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## NEWS BRIEFS

### Mostafiz meets editors

Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman met with the editors of national dailies and news agencies here yesterday evening. He discussed the just concluded state visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to India. He also exchanged views on various issues with the editors. Foreign Secretary Reza Rahman was present, reports BSS.

### Keramat leaves for Singapore today

Minister for Post and Telecommunication Mohammad Keramat Ali leaves Dhaka today for Singapore to attend the ministerial level meeting of Asia and Pacific tele-communication to be held at the world trade centre in Singapore. The minister will lead a two-member Bangladesh delegation there, reports BSS.

### Tourist guide

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC) will introduce a short-term tourist guide in its Hotel and Tourism Training Institute (HTTI) to remove the paucity of trained tourist guide in the country. This was stated by BPC Chairman A M M Nasrullah Khan at a certificate distribution ceremony of the institute at a local hotel yesterday. Habibur Rahman, Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, was the chief guest at the function, also addressed by Principal of the Institute M J Jahangir, reports UNB.

### Five drowned in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 30: Five people were feared drowned in a boat capsized in the river Jamuna during a nor-wester today. Witnesses said the boat carrying 17 passengers from Jagannathganj Ghat was heading towards Sirajganj when it was caught in the storm and capsized in the middle of the river. Twelve people swam ashore but five remained missing, reports UNB.

### Sarbaharamen raid Jhenidah village

JHENIDAH, May 30: Underground Sarbaharamen partymen raided a house in Kala Luxmipur village this afternoon and took away two licensed guns, reports UNB.

## BDR, police camps attacked

# Shantibahini guns down 4 more

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 30: Armed Shantibahini men gunned down four more non-tribals in two pre-dawn attacks today on non-tribal villages in Rangamati district, officials said.

Besides, five other non-tribals received bullet wounds and were today flown to Chittagong and admitted into the Combined Military Hospital

here officials added saying that at least ten dwelling houses including a VDP camp house were set ablaze.

The outlawed Shantibahini men during their attacks in places at Langadu upazila and Kaokali upazila of Rangamati district fired on the nearby camps of the security forces and police but the inmates remained unhurt, official

sources said.

Official reports said that a group of tribal insurgents at around 2 am attacked a non-tribal village at Nagaralitila under Longadu upazila of Rangamati district and first set fire to two dwelling houses.

When the sleeping inmates woke up and began to run for safety the insurgents opened

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## 918 Rohingyas die of fever, diarrhoea

By Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, May 30: At least 12 Rohingya refugees died of diarrhoea and viral fever this week as pre-monsoon rains compounded their miseries of living in flimsy and squalid camps, relief officials said on Saturday.

The deaths raised to 918 the number of refugees who have died of diarrhoea, dysentery and viral fever since March last year, according to Refugee Control Room.

Meanwhile, the influx of the refugees continued unabated swelling the total official number to 264,887. The unofficial estimate has already crossed 3 lakh.

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## Gunshots continue on DU campus

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University campus was rocked with several rounds of gunshots again in the small hours of Saturday.

The tremendous sound of about 50 rounds of gunshots late into night awakened the students, teachers and other inhabitants of the campus.

The shots were heard from the Jagannath Hall, SM Hall and Zahurul Huq Hall areas of the campus. The incident was suspected to be related to the feud between two factions of Awami League-backed Chhatra League (M-I).

Gunshots were being heard every night on the campus since Wednesday last, on

which day, the 'Mantu group' of BCL (M-I) drove their rivals, the 'Gopalganj-Barisal group' out of the Zahurul Huq Hall in a sudden attack.

The 'Mantu group' which is also known as the 'Third World,' among the DU students, was ousted from the campus by its rivals, the 'Gopalganj-Barisal group,' on January 9 after the killing of Mantruzaman Badal, the Organising Secretary of the organisation.

An attempt to take control of the hall by the Gopalganj-Barisal group failed on Friday. The Gopalganj-Barisal fac-

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## BB may control non-banking institutions including NGOs

By Inam Ahmed and Sohel Manzur

The government plans to bring all investment organisations, co-operatives and even non-government organisations (NGOs) dealing with certain amounts in credits under the control of the Bangladesh Bank.

The move has been taken to check financial malpractices by these organisations and comes in the wake of the recent scandal in the non-banking investment companies.

