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NEWS BRIEFS

PM becomes BAU Chancellor

The President has given the charge of the Chancellor of Bangladesh Agricultural University to the Prime Minister as provided under the Section 3(2) of the Bangladesh Agricultural University Act, 1961, an official handout said in Dhaka yesterday, reports BSS.

Sec 144 in Rangunia

CHITTAGONG, May 11; Authorities imposed the Section 144 for an indefinite period on the Raajarhat Club Maidan area in Rangunia thana as the Chhatra League (M-I) and Jamaat-e-Islami convened meetings there at the same time, reports UNB.

Team due in Ctg today

Border trade accord with Yangon May 18

By M Anwarul Haq

Economic and trade links between Bangladesh and Myanmar will have a new dimension following the signing of a border trade agreement in Dhaka on May 18.

A five-member Yangon delegation headed by Minister of Trade Lt General Tun Kyi arrives in Chittagong today to sign the protocol, the first of its kind between Bangladesh and any of its neighbour.

The delegation, after a two-day stay in Chittagong, will arrive in the capital to sign the agreement and meet senior officials. During its stay in the capital, the delegation is likely

to meet the President, Prime Minister, Foreign Minister and the ministers of industries, commerce and communications.

The team will also call on Dr Yunus of the Grameen Bank and visit some of the bank's projects.

The border trade agreement, to be signed by the Myanmar Minister of Trade and Bangladesh Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam, will initially be valid for one year but will be automatically renewed annually unless any side objects.

The agreement will primarily

allow the sale and purchase of goods between the two countries via the Teknaf border of Bangladesh and the Maungdaw region of Myanmar located in the Rakhaine state.

Trade will be carried by maritime transports across the Naaf River. Special ferry arrangements will be made for this.

According to officials, the agreement would generate employment opportunities for the people living in the border areas of the two countries.

After the agreement, trade between the respective zones
See Page 12 Col 6

PM opens new cantt at Parbatipur

PARBATIPUR (Dinajpur).

May 11: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today underlined the need for a strong armed forces for consolidating the national independence and said her government had laid importance on protecting the country's independence side by side with its economic development, reports BSS.

Inaugurating the Shaheed Mahubub Cantonment at Parbatipur here she said it needed economic development, building of the infrastructure and a strong armed force to consolidate the country's hard-earned

independence.

The cantonment has been named after Shaheed Captain Mahubur Rahman, Btr Utam, who died in a front-fight with the occupation forces in Sylhet during the war of independence.

The Prime Minister expressed her happiness for being able to attend the opening ceremony of the cantonment.

Begum Zia paid her deep respect to the martyred heroes of the Liberation War including Shaheed Mahubub.

Besides safeguarding the
See Page 12 Col 3

Technology-based pisciculture stressed

PARBATIPUR (Dinajpur).

May 11: Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia today underlined the need for expanding modern technology-based pisciculture for exploiting the sector's potential for earning huge foreign exchange, reports UNB.

Export earning from the sector was Tk 700 crore last year and it may run up to Tk 1,000 crore in the current year, the Prime Minister said while inaugurating here this afternoon an ambitious model fisheries project, the North-western Fisheries Extension
See Page 12 Col 3

Parliament Sectt Bill passed

By Staff Correspondent

Jatiya Sangsad yesterday passed the Parliament Secretariat Bill 1994, discussion on which was deferred thrice in the past to accommodate Opposition views on it.

The House also passed two other bills on the day by voice vote.

The Opposition parties in Parliament were still boycotting the current session to press home the demand for an early general election under a caretaker government.

The JS, with the passage of the Parliament Secretariat Bill, will have its own independent secretariat.

The bill provides that a five-member body, headed by the Speaker, will decide the ways

of running the secretariat. The members of the body will be one nominee each of the Leader of the House and Leader of the Opposition and two representatives of the Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs.

The House, before passing the bill, rejected by voice vote some amendments to the proposed law moved earlier by Abdur Rob Chowdhury of the treasury bench.

Four other treasury bench MPs withdrew their proposed amendments while those of three others were not considered because they were not present at that time.
Discussion on the Parli-

ment Secretariat Bill had been deferred three times since it was introduced in the House during the winter session of Parliament last year.

Works Minister Rafiqul Islam Miah, who moved the bill on behalf of the Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs Minister and requested the Chair to defer discussion on it three times to 'accommodate Opposition views on the issue', yesterday told the House, 'it would have been better to pass the bill with the Opposition present in the House.'

'But we are left with no option but to adopt the bill today since the Opposition did not return to the House after de-
See Page 12 Col 7



Awami League chief and Leader of the Opposition Sheikh Hasina seen with Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata at a dinner in Tokyo. Prime Minister Hata hosted the party in honour of the foreign-delegations to the Socialist International Conference.
— AL source

Hasina urges Hata to increase investment

Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata has assured continued cooperation and assistance to Bangladesh in its development efforts, reports UNB.

The assurance came when Opposition leader Sheikh Hasina had an exclusive meeting with the Japanese Premier during a river cruise in the Tokyo Bay Tuesday night, according to a message received in Dhaka yesterday.

The cruise in the Tokyo Bay was arranged in honour of the
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Irrigation Ministry Tofael shows 'documents of corruption'

By Staff Correspondent

Awami League leader Tofael Ahmed MP yesterday came up with what he claimed to be 'documents of anomalies and corruption' in the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development and alleged that the minister concerned is directly involved in the irregularities.

'I have no other option but to hold this press conference as I failed to submit these documents to the Special Parliamentary Committee or to

the Speaker,' Tofael said, flanked by Opposition Chief Whip Mohammad Nasim.

