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NEWS BRIEFS

Shopowner killed

From Staff Correspondent
CHITTAGONG, May 8: Unidentified gunmen shot dead a shopowner, Shahbuddin, 26, at Reazuddin bazar here this afternoon.

Zohra Tajuddin acting AL chief

Syeda Zohra Tajuddin, a member of the Awami League Presidium, will act as the acting President of the party during the AL Chief Sheikh Hasina's visit to Japan, reports BSS.

Tk 10,600 cr ADP for next fiscal likely

A Tk10,600 crore Annual Development Plan (ADP) for 1994-95 was approved at an extended meeting of the Planning Commission yesterday, reports UNB.

The size of the plan for the next financial year is nearly 9 per cent higher than the original outlay of the current fiscal year.

This year's (1993-94) development budget is Tk 9,750 crore.

The allocation was tentatively finalised and approved at the meeting at the NEC Bhaban with Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman, also the first Vice-Chairman of the Commission, in the chair.

The allocation will need approval by Parliament in the ensuing budget session.

The Education sector with an allocation of Tk 1175 crore will continue to get the top priority in the next financial year, followed by transport and

power sectors with Tk 1163 crore and 1126 crore respectively.

The allocation for the transport sector excluded the Jamuna Bridge project which is featured as a separate project.

The Finance Minister said in conformity with the people-oriented policies of the government, human resource development (education) sector which is the lifeline and basis of all development and economic uplift has been given the highest amount by the present government.

He stressed the need for having a self-reliant economy through self-financed development programmes.

"Under the changed global economic scenario", the Finance Minister said, "We cannot rely on the foreign assistance for our development programme in future."

The government has even decided not to seek any foreign assistance for the post-cyclone relief and rehabilitation measures for the cyclone victims of Cox's Bazar and offshore islands. All the expenditures in this regard will be met from the government's own resources, which is indicative of the sound economic management policies pursued by the government, he said.

The Finance Minister directed the Planning Commission to undertake targeted poverty alleviation and employment generating programmes for the unemployed educated youths.

"If required, additional funds will be available for this purpose", he assured.

State Minister for Planning Dr A Moyeen Khan, members of the Planning Commission and secretaries concerned attended the meeting.

Parliament Sectt Bill

Discussion deferred

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Sangsad (JS) yesterday began discussion on the Parliament Secretariat Bill seeking setting up of an independent secretariat for the JS but the Chair deferred further discussion on the bill till Wednesday.

Speaker Sheikh Razzak Ali deferred the discussion following a treasury bench request to allow the Opposition again to express their views on the issue.

The Opposition MPs had been boycotting the current session of the JS to press home their demand for holding the next general elections under a caretaker government.

Minister for Public Works Rafiqul Islam Miah, while making the request for suspending the discussion, said the proposed law would be a step forward towards institutionalising parliamentary democracy. The treasury bench, although keen on adopting the bill as soon as possible, is interested in Opposition participation in the passage of the proposed legislation, the minister said. The Opposition had also been quite interested in seeing the bill adopted by the House.

Deputy Leader of the House Prof AQM Badruddoza Chowdhury supported the views of

See Page 12 Col 7

'AL, JP, Jamaat conspiring against JS'

By Staff Correspondent

Treasury Bench member Major (Retd) Aktaruzzaman yesterday alleged that the enemies of independence, democracy and development had joined hands to hinder the nation's march towards progress and make Parliament ineffective.

"The Jamaat is the enemy of independence, the Jatiya Party of democracy and the Awami League of development. They have joined hands and are conspiring against this Parliament," Aktaruzzaman told the House in the absence of opposition MPs.

Rising on a point of order, See Page 12 Col 6

Political will needed to privatise power sector

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at an international forum on private investment in the power sector of Bangladesh that began in the city yesterday underlined the need for 'strong political will' to promote power generation in the sector.

The government has no choice but to encourage private investment as it cannot afford the huge investment needed for the growing power sector, high officials and US energy experts said at the first two sessions of the five-day forum.

The two sessions held at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel were chaired by Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister ANM Yusuf and Agrani Bank Chairman Dr Fasihuddin Mah-tab.

Energy Secretary M Faizur

Razzaque, Rural Electrification Board (Reb) chairman Brig Muhammad Enamul Haq, Senior Vice President of SC Pace Resources Mark Peterson, USAID Director Jeffrey Hum-ber and Roger Wagner of McDermott, Will and Emery presented separate papers at the

See also Page 6

sessions.

