

Nirman Tiles

In Broken Marble Tiles Brighter Home At Lesser Price

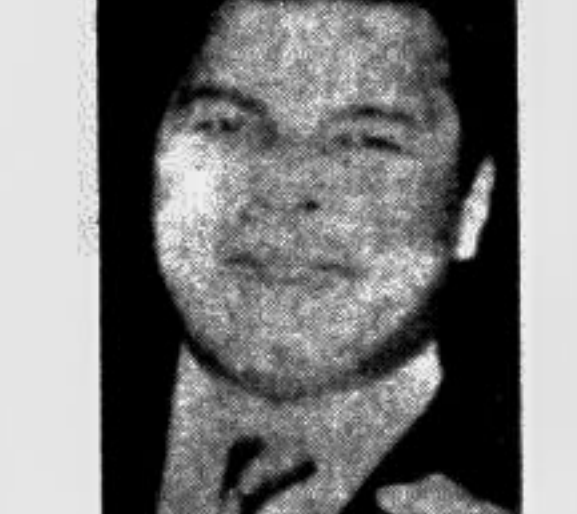
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NEWS BRIEFS

PM visits mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal

SYLHET, June 24: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today visited the mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal (R) and offered munajat, seeking welfare of the flood affected people. Begum Zia, who arrived here to see the flood-hit areas of the greater Sylhet district, first went to the mazar of Hazrat Shahjalal and offered munajat, reports BSS.

U Hla Myint new Myanmar envoy

The government of the Union of Myanmar has appointed U Hla Myint Oo as ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the People's Republic of Bangladesh. He is expected to take up his posting soon. Ambassador U Hla Myint Oo is a career foreign service officer and has served in Myanmar missions in Beijing, Jakarta and Washington DC. He has been ambassador to Nepal since 1991, reports BSS.

Arrest order against Gana Adalat editor

By Staff Correspondent
The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Dhaka yesterday issued warrants of arrest against the editor, publisher, managing editor and the special correspondent of the weekly 'Gana Adalat' following a defamation suit filed by Captain (Retd) Ekram Ullah, chief security officer of the Zia International Airport. The court orders of the arrest were issued after Ekramullah sued them alleging defamatory news item about his personal life.

Vienna Confce adopts OIC proposal on Bosnia

VIENNA, June 24: A world conference on human rights today adopted a controversial declaration denouncing atrocities in Bosnia and calling for the lifting of an arms embargo on the country's Muslim-led government, reports Reuters.
The declaration, proposed by the 51-nation Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC) was passed by 88 votes in favour, one - Russia - against and 54 abstentions.
Sixty votes had been needed to pass the declaration, Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock, the conference chairman, said as he announced the result.
Those who abstained included the United States and the 12 members of the

European Community, Islamic, African and some other states voted in favour.
Opponents of the declaration said it violated a 'gentleman's agreement' at the UN sponsored conference not to raise the cases of individual countries.
The declaration was put to the vote after the apparent failure of backstage negotiations to agree on a compromise text.
Earlier Mock tried in vain all morning to stop such a controversial request on behalf of a specific country. Conference rules ban raising the issue of a specific country.
But Pakistan's delegate Agha Shahi, in the name of the OIC, asked the 171 states attending the UN forum to adopt

a consensus on the text, which was part of a formal OIC Declaration on Bosnia.
"It is inconceivable that this world conference should end without clearly pronouncing its position on the tragic situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina," he said.
He regretted that "the appeal has, as yet, evoked no response; meanwhile, the genocide continues."
The OIC statement requested "lifting the arms embargo against the republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina in order to enable it to exercise its right to self-defence."
It also rejected the Serb-Croat plan to partition Bosnia into three ethnic states, under

discussion Wednesday and today in Geneva, and urged the Vance-Owen peace plan be applied.
Talks on dividing Bosnia-Herzegovina into tiny ethnic states linked in a loose confederation resumed in Geneva Thursday amid reports of intensified fighting on the ground.
European Community mediator Lord Owen expressed disappointment during the first day of talks Wednesday - boycotted by Bosnian president Alija Izetbegovic - at the "vagueness" of the proposed borders, and added that he and UN mediator Thorvald Stoltenberg "didn't like" some of the proposals they had heard.



Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman explaining a point to Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia during their visit to the flood affected areas in Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Habiganj yesterday. — PID photo

Greater Sylhet to have flood shelters : PM

SYLHET, June 24: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today visited the flood hit areas of Sylhet, Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts and directed the district administration concerned to gear up relief activities, reports BSS.
The Prime Minister flew over the flood-affected areas of Balaganj, Zakiganj, Companyganj, and Kanaighat thanas of Sylhet district and other areas of Moulvibazar and Habiganj districts, and witnessed the damages caused by flood.
Begum Zia sanctioned Tk one crore for the flood-hit people of the three districts and directed the officials concerned to start the agricultural rehabilitation programme, ex-

tend the VGD cards and provide tubewells for drinking water.
She said flood shelter would be constructed in flood-prone areas of the three districts like the cyclone shelters in the country's coastal belts and plans would be taken to face the recurrent floods there.
The Prime Minister asked her party leaders and workers of these districts to stand by the side of the affected people and join the relief work.
While visiting the affected areas of Moulvibazar and Habiganj by road she enquired about the welfare of the flood victims. She went to the site of the Railway Bridge at Shayes-

