

Inside Today

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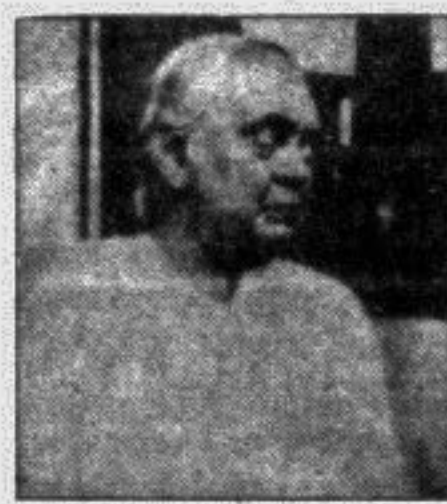
Communal Violence and Continued Poverty: An Individual Perception

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On Asia
by Shahed Latif

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Weekend Magazine

Nazrul Jayanti Special



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NEWS BRIEFS

Majali new Jordanian PM

AMMAN, May 28: Jordan's King Hussein today appointed Abdel Salam Majali as Prime Minister following the resignation of Zeid Ibn Shaker, officials here said. The new premier, who heads the Jordanian delegation to peace negotiations with Israel, has begun consultations to form his cabinet which is to be announced Saturday, they said. Ibn Shaker had formed his government on November 21, 1991, reports AFP.

Sharif has no immediate plan to impeach Ishaq

ISLAMABAD, May 28: Reinstated Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif indicated today that he had no immediate plan to impeach President Ghulam Ishaq Khan who had dismissed him and the National Assembly in April, reports AFP.

Without naming the 78-year-old president, Sharif said he would follow a policy of forgive and forget.

"I have no complaint. I have no regret and my heart is clean", Sharif said in his first nationwide broadcast since the Supreme Court restored his government Wednesday, overturning the President's April 18 dismissal order.

The country's highest court declared the presidential action illegal and restored the national assembly which Thursday gave Sharif an overwhelming vote of confidence.

Sharif saluted the judges who he said had buried 'forever' the unfettered use of the president's constitutional powers.

While accusing the caretaker government appointed by the president after his dismissal of indulging in "character assassinations", Sharif said he bore "no ill-will, no malice."

"I have prayed to God to keep me away from cheap human emotions", he added.

Sharif said he would try to eliminate hypocrisy and opportunism from national politics and appealed to the opposition to cooperate with the country's economic revival.

Sharif, 43, said the cause of last month's political crisis brought about by his rift with the president — was the gap between the old and new generations.

The country's economy had

suffered tremendously due to the president's illegal action, he said, but added that he would do his best to restore the confidence of industrialists and foreign investors.

Sharif is wasting no time, and has plans to convene early next month a conference of representatives of some 100 local and foreign companies at which he will spell out incentives for new industries.

He will also assure the businessmen that his government will give full encouragement to investment in Pakistan, Sharif's Industry Minister Sheikh Rashid Ahmed said today.

The 'most important' issue today is to bring back the industrialists who wanted to invest in Pakistan, but changed their minds because of the political upheavals, he said. The minister said it was vi-

tal for Sharif to revive the tempo of industrial growth in the country, gear up development projects he had initiated during his 29 month rule and restore the confidence of those who had already initiated projects.

The stock market in Karachi, the country's business hub, surged 23 points Thursday, in a direct reaction to the reformist premier's return to power Wednesday.

Xinhua adds: Nawaz Sharif expressed hope that Pakistan and India would resume their dialogue to solve the bilateral issues.

In a message to Prime Minister Narasimha Rao, Sharif expressed confidence that the outstanding bilateral issues could be settled through dialogue, according to a release of Pakistan embassy available in Delhi today.

Over 50000 cases pending in HC

By S Y Bakht

More than 6,000 new cases were added to the mounting list of pending cases in the High Court division of the Supreme Court last year while the total figure crossed the staggering 50,000 mark in April.

According to official records, there were 52,288 cases pending before the High Court while another 743 were pending in the Appellate Division as of April 30.

Legal experts identified the extremely limited number of judges in the High Court, shortage of court rooms, grossly inadequate facilities and outdated court technology as the primary reasons for the huge backlog of cases.

Currently there are 31 judges in the High Court division with Justice Abdur Rouf serving as the Chief Election Commissioner on deputation.

All civil, writ, criminal, income tax, commercial and ad-

ministrative cases are heard by the 18 single and division — comprising two judges — benches constituted in the High Court.

The large number of pending cases also mean that litigation suffers prolonged delays. Procedural abuses by counsel was also identified as reasons for inordinate delay in the judicial process.

A recent report by the Washington-based Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS), a World Bank affiliate, noted: "Litigation in the country's courts can take 10, 15 or even 20 years before a case is finally heard, judgement is obtained, appeals are exhausted, and execution is finally levied."

Presently the High Court is virtually unable to hear any case filed after 1988, the experts pointed out, forcing a large number of petitioners of criminal revision cases from the

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Hajj rituals begin

MAKKAH, May 28: Rituals of the Hajj, one of the fifth pillars of Islam, begins here early this morning, reports BSS.

