

Inside Today

Article

We Need Anti-dumping Laws to Protect Our Industry

Column: Along My Way by SB Chaudhuri
Page 4

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



No Such Stuffs as Dreams are Made of
Page 3

Supplement

Special supplement on Daewoo Fabric Show

Pages 8, 9

Business

Move to tackle thorny issue of economic regionalism

270 plots created in Magura to cultivate HYV vegetable
Pages 6, 7

International

Lankan opposition plans to fight govt decision on appointment of CMs



Mandela hopeful of setting election date thru talks
Page 5

NEWS BRIEFS

Biswas hosts dinner for journalists

President Abdur Rahman Biswas hosted a dinner in honour of the editors and senior journalists at Bangabhaban last night. Editors of the national dailies, news agencies and senior journalists attended the dinner, reports BSS.

Masefield calls on Hasina

Assistant Under Secretary of South Asia Division at British Foreign Ministry Thorold Masefield called on Awami League President and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina at her Sangsad Bhaban office Sunday. They discussed matters relating to social, political and economic affairs of the two countries.

Hartal observed in Cox's Bazar

From Our Correspondent
COX'S BAZAR, May 23: A half-day hartal was observed in Cox's Bazar Sunday demanding postponement of the Higher Secondary Certificate (HSC) examinations, scheduled to begin from June 17. Called by the Action Committee of the local HSC examinees, the hartal detained all vehicular traffic from 6 am to 12 pm.

Newspaper holidays June 1, 2, 3

The executive committee of Bangladesh Sangbadpatrik Parishad (BSP) has announced a three-day holiday for newspaper offices on account of Eid-ul-Azha from June 1. No newspaper will be published on June 2, 3 and 4, reports BSS.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia conferring the honorary DSc degree on Prof Abdus Salam at the special Dhaka University convocation at the Curzon Hall yesterday. — Star photo

Follow Nobel laureate's path of knowledge: PM DU honours Prof Salam

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka University Sunday decorated Nobel prize-winning physicist Professor Abdus Salam with an honorary Doctor of Science (DSc) degree for his outstanding scientific contribution and noblest human qualities. Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Dhaka University Begum Khaleda Zia, in a special convocation at the historic Curzon Hall, conferred the DSc honoris causa on the 67-year-old scientist. Donned in a green convocation robe and black Islamic cap, Prof Salam lifted himself from the wheelchair to receive with smiles a silver casket containing the citation of the degree.

The DSc honoris causa termed the Pakistani Nobel laureate as "one of the most outstanding scientists and a great humanist." "In honouring Professor Abdus Salam this convocation pays homage to his highest intellectual attainments and noblest human qualities," it said. Prof Salam, who suffers from diabetes and a neurological illness and is confined to a wheelchair, stood on his feet while the national anthem of Bangladesh was played at the conclusion of the convocation. The freshly painted and renovated Curzon Hall was crammed with ministers, members of Parliament,

diplomats, academics, members of the university senate, syndicate and academic council, and student leaders. A strong security force cordoned off the Curzon Hall building, which houses the Science Faculty of the Dhaka University. DU authorities organised the convocation after 19 years. The last recipients of the DSc degree were four scholars and eminent academicians including Prof Satyendranath Bose, another famous physicist, who was honoured posthumously. Prof Abdus Salam is the third Nobel laureate to be honoured by the university after Prof Chandrasekhar Venkat Raman and poet

Rabindranath Tagore. After awarding the degree, the Prime Minister lauded Prof Salam for his untiring efforts for the promotion of science in the developing countries. Paying deep respects to Prof Salam on behalf of the people of Bangladesh and on her own behalf, she said that the contribution of the scientist has enriched the whole human kind. "We realise on this occasion that we will step into a new era of renaissance and the pursuit of Prof Salam would re-ignite the light of knowledge," she said. The Prime Minister hoped the teachers of the Dhaka — Star photo

