



NOTICE

The Daily Star informs its valued readers with regret that power failure from 9:30 pm until going to the press created serious dislocation in our normal working. Therefore, many news items could not be accommodated or properly treated in today's issue. We beg the indulgence of our valued readers.

Inside Today

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Dhaka Day by Day



Taking up the Gauntlet for Women's Cause. Page 3

NEWS BRIEFS

Sec 144 in Habiganj

HABIGANJ, May 14: Section 144 was imposed in the court point area of the town today to prevent a possible clash between supporters of the BNP and a faction of its student front JCD. The JCD had called for a meeting at the court point area apparently to foil a reception arranged by the district BNP for former JCD general secretary Ilias Ali and the same venue at 11 am. The district administration imposed the 12-hour ban till 6 pm. reports BSS.

Navy impounds foreign trawlers

CHITTAGONG, May 14: Bangladesh navy ship Jamuna during its routine anti-smuggling, anti-piracy and fishery protection patrol yesterday impounded a foreign fishing trawler and arrested all 17 crew-members of the vessel. The trawler was engaged in fishing within the territorial waters of Bangladesh near the St Martine's Island. reports BSS.

JCD emergency meeting today

An emergency meeting of the Jatiyatabadi Chhatra Dal (JCD) will be held today at 7 pm at the BNP central office. All the presidents and general secretaries of the JCD units in different educational institutions and thanas have been requested to attend in time. reports BSS.

15 injured in Savar clash

SAVAR, May 14: At least 15 people, including three women, were injured when a group of youngsters attacked a club in the town today, police and hospital sources said. An armed group comprising 20 youngsters attacked the Saburghat Dohari Sangsad club on Saturday evening, leaving 12 members of the club and three pedestrians - Saleha Begum, Shilpi and Surjaban, wounded. A rival group wedged the attack, local people believe. reports UNB.

Four contracts signed for construction of JMB

Four contracts for implementation of the four main components of Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge project were signed here yesterday with three international companies, finalising preparations for construction of the bridge. reports UNB. The contracts were signed between the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Authority and Hyundai, Ham-Van Oord ACZ JV and Samwhan Corporation. Hyundai Engineering and Construction Joint Venture of South Korea has been awarded contract No 1 (Bridge and approach viaduct). Ham-Van Oord ACZ JV of the Netherlands contract No 2 (river training) and Samwhan Corporation of South Korea contracts Nos 3 and 4 (two approach roads on both sides of the bridge). The value of contract No 1 is 237.41 million US dollars, contract No 2 276 million dollars, contract No 3 29.73 million dollars and contract No 4 27.15 million dollars. Officials said Mohammad Nasim, Director (Admn) of the JMB, and the representatives of the respective construction firms initialled the deals. Muhammed Ali, Executive Director, and all senior officials of the JMB, Ambassador of South Korea, Charge d'Affaires of the Netherlands Embassy, representatives of co-financiers and high officials of the three companies were present during the signing ceremony. Earlier, loan agreements for the 700 million-dollars project were signed with IDA and ADB in Washington and Manila respectively and an exchange of note between the governments. See Page 12 Col 6



The Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge Contract was signed between the JMB and Hyundai Engineering and Construction JV in the city yesterday. Seen in the picture are Y H Kong, S H Chang, Elthem B Kabir, Ajmal Kabir of HDEC-JV and Muhammed Ali and Mohammad Naseem of JMB.

PM's directive to implement all current ADP projects

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia yesterday directed ministries and divisions concerned to ensure implementation of all the current ADP projects with a note of warning that the people would not tolerate any negligence and wastage in this regard, reports UNB. The authorities concerned have to be more conscious and responsible in this regard in the interest of the people of this country. They will have to account for their work," she said addressing the concluding session of the National Economic Council meeting at the NEC Bhaban. The NEC took stock of the progress in implementation of various projects taken up under the Annual Development Programme 1993-94 and recommended measures to pace up work on them by overcoming the shortcomings. Begum Zia noted that in many cases, project implementation was hampered due to non-fulfillment of conditions tagged by donor countries and agencies and stressed the need for careful pre-appraisal of the conditions. "We have to be cautious in this respect and examine the See page 12 Col 3

