

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.

1443 ASIAN HIGHWAY, OPPOSITE Y.M.C.A. NASIRABAD, CHITTAGONG. TEL: 226603. Fax: (880) 31-225238

**TRANSAIR INTERNATIONAL**  
Travel And Cargo Agent

DON'T NEED TO THINK ANYMORE WITH YOUR AIR TRAVELLING OR CARGO. WE'LL BE THERE FOR YOU.

WE'RE HERE  
67/C, ROAD-11, BLOCK-E, BANAR, DHAKA-1213, BANGLADESH  
TEL: 88476, 88478-79  
FAX: 88-02-813999 TELX: 94820 ADA B

ANYONE ANYWHERE ANYTIME

**Inside Today**

**Article**

**The Innocent Do-gooders of Rural Development**

Column: Window on Asia by Shaheed Latif Page 4

**International**



**Ashrari urges US to act as neutral arbiter in ME talks**

**Bosnia seeks foreign military intervention** Page 5

**Business**

**Prices of rice, spices yet to come down** Page 7

**Magazine**

**The valley of Deities and Dragon Chasing, My World by S M Ali, Write to Mita and Book Review** Pages 8, 9, 10

**Metropolitan**

**Dhaka Day by Day**



**Fishing in Dhaka** Page 3

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**PM to inaugurate population day**

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia will formally inaugurate the World Population Day on Saturday at Osmant Memorial Hall at 10:30 am. Radio Bangladesh, Dhaka will directly broadcast the inaugural function and all the stations of Radio Bangladesh will relay the event, reports BSS.

**DUJ lifts ban on police news**

Dhaka Union of Journalists (DUJ) withdrew its police news boycott programme from yesterday following assurances from the Prime Minister that appropriate steps would be taken against those responsible for the recent Press Club incident, reports BSS.

**BNPPP meeting date shifted**

BNP Parliamentary Party meeting scheduled for Saturday, will now be held on Monday (July 13) at 8 pm at the Sangsad Bhavan. The meeting is expected to discuss the political developments and issues relating to the budget now being discussed in parliament, reports UNB.

**"Ultrath Jatra" observed**

The Hindu community in the country yesterday observed their religious festival "Ultrath Jatra" with due merriment and solemnity. A day long programme of Harinam Kirtan and ceremonies on Ultrath festival was arranged at Tulsidham in Chittagong, reports UNB.

**Columbia lands in Florida**

CAPE CANVERAL, July 9: The space shuttle Columbia landed in Florida today after successfully completing its 14-day science and research mission, reports Reuter.

**One killed, 30 hurt as employees go berserk**

## Two Titas Gas men flung to ground from upstairs

By Staff Correspondent

A Titas Gas Company employee was killed and another seriously wounded when rioting unionists chased and pushed them off the multi-storied company office building in the capital Thursday.

At least 30 other Titas Gas employees including a General Manager Major (Retd) S M Shahiduzzaman were injured in the incident. Ahmed Mujtahid, MD of National Tubes who was at a meeting at the Titas Gas office was also hurt. Six people were admitted

to Dhaka Medical College Hospital with serious injuries.

The union members also stormed the offices of the Managing Director and his private secretary and two General Managers during a pitched battle among themselves.

Witnesses said Belal Hossain Bepari, a supervisor in the pipe construction department, and vice president of the Titas Gas Karmachari Union died on the spot when he was pushed off from the sixth floor of the seven-storey company office

in Kawran Bazar area.

Mahbubur Rahman, a junior meter reader of the Company, was thrown from the third floor, they said. He was taken to the Orthopaedic Hospital in critical condition.

All Titas Gas officials and employees hurriedly left the office by 11 am Thursday fearing further clashes.

The witnesses said that the trouble began when members of Titas Gas Employees Union, Titas Gas Sramik Karmachari



Top: Relatives consoling elder brother of Billal, the Titas Gas employee who was killed (inset) and police inspecting ransacked room of General Manager (purchase) (above) yesterday. —Star photo

## Erosion aggravates Pabna floods

PABNA, July 9: Unabated erosion by the river Jamuna during the last 48 hours aggravated the flood situation in the district and rendered 400 families of 10 villages of Bera and Sujanager thana homeless, reports UNB.