The Finance Ministry has

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## 'Zia had tremendous faith in people'

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday urged upon the people to follow the ideals of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman and bring those to fruition in all spheres of national life to consolidate democracy and gear up national progress.

The Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) organised the meeting at the Institution of Engineers in the city in observance of the 11th death anniversary of late President Ziaur Rahman.

Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson, Khaleda Zia, attended the meeting held in the afternoon.

Chaired by the Deputy Leader of the House, Prof A Q M Badruddoza Chowdhury, the meeting was addressed by the Jatiya Sangsad Speaker, Sheikh Razzak Ali, BNP Secretary General and LORD Minister, Abdus Salam Talukdar, educationist Dr Ashraf Siddiqui and journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury. Members of the Cabinet, members of parliament and central leaders of the ruling party were also present.

The day was observed throughout the country in a befitting manner.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia visited the mazar of late President Zia at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city in the morning.

Begum Zia placed wreaths at the mazar and offered feteiha. She also attended a mid-lad mahfil organised by her party at the mazar premises. Prayers were offered for the peace of the departed soul of late Zia and for progress and prosperity of the country.

Ministers, members of parliament, leaders and workers of the ruling BNP and its front organisations, and people from all walks of life were present on the occasion.

The Prime Minister also visited a blood donation camp set up by Shaheed Zia Adarsha Basabayan Committee at the mazar premises.

Besides, the Prime Minister also visited 26 out of 78 destitute-feeding programmes organised by different BNP branches at different parts of the city.

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## 'Make places of work tobacco-free'

By Staff Correspondent

World No Tobacco Day '92 will be observed in Bangladesh as elsewhere in the world today (Sunday). This year's theme for the day is 'Tobacco-Free Work Places: Safer and Healthier.'

This year, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has called for alerting people to the problem of both sides of the industry, encouraging regulations, banning smoking and fostering preventive action in work places by the health services.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday called for making places of work tobacco-free and turn those into a healthy and happy place.

Referring to this year's slogan Begum Zia said it was timely under the present situation.

She said even if only one smoker remains present in a place of work that could be a problem for all others.

Begum Zia said it was universally known that smoking is like taking poison. This poison taking is not meant for the smoker only but for his family and the environment," she

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## ADB forecasts 4.7 pc GDP growth this year

By Staff Correspondent

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has forecast a growth of 4.7 per cent in the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) of Bangladesh during the current financial year.

William R Thomson, visiting Vice-President of the Bank disclosed this yesterday while briefing academicians, government servants and media-men on the Asian Development Outlook, (ADO), 1992, published just recently.

ADO, the annual review of the economies of the member countries of the Bank, is being

published for the fourth consecutive year. The present edition of the ADO consists of three parts, review of macro-economic situations, reports on member countries and a rotating special topic on rural poverty in Asia.

The Bank also believes the country will achieve a growth of 5.2 per cent in GDP during the coming financial year.

Emphasising the need for a balanced development programme, the ADB Vice-President said that the projected improvement in the economy

of Bangladesh over the next two years would lead to higher real wages, a marginal reduction in the rate of unemployment and lower incidence of poverty.

Referring to the lending situation of the Bank, the Vice-President said that Indonesia was the largest borrower with 1.2 billion US dollars followed by India with 900 million US dollars.

Thomson said that the world economy was undergoing a profound transformation

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## Agri loan waiver: ADB seeks clarification

By Staff Correspondent

A large Asian Development Bank (ADB) loan for the agricultural credit programme has remained held up for more than a year due to differences with the government over the administration of agricultural credit, a top ADB official said here Saturday.

The 60 million US dollar loan was approved during the 1990-91 period for the agricultural credit scheme for rural farmers.

According to the ADB official, the Bank has sought clarifications from the government about the waiving of agricul-

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## Govt patronising terrorism: Hasina

Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina yesterday made a frontal attack on the BNP government, saying it is harbouring terrorists and fuelling terrorism in a bid to "hang on power", reports UNB.

"Terrorists can't get modern weapons and trigger those in daylight in presence of police without government backing," she said addressing the opening session of the biennial conference of Mahila League in DDSA auditorium Saturday afternoon.

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury on Friday refuted such allegations.

Hasina said the spate of terrorism and incidents of hijack and murder had increased manifold, but the government refrains from nabbing the branded terrorists because of their party affiliation.

Referring to campus violence in universities and colleges across the country, Hasina alleged the government was behind the screen. "Even police failed to enter the dormitories of universities in the face of shooting by armed goons."

