

Nirman Tiles

In Broken Marble Tiles Brighter Home At Lesser Price

Tel: 605957, 861985

Inside Today

Article

Sunset or Sunrise: For Newly Industrializing Bangladesh

Column: Window on Asia by Shahed Latif Page 4

International

US prepares for showdown over N Korea's N-plan



Inkatha Freedom Party supporters defy State of Emergency regulations Page 5

Feature

Women On The Move

Time to speak the unspoken; Learning to live with dignity; and Seeing the world through women's eyes Page 8

Business

Agri output rises over 100 pc

ROK students protest opening of farm market Pages 6, 7

Metropolitan

Dhaka Day by Day



Pointing at Racism Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

BNP secretaries' meet Apr 11

A meeting of the secretaries of the national executive committee of the Bangladesh Jatiyatabadi Dal (BNP) will be held on April 11 at 4 pm at the party central office in Dhaka. Party Secretary General Abdus Salam Talukder has requested all concerned to attend the meeting, reports BSS.

Tk 1cr smuggled goods seized

DINAJPUR, Apr 6: The Bangladesh Rifles (BDR) seized a huge quantity of Indian smuggled goods worth about Tk 1 crore from the border areas of the district during January-March this year and arrested 11 alleged smugglers.

Ashraf Hasan called back

Ashraf Hasan, the Commercial Counsellor in Bangladesh embassy in Tokyo, has been called back as his performance was found unsatisfactory, official sources said yesterday. An officer of the Commerce Ministry, Hasan has been asked to return to Dhaka within a week, reports UNB.

Opposition's siege programme today

The government and the major opposition parties stand face to face in the city today with the former bent on preventing the latter from staging agitations around the central Secretariat and the Election Commission office.

The opposition parties, on their part, are firm to go ahead with their planned programme of siege of the Secretariat and the Election Commission premises.

The largest opposition in parliament, the Awami League (AL), is likely to begin a siege of the central Secretariat at 10 am while the second largest opposition party the Jatiya Party (JP), will agitate in front of the EC office after holding a

By Staff Correspondent rally at the Panthapath near Sonargaon Hotel, also at ten this morning.

The opposition parties had planned the agitations with a view to mounting pressure on the Khaleda Zia government to quit and for immediate parliamentary polls under a neutral, caretaker government.

The government, in a bid to ward off possible trouble, has already imposed a 24-hour ban starting at midnight last night, on all kinds of assembly, meetings and processions around the two government institutions. Heavy contingents of law enforcing personnel have been deployed around the Secretariat and the EC.

Home Minister Abdul Matin

Chowdhury, in a statement issued to the press yesterday, also urged the opposition parties to observe their programmes peacefully outside the police barricades.

The government yesterday also asked the officials of the central Secretariat to report at their respective offices by 6 am while, the EC authorities have asked their employees to reach the office by 7 this morning.

Meanwhile, the AL Central Working Committee, in an emergency meeting yesterday, resolved to make its scheduled agitations around the Secretariat a complete success 'at any cost'.

See Page 12 Col 4



The Bangladesh Jubo League brought out a march procession in the city yesterday evening in support of the Awami League's siege of the Secretariat. — Star photo

Politicians must change pattern of protest

By Staff Correspondent

President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) Mahbubur Rahman yesterday said the political parties would have to change the pattern of their protest for the greater interest of the country.

The protests through strikes and sieges are seriously affecting the country's investment climate by discouraging both local and foreign investors from investing in the industrial sector, he said, when asked to comment on today's Secretariat siege programme called by the opposition parties at a time when a Japanese business delegation is on a visit to observe the investment opportunities in Bangladesh.

"Those who are now in the opposition may be in power in future and they would have to face similar problems if such

practices are not stopped immediately," the FBCCI chief said at a press briefing at the conference hall of the federation yesterday.

"We told the Leader of the Opposition the same thing and she agreed that the demonstrations should be held in a disciplined manner," he said. However, discipline cannot be maintained in such cases because the top leaders have little control over the lower level activists during such demonstrations.

For this, Mahbub said, the behavioural pattern of the politicians will have to change if they really want a congenial investment atmosphere in the country.

The FBCCI chief also said the political problem is not, however, the only problem and not even the main problem impeding investment and in-

Opposition to maintain peace, hopes Matin

By Staff Correspondent

Home Minister Abdul Matin Chowdhury yesterday expressed the hope that peace and discipline would be maintained during the opposition's programme in the city today.