Water Development Board officials said the villages Nakalia, Bharinga, Raghunathpur, Kazirhat, Shinghashan, Madhupur, Ganapatadia and Raksha of Bera thana and Nazirganj and Shakhaganj of Sujanager thana were badly affected by the erosion.

The sources said that about 10,500 families were made homeless and standing aman, aus and jute on 7,000 acres washed away due to the erosion during the last 50 days.

Nearly 7,000 local people took shelter on the local flood embankment during the same period.

The affected people are reportedly passing their days in miseries as relief were yet to reach them.

BSS adds: The upstream of the Brahmaputra and the Ganges today showed a rising trend, a water Development Board bulletin said.

The rivers in the Meghna Basin are falling excepting the Meghna at Bhafrab Bazar. The rivers in the South Eastern Hill Basin are also falling.

The Brahmaputra registered rise by 20 cm at Noonkhawa, 10 cm at Chilmari and 7 cm at Seraganj while it

receded slightly at Bahadurabad and Aricha.

The Teesta recorded fall by 31 cm at Kaulia and 7 cm at Dalita while the Dharla at Kurigram marked rise by 33 cm.

The Old Brahmaputra recorded rise by 3 cm at Jamalpur while it receded by 8 cm at Mymensingh.

The Buriganga at Dhaka, the Lakhya at Narayanganj, the Turag at Tongi and the Kaliganga at Taraghat marked slight fall while the Turag at Mirpur recorded rise by 8 cm.

The Ganges registered slight rise at Pankha, rise by 10 cm at Rajshahi and 7 cm at Hardinge Bridge while it recorded slight fall at Goalundo and Bhagyakul.

**Another round of talks with Myanmar likely next week**

Bangladesh and Myanmar are expected to hold another round of talks next week on the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees sheltered in the country's southeastern region, reports UNB.

Officials said Thursday Bangladesh has proposed to hold the official level meeting in the Myanmar frontier town of Moundaw on finalising the modus operandi for the safe and voluntary return of tens of thousands of the refugees.

Chittagong divisional commissioner Omar Faruq is likely to lead Bangladesh side at the proposed meeting and the Myanmar side will be headed by its Director General of Immigration Department Mawng Daw.

The officials of the two countries met in Bangladesh's frontier town of Teknaf on June 8.

More than 2.71.000 Rohingya Muslims from the

**Directive to take action against extortionists**

The government once again issued a strong warning last night against the unruly and vested elements creating impediments in the way of smooth operation of transport system in the country, reports BSS.

A Press Note issued by the Home Ministry said extortion of toll and harassment of the transport owners, workers and passengers by putting up bamboo barricade here and there in the country were fully illegal as per the law of the country.

The Press Note said the government has been observing with concern that a section of unscrupulous and self interested people and anti-social elements were active in creating obstacle in the way of smooth transport operation in the country. These anti-social elements were extorting money from the transport owners and workers in the name of the realising subscription illegally.

These elements are engaged in harassing the transport workers and people by stopping vehicles erecting bamboo barricade on the roads at different places of the country. Besides affecting the transport owners, workers and passengers, such practices had also left adverse impact on the country's overall transport system, the Press Note added.

Decrying these practices the Press Note said these were against the law of the country. Directive has been issued to the Deputy Commissioners and Police Supers and Police Commissioners in metropolitan areas to take stern action against those indulging in extorting toll and erecting bamboo barricade on the roads.

## Consensus on basic issues a must: PM

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in Dhaka yesterday that her government was determined to establish the rights of the people on their own resources by pursuing the policy of economic democracy, reports BSS.

Begum Zia said "We want to prove ourselves equal to the task reposed in us by the people."

The Prime Minister was addressing the installation meeting of Rotary Club of Dhaka Buriganga at a city hotel. The function was also addressed by Rotary District Governor Rtn LK Siddiqui, incoming president of the club Atiqul Alam, out-going President Rtn Samson H Chowdhury.

Begum Zia said as democracy and development were synonymous "We want to give democracy a permanent shape ... at the same time we have given priority to the welfare of the people."

