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# The Daily Star

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**Notice**  
 Our today's issue includes a list of the provisionally selected candidates following the 14th BCS (Special) Examinations, as published by the Public Service Commission yesterday. Therefore, our regular feature page LIVING has been withheld for a day. The inconvenience is regretted.

**Charlie Chaplin** memorabilia sold off Page 5

**NEWS BRIEFS**

**Ogata leaves**  
 The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Mrs Sadako Ogata left Dhaka for Bangkok yesterday after a four-day visit to Bangladesh. During her visit Mrs Ogata called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman and Minister for Home Affairs Abdul Matin Chowdhury. She held official talks and signed a bilateral Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Rohingyaas, reports BSS.

**Tech cooperation pact with Turkey**  
 ANKARA, May 15: Bangladesh and Turkey have signed a technical cooperation agreement here yesterday. Bangladesh ambassador in Turkey Major General Mahmudul Hasan and Turkish Deputy Under Secretary for State Planning Organisation Necati Ozfirat signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments, reports BSS.

**Indian cattle, goods seized**  
 KHULNA, May 15: BDR seized Indian cattle, sugar and bicycle worth Tk. 13 lakh from two thanas of Khulna district on Friday, official sources said today (Saturday). Acting on a tip, BDR personnel raided Pankhali area of Dakope thana in the morning and recovered 47 Indian cattle and 10,000 kilograms of sugar. On the same night, they seized 85 heads of cattle, 10 Indian bicycle and 200 kgs of sugar from Navaron thana of the district, reports UNB.

**Blood dysentery claims 4 in Pabna**  
 PABNA, May 15: Blood dysentery claimed the lives of four more children and attacked 32 others during the last 24 hours in five thanas of the district, reports UNB.

## Bosnian Serbs vote in referendum Peace plan may be rejected

PALE (Bosnia-Herzegovina), May 15: Bosnian Serbs voted today in a controversial referendum of the Vance-Owen peace plan while their forces fought fiercely for the Muslim held towns, report AFP, Reuter.

Heavy fighting erupted again in two key Bosnian trouble spots today.

Commander Barry Frewer told reporters Bosnian Serbs had launched an assault near the strategic northern Bosnian town of Brocko, where they are facing Croat and Muslim units.

Bosnian Croat soldiers using mortars, artillery and multiple rocket launchers had attacked Muslim units in the southwestern city of Mostar, where fighting between the two former allies has raged for the past week, he said.

The attack on Mostar, came despite two ceasefire agreements during the past week.

As rifle-toting militiamen voted in Brocko's Economics Faculty building, local Serbs commander Colonel Milisav Milutinovic said, "the only unknown factor is the turnout (in the referendum), a 'no' victory is certain."

Meanwhile, voters leaving the polling station in Pale, a hilltop town outside Sarajevo, told AFP they had voted "no" to the peace plan and "yes" to the question on whether they should an independent republic.

Results are expected late Tuesday, 48 hours after polling ends at 7 pm (1700 GMT) Sunday, said Electoral Commissioner Cvetko Cancar, quoted by the radio in Pale, which Serbs regard as the capital of their self-styled Bosnian Serb republic.

Bosnian Serbs leader Radovan Karadzic, who voted here with his wife at 10 am — three hours after polling began, told journalists that if "no" vote won, it would not be "a 'no' to peace, it is 'no' to the (Vance-Owen plan's) maps."

The Bosnian Serb parliament called the referendum last week after refusing to endorse the plan, whose maps would force Serbs forces to roll back from the 70 per cent to Bosnia they now control to three provinces totalling per cent of the former Yugoslav republic.

Referring to pressure from the Yugoslav republic of Serbia — which has in recent weeks repeatedly appealed to Bosnian Serbs to accept the plan — Karadzic said that his countrymen "did feel under pressure," but it was better "to take crucial decisions without taking account of pressure".

Serbian media polls have predicted that the plan will be rejected by a large majority, and occasionally this might be helped by some friendly "advice" from polling officers.

Explaining the two ballots to a rather confused voter in Pale, polling station chief Zivko Sarac said, "the yellow ballot has to do with the Vance-Owen plan, normally we mark in 'no' but you can do otherwise if you wish. The blue ballot is for the independence of our republic."

## Ogata hopes Yangon will allow UN presence soon

By Staff Correspondent

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata Saturday said that the need of the moment is a UN presence in Myanmar, as per the accord signed last year between Dhaka and Yangon, to expedite repatriation of the Rohingya refugees.

Addressing a press conference at a local hotel at the conclusion of her visit to Bangladesh, Dr Ogata, however, hoped that a breakthrough in this regard may come soon as a UN technical mission, including a United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) official, is currently visiting Myanmar. See Page 12 Col 1



Sadako Ogata speaking at a press conference yesterday

## Ogata lauds PM's role

The visiting United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr Sadako Ogata, yesterday lauded Dhaka's handling of the huge Rohingya refugees problem, reports BSS.