The Prime Minister, the Home Minister and the gov-

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## ALWC meet continues

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League Working Committee (ALWC) held its meeting for the third consecutive day yesterday with the party's 'sensitive' Mantu issue predominant in the discussion.

Fifty-two members out of the present 54-member working committee of the party are learnt to have been present at the meeting with party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair. Johra Tajuddin did not attend the meeting.

The meeting was split into morning and evening sittings. The meeting was being held till the writing of this report at 1:30 am.

According to ALWC sources the meeting, other than deliberating the Mantu issue, discussed various aspects of the party's council session to be held on June 27 and 28.

A draft of the party manifesto modelled on the 'recent changeover of global politics' was placed before the meeting and its copies were distributed among the leaders attending

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## Snapped electric wire kills 4

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, May 30: Four persons including two young girls were electrocuted at Majidkhanpur, about half a kilometre off from Narayanganj city Saturday.

The victims were two sisters, Shaila, 16, and Masuda, 14, and their brother Delwar Hossain, 20 and another person Khokon, 35.

When Delwar was about to enter his residence at Branch Road at Majidkhanpur immediately after a nor-wester, yesterday afternoon, he came in contact with a snapped electric wire submerged in the rain water near the house. As soon as Delwar fell in the water, the three others went to rescue him and got electrocuted and died instantly.

The bodies were sent to the Narayanganj Sadar Hospital morgue Saturday night.

## One killed, 50 hurt as AJM workers clash

From Our Correspondent

NARAYANGANJ, May 30: At least one person was killed and another 50 injured, around 15 of them sustaining bullet injuries, in a series of clashes between two groups of labourers at the Adamjee Jute Mills area late Friday night and Saturday morning.

The clashes stemmed from an issue over watching a film on VCR between the workers of Sramik League-led by Rehan and Sramik Dal-led by Kasem

at around 2 am Saturday.

Following the clashes, road communication on the Narayanganj-Demra road was disrupted from morning to evening Saturday.

During a one-hour clash at night, both the groups exploded at least 15 crackers and made repeated attacks and counter-attacks.

In the wake of chase and counter-chase, the Rehan

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## Traffic police, 2 others killed in road mishaps

By DMCH Correspondent

Three persons were killed in three separate road accidents in the city Saturday.

A traffic police constable, Moslemuddin, 38, was run over by a speeding passenger bus at Science Laboratory area at around 2 pm Saturday.

A bus bearing number Dhaka Ba-2 run over the on duty traffic constable.

Fatally injured Moslemuddin was immediately rushed to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) where doc-

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## Mother Earth's grievous ills since '72

By Staff Correspondent

1972, an area roughly one-third the size of the continental US.

The world's farmers since 1972 have lost nearly 500 million tons of topsoil, an amount equal to the tillable soil coverage of India and France combined.

Man-made factors will wipe out 10% to 20% of the earth's estimated 10 million species by the year 2020. At least 50 per cent of those species live in tropical rain forests.

In the past decade tropi-

cal-forest area has shrunk from 4.7 to 4.2 billion acres.

In the past 20 years as many as one million species have vanished from the world's tropical forests.

In the past decade, levels of stratospheric ozone, which protects living things from harmful ultraviolet radiation, have declined 4% to 8% in the northern and southern hemispheres.

70% to 80% of all marine pollution is caused by sediment and contaminants

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## Unique use of trees!

By Farid Ahmed

Trees are for fruits, for shade and also for fuel wood. They have one more virtue, especially for our innovative police force that uses trees as hangers for the personal articles found with a person who dies and unnatural death.

It is necessary for police to collect and preserve clothing and other articles of a person, either murdered or killed, in road accidents or commits suicide. The personal articles are produced before courts as exhibits.

Police stations in Dhaka get enough of these articles (the incidents of unnatural deaths have never declined) but it seems they don't have enough space to store them.

Then again space is not really a problem. The police have the trees in the station premises. They bundle the articles into plastic or canvas bags and keep them hanging on trees. That was the scene this correspondent and the photographer accompanying him from The Daily Star saw at Cantonment Police Station on Saturday.

"Well, this is not to frighten any visitor. The reality has forced us to innovate this storage technique," said a police official.



It is more than a tree in the Cantonment Police Station premises.

—Star photo by Humayun Kabir