Commentary Special convocation marred by poor management

by S.M.Ali

The special convocation organised by the Dhaka University yesterday to confer an Honorary Doctor of Science on Nobel prize-winning physicist, Professor Abdus Salam, otherwise a truly solemn and historic occasion, was marred by bad planning and poor management. The 90-year old Curzon Hall, the venue for the meeting, was packed, more than expected, with several teachers of the university, dressed in their colourful academic gowns, obliged to find their seats in some unspecified areas, with some preferring to remain standing. Meanwhile, a dozen or more news photographers and the television crew, who were apparently given no idea about

the duration for picture taking, jostled among themselves for vantage positions, blocking the view of the platform much longer than necessary. For a while, the scene was disorderly, in which one victim was Professor Salam himself who was on a wheelchair, looking tired but otherwise fit, taking all that was happening around in his stride, with a faint smile, often exchanging glances with Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia. These were only mishaps, compared to what many thought was a disaster, the near-failure of the acoustics system. Sitting on the fourth row, this writer could hardly follow what the distinguished visitor was saying in accepting the

award conferred on him by the university. Others whom we talked to after the meeting had the same complaint. They were unable to understand Prof. Salam who incidentally spoke extempore, without even notes. That the honoured guest has a faint, almost a feeble voice, has been known to many people who met him since his arrival here on Friday. All he needed to be heard, loud and clear, was a powerful microphone and, what's more, more loud-speakers placed all around the hall. "We found out only last week," said an official of the university, "that the acoustics system of the Curzon Hall is real bad." — Star photo

50 hurt as BCL activists clash with police

About 50 people were injured as a group of students fought pitched battles with police on the Dhaka University campus yesterday in an abortive attempt to prevent Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia from attending a special convocation, reports UNB. Although the flareup could not hamper the convocation, the entire campus turned into a virtual battlefield as the pro-Awami League Chhatra League activists staged a rowdy demonstration and clashed with police by firing guns and exploding handbombs. Police lobbed tear gas shells and charged with batons to disperse the rampaging students during the nearly two-and-a-half-hour clash that started at about 10:30 am. Dhaka University held the special convocation at the 90-year-old Curzon Hall to confer an honorary degree of Doctor of Science on Nobel laureate Physicist Prof Abdus Salam. The Prime Minister, who is — Star photo

Repatriation of Rohingyas Myanmar minister sees no problem

The Myanmar Home Minister Lieutenant General Mya Thin yesterday said that the repatriation of the Rohingyas refugees was "going on fine" and there were no problems. Talking to BSS at the Zia International Airport on arrival here on a four-day official goodwill visit, he said that the resettlement of the Rohingyas refugees on their return to Myanmar was also going on smoothly. Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury received his Myanmar counterpart at the airport. Myanmar ambassador to Bangladesh Soe Myint and Bangladesh ambassador to Myanmar Mustafa Faruque Mohammad were also present. Asked how quickly the refugees could be repatriated, the visiting minister said, "We would like to do it as quickly as possible. But there are limitations." "Since May last year when we opened our reception centres for the refugees", he said. Asked whether he could

specially by what time the repatriation could be completed, the Myanmar Minister said, "We can't say anything about the timing. We are doing fine. Our two governments are doing fine. When the Bangladesh Communications Minister Oli Ahmed visited Yangon we told him we would do it as soon as possible." "It will be faster in the coming days" he hoped when asked whether the slowed down repatriation could be speeded up. "The Myanmar Home Minister said that there were no problems between his country and Bangladesh. Myanmar and Bangladesh are not only brothers, they are twins" the Myanmar minister said when asked to describe the relations between the two countries. "This visit," he said, "will be very fruitful. I am very happy to be here as we are neighbours. It's a goodwill delegation. We don't have any specific agenda. We came here on — Star photo