"I found the refugees happy and in good condition. Better than many refugees in other parts of the world," the UNHCR chief told Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia when she called on her at the Prime Minister's office.

Dr Ogata, who arrived in Dhaka on May 12 on a four-day official visit, appreciated the personal involvement and initiatives of Begum Khaleda Zia in the Rohingya affair.

She said the UN would help in the repatriation of the Rohingya refugees and provide them with kits, food and clothing during their repatriation to enable them to restart living in their homeland.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia waving to the crowd gathered for a public meeting at the Langolkot Hasan Memorial Degree College ground in Laksham yesterday. — PID photo

## PM dismisses opposition's claim of cooperation

LANGOLKOT (Comilla), May 15: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today dismissed Opposition claims that it was cooperating with the government by saying that resort to frequent hartals to hinder development activities could not be called cooperation, reports BSS.

She, however, said that the Opposition has to shun hartals and agitational action programmes to supplement the ongoing development activities of her government if they really meant to cooperate with the government.

The Prime Minister made the remarks at a big public meeting organised by the local Thana unit of the BNP at the Langolkot Hasan Memorial Degree College ground.

Begum Zia said that all quarters have to stop hartals and strikes if they sincerely wanted progress and people's welfare.

Presided over by Advocate Nazrul Islam, president Langolkot Thana BNP, the meeting was addressed, among others, by the Energy and Mineral Resources Minister Dr Khandaker Musharraf Hossain, Commerce Minister M K Anwar, Works Minister Barrister Rafiqul Islam Miah, Rabeya Chowdhury, MP, Akbar Hossain MP, Shahidul Huq Jamal, MP, A T M Alamgir, MP, Dr Kamruzzaman, MP, central BNP leader Saifullah Miaji and district and thana BNP leaders Kamal Chowdhury, Alauddin and Mustaque Mia.

The Prime Minister expressed her dismay at the repeated attempts to create unrest and instability in the industrial sector, saying that intriguers were out to revert the wheel of production by destroying and disrupting production in mills and factories.

The Prime Minister said that her government had initiated the process of ridding

## US, Pakistan hold talks

ISLAMABAD, May 15: Top Pakistani and US officials met here today to discuss issues straining their relations including Islamabad's alleged involvement in international terrorism and its nuclear ambitions, reports AFP.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State John Malott led the US side in the first talks with Pakistan since Bill Clinton became President in January.

Pakistan's team was led by Foreign Secretary Shaharyar Mohammed Khan and Akram Zaki, Secretary General at the Foreign Ministry.

US sources said Malott's mission was to discuss the "whole range" of issues plaguing relations between the two countries, who were close allies through much of the Cold War but have drifted apart since.

Washington recently stopped short of turning Pakistan into a pariah nation by adding it to a list of nations that support terrorism

## Special rigging cell in Sindh, charges PPP

ISLAMABAD, May 15: The Pakistan People's Party (PPP) of former Premier Benazir Bhutto today charged that a special cell had been constituted to rig the July elections in her home province of Sindh, reports AFP.

"A rigging cell has been established at the Chief Minister's Secretariat at Karachi to deny PPP victory," party spokesman Shafiqat Mahmood said.

The cell is headed by provincial Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Shah's secretary Intiaz Sheikh, Mahmood said in a statement here.

Meanwhile, Benazir Bhutto's father-in-law, Iftikhar Ali Zardari, ended three years of self-exile when he returned home today, party sources said.

## Talks on jute sector reforms Dhaka may bow to WB conditions

By Nazmul Ashraf

A three-member Bangladesh delegation is scheduled to start negotiations tomorrow with the World Bank (WB) on the conditionalities of the bank's 30 crore US dollar "Jute Sector Reforms Credit", official sources said.

The Bangladesh team, led by the Secretary of the Jute Ministry, left Dhaka for Washington Friday night on an invitation by a WB delegation which visited Dhaka recently. F Yagchi, a senior economist of the bank, led the team here to discuss with the authorities the eight conditions imposed by the World Bank.

During his stay in Dhaka, Yagchi also handed over to the authorities concerned a draft report containing the proposed conditionalities and guidelines for the restructuring, Jute Ministry officials said.

According to sources, an inter-ministerial meeting was held to discuss the matter prior to the departure of the Bangladesh delegation. The meeting reportedly did not agree on all the aspects of the proposed conditionalities.

However, relevant officials hinted that Bangladesh might soften its stance on the acceptance of the WB conditions during its team's week-long stay in Washington.

