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NEWS BRIEFS

Dahagram people meet Khaleda

The leaders of Dahagram
Angarota Sangram Parishad
and Dahagram Union Parishad
Friday called on Prime Minister
Begum Khaleda Zia at her
Sugandha office and exchanged
Eid greetings. reports BSS.

ALPP meets Wednesday

A meeting of Bangladesh
Awami League Parliamentary
Party has been convened on
Wednesday, June 17 party
sources said Sunday. The ALPP
meeting will be held at the
conference room of the Leader
of the Opposition in the Jatiya
Sangsad (2nd floor) at 5 pm
the sources said, reports BSS.

Four brigadiers promoted

Four brigadiers of Bang-
ladesh Army have been pro-
moted to the rank of Major
General, sources here said
Sunday. They are: Golam
Qader, Director General, NSI,
Sarder Ali Hassan, GOC, 33
Division, Mohammad Anwar
Hossain, Btr Pratik, Director
General, Bangladesh Rifles and
Subed Ali Bhiyan, Btr Pratik.
PSO to the Supreme Comman-
der, reports UNB.

Mostafiz urges Earth Summit to lessen environmental hazards

Dhaka hostage to waterflow from beyond borders

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 14: Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman has drawn the attention of the Earth Summit here to environmental hazards faced by Bangladesh and said it is necessary that such problems are minimized for the survival of the country, reports BSS.

Addressing the summit, the Foreign Minister, who is leading the Bangladesh delegation to the conference, said Bangladesh, a country of 54,000 sq miles with 108 million people and a per capita income of about US dollar 200, faces many a problem but many of these handicaps stem from the stresses on the environment.

Rahman referred to the environmental problems at the global scale and those faced at the national level and said these hazards were now posing as a major factor threatening the very survival of the planet.

He listed the factors responsible for this situation and called for concerted actions to

get rid of such condition. Only actions with practical approach underlying the urgency of the situation could save the globe from the alarming environmental degradation, the Foreign Minister said.

The Bangladesh delegation to the summit includes Minister for Forest and Environment Abdullah al-Noman.

Referring to the environmental problems of Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister said the country which forms a lower-riparian and deltaic portion of an immense watershed, is naturally vulnerable to the water quality and quantity that flows into it from beyond the borders upstream.

This vulnerability is exacerbated by the low terrain on the delta on one hand and by salt-water encroachment on the other, he said and added that the resultant situation has alarming potentials for Bangladesh.

Global warming and consequent rise in the sea level is

another area of serious concern for the country because this would lead to a reduction of an already minimal land-person ratio and an increased pressure on the natural resources, the Foreign Minister pointed out.

"In our case, recurrent natural calamities like floods, cyclones tidal surges and tornadoes result in immeasurable damage," he said and added "poverty leads to perpetuation of environmental degradation as illustrated by deforestation, destruction of wetlands and, inland fisheries, soil nutrient depletion and inland salinity intrusion."

Referring to government's response to this situation brought in by the stress in environment, Rahman said the government of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia is alive to this and the issues are addressed to the Fourth Five-Year Plan to neutralise the effects of these hazards.

The Foreign Minister listed control and prevention of envi-

ronmental pollution and degradation, related to soil, air and water — promotion of environment friendly activities in the field of development — preservation, protection and development of natural resources bases, etc. as the objectives to offset the environmental consequences and several steps were underway to meet the situation.

Terming the Earth Summit as a milestone in the history of the earth, he said a country like Bangladesh expects that the conference would come out, among other matters, with mechanisms and agreement that would allow poorer developing countries access to appropriate environmentally sound technologies.

The Foreign Minister also drew the attention of the summit to the particular problems faced by the group of least developed countries and said it was necessary that the LDCs receive special treatment in dealing with their environmental problems.

Greens see red in Rio results

LONDON, June 14: Environmentalists today climbed a central London landmark, Nelson's Column at Trafalgar Square, to protest against what they called a lack of action by world leaders at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro, reports Reuters.

The environment group Greenpeace, which organised the protest, said the summit — the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) — was a mere talking shop.

Three Greenpeace activists climbed to the top of the 160-foot (49-metre) column after dawn and unfurled a banner saying "UNCED: Words failed us."

"The Earth Summit was a failure," said Chris Rose of Greenpeace. "The words were there but the action was lacking."

SAARC states to sign 2 conventions

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 14: The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) became the first regional group to take a common position on the two major environment conventions due for signature in Rio, according to the paper of Earth Summit "Terra Viva" here Friday, reports Xinhua.

At a meeting chaired by the current SAARC Chairman, Prime Minister D.B Wijetunge of Sri Lanka, all seven members agreed to sign the conventions before they leave Rio next week.

The two conventions are the framework convention on climate change and the convention on biological diversity.