Devotees from around the world gathered for the annual pilgrimages performed the Tawaf of Khana Ka'aba and Sa'ee between Safa and Marwa hills.

The main rituals of the Hajj will take place on Sunday, the tenth of Zilhaj in the Ararat.

More than two million pilgrims including Bangladeshis move towards Mina following the first rite here of the five-day Hajj, the world's biggest religious congregation.

About 12,000 pilgrims are performing Hajj this year from Bangladesh. Of them, 8,060 are ballottee Hajjis and the rest non-ballottee.

Meanwhile, the custodian of the two holy mosques King Fahd has called for all-out efforts by officials and citizens to make the Hajj pilgrimage a success.

The Saudi government has
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Dhaka, Bangkok for joint fishing

BANGKOK, May 28: Thailand and Bangladesh have agreed to increase trade and economic cooperation, a Foreign Ministry official said today, reports AFP.

The two countries also agreed in two days of talks, that ended Thursday to cooperate in a joint fishing investment, the official said.

Bangladesh proposed that Thailand import its fertilizers, spices and paper products, he said. Thailand will pursue a joint venture in the Bangladesh garment industry.

PM opens JCD's blood donation programme

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia formally inaugurated the blood donation programme of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) at the BNP's Central Office yesterday in observance of the 12th death anniversary of Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman, reports BSS.

The Prime Minister witnessed the donation of blood by the four JCD leaders including Babul Chowdhury, Nazimuddin Alam, Moniruzzaman Monir and Awlad Hossain Faruque. Ministers, members of parliament, BNP leaders, JCD leaders among others were present on the occasion.

The programme has been taken in cooperation with the Red Crescent Society, chairman of Red Crescent Society Syed Shahidul Huq Jamal MP was present.

Later, the Prime Minister attended a discussion organised by JCD on the occasion. Begum Zia listened to the JCD leaders including Amanullah Aman MP, Abu Khair Bhuiyan, Kamruzzaman Ratan, Nazimuddin Alam and Fazlul Huq Milan.

JP only Islamic nationalist party: Moudud

KHULNA, May 28: Jatiya Party leader Moudud Ahmed today accused the government of carrying out repressive measures against the opposition, threatening democracy, reports UNB.

Addressing a party meeting at Zia Hall here this afternoon, Moudud said the ruling BNP was trying to suppress the opposition political parties engaged in the struggle for establishing basic rights of the people.

Criticising the BNP and the Jamaat, Moudud said the BNP does not uphold nationalism in its true perspective while the Jamaat is using religion to materialise its political interests. He claimed that the JP is the only Islamic nationalist party.

He also blamed the government for unleashing terrorism throughout the country, saying that terrorists cannot protect democracy.

The JP vice president expressed the determination that his party, which handed over power in 1991 respecting the people's will, would stage a comeback by winning the next parliamentary elections.

JP Secretary General Khaledur Rahman Titu and other leaders including H M A Gaffar and Advocate Mansur Ali addressed the meeting, presided over by Khulna City JP President SMA Rab



A drawing competition for children was held at the auditorium of the Teachers' Training College yesterday to mark the 17th anniversary of death of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin. — Star photo

Shilpacharya's anniversary of death observed

The 17th death anniversary of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin was observed yesterday throughout the country reports BSS.

The Bangladesh Television and radio Bangladesh broadcast special programmes while national dailies brought out special supplements on the life and works of the Shilpacharya to mark his death anniversary.

Different socio-cultural organisations also observed the day. Members of Shilpacharya Zainul Abedin Smriti Parishad placed wreaths at the mazar in the morning and arranged milad mahfil and held discussion meeting in the afternoon.

Bangla Academy organised a discussion meeting in its seminar room marking the day.

Members of Jatiya Sanskritik Sangstha placed wreaths at his mazar and held painting competition and discussion meeting followed by a cultural function at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University.

Shop owners seek police protection

By Staff Correspondent

Leaders of the Federation of Dhaka Metropolitan Shop Owners Association demanded the government deploy more policemen at the city shopping centres on the occasion of Eid-ul-Azha.

In a statement Friday, the leaders of the federation condemned the attack by a section of college students on the Century Arcade shopping centre on May 23 and 24.

The statement said that the market remained closed since the attack.

The leaders of the shopowners condoled the death of the student who was killed in clashes with the shopkeepers of the Century Arcade.

The Century Arcade shopowners and the New Elephant Road Shop Owners' Welfare Association, in similar statements, have resented the attacks and demands arrest of those involved.

They also demanded release of the shopowners arrested in connection with the clashes.

A college student was killed in a clash on Monday between students of the Shiddheshwar College and the shopowners of the nearby Century Arcade.

High-level border talks with Myanmar soon

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, May 28: A special meeting between Myanmar and Bangladesh, particularly on border issues, is likely to be held soon for the first time at the Director General level, a highly placed source said.

In a bid to hold such a high-level talks Director General of the Myanmar Border Immigration and Manpower Mong Aung has sent an invitation to the Director General of the Bangladesh Rifles Major General Anwar Hossain, the source added.