The conditionalities include: reduction of "excess" manpower; rehabilitation of the

## Farakka day today Due share of Ganges water demanded

RAJSHAHI, May 15: The Committee for Assistance in Solving the Farakka Problem submitted a memorandum to the Assistant High Commissioner of India here today demanding Bangladesh's due share of the Ganges water, reports UNB.

Witnesses said some 3,000 people marched towards the High Commission office on the eve of "Farakka Day" tomorrow (Sunday) but police halted them near Lakshimpur High School and allowed a representative team to submit the memorandum.

The Farakka Day commemorates the historic long march towards the Farakka barrage in 1976, led by Moulana Bhasani.

The marchers held a rally which was addressed by convener of the committee Advocate Emdadul Haq and other leaders.

## Govt fails to check Indian goods: Hasina

CHANDPUR, May 15: Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina today blasted the BNP government for failure to check smuggling of Indian goods destroying local industries and crippling national economy, reports UNB.

"Indian sugar, eggs, onions, cows, vegetables, fruits and what not are flooding the local market but this government has miserably failed to stop inflow of smuggled goods," she told a big public meeting at Chandpur Municipal Park this afternoon.

Hasina also rebuked the BNP government for its 'meek' foreign policy in dealing with outstanding issues with the

## 4 slain in Meherpur, Chuadanga

MEHERPUR, May 15: Four people were slaughtered and shot by some assailants in Sadar thana and its adjacent areas of neighbouring Chuadanga district Friday night, reports UNB.

The victims were identified as Atai (25) of Gopalpur village in Sadar thana and Boga and Shamsur of Boalmari thana sadar of Meherpur district and Abdul Quddus (30) of Latufata village in Damurhuda thana of Chuadanga district.

The killers pinned leaflets of the Purba Banglar Communist Party on the bodies. Police, however, suspected a land dispute as the cause for the killings.

The killers first slit the throats of all the four victims and then shot them.

## Short-lived ceasefire in Kabul

KABUL, May 15: A ceasefire announced early today lasted only until noon, when Afghan government jets bombed posts captured recently from Defence Ministry forces in South Kabul, as well as the military headquarters of the rival Mujahideen factions, reports AFP.

The high-altitude bombing runs missed the headquarters of Prime Minister-designate Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, located 20 kilometres southeast of Kabul at Charasiab.

But in the south Kabul district of Darulaman, which was captured by Hekmatyar's Hezbi-Islam guerrillas Wednesday, several more bombs were dropped on the rival Mujahideen, which included units of an Iranian-backed Shiite faction.

The bodies of five government soldiers were seen lying amid the fire-blackened ruins of one Defence Ministry garrison held by the Hezbi.

Tenage soldiers of the Shiite Hezbi-Wahdat faction posted just one kilometre from the Darulaman Palace on the main road leading to Charasiab narrowly escaped death when two bombs landed in the middle of the road by their position but failed to explode.

One jet dropped at least one cluster bomb, a device consisting of a large number of small bombs which fan out over a large area after the main unit breaks open in the air.

South Kabul residents said surface-to-air missiles were fired at the government jets but failed to make a hit.

The ceasefire pact between the government and the joint rival factions which was announced just a few hours earlier by a peace delegation member seemed at best premature in view of the bombings and a late afternoon rocket exchange.

## Directive to make list of criminals, arrest them

A high level meeting yesterday reviewed the "overall law and order and crime situation" of the districts and four metropolitan areas and took some measures for its overall improvement, reports BSS.

Chaired by Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury, the meeting was attended, among others, by Cabinet Secretary Ayubur Rahman, Home Secretary Azimuddin Ahmad, IG of Police A S M Shahjahan, Additional Secretary of Prime

## More funds for poverty alleviation suggested

By Staff Correspondent

Representatives from donors and NGOs, politicians and academicians were present as panellists.

Finance Minister Saifur Rahman also agreed with the discussants and said, "I have no problems with greater resource allocations for rural development and agriculture."

"Tell me where should be spend more, and we will do it," the Finance Minister said.

"We need participatory development activities," Saifur said, adding "for that the government institutions and local governments have to be strengthened. Good policies without good institutional support will not do."

The government cannot remain indifferent about rural uplift. We have to take an interventionist role to fight rural poverty," the minister said.

Prof Rehman Sobhan, taking part in the dialogue, said that the political parties should organise the poor so that they can demand for more resources.

"The government does not provide subsidy to the agricultural sector. But how efficient are those sectors which get the subsidies?" Prof Sobhan questioned.

He also called for more transparent government expenditure, particularly in poverty alleviation programmes.

Rashed Khan Menon, General Secretary of the Bangladesh Workers Party, lamented the withdrawal of agricultural subsidy and said donors' pressures in this regard should be discarded.

Matia Chowdhury of the Awami League said the rise of diesel price has increased the cost of agricultural production, causing sufferings to the rural population.

However, Finance Minister Saifur Rahman said that the government policy to privatise

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