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# The Daily Star

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### Tomorrow



A M A Muhith, a former Finance Minister of Bangladesh and a guest columnist of The Daily Star starts a three-part series on the Earth Summit which opens in Rio tomorrow

## NEWS BRIEFS

### UN form submission date extended

The date for submission of the United Nations compensation form by the reparations from Kuwait and Iraq due to the Gulf War has been extended from May 27 to June 10. The date has been extended as many people could not submit the forms in time due to different personal difficulties, reports BSS.

### Daudkandi Bridge opens

DAUDKANDI (Comilla). June 1: Communications Minister Oli Ahmed today formally opened the 280 feet Daudkandi Bridge for traffic. The Bailey Bridge on concrete pillars, constructed at a cost of about Taka 85 lakh, will directly benefit the people of Daudkandi and Homna upazilas, reports BSS.

# More load-shedding feared Shortage in gas supply to hit country by '95

By Toufique Imroze Khalidi

Bangladesh faces a "real risk" of gas supply shortages "as early as the mid-1990s", according to a recent World Bank report.

This, the report warns, "at high foreign exchange and economy-wide costs", would "reverse the gas sector's dynamic contribution" to the country's economic growth during the past decade.

Despite adequate reserves, the Bank foresees a demand-supply imbalance around 1993-94 mainly due to the de-

lay in the completion of necessary production, processing and delivery infrastructure to meet the projected growth in gas demand.

The other reason that the report points out is the concentration of reserves in four large gas fields - Titas, Kallastila, Habiganj and Bakhrabad - out of a total 17, of which the second largest, Kallastila, is not yet developed.

In view of the situation, the report speaks of some "critical actions" that include

completion of the north-south gas transmission pipeline and associated facilities as well as the interconnection of the northern and southern subsystems through the Ashuganj-Bakhrabad transmission pipeline.

"The costs of further delay are a combination of load-shedding, further reservoir damage to the over-produced Bakhrabad gas field, possible damage to the Titas field, and a renewed claim by oil imports on scarce foreign exchange

after a decade of impressive petroleum import substitution," the report observes.

"Any of these foreseeable consequences entails heavy political, financial and economic costs."

The report titled "Bangladesh: Issues and Options in the Gas Sector", released late April, recommends several other "immediate actions" for the government that include an increase in gas price by at least 25 per cent. See Page 12 Col 6

# Sequel to 'illegal strike' BTC shuts down Dhaka factory

By Staff Correspondent

The country's largest cigarette company, Bangladesh Tobacco Company (BTC) closed down its only factory in Dhaka Sunday due to strike by a section of workers.

The officials of the BTC at a hurriedly called press conference this afternoon said that the closure would continue until the strikers returned to work.

The Managing Director of BTC, Malcolm Fry talking to the press said that the workers of the Primary Manufacturing Department (PMD) of the factory started an "illegal strike" from May 30 protesting an agreement be-

tween the Collective Bargaining Agents (CBA) and the management in August, 1991. The agreement provided for a reduction in the number of casual workers from two shifts of the PMD.

The agreement was followed by a memorandum of understanding on May 21 and a memorandum of settlement on May 27 between the CBA and the management. These stated that the total number of workers per shift in the PMD would be 45 instead of 55 with effect from May 30.

However, on May 30 when the morning shift of the PMD See Page 12 Col 4



BCI clients demonstrating in city yesterday demanding return of their deposits.

— Star photo

# Mantu sees 'vicious clique' in AL

The expelled Awami League leader Mostafa Mohsin Mantu Monday alleged "a vicious clique" is active to destroy the party but said he still wanted its integrity even at the cost of his life.

Talking to UNB over telephone, he feared a "disaster" upon Awami League, saying certain "conspirators" have long been plotting to corner or oust those dedicated leaders and workers who led the party to its present position by facing all odds and obstacles in the past.

Mantu, former General Secretary of the Dhaka district Awami League and Chairman of the Awami Juba League, was expelled on Sunday by the party central working committee for "anti-organisational and subversive activities."

"I leave it to the judgement of thousands of party workers across the country," he said when asked to comment on his expulsion.

Awami League is not a party of leaders but of workers, he said, adding the workers

should come forward to verify whether the decision against him is right or wrong.

However, he said those central committee leaders who registered note of dissent on his expulsion had given "assent to truth."

Mantu was asked if he had any plan to join the ruling party or any other. "I did politics throughout my life as a worker of Bangabandhu, and I want to die as a soldier of Bangabandhu," sharp came the answer.

When his attention was drawn to allegation implicating him with the killing of Chhatra League leader Maniruzzaman Badal, he straightly denied the charge.

"As an expelled Awami League worker, I've now nothing to seek from the party, but I appeal to 'Savanetri' to lodge specific allegations with police if she had any ..... If I am found guilty, I'm ready to face trial."

Mantu strictly refrained from making any comment on See Page 12 Col 6

# Earth Summit: Dhaka to press for compensatory help

By Nadeem Qadir, Guest Correspondent

Bangladesh believes the developed world has a responsibility to help poor nations achieve environmentally safe future, and will try to drive the point home during the earth summit opening Wednesday in Brazil.