Sylhet flood situation improving

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, June 24: The overall flood situation has improved slightly in the district as waters started receding very slowly in some areas.
The Surma and the Kushiya, however, were still flowing above danger-level at many points.
The direct road-link between the district headquarters and Balaganj, Beanbazar, Fenchuganj and Jakiganj is yet to be restored.
One died of diarrhoea yesterday and another died of dysentery in the district while 569 persons have been suffering from diarrhoea.
See Page 12 Col 7

Magistrate, teachers beaten up at Fatikchhari 60 hurt in HSC centre clash

CHITTAGONG, June 24: At least sixty people including 20 policemen and Ansars were injured today in violence at an HSC examination centre here at Fatikchhari College, 30 miles from the city, police and witnesses said.
Of the injured, one examinee - Brajansen Nath - was admitted into the Chittagong Medical College Hospital with serious bullet wounds while three college teachers were released after first aid, police and doctors said.
Besides, some other injured were admitted in different clinics here, police said.

Police fought a three hour long battle at the college to control the violence which begun at 11:30 am when one examinee punched a magistrate who did not allow him to adopt unfair means inside the examination hall.
Other unruly examinees, aided by several hundred outsiders equipped with fire-arms and lethal weapons, joined in and attacked the magistrate, the investigators and the police. The unruly mob confined the magistrate and three college teachers in a room and mercilessly beat them up. They were later rescued by the police and

Ansars who reportedly fired almost a hundred shots and resorted to lathicharge.
Police and witnesses said the mob opened fire with pistols, blasted cocktails and pelted stones.
College furniture was damaged and rooms ransacked while the transports of the Thana Nirbahali Officer and the District Ansars Adjutant were damaged, police added, saying that the unruly people also attempted to set fire to the damaged vehicles but in the face of resistance by police and Ansars they retreated.
See Page 12 Col 6

'Budget ignores the sick industries'

Star Report
President of the Bangladesh Sick Industries Association Tajul Islam, describing the proposed budget as a "jugglery of figures" says, "The budget gives no sense of direction for the sick industries."
Talking to The Daily Star yesterday Islam pointed out that the government was providing thousands of crores of taka in subsidy to the ever-closing public sector on the one hand and filing cases against defaulting the private entrepreneurs on the other

"The government cannot maintain such double standards," he said. "If it can provide crores of taka for the public sector, it can and should do the same for the private sector which is fighting for its growth against all odds."
"We do not want any subsidies to run our industries," he said. "We can run the units smoothly if the government is a little bit more cooperative and consistent about fixing duties, taxes and VAT charges on raw materials and finished

products."
"The Finance Minister has disproportionately lowered import duties on raw materials and finished products," Islam pointed out. Elaborating, he cited the example of the cosmetics industries. "The import duty on cosmetics has been lowered from 100 per cent to 75 per cent while the import duty on raw materials for the cosmetics industry is also 75 per cent."
"As a consequence, when manufacturers produce cos-

Dhaka stands firm against carving up Bosnia : FM

Bangladesh firmly stands for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of the war-ravaged Muslim republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman said here yesterday.

He said that under no circumstances the republic, recognised by the United Nations, could be split into several mini-states. "Any kind of solution must honour its sovereignty and territorial integrity".
Mostafiz was talking to the UNB after returning home yesterday afternoon from Vienna where he attended the World Conference on Human Rights.

The Foreign Minister who led a five-member delegation at the two-week conference which began on June 14 in the Austrian capital, said that Bangladesh rightly presented all aspects of human rights and its violation in different parts of the world.
"Human rights can't be achieved until certain conditions of fundamental rights of the people are fulfilled," he said adding that Bangladesh was fully convinced that human rights were being blatantly violated in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The Bangladesh delegation to the Vienna moot includes Director General (UN) at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Afsarul Kader, Bangladesh Ambassador in Geneva Osmay and Salma Khan.

Information Minister Nazmul Huda is attending the conference as alternate leader of Bangladesh delegation.
Describing the conference as 'successful', Mostafiz said that it would help promote human rights situation across the world.
See Page 12 Col 8

AL MP's charge of corruption irks Salam Talukder

After the dull proceedings of the past few days, Parliament yesterday heard noisy and heated altercations between the Treasury and Opposition Benches over allegations of corruption against a minister levelled by an Awami League member, reports UNB.
There was almost pandemonium in the House when dozens of BNP and Awami League MPs were shouting at each other after Mirza Azam of the Awami League, during his budget speech, charged BNP Secretary General and LGRD Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder with nepotism and corruption in Jamalpur district.
Barrister Talukder and Mirza Azam were both elected from

two Jamalpur constituencies.
One of the youngest MPs, Azam alleged that former State Minister for Establishment Mohammad Nurul Huda was fired for corruption but there has been no action yet against another Minister against whom specific charges of irregularities and nepotism were brought.
Azam, in his allegations, said that the LGRD Minister had given a construction work worth Taka two crore in Jamalpur to one of his nephews without any tender in exchange of a 10 per cent commission. The minister had given another 50 lakh taka work to his nephew bypassing the tender.
A relative of the LGRD See Page 12 Col 3