The invitation reached the BDR Director General via the Bangladesh Foreign Ministry on May 20 in which the Myanmar side reportedly proposed to hold the talks by the end of this month, the source added.

But Bangladesh despite accepting the invitation, has still not been able to decide on a tentative date for the talks, the source informed, saying, however, that a reply would be sent to the Myanmar counterpart shortly.

Such a high-level border

talks would be aimed at settling the outstanding border disputes between the two countries, as well as to maintain a permanent peace along the 176-mile long border that separates Myanmar and Bangladesh, the source explained.

The Myanmar invitation letter mentioned a state rest-house located at the Nepali beach near Akyab as the venue for the talks. The attending delegation members would be flown there from Mongdow by helicopters, the source said.

However, since the attack on the Banderban Rejupara BDR camp by Myanmar border guards on December 21, 1991 — an act that chilled relations between the two neighbours — many border talks were held either at the Sector Commander, Battalion Commander or the Company Commander levels to resolve border crises.

Since the Rejupara camp incident both countries tightened border security by deploying more border guards.

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Poverty alleviation AL's top priority

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina yesterday called for pragmatic plans, correct leadership and combined effort to alleviate poverty.

Speaking at a seminar organised by her party at the Institution of Engineers in the city, Hasina, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, said the Awami League had identified poverty as the most serious problem facing the nation and her party would do its best to resolve this "fundamental issue."

The two topics of the two-day seminar are Poverty Alleviation, discussed yesterday, and Agricultural Development, the topic for today's deliberations.

Renowned economists, experts and Awami League leaders took part in more than four hours of deliberations on the subject of poverty alleviation yesterday.

Awami League presidium

member Syeda Zohra Tajuddin chaired the seminar while Prof Rehman Sobhan, SAMS Kibria, AHM Sadeque, Dr. Quazi Kholiquzzaman Ahmed, Khaled Shams, Dr. AK Azad Chowdhury, Prof ATM Zahurul Haq, Dr. Hossain Zillur Rahman, Mozammel Haq, Begum Sajeda Chowdhury, MP and Syed Abul Hossain, MP took part in the discussions.

"This seminar is a primary initiative towards this (poverty alleviation) end," Sheikh Hasina revealed while opening the seminar as chief guest.

The packed audience in the auditorium later also listened to the seminars second session — a lively debate on working out modalities to combat the country's economic crisis.

The AL leader cited economic stagnation, unemployment, slowdown in investment and problems in the field of health,

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90 pc cast vote in Cambodian polls: Final results likely Tuesday

PHNOM PENH, May 28: Nine out of 10 electors had voted when polls closed today in Cambodia's freest elections, and the UN Secretary-General said the astonishing turnout showed "their deep yearning for participatory democracy," reports Reuters.

Final results of the voting, organised by the world body to try to end decades of bloodshed, are expected on Tuesday.

The chief UN peacekeeper in Phnom Penh, Yasushi Akashi, said the winning party or parties should immediately form an interim consultative cabinet to represent the peo-

ple's will and help a peaceful transition to democracy.

Fears of serious violence during the six days of voting proved unfounded after Khmer Rouge guerrillas apparently dropped their threat to disrupt the polls. But there are concerns of renewed bloodshed when the winners try to form a new government.

A 22,000-strong UN force that moved in after all factions signed a peace pact in October 1991 brought the vote to more than four million people with the help of helicopters, planes, riverboats and trucks.

Cambodians cast a massive

vote for peace after a quarter-century of American bombing, a US-inspired coup, three years of Khmer Rouge genocide and civil war.

UN spokesman Eric Falt said a fraction under 90 per cent of registered electors had voted. "We made a bet on the Cambodian people. In return they gave us their trust," he told a news conference.

"And tonight... we can safely say we won our bet."

UN Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, in a message to Akashi, congratulated staff on the success of the election.

The spectacularly high

voter turnout is eloquent testimony to the confidence that UNTAC (the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia) inspired among the people of Cambodia as well as their deep yearning for participatory democracy," he said.

Akashi announced his proposal for an interim cabinet at a lunch today, a guest told Reuters.

The 120-seat constituent assembly being elected has three months to write a new constitution and form a government.

First results of the polls are due on Saturday.

Foreign investment in tourism sector likely

By Asiuzzaman

Bangladesh has invited foreign entrepreneurs to develop the country's tourism sector, well-placed Parjatan Corporation sources said.

The national tourism organisation, Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation (BPC), has already prepared two project profiles to develop tourism facilities at Sonadia Island in Cox's Bazar district and at Kuakata sea beach in Patuakhali district, one senior BPC official told The Daily Star yesterday.

The governments of Oman, Qatar and Bahrain and an Indian company have shown interest to work jointly in the tourism sector, the official

said, adding that the project profiles have been submitted to a number of countries.

The source, requesting anonymity, said that at the end of the last year the embassy of Oman and the embassy of Qatar in Bangladesh sent separate letters to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism seeking some information regarding Sonadia and Kuakata.

On the other hand, Calcutta-based M/s Indo-Pacific International sent a proposal to develop Sonadia Island as an international-standard tourism spot, he said.

Under a Dhaka-Manama cul-
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