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NEWS BRIEFS

HC vacation bench

The Chief Justice has constituted a vacation bench for hearing and disposal of all urgent matters of the High Court division during the vacation from May 30 to June 10.

Call money rates

Money rates in the call money market during the week ending May 26 ranged from 4.25 per cent to 7.50 per cent.

No-tobacco Day

The World No-tobacco Day will be observed in the country, as elsewhere round the globe, tomorrow.

Seminar on tech cooperation

The eighth session of a high-level committee of Technical Cooperation among developing countries began at New York on Friday.

Mannan for Geneva

Labour and Manpower Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan leaves Dhaka today for Geneva to attend the 80th annual session of the International Labour Organisation beginning in the Swiss city on June 2.



An Abahani defender stops Mohammedan Sporting forward Shabbir in his stride during the DMFA Cup football final at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday evening. Mohammedans won 3-2. — Star photo

Mohammedans win DMFA Cup

By Sports Reporter

Reigning champions Mohammedan Sporting Club twice came from behind to get the better of their arch-rivals Abahani Krira Chakra by the odd goal in five in an energy-sapping, scrappy final of the DMFA Cup at the Dhaka Stadium yesterday.

After a barren, abysmally dull and clumsy first half, Abahani took the lead in the very first minute of the post-breath session when Ahmed, one of the two trouble-making agents (the other being MSC custodian Syed Hassan Kanan) cashed in on two defensive errors to find the net from close (1-0).

Two minutes later Imtiaz Ahmed Nakib, the opportunist who scored a hat-trick

in Mohammedans' 6-1 victory against Arambagh in the semi-final, nodded the ball home after Shabbir relieved a waning chance with a heady mixture of physical and cerebral dexterity (1-1).

Just when it seemed that the black-and-whites would show something like once beaten twice shy, the familiar chink in their armour was on the show again and the ultimate champions who had won the first DMFA Cup jointly with Brothers Union in 1984 found themselves down by a penalty goal in the 18th minute. Ahmed was tripped inside the box by Mahbubur Rahman Roxy after the left side of the Mohammedan defence collapsed

again. Referee S M Mansoor, officiating his first big match, appeared to have quite a few butterflies and needed some time to convince the protestant Mohammedan players about his decision of awarding Abahani a spot-kick. Rumi Rizvi Karim, skipper of the sky-blues, converted the penalty to raise his personal tally in this meet to eight (2-1).

Mohammedans, who seemed particularly accurate yesterday in their shooting, were unlucky earlier when a swerving Aslam free kick was saved by a diving Selim for a corner.

Lady luck smiled on Mohammedans when defender Kaisar Hamid thundered in a free-kick from about 35 yards that gave Selim, Abahani's

goalkeeper standing in for national custodian Mohsin, was left with little time and chance to react (2-2).

The goal proved to be the turning point as Mohammedans, perked up by their two superlative comebacks, felt against Abahani who were distinctly handicapped by Mamun Joarder's absence. The nippy forward, who scored twice against Mohammedans in the last league match last year to give Abahani the championship, had to leave the field on a stretcher following a clash with Mohammedan custodian Kanan.

After the stipulated ninety minutes that ended in a 2-2

Two-thirds of shipping projects remain unimplemented

By Staff Correspondent

Over two-thirds of the projects taken up by the Ministry of Shipping under the 1992-93 Annual Development Programme (ADP) remain unimplemented as the fiscal year nears its completion.

According to official sources, out of the 32 projects planned, no start had been made in 20 projects while the progress in the 12 projects begun was also disappointing.

The 'unacceptable' conditionalities imposed by the foreign development partners and donor agencies were the main reasons for the delay in project implementation, the sources added.

The other problems identified by the ministry included

complications in appointing foreign experts, delay in finalising project profiles, unexpected increases in the expenditure of the projects and delay in signing agreements with the donor agencies, the sources said.

According to sources, Tk 78.45 crore was spent till March '93 against the total allocation of Tk 133.87 crore for the projects.

Of the total amount, Tk 28.85 crore was allocated for nine investment projects and one technical assistance project of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA). Tk 17.98 crore was spent during the period in only four projects.

The expenditure was Tk

17.58 crore against the total allocation of Tk 34.12 crore for six projects of the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Corporation (BIWTC).

The allocations for five projects of the Chittagong Port Authority and three of the Mongla Port Authority were Tk 44.15 crore and 13.90 crore respectively, of which only Tk 31.65 crore and 9.02 crore were spent till March '93 for the projects.

The total allocation for the projects of the Sea Transport Directorate and Marine Academy remained unutilised during the period. The allocations were Tk 8.35 crore and 1.44 crore respectively, the sources said.

Shopowners threaten 48-hr strike

By Staff Correspondent

City shopowners Saturday demanded immediate withdrawal of cases lodged against their leaders and employees following their clashes with Siddheswari Degree College students last week.

The demand was made at a press conference at the National Press Club yesterday morning with anti-terrorism posters behind the leaders reading, 'Save the Shopkeepers from the Extortionists.'