Awami League chief Sheikh Hasina returned home yesterday after attending the World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna. Foreign Minister Mostafizur Rahman also returned by the same flight. — Star photo

Stop genocide in Bosnia : Hasina

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina has called on all concerned to make sincere efforts to stop "genocide" in Bosnia-Herzegovina, reports UNB.
Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport on her return yesterday afternoon from Vienna, Hasina said that the killings and bloodshed in the Balkan republic must be stopped.
Responding to a question, she said that supply of arms to the warring ethnic groups should also be stopped to pave the way for a durable solution

of the problem.
"Supply of arms is the cause of all such conflicts," she added.
The Awami League chief alleged that violations of human rights were also being committed in Bangladesh.
In support of her allegation, Hasina said that the common man is being deprived of his basic necessities. "This is a kind of violation of human rights," she said.
She accused the government of not paying due attention to the flood affected people.
See Page 12 Col 2

Mizan to consult Ershad on JP constitution

By Staff Correspondent
The central working committee of the Jatiya Party has decided to seek the opinion of its jailed chairman H M Ershad regarding amendment of the party constitution, committee sources said Thursday.
The marathon meeting of the working committee that began Wednesday evening and continued till 2 am Thursday assigned Mizanur Rahman Chowdhury, MP, the acting chairman, to consult Ershad's opinion.
A group of Jatiya Party stal-

warts have proposed major amendments to the party constitution which now gives unlimited powers to the chairman.
Thursday's meeting of the powerful 101-member working committee, held after about 10 months, was a stormy one with a number of leaders lambasting central leaders for the party's present crisis.
Leaders including former minister Kazi Feroz Rashid and Sheikh Shahidul Islam, and S See Page 12 Col 3

Budget hits below the belt, says Opposition

By Staff Correspondent
The opposition legislators yesterday observed in Parliament that the government's economic policy 'had hit the country's economy below the belt'.
They were taking part in the general discussion on the proposed budget for fiscal 1993-94 in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) for the eighth day yesterday.
The opposition felt that due to the BNP's 'wrong' economic policy the country had plunged into deep recession and the majority of the population living in the rural areas had lost their purchasing power.
The opposition, however, did not hesitate to praise Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman yesterday for his, 'a few successes at the macro-economic level' that includes 'increase of revenue'.
See Page 12 Col 1

Tk 53 cr DU budget

By DU Correspondent
Treasurer of the Dhaka University Professor Shahidullah Ahmed yesterday announced a Taka 53.08 crore budget for the fiscal 1993-94 with a deficit of Tk 10.57 crore.
The total expenditure has increased by 15.48 per cent over the last fiscal year.
Professor Ahmed placed the budget on the second day of the annual Senate meeting of the Dhaka University yesterday afternoon. Senate Chairman and Vice-Chancellor Prof Emazuddin Ahmed was in the chair.
In the budget, the total deficit has been shown at Tk 12.20 crore including Tk 1.63 crore deficit in the 1992-93 fiscal.
The total income in fiscal 1993-94 has been projected Tk 42.51 crore of which Tk 39.20 crore will come from the government and Tk 3.31 crore from the university's See Page 12 Col 6

Menon bares 'alternative plan' to solve crisis

By Staff Correspondent
The Workers Party of Bangladesh (WPB) yesterday announced an eleven-point 'alternative programme' to help the nation overcome its present crisis.
The programmes, announced at a press conference by party leader Rashed Khan Menon, MP, are aimed at mobilising people in a combined agitation against socio-economic stagnation, terrorism, and fundamentalism.
Addressing the press conference at the party office in the city, Menon noted that the socio-economic condition of the common masses did not See Page 12 Col 7

Jahanara Imam seeks cooperation of political parties

By Staff Correspondent
The Ghatik Dalal Nirmul Samannaya Committee has sought active cooperation from the 'pro-independence' political parties in carrying forward the agitation for trial of 'war criminals' including Golam Azam.
"Political parties are our steering force and hence they will have to speed up the agitation by increasing their participation", committee Convenor Jahanara Imam told a rally in the capital yesterday afternoon.
See Page 12 Col 7

Janata Tower case HC rejects Raushan's appeal for stay

A High Court division bench yesterday rejected a prayer made on behalf of Begum Raushan Ershad to stay the order of confiscation of the building known as 'Janata Tower' along with the land in the Karwan Bazar Commercial area, reports BSS.
The division bench comprising Justice Habibur Rahman Khan and Justice Mohammad Fazul Karim, however, directed the authorities not to take any See Page 12 Col 2