Environmental activist, A Atiq Rahman, said Bangladesh was one of the greatest victims of environmental degradation, like ozone depletion, and the developed world should provide compensatory help to curb effects of global warming.

The country report that Bangladesh is to present at the summit blames the developed world for such degradation.

It says Bangladesh expects that the UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED), due to open in Rio de Janeiro on Wednesday, to "firmly establish the principle - 'Polluters should pay' and make provisions and arrangements for adequate compensation."

"We expect that the summit will be able to bring together the rich and poor nations to accept the realities of Environmental degradation, one senior official said.

He said Dhaka hoped that the United Nations' Conference on Environment

and Development (UNCED) or earth summit would firmly establish provisions for adequate compensations from the developing countries, who are mainly responsible for global environmental degradation.

Tofazzal Hossain, a senior government official associated with environment issues, said industrialised nations should cease activities that worsen poverty in countries like Bangladesh and provide increased aid to ensure environment-friendly development.

"I believe finally everyone has to accept a long-term policy for proper exploitation and use of natural resources," he said.

Hossain, who has a number of publications on the subject, reminded that environmental problems would effect the rich and poor countries equally.

Environmental activists have criticized Prime Minister Khaleda Zia's decision to send a minister in her place saying it could indicate the kind of importance the government is giving to the issue. Prime Minister's aides said she had more pressing issues at home, including the Parliament's budget session starting June 18.

Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman will head the 10-member delegation, which includes Environment and Forest Minister Abdullah Al-Noman.

"Six-metre (18.6-foot) rise in sea level will drown Dhaka and only two metres (6.6-foot) will submerge much of the coastal areas of the country," Atiq Rahman, who co-heads the private Bangladesh Centre for Advanced Studies (BCAS), warned.

He added that last year's cyclone which killed more than 139,000 people in coastal areas and the 1988 floods were linked to ecological problems.

Prime Minister Khaleda Zia, in a message to be released ahead of the summit, said she hoped UNCED would ensure steps for sustainable growth for the human race in the next century.

"We are trying our best to tackle environment problems faced by Bangladesh and have adopted the environment policy," she added.

The policy, according to officials, stresses on making people aware about causes of environmental degradation and ensuring development without See Page 12 Col 7

# 'Govt harassing trial body members'

By Staff Correspondent

Organisers of the public trial of Golam Azam called upon the court members at a rally in the city on Monday to make the planned hartal of June 21 a success.

The rally, organised to press for implementation of the verdict of the people's court, was addressed among others by the Chief Coordinator of the Ghatok Dalal Nirmul Committee (committee for the elimination of the killers and collaborators of the Liberation War), Lt Col (Retd) Kazi Nuruzzaman, the Convenor of the city unit of the committee, Sadek Ahmed Khan and committee leaders Syed Iskander Ali Tipu, Kamal Hossain Badal and Mahbulul Huq.

Addressing the rally, held in front of the committee office at Topkhana Road, Col Nuruzzaman said that the government would be forced to implement the verdict of the people given at the March 26 trial of Golam Azam at the Suhrawardy Udyan.

He alleged that the government had resorted to repression on the leaders and workers of the committee throughout the country.

He also demanded of the government to withdraw the case against committee leader See Page 12 Col 7

# Biggest tender for jute floated BJC ordered to exhaust stock

By Asiuzzaman

The biggest ever tender in the history of the golden fibre has been floated to exhaust the stock of the Bangladesh Jute Corporation (BJC).

The government ordered the corporation on May 12 to empty some of its godowns without citing any reasons, official sources said adding that a total of 192,000 bales of jute would be sold under this tender.

"It may be the first step to squeezing the BJC, reorganised in 1985 with eight objectives mainly to ensure fair price for the farmers. The source on condition of anonymity said: "The hasty sale may be a loss for the corporation."

"It was not clear to us why the government ordered us to sell all our stock when the international market is rising," he added.

The total loss for which the BJC is blamed, comes from the whimsical decisions of the government, he also said.

The source said that the price would rise during the

next purchasing season as the production would be at least 30 per cent less than the previous year's because of drought during the sowing season.

Normally 45 to 52 lakh bales of jute are produced annually in the country on 15 lakh acres of land and the price ranges between Taka 2050 and Taka 2950 per bale according to the quality of jute, the source added.

See Page 12 Col 8

# Global jute production declines

World jute production has fallen during 1991-92 due to decrease in its production particularly in Bangladesh and China, an International Jute Organisation (IJO) report said in Dhaka Monday, reports UNB.

The estimated world production of jute for the year 1991-92 has now been tar- See Page 12 Col 8

# Security Press Workers demand trial of MD

By Staff Correspondent

A leader of the Security Printing Press Project Workers-Employees Union at Gazipur Monday demanded arrest and trial of the Managing Director of the press for his alleged involvement in corruption and malpractices.

