

NIRMAN TILES
Broken Marble Tiles
In More Shades
Than The Rainbow
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NEWS BRIEFS

One held at ZIA with 134 passports

By Staff Correspondent
A Pakistani passport holder was detained by the Immigration Department of the Zia International Airport yesterday morning with 134 Bangladeshi passports. Belaluddin was apprehended by the immigration officers when he was about to board a Karachi-bound Emirate flight with the passports. Police said, the validity of most of the Bangladeshi passports, seized from the detained passenger, have expired. Police was investigating the smuggling of huge number of invalid passports.

20 villagers hurt in Habiganj clash

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Mar 2: At least twenty persons including two women were injured in a clash between rival groups over a land dispute today at village Lalapur under Nabiganj thana of the Habiganj district. Of the injured five were admitted to the MAG Osmani Medical College Hospital here with injuries.

Body recovered

From Our Correspondent
SYLHET, Mar 2: A beheaded body of a young man was recovered from village Moulvirganj under Kotwali thana today. The victim was identified as Md. Nasiruddin of village Pakuarpar. The body was kept in a gunny bag, police said. A case has been filed.

Sarbahara man arrested

BARISAL, Mar 2: Police today arrested an activist of the outlawed Sarbahara Party and recovered a revolver and six bullets from his possession, reports UNB.

Sehri, Iftar timings

Rmdn	Mar	Sehri	Iftar
19	3	—	6:06 pm
20	4	4:59 am	6:06 pm
21	5	4:58 am	6:06 pm

Stalemate in Parliament despite parleys

By Staff Correspondent

The stalemate in the Jatiya Sangsad (JS) continued despite parleys between the ruling BNP and the opposition yesterday. The stalemate surfaced in the House Tuesday following the Information Minister's controversial remarks against the opposition. The opposition members on Tuesday staged a walkout protesting Nazmul Huda's remarks that they (opposition members) had overnight become Muslims and were shedding crocodile tears for the killing of Muslims at a mosque in the Israeli occupied territory by Jewish settlers.

Despite withdrawal of the comments and the regret expressed by the Information Minister and repeated calls by the Deputy Leader of the House Dr Badruddoza Chowdhury, the opposition did not return to the House, causing a deadlock in legislative business. The House yesterday sat about two hours behind the schedule and passed a bill without any discussion. Sources said the situation was complicated by a newspaper report yesterday in which Nazmul Huda purported to have cast aspersions by saying they (opposition) have no religious feeling.

Meanwhile the contending parties are learnt to have succeeded in narrowing down their differences on the issue. At a meeting between the leaders of the ruling party and the opposition yesterday afternoon, the treasury bench members expressed their readiness to have a general discussion on the Hebron massacre and adopt a unanimous resolution. On the question of the Information Minister's remarks, the treasury bench leaders argued that withdrawal of his comments and his regrets had amounted to an... See Page 12 Col 8

Opposition sticks to demands

By Staff Correspondent

The opposition parties in Parliament at a meeting yesterday reiterated they would not attend the session unless Information Minister Nazmul Huda apologised and the Speaker allowed a general discussion on the massacre of Muslims in Hebron. Nazmul Huda should seek unqualified apology and the Hebron issue must be discussed in Parliament — these are our two preconditions to attend the session," Abdus Samad Azad, Deputy Leader of the Opposition told newsmen at a press briefing at his parliament office. He announced the decision after a meeting of the opposi- See Page 12 Col 1.

Burglars ransack 17 rooms in Sectt

By Staff Correspondent

Burglars broke into two offices in the well-protected Bangladesh Secretariat and ransacked 17 rooms sometime between late Tuesday night and the early hours of Wednesday. Surprisingly the burglars took nothing except a tape recorder from the room of the Principal Information Officer of the Press Information Department (PID), Abdur Rahim. The burglars broke open nine rooms in the PID on the second and third floors and eight rooms of the Health Ministry, on the first floor of the same building. This was the second daring

burglary at the Secretariat this year. Six rooms of the Ministry of Environment and Forests were burgled on January 2 this year. The burglars also tried to break open the vault of the Accounts Section of the PID where about 1.97 lakh Taka being the salary and bonus of the staff was kept, officials said. They broke open a number of file cabinets and steel almirahs and ransacked them. The valuables like a colour TV set, a wall clock, a fax machine and other stationeries remained untouched. See Page 12 Col 6

FM condemns Hebron massacre

Foreign Minister ASM Mostafizur Rahman yesterday strongly condemned the heinous attack on a mosque and killing of 63 Muslims in Hebron by Jewish settlers in the occupied territory of Palestine, reports UNB. Making a statement in Parliament, the Foreign Minister called upon all concerned to take appropriate and adequate measures to prevent recurrence of such horrendous and barbaric act. His statement came in the wake of criticism by the opposition which had charged the government with failure to react adequately to the Israeli atrocities on Palestinians and to take up the matters with international forums. See Page 12 Col 5