"We hope the opposition will maintain peace during their programme," Chowdhury told UNB in the evening after a lengthy meeting with high police officials at his Secretariat office.

Asked to comment on opposition criticism that government restrictions on meetings and processions are undemocratic and unconstitutional, the Home Minister said, "What we are doing are within the purview of law."

The government has taken steps to protect life and property of the people, he said.

The minister, however, declined to elaborate the government measures to face the planned siege by the Awami League.

See Page 12 Col 3

Local scientist evolves a low-cost, high-quality fertiliser

By Staff Correspondent

Sarna, a newly evolved low-priced fertiliser can revolutionise the country's agriculture sector, it was claimed at a press conference in the city yesterday.

"A farmer can get 23 maunds of paddy per bigha by using only 800 grams of Sarna fertiliser which will cost Tk 90 only," Dr Abdul Khaleque, who evolved the new fertiliser, told reporters at the press conference.

Currently, the farmers have to use 40 to 55 kg of chemical fertiliser per bigha to produce 20 maunds of paddy. It costs a

farmer Tk 470 to 525, he added.

The press conference was convened to mark the formal marketing of the new fertiliser which the Bangladeshi scientist had produced after eight years of research.

"It is a phyto-hormone inducer with required micro-nutrient which has little side-effect to the soil," said Dr Khaleque who did his PhD from the University of London in 1974.

A noted scientist, Dr Abdullah al-Muti Sarfuddin and a former Vice-Chancellor of

Agriculture University, Prof Aminul Haq were also present at the news conference.

Dr Khaleque said his product is a sort of natural fertiliser while the chemical fertiliser is a combination of nitrogen, phosphorus and potassium.

Dr Khaleque said he was inspired by a British scientist Prof H Bremer who revealed after a four-year research since 1985 that food-growing crops cannot absorb the micro-nutrient like copper, bronze etc available in the soil of Bangladesh.

See Page 12 Col 8

PM reviews situation

By Staff Correspondent

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia late last night held an emergency meeting with her senior cabinet colleagues and reviewed the latest situation of the opposition-planned siege around the Secretariat today.

"We have decided to tackle the situation calmly and coolly," one senior minister who attended the 90-minute meeting which began at 9 pm told The Daily Star, requesting anonymity.

The law enforcing agencies have been asked to show utmost restraint but at the same time to maintain peace, he said.

Another source said the meeting also discussed the newly-announced central bodies and the ways and means to develop cooperation among

See Page 12 Col 6

Forces deployed to foil siege

By Staff Correspondent

The Dhaka Metropolitan Police (DMP) has taken all preparations to tackle the planned siege of the Bangladesh Secretariat and the Election Commission office by major opposition parties today.

Para-military forces — the BDR, armed police battalion and Ansars will be deployed at different city points to aid the city police force resist all processions towards the two major government offices, according to a top level police source.

To cordon off the Secretariat and the Election Commission, the law enforcing forces will be deployed between the Dhanik Bangla Square and the Furanga Palton Square, the IPO square, areas adjacent to the Osmani auditorium, Dhal Square and High Court Mazar Gate, the

See page 12 Col 2

Non-govt school, college teachers' strike today

By Staff Correspondent

Teachers of the country's non-government schools and colleges observe a day-long strike today to press home their 15-point charter of demands.

The demands include: Inclusion of the non-government teachers in the national pay-scale, formation of a trustee board for the teachers and removal of disparity in tuition fees between the government and non-government educational institutions.

The strike call was given earlier by the Teachers' Central Action Liaison Committee, a body of six organisations of the non-government schools and colleges.

The teachers also demonstrated before the offices of the Deputy Commissioners (DCs) and submitted memoranda last Monday.



Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia visiting the stalls after inaugurating a livestock and poultry exhibition at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city yesterday. — PID photo

Govt to encourage import of hybrid cattle: PM

The government will provide total transport cost for the import of hybrid cows as incentive for expansion of modern dairy farming in the country, Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia announced yesterday, reports UNB.

She said this while inaugurating a three-day poultry and livestock exhibition at the Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in the city. The fair aims at inspiring people to establish dairy and poultry farms in the country.