The Prime Minister said

democracy admitted pluralism and it was natural for parties to have different ways and policies. But, she said, a consensus was imperative on the basic national issues. "We must work together for national development much the same way as we did for recovering democracy," she added.

Begum Zia said, our national aim is to eradicate poverty and because of this we are talking about 'dal bhat' which means increasing nutrition and purchasing power of the people so that they can make meaningful contribution to the country's progress and prosperity.

She mentioned the introduction of compulsory primary education and primary health-care which are considered to be effective ways for eradicating poverty.

Begum Zia said the objective of our nine months of Liberation War and the nine-year long struggle for re-establish-

## Four new BTW relay stations in FFYP

By Staff Correspondent

Information Minister Barister Nazmul Huda yesterday said that four new relay stations (BTW) would be set up during the Fourth Five Year Plan (FFYP) period at a cost of Taka 28.5 crore.

Given leave to reply on a resolution moved by Mashtar Rahman (Jhenaidah-2) of the Treasury Bench, Huda said that these relay stations would be set up at Patuakhali, Thakurgaon, Kushtia and Brahmanbaria.

Once these relay stations were commissioned, the coverage of BTW would increase from 70 per cent to 85 per cent in terms of area and from 80 per cent to 90 per cent in terms of population, he added.

The Information Minister said that besides the main telecasting centres at Dhaka, BTW had ten relay stations in different parts of the country.

Brushing aside criticisms by Ebadur Rahman Chowdhury

See Page 12 Col 8

## Business leaders flay SKOP-govt accord

By Staff Correspondent

The business community has reacted with concern over the recent government agreement with the Sramik Karmachari Oikya Parishad (SKOP).

Business leaders were critical about the trend to fix wages centrally and arbitrarily, without any representation of the employers, while questioning the 'legal status' of SKOP to become a party to such an agreement.

Terming it "most unfortunate", Habbibullah Khan, the Acting President of Bangladesh Employers' Association, said that the government "once again yielded to pressure ... and concluded an agreement that has far-reaching legal and financial implications."

Khan added that the agreement was a "serious blow to the process of establishing rule of law in the country", while noting that SKOP did not have any legal status as it was not a registered trade union federation.

Mahbubur Rahman, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI), cautioned that dealing with unregistered trade unions would not help the development of a fair trade union movement in the country. "It will also impair industrial growth," he added.

However, Rahman welcomed the understanding reached between the government and the leaders of the workers and employees for the restoration of peace in the industrial sector as well as in the

overall political situation.

"But such an understanding must be a lasting one in order not to encourage them to come out with a new programme to disrupt the industrial and social atmosphere," he added.

To encourage new investments, both local and foreign, Rahman said that it was imperative to ensure discipline in trade union activities.

The trend to fix wages without representation from the employees was also sharply criticised by the business community.

The Employers' Association President pointed out that the new agreement, to provide Taka 250 as interim allowances to all workers and employees would require the 'already crippled' jute industry sector alone to pay Taka 39 crore annually. "Centralised wage fixation is one of the reasons for the failure of socialist regimes all over the world," he noted.

Rahman said that any agreement on increasing wages should also involve the private sector employers. "Wage hikes have to be linked with production and the rights of workers with the obligation to the employers," he added.

Advocating similar steps to tie up wages with production, Subed Ali, the President of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries, said that such agreements should involve the government, workers and employers.

"Such agreements should be

See Page 12 Col 8

## New satellite earth station to be set up

The government will set up a new satellite earth station in Dhaka for expanding the international telephone network

as part of its measures to resolve the problem of getting new telephone connections, Minister for Post and Telecommunications M. Keramat Ali told parliament Thursday, reports BSS.

Replying to a question from Maksud Ibne Aziz Lama (JP-Sylhet), the minister said that the government had also taken several other measures to solve the problems of getting new telephone connections, aeras, and

The measures are: installation of 65,000 digital tele-

See Page 12 Col 1

## Body to solve CHT problems

The government has formed a nine-member committee with Communications Minister Oli Ahmed as convener for the solution of prevailing problems in Chittagong Hill Tracts, reports BSS.