News Analysis Agricultural subsidy may not help the poor

In a pre-budget dialogue with Cabinet ministers, Parliament members and economists held in the city last Saturday Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman said that he has the resources to generate higher growth; the real challenge will be to direct growth more towards poverty alleviation than in the past. Poverty in Bangladesh is a problem of serious magnitude. By the most recent count forty-two per cent of households are poor. This vast poverty cannot be attacked in a meaningful way through conventional poverty alleviation programmes. Conventional programmes typically involve targeted income transfers through government or non-government organisations. Affecting this transfer may involve substantial cost, as much as three times the amount actually reaching the poor, according to Professor Rehman Sobhan. The solution to the problem See Page 12 Col 1

JU students go on rampage, damage vehicles

Students of Jahangirnagar University pelted stones and damaged at least five vehicles yesterday evening near Nilkhet after a fellow student was injured. Tapash, a third year student of the Jahangirnagar University received injuries after he fell from the university bus when it was taking fuel at a petrol pump at Nilkhet yesterday at around 5:30 pm. The incident happened when a minibus hit the university bus from behind and the student fell down. Later the occupants of the university bus got agitated and went on a rampage.



Policemen trying to stop clashes between foreigners and German right-wing youths Thursday after a 40-strong group of football fans attacked foreigners and chased them through the streets of Magdeburg in eastern Germany over several hours. Three of the foreigners, whose nationalities were not specified, received knife wounds and two were brought to hospital in serious conditions. - AFP photo

Survey for oil exploration in bay begins by Oct

Survey for exploration of oil in the Bay of Bengal off the coast of Cox's Bazar-Sandwip region by two foreign companies will begin by October next, competent sources said. The Cairn Plc of Scotland and Holland See Search of the Netherlands, which jointly signed an agreement with the government on May 5, are now procuring geographic data for the survey from the Petro-bangla. Arrangements are underway to explore the Bay using specially equipped ships to be brought from Singapore. the sources said. See Page 12 Col 8

Minister tells PM Myanmar keen to promote ties

Visiting Myanmar Minister for Trade, Lieutenant General Tun Kyi, said in Dhaka yesterday that his country was keen in increasing trade and economic relations with Bangladesh, reports BSS. Lt Gen Tun Kyi expressed this hope when he called on Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia at her office in the evening. The Myanmar Minister for Trade will sign an agreement with his Bangladesh counterpart Commerce Minister Shamsul Islam on Wednesday for starting border trade between the two countries. The Prime Minister said the existing relations between Bangladesh and Myanmar would be strengthened by increasing trade between the two countries. She said there was a good scope for joint ventures in various fields including fishing, cement, pulp paper and wood products. The Myanmar Minister for Trade said yesterday. See Page 12 Col 8

SA may employ Bangladeshis, says Mostafiz

Bangladeshi doctors, engineers and teachers are likely to be employed in national reconstruction work of the post-apartheid South Africa, reports UNB. "Bangladesh considers that there are considerable possibilities of export of skilled manpower which would be needed by South Africa in rebuilding a non-racial society," Foreign Minister A S M Mostafizur Rahman said yesterday. See Page 12 Col 7

Ashrawi turns down PLO appointment

JERUSALEM, May 14: Hanan Ashrawi, the former spokeswoman of Palestinian peace negotiator said today she had rejected an appointment to the PLO authority that will run the Gaza Strip and Jericho, reports Reuter. Ashrawi resigned as spokeswoman of the Palestinian delegation in December, 1993, and announced she would dedicate herself to a human rights watchdog group to monitor PLO self-government. "My reason to the appointment is I have a priority in my work to the Palestinian Independent Commission for citizens' rights to which I was elected recently as commissioner... so I did not accept it," Ashrawi told Reuters. She said she appreciated the confidence of the PLO leadership in her and apologised for the rejection. The PLO nominated 15 people, including Ashrawi, on Thursday to run the new Palestinian authority in the Gaza Strip and the West bank town of Jericho.

THE DAILY STAR PUBLIC DEBATE

Should the next elections be held under a caretaker government?