To ensure smooth Eid shopping, the authorities, have deployed forces near the city's main shopping centres. This photograph was taken at the Elephant Road yesterday. — Star photo

Probe body won't seek to frame terms of ref

By Nurul Kabir

The parliamentary probe committee to investigate the alleged corruptions of the Irrigation and Flood Control Ministry and the minister concerned yesterday resolved to make no further effort to frame the terms of reference for the proposed investigation. The unanimous decision came at a meeting of the 15 member committee comprising members of both the treasury and the opposition benches — yesterday when they found both sides unbending on their stands. During the 15 meetings of the probe body since its formation on July 13 last year, the opposition members on the committee had demanded that the activities of the entire ministry be investigated. The treasury bench members opposed this saying a parliamentary standing committee was already there to monitor the activities of the ministry. A See Page 12 Col 4

10 companies awarded for promoting share market

Prime Minister Begum Khaleida Zia yesterday stressed increased investment in productive sectors for quick poverty alleviation, reports UNB. "Momentum in economic progress cannot be attained without increasing investment in the productive sector," she said at a function organised by the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) in the Osmani Memorial Auditorium to honour top 10 companies of the country for the performance in stock market. Apex Tannery Limited, Aziz Pipes Limited, Beximco Limited, Bangladesh General Insurance Co Ltd, Beximco Pharmaceuticals Ltd, The City Bank Limited, GQ Ball Pen Industries Ltd, Monno Ceramic Industries Ltd, Singer Bangladesh Limited and Usmania Glass Sheet Factory Ltd received the 1992-93 national award for their role in share market. Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, DSE Chairman Khurshid Alam and honorary

Secretary General Mohammad Abdul Haq Hawlader also spoke at the function attended by ministers, MPs, senior officials and leading businessmen of the country. Stressing the enormous need for financial investment in Bangladesh, the Prime Minister said, "Investment is a pre-requisite for economic development of the country." Related Story on page 6. Terming industrialisation as the key for economic development, Begum Zia said an organised and active investment market can play an important role in this regard. The Prime Minister referred to the restructuring of the taxation system, incentives measures for local and foreign investment, reducing the lending rate and formation of Securities and Exchange Commission which deregulated the capital market. "These economic reforms, no doubt, expanded the activi- See Page 12 Col 7

Restrictions on forex in C/A to go

By Staff Correspondent
Bangladesh will remove all the restrictions on foreign exchange transactions in current account by the fourth week of April by accepting Article 8 of the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman disclosed this while addressing a function organised at the Osmani Memorial Hall yesterday to award the top ten listed companies of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE). He said the formal proposal of accepting Article 8 shifting from its present status at Article 14 would be placed at the IMF Board during his forthcoming visit to Washington in mid-April. Bangladesh, along with over 100 IMF member countries, accepted Article 14 from the beginning of its membership as an interim arrangement towards making its currency convertible in the current account transactions. In October last year, the See Page 12 Col 1

Repolling in 3 city centres today

By Staff Correspondent

Repolling in three centres of the Dhaka City Corporation (DCC) will be held today. The three centres are the University Laboratory School and College (centre numbers 479 and 480) and the Science Annex Building (centre no. 482) on the Dhaka University campus under Ward No. 57. Voting will start at 7 am and continue until 3 pm without any break. The results of the January 30 election in these three centres were cancelled by the Election Commission (EC) on grounds of gross violation of election rules. The EC fixed February 9 for repolling in these three and 25 others centres where elections were postponed due to acts of violence and terrorism. Repolling in the three centres could not be held on the earlier scheduled date as a division bench of the High Court issued a stay order on repolling following a writ petition filed by the BNP-backed commissioner candidate of the

ward. However, the court gave its verdict on February 22 in favour of the EC decision of repolling. The Appellate Division of the Supreme Court on Tuesday also rejected an appeal against the High Court judgement. There are some 8200 voters in the three centres on the DU campus. In these centres of the Ward No. 57, the Awami League backed commissioner candidate Khwaja Habibullah was leading by 214 votes over his nearest rival Abul Ahsan Talukder of the BNP. The commissioners of all but Ward No. 57 were primarily declared elected by the EC. But the Commission could not declare the AL mayoral candidate Mohammad Hanif, who is leading by a margin of 88,077 in 734 out of 737 DCC centres, officially elected in the absence of repolling in three DU centres. As per rules, the election of a mayor can not be declared before consolidation of the results of all the polling centres.