The committee has been asked to submit specific recommendations to the government within the next two months.

Other members of the committee are: Shahjahan Chowdhury MP Cox's Bazar-4, Syed Ohidul Alam MP Chittagong-5, Mohammad Shahjahan MP Noakhali-4, Barkat Ullah (Bhulu) MP Noakhali-2, Shahjahan Chowdhury MP Chittagong-14, Rashed Khan Menon MP Bakerganj-2, Mostaque Ahmed Chowdhury MP Cox's Bazar-3 and Abdul Matin Khasru MP Comilla-5.

## AL calls hartal on August 15

Bangladesh Awami League yesterday gave a call for countrywide half-day hartal on August 15 to press the demand for the repeal of the Indemnity Ordinance, reports BSS.

The decision for half a day, countrywide hartal was taken at an emergency meeting of the Working Committee of Bangladesh Awami League held in Dhaka this morning with party chief Sheikh Hasina in the chair, according to a party press release.

The meeting demanded the repeal of the Ordinance for the establishment of the rule of law, ending the politics of coup and conspiracy for good, giving democracy an institution.

See Page 12 Col 6

## Crackers blast in Adamjee

From Our Correspondent NARAYANGANJ, July 9: Several crackers were blasted near the Dhaka Baju Colony area last night although the overall situation was calm in the troubled Adamjee Jute Mills on Thursday.

No one was hurt in the blast.

As the Dhaka Baju, the centre of rivalry, remained under the control of BNP supporters, the workers belonging to Rehan and Siddique Sardar group could not meet their family members residing in that area, mill sources said.

The Rehan and Siddique groups were evicted from the area on July 4 following a

See Page 12 Col 6

## CSCE to send peacekeepers to Nagorno-Karabakh

HELSINKI, July 9: The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe is prepared to dispatch its first peace monitoring mission to Azerbaijan's troubled Nagorno-Karabakh region, officials said Thursday, reports AP.

Eight nations have offered to send unarmed observers, and Mario Raffacelli of Italy, presiding over peace talks between warring Azerbaijan and Armenia, has been chosen to lead such a mission, officials said.

The 52-nation CSCE would not send anyone into the disputed region unless a cease-fire was in place.

"Eight CSCE member states have declared their interest in sending observers," said Czechoslovak Foreign Ministry spokesman Zdenek Zikmund. "A head of mission has been appointed."

The mission can only travel when the necessary safety guarantees exist, and so far they do not, and the perspectives are unclear," Zikmund

said.

US officials said the peacekeepers would be unarmed observers, who would go into the area only after a cease-fire declaration by the parties involved. The CSCE mission would be designed to "make sure the cease-fire is at least honored," said a senior US administration official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The loose organization of nations from Europe, North America and the former Soviet

Union, has been trying since March to start a peace conference to settle the four-year ethnic and territorial conflict.

The preparation for a first peace keeping mission follows a decision by the 20-year-old group to expand its role in solving European problems now that the Cold War is over. The new role, as well as procedures to head off crises before they develop, and help new nations improve their economies, was to be adopted at the summit ending Friday.

The CSCE peacekeeping plan said that it would call on NATO, the Western European Union or other organizations for manpower and material, and it has said it would work closely with the United Nations.

US President Bush was among the scheduled speakers Thursday. Previewing Bush's speech, a senior US official said "the principle must be upheld that territory seized by force in the new Europe will not be tolerated."

**ANNOUNCEMENT**

## FOCUS ON PAKISTAN

In view of the forthcoming visit of Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia to Pakistan, *The Daily Star* has decided to run a series on the current political and economic conditions in Pakistan. Mahfuz Anam, the Executive Editor of the paper, spent a week in Islamabad and Karachi from 1-7 July. During his stay, he interviewed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, Leader of the Opposition Benazir Bhutto, the Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz, the Secretary General of Foreign Ministry Mr. Akram Zaki, the Chairman of the Privatisation Commission Senator and Lt Gen (Retd) Saeed Qadir, leading journalists and a cross-section of the people from the business and professional communities in both the cities.

*The Daily Star* series "Focus on Pakistan" will begin from Saturday, 11 July with the exclusive interview of the Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.