold and drugs, into the country.

Many of the Myanmar and Thai nationals have been arrested for fishing in the territorial waters of Bangladesh, the source adds.

Out of the total number of prisoners, 240 have been convicted. Eight have been sentenced to death after being found guilty by the courts,

See Page 12 Col 8

Gunshots rock campus

Anti-Mantu group tries to enter Zahurul Huq Hall

Heavy gunshots rocked the Dhaka University campus when police left after raiding three residential halls early this morning, reports UNB.

Witnesses said gunfight began at about 7 am between two rival factions of pro-Awami League BCL when police were leaving after the raid of Zahurul Huq and Salimullah Halls.

The shoot out began when a group of armed activists trying to enter into the Zahurul Huq Hall with firearms. Witnesses said this group belonged to BCL Gopalgonj Barisal faction.

A huge contingent of police searched the trouble-torn Zahurul Huq, Salimullah and Jagannath Halls on advice from the university authorities.

The DU authorities on Thursday called upon the law enforcing agencies to nab terrorists and outsiders from the campus to avoid fresh clash.

However, police could not recover any arms nor arrest anyone.

Tk 450 cr Japanese loan to promote phone system in greater Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive 14.76 billion Yen (113 million US dollar or about Taka 450 crore) from Japan for upgrading the telephone system in greater Dhaka under an agreement signed in Tokyo Thursday, according to a message received here Friday, reports BSS.

The soft loan extending over a five-year period will be utilised to install a 12000 line capacity 'tandem switching' facilities and another 60,000 line capacity switching facilities for local telephone, the message said. In addition to improving the existing telephone system, the loan fund will also be used for installation of new and additional subscriber cables and make provision for imparting training to Bangladesh staff.

Bangladesh Ambassador to Japan Mohammad Abu Henz and Akira Nishigaki, President of Overseas Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan signed the loan agreement on behalf of their respective sides.

The project is scheduled to be completed in June 1996.

Alternative summit

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 29: Pity the head of state who tells a lie at next week's Earth Summit, reports Reuter.

A panel of environmentalists will watch government leaders speeches to the UN conference on environment and development on a giant screen in downtown Rio de Janeiro. If they detect a deviation from the truth, on come the flashing lights and sirens of a giant lie detector.

With the same mixture of creativity and campaigning fervour, more than 3,500 groups from around the world have organised a parallel meeting to the official event.

The idea is to complement the UN summit, not just to keep an eye on it, but to work out what, ordinary people are going to do to solve the ecological crisis," says Pedro Noleto Filho, a spokesman for the alternative conference.

Renowned environmentalist organisations such as Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth and the Sierra Club, religious bodies like the World Council of Churches and charities such as Oxfam are all taking part.

See Page 12 Col 5

NEWS BRIEFS

Indian TV, Radio men call off strike

NEW DELHI, May 29: Employees of India's national television and radio today called off a protest campaign that has disrupted services across India for the past two days, reports AFP.

149 arrested in Jhenidah

JHENIDAH, May 29: Police arrested 149 people from six upazilas of the district on various charges and recovered arms and ammunition during the last 29 days. The recovered arms include 3 pipe guns, 1 shutter gun, 30 SLR bullets and 7 cartridges. Among the arrested persons, 81 has warrants against them, 37 Sharbahara activists, reports UNB.

Three killed in mishaps

Three people were killed in three separate incidents in the city Friday, hospital sources said. Abdul Khaleque (30), a worker of GM Metal Industries at Hatirpul, was electrocuted while working in the factory. A maid servant, Taslima (15), fell from the roof of a five-storey building at Tajmahal Road, Mohammadpur, and died instantly early Friday. Nurul Islam (22), a construction labourer, also lost his life falling from the roof of a four storied under-construction building at Uitara.

Mahila AL council session today

The biennial council session of Bangladesh Mahila Awami League will be held today (Saturday) at the auditorium of Dhaka District Sports Association (DDSA) at 10 am. Leader of the Opposition and Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina will attend the council as chief guest. It will be addressed by central leaders of Awami League, including General Secretary Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP, reports UNB.

Amanat Khan urs June 2

CHITTAGONG, May 29: The annual urs of Hazrat Sufi Amanat Khan (RA) will be held at the dargah premises in Chittagong on June 2 (Tuesday), reports UNB.