Eid shopping yet to gain pace

By Staff Correspondent

With the nearing of the Eid-ul-Fitr, the shopping spree was felt at few of the prominent markets of the city. Many of the city markets, however, are yet to pick up sales. The prices of commodities remained nearly stable compared to the last year's Eid market. As was expected by the shop owners, the sale has taken a sharp rise after the pay-day on March 1. But one shopkeeper at the New Market apprehended that the real Eid sales will begin from Friday. Despite the ongoing load-sheddings, the market owners continued to illuminate their markets to allure the buyers. Interestingly, the local garments are competing and are probably in a better position compared to the foreign ones. "Earlier, we used to put foreign tags on local garments, but people are now buying local products," one shopowner at New Elephant Road observed. See Page 12 Col 6

Israel disarms some settlers

JERUSALEM, Mar 2: Israel disarmed a few extremist Jewish settlers Tuesday and ordered others to stay out of Palestinian areas in the latest effort to reduce tension following the massacre in a Hebron mosque, reports AP. Clashes with Israeli soldiers broke out in Hebron again when the army eased the curfew for two hours to allow people to shop, and a 17-year-old Palestinian was killed by a bullet in the neck. A young Arab also died in a clash with troops in Jericho, another West Bank town. Radical Muslim groups called for all-out revenge attacks on Israelis. A leaflet from the Hamas movement urged Palestinians to "let the gun and machine gun speak." At least 50 Palestinians were wounded or injured while fighting with Israeli troops in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, hospitals reported. Israel radio said seven settlers from communities around Nablus in the north were disarmed and given orders to stay out of Palestinian areas. Several dozen settlers from Hebron and nearby areas on the West

Bank have also been given orders limiting their movements. Police took away the settlers' gun permits and weapons found at their homes. But disarmed militants would have little trouble obtaining guns from hard-line sympathisers if they wanted. Meanwhile PLO chairman Yasser Arafat has laid out specific conditions for resuming peace talks with Israel. Palestinian sources said Tuesday. The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the PLO chairman made the demands in a letter being carried to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat. The sources said Arafat set out these conditions: Disarming Jewish settlers in the occupied territories and allowing an international "presence." Arafat left open the door for various forms of international involvement by using that word instead of "peacekeepers." The United Nations has shown considerable reluctance to send peacekeepers. Relocating Jewish settlements that are either

close to Palestinian population centres or house Jewish extremists. Arafat suggested the Palestinians might buy some of the land when the settlers leave. Stopping the confiscation of Arab land in the occupied territories and ending the construction of new settlements. The Palestine Liberation Organization has expanded its negotiating demands in a bid to capitulation outrage over the massacre Friday. A high-placed PLO source told The Associated Press on Tuesday that the group's leadership was still committed to peace talks but was now holding out for more concessions. But the Israeli government remained adamant it would not bow to Palestinian demands for dismantling Jewish settlements or even discuss the issue. "We don't have to punish people who are peaceful and who support peace," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told reporters Tuesday. "What we have really to do is to prevent this small group of terrible, opinionated people who may cause another problem."

আকর্ষণীয় বিনিয়োগ কর্মসূচী

জাতীয় অর্থনৈতিক কর্মসূচিকে ত্বরান্বিত করার জন্য অগ্রণী ব্যাংক, জনতা ব্যাংক এবং সোনালী ব্যাংক, কৃষি, শিল্প ও বাণিজ্যিক খাতের সকল পর্যায়ের বহু সূদে অর্থায়নের ব্যাপক কর্মসূচী গ্রহণ করেছে। সকল শ্রেণীর ঋণ গ্রহীতাদের জন্য যে সমস্ত বিনিয়োগ সুবিধা উন্মুক্ত করে দেয়া সেগুলো হলোঃ

কৃষি :
সকল প্রকার দলসূদ সম্পূর্ণভাবে রহিতকরণ করা হয়েছে। মেঘাদৌর্গিক কৃষি ঋণ পরিশোধের বেলায় আসলের সমপরিমাণ টাকা এক কালীন জমা দিলে সূদ মওকুফ গ্রহণের সুযোগ রয়েছে।
পবাদি পতপালন ও দুগ্ধ উৎপাদন :

পবাদি পত খামার উন্নয়নে সরকারি অধিকতর সহায়তা প্রদানের সিদ্ধান্ত নিয়েছেন। তরুণীর পরিমাণ বৃদ্ধি, বাছুর আমদানীর ক্ষেত্রে পরিবহন খরচা মিটাতে সরকারী সহায়তা প্রদানের সিদ্ধান্ত গৃহীত হয়েছে।
সকল রাস্তায় বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক দুগ্ধ এবং মাংস উৎপাদন বৃদ্ধির লক্ষ্যে বহু সূদে ঋণ প্রদান করছে।