100 hurt as police, AL activists clash in Ctg

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, May 23: At least 100 people were injured when police fought street battles this afternoon with several hundred political activists at the Darul Fazal market and Reazuddin-bazar premises in the heart of the port city. The trouble began when police attempted to resist an after-rally march of the pro-Awami League Chhatra League and Jubo League activists towards a meeting of the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) at the Muslim Institute Hall. During the confrontation the activists pelted brickbats

and stones at the police who in turn lobbed teargas and lathicharged to disperse them and stop their march. The street fights continued for about an hour from 4 pm. Police arrested six persons, three of them with injuries from the spot. Earlier, at around 3-30 pm a series of handbomb explosions rocked the premises of the Muslim Institute Hall causing panic all around. Immediately after the blasts police cordoned off the surrounding areas of the Muslim — Star photo

AL reviews district leaders' suggestions

By Staff Correspondent

The Awami League Central Working Committee yesterday began a review of the suggestions by its district-level leaders for launching an agitation against the government soon. The ALCWC meeting began at three yesterday afternoon with General Secretary Zillur Rahman reading out a summarised version of the suggestions put forward at the three-day extended meeting of the committee which ended Saturday. During the three-day caucus the district leaders had urged the high command to go for a movement to resist the government's "repression on the AL activists" and to expose the government for its "failure to mitigate" economic crises facing the country. The district level representatives also urged the high command not to forge any unity with the other opposition forces at the expense of seats in the next parliamentary

polls. They also requested party chief Sheikh Hasina to take all necessary steps to restore party discipline. They felt that a consolidated organisation was needed to achieve victory in the proposed agitation against the government. The leaders pointed out that internecine conflicts in a few district units including the Narayngi unit must be resolved. They also called for disciplinary measures against Dr Kamal Hossain for anti-party activities. After the summary of the suggestions, AL presidium members Abdur Razzak and Alauddin Ahmed addressed the meeting yesterday. The working committee meeting was adjourned when A K M Jahangir was half-way through with his speech at 8:30 last night. Meanwhile, a high-level — Star photo

Cambodians vote in large numbers despite Khmer Rouge threats

PHNOM PENH, May 23: Despite threats by Khmer Rouge guerrillas, one-third of Cambodia's eligible voters eagerly pushed their way into polling stations Sunday on the first day of elections for a democratic government, reports AP. UN officials said between 1.5 million and 2 million people voted Sunday in the country's first multiparty elections in two decades. The UN-organised election ends Friday. Khmer Rouge activities in a few provinces caused some disruptions of voting, "but nothing very serious," said the UN peacekeeping mission chief, Yasushi Akashi. In southern Kampot province, a shell fired by the Khmer Rouge shell crashed

near three polling stations. One of the stations and held several UN policemen and Cambodian electoral workers for an hour before releasing them unharmed, a UN official said. UN officials shut the three stations as a precaution, said the official, who demanded anonymity. Also in Kampot, a small group of Khmer Rouge fired at ballot boxes, halting balloting for a half-hour. UN spokesman Eric Palt said. In northwestern Banteay Meanchey, shells believed fired by the Khmer Rouge crashed near two polling stations, slightly injuring two voters. The polls opened at 8 am

(0100 GMT) and closed for the day at 4 pm (0900 GMT). Even in the tense north-west province of Stiem Reap, where many people had said they were too scared for the Khmer Rouge to vote, turnout was higher than expected. In many other areas, the eagerness could hardly be controlled. In Kompong Cham province, just northeast of Phnom Penh, people jammed the main town's three polling stations despite early monsoon rains and the many Khmer Rouge in the province. Some came hours before the polls opened. "It doesn't ease up. They keep pushing the door," said an international elections monitor, Elaine Douglas-Noel

of Jamaica. "We had to post a police officer to hold them back. This is how much they want democracy." Despite rains in Phnom Penh too, crowds shoved at the gates of the Olympic Stadium to enter the city's main voting station as peacekeepers scrambled to keep order. "I had to come to vote because this is the first time in my life I am choosing a leader to represent Cambodia," said Cheng Ongeng, 63. Voters said they didn't fear the Khmer Rouge because of the presence of UN troops. "The Khmer Rouge have failed today," said the US mission chief, Charles Twining.