Speaking at a press conference at the Jatiya Press Club Monday evening, the leader also demanded immediate lifting of the lay off order from the Security Printing Press and unconditional release of the 10 workers detained Saturday.

General Secretary of the workers union Selim Mahmud, and Jatiya Workers Federation leader Abul Basher spoke at the press conference.

The union leader alleged that A K M Sekander Hossain, Managing Director of the See Page 12 Col 3

# Cabinet okays RMP Ordn '92

The cabinet has approved the Rajshahi Metropolitan Police Ordinance 1992 providing setting up a separate police force for the Rajshahi Metropolitan area, reports BSS.

The present government declared to establish Rajshahi Metropolitan Police immediately after its assumption of power.

The Rajshahi Metropolitan Police will start functioning from July one this year.

The approval was given at the regular weekly meeting of the cabinet held at Bangabhaban Monday with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia in the chair.

The cabinet also approved, in principle, the draft of a bill on prevention of cruelty to women and children.

Provision of deterrent punishment in the form of imprisonment for offences like rape, women and children trafficking, causing death for dowry and demanding ransom money has been suggested in the draft of the bill. The bill also suggested to take necessary steps to complete the trial of such offences within a stipulated period of 60 days and constitute special tribunal as and when required.

# Tk 1.62 lakh snatched at gun point

By Staff Correspondent

A group of armed young men snatched away about Taka 1,61,800 from the officials of Bangladesh Agricultural Institute at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city Monday morning.

The armed men opened fire and managed to escape with the money leaving one person injured on the spot.

Alauddin Ahmed, driver of the microbus of the institute, sustained bullet injuries and was admitted to the Chest Disease Hospital at Mohakhali.

When some officials of the institute were returning from the Residential Model College branch of Sonali Bank reportedly with Taka 2,69,854, salaries of the staff of the institute, the armed men halted the microbus and snatched away Taka 1,61,800 at gun point.

The armed hijackers who could not be identified fired gunshots as they fled.

However, Tejaon police, when contacted, declined to comment on the incident.

# DU BCL feuds continue

By Staff Correspondent

Exchange of gunshots between two feuding groups of the Awami League-backed Chhatra League continued for the sixth consecutive day Monday spreading panic among the students of Dhaka University.

More than 50 shots were fired late night Sunday and Monday afternoon as well. The feuding 'Gopalganj-Barisal' and Mantu-backed 'Third World' groups were occupying Zahurul Huq Hall, S M Hall and Jagannath Hall of the university with firearms and preparing to face each other by stocking large numbers of lethal weapons.

According to campus sources, a large quantity of modern automatic weapons See Page 12 Col 7

# India-Israel defence pact likely

NEW DELHI, June 1: India is negotiating for Israeli technology on advanced weapons systems as well as collaboration in the fields of combat aircraft and missiles, a newspaper reported Monday, says AFP.

Indian officials put in the request when a high-level defence delegation from Israel visited New Delhi quietly last week to discuss the possibilities of defence cooperation between the two countries, The Economic Times said. The daily quoted "Defence

Ministry sources" as saying that the Israelis offered items in a variety of areas, but the Indians decided to go slow because of a resource crunch.

The Economic Times said India was negotiating for weapons systems for the Army, Navy and Air Force, and design and development of combat aircraft and missiles.

Israeli diplomats and Indian officials could not be reached for comment.

"The Army and Air Force have told the government that Israel is very advanced in both

medium-and high-level technology in both lethal and non-lethal areas, with a wide and sophisticated array of defence armament factories," the paper said.

Israel has also offered help to speed up fencing along the India-Pakistan border that has been progressing at "a snail's pace because of certain stalling tactics by the Pakistani rangers," it added.

India accuses Pakistan of arming and training Sikh and Muslim militants waging separatist campaigns in Punjab and

Kashmir states and of helping them to cross into India. Islamabad denies the charge.

The Economic Times said Indian officials also thought most of the Israeli equipment and technology being offered was indigenous "and therefore no problems are likely to be encountered in technology transfer and user areas."

New Delhi has admitted to but given no details of the unpublicised Israeli visit, the first since the two countries upgraded relations to full diplomatic status in January.

# Arafat undergoes brain surgery

AMMAN, June 1: Palestine Liberation Organization chairman Yasser Arafat underwent brain surgery Monday for the removal of a blood clot, a senior official at the King Hussein Medical Center announced, reports AP.

Dr. Youssef Ksious, director of medical services at the hospital, said Arafat, 62, was "conscious (and) in a good, stable condition" after the 90-minute operation, performed by Jordanian specialists. Ksious said Arafat, who had

been complaining of recurrent headaches, underwent medical checkups at the center on Sunday. Doctors detected a subdural hematoma, or a clot under the skull caused by bleeding, and told him he would eventually have to undergo surgery.

But Arafat decided to postpone the operation until after his return from a visit to Iraq.

He left Amman by car for the Iraqi border at 9 am (0600 GMT). But while still in See Page 12 Col 7