মৎস্য চাষঃ
মৎস্য চাষের সকল পর্যায়ের বহু সূদে ঋণ প্রদানের ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া হয়েছে। প্রান্তিক মৎস্য চাষীরা সহায়ক জামানত ছাড়াই এই ঋণ গ্রহণ করতে পারেন। মাছের রেণু পোনা ও পোনা উৎপাদনের প্রকল্পসমূহে ঋণ প্রদান করা হচ্ছে।

হাঁস মুরগীর খামারঃ
হাঁস মুরগীর খামার পড়ে তোলাব লক্ষ্যে সকল রাস্তায় বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক দেশের সকল অঞ্চলে বহু সূদে ঋণ প্রদান করছে। প্রান্তিক উদ্যোক্তারা সহায়ক জামানত ছাড়াই এ ঋণ গ্রহণ করতে পারেন।

আত্মকর্ম সংস্থান কর্মসূচী :
অগ্রণী, জনতা ও সোনালী ব্যাংক রয়েছে পৃথক পৃথক আত্মকর্ম সংস্থান কর্মসূচী। ছোট ছোট খামার, কুটির শিল্প ও বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ের ছুদ ব্যবসায় অর্থ বিনিয়োগের সুযোগ রয়েছে এই কর্মসূচীগুলোতে।

ক্ষুদ্র শিল্পে ক্রেডিট গ্যারান্টি স্কীমঃ
সম্পূর্ণ নতুন শিল্প উদ্যোক্তাদের জন্যে সকল রাস্তায় বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক ক্রেডিট গ্যারান্টি স্কীম চালু করেছে। এই স্কীমের আওতায় উদ্যোক্তাদের বিনিয়োগকৃত অর্থের ঋণ পরিমাণ (সর্বাধিক ২৫ লক্ষ টাকা পর্যন্ত) গ্যারান্টি প্রদান করবে বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংক এবং এর বিপরীতে সহায়ক জামানত ছাড়াই ব্যাংক অর্থায়ন করবে। অধিকন্তু ব্যাংক উদ্যোক্তা কর্তৃক বিনিয়োগকৃত অর্থের সমপরিমাণ অর্থ গ্যারান্টি ছাড়াই বিনিয়োগ করবে।

শিল্পঋণ :
বিভিন্ন পর্যায়ের ঋণ সূদ কমানোর ফলে শিল্পায়নে ব্যাপক অর্থায়ন হচ্ছে। বৃহৎ শিল্প স্থাপনের ক্ষেত্রে একাধিক ব্যাংক যৌথ অর্থায়ন করছে। এ জন্যে ব্যাংক কনসোর্টিয়াম গঠন করা হয়েছে। প্রত্যেক ব্যাংক রয়েছে শিল্প ঋণ বিভাগ। শিল্প সংক্রান্ত সমস্যা নিরসনে শিল্পঋণ বিভাগের সাথে সরাসরি যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

রঙানী বাণিজ্যঃ
রঙানী বাণিজ্য উন্নয়ন ও তদারকীর জন্যে সকল রাস্তায় বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয়ে একজন মহাব্যবস্থাপক নিয়োগ করা হয়েছে। রঙানী সমস্যা সমাধান ও পরামর্শের জন্য সরাসরি তার সাথে যোগাযোগ করা যেতে পারে।

চাকুরী নিয়ে বিদেশ পমনেন্দুদের ঋণ :
রাস্তায় বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকসমূহ বৈধ নিয়োগপত্র এবং ওয়ার্ক পারমিটের ভিত্তিতে যাত্রাযাত্রা ও আনুসঙ্গিক খরচার জন্য ব্যাংক ঋণ প্রদান করছে।

মহিলাদের আত্মকর্ম সংস্থান কর্মসূচী :
আর্থ-সামাজিক উন্নয়নে মহিলাদের অংশগ্রহণ ব্যাপকতর করার লক্ষ্যে সকল ব্যাংক বিশেষ কর্মসূচীর মাধ্যমে উৎপাদনমুখী কার্যক্রম এবং কুটির শিল্পে ঋণ সুবিধা প্রদান করছে। এই কর্মসূচীর আওতায় পবাদি পত পালন, হাঁসমুরগীর খামার, মৎস্য খামার, হস্তশিল্প এবং কুটির শিল্পে ঋণ দেওয়া হচ্ছে।

ব্যাংক ঋণ গ্রহণে ইচ্ছুক যে কোন শ্রেণীর উদ্যোক্তা অর্থায়নের জন্যে রাস্তায় বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংকসমূহের সহযোগিতা গ্রহণ করতে পারেন।

অগ্রণী ব্যাংক জনতা ব্যাংক সোনালী ব্যাংক