The forum organised by USAID and the Energy Ministry was also addressed by PDB Chairman Kazi Golam Rahman and Planning Commission Joint Chief Dr AKM Masud. It was also participated by high officials from India, Pakistan and the Philippines. Representatives from different chambers of commerce and industries of the country attended it.

Drawing a bleak picture of the power sector of the country, Energy Secretary Faizur Razzaque said the net loss of the PDB in 1992-93 was Tk 7482 million.

The total liability of PDB as See Page 12 Col 7

265 load shedding days in '93!

By Staff Correspondent

Load shedding in the power sector took place on at least 265 days in 1993. The maximum power deficit was 480 mw.

According to chairman of the Rural Electrification Board Brig Muhammad Enamul Haq, the number of load shedding days was 49 in 1990 with a maximum power deficit of 160 mw.

Speaking at the international forum on private investment in the power sector of Bangladesh yesterday, energy Secretary Faizur Razzaque said that financial performance of power utilities in a majority of developing countries had deteriorated and older plants in developing countries consumed 18 to 44 per cent more fuel per kilowatt hour of electricity than such plants in the OECD countries.

"Transmission and distribution losses are also about two to four times higher", he added.

In Bangladesh, transmission and distribution loss is about 31 per cent of power generation. It is 28 per cent in Pakistan and only 8 per cent in US and 7 per cent in Japan.

Prokrichi-BCS cadre to observe strike today

By Staff Correspondent

Some 70 thousand professionals, including doctors, engineers, and agriculturists belonging to the Prokrichi-BCS cadre, will observe a day long strike today to press their 17-point charter of demands.

The Central Action Committee of the Prokrichi-BCS, which is an umbrella organisation of 26 cadres, has called on all its members to abstain from duty today. They however, said that those connected with cyclone relief work and emergency hospital services are exempted from the strike programme.

The Prokrichi-BCS observed a similar work-stoppage programme on April 2.

Govt fails to protect lives of coastal people: ALWC

The Awami League Central Working Committee (ALWC) at an emergency meeting yesterday urged the government to immediately send relief materials to the cyclone-hit people in Cox's Bazar, reports UNB.

Party chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina chaired the meeting, held at 29-Minto Road before she left for Tokyo yesterday afternoon.

The meeting also discussed the present political situation in the country.

In a resolution, the meeting said the government failed to protect the lives and property of the people during last week's cyclone in the coastal areas.

Even one week after the severe cyclone, a large number of bodies kept floating in the bay or remained buried in the sands in coastal areas of Teknaf, Ramu and Ukha.

Vultures and dogs were See Page 12 Col 1

4 killed as storms hit 4 dists

By Staff Correspondent

At least 4 people were killed and 27 others injured as storms lashed four districts of the country yesterday.

Our Correspondent from Cox's Bazar says, a severe nor'wester lashed Cox's Bazar, Ramu, Teknaf and Ukha around 10.30 pm last night. The wind speed was 80 km per hour.

The storm continued for about half an hour. No report of

casualties was received till filing of this report late last night.

UNB adds: At least 3 people died of lightning and a minor girl from house collapse during a severe storm that swept over six thanas of Pabna district yesterday afternoon.

Abdul Hamid (35) of Beruan village, Bhulu Sarkar (45) and his son Fazar Ali (20) of

Govinda village were struck dead by lightning. Tasli (7) of village Dighalia Uttarpara died in house collapse.

District administration, however, could not confirm the death.

Reports reaching from the affected areas said 20 people were injured, more than 200 kutcha houses collapsed and See Page 12 Col 5

37 more bodies of foreigners recovered

From Our Correspondent

COX'S BAZAR, May 8: Thirty seven more bodies of foreign nationals killed in the May 2 cyclone were recovered today.

Of the bodies, 29 were found in Teknaf, five in Ukha and three in Cox's Bazar.

All the victims are believed to be Thai or Burmese fishermen whose boats were wrecked in the bay during the cyclonic storm.

The number of bodies of foreign nationals recovered so far has now risen to 80.

Star Quiz draw: All the winners from the city

By Staff Correspondent

Shahed Latif, an O-levels student of the city's Universal Tutorial, won the first prize in the lucky draw of The Daily Star World Cup Quiz Competition No-3 which was held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday.