Tofael alleged that the Dhaka Integrated Flood Protection Project was delayed by about a year as the minister wanted to appoint the second-ranking firm from among the bidders as the local consultant in violation of the decision of a 9-member committee empowered to select the consulting
See Page 12 Col 4

Use of SPA against company disturbs business circles

By Staff Correspondent

The recent arrest of four senior officials of the country's biggest joint venture (fishing company), Sea Resources Ltd., under the Special Powers Act has shocked the business community.

Several leading entrepreneurs of the country, on condition of anonymity, told The Daily Star that the normal law of the land should be applied in case of any company violating the country's legal procedures.

They said under no circumstances should a 'black law', which was the main instrument of oppression during
See Page 12 Col 1

Thai envoy casts doubts over future jt ventures

By Staff Correspondent

Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Sunthorn Vidhyameth yesterday expressed serious concern about future investments in Bangladesh.

The ambassador, during a courtesy call on A Rob Chowdhury, President of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry at the latter's office, told the DCCI chief that 'the Thai investors who had already invested their capital in Bangladesh in joint ventures are no longer interested to continue and stay back for such projects.'

A DCCI press release yesterday said the ambassador pointed to a recent incident in

Chittagong involving Sea Resources Limited, a joint venture trawling company.

The Sea Resources Limited is one of the country's biggest exporters of white-fish, earning huge foreign exchange and doing business with a good reputation for long.

News of the recent incident involving the company reported in the national newspapers, said that senior Directors of the company had been taken into custody.

The Thai Ambassador, during his discussions with the DCCI chief, mentioned that while legal procedures should
See Page 12 Col 2

Dhaka lodges protest with New Delhi

Dhaka has lodged protest with New Delhi against violation of Bangladesh's airspace by Indian jet fighter on Monday.

A Foreign Office spokesman told UNB yesterday, the protest note has been delivered to the Indian High Commission in Dhaka.

Indian fighter planes made two sorties on Monday night, flying one kilometre into the country's airspace over Burimari land port area, creating panic among the local people and construction workers of a project.

Earlier, Indian Air Force planes violated the Bangladesh airspace over the loop channel project undertaken to protest the land port from erosion by the Dharala river. India denied the charge.

Striking teachers stage sit-in countrywide

By Staff Correspondent

The striking teachers of non-government educational institutions in and around the capital yesterday staged an eight-hour sit-in at the Central Shaheed Minar premises.

The Central Liaison Committee of the striking teachers organised the sit-in as part of its on-going agitation to press home their demands including implementation of the national pay-scale for private schools and colleges.

Liaison committee leader Prof M A Rab Mia said, similar
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Eid-ul-Azha May 22

The holy Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated throughout the country on May 22, an Islamic Foundation press release said yesterday, reports BSS.

The decision was taken at a meeting of the National Moon-sighting Committee held at the Islamic Foundation with the committee vice-president and acting Additional Secretary of the Religious Affairs Ministry in the chair.

The meeting, after detailed discussion on the reports received from various parts of the country, decided that the new moon was not sighted yesterday in any part of the country. Accordingly, the month of Zilhaj will be counted from Friday next and Eid-ul-Azha will be celebrated on May 22, 23 and 24.



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto (R) embraces Winnie Mandela as they met in Soweto yesterday.
— AFP photo

Power policy for private sector suggested

By Staff Correspondent

Participants in the International forum on private investment in the power sector in Bangladesh yesterday stressed the need for immediate formulation and announcement of a power policy for the private sector.

They also suggested that the public sector power infrastructure should undergo reforms to compete with private power companies in terms of efficiency and performance in the future.

Two sessions of the forum yesterday were presided over by USAID Director in Bangladesh Richard M Brown and journalist Gias Kamal Chowdhury.

Senior representative of a state electricity board of India SB Kulkarni presented a paper on 'composition of task force by government of Maharashtra to monitor progress of Dabhol project' and S Rajgopal, former cabinet secretary and power secretary of India, presented a paper on 'private

sector in power, the Indian experience' at the first session. Acting executive vice president of national development finance corporation (NDFC) of Pakistan Mohammad Ali Shaikh presented a paper on 'the experience of the NDFC' at the second session.

Military Secretary to the President Major General Ghulam Mowla, DESA Chairman Amanul Islam Chowdhury and President of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry Latifur Rahman and Secretary General of BFUJ Amanullah Kabir were discussants.

Rajgopal said that India had to resort to private investment not only because of the donors' pressure but pressure from small investors and consumers locally.

'India needs 6000 mw of power per year for the next 15 years and funding of it by the government alone is not possible,' he added. On power
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Property worth Tk 525 cr destroyed by cyclone

By Masud Hasan Khan

Property and infrastructure worth Tk 525 crore were destroyed by the cyclone that mauled seven thanas and offshore islands in Cox's Bazar district on May 2.

Cox's Bazar district control room officials yesterday released a report on the damage to different sectors by the May 2 cyclone.

The officials reached over telephone from Dhaka said crops on 30,856 hectares of land were destroyed by the cyclone. The damage in terms of money was estimated at Tk 50 crore 84 lakh.

Forest resources worth Taka 200 crore were destroyed by the cyclone, the officials said. However, they could not say how many acres of forest land were damaged.

Roads under the local Roads and Highways Department were also damaged. Total damage was estimated at Tk one crore and 34 lakh.

Ninety kilometres of road and 83 bridges and culverts under the district Local Government Engineering Department were damaged, putting the figure to Tk 1.34
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Star QUIZ SCHEDULE
A REMINDER TO QUIZ PARTICIPANTS

Round	Starts	Ends	Entries Close	Lucky Draw On
Quiz No: 4	1 May '94	14 May '94	16 May '94	17 May '94
Quiz No: 5	15 May '94	31 May '94	5 June '94	6 June '94
Quiz No: 6 (BUMPER)	1 June '94	23 June '94	25 June '94	26 June '94

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