The shopkeepers would go on a 48-hour strike after Eid-ul-Azha if their demands were not met, warned the leaders of the Federation of Dhaka Metropolitan Shop Owners' Association (FDMSOA).

The Principal of Siddheswari Degree College filed a case against FDMSOA president Helaluddin Helal and two other employees for their alleged involvement in the murder of a first year student on May 24.

'Helal was not at the scene when Kawsar was murdered,' said FDMSOA general secretary Md Shahabuddin, adding 'We came to know about the killing from the police officials.'

Demanding a judicial inquiry into the violent incidents of May 23 and 24, the federation said 'Terrorists in the guise of students of the college had long been harassing the shopkeepers.'

Ansars were posted at the Century Arcade following a meeting of the federation leaders with the Home Minister a few months ago, the federation members told newsmen.

Quest for effective policy to reform administration

By Sohel Manzur

Massive efforts are being made at the government and non-government levels to formulate a set of reforms to make the country's administrative machinery more efficient.

According to official sources, several international organisations have, in the meantime, expressed their keenness to provide assistance for the programme, both in terms of money and expertise.

The British Overseas Development Agency (ODA) will sponsor a visit of a group of bureaucrats to the United Kingdom and also the consequent studies they will conduct on the basis of the reform measures taken by the UK government for an effective administrative system and bureaucracy.

The ODA has also agreed to

provide Bangladesh with necessary assistance in formulating the reforms policy.

Four senior bureaucrats will make a 15-day visit to Great Britain from June 4 for conducting the study. They are Cabinet Secretary Ayubur Rahman, Secretary of the Prime Minister's Office Kamal Siddiqi, Establishment Secretary Hasinur Rahman and Post and Telecommunications Secretary A M M Shawkat Ali.

Besides, a high-powered committee formed by the UNDP (United Nations Development Programme) is also working on the issue independently.

The committee, comprising a number of former bureaucrats, academicians and technocrats, has submitted interim reports to the government on

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Zia's death anniversary today

The 12th death anniversary of the founder of Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) Shaheed President Ziaur Rahman will be observed throughout the country today in a befitting manner, reports BSS.

President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message on the occasion today has called for united efforts to achieve greater welfare for the people and strengthen independence and democracy.

Paying homage to the memory of Shaheed Zia, the President said, 'We can show respect to our dear leader by building a self-reliant and strong Bangladesh.'

Bangladesh Nationalist Party and its front organisations have planned elaborate programmes to observe the day.

The party flag will be flown at half mast at all offices of the BNP. Quran Khwari, ziarat and mlad mahfil will be held at the mazar of Shaheed Zia under the auspices of the Jatiyatabadi Ulema Dal this morning.

Fateha will be offered and wreaths be placed at his mazar. The poor will be fed in all wards and thanas at the initiative of the city BNP.

The national executive committee of the party has or

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'Food for Education' plan for children soon

MYMENSINGH, May 29: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said here today that the government would launch a special 'Food for Education' programme for encouraging poor and underprivileged children to receive education, reports BSS.

Addressing the closing ceremony of the National Primary Education Week '93 at the auditorium of the National Academy for Primary Education the Prime Minister said the programme would be taken to arrange food for the children who did not get the chance of receiving education because they had been earning their livelihood.

The Prime Minister called

upon all especially the guardians to take part in the social movement for primary education. The children who do not receive opportunity for education have to be motivated to receive it, Begum Zia said.

The Prime Minister said her government had the political commitment to ensure the rights of education to all and with this aim in view it had made the primary education compulsory.

She said a separate division had been created for primary and mass education which had been placed under personal supervision of the Prime Minister. Fiftytwo per cent of the total allocation for the ed-

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House sub-committee fails to meet once

By Nazmul Ashraf

A Parliamentary Sub-Committee, formed to prepare a draft bill for the separation of the judiciary from the executive, failed to meet even once after its tenure expired eight days ago yesterday.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs on April 30 constituted the sub-committee asking it to submit a report on the proposed bill by three weeks, the time-frame that ended on May 21.

Sub-committee sources informed this correspondent that the State Minister for Law Barrister Aminul Haque, who heads the three-member sub-committee, did not convene a single meeting to discuss the issue even until yesterday.

The two other members are Salahuddin Kader Choudhury of the National Democratic Party (NDP) and Jubed Ali of the Awami League.

Barrister Aminul Haque admitted that the sub-committee had not met until yesterday.

Talking to this correspondent last night, Barrister Haque explained that the sub-committee could not start functioning formally because the members were not available in the capital since the parliament was not in session.

'But we held informal parleys on the issue,' he said adding, 'We hope the sub-committee will start functioning soon with

the resumption of the session.' Replying to a query, the minister said the time-frame for the sub-committee's task had not been extended as yet. He also expressed inability to say when the proposed draft bill might be completed.

Although the government is terming the planned bill as one providing for the separation of the judiciary from the executive, yet the terms of reference of the sub-committee do not permit actions to that end, a member pointed out.