Wijetunge said the unanimous agreement by Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the Maldives was an example of the "solidarity" of South Asian nations.

Wijetunge said the South Asian region, one of the world's most environmentally endangered regions, needs help it can muster from the international community.

Democratic Forum takes wing Friday

Star Special

Bangladesh Democratic Forum, an organisation aimed at strengthening democracy and ensuring a self-reliant economy, will be formally launched on Friday.

According to the organisers, Dr Kamal Hussain is most likely to become the convenor of the forum's 50-member central convening committee.

The forum was initiated by a group of intellectuals and noted personalities, irrespective of political affiliations, a few months ago.

The sources close to the proposed organisation said that the forum would be launched from a meeting to be held at Segun Bagicha.

A declaration to be adopted at the meeting will call upon the conscientious citizens to

take part in organising the forum. The declaration is also likely to stress on arriving at a national consensus on overcoming what have been said the mounting crises the nation is facing.

The draft of the declaration which will be placed at the meeting for consideration has already been finalised.

After election of the central convening committee, district committees will be formed and a full-fledged national committee will be elected through a convention afterwards.

During the preparatory stage of the forum, the organisers, contacted personalities from different fields having diverse political affiliations, "We have received widespread re-

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Fenchuganj Fertiliser Factory Govt takes up \$170m rebuilding plan

By S Y Bakht

The government has decided to undertake a rebuilding scheme for the 31-year-old Natural Gas Fertiliser Factory (NGFF) in Fenchuganj, Sylhet at an estimated cost of 170 million US dollars including

private equity participation. Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), the parent company of the factory, will soon invite offers from interested local and foreign in-

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Youngman murdered in city

By Staff Correspondent

A youngman was murdered at New Elephant Road on Thursday night as a sequel to previous quarrel, police said.

The victim was identified as Shafigul Islam, 23.

Dhanmendi police recovered the body from the stairs of a house near Kazi Bhaban at New Elephant Road at around 3 am Friday. Grievous stab injuries were found on the body.

According to family sources, Shafig and four of his friends went to New Elephant Road for Eid shopping on Thursday evening where he was kidnapped by a group of young miscreants. The kidnappers, however, released all but Shafig (23) who was later found dead.

Shafig's mother Nazma

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Eid-ul-Azha celebrated

Holy Eid-ul-Azha was celebrated Friday throughout the country with due solemnity and religious fervour, reports BSS.

Millions of Muslims offered Eid-ul-Azha prayer in Eidgahs and mosques seeking divine blessings for the peace, progress and prosperity of the nation as well as for Islamic ummah.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia and Leader of the Opposition in parliament Sheikh Hasina in separate messages wished national progress and well-being of the people.

In the capital, the biggest Eid congregation was held at the National Eidgah

where President Abdur Rahman Biswas offered his Eid prayer.

Several other big Eid congregations were held at the Baitul Mukarram National Mosque, Dhaka University Mosque, Lalbagh Shahi Mosque, Baitul Mamur Mosque and Baitul Sharafa Mosque.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas hosted two receptions — one for the members of diplomatic corps including the envoys of Muslim countries while the other for the ministers, judges, high civil and military officials.

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Break-ins into Secretariat rooms: police yet to nab culprits

By Staff Correspondent

Police are yet to identify and arrest persons responsible for break-ins into different rooms of the Bangladesh Secretariat recently.

They have, however, suggested some measures to stop recurrence of such incidents in future.

Break-ins into rooms of Secretariat, the protected seat of the government, have become an almost regular event where police investigations yield no results.

During the current year, intruders and burglars broke into different rooms of four ministries. The first incident happened on March 1, where the rooms of the secretary and a deputy secretary, Minister of

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Cyclone hits 2 Jamalpur UZs, destroys 1200 houses

JAMALPUR, June 14: About 1200 houses were ragged to ground and standing crops on 5000 acres of land were affected in Madarganj and Dewanganj upazilas when a cyclone hit the area on Tuesday night, reports BSS.

According to unofficial sources, more than 1000

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Earth Summit concludes with little progress

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 14: The earth Summit wrapped up Sunday after 12 days of often-bitter negotiations, with a consensus that some progress was made but much more money is needed, reports AP.

Many said the real impact of the conference can't be gauged for months, may be years.

As most of the more than 100 presidents, prime ministers and kings who attended the summit headed home, delegates met to approve documents the conference produced. Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello opened the final three-hour session at 10.15 am local time (1315 GMT).

US chief delegate William K. Reilly, who took the heat for Washington's opposition to key treaties, said the summit's importance would depend on whether participants and the public make sure provisions to preserve the environment are enforced.