Why...? And why not...? The nation now faces a very important choice: whether or not to hold the next general elections under a caretaker government, as demanded by the opposition parties? With the parliamentary Opposition boycotting the Jatiya Sangsad, the chance for a face-to-face debate among our political leaders, on this vital subject, appears remote. And in the absence of any national debate on the issue, the general public is at a loss as to how to make up its own mind, without hearing the various arguments, both for and against, this proposal. To facilitate the process of greater public understanding of this critical political issue, The Daily Star launches a public debate with interviews of the two spokespersons of the leading contenders on this issue. Read the unedited texts of the interviews - taken by Star's, Special Correspondent Chapal Bashar - of Abdus Salam Talukder, Secretary-General of the BNP and that of Zillur Rahman, General Secretary of the AL, on today's Editorial Page (Page 4). We earnestly urge our valued readers to write in their views. This, we feel, to be their democratic right, as well as their civic obligation. - Editor

1600 job seekers leave shortly ROK new market for manpower export

Bangladesh has entered a new manpower market in South Korea (ROK) and the first batch of 1600 job seekers would shortly leave Dhaka after completing necessary formalities, the Labour and Manpower Minister said yesterday. "We gave clearance to two local recruiting agencies selected by the Korean Federation of Small Business (KFSB)," Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said at a press conference at his office. Bangladesh workers would work as trainees in the small industries and get 200 US dollars as basic salary which might rise to 500 dollars with other allowances. Every worker will have to spend Tk 50,000 to get a job, he added. Last year, Bangladesh sent some two lakh 44 thousand 508 skilled and unskilled workers to different countries, mostly in the Middle East and earned Tk 3,987 crore as remittance. The number of workers sent abroad in 1990 was one lakh three thousand and 814 who sent home Tk 2,699 crore in foreign exchange. The minister said that after a recent visit of the five-member KFSB delegation, they sought the names of five recruiting agencies. The ministry sent 34 names of which two - Ms Bay Eastern and Unique Eastern (Pvt) Ltd. - were selected by the principal company. But the Bangladesh authorities bargained for raising the salary of the workers causing delay in granting permission to the agencies, the minister added. According to sources, South Korea would recruit more than See Page 12 Col 6

PM leaves for Saudi Arabia tomorrow

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia leaves for Saudi Arabia tomorrow to perform Hajj, according to official sources, reports BSS. The custodian of the two holy Mosques King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz has invited the Prime Minister to be the royal guest during her visit to Saudi Arabia. This will be Begum Zia's second visit to Saudi Arabia after she became the Prime Minister.

Striking teachers to begin sit-in June 11

By Staff Correspondent The striking non-government school and college teachers will begin an indefinite sit-in in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the capital on June 11 at 10 am. The sit-in will be preceded by a series of fresh action programmes. The new programmes were adopted at a representatives' conference of the Central Liaison Committee for Teachers' Movement (CLCTM) held yesterday at the Teacher-Student Centre (TSC) of Dhaka University. The countrywide programmes include organisational and publicity drive from May 17 to 19, exchange of Eid greetings with the MPs and the members of public from May 20 to 27, protest day on May 28, rallies at the thana headquarters on May 30, rallies at the district headquarters on June 1 and public meetings at the greater districts. See Page 12 Col 4

1047 Bangladeshis in foreign jails

By Staff Correspondent Some 1,047 Bangladeshis are now in jails of different countries where they went for jobs through improper channel, the Labour and Manpower Minister, Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan said yesterday. Of them, 326 are in the jails in Pakistan, 319 in the United Arab Emirates, 111 in Qatar, 81 in Bahrain, 75 in Iran, 56 in Singapore, 30 in Malaysia, 26 in Oman, eight in Sri Lanka, seven in Malta and four each in Iraq and Libya, he added. He said, these unfortunate See page 12 Col 3

Advertisement for Philips WorldCupUSA94 Quiz Competition. Round 5 begins today. Win a Powervision 21" Colour TV of Tk. 26,950 and many other fabulous prizes. Includes images of prizes like Philips Turbo Stereo Recorder, Philips BW TV 17", and Philips PowerVision CTV 21".