Complications hinder DC-10's recovery

By Staff Correspondent

The salvage operation of Biman's damaged DC-10-30 aircraft encountered fresh complications Sunday. After two days of strenuous efforts army and Civil Aviation engineers managed to tow the 125-ton aircraft only a few yards from the spot where it was lying, beyond the runway. The main wheels swerved sideways when the aircraft was pulled by an army tank as efforts to take the plane to the hangar continued without let. The engineers, in consultations with the experts from the manufacturers McDonnell Douglas, were outlining other plans to overcome the new problems, officials said. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visited the

accident site of the aircraft at Zia International Airport and witnessed the salvage operations. Chairman, Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh (CAAB) Air Commodore Shamsur Ali explained the salvage operation to the State Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism Abdul Mannan. The aircraft, on a flight from Jeddah with 123 passengers and 12 crew, skidded some 1200 ft past the runway during landing in stormy weather Tuesday. However, no one was injured. Biman sources said that the engineers and workers were expected to succeed, in their efforts to take the aircraft to — Star photo

Showcase on Nasim, Ahad, Ittefaq Editor

The High Court division of Bangladesh Supreme Court yesterday directed Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim, Abdul Ahad Chowdhury and the Editor and the publisher of Dainik Ittefaq to showcase why they would not be charged with contempt of court, reports BSS. The order was issued by a division bench comprising Justice ARM Amrul Islam Chowdhury and Justice Mohammad Serajul Islam. The case, in brief, is that a report was published in the Dainik Ittefaq on its May 10 issue to the effect that at a rally in front of Bangla Motor in the city on May 9 organised by "Ghatok Dalal Nirml Jatya Samannaya Committee", Awami League leader Mohammad Nasim said, "We do not accept any court other than Gana Adalat" and Ahad Chowdhury said, "The language of 71 is known to us. We will give reply in that language." The Additional Attorney General Abdul Wadud Khan-der submitted a petition on May 12 with the registrar to bring it to the notice of the Chief Justice to take necessary legal measure against the aforesaid persons as their version tarnished the image of the court and undermined the judiciary. The Chief Justice referred the matter to the bench for hearing and disposal.

Students clash with shopkeepers in city

Several people, including two Ansars, were injured in a violent clash between the students of Siddeswari Degree College and the shopkeepers of a nearby supermarket, reports UNB. Unruly students damaged windcreens of four vehicles on the nearby New Circular Road and the shop windows of the Century Arcade market. Witnesses and Ansars on duty said the clash began at 1:15 pm when some students of the college tried to take away sunglasses and watches from a shop without paying and were resisted by the Ansars guarding the market. Witnesses said the students hit the guards with sticks and pelted stones at them. According to witnesses, Ansars fired about a dozen shots in the air to disperse the students. The Ansars, however, denied any shooting. They said the students hurled cocktails at them. The injured Ansars— identified as Belayet Hossain and Tara Mia—were rushed to hospital.

Carmichael College closed sine die

RANGPUR, May 23: Carmichael College was closed sine die following a clash between students and police that left 27 people including two cops injured, reports UNB. The resident students were asked to leave their dormitories by this evening. College sources said the authorities took the decision to avoid further untoward incident on the campus. Witnesses said the clash erupted when police resorted to lathi charge and lobbed tear gas on three rallies, organised by Pro-Indu Chhatra League, Islami Chhatra Shibir and Chhatra Dal. The student organisations arranged the rallies to protest Saturday's clash between Chhatra League and Shibir that left 5 Chhatra League activists injured.

414 more Rohingyas go home

COX'S BAZAR, May 23: Four hundred and fourteen Rohingyas refugees comprising 95 families voluntarily returned to their homes in Myanmar through three transit camps at Teknaf here today. An official source told BSS here tonight, with this 48th batch of repatriation, the total number of repatriated persons now stands at 25,603. The next repatriation would take place on May 25, the source added.