The proposed bill will only suggest measures to transfer, appoint, promote some jobs of the Law Ministry to the Establishment Ministry, the member said.

Talking to The Daily Star Salahuddin Kader Choudhury ruled out any possibility that the proposed draft bill would help in separating the judiciary from the executive. 'For the separation (of the judiciary), a constitution amendment bill is needed. But the one planned is a government bill, which may bring about some changes in the existing structure,' Choudhury said to justify his statement.

Commenting on the sub-committee's performance, the NDP leader said, 'What more can we expect, when the fate of the Indemnity Ordinance (Repeal) Bill could not be decided in the House in the last two years.'



Residents of Fakirpool brought out a procession in the city yesterday demanding regular supply of water in the area. — Star photo

Opposition leading in Cambodian polls

PHNOM PENH, May 29: The Royalist opposition party took an early lead today in vote counting after Cambodia's historic UN-organised election, its first multi-party poll in decades, reports Reuter.

The Royalist FUNCINPEC party, led by Prince Norodom Ranariddh, son of Cambodian head of state Prince Norodom Sihanouk, was leading in early returns from the capital and three provinces, the United Nations said.

This early preliminary result makes me very happy and confident for the future, FUNCINPEC spokesman Sam Rainsay said. Counting is going

very slowly, UN spokesman Eric Falt said.

More than 4.2 million people, 90 per cent of registered voters, went to the polls this week despite threats of violence from the Khmer Rouge, which put Cambodia through a reign of terror in the 1970s that killed a million people.

The voters were trying to put an end to the violence and intimidation that has brutalised Cambodian political life for a quarter century.

More than 14,100 votes were counted in Phnom Penh with FUNCINPEC capturing 7,518 and the ruling Cambodian People's Party (CPP) of Prime

Minister Hun Sen getting only 4,346.

With 498,966 registered voters, the capital is allocated 12 seats in a constituent assembly that will write a constitution and form a government.

Of 15,593 votes counted in the southern province of Sihanoukville, the Royalists captured 7,473 with the CPP getting 5,276.

FUNCINPEC has also taken an early lead in central Pursat province with 3,081 votes counted out of 146,594 registered voters. FUNCINPEC took 1,346 votes and the CPP 1,054.

FUNCINPEC is the French acronym for national united

front for an independent, neutral peaceful and cooperative Cambodia.

In Kratie province in the northeast, the Royalist party led by 9,314 to the CPP's 3,291.

AFP says, the United States will recognise the results of Cambodia's elections, US Envoy Charles Twining said here today.

The US is prepared now — before the results of the election are known — to announce its intention to recognise the results of the polls should the UN certify the electoral process free and fair, Twining said, reading a statement also due to be issued in Washington.

Greater investment in agri sector suggested

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a seminar on 'Agricultural Development', organised by the Bangladesh Awami League (AL), stressed the need for greater investment in the agricultural sector for the country's overall development.

The seminar, held at the Institution of Engineers, Bangladesh (IEB) was presided over by Zohra Tajuddin while S A M S Kibria, former Executive Director of ESCAP acted as the moderator.

Zohra Tajuddin said the agriculture sector provides all the inputs to other sectors like

industry, trade, et cetera.

'We have to improve the agro-sector because of this,' Begum Tajuddin said and also stressed the need for plans from the grassroots level for sustainable agriculture.

Leader of the Opposition in Parliament and AL chief, Sheikh Hasina was also present in the seminar.

Dr S D Chowdhury, while stressing the need for diversification of agriculture, said irrigation is a precondition for this. He said the livestock sector

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Padma Express derails in Sirajganj

SIRAJGANJ, May 29: Six bogies of the inter-city Padma Express train were derailed near Sirajganj station this morning causing minor injuries to about 50 passengers, reports UNB.

Many panic stricken passengers of the Dhaka-bound train jumped out of the bogies, witnesses and railway police said.

Railway authorities in Dhaka admitted derailling of six bogies but said none was injured.

Local officials said the bogies were derailed at 10-30 am due to certain defects in the wheels.

Railway communication via Sirajganj remained suspended till late Saturday night as three of the six bogies could not be restored to the track. It may take the whole night, officials said.

A three member committee comprising senior officials of Pakshi Railway Division will investigate into the accident.

BJP to raise anti-militant army in Kashmir

JAMMU, May 29: The Jammu and Kashmir unit of Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) today said it would raise an anti-militant army in Doda district of Jammu region to fight out militancy, reports PTI.

The BJP state unit president, Professor Chaman Lal Gupta, told reporters here the proposed army would comprise 10,000 ex-servicemen of Doda district and would be provided with licensed weapons free of cost. A special fund would be raised for the army from different parts of the country, he said.

Expressing his serious concern over the growing activities of militants in Doda, Poonch and Rajouri districts he said Pakistan was continuing its efforts to infiltrate militants into Jammu and Kashmir under the cover of unprovoked firing.

He said nearly 8,000 Pakistan trained militants were hiding near line of control in Poonch and Rajouri and were planning their infiltration into the Indian side to escalate violence and militancy.