The government now bears 50 per cent of the import cost. Begum Zia hoped this livestock fair would help instill self-confidence and the spirit for work among the farmers for eradicating hunger and poverty from society.

"Our resources are limited. We want to improve the condition of people by ensuring optimum utilisation of the

scarce resources," the Prime Minister said and stressed the need for programmes on priority basis for progress of the country. The government has already undertaken programmes in the prospective sectors, she added.

The Prime Minister said her government has given a boost to activities in the livestock sector to turn animal husbandry into a commercial venture and was going to make it a success through achieving self-reliance in dairy product and increasing employment opportunities.

About 11,000 dairy and 31,000 poultry farms have already been set up in the country as a result of "our production-oriented and credit-extending policies," Begum Zia said in a message yesterday.

Production of milk and egg

See Page 12 Col 1

World Health Day today

By Staff Correspondent

The World Health Day will be observed today amid campaigns for better oral health for all.

The theme of this year's World Health Day is "oral health for a healthy life."

President Abdur Rahman Biswas in a message yesterday said preventive measures against oral diseases should be strengthened through creating awareness among the people.

The President said oral health improvement should be mandatory to ensure "Health for All by the year 2000."

The problem of teeth and mouth has increased due to lack of scientific health knowledge and indifference towards health care. The people should be made aware of oral health care to get rid of this problem," Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said in a message yesterday.

See Page 12 Col 3

Sylhetis determined to realise division

Asiuzzaman, back from Sylhet

At a time when acrimony and bitterness in national politics have reached a head, leaders in greater Sylhet have managed to reach a consensus to realise their common demand of establishing an administrative division in Sylhet.

As many as 11 different organisations including the ruling Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and the largest opposition Awami League have been observing similar programmes towards their common goal.

Talking to The Daily Star the leaders of different groups explained the aims and objectives of the movement and the reasons why the people of Sylhet want a separate division.

"We cannot be outcasts in the society, no matter which party we belong to," senior BNP leader Fateh Younus Khan said.

He said that the people of greater Sylhet had a distinct culture which gives them a separate identity. Without the formation of a division it is not possible to uphold that identity, he added.

He said the Sylhetis were united for the creation of a division and that he had informed the central leaders of his party in Dhaka about the popular demand.

Awami League leader Dewan Farid Gazi who is leading a large group under the banner of the Action Council for Establishing Sylhet Division and Development of Greater Sylhet, said "In fact the movement to set up a division has been continuing since 1948 when we voted at a referendum to be with Pakistan."

"We were promised that Sylhet would be treated as a

See Page 12 Col 7

WP holds rally, announces programme

By Staff Correspondent

Rashed Khan Menon, MP, yesterday urged the people to reject the BNP government for its 'subservience to the World Bank and IMF' and elect a government of the poor.

Addressing a big rally organised by the Bangladesh Workers' Party, he also demanded that future elections be held under a caretaker government to ensure fair voting.

The rally, presided by Amal Sen, was addressed by party president Abul Bashar, Fazle Hossain Badshah, Bimal Biswas, Tipu Biswas, Abdul Matin, Saiful Haq, Md Shah Alam and Kamrul Hasan.

The rally, held at the Bangabandhu Avenue, was organised to protest the "economic exploitation by capitalists and imperialists like the World Bank and IMF," all black laws, communal politics, terrorism and the government's subservience towards

See Page 12 Col 5

Myanmar-Bangladesh border area rocked

CHIANG MAI, Thailand, Apr 6: A powerful earthquake measuring 6.0 on the Richter scale hit a border region between Myanmar and Bangladesh today, the Thai Seismological Institute reported.

There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage from the quake, which the institute said appeared centred 840 km (520 miles) northwest of its measuring station at Chiang Mai in northern Thailand.

A quake of that magnitude can cause widespread damage and loss of life in an area upto 200 km (125 miles) from the epicentre.

WIN

See Page 11 for details

POWERWORK

The Daily Star

WIN

a trip to the World Cup Final at Los Angeles

WORLD CUP USA 94 Quiz Competition

PHILIPS

POWERVISION

COLOUR TV RANGE

YOU'LL SEE WHY IT'S BETTER WHEN YOU HEAR IT

All Prizes Courtesy: Transcom Electronics Ltd.

Licensed manufacturer of Philips Lighting products, Radio and T.V. Sets.