Latif, 19, of 3/1, Purana Paltan in the capital, is the son of Harun-ur-Rashid.

Poet Shamsur Rahman, who attended the function as chief guest, conducted yesterday's lucky draw and distributed prizes among the winners of Quiz-2, the draw for which was held on April 24.

Ummey Kulsum, 13, a student residing at 513, Dhania, Demra and Nabina, 13, also a student and resident of 46, Dilo Road, New Eskaton in the city, won the second and third prizes respectively in yesterday's draw.

Besides, five fourth prizes were won by MA Rab of 18, Dhanmondi, Road NO-2; Shahpar Murshed of 620/1, Bara Maghbazar; Md. Delwar Hossain Khan of 9/13 Tajmahal; and P. Murad of 10, Wyre Street, Wari. See Page 12 Col 1

LUCKY WINNERS of The Daily Star WORLD CUP QUIZ

Following are the lucky winners of The Daily Star World Cup Quiz No.3, the draw for which was held at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday:

First Prize (One)

Shahed Latif
3/1, Purana Paltan
Dhaka

Second Prize (One)

Ummey Kulsum
513, Dhania, Demra
Dhaka

Third Prize (One)

Nabina
46, Dilo Road
New Eskaton
Dhaka

Fourth Prize (Five)

1. M. A. Rab
18, Dhanmondi, Road No. 2,
Dhaka.
2. Shahpar Murshed
620/1, Bara Maghbazar
Dhaka
3. Md. Delwar Hossain Khan
9/13, Tajmahal Road
Mohammadpur, Dhaka
4. Munira Sharmin
58/27, North Mughdipara
Dhaka
5. P. Murad
10, Wyre Street, Wari
Dhaka

The prizes will be handed over to the winners during the lucky draw for Quiz No.4, to be held at the Jatiya Press Club on May 17, 1994.

The winners of Quiz No.3, named above, are requested to contact The Daily Star office to claim their prizes.

(See the correct answers to Quiz No.3 on Page 11)



Poet Shamsur Rahman (L) presenting a 21-inch Philips Powervision colour TV set to Rezwan Mahmud (R), first prize winner of the Star World Cup Quiz-2, at the Jatiya Press Club auditorium yesterday. Chairman of Transcom Electronics Ltd A S Mahmud (2nd from right) is also seen. — Star photo



A model displaying a new design at the fashion show organised last night at Hotel Sonargaon in connection with the BATEXPO-94 which concluded Saturday. — Star photo

Govt ensuring women's role in dev: PM

Prime Minister Begum

Khaleda Zia yesterday inaugurated an institute for technological education of women in the city saying, one of the main programmes of her government is to integrate women-folk with the mainstream of development efforts, reports UNB.

To achieve this objective, the government is ensuring increasing participation of women in modern science and technological activities, she added.

The Institute of Technology for Women (ITW) has been set up at Dhanmondi as a human resource development unit of the international centre for science, technology and environment, a brainchild of Nobel laureate Prof Abdus Salam.

The physicist of international reputation had laid the foundation-stone of the institute in May last year.

"The ITW is a new addition to the arena of our women's education," the Prime Minister

See Page 12 Col 4

Hasina off to Japan

Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition in Parliament Sheikh Hasina left for Japan yesterday to attend an international seminar on Democracy and Development of Socio-economic Condition in the Asia-Pacific Region, beginning in Tokyo today, reports UNB.

She will address a 3-day seminar tomorrow at the invitation of Council of Socialist International.

Hasina will also attend different functions to be organised by her party unit in Japan during her three-day tour.

Party Advisory Council member Shah MAS Kibria, International Affairs Secretary Abul Hasan Chowdhury MP, Syed Abul Hossain MP, Nur-e-Aim Chowdhury (Litoni) MP and her daughter Saima Wajed are accompanying the Opposition Leader.

Awami League central leaders and its Parliament members saw Hasina off at the Zia International Airport at 4:15 pm.

Deputy Leader of the Opposition Abdu Samad Azad, Dhaka City Mayor Mohammad Hanif, Abdul Mannan, Zillur Rahman, Amir Hossain Anu, To-fael Ahmed MP, Abdul Jalil, Moazzfar Hossain Paltu, Begum Matia Chowdhury MP and Dr Mustafa Jalal Mohiuddin were present at the airport.

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