"The two weeks of intense press coverage and attention really encouraged publics everywhere to take this seriously," said Reilly, who also heads the US Environmental

Protection Agency. Jeremy Leggett of Greenpeace International said two key documents — one to curb global warming and another to protect endangered plants and animals — "represent the first step in a 10,000-meter race."

A major stumbling block has been money: who will provide it and how it will be spent. Though the richer nations — with the notable exception of the United States — committed billions of dollars to help poor countries with serious environmental and economic problems, both sides agree that's hardly enough.

Japan said Saturday it will increase its development aid to \$400 million a year, to \$1.4 billion. Germany and France promised to raise their contributions to 0.7 per cent of their gross national products by the year 2000.

Nevertheless, Malaysian Industry Minister Keng Yaik Lim called those offers "a pittance" in comparison with what is needed to repair environmental damage and overcome poverty.

Prime Minister Gro Harlem

Brundtland of Norway seemed to agree.

"We are disappointed by the lack of adequate financial commitment made," she said in a speech to the dozens of presidents, prime ministers and kings assembled Saturday.

The heart of the summit, which gathered the largest number of world leaders ever for a group photo Saturday, was intended to call attention to the environment as an urgent international issue — and to agree on how to fix it.

The summit accomplished some things. Some 150 nations, including the United States, signed a treaty that might — if carried out — decrease the emissions that contribute to the global warming phenomenon.

The 12-nation European Community and Japan went further. They promised to limit carbon dioxide emissions, which contribute to global warming, at the 1990 level by the year 2000.

Another 150 nations, but not the United States, signed a companion Treaty to protect species of animals and plants

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No funds to revamp power sector

By Sohail Manzur

The government needs Taka 64,922 million to achieve its targets under the Fourth Five year Plan (FFYP) to revamp the power sector, according to a report prepared by the Power Development Board (PDB).

The matter of foreign aid in this regard is, however, still uncertain, though the implementation of new projects is completely dependent on foreign aid, the report says.

The report submitted to the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources on May 21 also

mentions that the government has to seek foreign aid even for the local currency required to implement the projects.

Of the total fund required to implement the projects under the FFYP, Taka 31,761 million is needed for the power generation projects, Taka 16,599 million for power transmission projects, Taka 13,385 million for distribution projects, Taka 255 million for technical assistance programmes and Taka 2,922 million for miscellaneous expenditures.

The report held the lack of

proper planning and non-implementation of the plans initiated earlier responsible for the severe power crisis in the country.

It says that at present there is no Fourth Five Year Plan in reality and the planning and implementation of the projects are being held on the 'so-called short-term rolling plan' basis. Instead of long-term and medium-term perspectives.

The Energy Master plan and power master of 1985 have in the meantime lost the

effectiveness of both, the report says, adding that a thorough review of the plans is essential at this moment.

No acts were found by the PDB in this regard, the report says. It also says that the PDB wants to take initiative to reorganise the power master plan. But it will not be possible unless the energy master plan is reviewed, the report adds.

There is no clear-cut direction in the 'primary energy supply' plan, it says, adding that the sporadic efforts and

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তাকা সিটি করপোরেশন,
ঢাকা

আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিষ্কার রাখুন
আপনার শিশুকে টিকা দিন

বিশেষ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশনের সম্মানিত করদাতাগণের অবগতির জন্য জানানো যাইতেছে যে, যে সকল করদাতা ৩০শে জুন ১৯৯২ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে তাহাদের বকেয়া ও হালসনের সময়কর একত্রে পরিশোধ করিবেন, তাহাদের ক্ষেত্রে বকেয়া করের উপর আরোপিত সমস্ত সারচার্জ মওকুফ করা হইবে এবং যাহারা ৩০শে জুন ৯২ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে সময়কর পাওনা কর পরিশোধে ব্যর্থ হইবেন, তাহাদের সময়কর পাওনা কর ১৫% হারে সারচার্জ সহ ১লা জুলাই ১৯৯২ ইং হইতে আদায় করা হইবে।

এমতাবস্থায়, সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে আগামী ৩০/৬/৯২ ইং তারিখের মধ্যে বকেয়া সহ হাল সনের সময়কর একত্রে পরিশোধ করিয়া বকেয়া করের উপর আরোপিত সমস্ত সারচার্জ মওকুফের সুযোগ গ্রহণের জন্য অনুরোধ করা যাইতেছে।

সম্মানিত করদাতাগণকে সমস্ত কর পরিশোধ করিয়া নগরীর উন্নয়নে করপোরেশনকে সহায়তা করার জন্য বিশেষভাবে অনুরোধ করা হইল।

ডিসি/পিআরডি/৩৬৬/৯১-৯২
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প্রধান নির্বাহী কর্মকর্তা,
ঢাকা সিটি করপোরেশন, ঢাকা